

#WhatsYourTake on the Future of Assessment survey: topline results

Overview

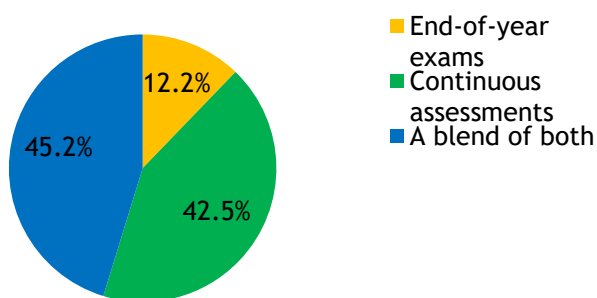
In early October 2021, the Scottish Youth Parliament conducted a survey titled #HaveYourSay On the Future of Assessments in order to gather a wider range of views on how young people throughout Scotland felt towards examinations and assessments, as well as to see if these views corresponded with the views expressed by our MSYPs.

The information below is provided to give an overview of the respondent profiles, the results of the two week survey, and analysis of the results.

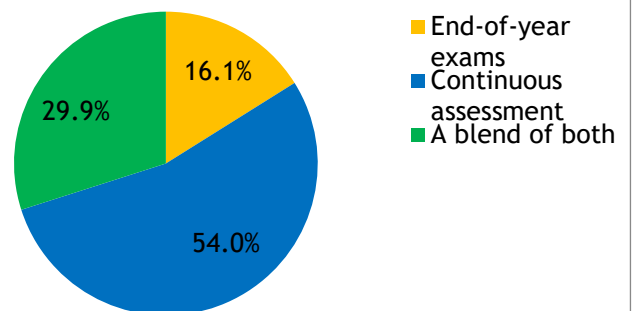
The Results

The questions are listed below in the order they appeared to respondents.

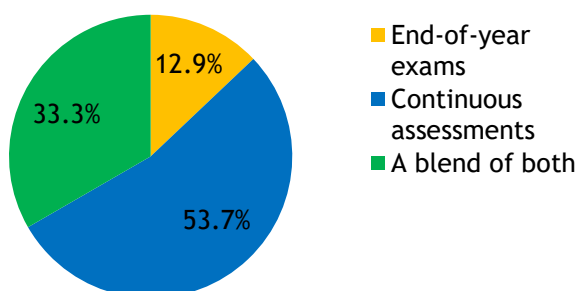
Would you prefer to have exams, continuous assessments, or a blend of both?



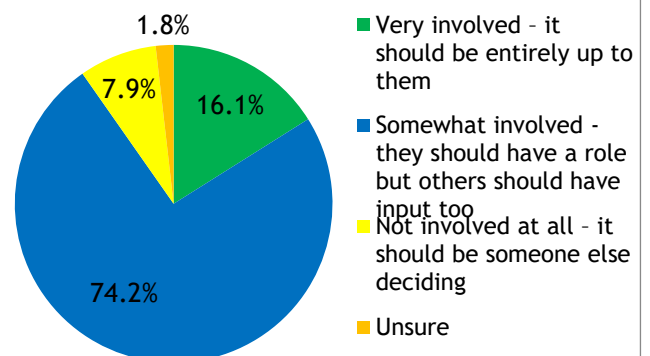
If you had a choice, which option below would make you feel less stressed?



If you had a choice, which option below do you think would give you the most accurate grades?



How involved do you think teachers should be in deciding your grades?



Analysis

While the first question provides a very interesting response - an almost equal split between a blend of exams/assessments and just continuous assessments - overall, young people prefer to have continuous assessments as they believe it causes less stress and provides more accurate grading. While these are points our MSYPs have made, it also underlines and reaffirms young people - learners in particular - prefer options throughout the years to help them attain the best grades and mitigate the stress they feel, heightened exponentially during the pandemic.

On the question around teacher involvement, this comes with little surprise as MSYPs have reported that they felt more supported by their teachers as they knew them best. However, with such a large majority asking for additional help to teachers this provides evidence that teachers should not have the entire responsibility in deciding grades and perhaps standardising assessment grades so that another body or outside aid can help grade is something to consider as well.

With this survey largely completed by those currently in school and with a mix of income and demographic backgrounds, this only paints a similar picture to what the Scottish Youth Parliament, MSYPs, and young learners have been advocating for, but with data to bring this consensus together.

Respondent Profile

There were **443 young people** between the ages of 12 and 25 who responded to the survey.

Of those respondents, **the majority of them were of learner age, with 15.7% aged 12-14 and 59.1% aged 15-17.** The remaining respondents were: 15.9% aged 18-20; 6.1% aged 21-23, and 3.2% aged 24-25.

Additionally, **68.9% of respondents answered that they were currently in school**, with the remaining 31.1% of respondents answering they were college, university, part-time or full-time employment, training/apprenticeship, unemployed, or none/neither.

The gender breakdown of the respondents was **largely female, with 63.3% being so.** The remaining respondents were: 31.3% male, 2.5% non-binary, 1.6% who preferred to use their own term, and 1.4% who preferred not to say.

As part of the demographics research, we also asked respondents to provide their postcode in order for us to consult the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD hereafter) to get a clearer picture of the levels of deprivation amongst the respondents.

Of that research, **297 respondents provided their full postcode**, with a small number providing partial postcodes that we were unable to pull data on. Among those 297 respondents, **33.3% live in the most deprived areas (1st-3rd deciles) in Scotland; 43.4% live in medium, or average, deprived areas (4th-7th deciles) in Scotland; and 23% live in the least deprived areas (8th-10th deciles) in Scotland.**

An ethnicity breakdown was slightly difficult as **81.8% of respondents marked that they identify as English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British**, providing nationality over ethnicity. However, **15.2% did identify as BPoC (Black, People of Colour)**, with the remaining 3% refusing to provide any information.

For more information on these results or survey contact Chelsey Clay, Policy and Projects Officer, on Chelsey.c@syp.org.uk.