

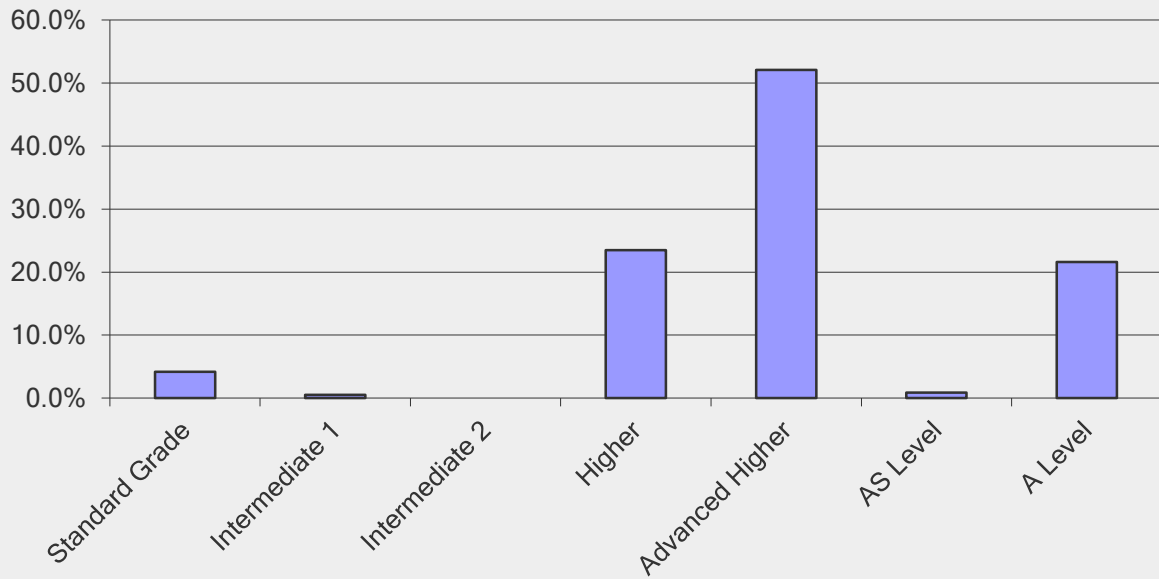
Institute of Physics in Scotland Survey of First Year Physics Students 2013

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. 252 students at universities across Scotland completed the survey during 2013. A summary of their responses is given below.

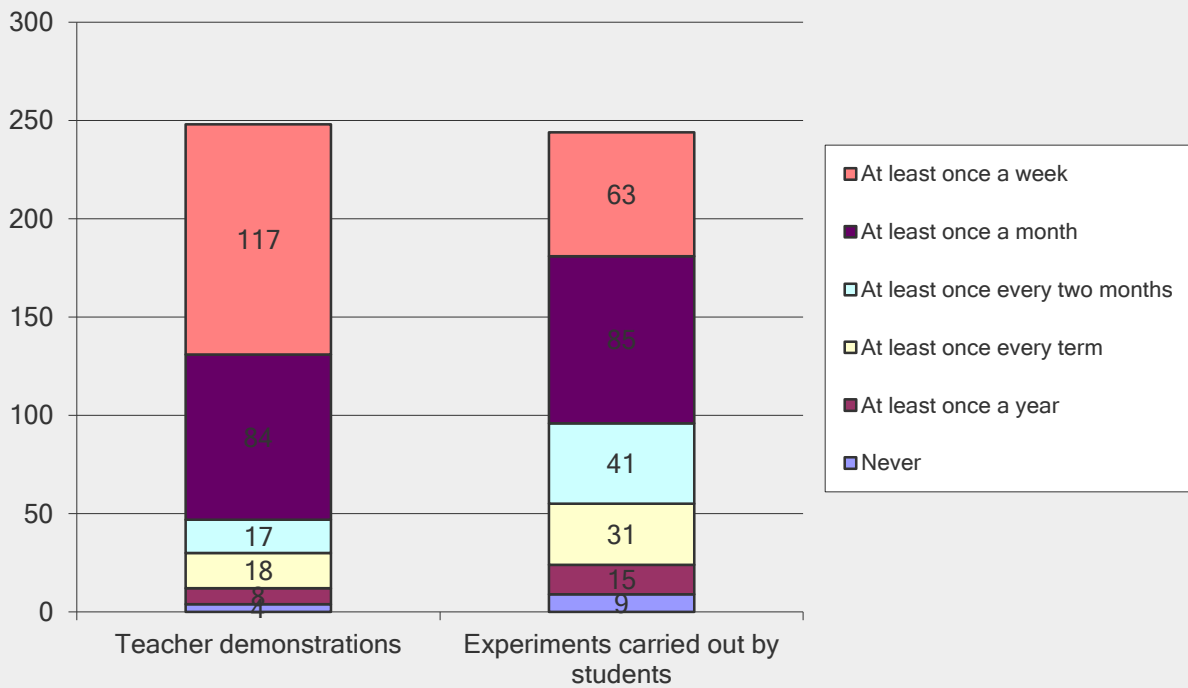
The main findings from the survey were:

- Around 47% of students undertook practical classes at least once a week
- 26% of experiments were carried out by the students
- University open days were extremely influential in helping students choose their course in 45% of cases of those who attended an open day, although 23% did not take part in an open day
- 30% were very influenced by workshops/experiments/lectures outside school
- There were a wide variety of factors which influenced students' choice to study physics, although guidance/careers advice scored the lowest.
- 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
- Quantum/particle physics sparked an interest in 30% of students. This was an increase of 14% on the results from the survey taken in 2011.
- 86% of students believed that physics would be an advantage in finding a job
- 48% of students wished to find a job in researching physics.
- 25% of respondents to the survey were female

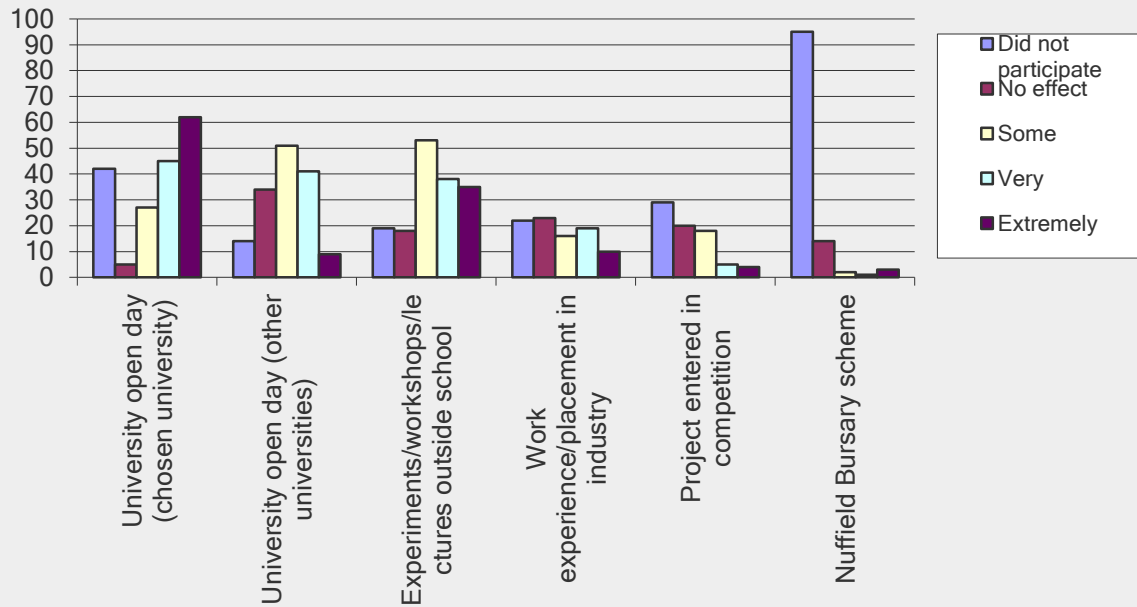
When you studied physics at school, what was the highest qualification you gained?



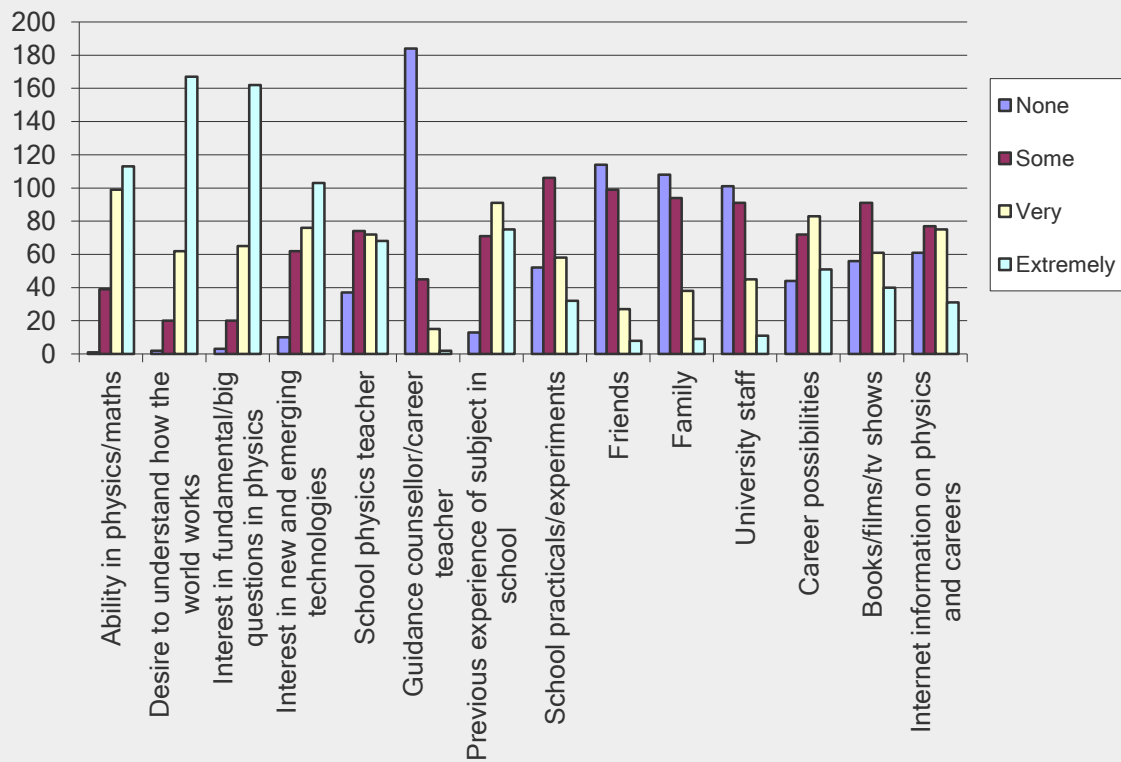
How often did you have practical physics classes in school?

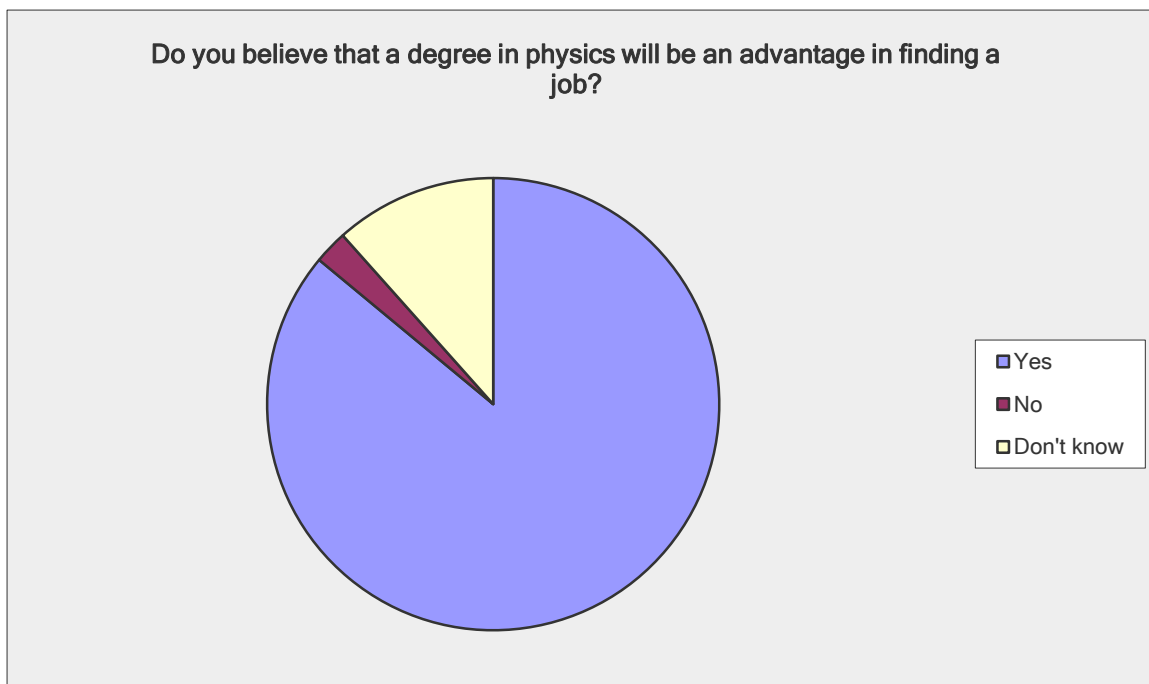
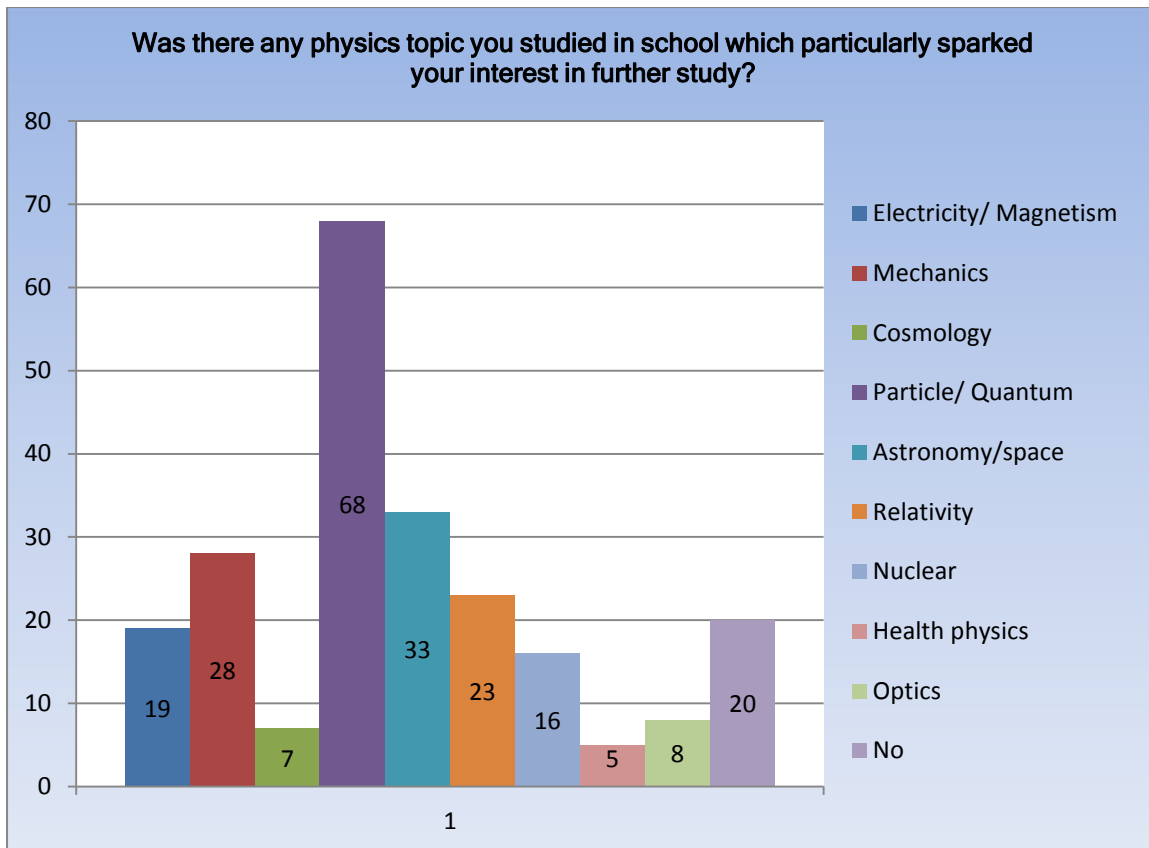


How influential were the following events in helping you choose your present course? If you did not attend/participate in an event, please tick did not participate.



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





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

