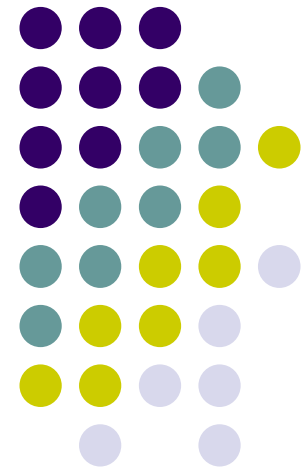# Standardization of an Institutional Exam:
Does it make any difference?

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Overview

- context of the standardization
- the motives behind moving on to a standardized test
- process of designing a standardized test
- outcomes of the standardization within the aforementioned context

The Context

- Yasar University Preparatory Class is an Intensive English Program which aims to furnish its students with the essential language skills to pursue their studies in their subsequent departments/programs as well as communicate effectively in their future social and professional lives.

FLAT

- is the institutional proficiency exam of Yasar University Preparatory Class
- stands for

  Foreign Language Assessment Test
- is used to measure the test takers' competency in English
- is given twice an academic year

Profile of the test takers

- A variety of non-native speakers aged between 18 and 25 with different competency levels of English

What made us change our main assessment tool,
FLAT?

…on the way to a standardized exam

- **Accreditation (CEA) process**

…on the way to a standardized exam

The need for more **practicality** in administration of

- **time**
- **scoring**
- **data analysis**

…on the way to a standardized exam

- **To prevent potential and present rater mistakes**

- **To minimize rater subjectivity involved in scoring**
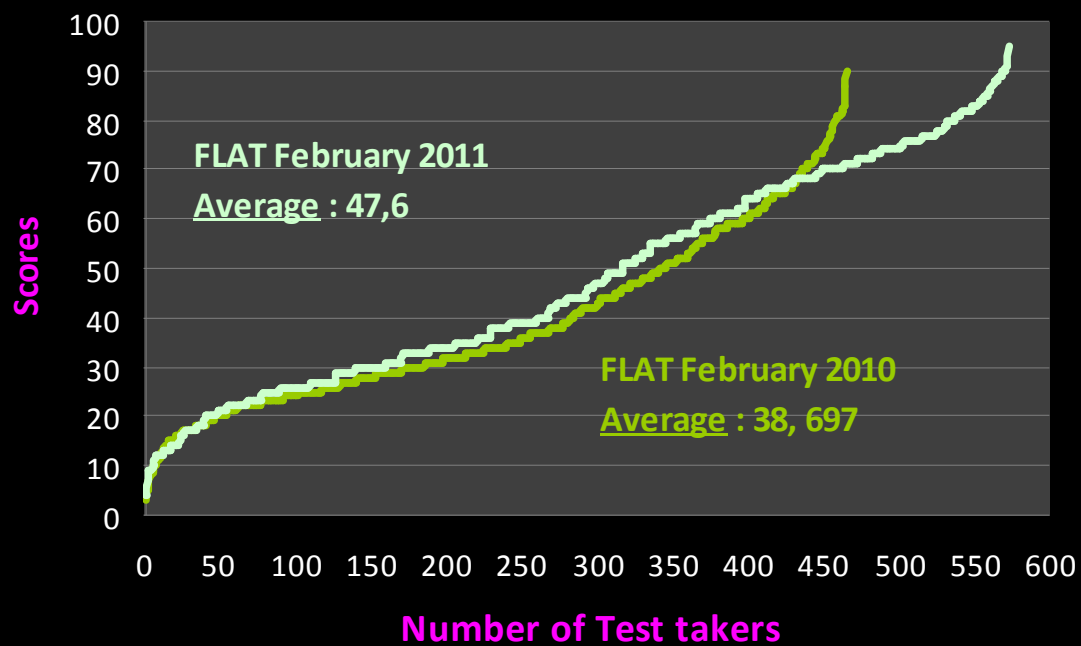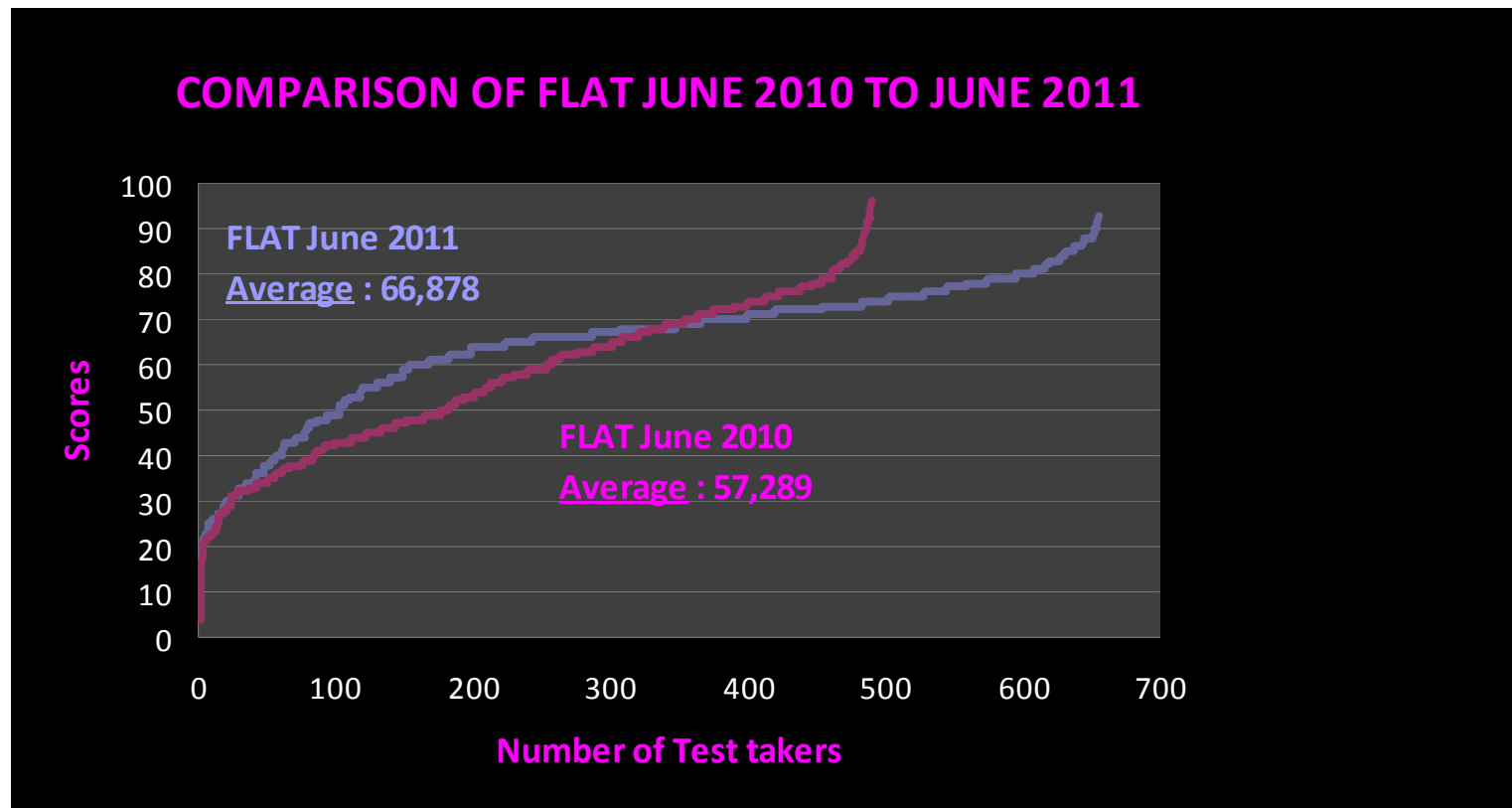
…on the way to a standardized exam

- Design Process

OUTCOMES

COMPARISON OF FLAT FEBRUARY 2010 TO FLAT FEBRUARY 2011

OUTCOMES

COMPARISON OF FLAT JUNE 2010 TO JUNE 2011

FLAT June 2011
Average : 66,878

FLAT June 2010
Average : 57,289

Scores

Number of Test takers

OUTCOMES

	Previous Exam	Standardized Exam
Rater Subjectivity	☹	☺

Sample item

Rewrite the statement using the word in brackets so that it has a similar meaning to the first one. Do not change the key word.

I am sure she had a very happy childhood.

(MUST) She ___*must have had*___ a very happy childhood.
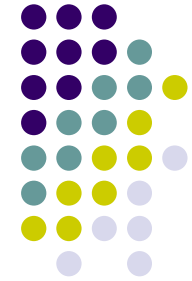
Sample item

Standardized Exam

CHOOSE THE ANSWER THAT HAS THE CLOSEST MEANING TO THE SENTENCE GIVEN.

It is possible that I left my jacket at your house.

a. I might have left my jacket at your house.

b. I must have left my jacket at your house.

c. I would have left my jacket at your house.

d. I can't have left my jacket at your house.

OUTCOMES

	Previous Exam	Standardized Exam
Standardized Context & Content	☹ **Chosen randomly**	☺ Specified

FLAT AT A GLANCE

| Section	Skill	Percentage	Time Allocated	No. of Questions	Types of Questions	Purpose of the Task(s)
PART A	Listening	10 %	20 min.	10	Multiple Choice	To assess how far students comprehend / identify main points and/or details of a monologue and a conversation
PART B	Reading	20 %	30 min.	20	Multiple Choice Matching headings with paragraphs Gapped texts	To assess students' reading and comprehension competencies of a long authentic academic text and 2- 5 other shorter texts in the form of advertisements, schedules, brochure samples, directions, instructions, reviews, etc.
PART C	Writing	15 %	60 min.	1 essay & 1 paragraph	1 essay question of 300 – 350 words & 1 paragraph writing task depending on a graph, diagram, etc.	To assess students' written production in response to two different tasks in accordance with correct grammatical, lexical, organizational patterns
PART D	Use of English	50 %	70 min.	50	Grammatical multiple choice cloze texts; Sentence Transformations; Error Recognition; Lexical multiple choice items including word formation, collocations and phrasal verbs	To assess students' ability and efficiency in use of language from the aspects of grammar and lexicon
PART E	Speaking	5 %	3-5 min.	2-3	Open-ended questions	To assess students' oral production on a variety of topics from the aspects of range, fluency, accuracy and task achievement

OUTCOMES

	Previous Exam	Standardized Exam
Scoring	☹ Time-consuming	☺ Computerised Scoring
Collecting Data	☹ Impractical	☺ Practical

TEACHERS' FEEDBACK

- The new FLAT assesses student success more efficiently compared to the previous version.

q14

Legend:
- Disagree
- No Idea
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
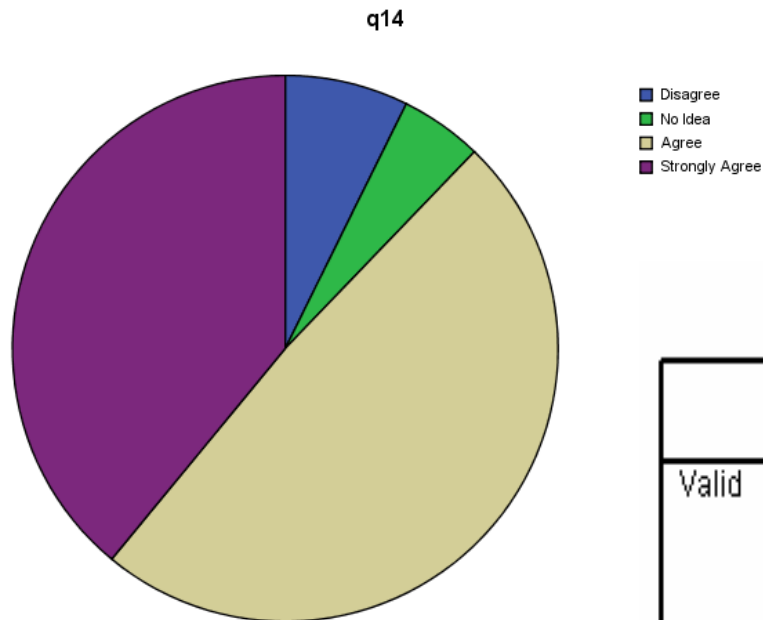
q14

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Disagree	3	7,3	7,3	7,3
	No Idea	2	4,9	4,9	12,2
	Agree	20	48,8	48,8	61,0
	Strongly Agree	16	39,0	39,0	100,0
	Total	41	100,0	100,0	

Thanks

☺