

PX384:Electrodynamics

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PX384 questionnaire 2020 - please give your anonymous feedback on the module

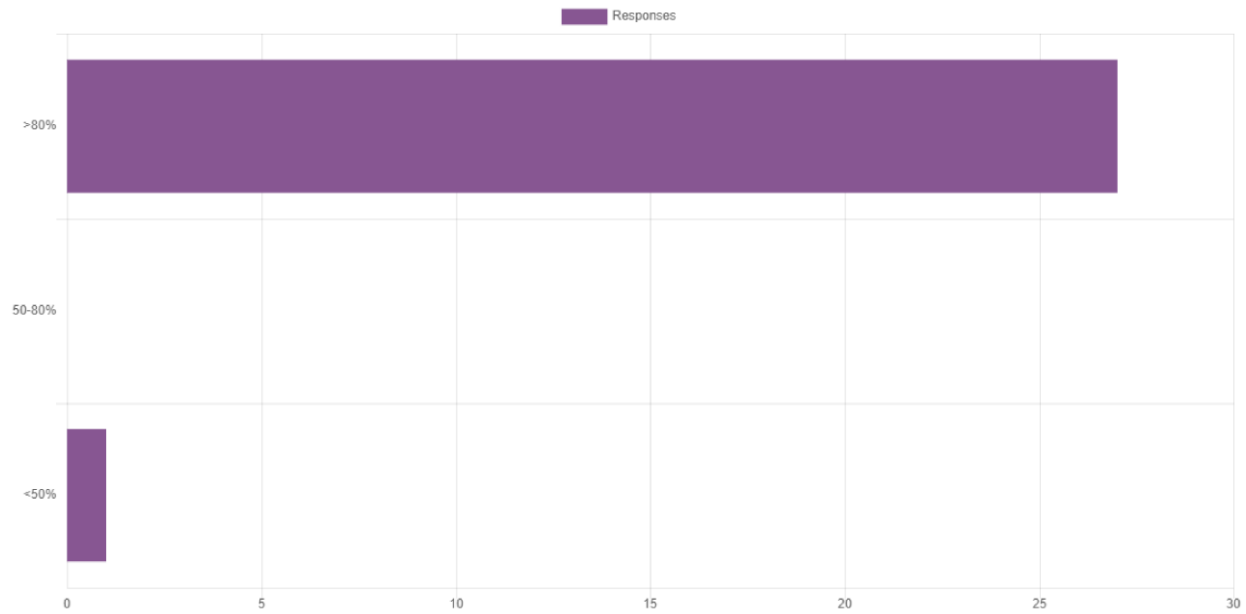
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Submitted answers: 29 / 136

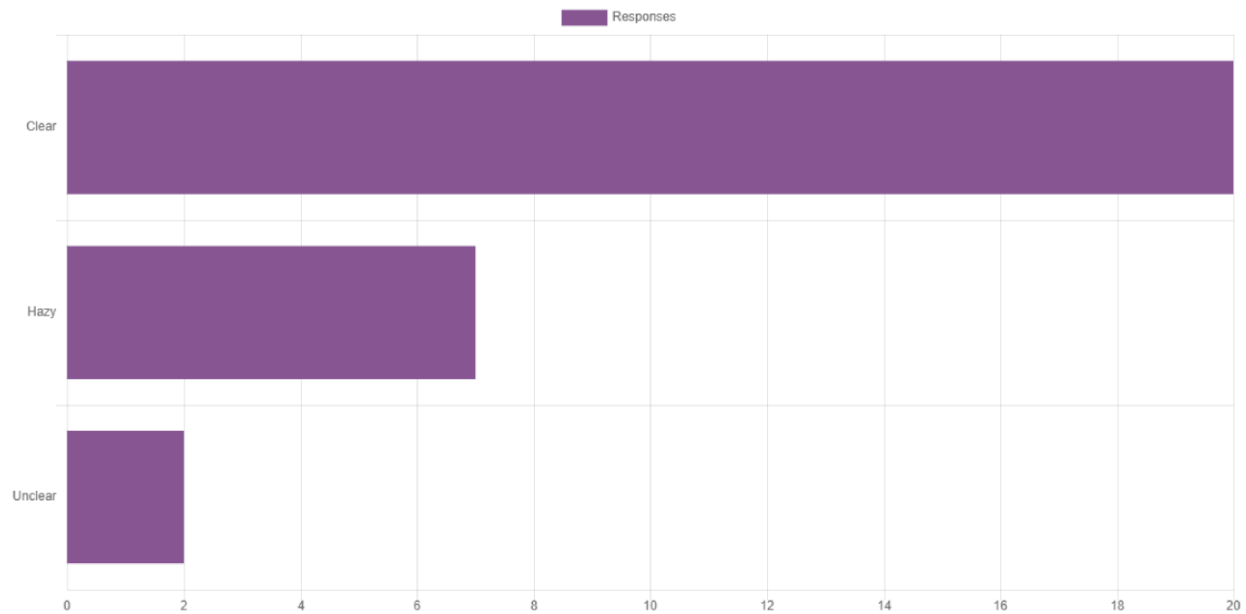
Questions: 19

(Q1) I watched or read through the notes of (...?) of the online lecture material



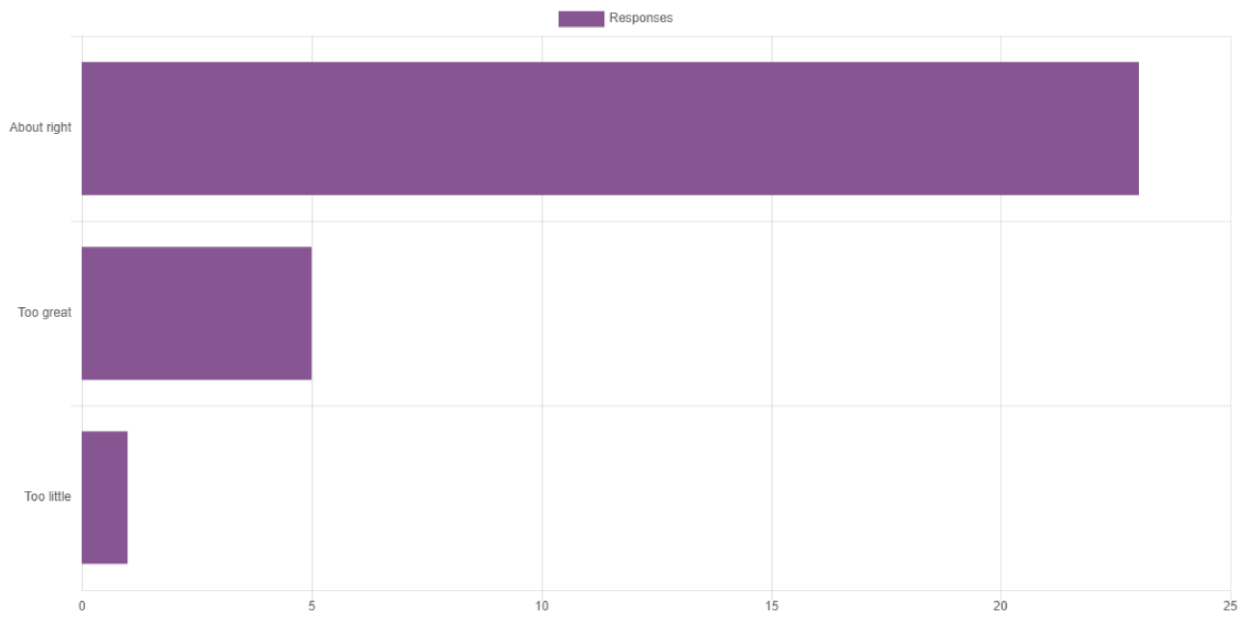
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(Q2) By the end of the module its purpose and direction were



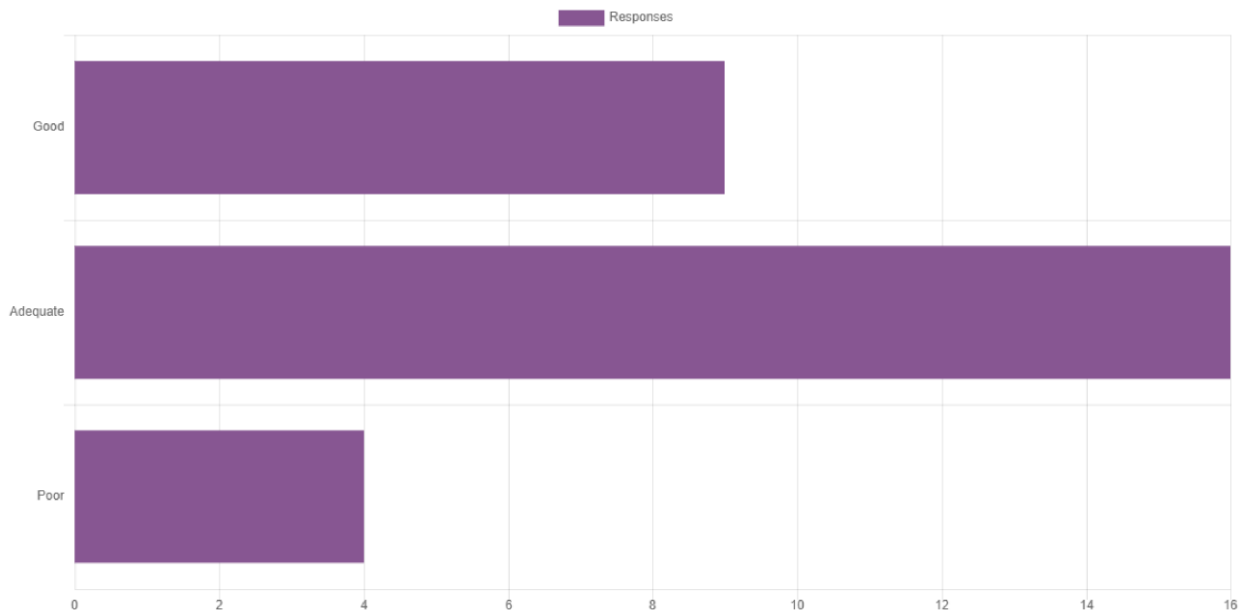
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(Q3) The quantity of material was



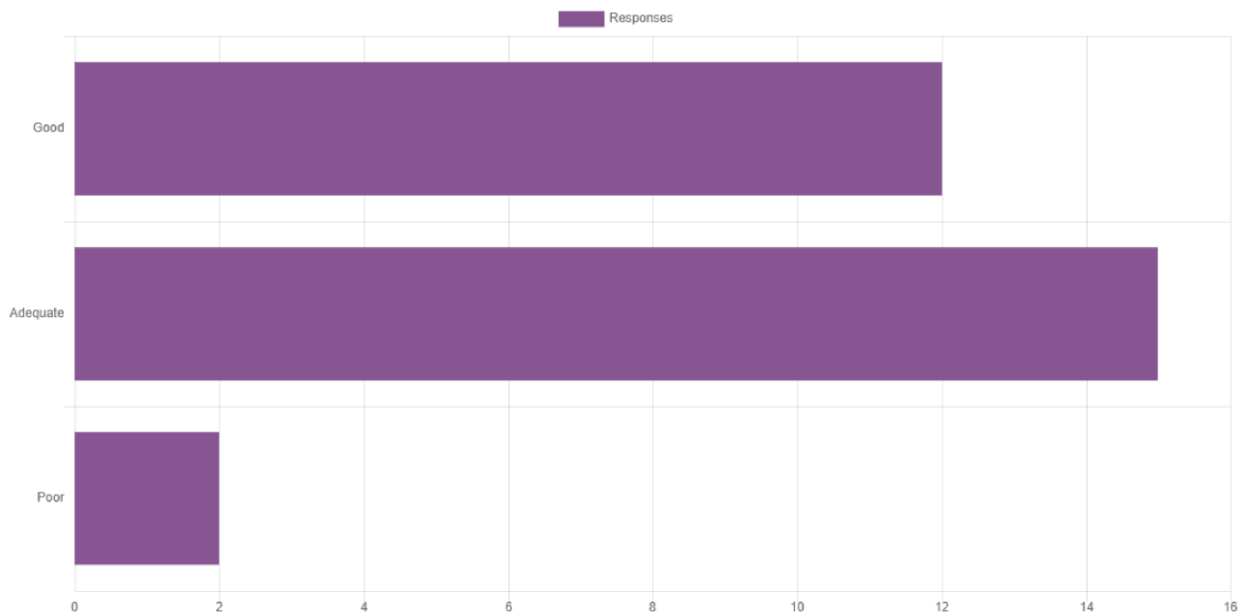
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(Q4) Explanation of new terms and concepts was



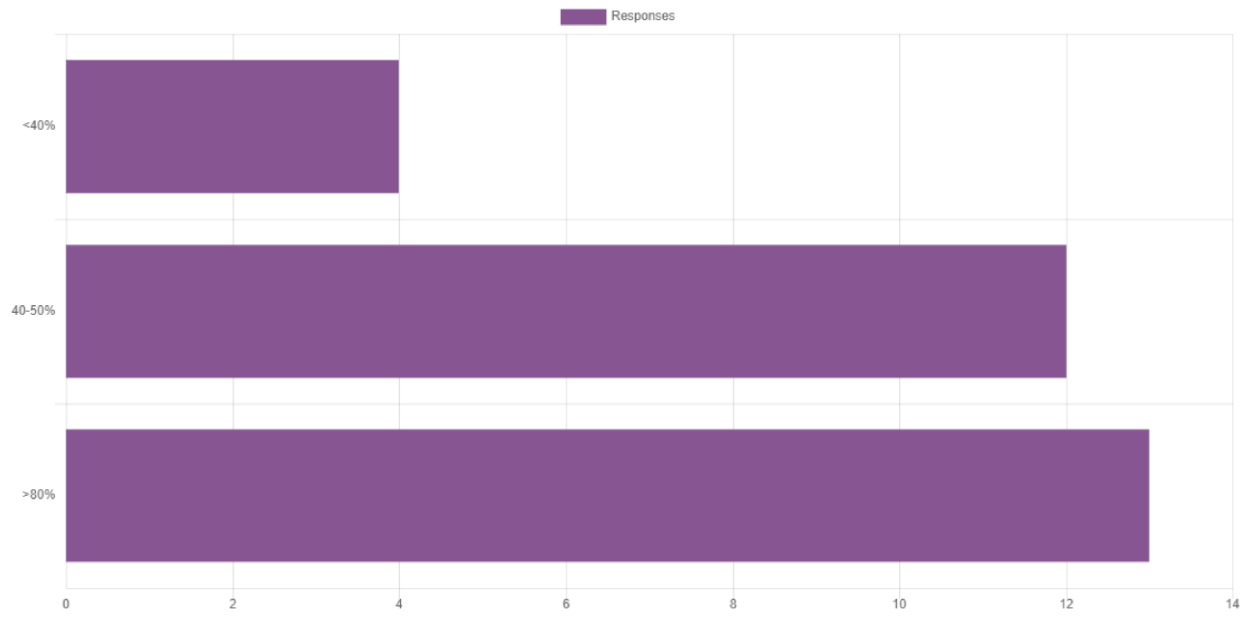
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(Q5) I have a (...?) set of notes

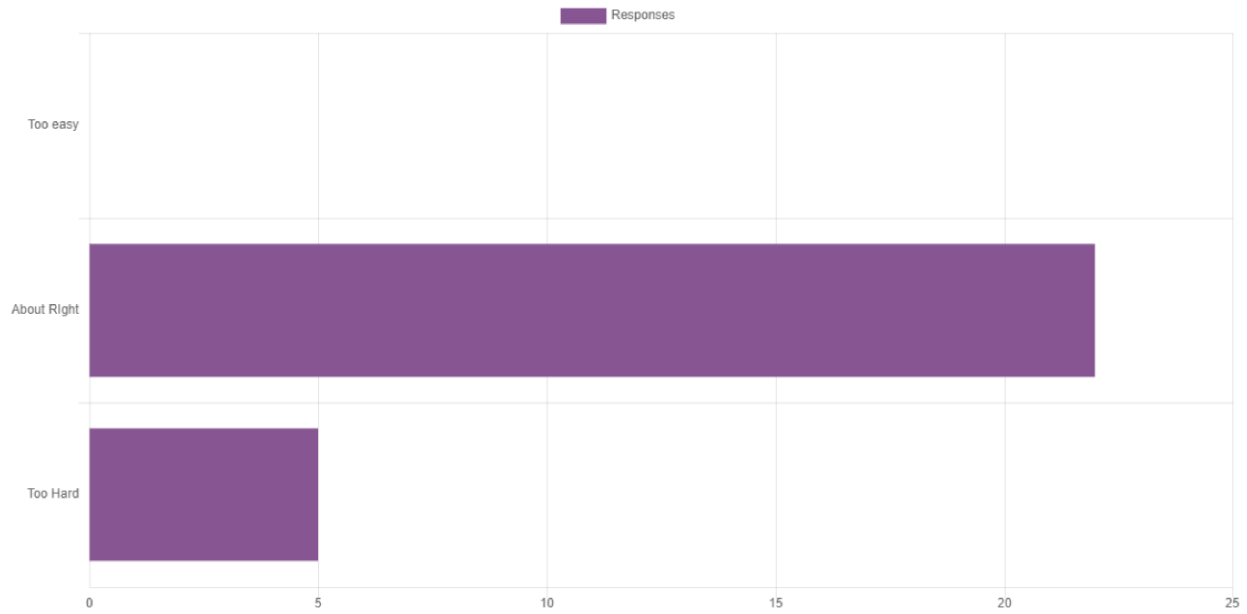


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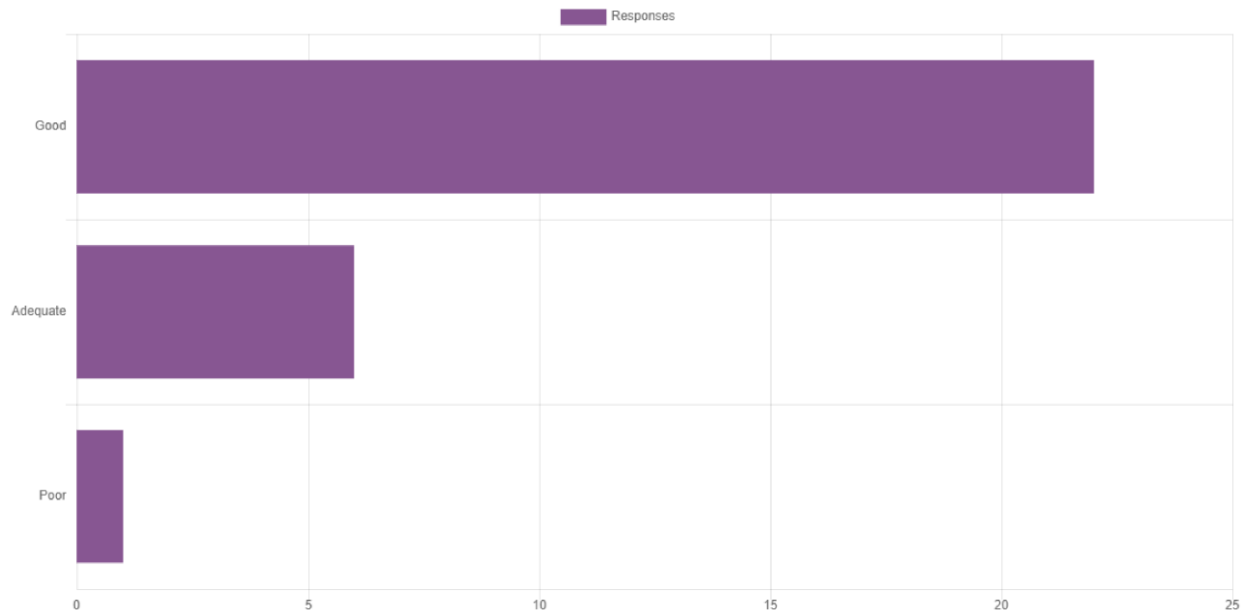
(Q6) I attempted (...?...) of examples sheet questions



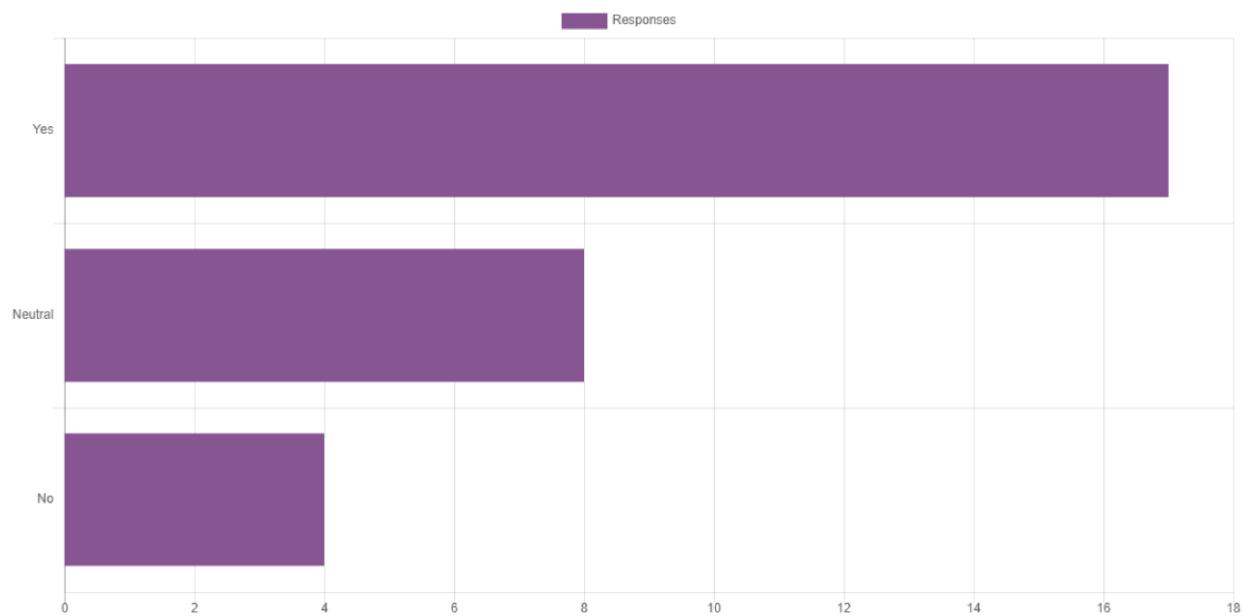
(Q7) The examples sheet questions were



(Q8) Promptness of feedback on submitted coursework was

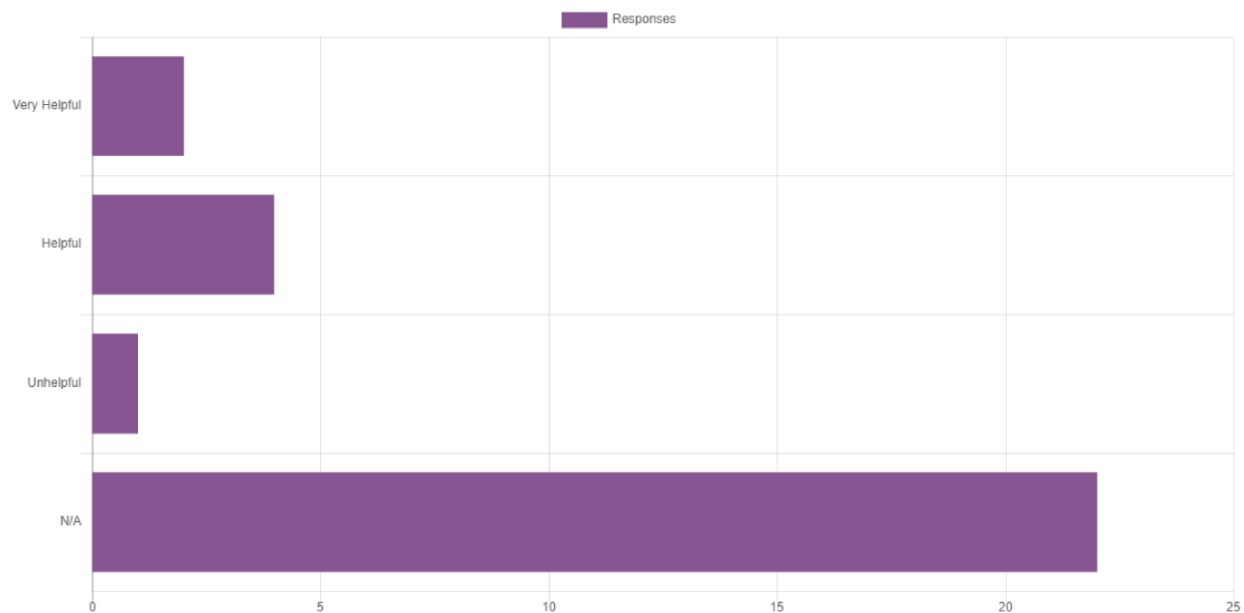


(Q9) Would you like a course taking this subject further



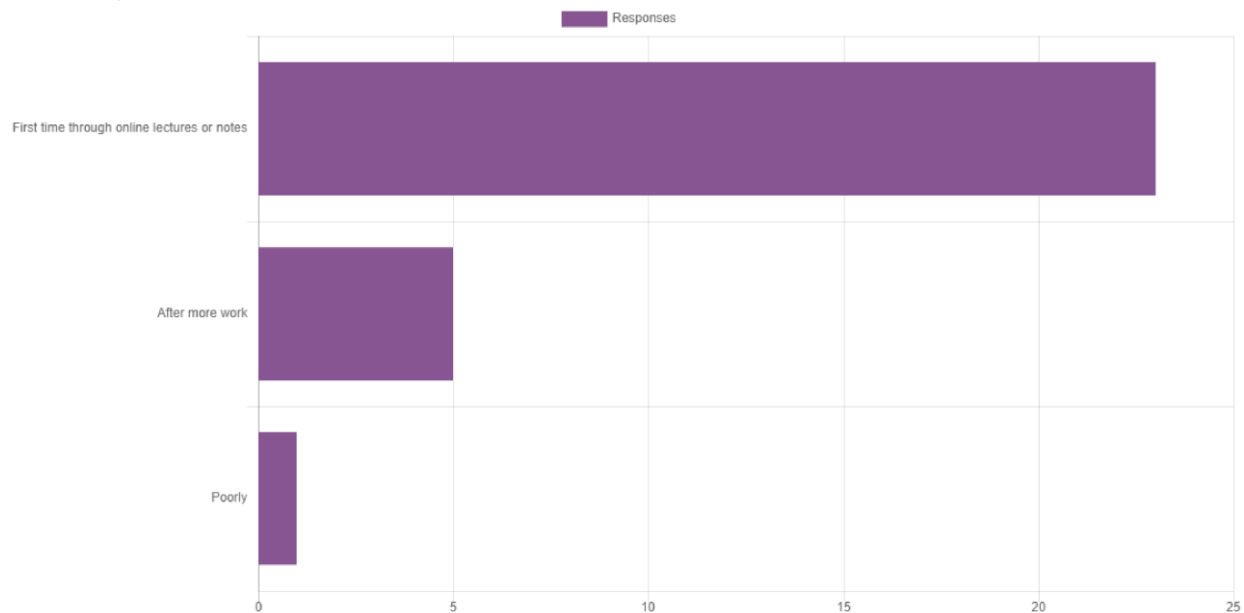
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(Q10) Recommended textbook



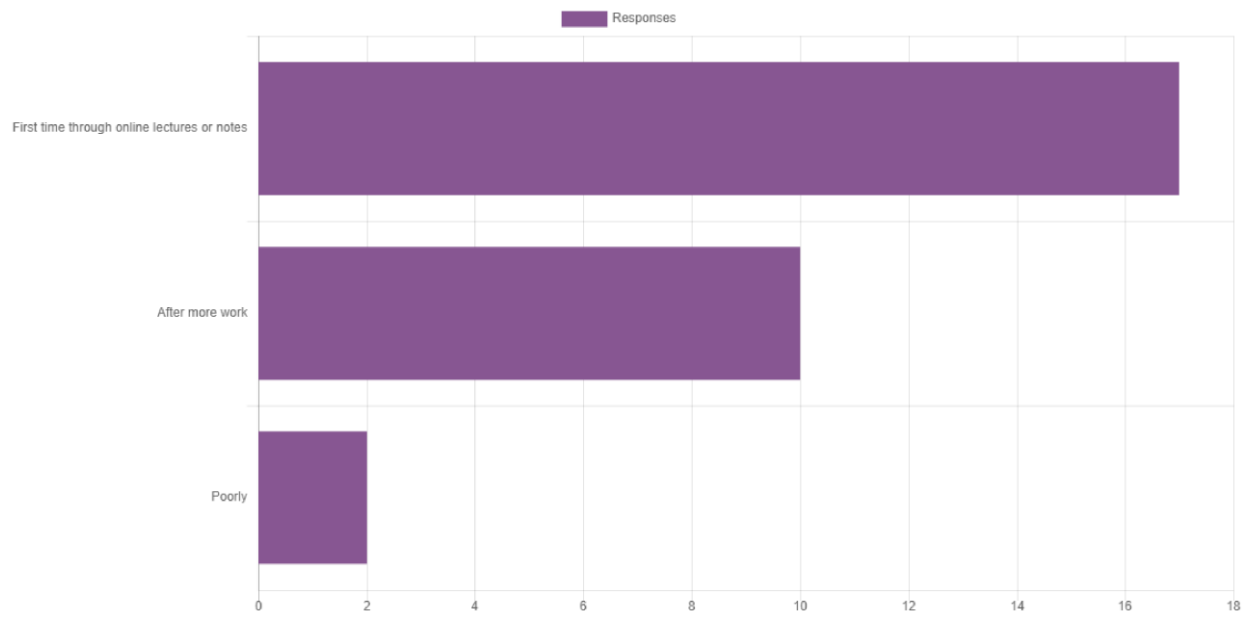
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(A) Maxwell Equations with Vector Potentials



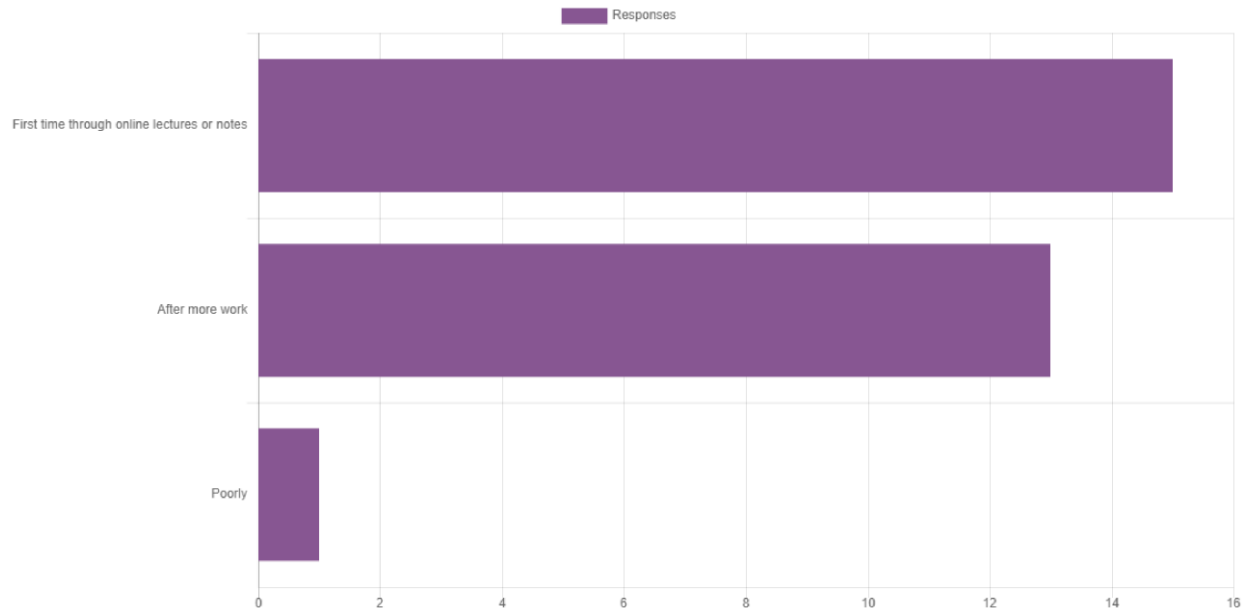
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(B) Special Relativity with 4-vectors and index notation



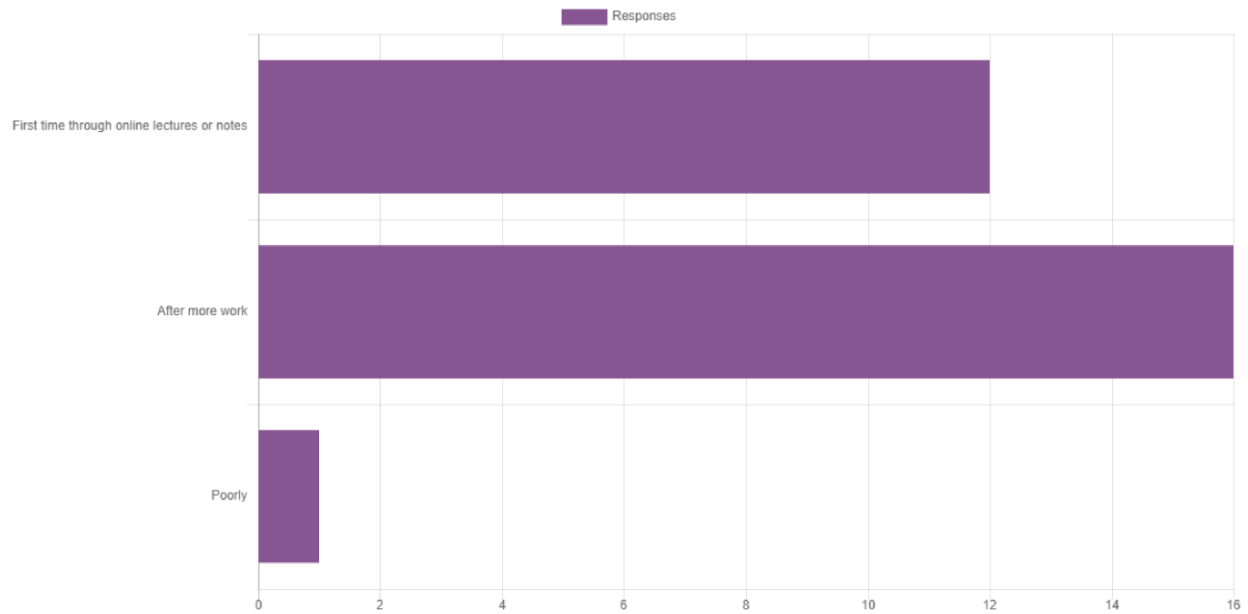
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(C) Faraday Tensor and charged particle motion



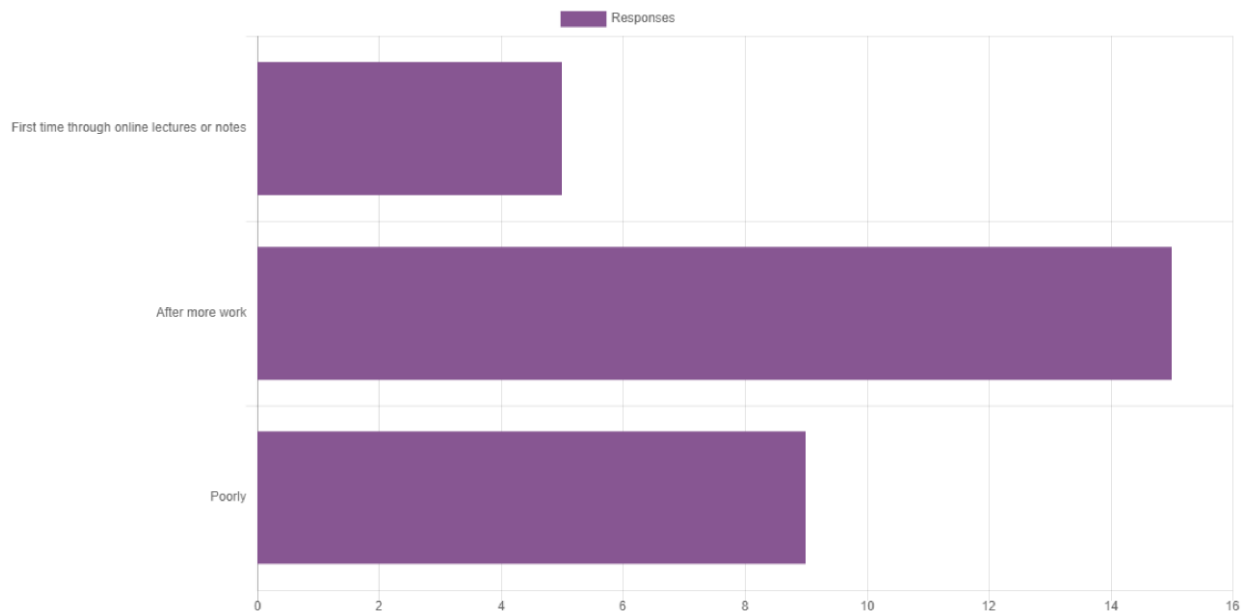
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(D) Relativistic formulation of Maxwell Equations



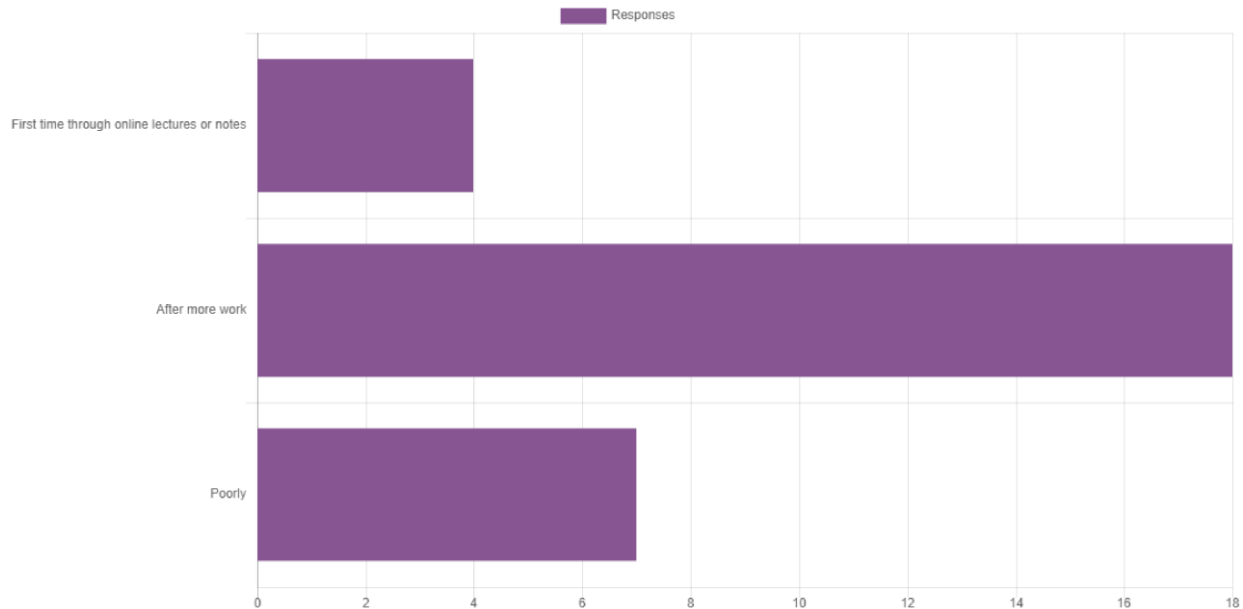
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(E) Hertzian Dipole radiation



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(F) Fields of moving point charge



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The best features of this module were:

- Formal definitions given are useful.
- The notes were easy to comprehend and the questions had a good variety.
- Its online instead of f2f
- The tempo of the module was good, as I never found myself (too) behind and always had time for the quiz, even if it was a push some weeks. I enjoyed Robin Ball's teaching style.
- Quizzes were useful, good difficulty, and assisted learning the content immeasurably.
- The structure of the episodes, there was not too much information per episode, making it easier to watch and take notes
- Relatively short lectures - easily digestible
- Face-cam - more human
- Well Organised moodle page - splitting into weeks really helps.
- Quizzes and problem sheets were very helpful
- The weekly summaries/overviews.
- The easiness to follow the material and some of the applications and real use of some of the topics
- conceptually very satisfying to unify relativity and Maxwell
- The lecturing style was the best of all the modules so far in my opinion as it was the closest to in-person lectures (making notes along with Robin)
- Clear, everything was put online regularly without exceptions.
- The overall formalism is very pretty.

Any particular aspects/items needing improvement (and suggestions how):

- The microphone was often too quiet (even on max volume)
- Going through example questions before the quiz would be more helpful.
- Maybe having more questions per topic so that we can practice further and understand much better the topics
- Volume of lecturer's mic was a little quiet in some of the lectures.

- Solid job, maybe go through the fields of moving point charge section a little slower

- Very difficult to follow the lectures and writing as the lectures are too quiet and don't explain enough to understand the concept. Next time, each concept should be explained simply and then introduce the mathematics rather than assuming knowledge.

- handwritten notes unreadable, too bad.

- 3-hour quizzes are too long.

- The Microsoft Teams live events seemed slightly pointless - what benefit do we get from going through what we are meant to do for the week? Surely it would be best spent going through more examples or common issues, no?

- The initial discussion of Gauge invariance could have been expanded on, particularly the role of .

- Harder worked examples are need in lectures, there was a theme throughout the course of covering relatively straightforward examples in the lectures and the questions in the example sheets were a lot harder leaving me feeling unprepared.

A good example of this were the tensor rank questions in the first weeks example sheet and the first quiz. In your lecture notes you cover tensors which only have unique indices such as the Riemann tensor. However in the questions they are more complex and confusing. At the start I was unsure what the rank of something like $(F^{\mu\nu})^{\alpha}_{\beta}$ or $(F^{\mu\nu})^{\alpha\beta}$ was because it was unclear if having a different tensor (u or F) made a difference and there was a very small amount of information I could find elsewhere, in the end I learnt by guess work from the quiz answers, overall more detail is needed on this.

- Lecture written notes were at times unclear - a little more attention to handwriting would go very far!

- More explanation on the latter part of the course, i.e. Hertzian Dipole and onwards. Much more example sheet questions/

- Some worked examples of Dipole and antenna questions would be helpful

- synchrotron radiation derivations were a little unclear

Any other comments:

- Thank you for the module, professor!

- I'm not entirely convinced that doing a 2-3 hour quiz is representative of only 5% of a module. That's the same length as a normal exam. Plus, the quizzes were quite difficult and, on top of Quantum, stress levels were high weeks 1-5.

- Keep up the good work

- Thought there was quite a difficulty jump about halfway through the module. The second and third tests were much harder than the first as well.

- Thank you!


- Some proper typed notes would be beneficial to refer to alongside the handwritten lecture notes.

◀ Assessment 3 due by Monday week 6, 5pm. Opens Wed week 5 at noon. Time limit 3 hours.

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Working draft of PX384 notes (24 Oct 2016) ▶

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