

Student perceptions and development of employability skills in a multidisciplinary, level 4 science module

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Outline

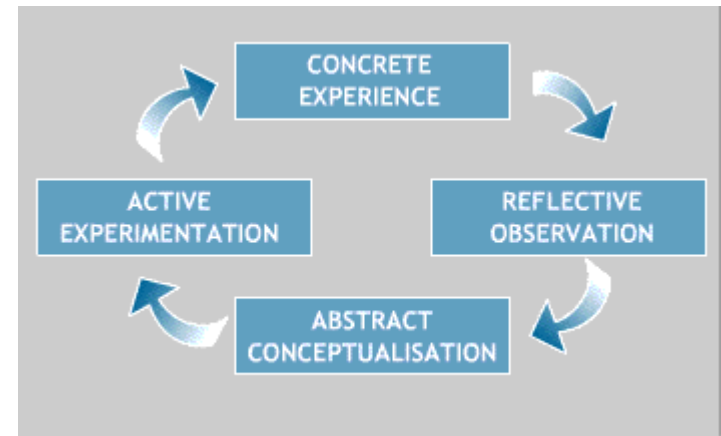
1. Background
2. Context
3. Research questions and approach
4. Results and Discussion
5. Conclusions



Background

The national picture

- Employability skills have to be embedded in all HE courses
- Key review – Wakenham, 2016
- Skills development is strongly linked to Personal Development Planning (PDP)
- Students are encouraged to self-assess skills, and then reflect to plan improvements.
 - E.g. Kolb's Learning Cycle



Skills development on S112

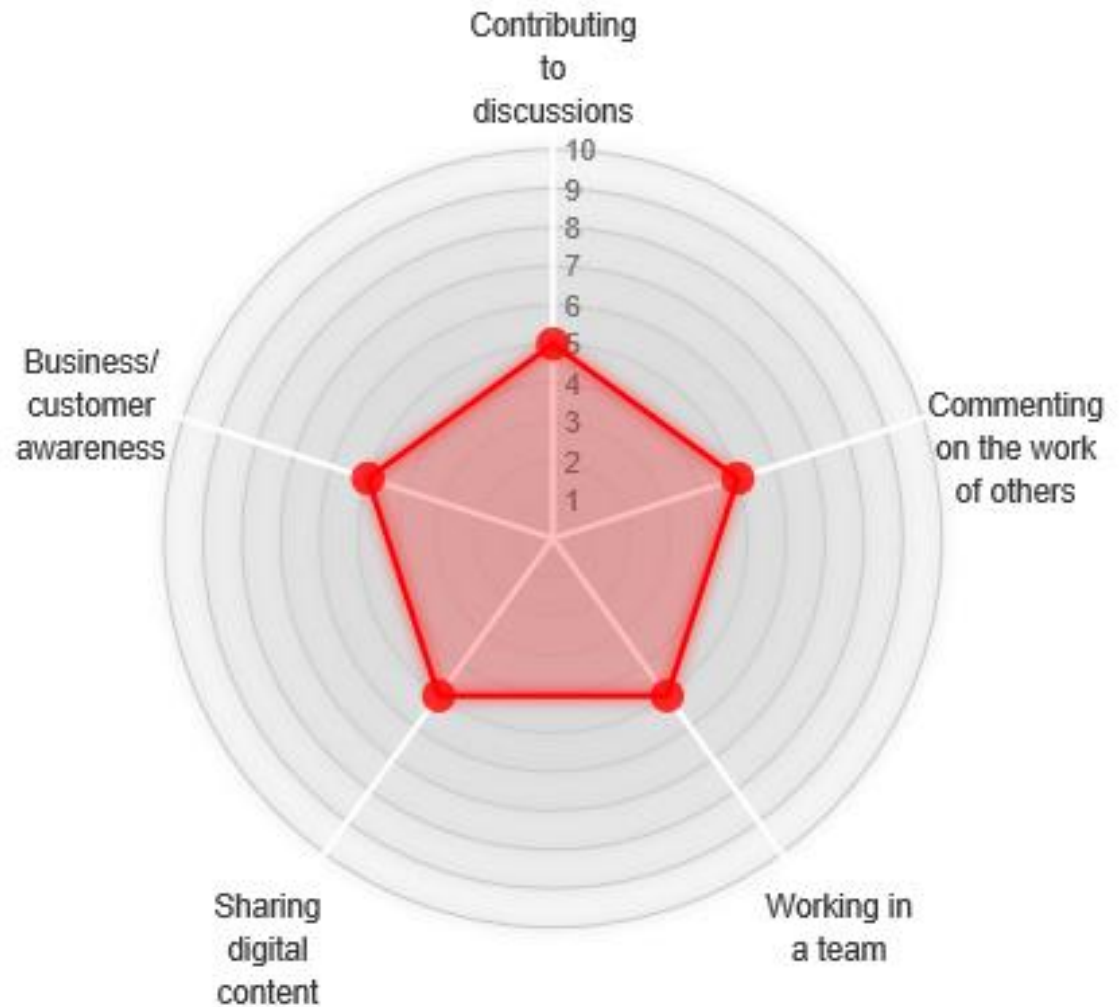
- **Science: concepts and practice**
 - New, multidisciplinary module from Oct 2017
 - 60 credits
 - FHEQ Level 4
 - Focussed on **skills**
- Students regularly self-assess skills using a **radar diagram**
 - Required in each of 6 assignments, with reflection



Context

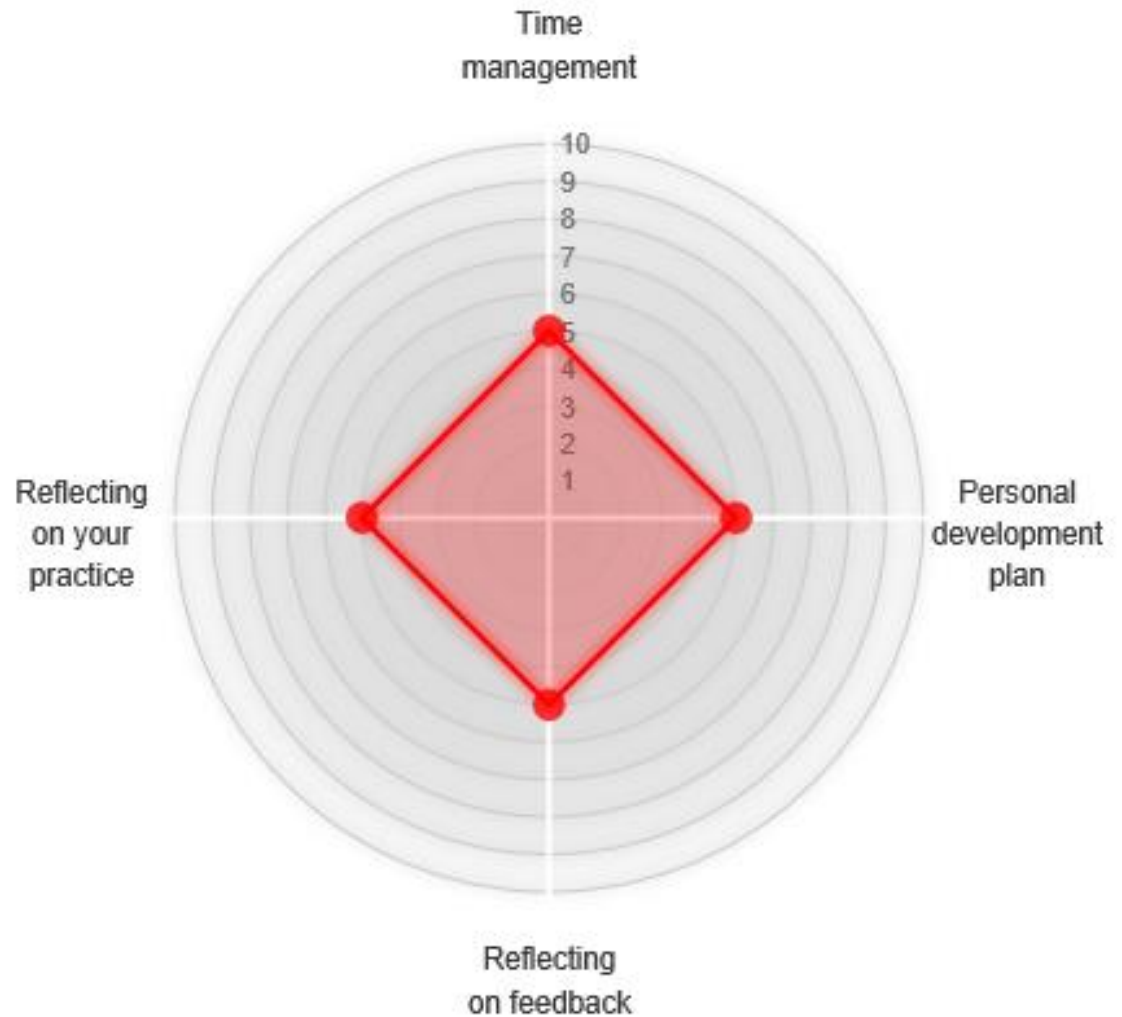
We looked at two groups of Learning Outcomes

1. Collaborating with others ...

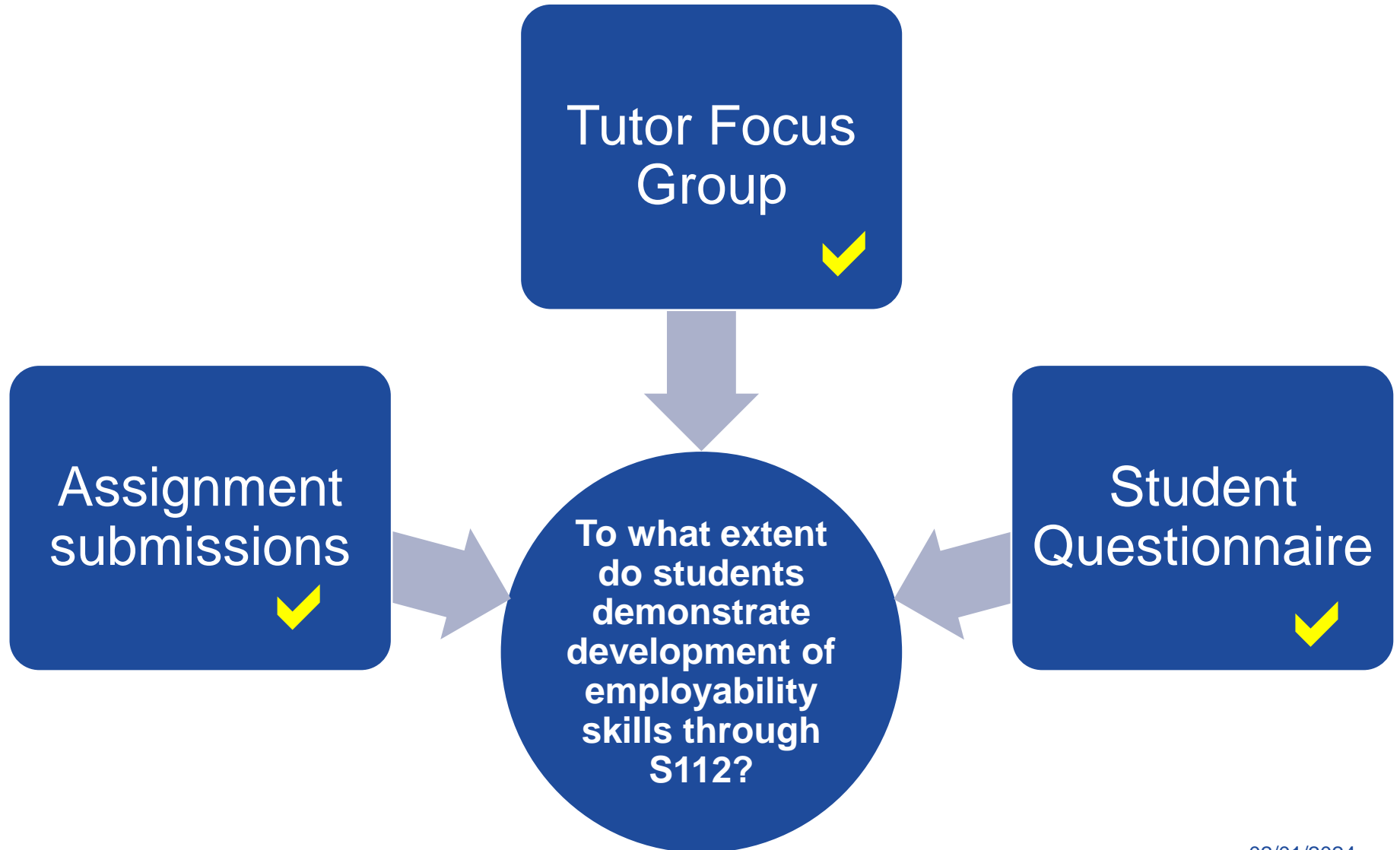


Context

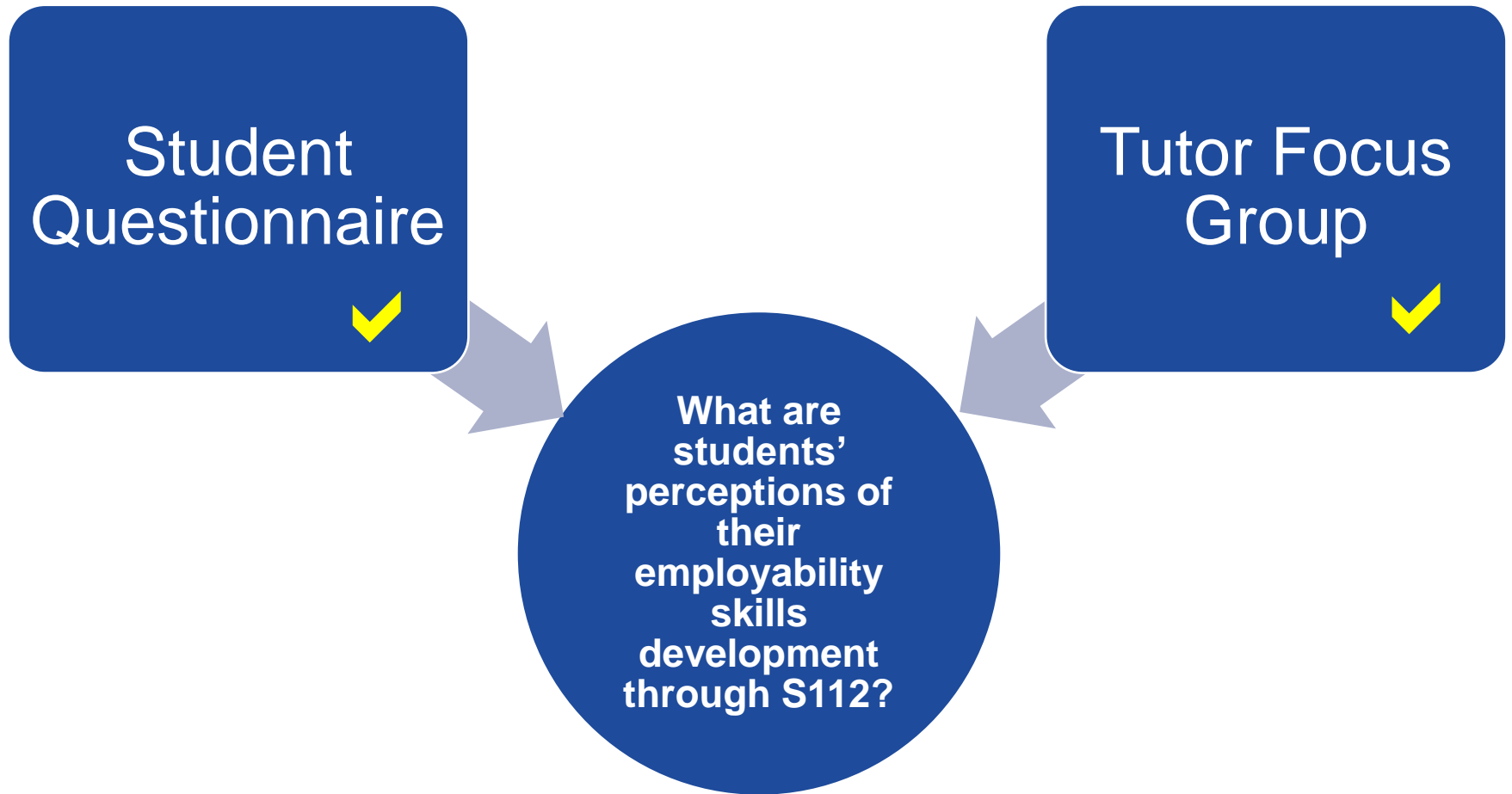
2. Self reflection and planning...



Research Question 1 and Approach



Research Question 2 and Approach



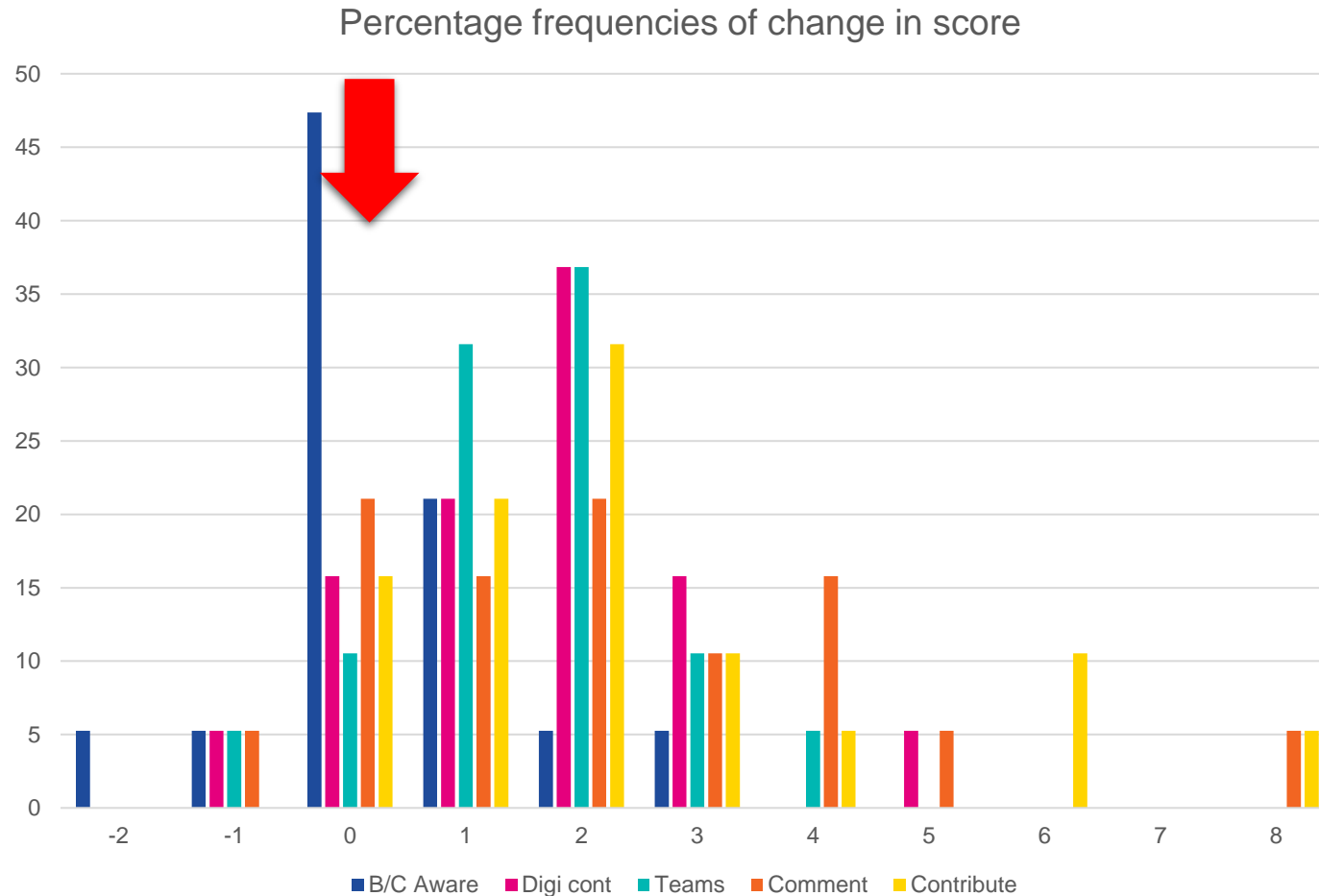
Results and discussion

Initial quantitative results

- Analysed student self assessment scores in assignments
 - Analysed student opinions of radar diagrams using Likert scale
1. These are interim results – to be enriched by qualitative data
 2. Results from free text questions, and tutor focus group to be analysed (thematic analysis)

Results and Discussion

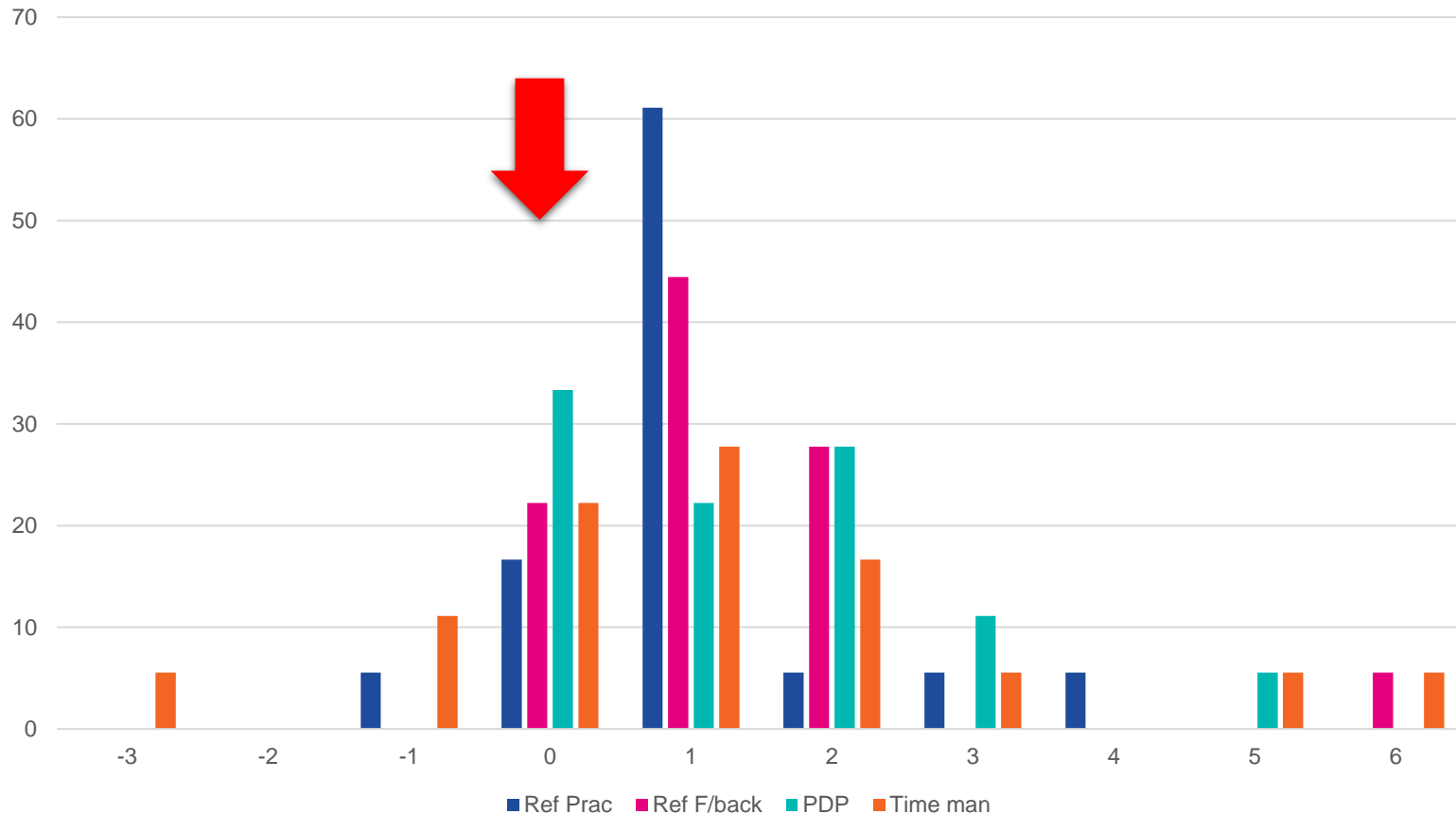
Student assignments (n = 19) : Collaborating with others



Results and Discussion

Student assignments (n = 18): Self reflection and planning

Percentage frequencies of change in score



Results and Discussion

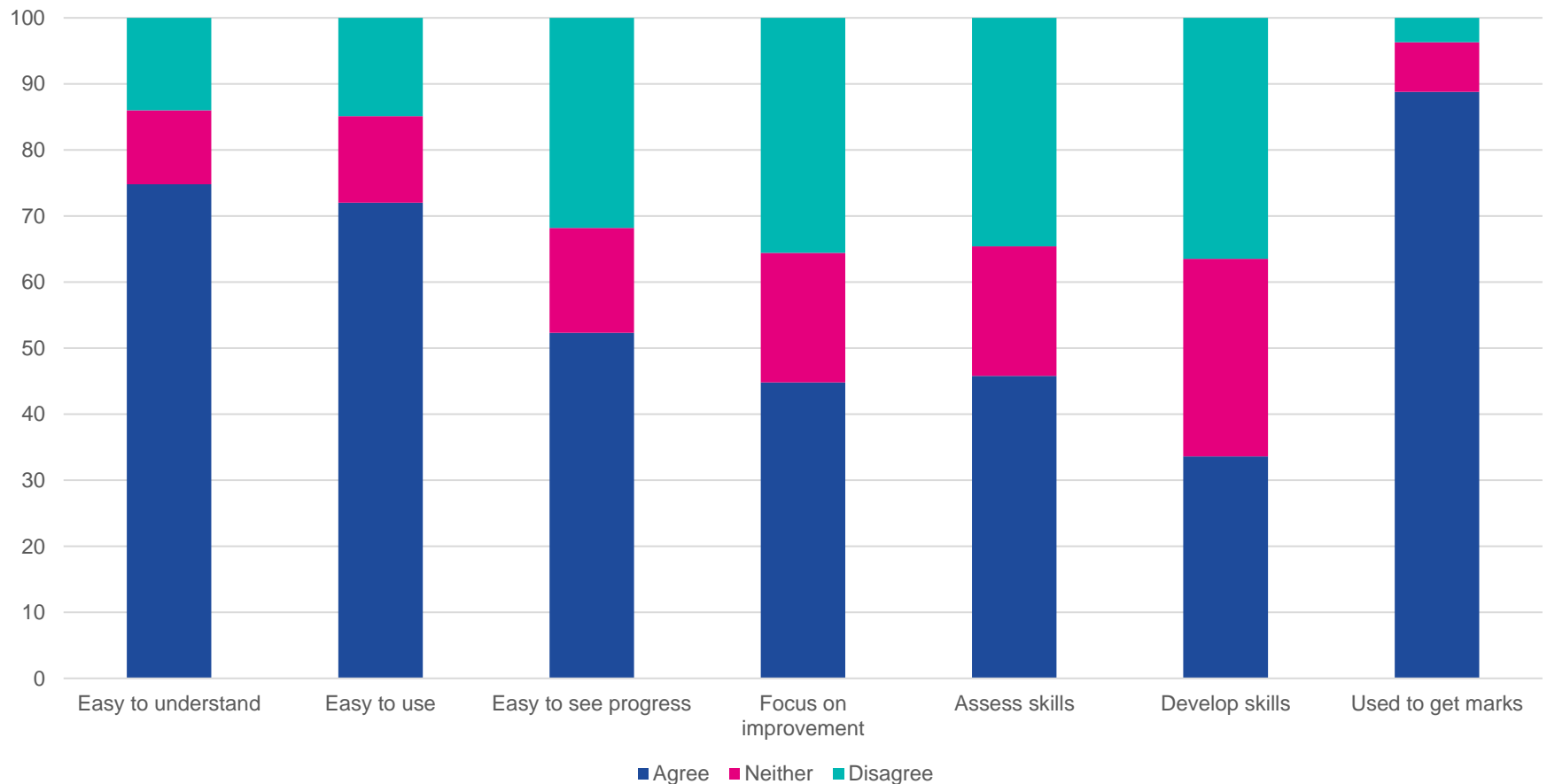
Student questionnaire (n = 115; 18% response rate)

- Of the skills we looked at:
 - > 80 – 85% thought they were “important” and “developed well by the module”, except...
 - Business and Customer Awareness (31% and 37%)
- 93% used the radar diagrams tool
 - Of these, 65 % only used them to complete an assessment

Results and Discussion

Student Questionnaire

Percentage agreement on radar diagram questions



Conclusions

- Students showed improvement in self-assessment scores, except Business and Customer Awareness
 - Questionnaire supports this - least valued skill
 - Embed at qualification level, not module
- Most engaged with radar diagrams to gain marks
- Majority found radar diagrams usable and understandable
- < 50 % students found value in radar diagrams for PDP
- Future work: qualitative data analysis on tutor focus groups and open questions from questionnaire

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Any questions?...

Thank-you for attending

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