

Student Transition and Technology



Q. One word to describe what it is like
to be a
first year student?

Manageable

Challenging

Exciting

Fun

Stressful

Stimulating

Lonely

Freedom

Does student life match expectations?

Happy students and staff



Or is it
stressful
lonely
isolating?



Problem - How do we create a
community
With large first year classes?

Example
Edinburgh campus main
economics class
440 students

How should we
manage student
expectations?

Survey
First Year Students
Expectations

EN Survey
2013 and 2014
Has studying this
degree course met
your expectations
overall?

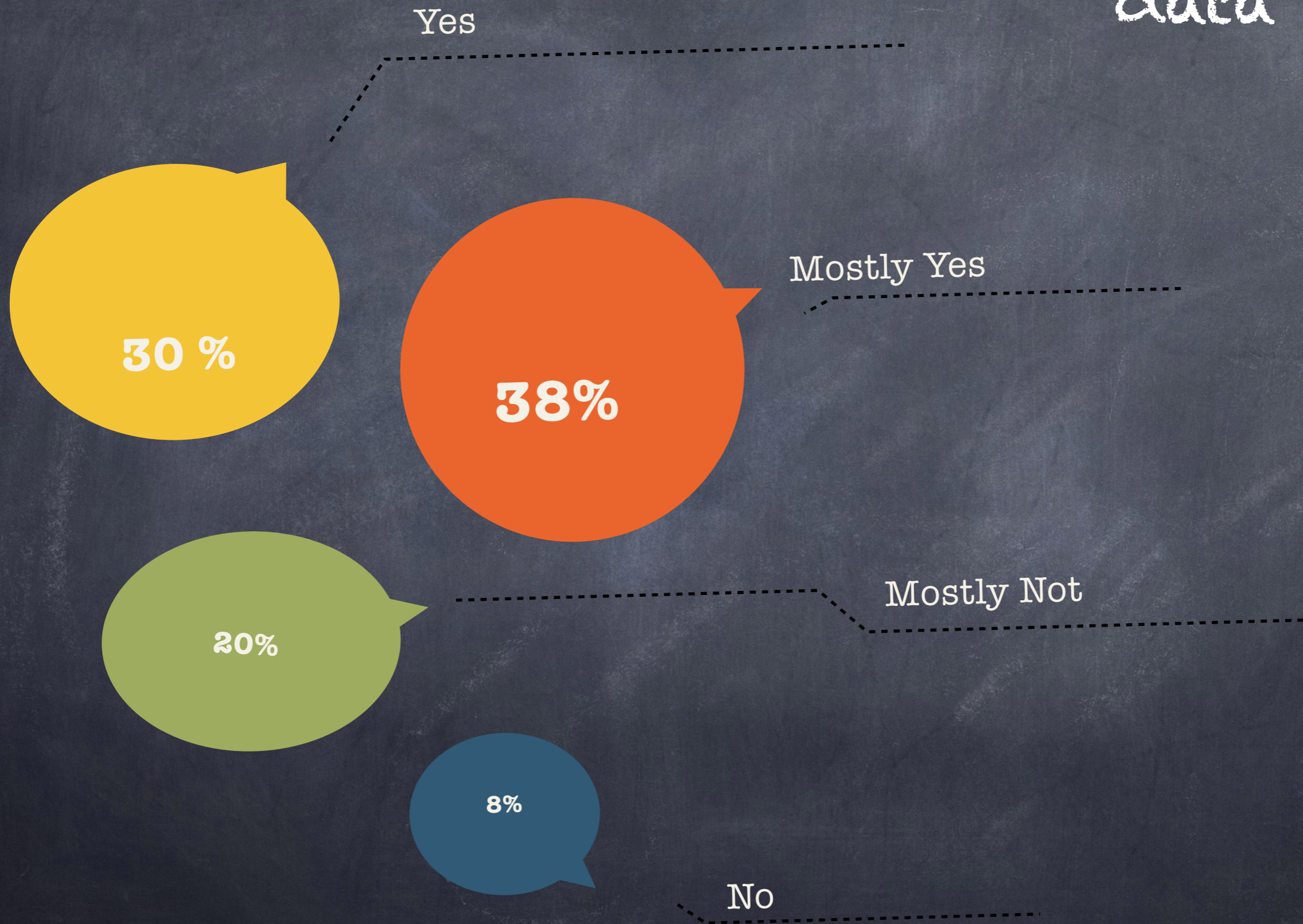
63%

68%

Sample response 172 and 125

Expectations met

2014 year 1 data



Take One Issue

Expectations of lecturer contact time

Example
2013

44% of year 1 respondents said
contact time was less than
expected

How do we compensate for this?

Create a Community

Using Technology

Ideas



1. Social Media

Previous work on this topic
Dickie and Meier 2015

Set up, managed and
monitored Fb groups
for large first year
classes

Facebook Tutor

By 2013 FB groups established across 3 classes

357/438 students joined the main class

127/206 joined the elective class

Use Of FB groups extended beyond general communication e.g. Detailed Q and A, information and comment on news reports, timetabling, surveys, events, opportunities student success stories, media clips, news stories, exam guidance.

Q1 Why did you join the Economics class FB Group?	Sample n =82
To be part of the class learning community	46.91%(n=38)
To find new friends	02.47%(n=2)
To access information quickly	66.67%(n=54)
To ask questions and to receive answers quickly	37.04%(n=30)
To observe answers to questions	55.56%(n= 45)
All of the above	27.16%(n=22)

Fb Survey Results

FB provided a space for the class learning community to develop, a place where social and educational interaction coexist and develop in an informal environment

FB provided quick and easy access to information

FB Was the most popular forum for asking questions

2. Clickers

Questions and Answers

Tests

Fantastic!

Many uses and students like the
interaction in lectures

Feedback

Ice breakers

3. e-assignments and feedback

Set weekly MCQ test
Upload data on results and response
rates for each question.

Providing detailed answers for
specific questions that have poor
response rates.

4. Team Work

Introduce new basic applied courses

Utilising internet resources

Merge theory and policy

No formal lectures

Research based

Students select topic

Present Work

Conclusion

Many ways to utilise technology in HE

Yes, we want to use it to
enhance learning and teaching
but it is also ideal for
breaking down barriers
an aid to transition
from high school to uni
creating a community

