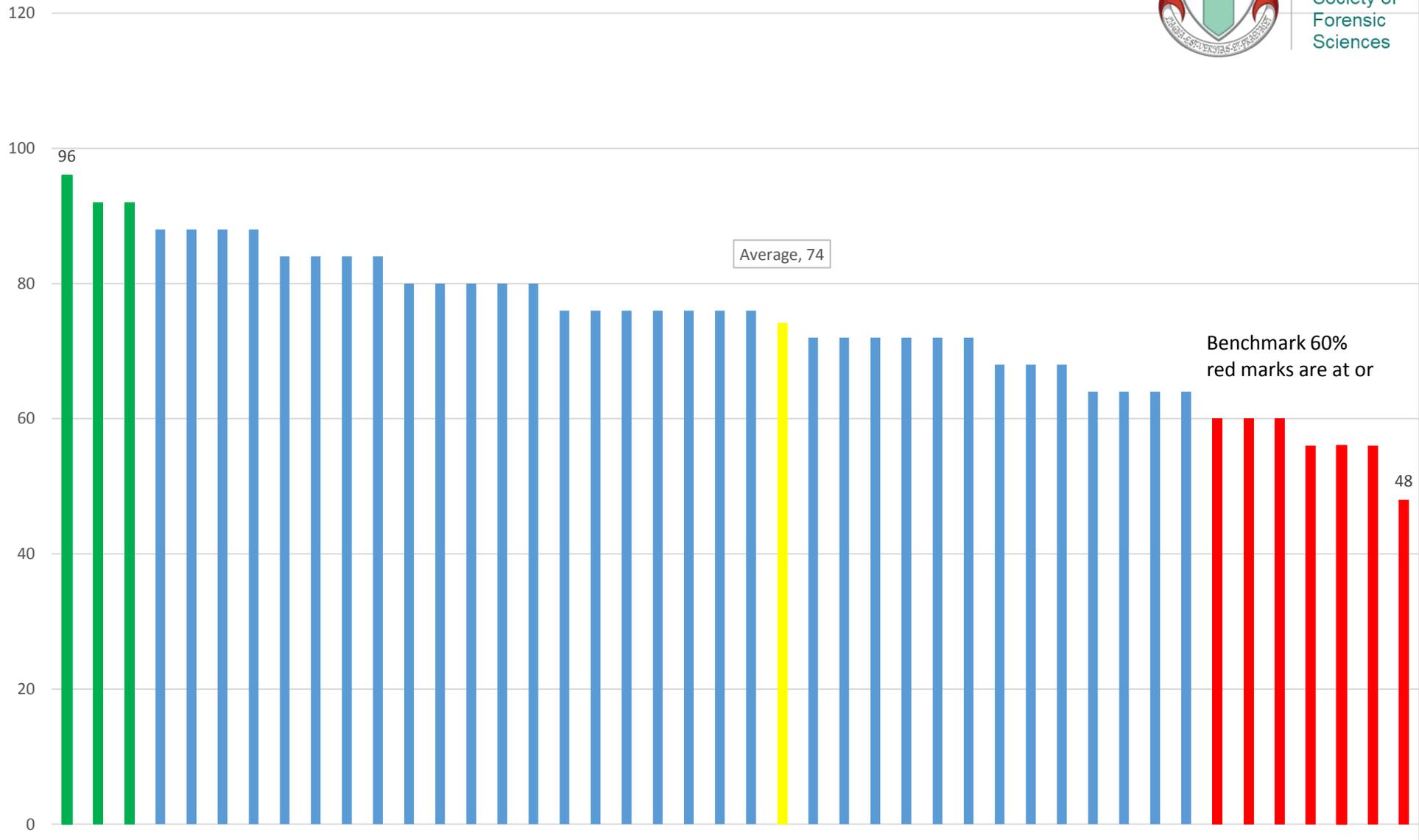


Hampshire - Individual Marks(%) - Online subject specific assessment



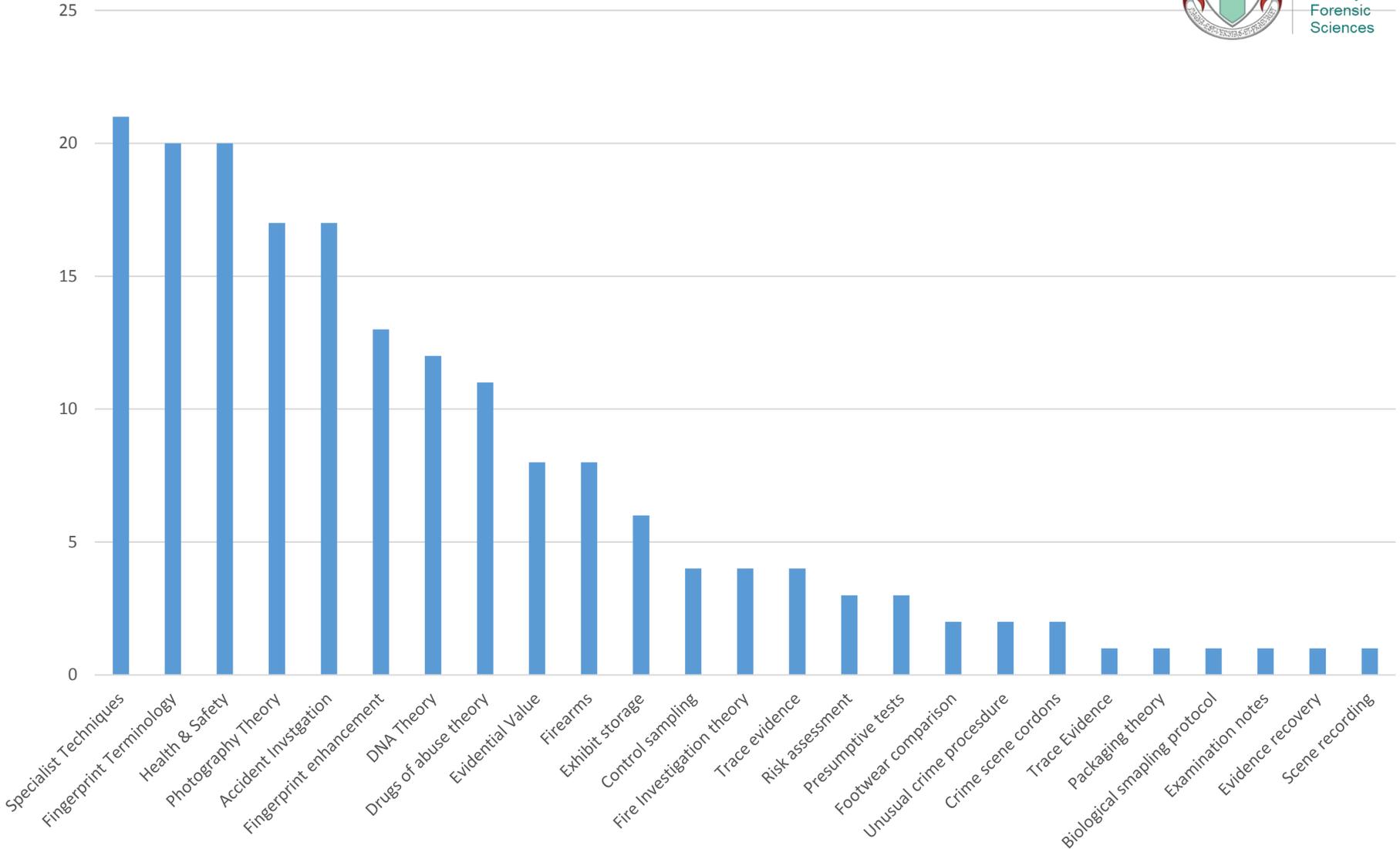
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Count by incorrect question category (CSI online assessment)



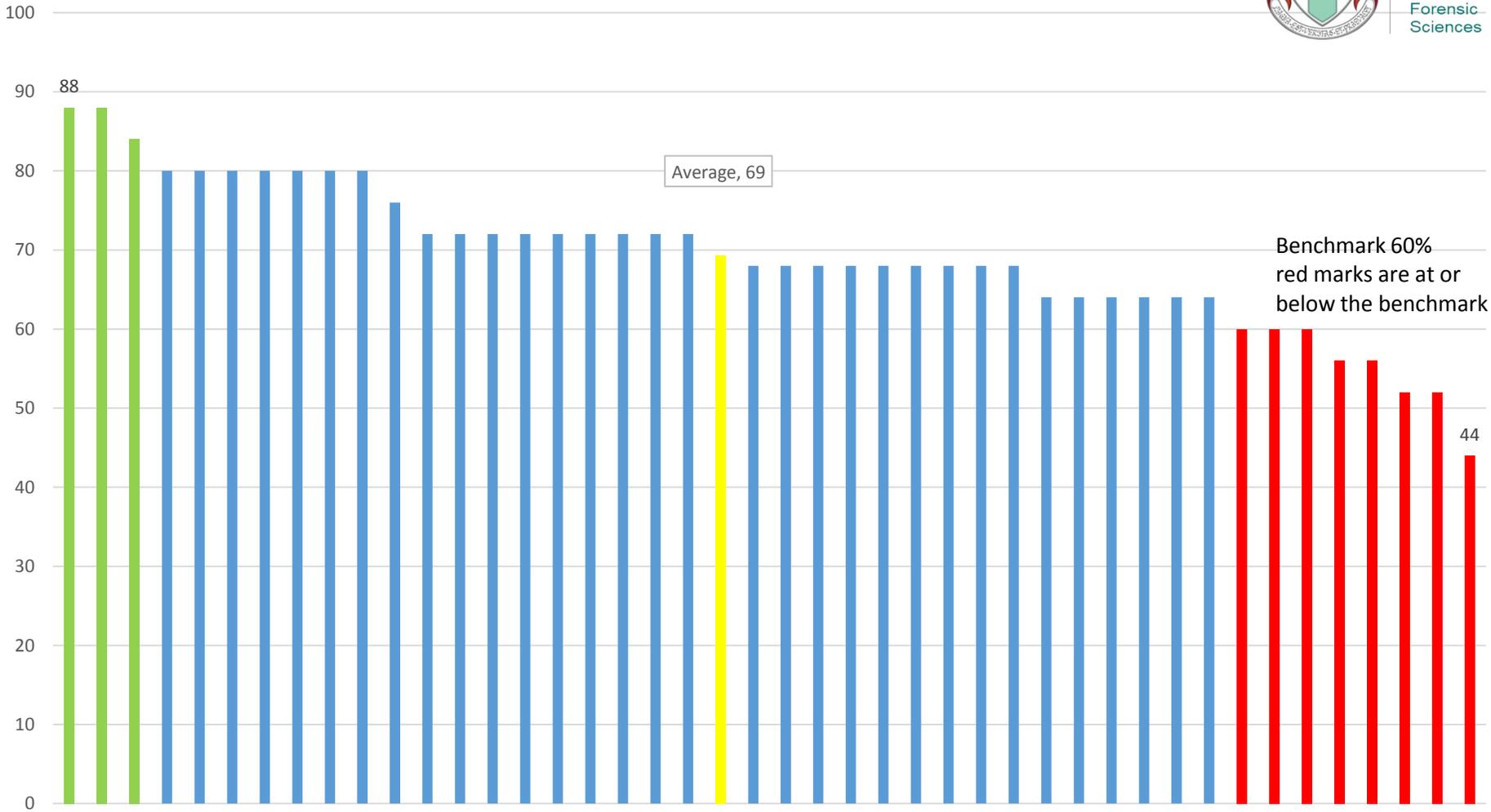
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Hampshire - Individual Marks (%) Online General Assessment



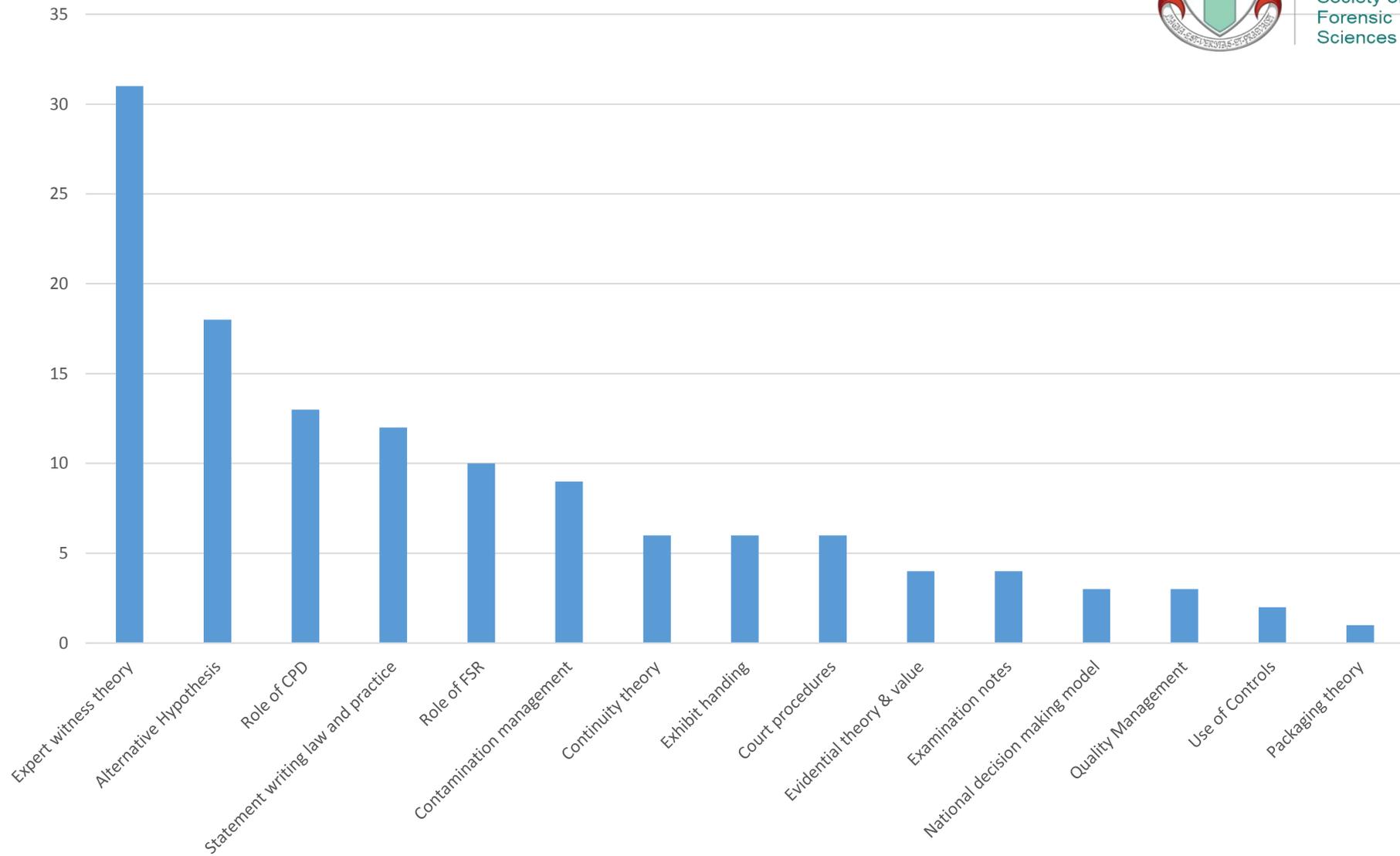
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Count by incorrect question category (General online assessment)



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Practical Assessment trends and general assessor feedback

Anti-contamination measures

The candidates continue to show good anti-contamination measures. Whilst it is difficult to replicate DNA unit procedures for the unsterile environment of a crime scene examination the principles should be acknowledged as best practice. **Candidates must be aware that the overuse of distel wipes will have a detrimental effect on the recovery of DNA from scenes of crime.**

Crime Scene Managers

The CSM's continue to lead the unit in both experience and knowledge. Some produce innovative solutions and new approaches to meet case specific evidential and investigative needs. All CSM's demonstrated an awareness of their overall role within the investigation team.

SD Cards

The candidates continue to mention the lack of SD cards and the poor quality of the cards they are issued with.

Tripods

The use of tripods has increased; all the candidates have used them to document the footwear mark over the last two sessions. However, use of the tripod to photograph the blood stain was inconsistent. Some of the candidates had recently been issued with new tripods and it was evident that they have not become accustomed with its use. This may be an indication that some candidates rarely use the tripod.

KM Kits

Whilst all candidates used KM kits some were not aware of the requirement to take a negative control prior to using the kit.

Packaging

Some candidates opted to package blood swabs in an evidence bag bearing no bio hazard label. Availability of the correct bag was questioned by some candidates. However, the majority of candidates assessed used the correct bag to package blood swabs. Certain candidates continued to use the incorrect bag after the correct bag bearing a bio hazard label was seen in their scene kit or van during the vehicle in section.

Sterile paper sheets

Four variations in the use of sterile paper were observed during the assessment process: Pre-packaged brown paper sheets, unused sealed paper packs from examination kits, sealed medical supply paper kits, and brown paper cut from a role.

Angle setters

This equipment is rarely used, those who use them fail to understand the principles of its use in relation to obtaining the measurements of the surface they are documenting first, then the plane of the camera so each is parallel to one another.

Photographic skills

Some candidates show excellence in their documentation of scenes with a good understanding of flash and the need for good depth of field and focus. Some have poor knowledge and understanding of the principles of photography and rely on automatic settings and priorities on the camera.

Intelligence value of blood staining.

None of the candidates realised the potential value of the blood stain (drip) and the distance from the point of entry or the significance of its position within the scene during assessment 16th to 18th January. The candidates on the 24th January all recognised the significance of the material mark in blood.

Blood recovery

The taking and exhibiting of control swabs was very inconsistent. Where taken some candidates packaged and exhibited the blood and control swabs as one exhibit and others packaged the control swabs as a separate exhibit. Many of the candidates who produced control swabs were unaware of the requirement to recover the controls prior to swabbing the blood stain. Some candidates swab around the stain as a control and some swab an area adjacent to the stain.

A number of the candidates from Cosham and one from the Isle of Wight, failed to use swab exhibit bags with pre-printed biohazard labels present, when using other bags they fail to add the appropriate warning markers.

Fast tracking of fingerprints

The assessment team were advised that fingerprint lifts can only be fast tracked by physically taking the lift to the bureau, once a week from the Isle of Wight.

Vehicle limitations

The current size of the vehicles limits the equipment that the staff can carry. This manifests itself in the staff producing their own DNA examination packs which need to be self-packed, i.e. boxes of gloves are opened and are repackaged into bags and brown paper sheets are torn and self-folded. The increase in manual handling increases the risk of contamination. In addition it is clearly detrimental to the efforts made to introduce a corporate approach to vehicles and CSI equipment.