

Is standardised testing effective?

By Emily, Suki, Himaya, Lucy and Pema

We asked members of our school about their personal experiences of standardised testing and any changes they would make to it!

Conclusion

We have concluded that, while many of the general cohort believe standardised testing is acceptable, the vast majority of people with additional learning needs (ALN) find that it is unfair and does not reflect their capabilities. This shows that there is still work to be done in terms of inclusion and we should not ignore minority views, as they provide valuable insight into other perspectives. Furthermore, we need to educate others on this topic

Next steps

Here is some feedback from students about how examinations can be improved:

- Not having every exam as a written exam
- Examinations being more spaced out to allow for breaks
- Examinations being less based on rote memorisation and instead more application of information
- More education about ALN

How positive has your experience been with standardised testing?:

Mean with ALN = 2.8
 Mean without ALN = 3.6
 Nobody with ALN had a 5 out of 5 (very positive) experience

Our method

We created an anonymous survey and sent it to students at the school. We had 47 responses.

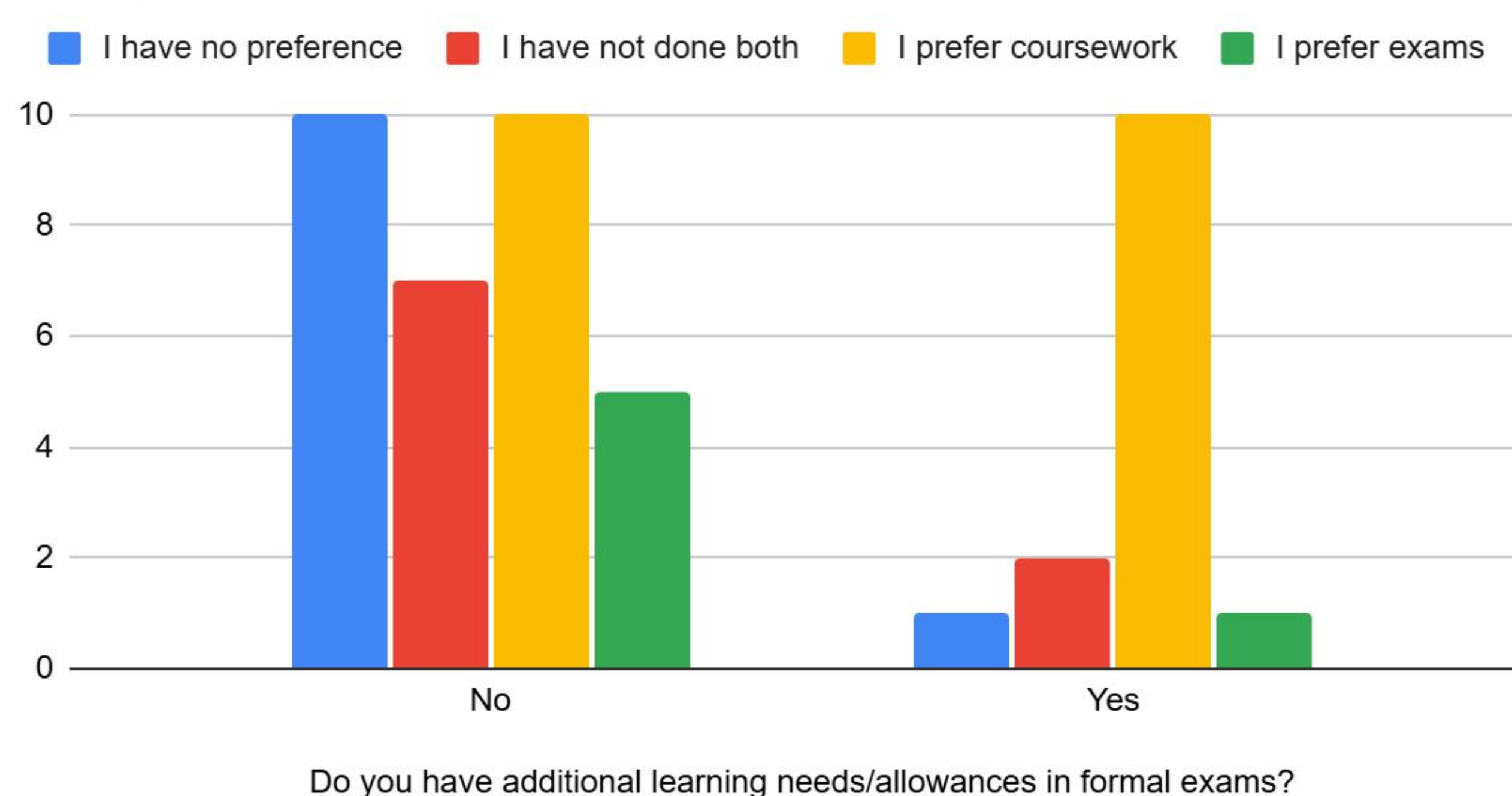
Our objective

We wanted to find out about people's attitudes around the school of allowances, standardised testing, and whether they think these are fair

Comments from people without ALN:

*"If everyone had extra time so we can finish questions without that much limited time."
 "There a more people with extra time than without"*
 - shows limited understanding

I have no preference, I have not done both, I prefer coursework and I prefer exams



Do you think the use of standardized test scores to assess applicants is fair?

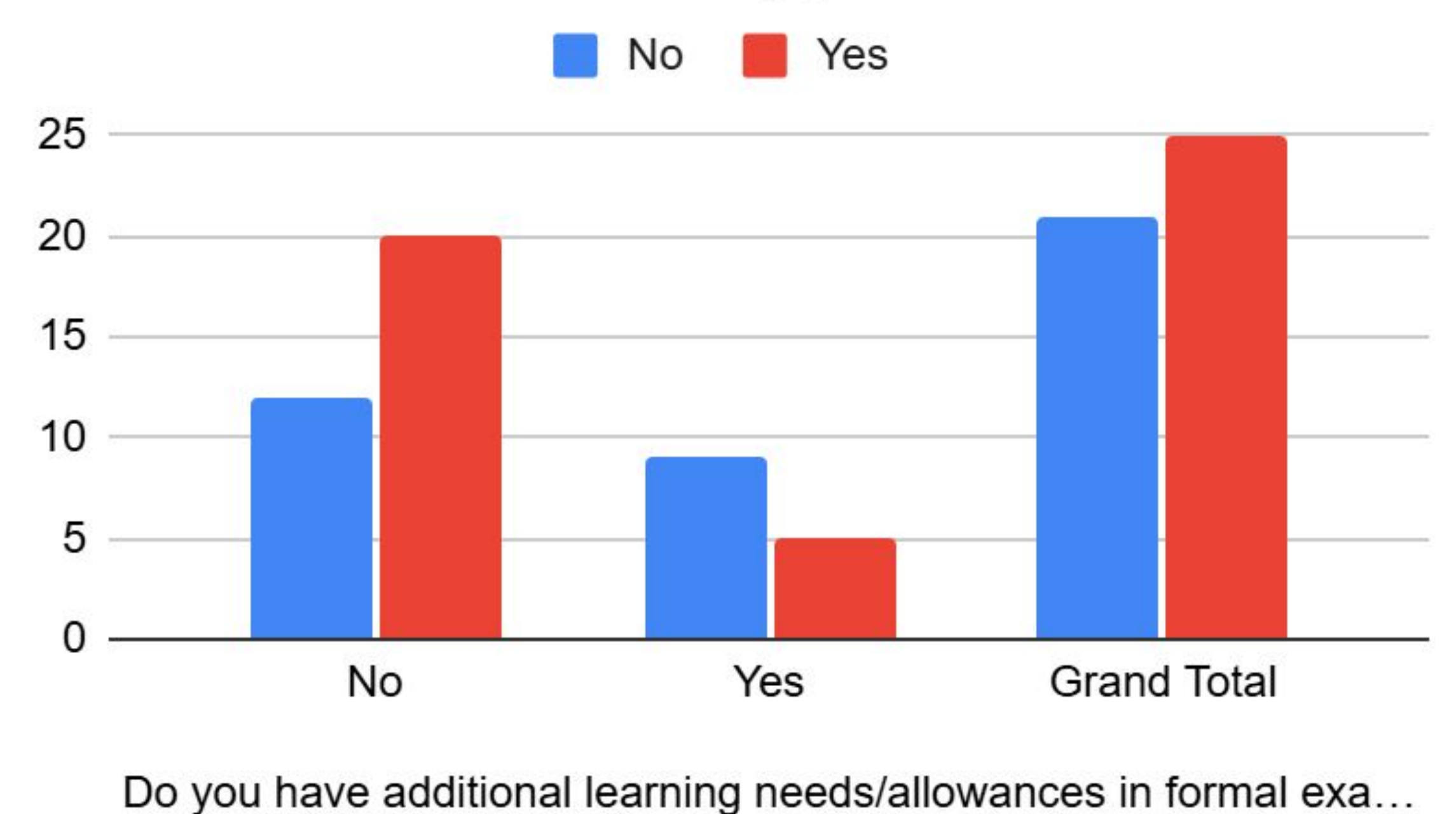
62% people without ALN said Standardized testing is fair
 Only 36% people with ALN said standardized testing is fair

Allowance people receive:

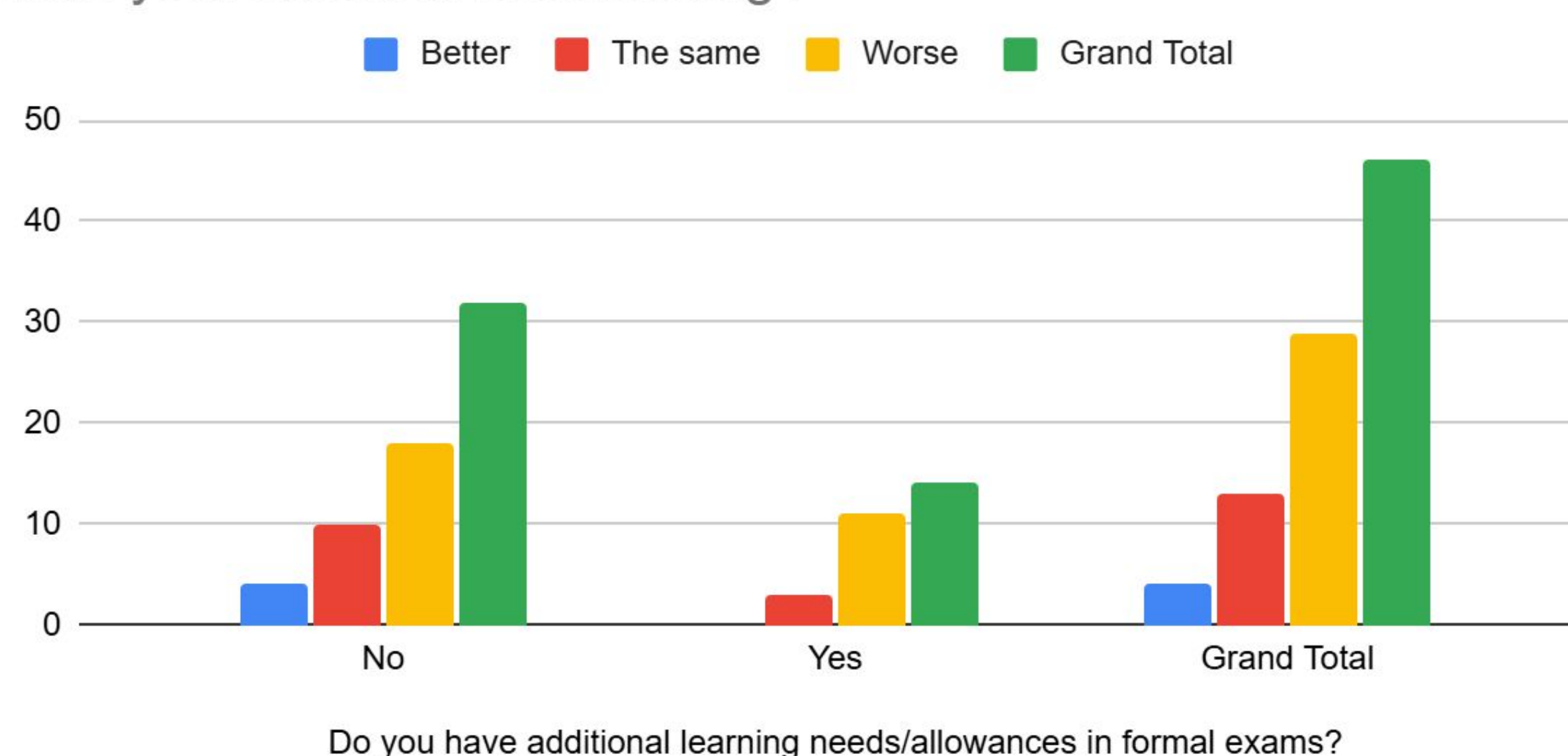
- Extra time
- Reader
- Rest breaks
- Typing
- Small room
- Coloured paper
- Wear headphones
- Prompter

100% with ALN finds it fair to have it
 19% or 6/32 without ALN find it unfair that people receive these benefits

Do you think that the use of standardized test scores to assess applicants is fair?



Do you think your test scores are worse, the same, or better than your actual understanding?



Do you think that your test scores are worse, the same or better than your actual understanding?

11/14 (79%) people with ALN said that it's worse and the other 3 said that it's the same
 18/32 (56%) of people without said that it's worse