

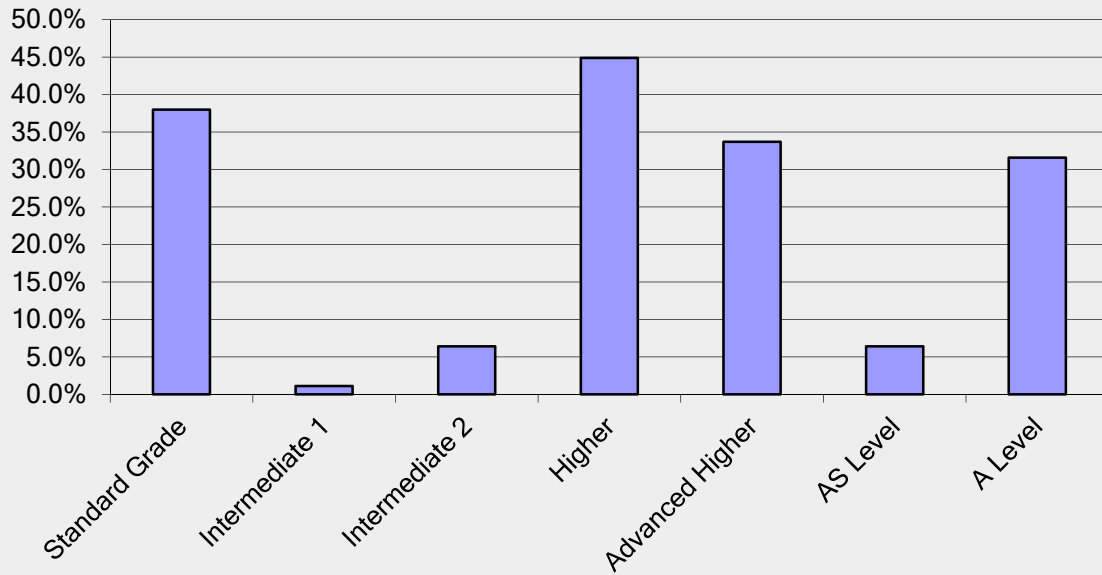
Institute of Physics in Scotland Survey of First Year Physics Students 2012

The IOP in Scotland carried out a survey of students in first year at university who are taking physics. The survey is designed to look at factors which influence students in making their decision to take the subject. 243 students at universities across Scotland and the Open University completed the survey during 2012. A summary of their responses is given below.

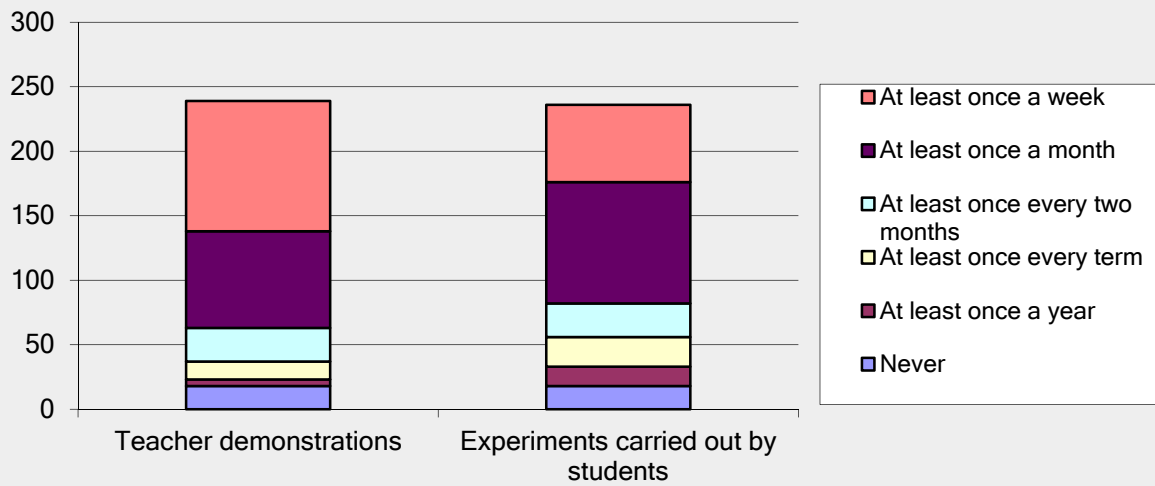
The main findings from the survey were:

- Around 40% of students undertook practical classes at least once a week
- 25% of experiments were carried out by the students
- University open days were extremely influential in helping students choose their course in 26% of cases, although 37% did not take part in an open day
- 31% were very influenced by workshops/experiments/lectures outside school
- There were a wide variety of factors which influenced students' choice to study physics
- Ability in maths, a desire to understand how the world works and an interest in fundamental questions were deemed to be the biggest influences in choosing to study physics
- 78% of students believed that physics would be an advantage in finding a job
- 34% of students wished to find a job in researching physics.

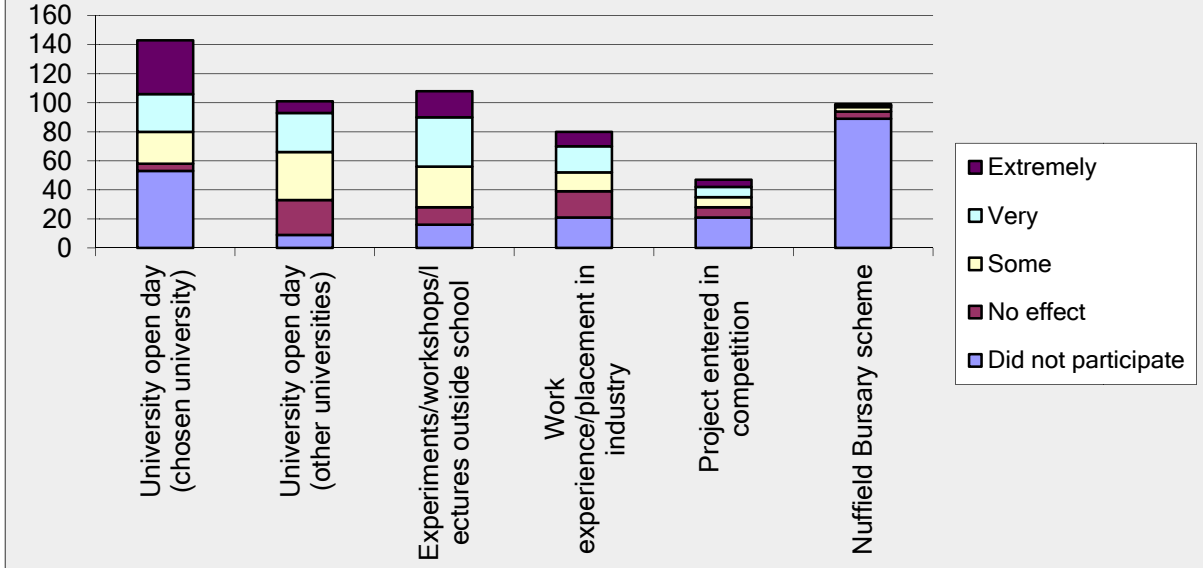
When you studied physics previously, what sort of course was this?



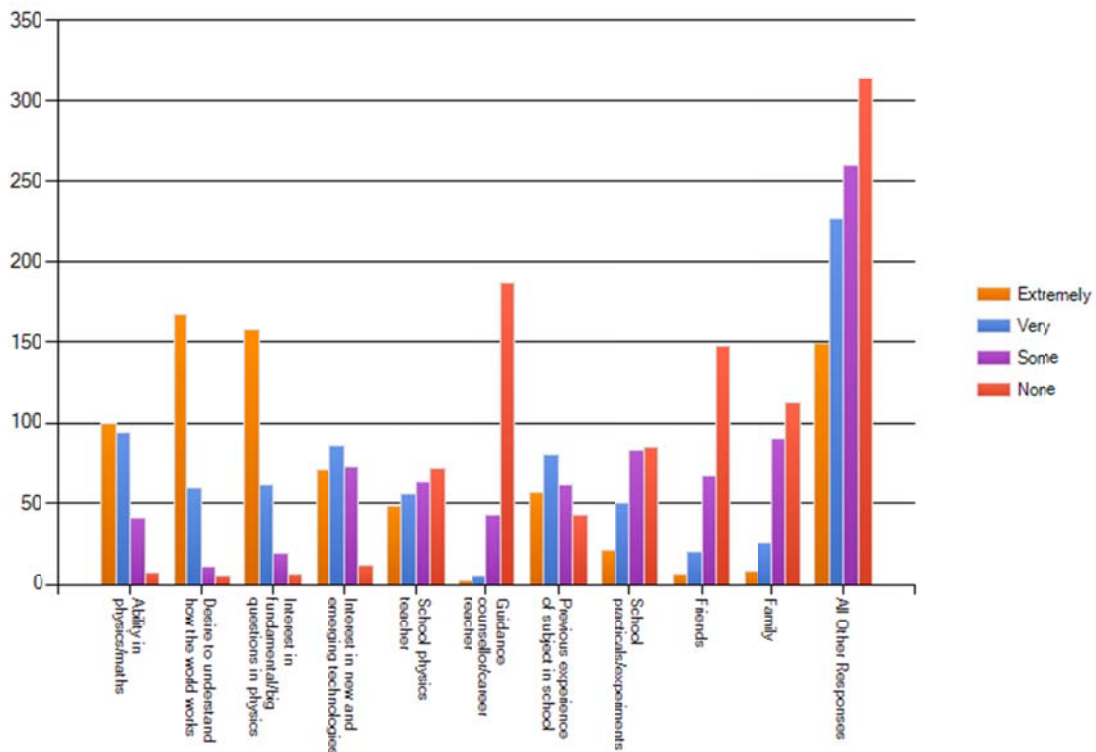
How often did you have practical physics classes in school?



How influential were the following events in helping you choose your present course? If you did not attend/participate in an event, please tick did not participate.



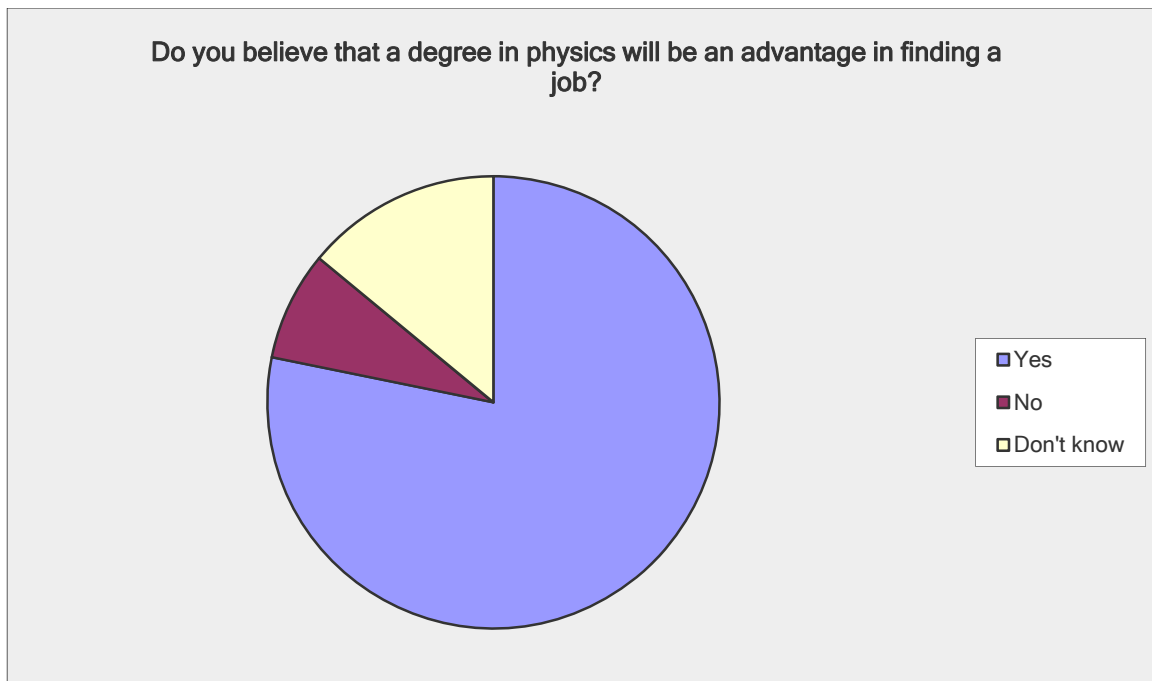
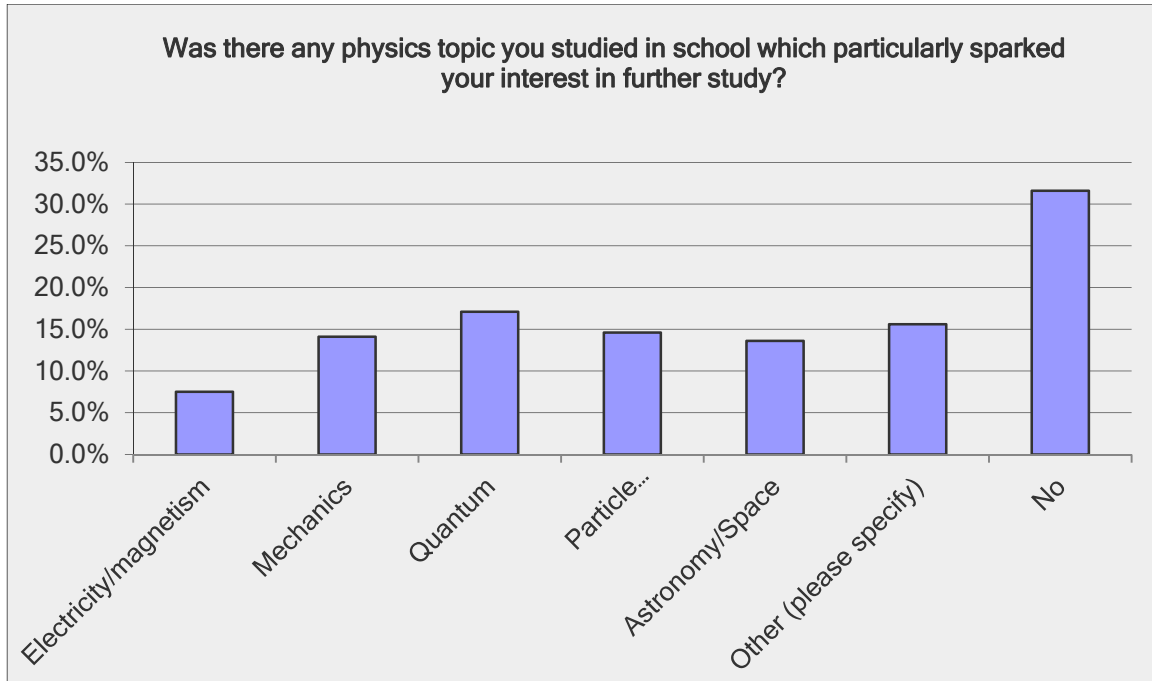
How influential were the following factors in helping you to make your choice to study physics?



Other

- Long time passion for Physics
- Wanting to help people
- Scientific Journals

- Interest in astronomy
- I grew up with physics all around me and learnt much without realising it - my Father was a physics & chemistry professor with a huge interest in aerodynamics and quantum.
- To be qualified to teach physics
- Wishing to make only the best of my free education
- Prof. Brian Cox



In which career direction do you think studying physics will take you?

