



May 4th, 2022

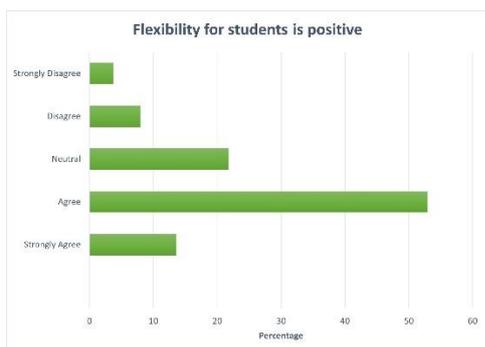
Submission re Senior Cycle Review

Dear Minister Foley,

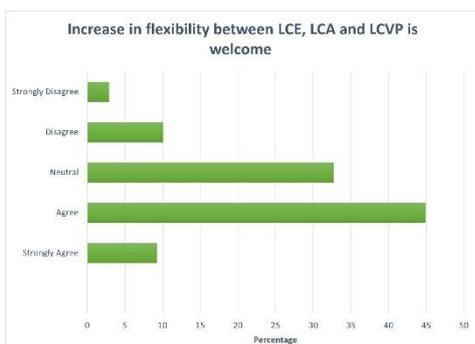
The IMTA broadly welcomes the announcement to review and reform senior cycle education. Following the recent announcement of proposed Senior Cycle reform on March 29th, we surveyed our members to get their views and opinions. Overwhelmingly, our members wanted their voice to be heard on the proposed LC reforms specifically related to Mathematics. This document outlines their main views and responses. (A complete breakdown of the survey results can be found on our website – www.imta.ie)

Proposed Changes Welcomed by Members

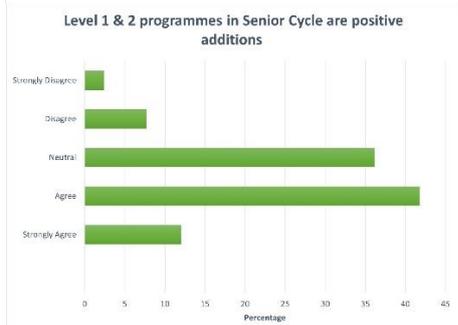
Students are at the centre of these proposed changes. The wellbeing and educational benefit of our students mathematically is at the centre of our thinking. The flexibility proposed to be offered for students was seen as a positive thing. In the vision and programme of work set out by Minister Foley, both the increased access to Mathematics for LCA students from September 2022 and a new qualification at level one and level two on the National Qualification framework for those with special education needs were strongly welcomed.



67% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that flexibility for students in the outlined Senior Cycle reforms is a positive thing, with only 11.6% disagreeing with this.



54% of members agreed or strongly agreed that the increase in flexibility between LCE, LCA and LCVP is to be welcomed, with only 13.2% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.



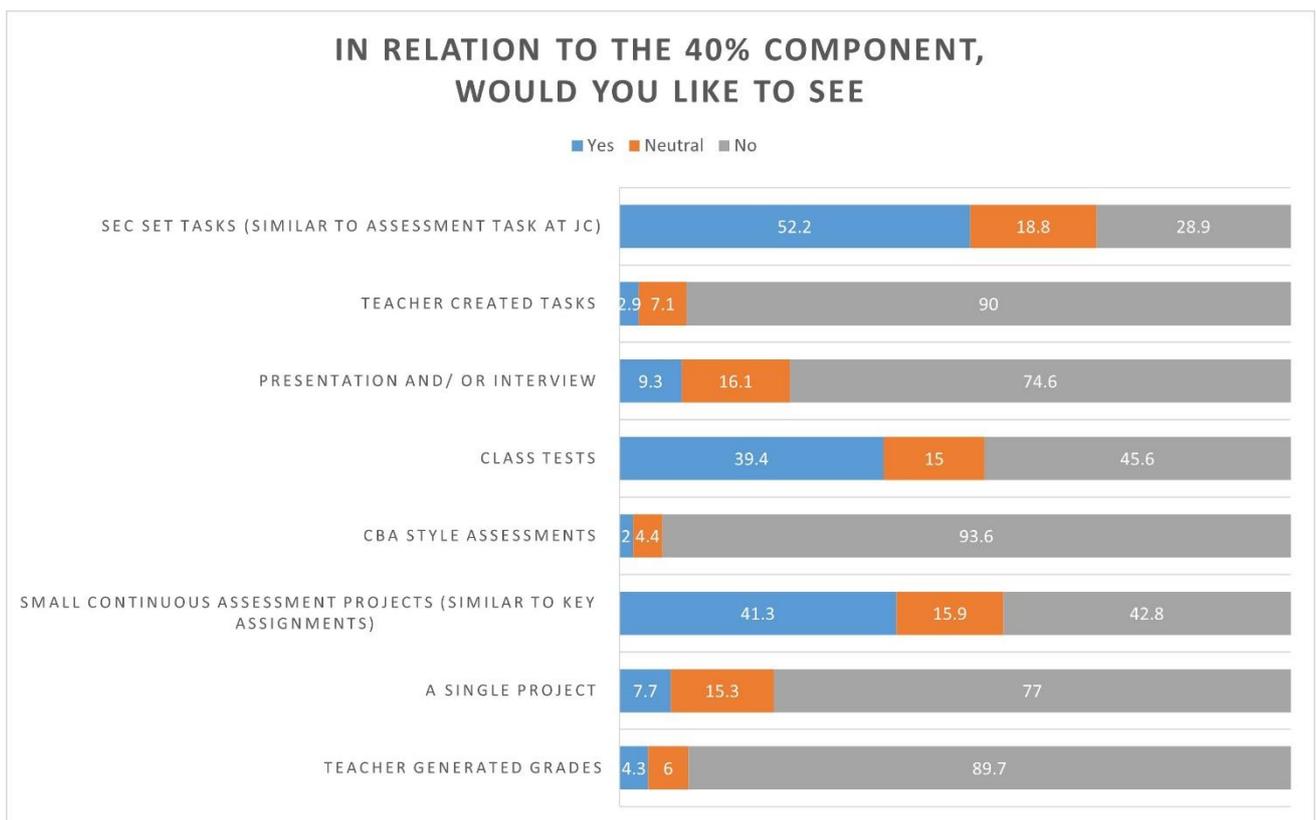
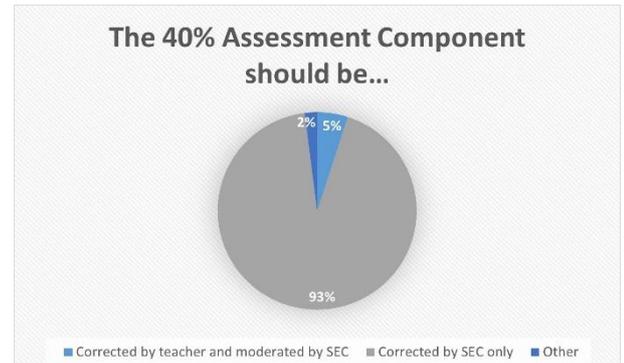
55% agreed or strongly agreed that the inclusion of L1 and L2 in Senior Cycle is positive, with only 9.8% disagreeing.



Proposed Changes That Caused Concern for Members

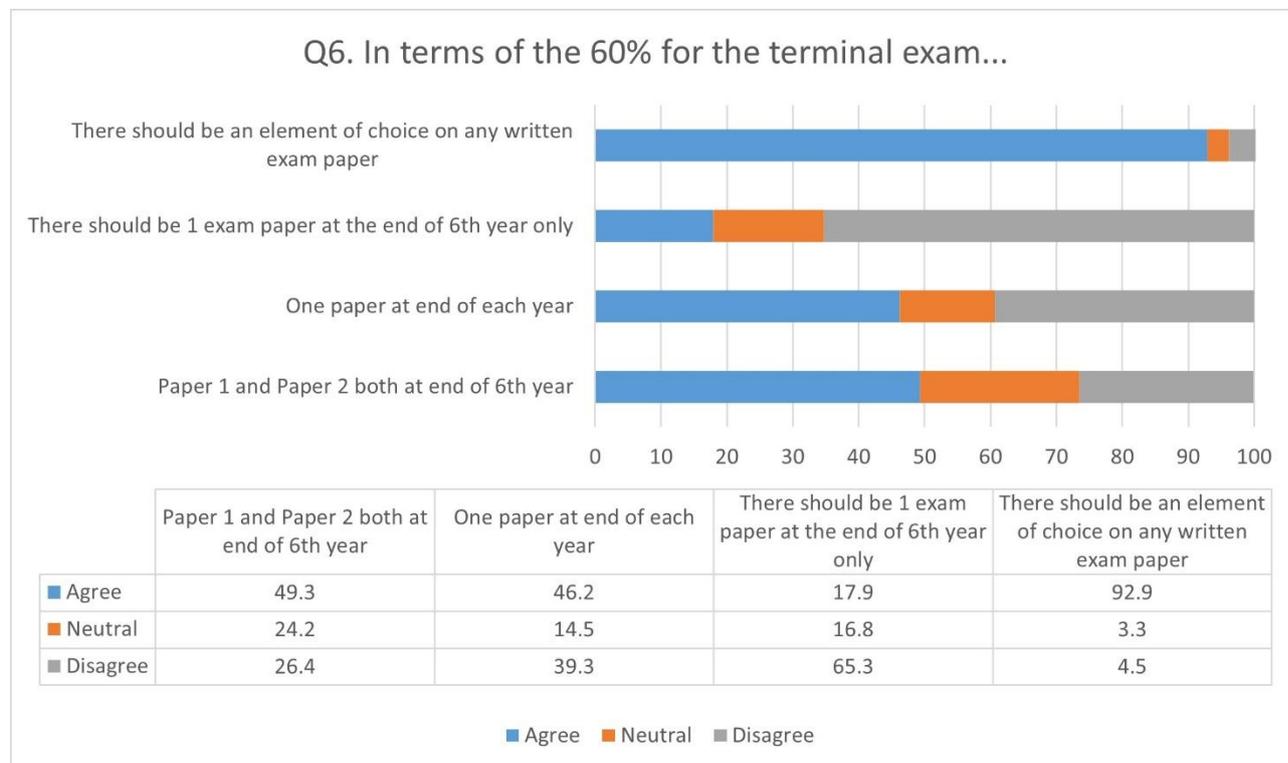
Nearly 80% of surveyed members would like to see full details before making a full, informed opinion on the proposed changed related to Mathematics.

However, after two years of calculated/accredited grades, there are strong opinions with regards to the proposed 40% of grade not gained by terminal exam. To preserve the integrity of achieved learning and prevent grade inflation, nearly all surveyed felt that the 40% should be assessed externally. Suggested options veered away from projects and more towards something similar akin to a Junior Cycle assessment task, externally moderated.





Considering the proposed paper 1 in English and Irish in 5th year, we asked our members their opinion for something similar for Maths, albeit something we realise is not under consideration. The strongest consistent opinion was that there should be an element of choice kept for any written exam.



The following are the key points our members have expressed to us:

1. Any assessment component must be set and assessed by the SEC.
2. There must be an element of choice on the LC maths papers from 2023 onwards. The choice that is being offered in 2022 (as was the case in 2021) must be continued if we are to continue to have students at the centre of the process of senior cycle review.
3. There can be no talk of CBA-type assessments at Leaving Certificate.

We trust that you will take these points on board as you continue the excellent work in terms of reforming senior cycle and we wish you the best of luck with same. We are always ready to talk on any aspect of this submission and will continue to engage with our members on any and all elements of reform to mathematics at senior cycle.

Yours Faithfully,

Ciarán Duffy

Chairperson IMTA