Effective Feedback in the Physical Sciences

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Outline

- Background
- Trial
- Test Group
- Results
- Acknowledgements

Background

- Rationalise and focus input
  - Browne Review
  - Optimise staff input
  - Reduce wasting of resources
- Access agreement and Higher Fees
  - More focus on fair access
  - Transparency and league tables
  - Student engagement and satisfaction

National Student Survey Performance

Assessment and Feedback

- 5. The criteria used in marking have been made clear in advance
- 6. Assessment arrangements and marking have been fair
- 7. Feedback on my work has been prompt
- 8. I have received detailed comments on my work
- 9. Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand

(In)Effective Feedback

- Staff Perspective
  - Only 50-60% of coursework is collected
  - Pointless writing detailed feedback
  - Wasteful
    - Staff time
    - Paper resource

Student View of Coursework/Feedback

- What is coursework feedback?
- Secure collection (and submission) of coursework is a pain
- Relationship between modules?
- Value added not appreciated

Trial

- Physical Science Laboratories
  - Traditional Lab Report
  - Pro Forma
  - Pro Forma (on line)
  - On line lab report
- Best practise from chemistry, physics, materials, engineering departments
- Group feedback
- Written comments, MP3, AV

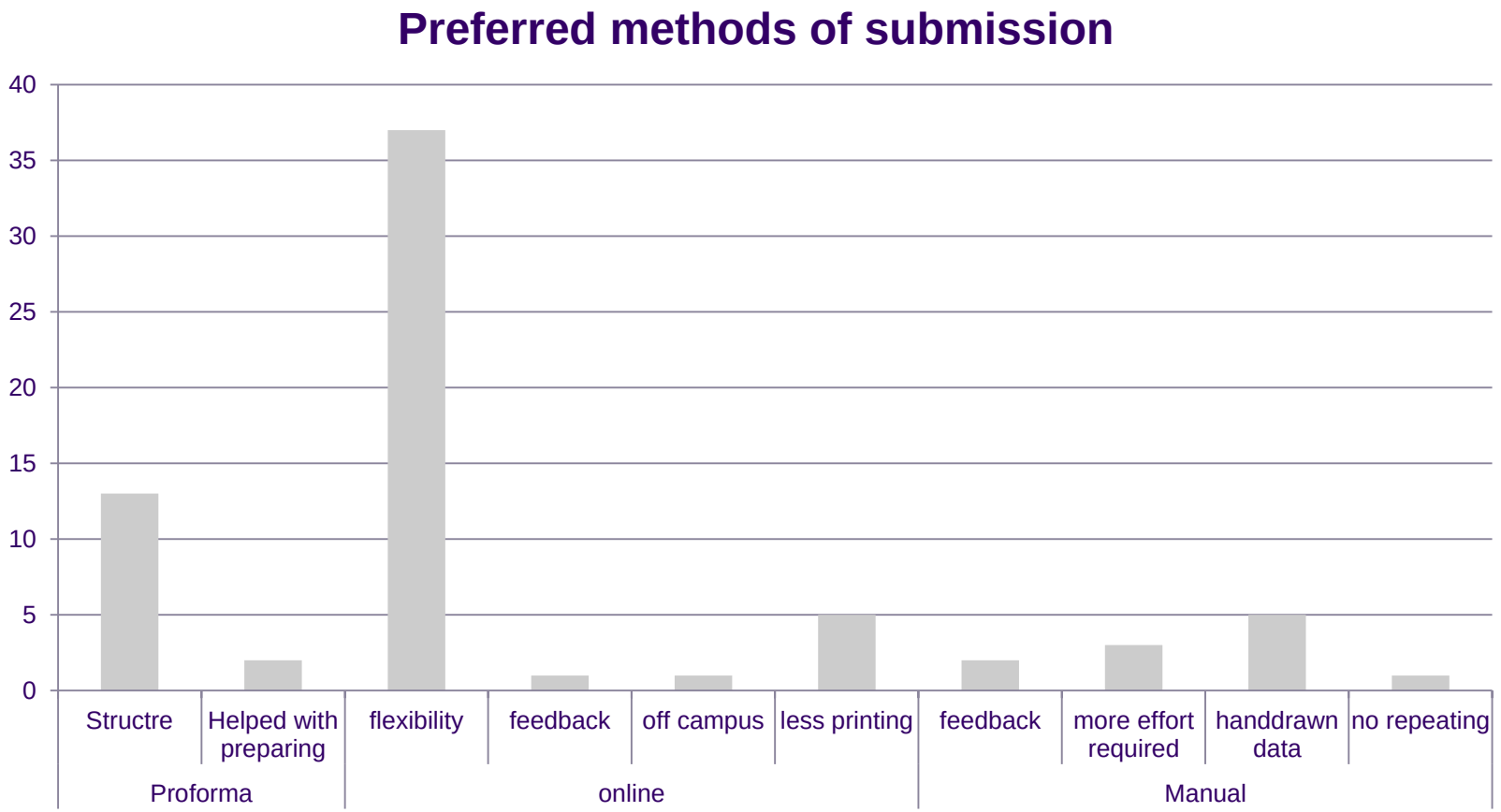
Test Group

- Foundation Cohorts 2009/10 and 10/11
  - Home 18-21 (77%)
  - Mature (15%)
  - International (8%)
- Varied backgrounds
  - Full time
  - 65% male

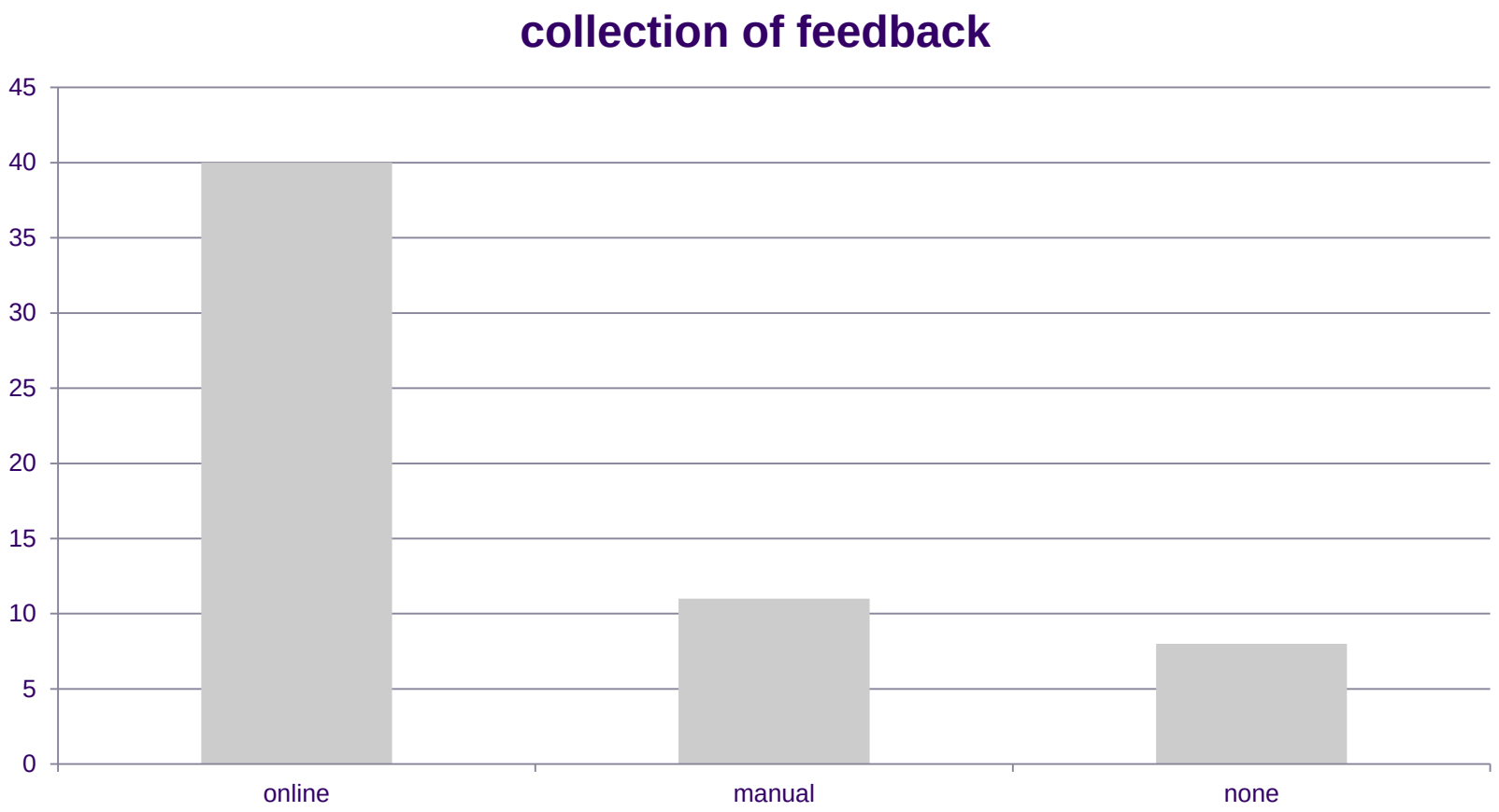
Marking methodology

- Traditional written marking
- Using on line marking and collection
  - Drop down menus
  - Annotation in word, output as a PDF
- Group Feedback

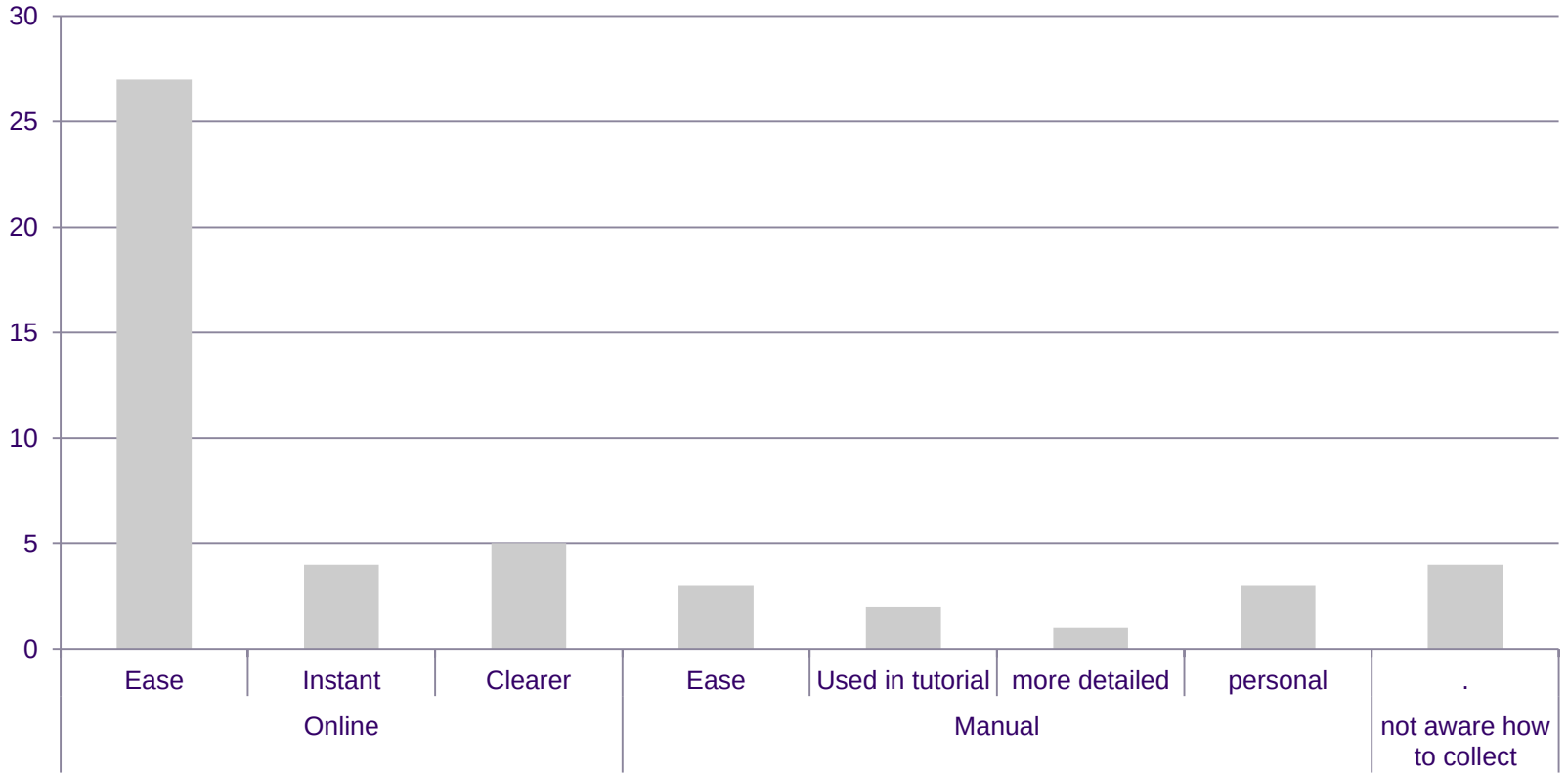
Methods of Feedback



Collection of Feedback



Reason for collection of feedback



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Analysis of Results

- Strengths
  - 89% collected, mark anywhere, less wasted resources
- Weaknesses
  - Set up time, IT issues
- Opportunities
  - Long term benefits, improve IT skills
- Threats
  - Hand writing, data storage skills and results integrity

Best Feedback method

- Group feedback
- MP3

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