

# REPLACING TRADITIONAL THEORY EXAMS BY VIRTUAL AND INDIVIDUALISED CLINICAL CASE ASSIGNMENTS

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## BACKGROUND

- ▶ Recent evidence shows that cheating is inevitable during online exams amid COVID19 (Bilen & Matros, 2021)
- ▶ Surveys show that 74% of students feel it is easy to cheat in an online exam (King et al., 2009)
- ▶ We need assessment types that are reliable in evaluating student's knowledge at the same time discourage cheating

## PURPOSE OF THIS POSTER

- ▶ To present our approach of replacing written theory exams by virtual and individualised clinical case assignments to promote critical thinking and problem solving while still achieving course learning outcomes



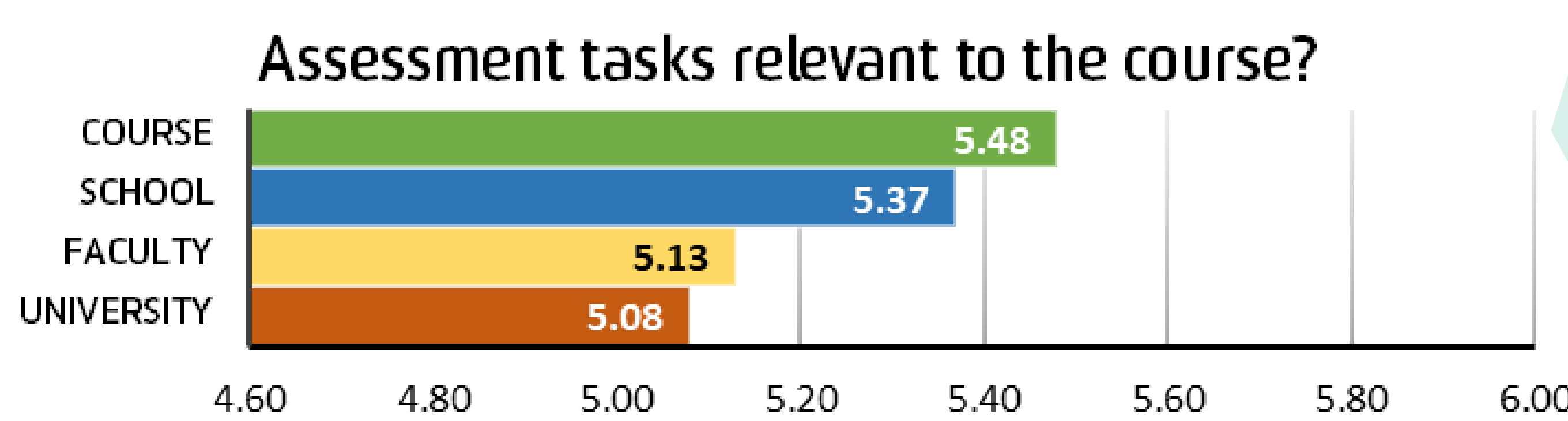
## ASSIGNMENT SET-UP, DISSEMINATION, SUBMISSION AND MARKING



## ASSIGNMENT HIGHS & LOWS

- Easy to set-up & disseminate
- Motivates students to review course material and published literature
- Promotes critical thinking and enhances problem solving skills
- Encourages collaboration, not copying
- No exam stress, students work at their own pace from home
- Strenuous to mark by the lecturer

## RAVES & RANTS (myExperience)



"..an assessment task that encapsulates everything we have learnt throughout the course meant that I was able to build on what I have learnt and integrate it with what I had previously learnt. I found this to be much more helpful in comparison to doing an exam."

"The final assignment was difficult, but it really pushed my understanding of the content and is a good way to tie everything together."

## CONCLUSIONS & TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Although Excel-based individualised assignments have been used in Mathematics (Rosser, 2008) for calculation-based tasks, we report this novel approach in setting-up clinical-based assignments
- ▶ Setting-up virtual clinical cases using MS Excel is relatively simple, and can potentially replace final written theory exams without compromising on achieving course learning outcomes
- ▶ We used 'virtual cases' that are different to 'virtual patients' which are computer-based interactive simulated clinical scenarios (Forsberg et al. 2014), that are usually expensive
- ▶ A new project is underway to develop and validate virtual clinical case scenarios that students follow throughout the optometry program

## REFERENCES

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