

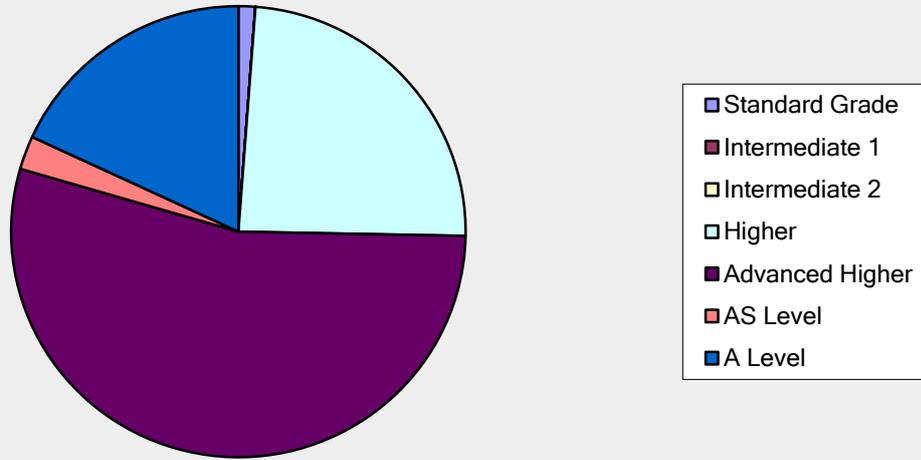
Institute of Physics in Scotland Survey of First Year Physics Students 2014

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. 100 students at universities across Scotland completed the survey during 2014. A summary of their responses is given below.

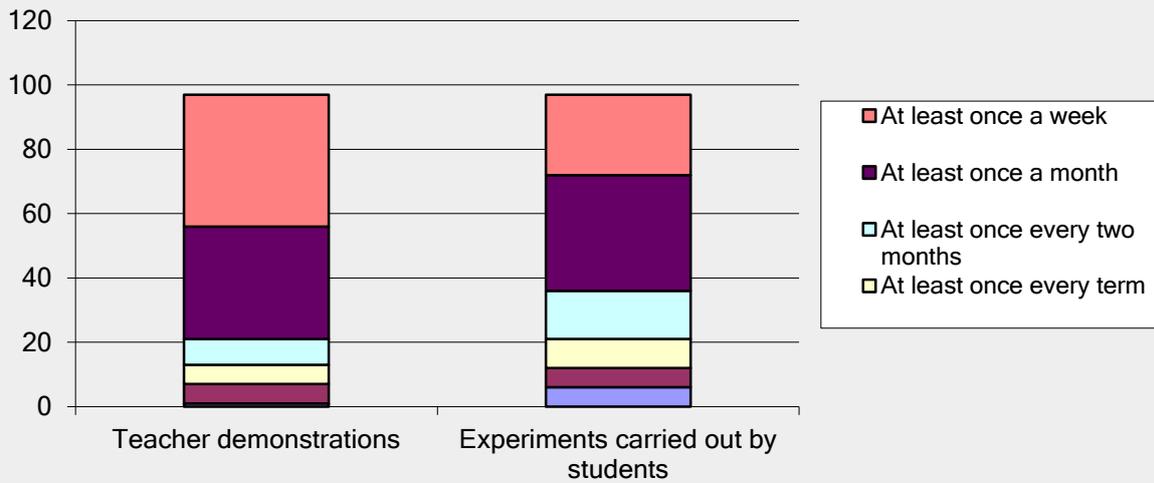
The main findings from the survey were:

- Around 42% of students undertook practical classes at least once a week
- 26% of experiments were carried out by the students, compared to 25% in 2012.
- 6% had never carried out an experiment compared to 8% in 2012;
- University open days were extremely or very influential in helping students choose their course in 34% of cases of those who attended an open day, although 31% did not take part in an open day
- 21% were extremely or 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 31% of students. This was an increase of 14% on the results from the survey taken in 2011.
- 92% of students believed that physics would be an advantage in finding a job
- 28% of students wished to find a job in researching physics, but nearly 30% of students were not sure of their career direction.
- 27% of respondents to the survey were female

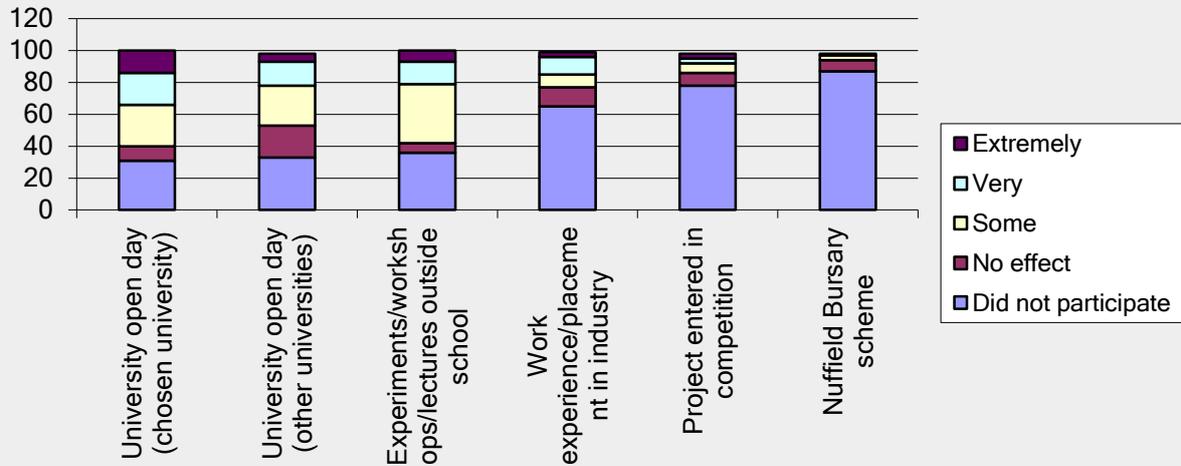
When you studied physics at school, what was the highest qualification you gained?



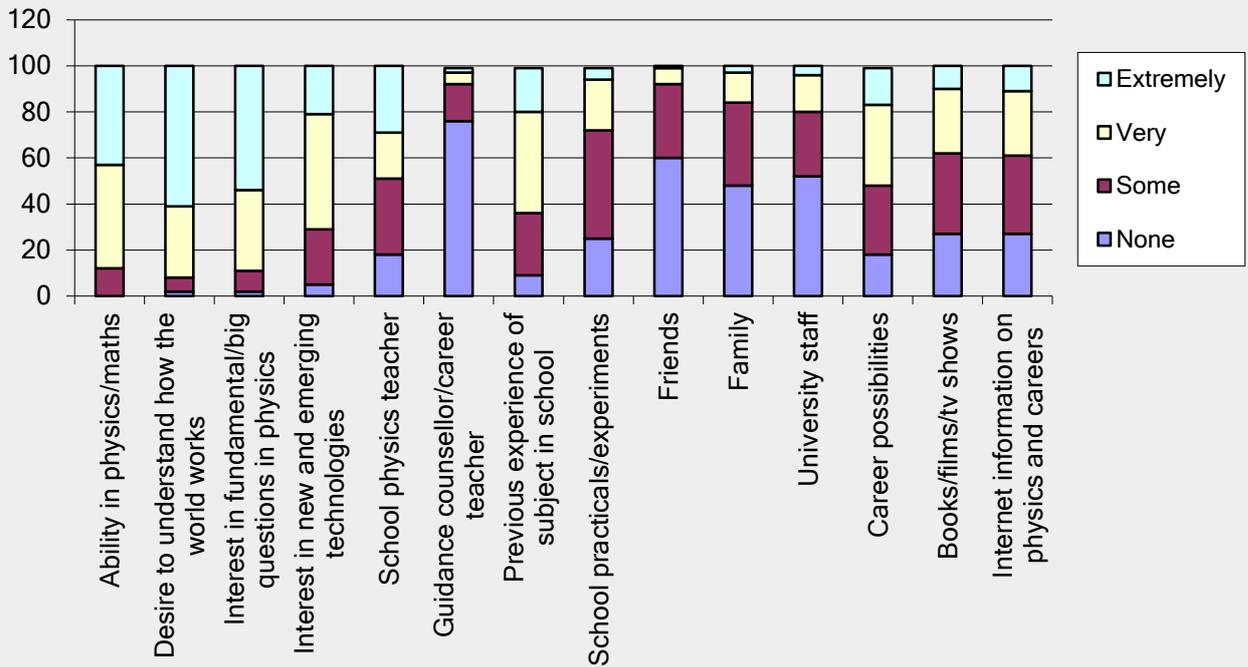
How often did you have practical physics classes in school?



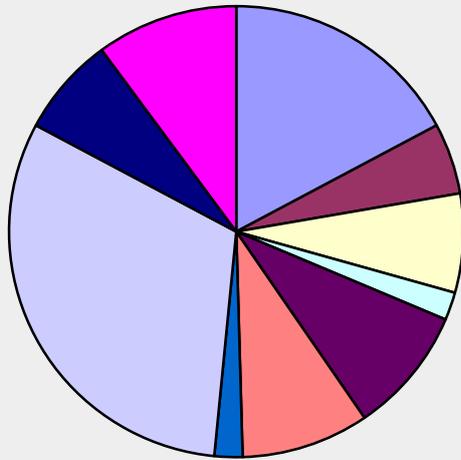
How influential were the following events in helping you choose your present course? If you did not attend/participate in an event, please tick did not participate.



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

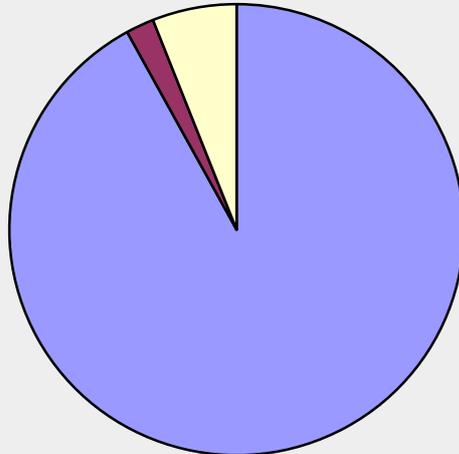


Was there any physics topic you studied in school which particularly sparked your interest in further study?



- Astronomy/space
- Cosmology
- Electricity/Magnetism
- Health physics
- Mechanics
- Nuclear
- Optics
- Particle/quantum
- Relativity
- No

Do you believe that a degree in physics will be an advantage in finding a job?



- Yes
- No
- Don't know

