



# *Is There a Relationship Between Exam Review, Sample Test, and Test Performance?*

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2013 NACTA  
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# Introduction

## Why Exam Review and Practice Test?

Davis (2009):

- ✓ Alleviate exam fears
- ✓ Reduce test anxiety
- ✓ Increase confidence
- ✓ Know exam expectations
- ✓ Help prepare for exam including organizing notes, reviews, etc.
- ✓ Improve performance

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# Introduction

## Why Exam Review and Practice Test?

From Teachers' Perspectives:

- ✓ Review content for exams
- ✓ Set and review exam questions
- ✓ Weightage of questions based on content taught or covered
- ✓ Answer or clarify questions
- ✓ Reinforce learning
- ✓ Satisfaction

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# Objectives

## Determine:

- ✓ If exam review and sample test make a difference in test performance
- ✓ The usefulness of exam reviews and sample tests
- ✓ Type of questions asked in two different exams:
  - ✓ Memory or recall questions (facts)
  - ✓ Critical thinking questions
  - ✓ Application questions
  - ✓ Other

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# Methods

## Course Description:

- ✓ Upper level (400) level class
- ✓ Extension program design delivery
- ✓ 20 students enrolled
- ✓ Eight different majors from three different colleges at PSU
- ✓ Junior/senior and graduate students



# Methods

## Course Description

- ✓ Met 2 days (75 minutes each) a week
- ✓ Each week students were given class materials - PP slides, handouts, and other resources
- ✓ **Assignments included:**
  - ✓ Extension delivery methods write-up
  - ✓ Two presentations
  - ✓ Two tests
  - ✓ Final project
  - ✓ Guest lecture/Extension specialist report



# Methods

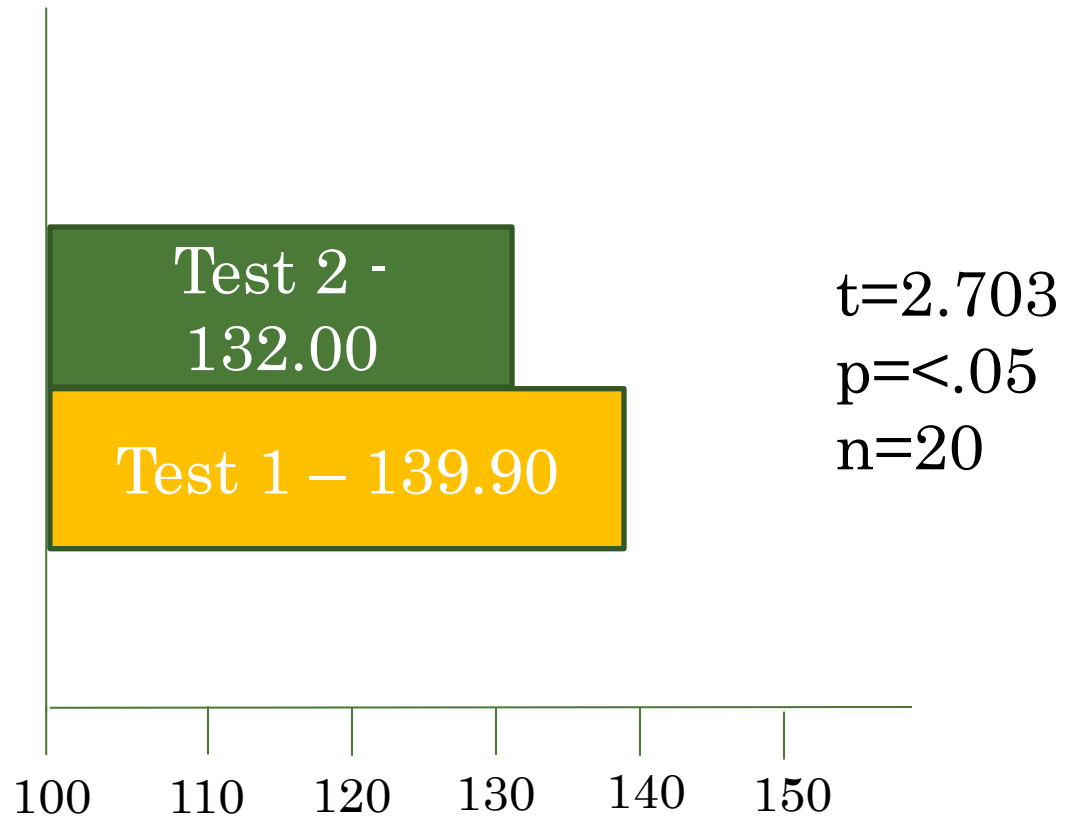
## Design and Instrumentation:

- ✓ **Exam 1:**
  - ✓ Exam review sheet
  - ✓ Sample test questions
- ✓ **Exam 2:**
  - ✓ No exam review sheet
  - ✓ No sample test questions
- ✓ Scores on both exams compared
- ✓ Six-week gap between exams 1 and 2
- ✓ Short survey to elicit:
  - ✓ Feedback on question types
  - ✓ Usefulness



# Results

## Test Performance

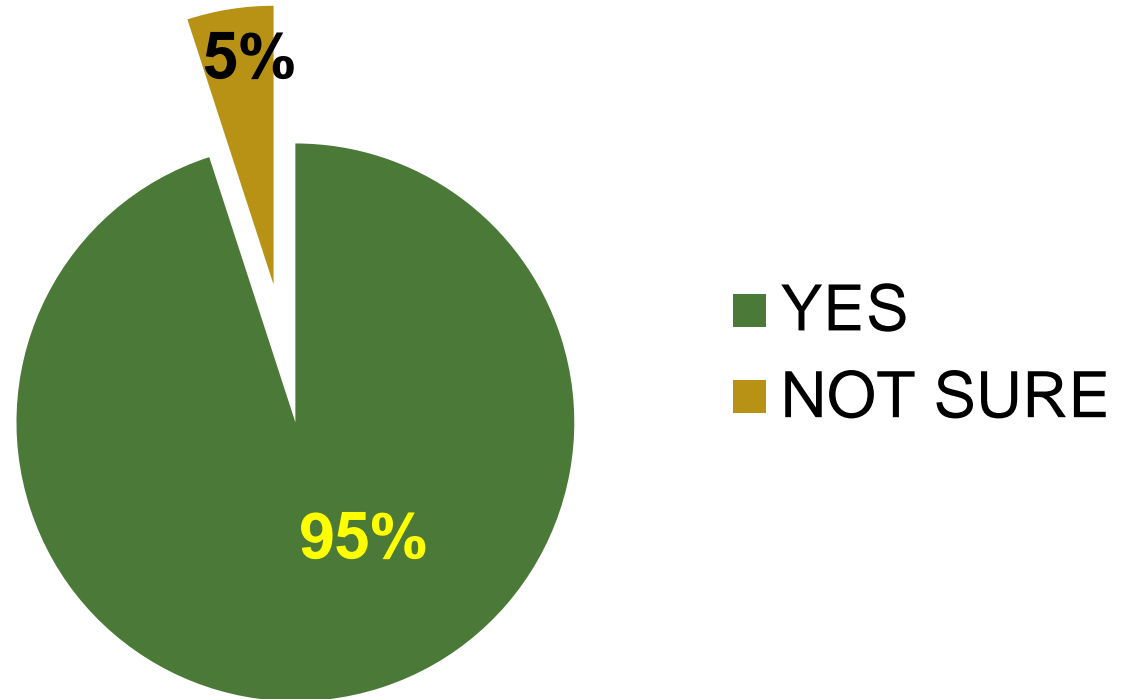


Note: Tests 1 and 2 were not identical. Therefore, cannot be treated as pre-post



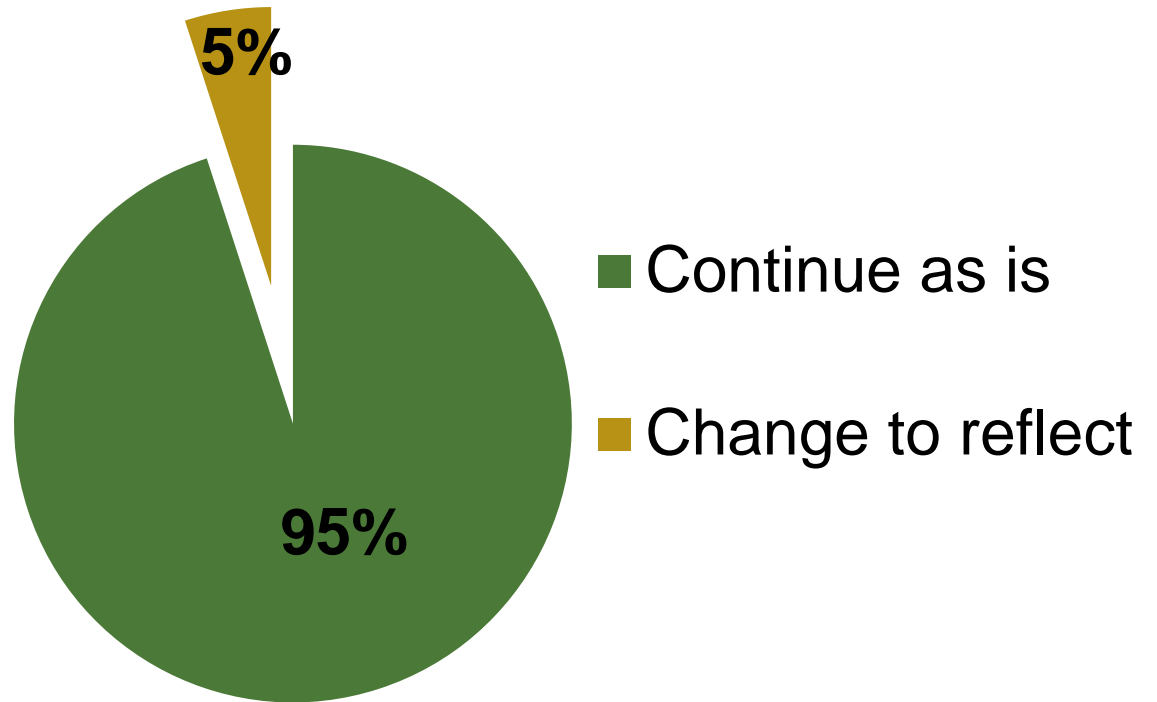
# Results

## Review for Exam Helpful



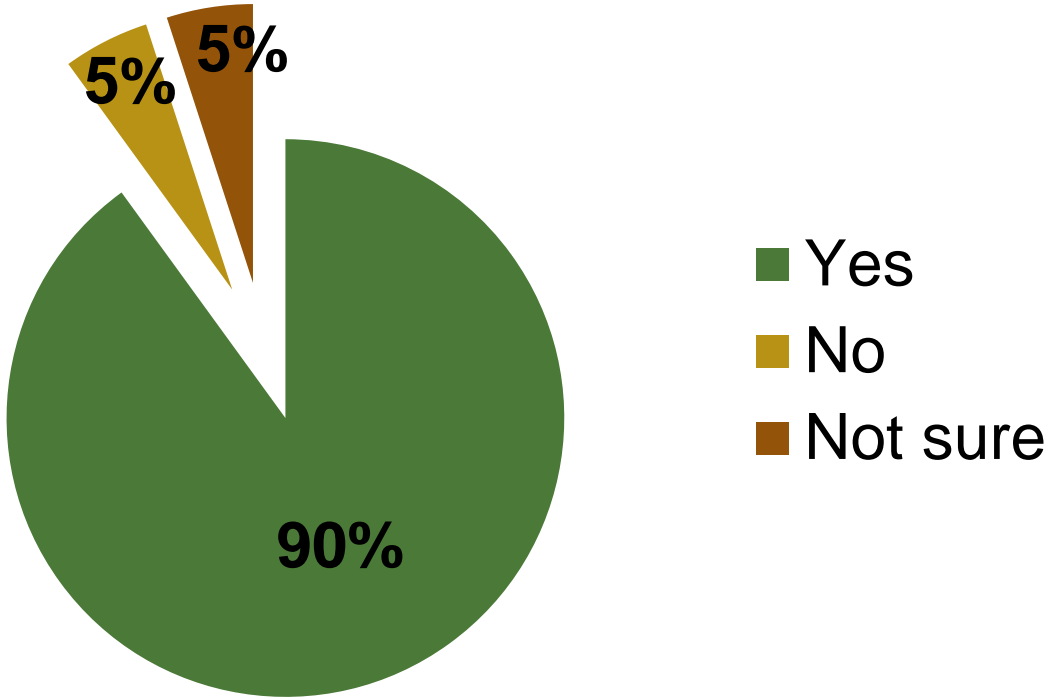
# Results

## Continue Exam Review



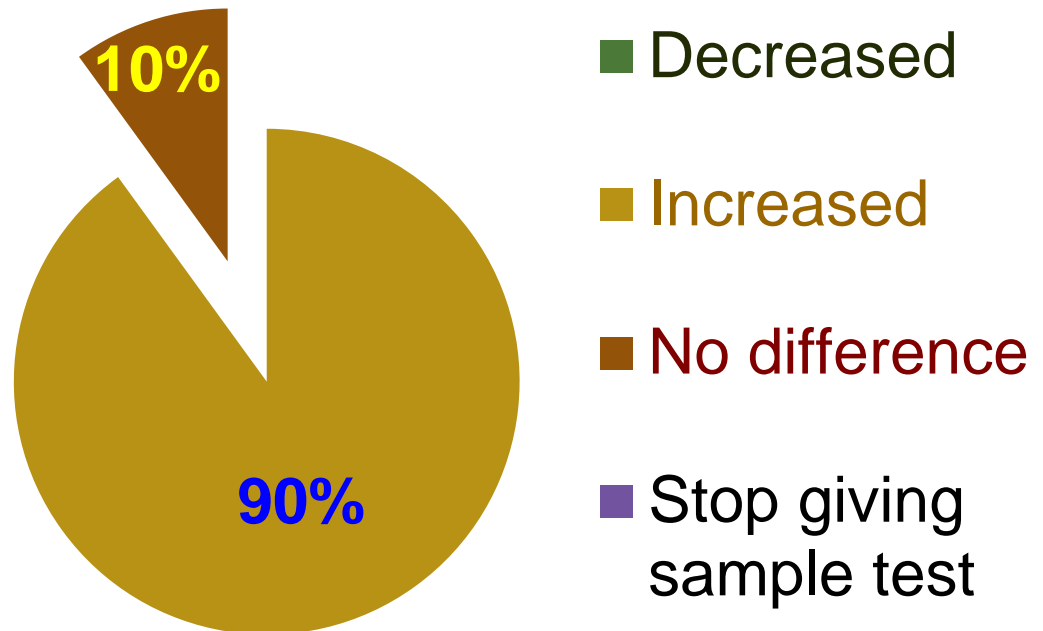
# Results

## Sample test helpful



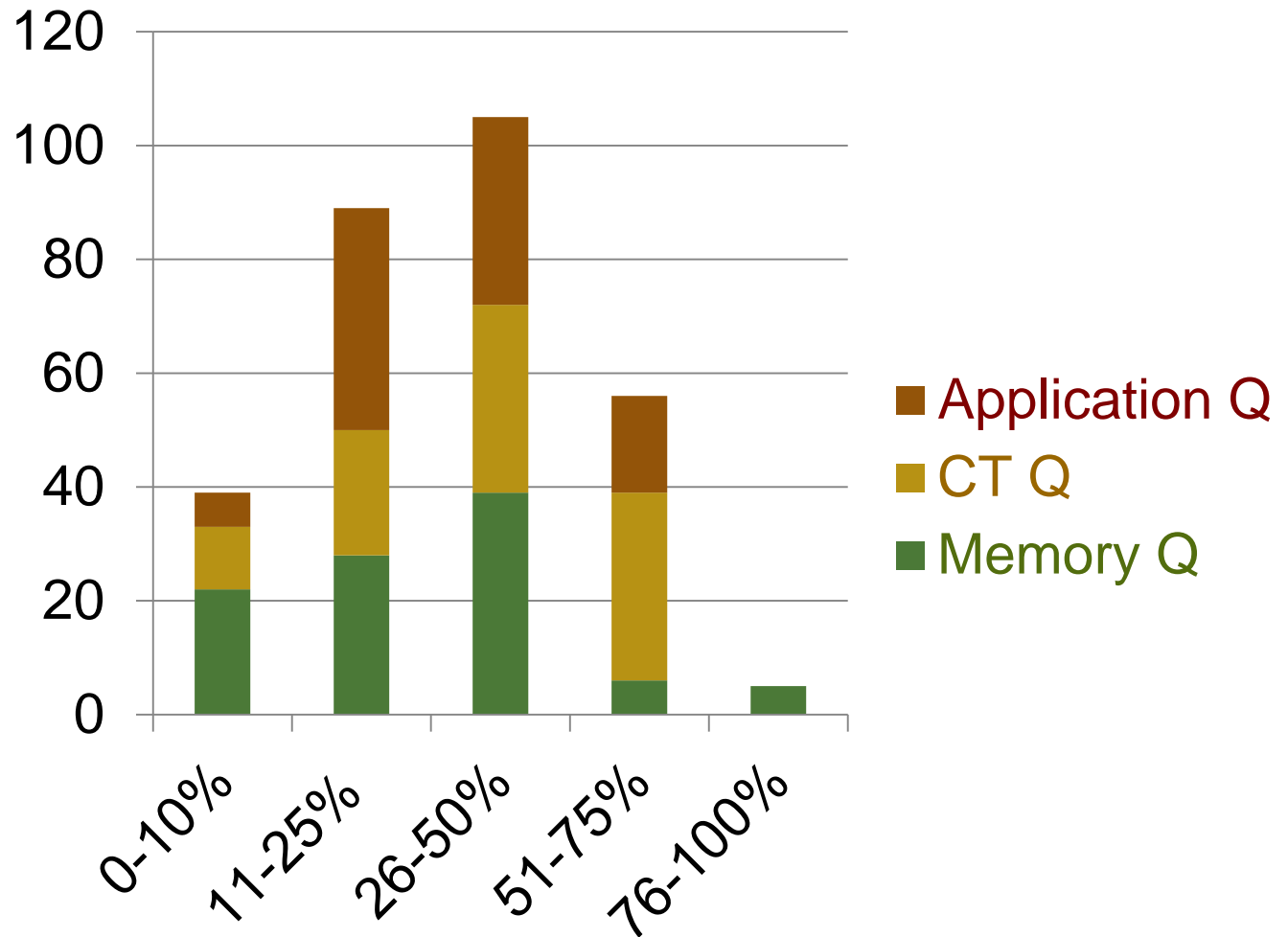
# Results

Did giving a sample test ...  
confidence in test taking?



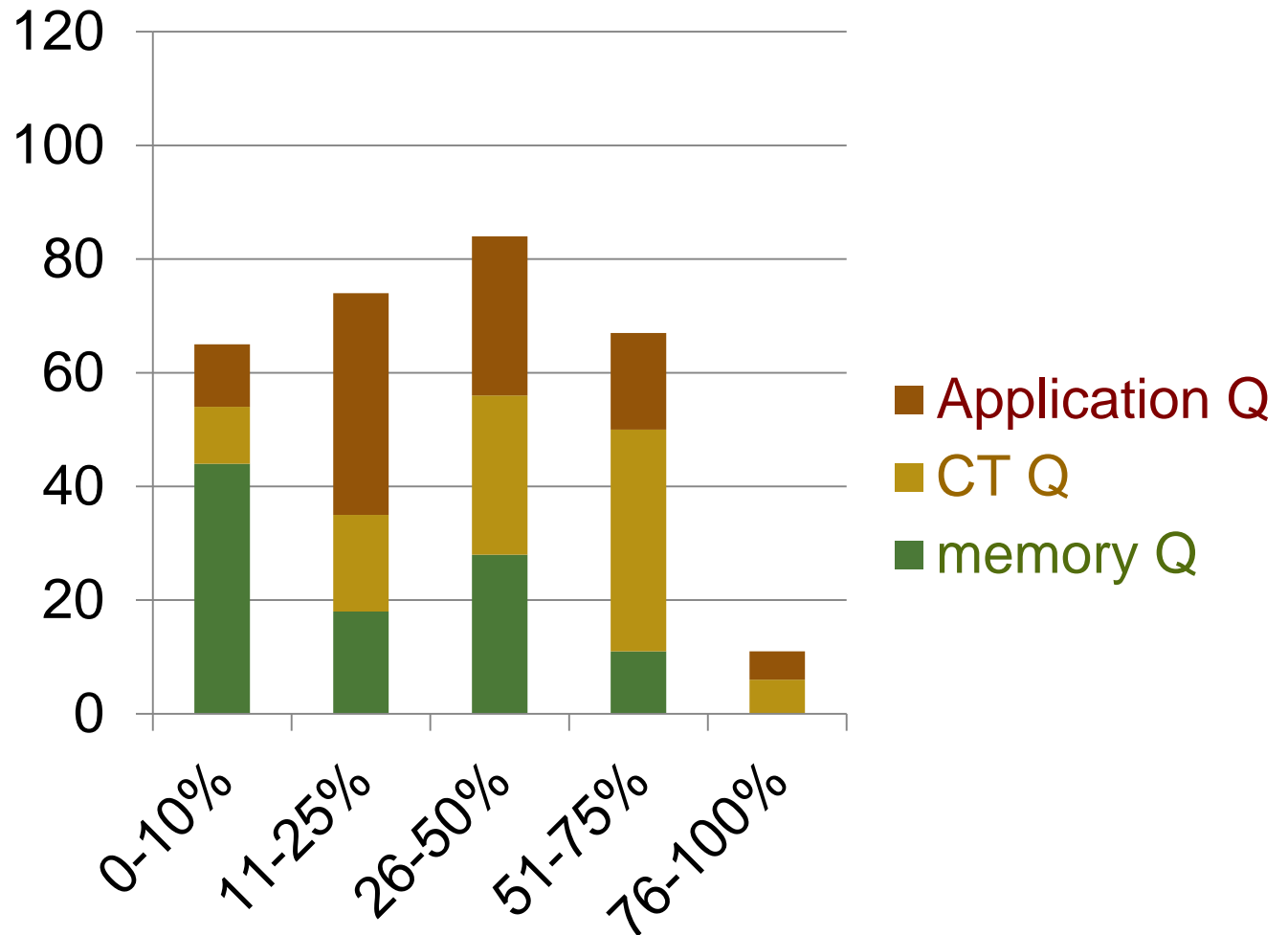
# Results

## Type of Questions Asked in Exam 1

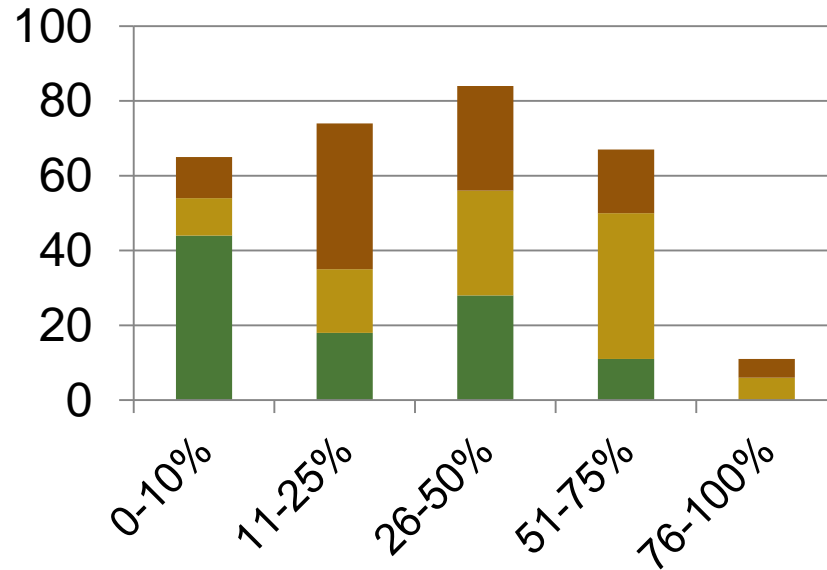
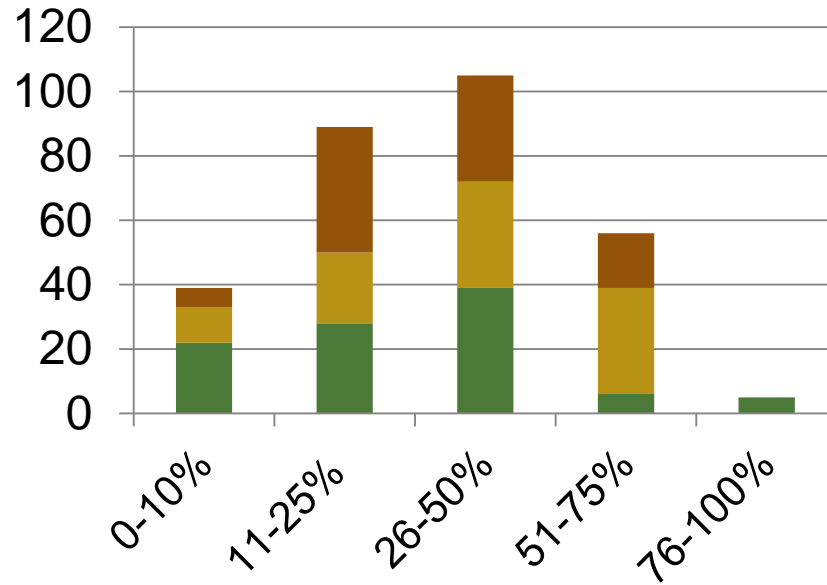


# Results

## Type of Questions Asked in Exam 2



# Results



# Select Verbatim Comments

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- ✓ *“It helps the students to concentrate well on preparation for exam with quick brush-up.”*
- ✓ *“It was helpful to know what topics would be covered on the exam and what type of information you were looking for in your answers.”*
- ✓ *“It gave us an orientation about exam and we were mentally prepared for the exam.”*
- ✓ *“My scores on both the tests were close, but the first was much higher. It is possible that it is because of the sample test.”*
- ✓ *“Not only the sample test helpful, but the review sheets were as well.”*



# Conclusions

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- ✓ Test review and practice test do make a difference in test performance
- ✓ Test review was helpful and should be continued
- ✓ Sample test was helpful and increased students' confidence in test taking
- ✓ Students can differentiate between types of test questions
- ✓ Overall, test scores and course grades improve



# Implications

- ✓ Teachers continue to offer practice exams and exam reviews on a regular basis
  - ✓ Identify topics for further study/review
- ✓ Ensure sample test questions reflect actual test questions
- ✓ Test questions should measure different levels of Bloom's Taxonomy
- ✓ Teachers should increase students' higher-order thinking by incorporating more higher-order test questions on subsequent tests
- ✓ Use a control group or intact classes to measure change in test performance



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Thank you!

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