

Vocational Education in and beyond Secondary Schools



An MUT National Conference
Saturday 21st November 2015

MATSEC: What do teachers think of the current MATSEC (SEC) System?

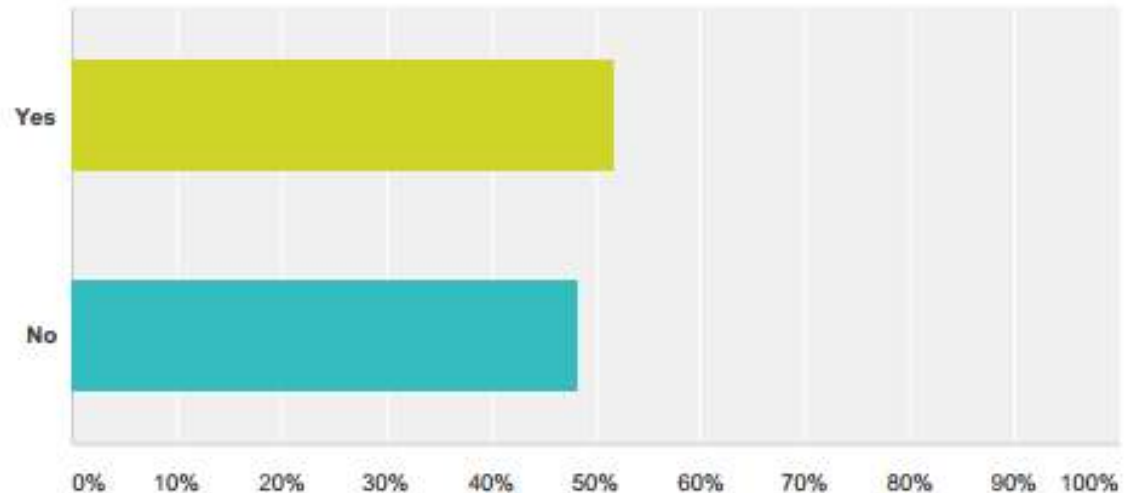
An MUT Survey



Norman Grech
MUT Vice President

Q24 Are you satisfied with the services offered by MATSEC?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



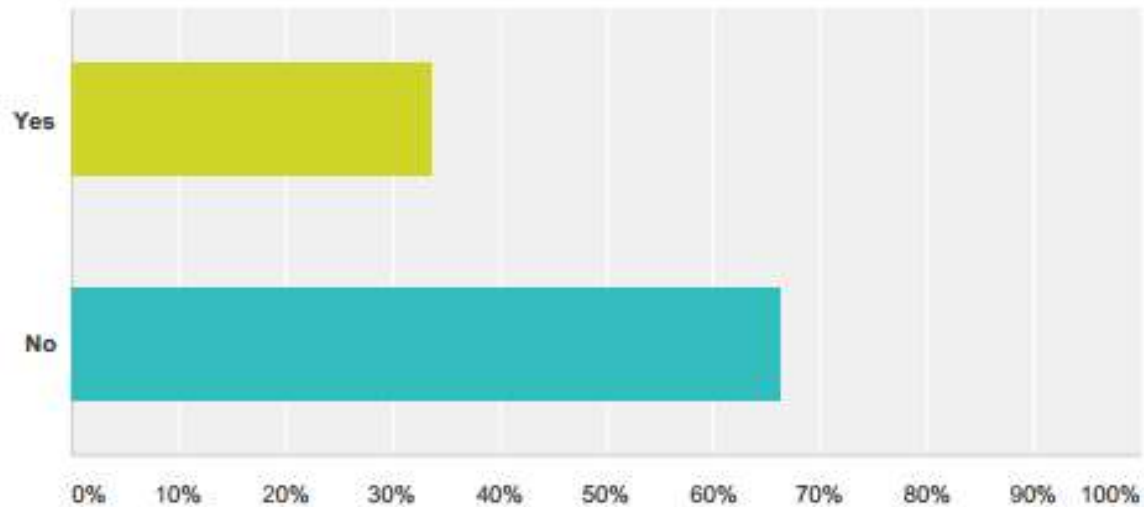
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	51.83%	99
No	48.17%	92
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- Need for more frequent meetings with teachers.
- They are reliable and fair on students. System is clear and transparent.
- MATSEC dominates and sets the agenda.
- Some subjects have become too challenging for average students.
- They are not really in touch with what is happening in schools.

Q25 Do you find difficulties in aligning the school syllabus with the SEC?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



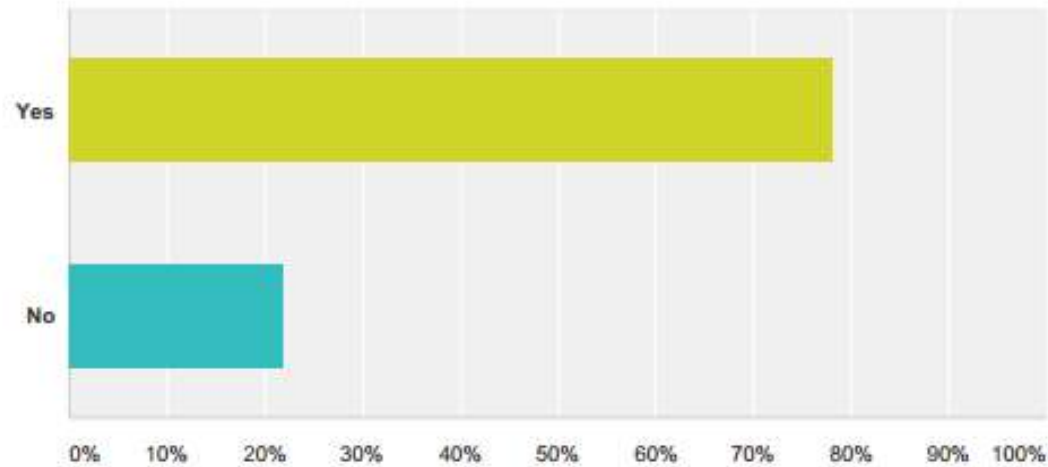
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	33.51%	64
No	66.49%	127
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- At times too vast, especially since now there are mixed ability classes. Also do not reflect the content time available.
- In most cases they follow the same syllabus.

Q26 Do you agree with access arrangements for students sitting for SEC exams?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



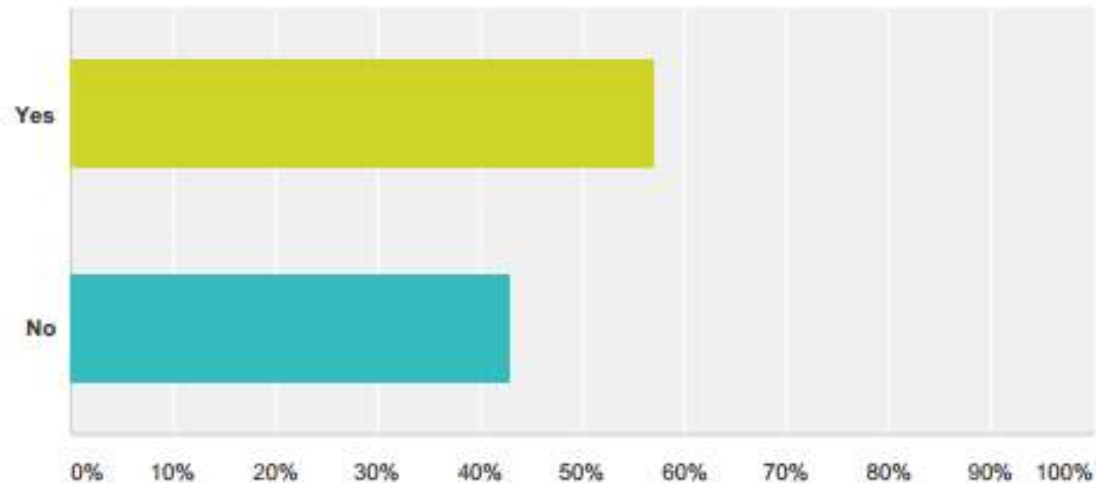
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	78.01%	149
No	21.99%	42
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- Provided these are made carefully to avoid abuse.
- All students should have an opportunity to continue their studies.
- All students should be on a level playing field.
- A definite must for special needs students.
- As long as these are fair and don't put mainstream candidates at a disadvantage.

Q27 Are you satisfied with the standard of SEC exam papers?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



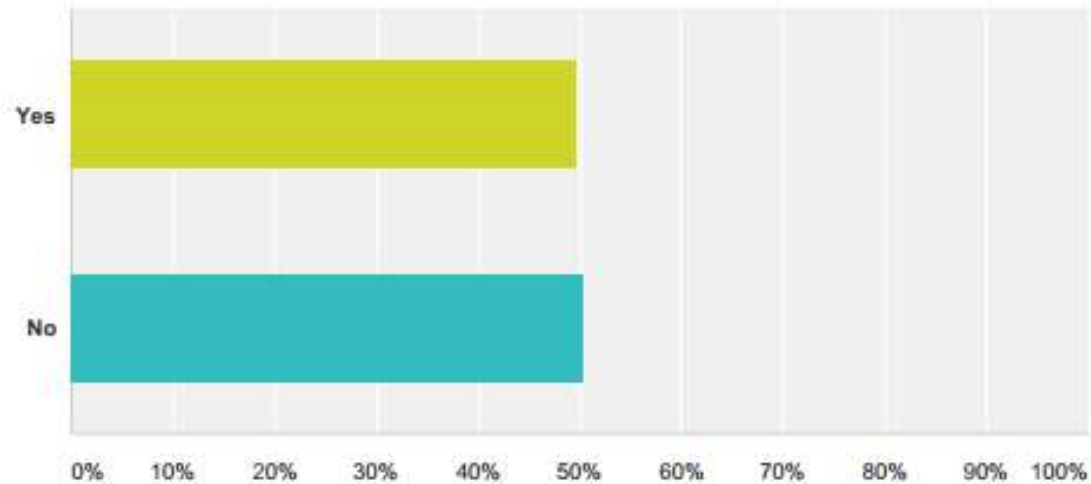
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	57.07%	109
No	42.93%	82
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- Not all SEC papers have the same standard of difficulty.
- Good standard overall.
- Test a number of skills which fully assess the students' abilities.
- Little time to develop critical thinking.
- Some subjects are pitched too high.
- Quite balanced.

Q28 Has the preparation and correction of project work for SEC improved in the past years?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



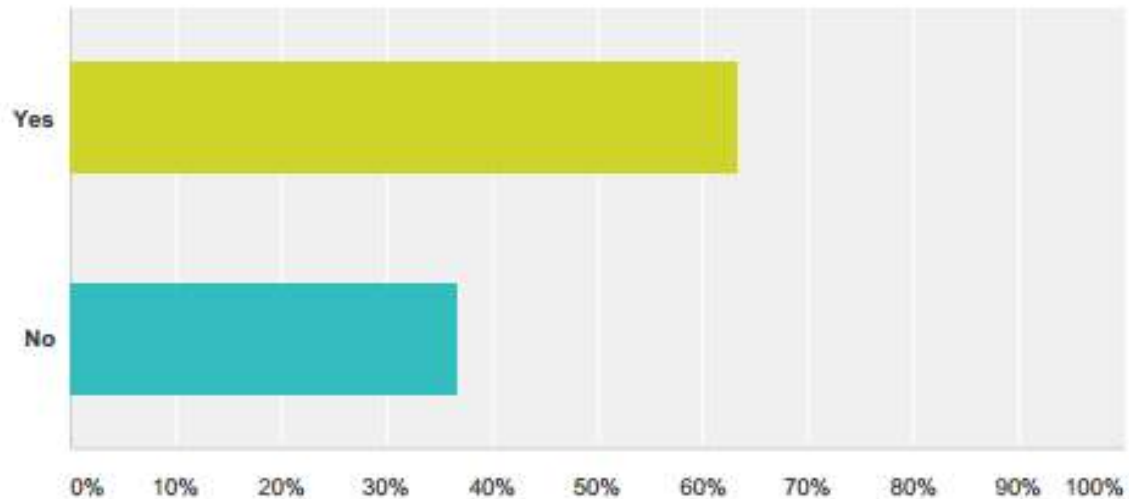
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	49.74%	95
No	50.26%	96
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- Not all teachers follow an assessment criteria.
- Teachers' workload has been increased with no remuneration.
- Project work is sometimes spoon fed to students.
- Feedback given by Matsec moderators to the school has improved.
- It is more relevant and feedback provided to the school is clear.

Q29 Do you think that the SEC syllabus is too demanding on students?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



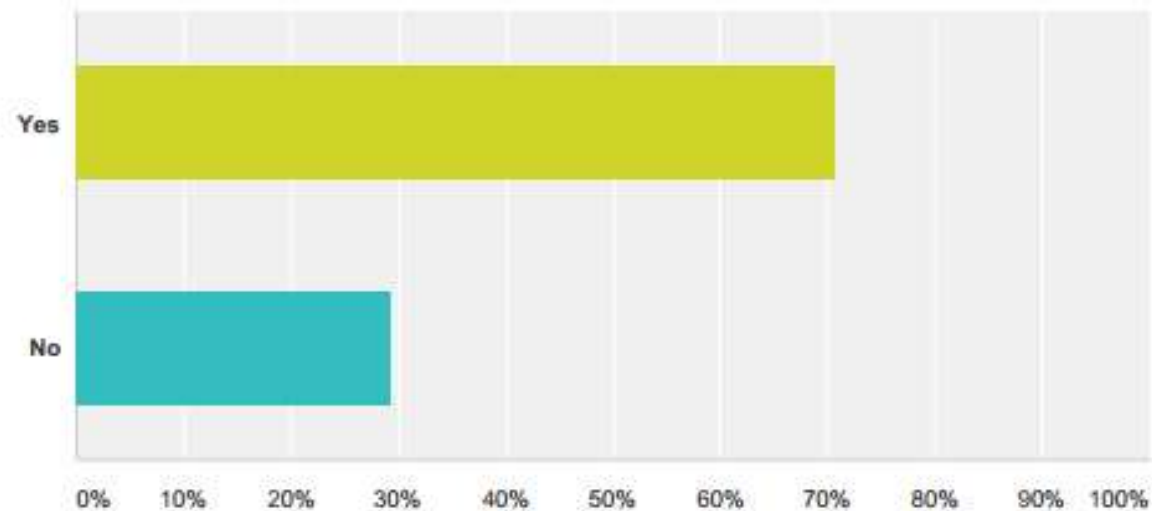
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	63.35%	121
No	36.65%	70
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- Excessive content to be covered through the year.
- Yes, if they are not academically oriented and cannot take the commitment demanded by such exams.
- The demand on students is high, but still fair.
- In some cases it should be streamlined.

Q30 Do you think that the SEC syllabus is too demanding on teachers?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



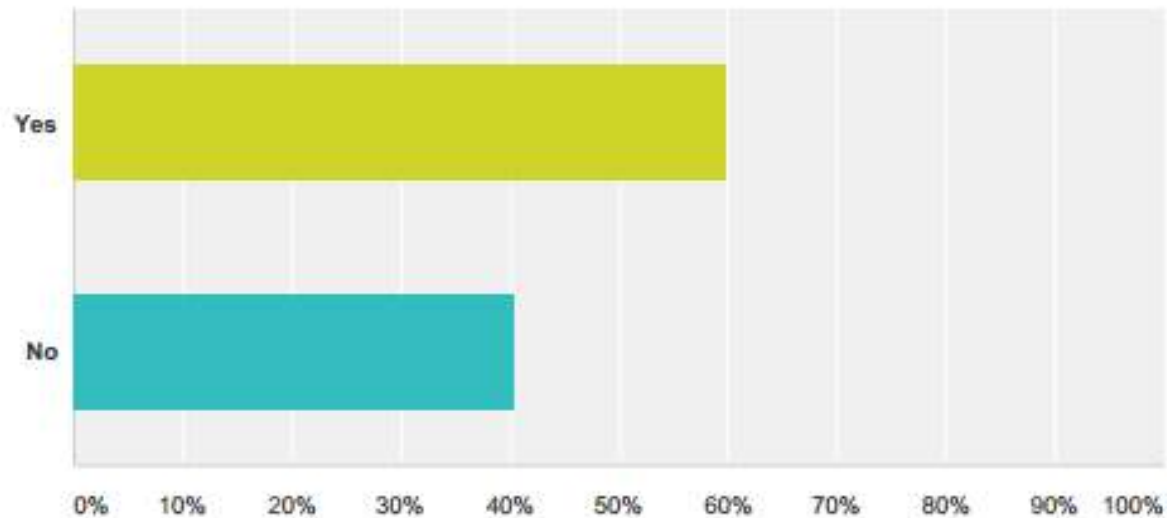
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	70.68%	135
No	29.32%	56
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- Because it doesn't give enough space for flexibility according to the students' needs and interests.
- Time constraints.
- Involves a lot of planning, time and paperwork.
- If a teacher prepares well, s/he will manage.

Q31 Are you satisfied with the level of moderation of SEC project work?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



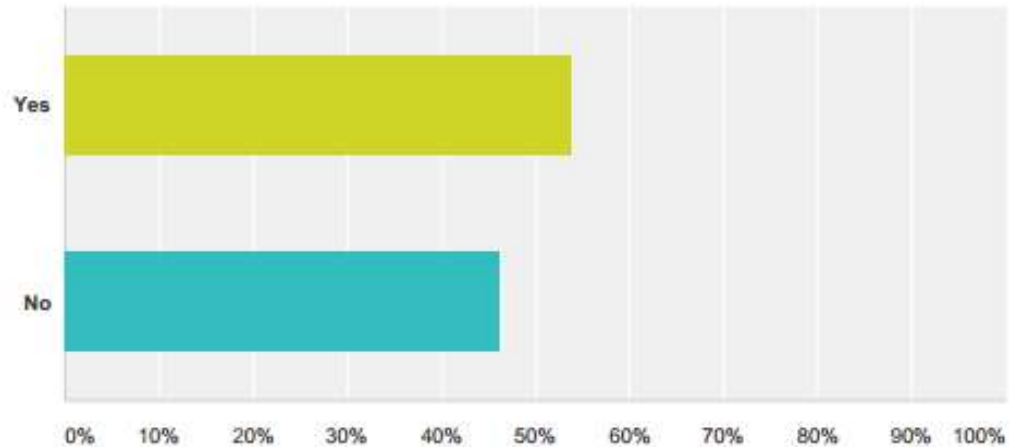
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	59.69% 114
No	40.31% 77
Total	191

Why? Sample Answers:

- We are professionals. Clear guidelines should be given. Moderators should be trained.
- The exercise is very thorough and at the same time fair with the candidates.
- Project work is given few marks for the work done by the students.

Q32 Are you in agreement about the current duplication of assessment tasks in Form 5 consisting of an annual exam followed by SEC?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



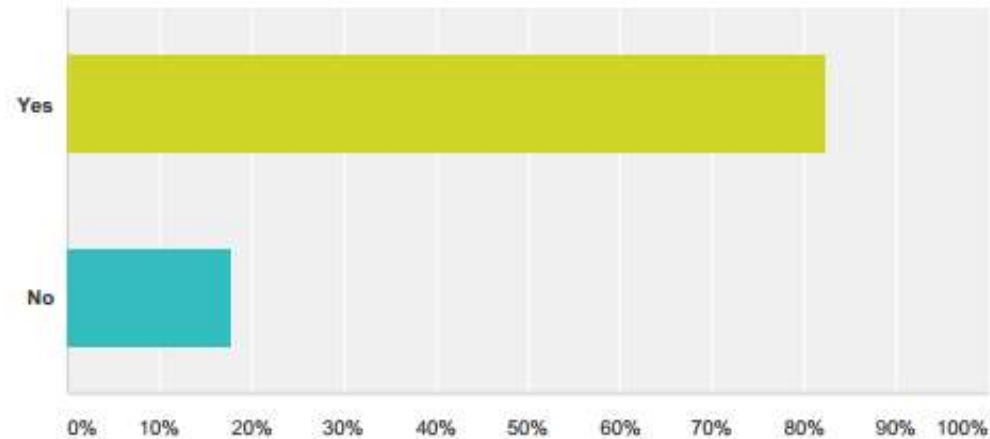
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	53.93% 103
No	46.07% 88
Total	191

Why? Sample Answers:

- One set of exams is more than enough.
- Mock exams give students an indication.
- Annual exams help students to prepare for MATSEC exams.
- Teachers/students are rushed to prepare for annuals & then go through everything again for SEC.
- There should be one session to avoid wasting time and resources.
- SEC should be eliminated and one exam should be held in schools and this should empower schools to certify students.

Q33 Do you agree about the introduction of SEC continuous assessment in some subjects such as VET subjects?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



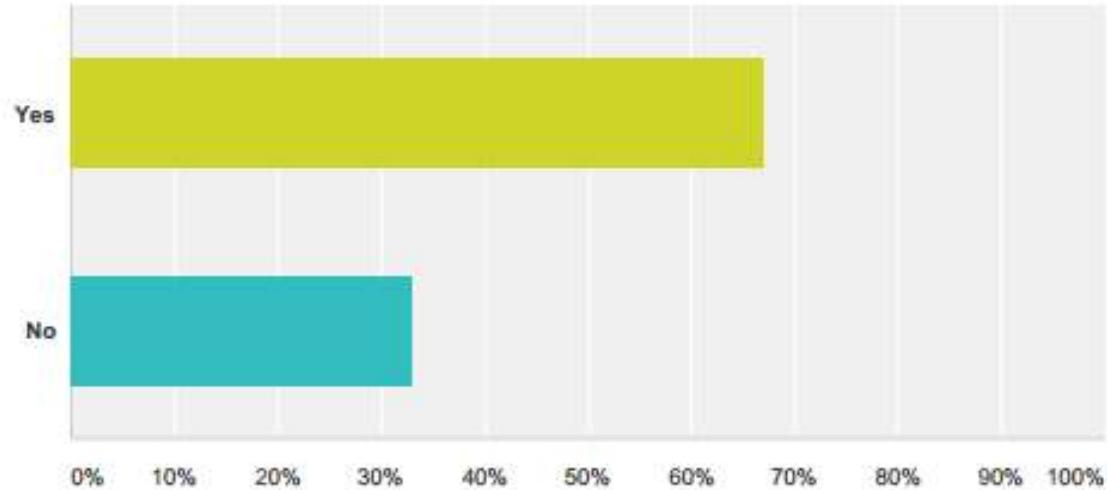
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	82.20% 157
No	17.80% 34
Total	191

Why? Sample Answers:

- As long as there is good effective monitoring of marks given.
- Gives a better idea of the students' knowledge of the subject.
- Continuous assessment can be very subjective. Consistency and validity are questionable. Alignment and a valid playing field are hard to determine.
- Exams should still apply.
- Reduced anxiety in students.
- Sec replaced by a similar certificate issued by the school. This is to include continuous assessment and not just an end exam. Wages have to reflect increase in work load.

Q34 Do you think that the assessment of all subjects should follow similar models of continuous assessment?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



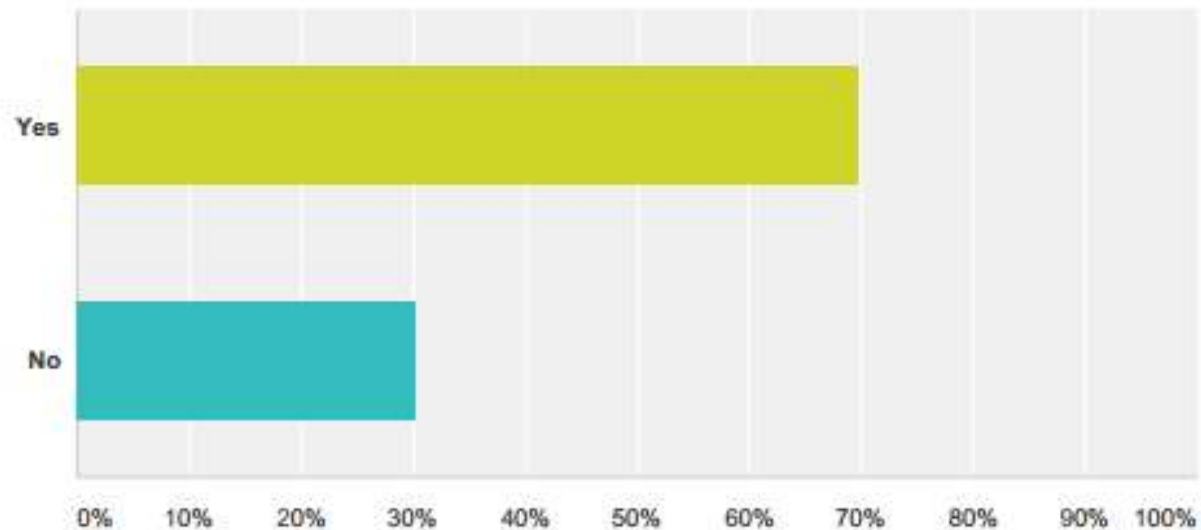
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	67.02%	128
No	32.98%	63
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- System is too exam based.
- Each subject should be treated according to its own merit and assessed accordingly.
- No, if sec exams are disturbed standards would not be maintained.
- It allows students to accumulate marks throughout the 3 years rather than having to cram 3 years onto 1 exam session.

Q35 Do you agree about the present timing of SEC orals?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



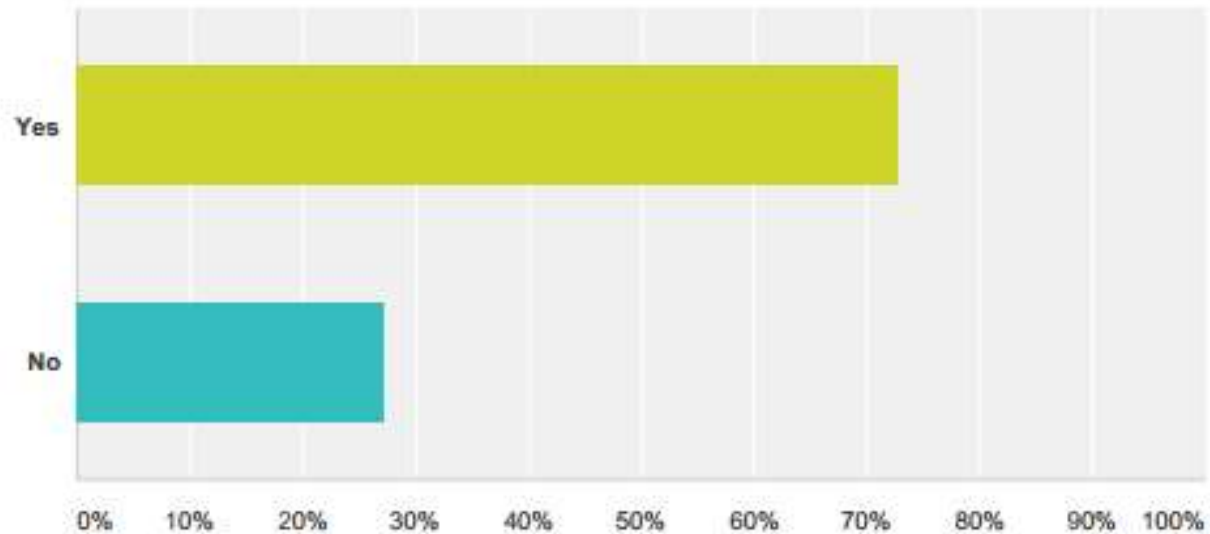
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	69.63% 133
No	30.37% 58
Total	191

Why? Sample Answers:

- I think that the timing is quite good.
- These should be held after the written exam. As they are, they are too early. Should not start before May.

Q36 Do you agree about the present timing of SEC exams?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



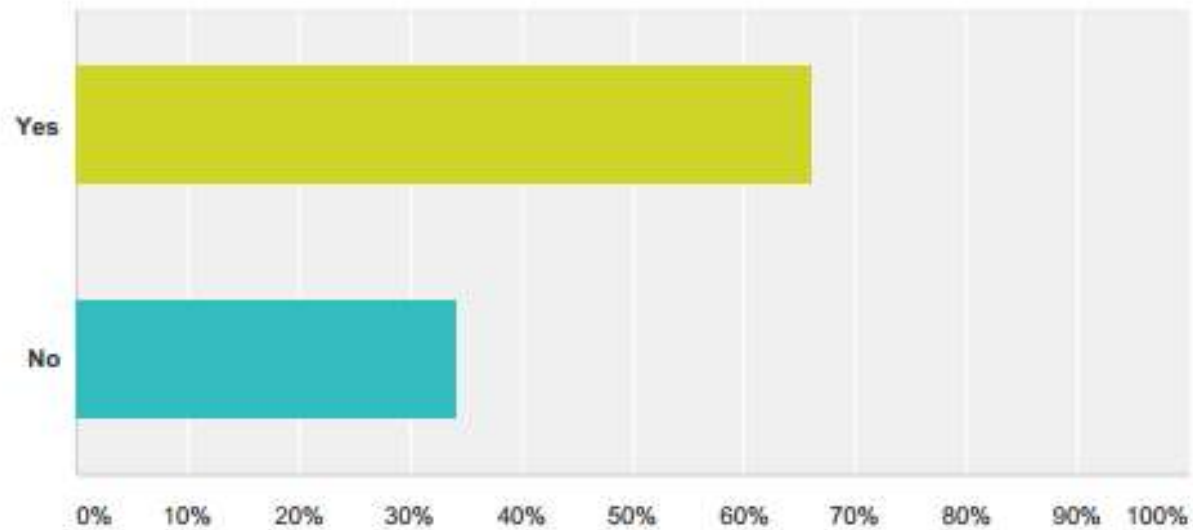
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	72.77%	139
No	27.23%	52
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- Exams come too early. Should be in June, giving teachers more time to cover syllabus.
- It gives time enough for students to prepare and the weather is reasonable.
- Before would be too early.

Q37 Do you have access to SEC past papers and sample papers?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 63



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	65.97%	126
No	34.03%	65
Total		191

Why? Sample Answers:

- However it is limited because I have to look for them in bookshops.
- As a teacher, I expect to have these papers available without having to buy them.
- Now they can be downloaded.