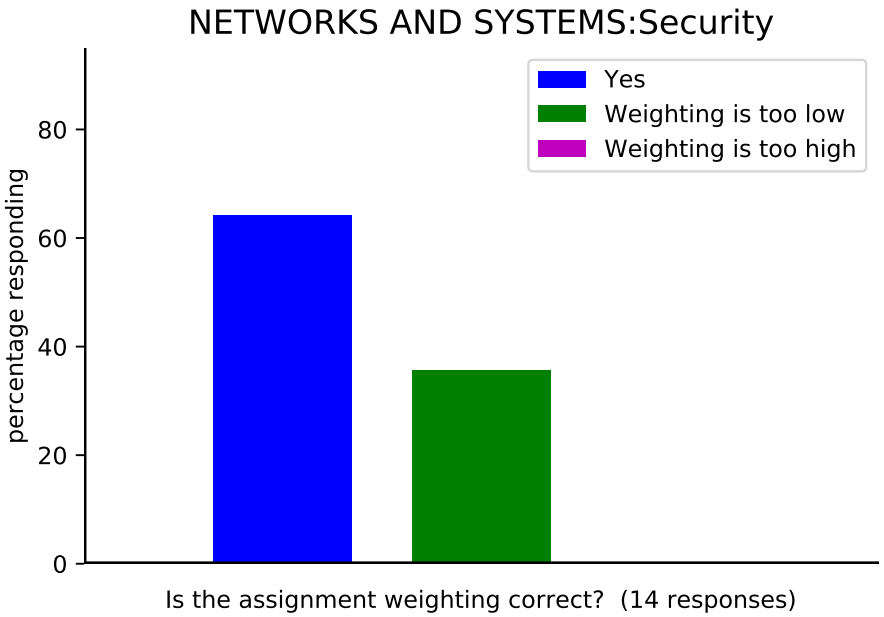
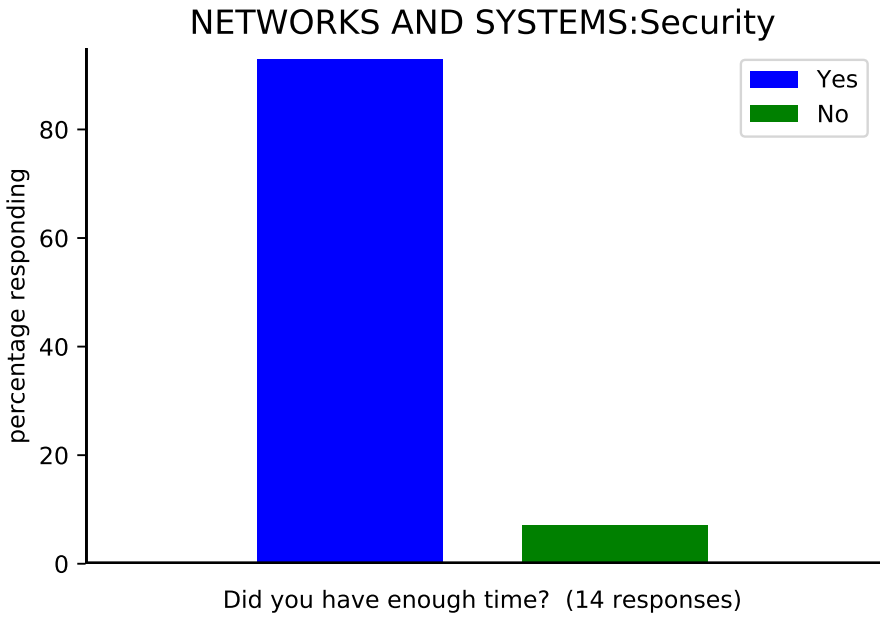
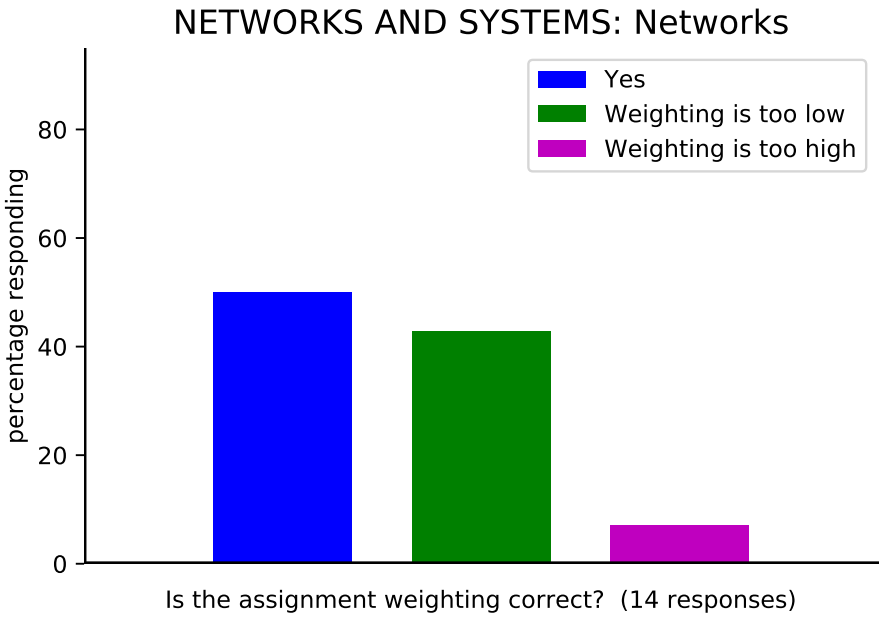
Results of a survey of second year students on their views of summative coursework.

You can find full results including comments on duo under 2nd Year Computing (18/19); go to Grade Centre, Full Grade Centre, Survey on Coursework, Attempts Statistics


NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS:Security
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (14 responses)


NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS:Security
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (14 responses)


NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS: Networks
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
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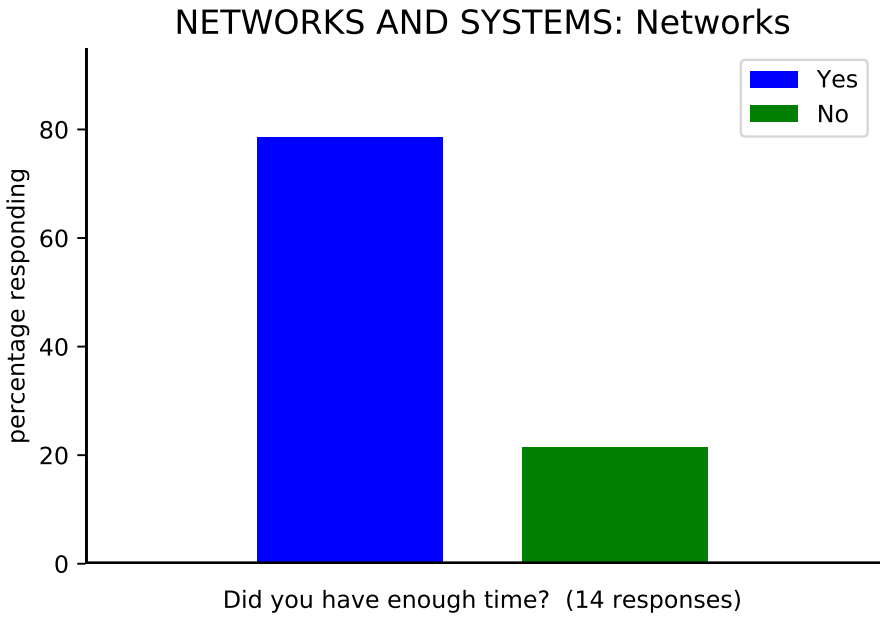
Is the assignment weighting correct? (14 responses)


NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS: Networks
Yes
No
percentage responding
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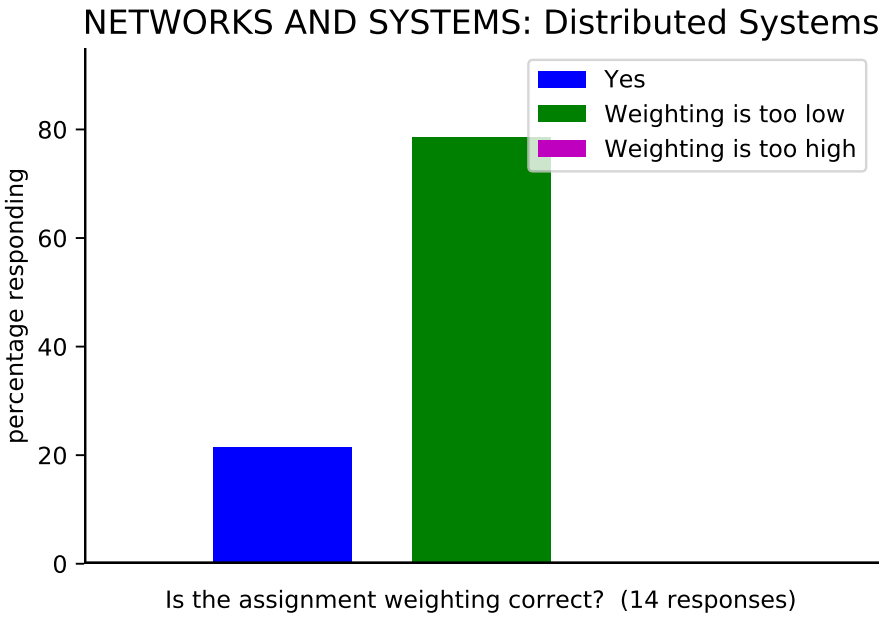
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (14 responses)


NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS: Distributed Systems
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
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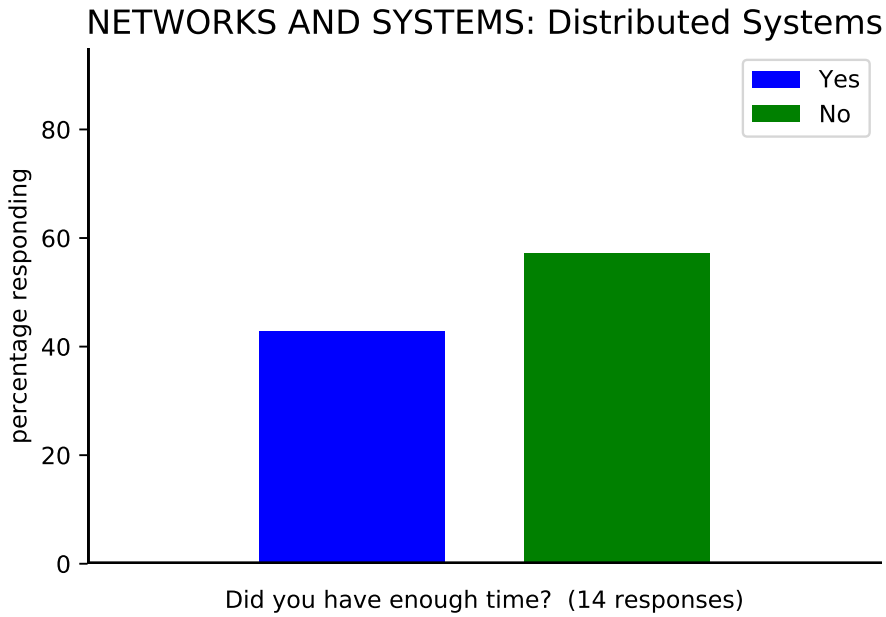
Is the assignment weighting correct? (14 responses)


NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS: Distributed Systems
Yes
No
percentage responding
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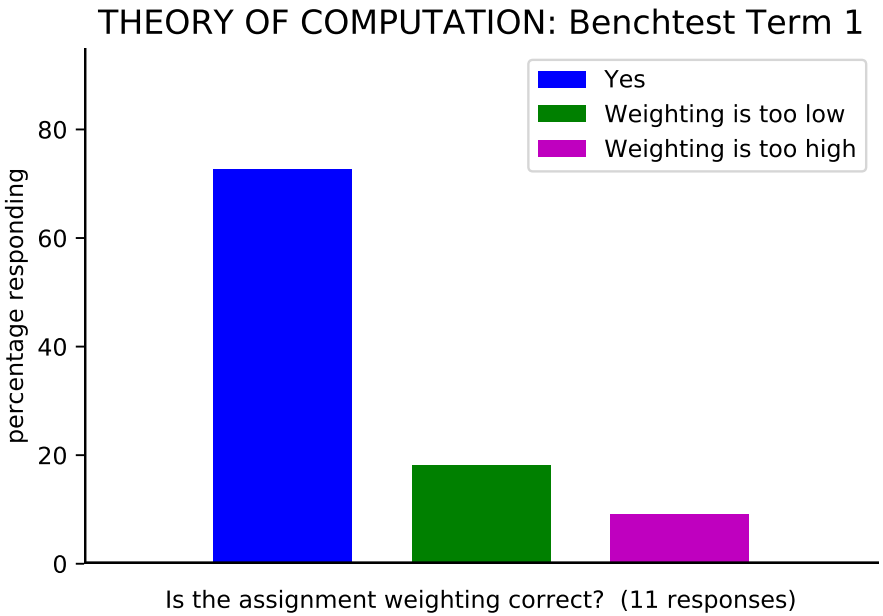
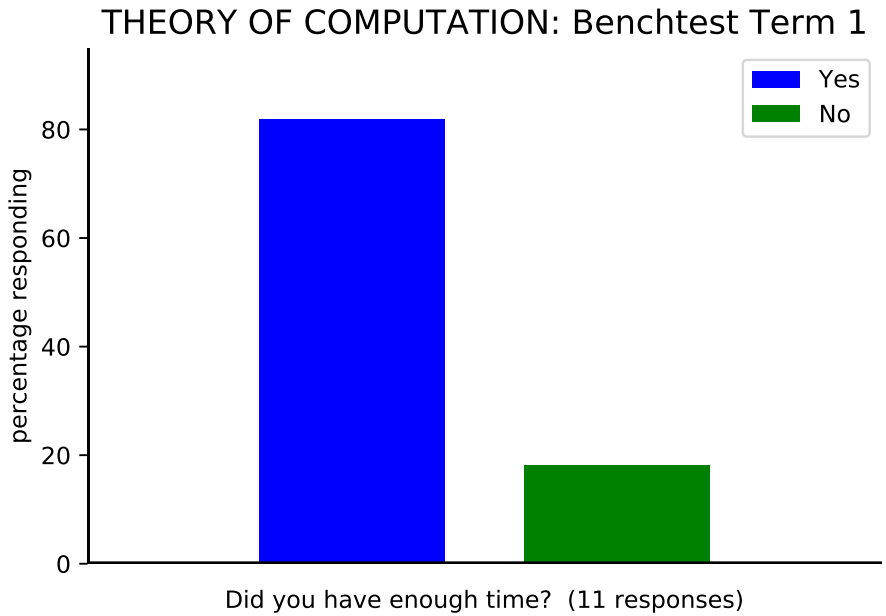
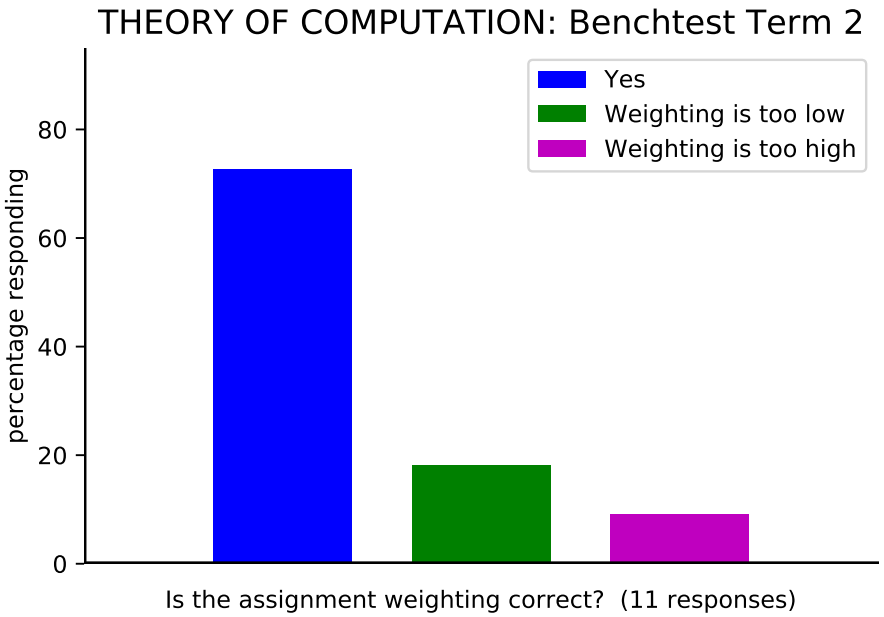
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (14 responses)


THEORY OF COMPUTATION: Benchtest Term 1
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (11 responses)


THEORY OF COMPUTATION: Benchtest Term 1
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (11 responses)


THEORY OF COMPUTATION: Benchtest Term 2
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
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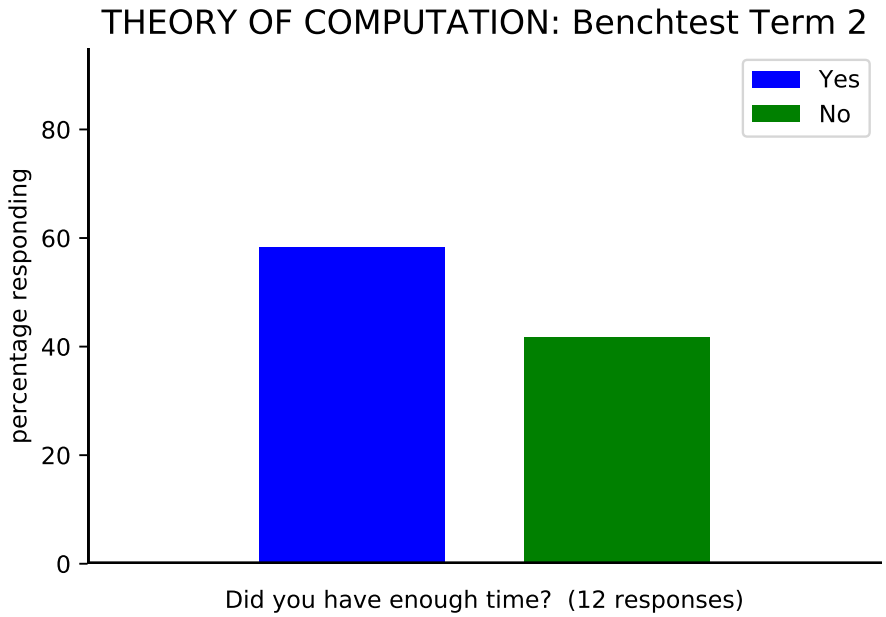
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (11 responses)


THEORY OF COMPUTATION: Benchtest Term 2
Yes
No
percentage responding
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40
60
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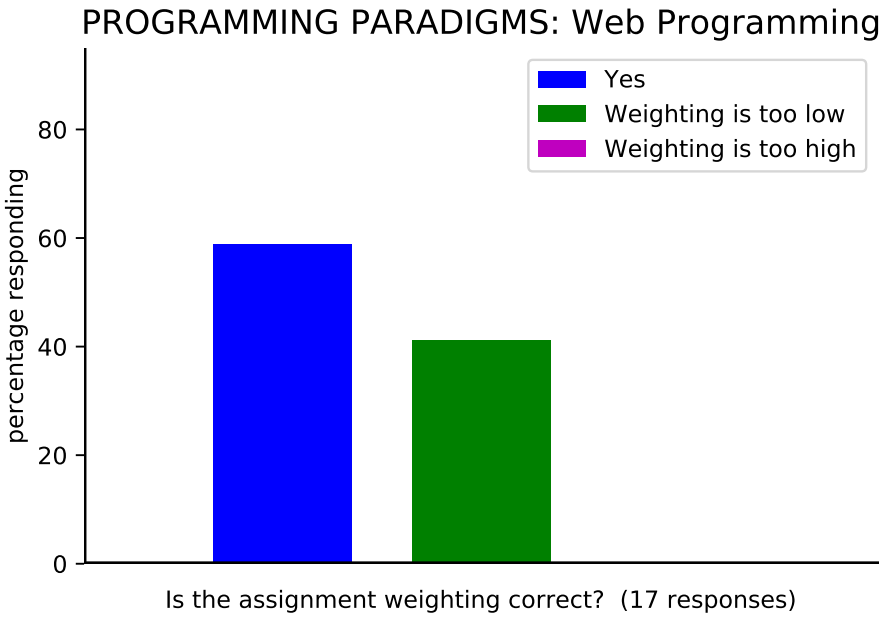
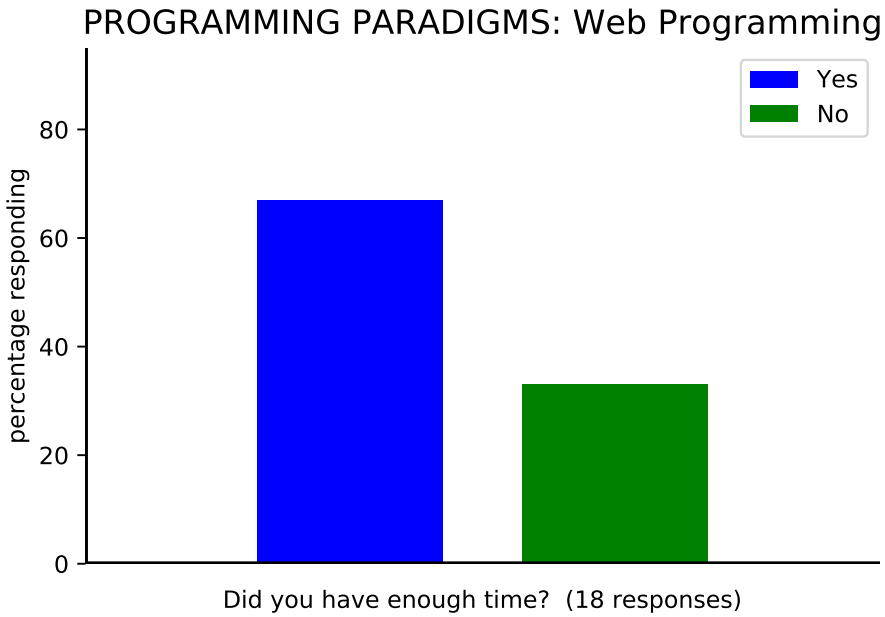
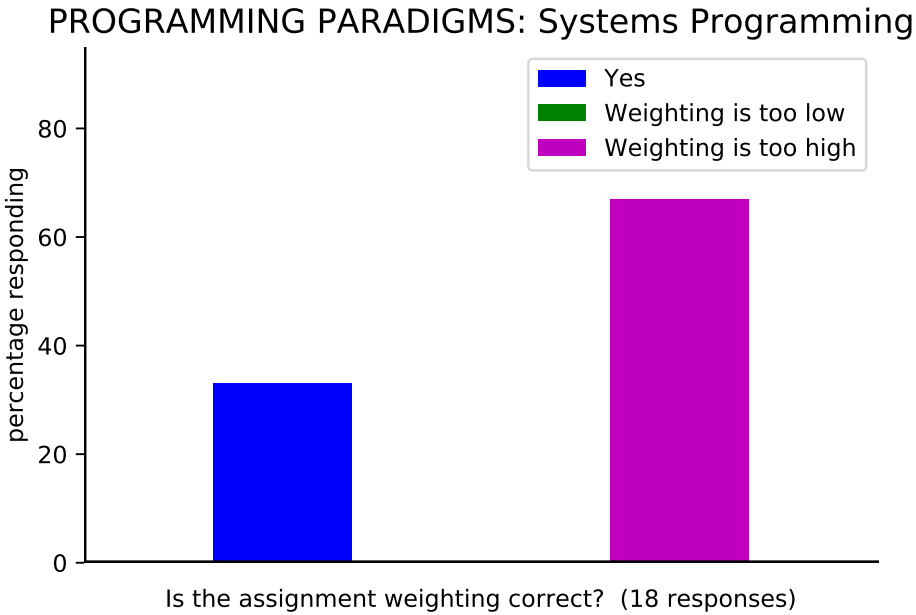
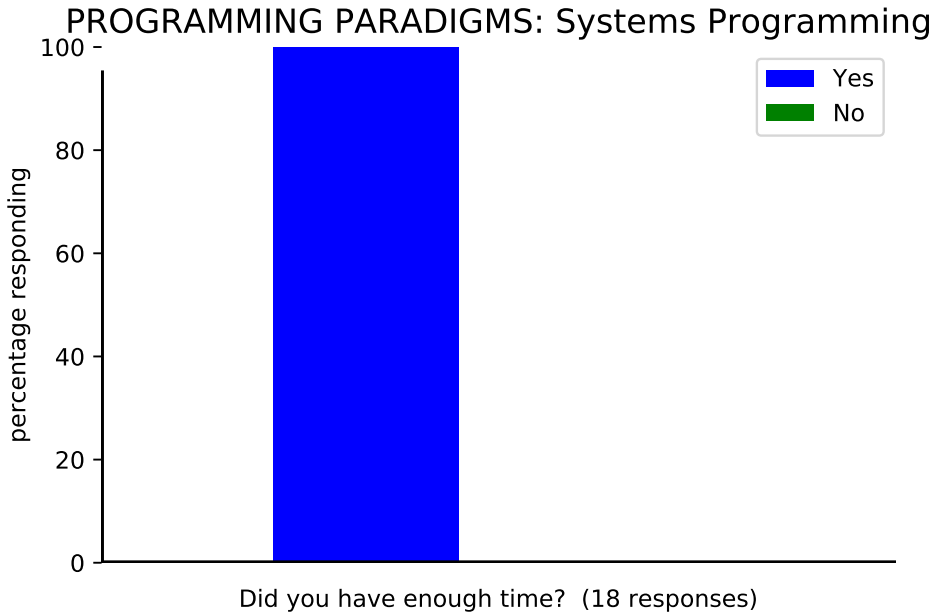
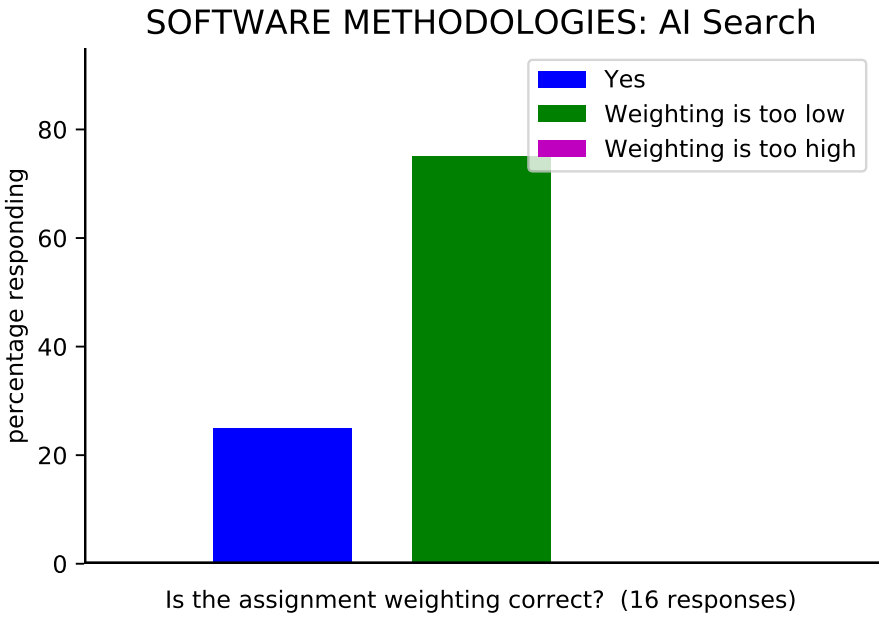
Did you have enough time? (12 responses)

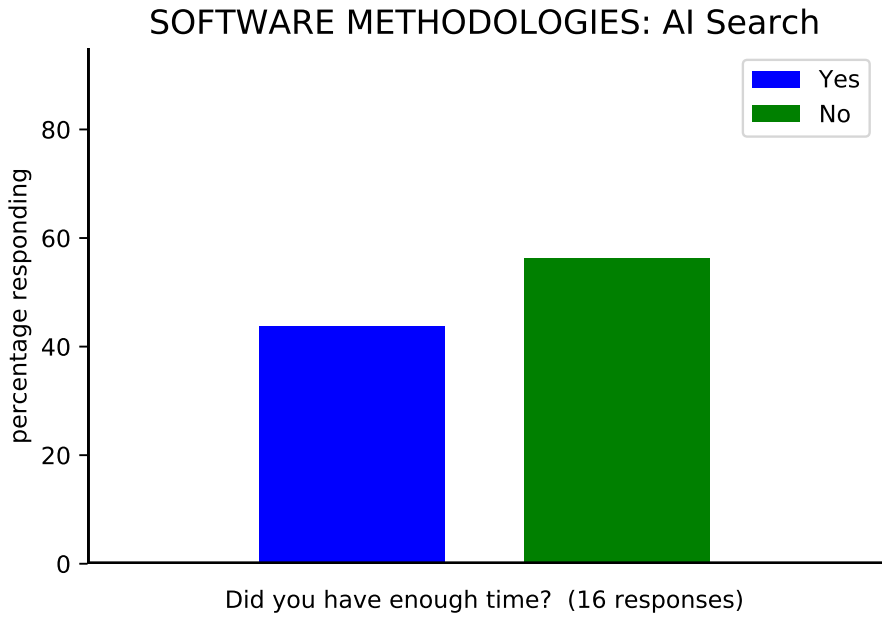

PROGRAMMING PARADIGMS: Web Programming
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (17 responses)

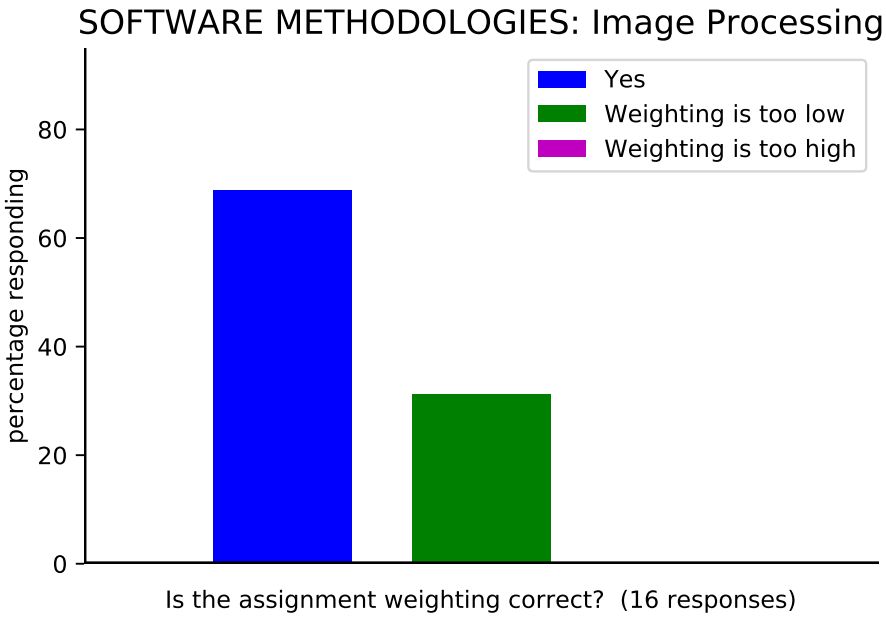

PROGRAMMING PARADIGMS: Web Programming
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (18 responses)

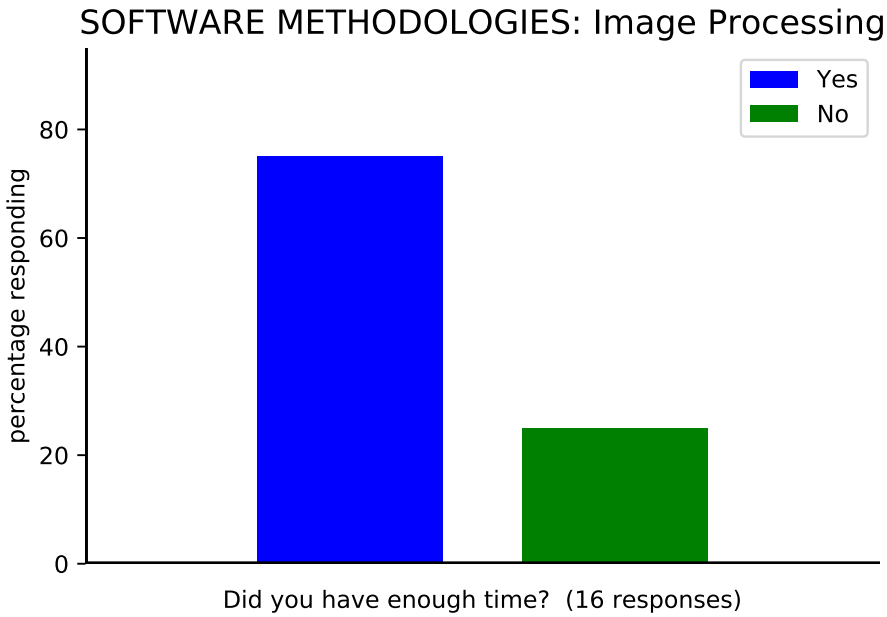

PROGRAMMING PARADIGMS: Systems Programming
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (18 responses)

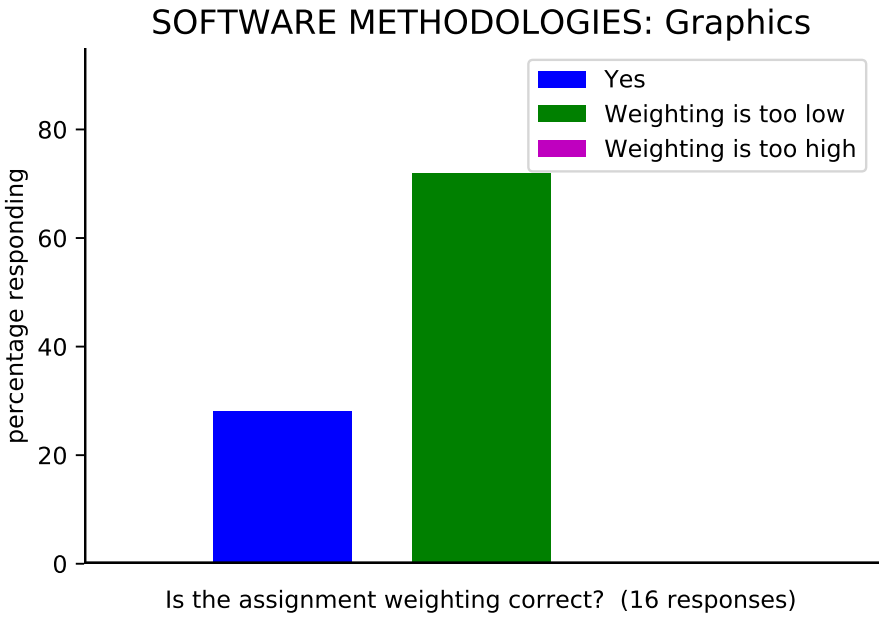

PROGRAMMING PARADIGMS: Systems Programming
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
100
Did you have enough time? (18 responses)

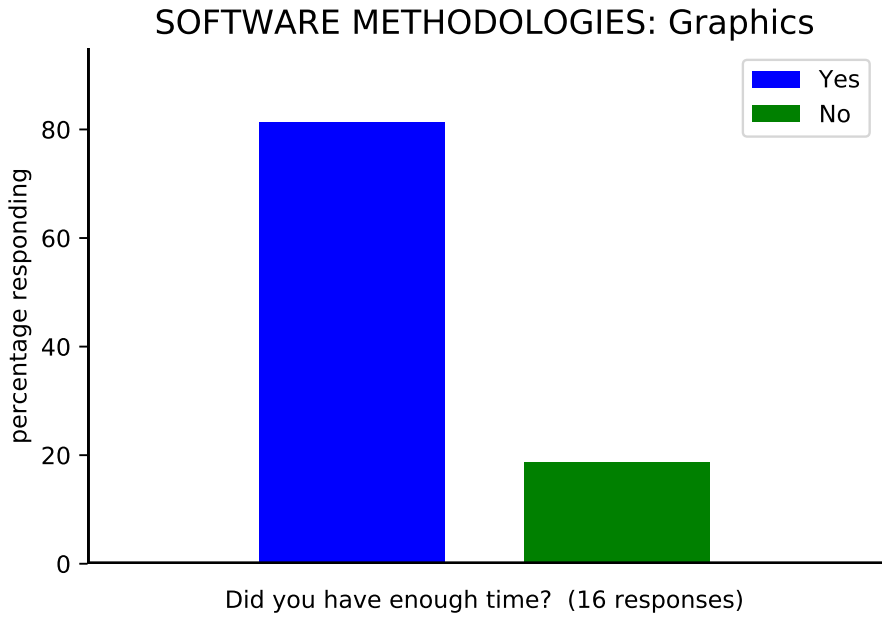

SOFTWARE METHODOLOGIES: AI Search
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (16 responses)

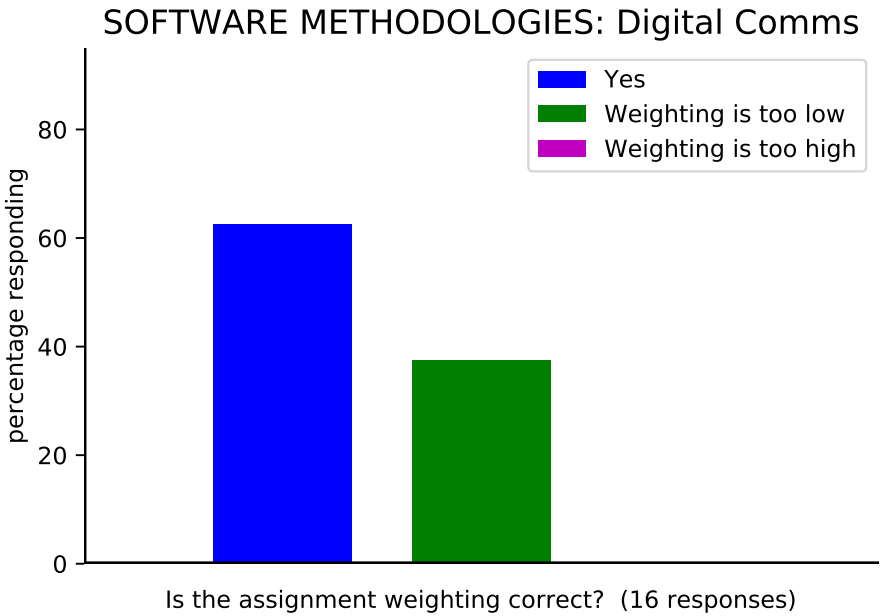

SOFTWARE METHODOLOGIES: AI Search
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (16 responses)

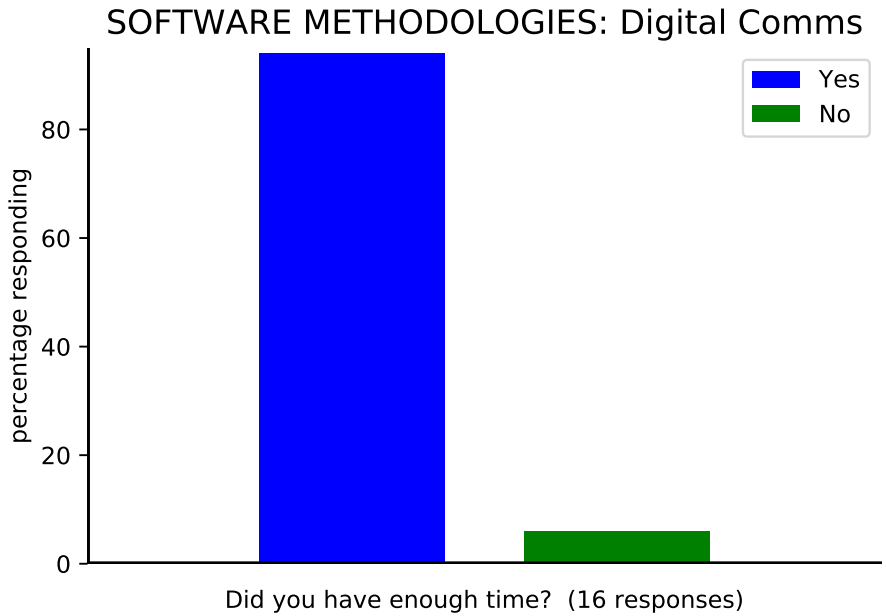

SOFTWARE METHODOLOGIES: Image Processing
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (16 responses)

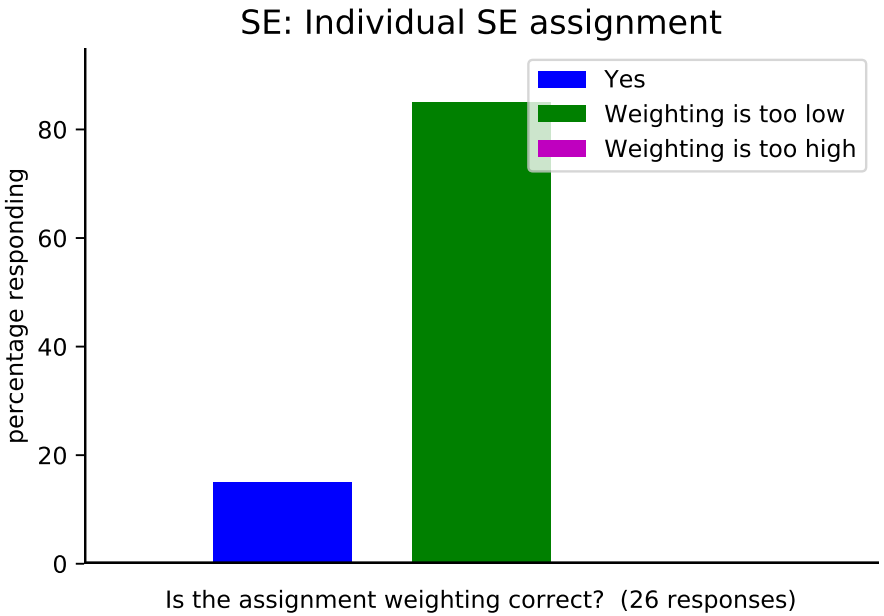

SOFTWARE METHODOLOGIES: Image Processing
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (16 responses)

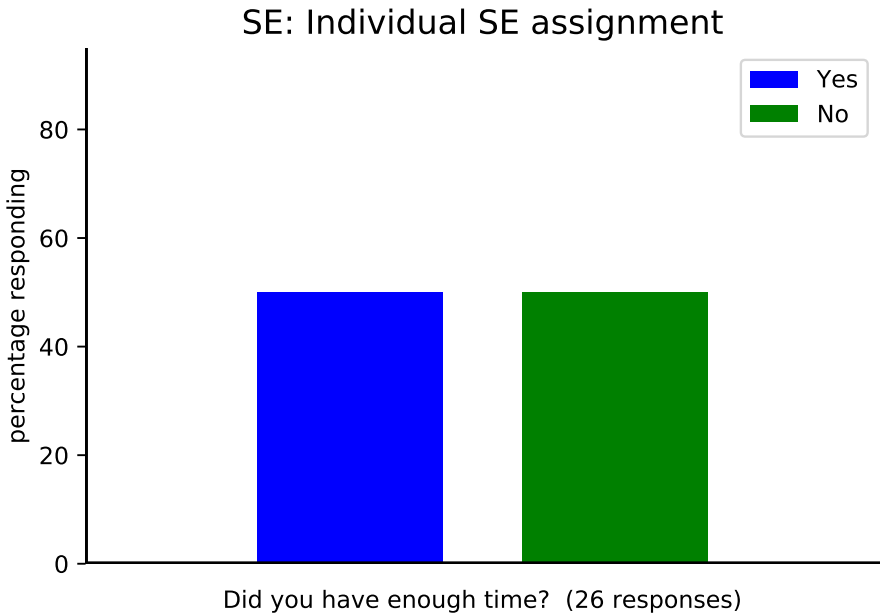

SOFTWARE METHODOLOGIES: Graphics
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (16 responses)

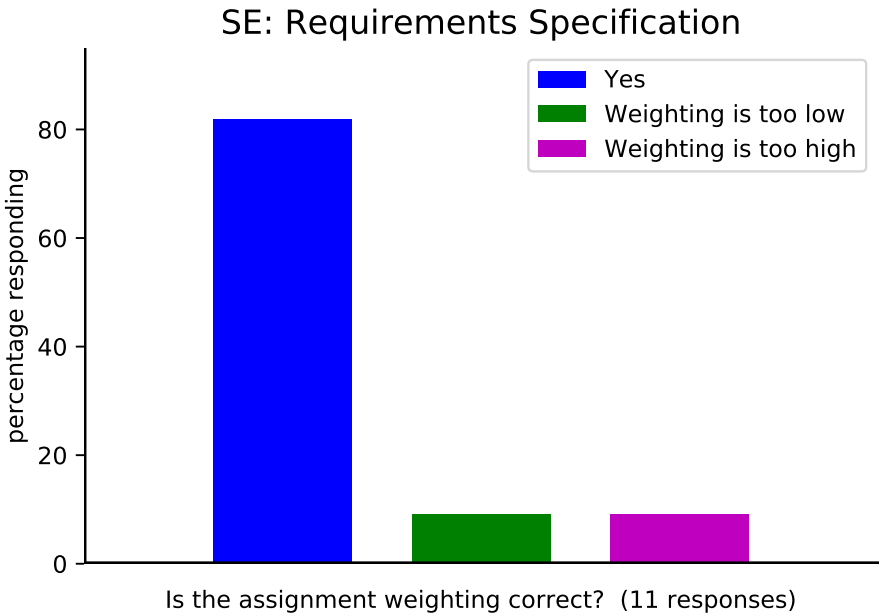

SOFTWARE METHODOLOGIES: Graphics
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (16 responses)

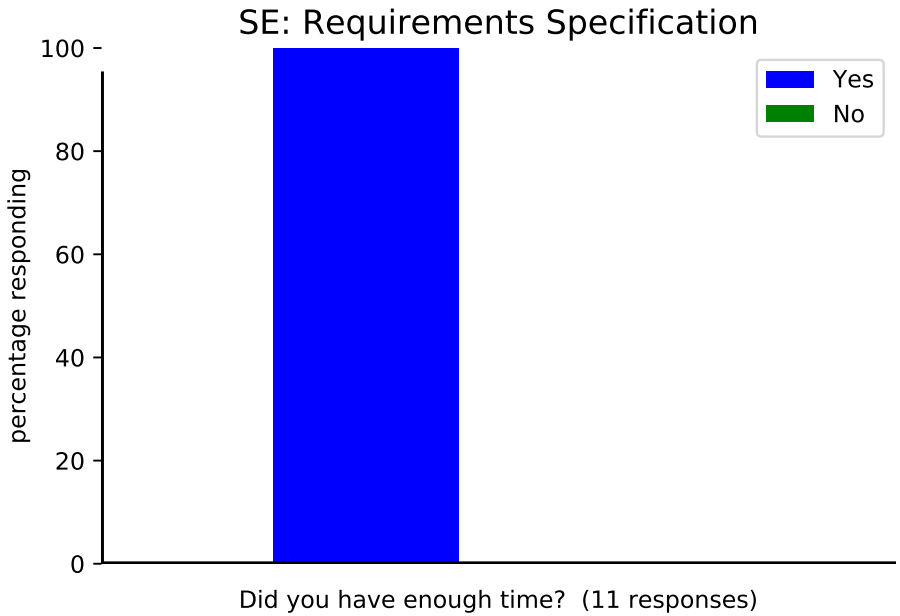

SOFTWARE METHODOLOGIES: Digital Comms
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (16 responses)


SOFTWARE METHODOLOGIES: Digital Comms
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (16 responses)


SE: Individual SE assignment
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (26 responses)


SE: Individual SE assignment
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (26 responses)


SE: Requirements Specification
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (11 responses)


SE: Requirements Specification
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
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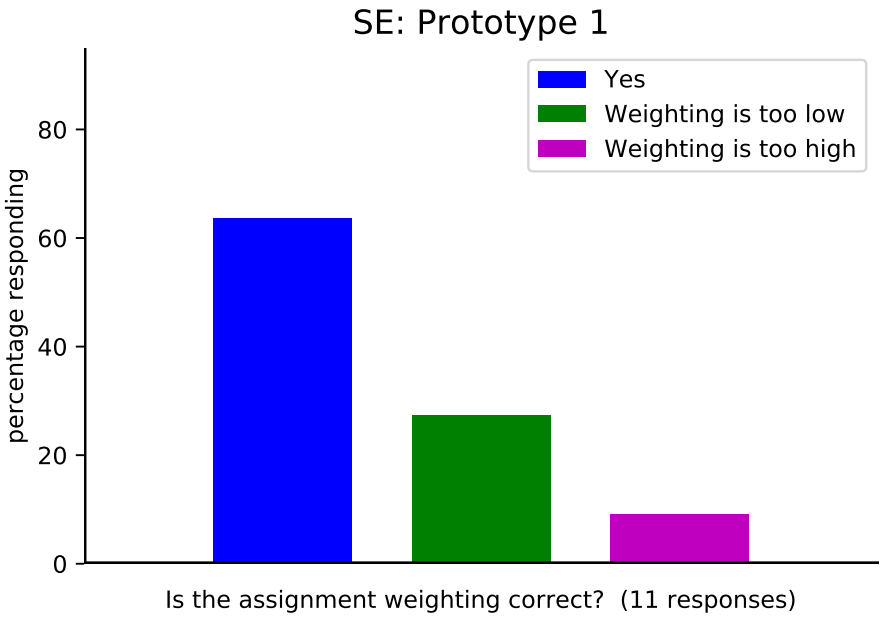
40
60
80
100
Did you have enough time? (11 responses)


SE: Prototype 1
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
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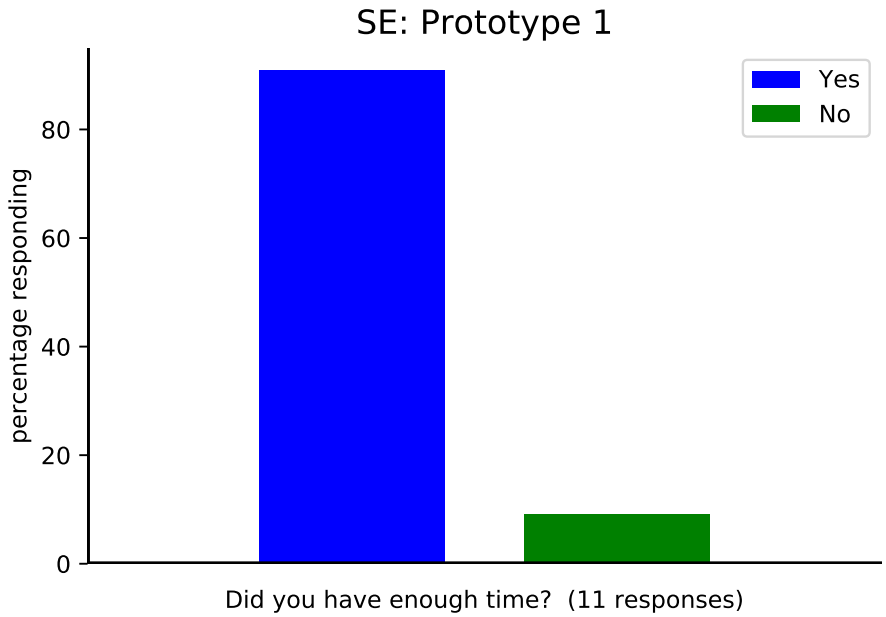
Is the assignment weighting correct? (11 responses)


SE: Prototype 1
Yes
No
percentage responding
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20
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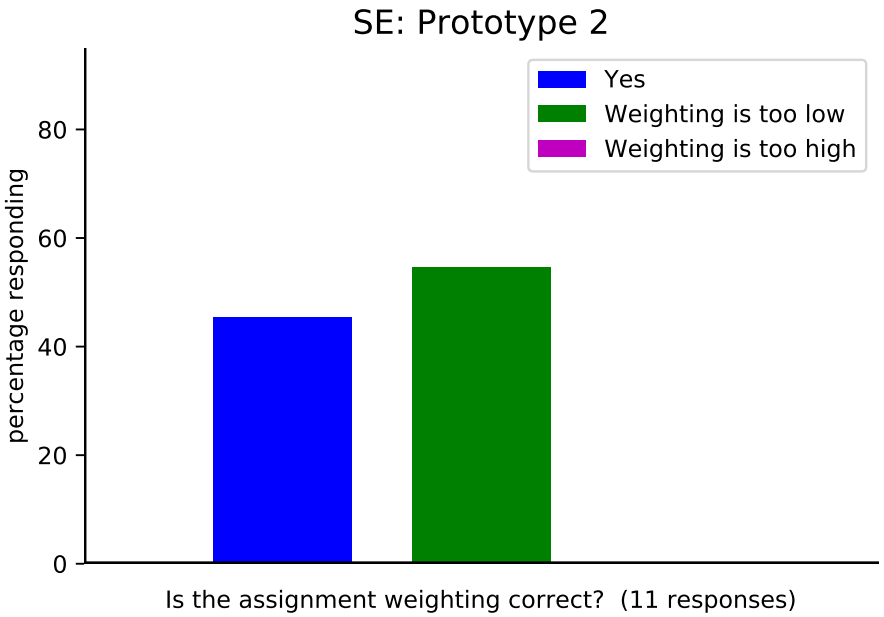
80
Did you have enough time? (11 responses)


SE: Prototype 2
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Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
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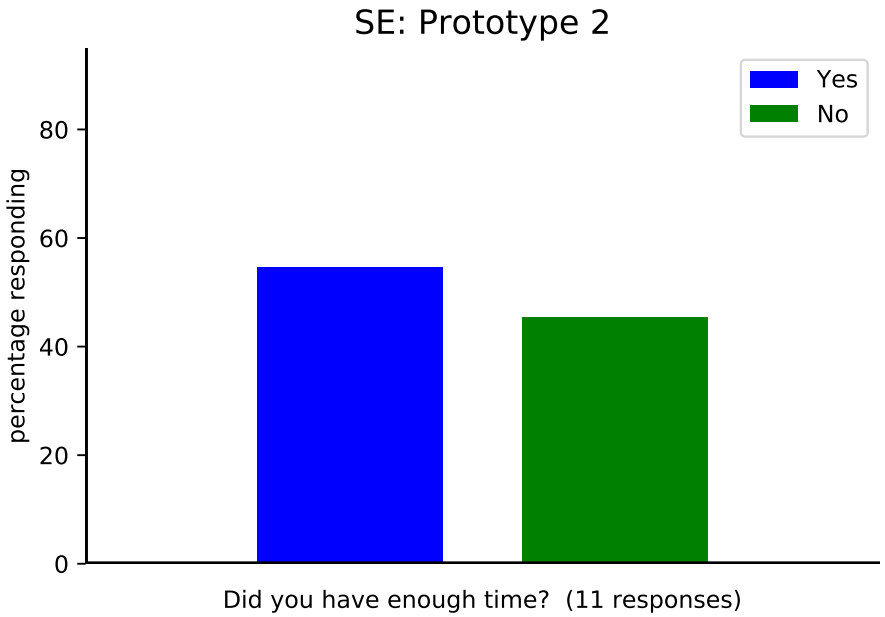
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (11 responses)


SE: Prototype 2
Yes
No
percentage responding
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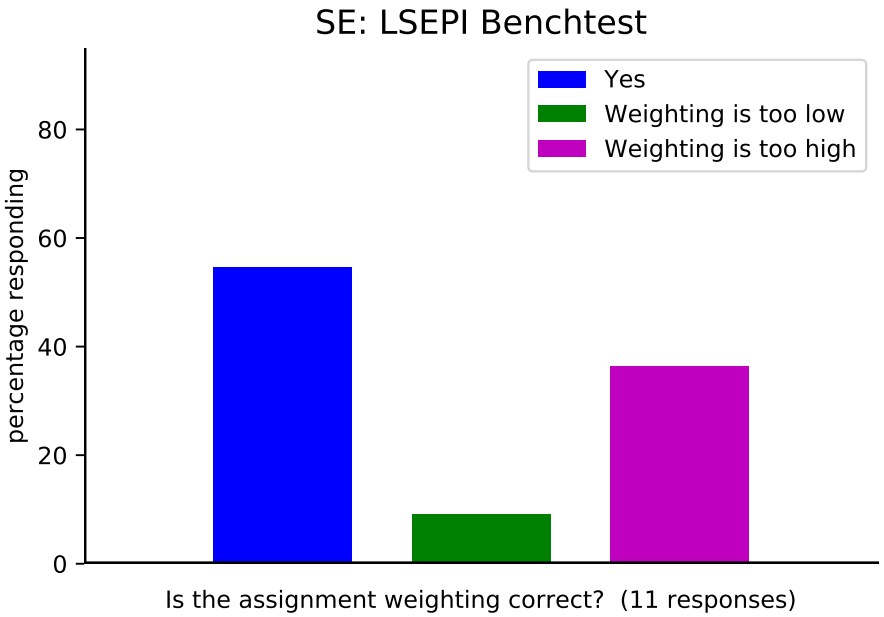
80
Did you have enough time? (11 responses)


SE: LSEPI Benchtest
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
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20
40
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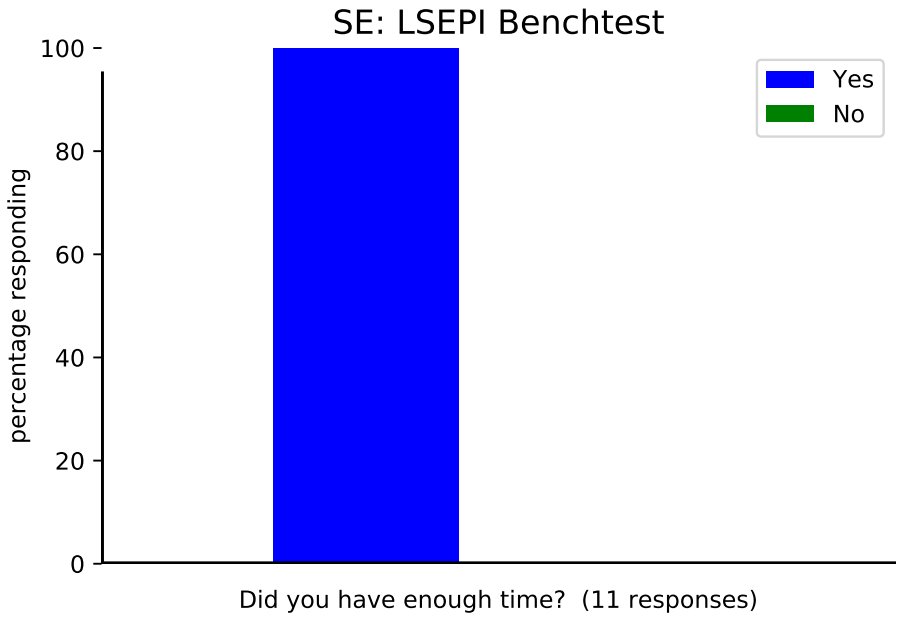
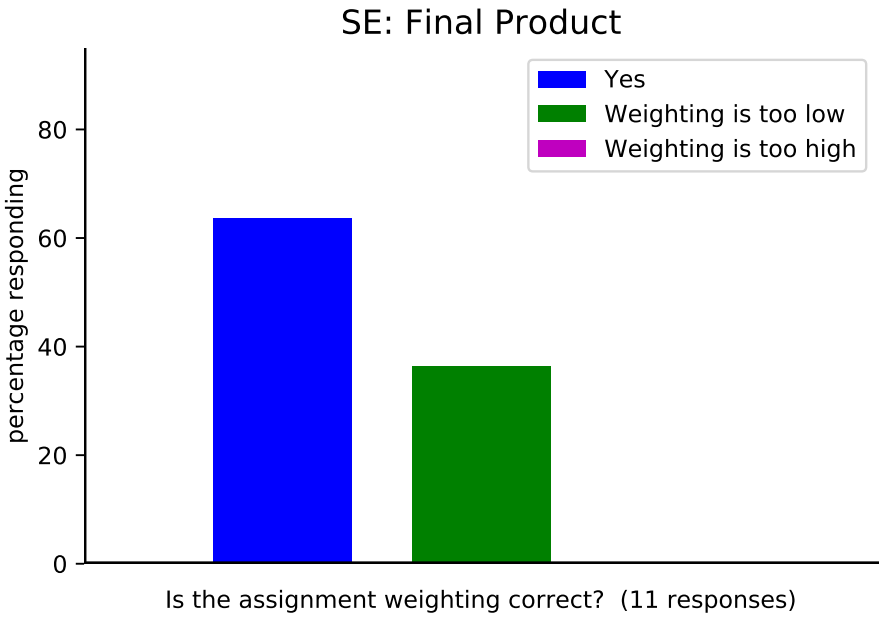
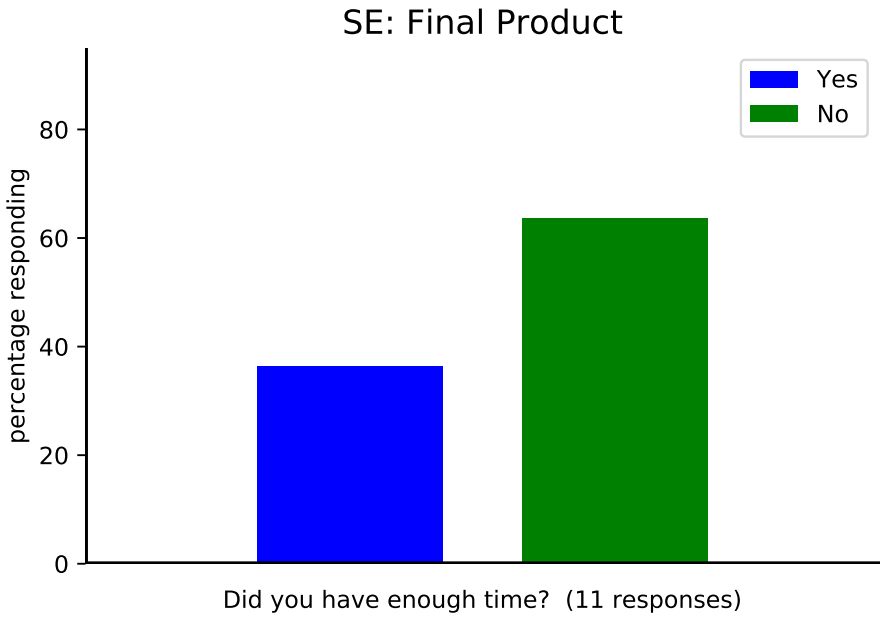
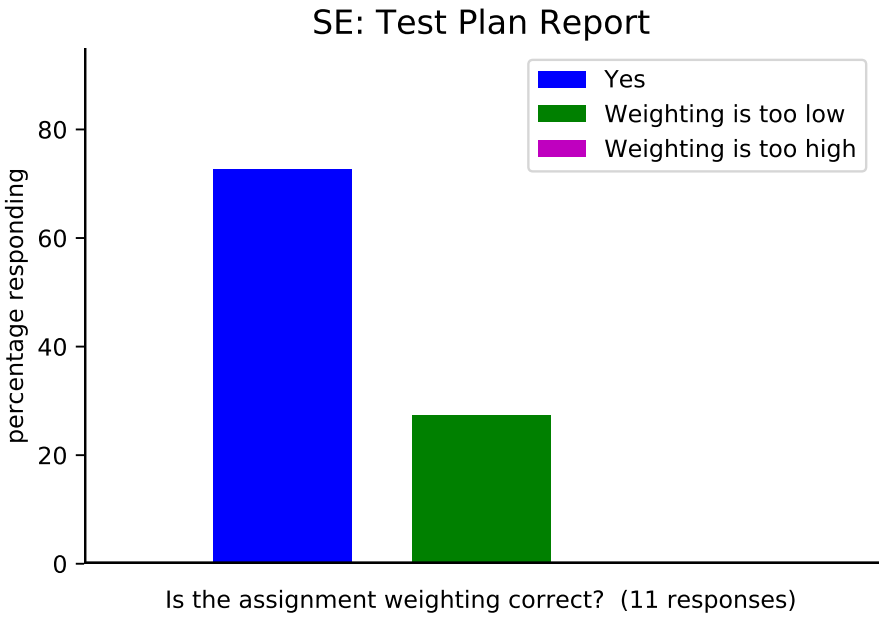
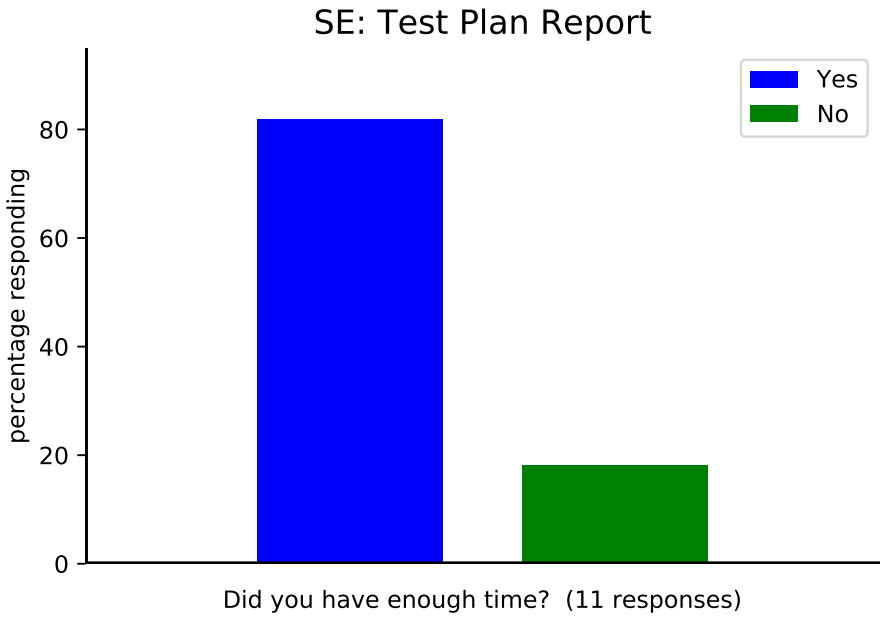
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (11 responses)

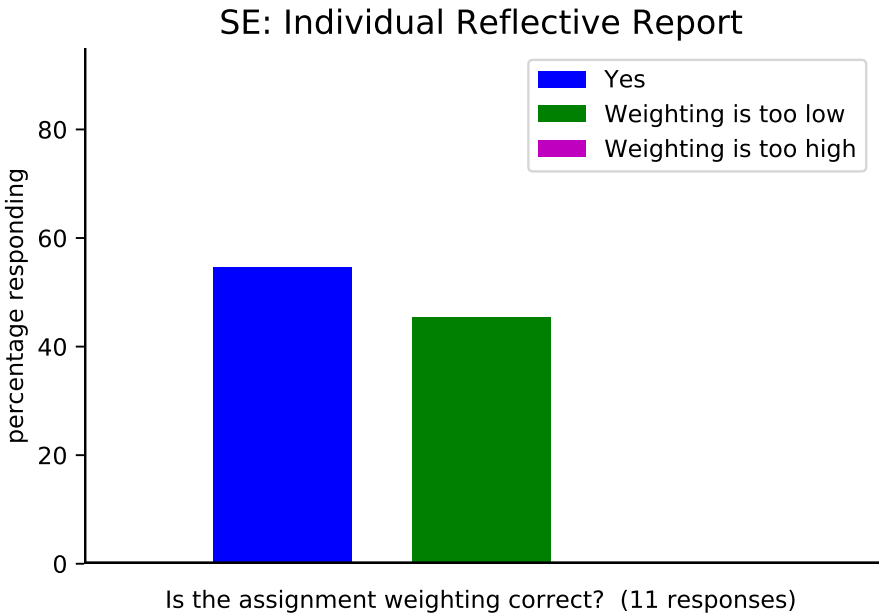

SE: LSEPI Benchtest
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
100
Did you have enough time? (11 responses)

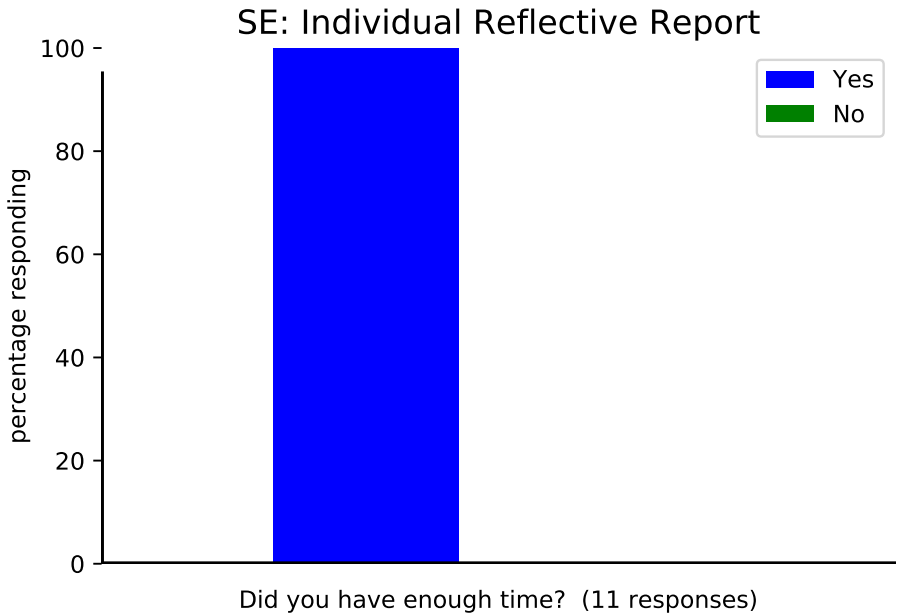

SE: Final Product
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (11 responses)


SE: Final Product
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (11 responses)


SE: Test Plan Report
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (11 responses)


SE: Test Plan Report
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Did you have enough time? (11 responses)


SE: Individual Reflective Report
Yes
Weighting is too low
Weighting is too high
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
Is the assignment weighting correct? (11 responses)


SE: Individual Reflective Report
Yes
No
percentage responding
0
20
40
60
80
100
Did you have enough time? (11 responses)

Comments

- Coursework deadlines grouped together at the end of each term as well as benchtests forming an “exam season” of coursework making it tough to complete them all in time.
- Feedback is not consistent. Some courseworks you get very detailed feedback, others you get a scentence
- Weighting for both the system programming and the LSEPI benchtest is completely out of line with other summatives. 5 credits is the worth of the Web programming summative, which took most students $>$ 20 hours to complete. Many students finished these benchtests in a quarter of the alloted time with $>$ 85%. I’ll add that the system programming benchtest should be open book with access to a compiler (or at least documentation) if it aims to remotely assess programming ability.
- The networks summative was a bad assessment of network programming ability - my ability to program a text parser (a requisite for the summative) was tested more than that to program a TCP socket. It also contributed to the extreme workload of first term, and was generally a waste of time which would be better off replaced by summative practicals.
- There needs to be a decrease in the amount of coursework given throughout the year, especially in term 1, as having to juggle between so many different pieces of coursework is difficult and stressful. For term 2, I think the Digital Communication coursework should be removed so that students can focus on the Computer Graphics and Distributed Systems courseworks because those are more important to those submodules.

- Overall all the sourse work was too much work to be worth the percentage marks they were and has caused serious amounts of stress. Also i found that for the amount of work put in some of the feedback was ridiculously short and they clearly hadn't even read the reports fully (AI search and dig comms). the markings also seemed to be completely random and not proportional to the amount of work put in as i got 50% more in Sytems then AI search despite putting in about a tenth of the effort.
- Feedback was poor of the amout of work put in.
- The amount of coursework leaves little room for anything else. I started skipping practicals and sometimes even lectures when I was under too much pressure from coursework. I developed bad sleeping habits trying to get my coursework done well into the night and my understanding of the course content suffered as a result of spending less time consolidating the information from lectures and attending practicals which I would have been able to do if not for the coursework. I have had to skip society commitments and spend the majority of my free time on coursework, giving me very little time to relieve stress. I even spent my entire christmas holiday on Web Programming and Software Engineering Prototype 2 so I couldn't revise or take time off to relax. In addition to this are the exams which still make up most of the module mark despite us being ill-prepared from the year of coursework and far more content than I have ever had to deal with before. For the wellbeing of students there should be less coursework, and the coursework that there is should make up a higher percentage of the module mark for the amount of time and effort that is put into it. To achieve high marks in the coursework, a lot of time working on it is needed and students sometimes have other commitments which may include internship applications and interviews. Students also need time off to recuperate and the coursework leaves little room for this if a student strives for high marks, which is what is expected of them.

- Nothing felt ballenced. 12.5% for graphics was significantly (an order of magnitude) more time consuming that 25% for C in programing
- These coursework assigments are very tough if you work slowly (as I do). I would definitely say that these are conservative estimates. I spent the majority of most weekends during first term working on AI search. I really want to emphasise that I am not trying to embellish facts to be dramatic but the workload of this course is far too high. I was in a permanent state of stress and I would absolutely rather exit the course than repeat this year. I was regularly working for 12 hours a day trying to complete assignments, for the digital communications assignment in particular I missed nearly a full week of lectures as the coursework workload was catching up with me and I did not feel as though I could complete it otherwise. Without doubt this has been the most horrendous year of my life - I was diagnosed with anxiety partway through the year which was attributed to stress. Please please please reduce the workload as I currently would not recommend to anyone that they should undertake this course and regret having done so myself.
- Although I liked the type and range of courseworks this year, I think the majority of them should be worth a lot more for the amount of time and effort they require. It means I do not have time during the first two terms of the year to really go over lecture content that I need to learn for exams, putting a lot more pressure at the end of the year to learn everything in a short amount of space. This is really not ideal considering how much content the lectures contain and we are expected to know, there isn't enough time over easter to just learn it all then. Other courses and modules at Durham who have similar amounts of coursework weight it a lot more, usually having less exams.

- Much more care needs to be taken around the scheduling of deadlines specifically, but also on when assignments are set. Having almost all deadlines in a term in the last week is going to limit even students who excel in time management. Deadlines such as for Web Programming, which in it's benefit was highly relevant, were moved by an entire month, which was the right course of action however it should have been set then anyway. Deadlines were weighted towards the end of term. Having Web Programming be weighted 25% and taking many hours spread over many weeks of work, while having the Systems Programming Test be weighted 25% and take only about 12 minutes is absurd. Perhaps Systems Programming should be split into the same benchtest assessing core knowledge and a coursework piece assessing some higher level task or application of that knowledge. i.e Students are given some buggy C code with a stated aim and told to correct it, or alternatively implement an algorithm/data structure in C. Computer graphics is not reflective of real world practices of OpenGL utilising JS libraries and is mostly irrelevant. SE prototype 2 is highly underweighted. The Security coursework, Web Programming, AI Search, DC, IP, and Networks were all enjoyable. DS and CG were not. Perhaps they could be framed differently.