



Is Your Large Language Model Knowledgeable or a **Choices-Only Cheater**?



Paper



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LLMs can answer multiple-choice questions without seeing the question

Choices:
 (A) 1
 (B) 2
 (C) 2, 3
 (D) 6
Answer: (C)



But does this mean LLM leaderboard rankings are **due to their choices-only abilities**?

Question: Find all zeros in the indicated finite field of the given polynomial with coefficients in that field. $x^3 + 2x + 2$ in \mathbb{Z}_7
Choices:
 (A) 1
 (B) 2
 (C) 2, 3
 (D) 6
Answer: (C)

How can we make sure LLMs are not **choices-only cheaters** on MCQA leaderboards?

UnifiedQA Original Dataset

Question X

Question: Some aerosols decrease temperatures by blocking what?
Choices:
 (A) rainfall
 (B) visibility
 (C) the sun
 (D) pressure
Answer: (C)

Question Y

Question: Which of the following increases moisture?
Choices:
 (A) density
 (B) the sun
 (C) rain
 (D) water
Answer: (D)

UnifiedQA Contrast Set

Question X

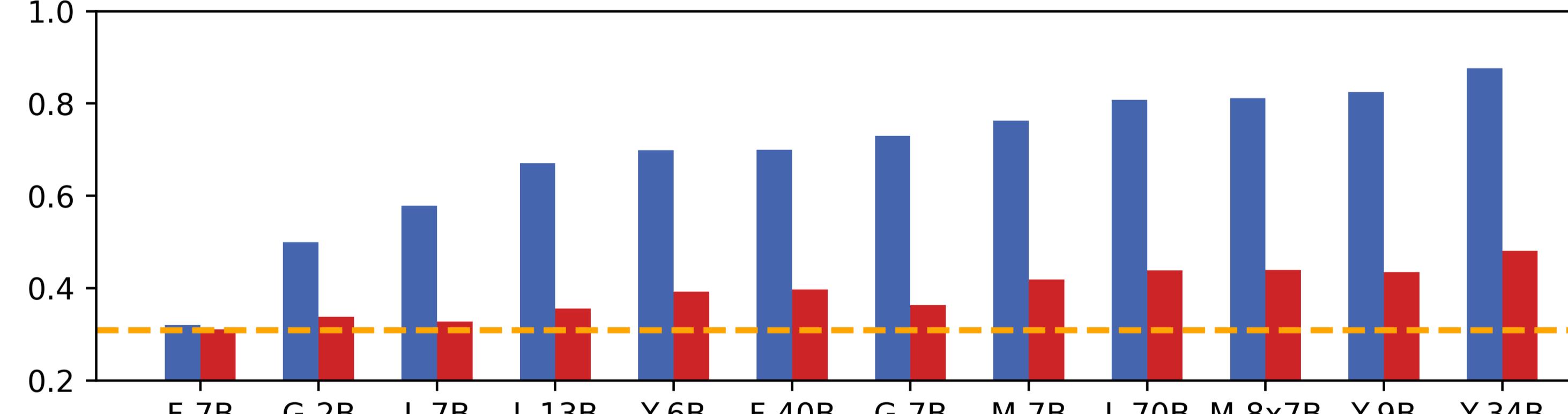
Question: Some aerosols decrease temperatures by blocking what?
Choices:
 (A) the sun
 (B) rain
Answer: (A)

Question Y

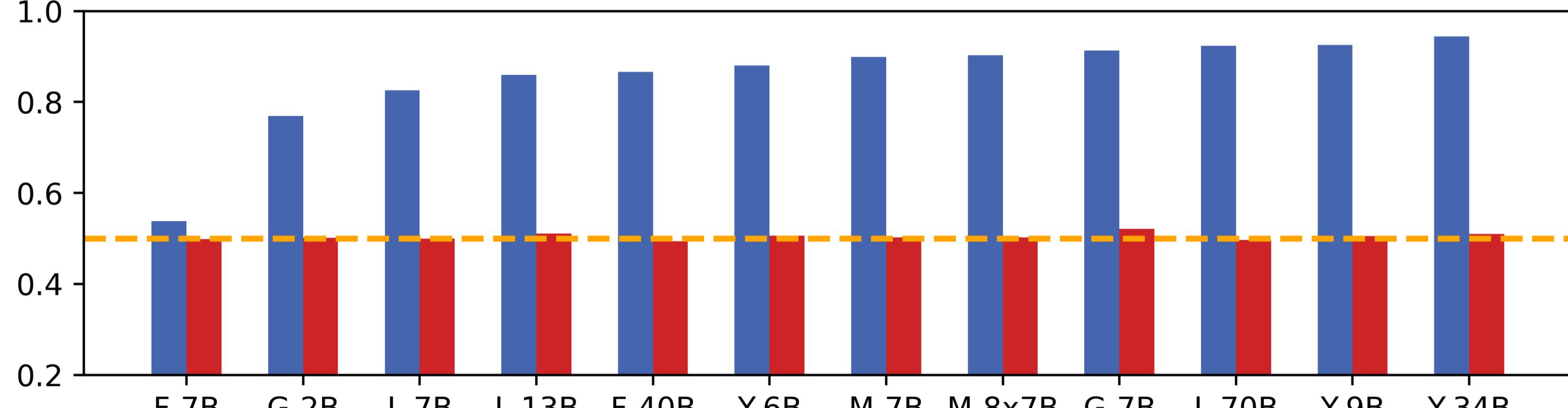
Question: Which of the following increases moisture?
Choices:
 (A) the sun
 (B) rain
Answer: (B)

Are any of our tested LLMs choices-only cheaters?

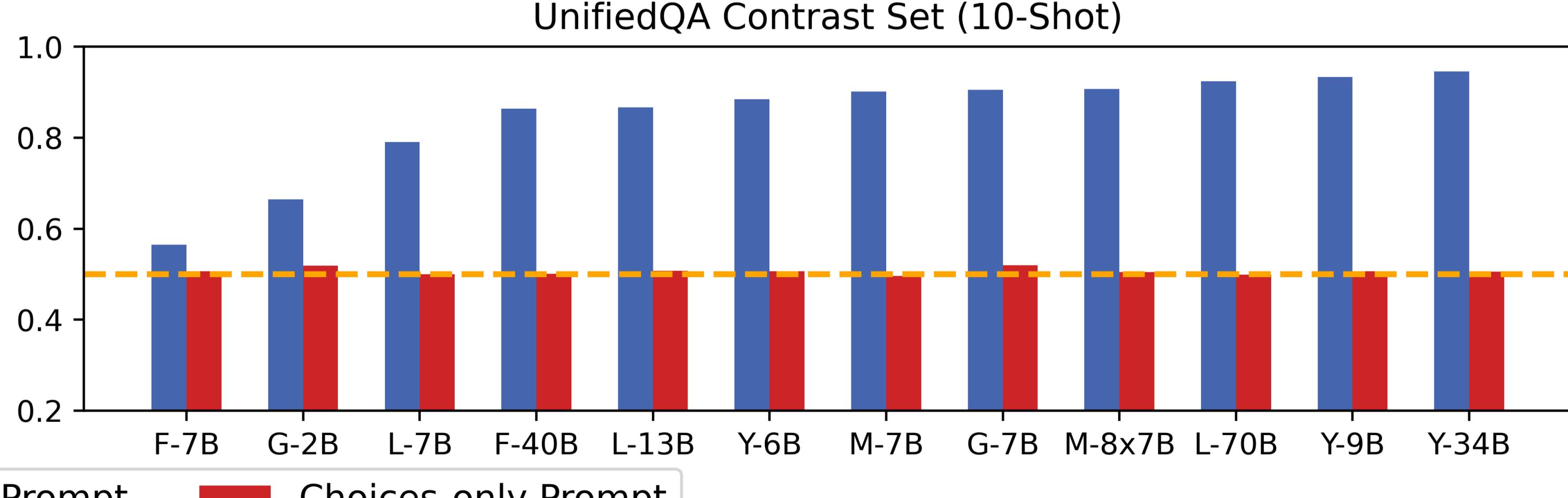
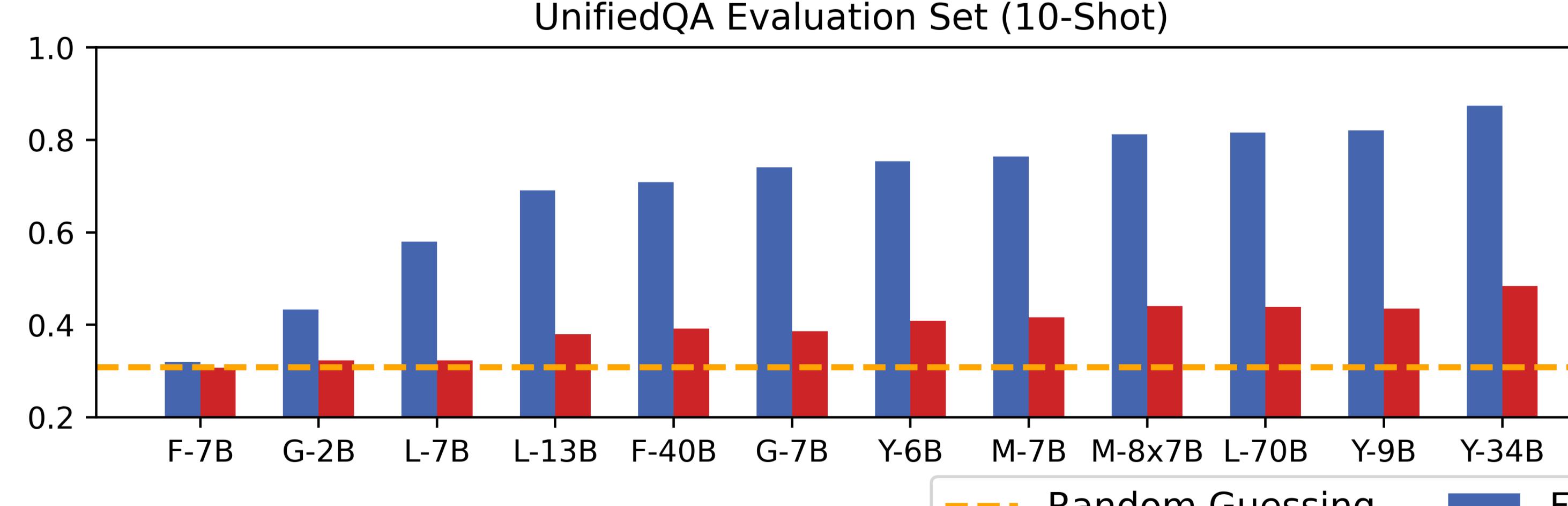
UnifiedQA Evaluation Set (5-Shot)



UnifiedQA Contrast Set (5-Shot)



UnifiedQA Evaluation Set (10-Shot)



— Random Guessing ■ Full Prompt ■ Choices-only Prompt

Fortunately, LLM rankings on the original UnifiedQA dataset and its contrast set are **highly consistent**!

