

Asking Questions That Encourage Higher-Order Thinking

**Boston Children's Hospital
Academy Session**

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Disclosures

- None

Objectives

- Why is asking questions important for learning?
- How do questions probe different types of knowledge?
- How do you craft questions that encourage higher-order thinking?



Why questions?

- Diagnose the learner
- Use as starting point
- Engagement
- More fun
- Stimulate curiosity
- Overcome cognitive errors

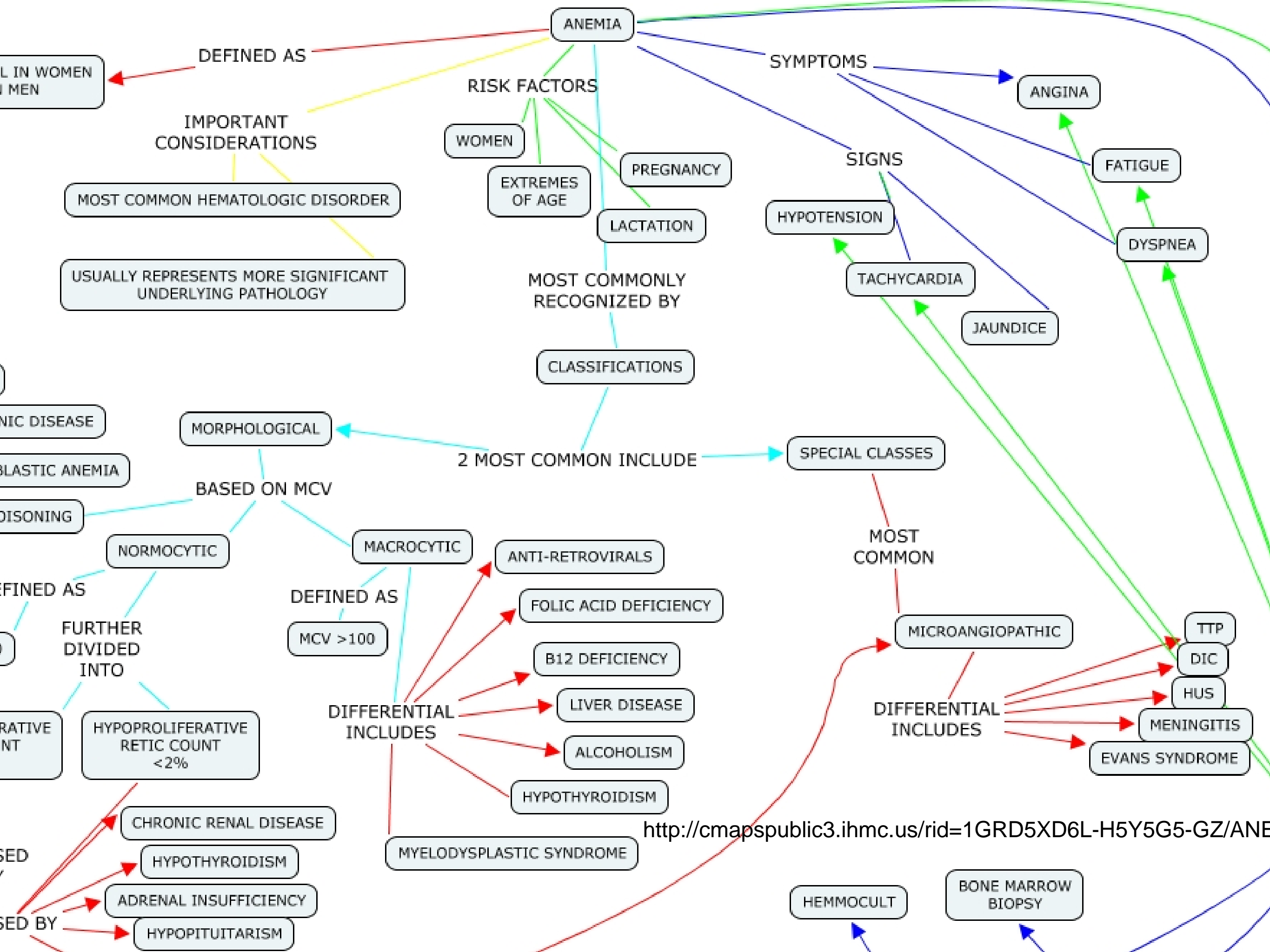
Retrieval Practice Produces More Learning than Elaborative Studying with Concept Mapping

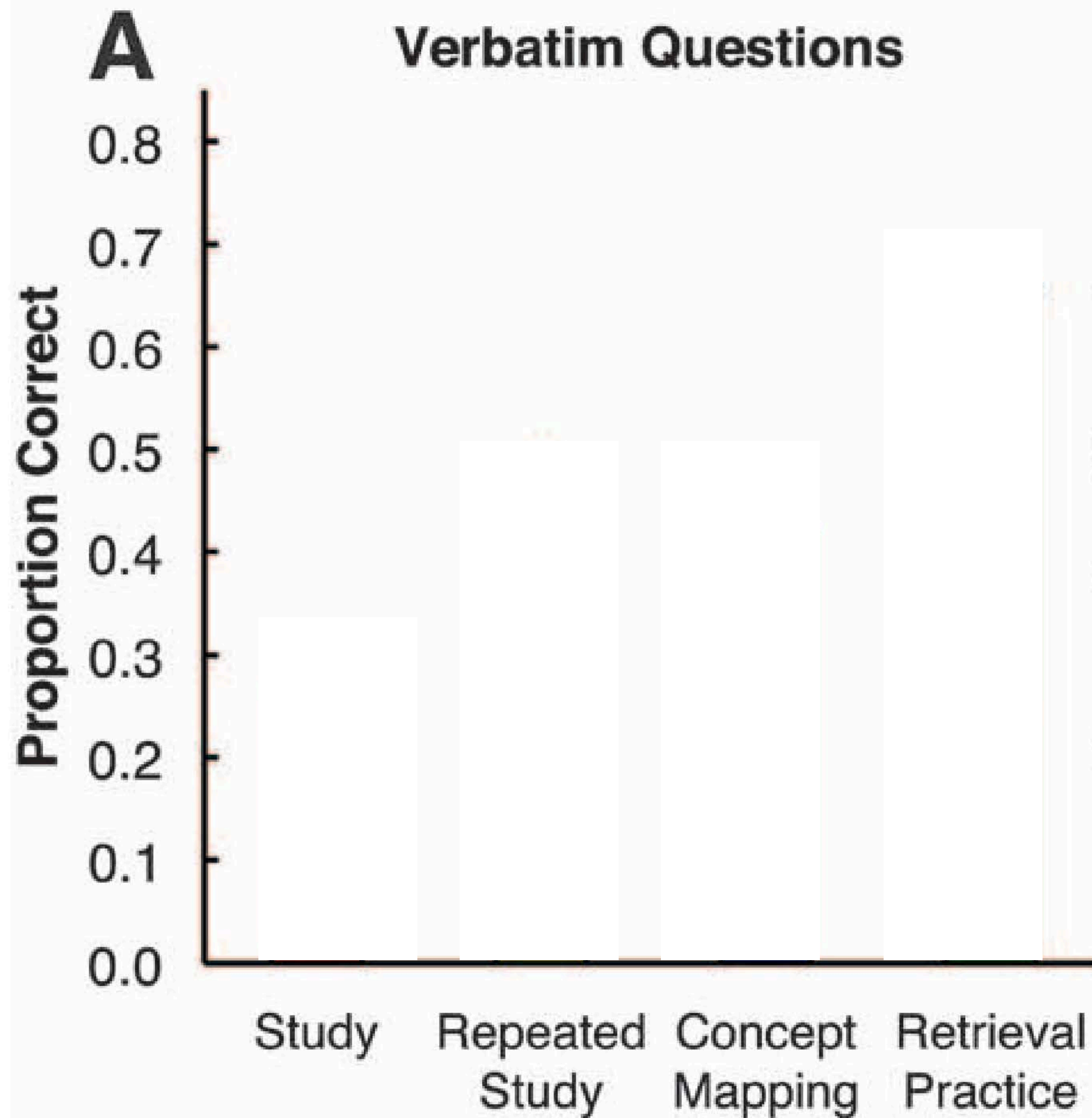
Jeffrey D. Karpicke* and Janell R. Blunt

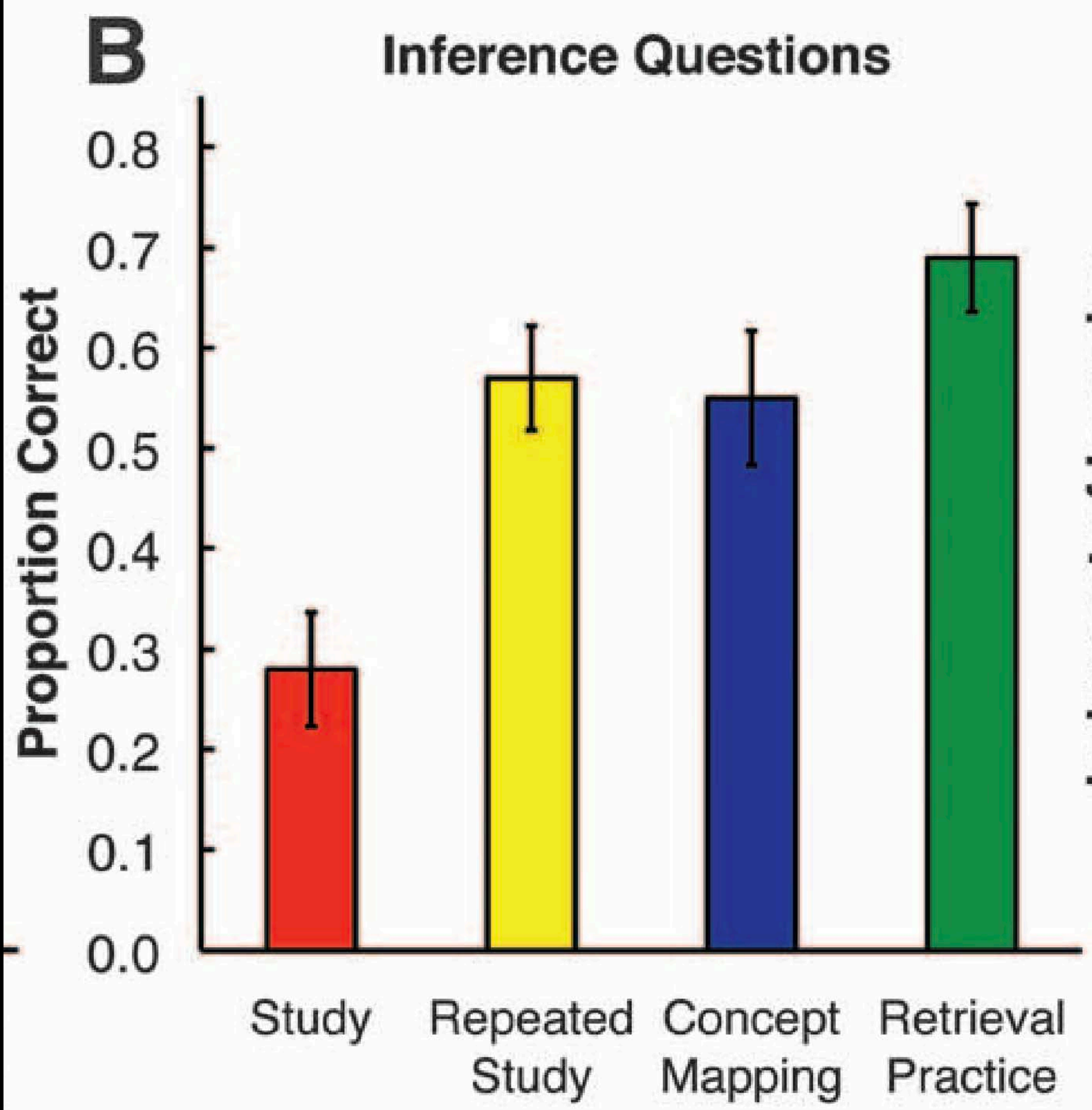
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Different study scenarios

- Study text once
- Repeated studying
- Retrieval practice
- Concept Mapping







Technique	Utility
Practice testing	High
Distributed practice	High
Interleaved practice	Moderate
Elaborative interrogation	Moderate
Self-explanation	Moderate
Summarization	Low
Highlighting	Low
The keyword mnemonic	Low
Imagery use for text learning	Low
Rereading	Low

Adapted from Dunlosky 2013.

Why not questions?



Why not questions?

- “Pimping” used to:
 - humiliate
 - reinforce hierarchy
 - ego boost for teacher

Case #1

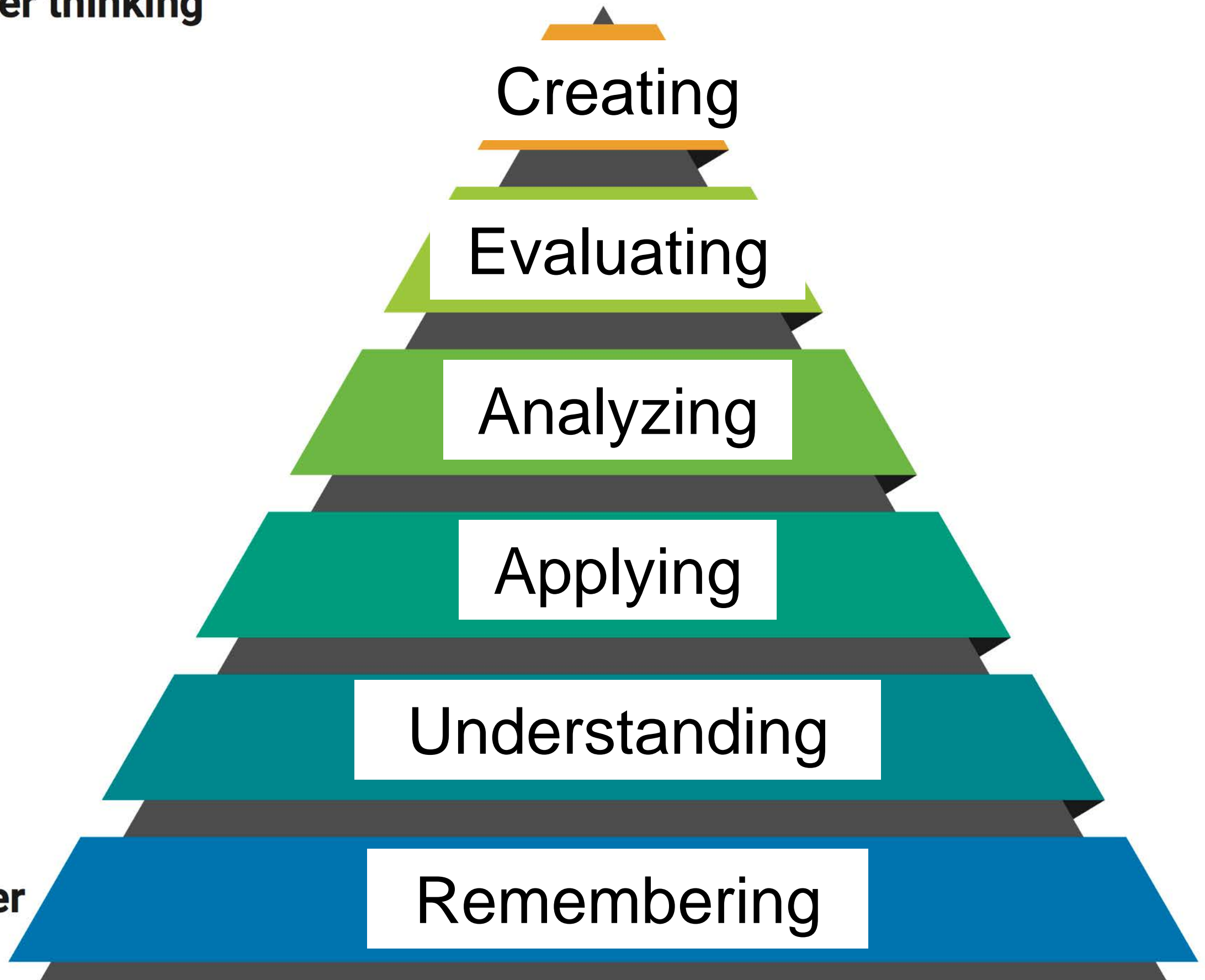
- You are working in the inpatient service with one of your trainees.
- A 17 year-old female with depression is admitted to the hospital for management of anorexia. She states she is not eating because of abdominal pain. On exam, she is bradycardic and hypotensive.
- What questions will you ask your trainee to teach them in this setting?

Your questions...

Higher-order thinking



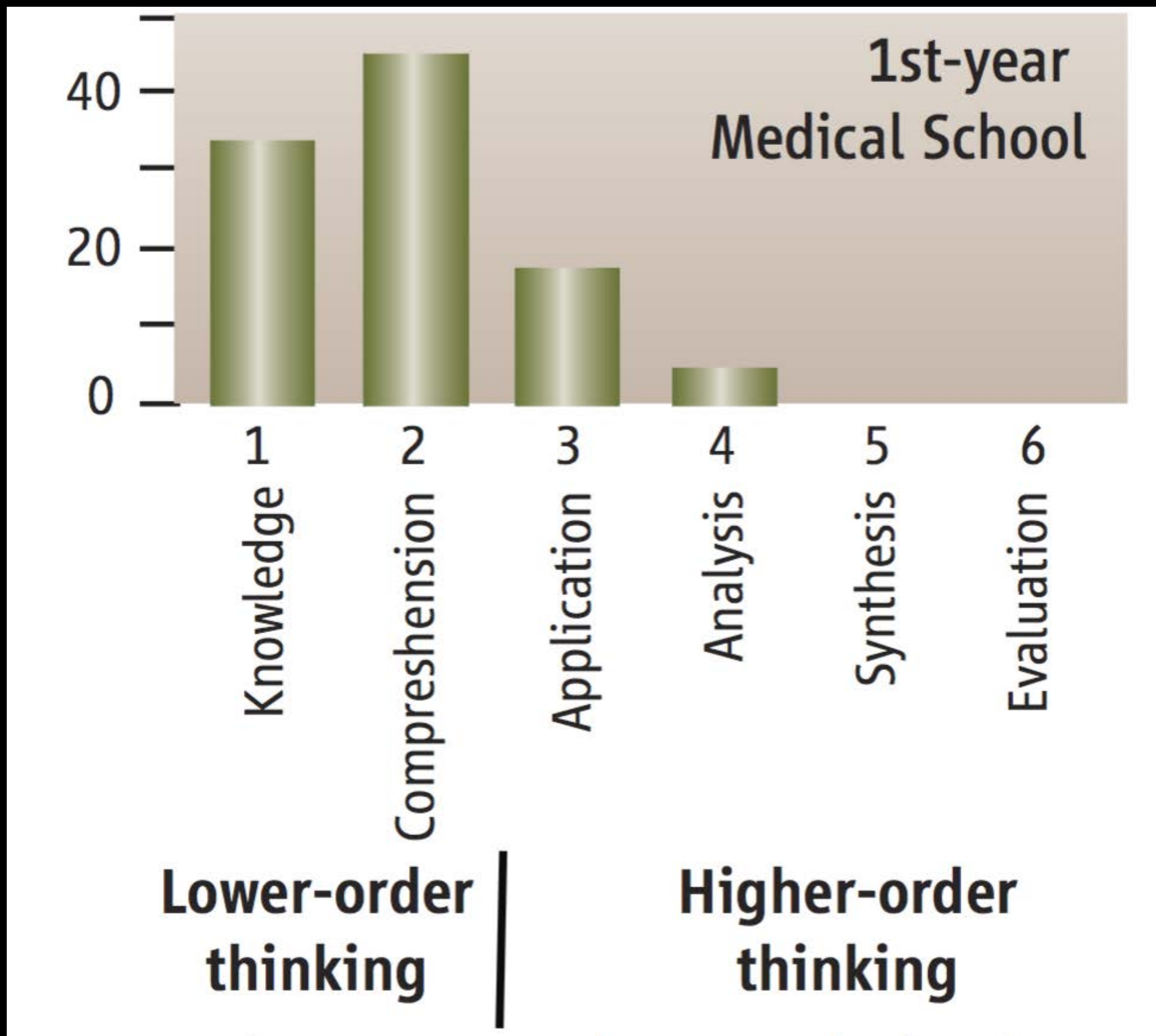
Lower-order thinking



HOT

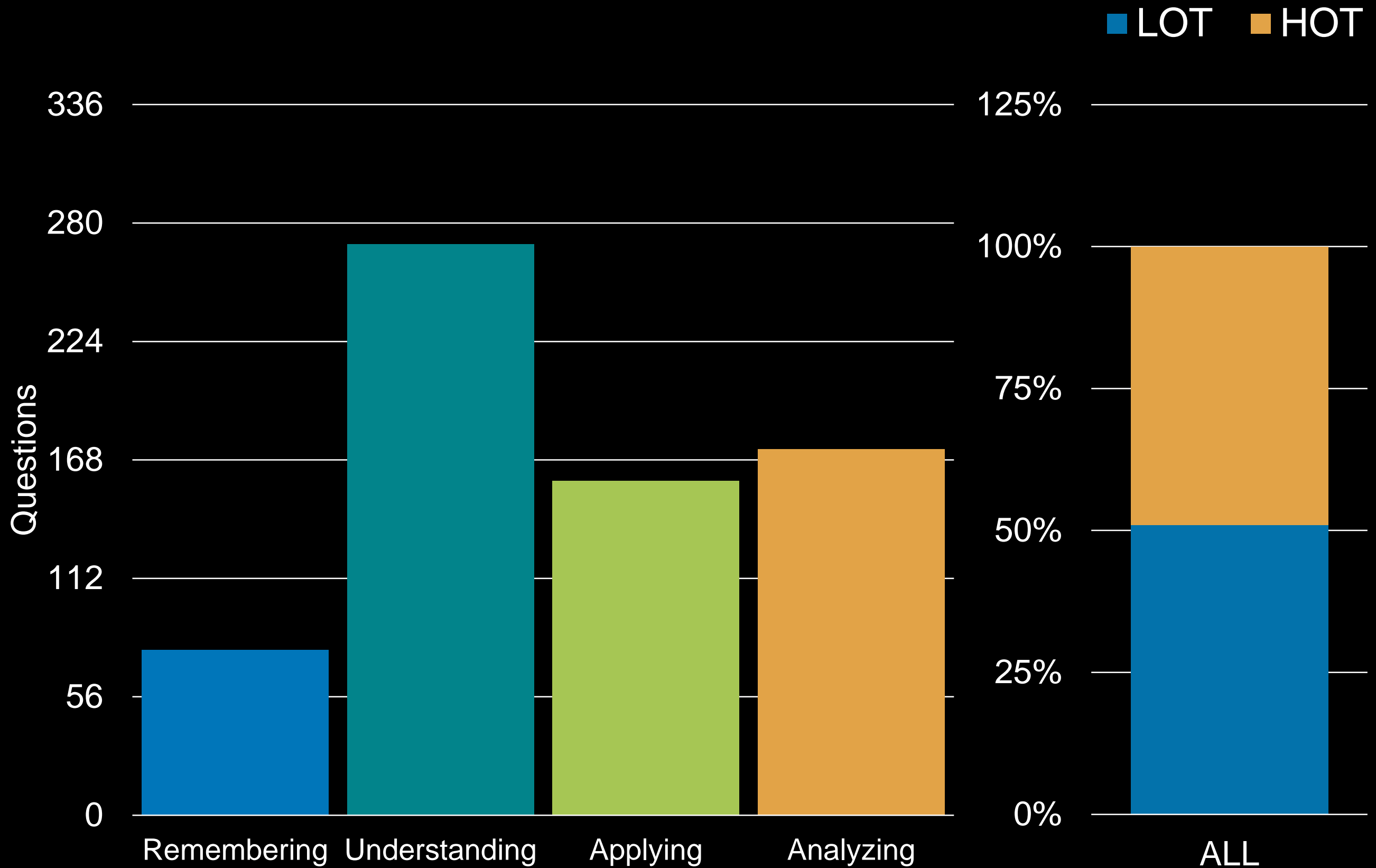
LOT

6	CREATING Developing new ideas, combining elements into new patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would you improve_____? How could you create _____?
5	EVALUATING Making judgements based on criteria and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How was _____ managed? What is the evidence to support your treatment plan?
4	ANALYZING Interpreting data and selecting best conclusion, making a diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does _____ and _____ differ? How would the treatment differ if the patient were_____?
3	APPLYING Carry out a procedure in a given situation, predict an outcome given perturbation in the system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you interpret this patient's labs? What is the recommended treatment for this patient?
2	UNDERSTANDING Determining the meaning of facts by building connections between new and prior knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does _____ work? Explain why_____? Describe _____
1	REMEMBERING Retrieving, recalling, or recognizing factual information from long-term memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is_____? What are the most common causes of_____? Where is_____ located?

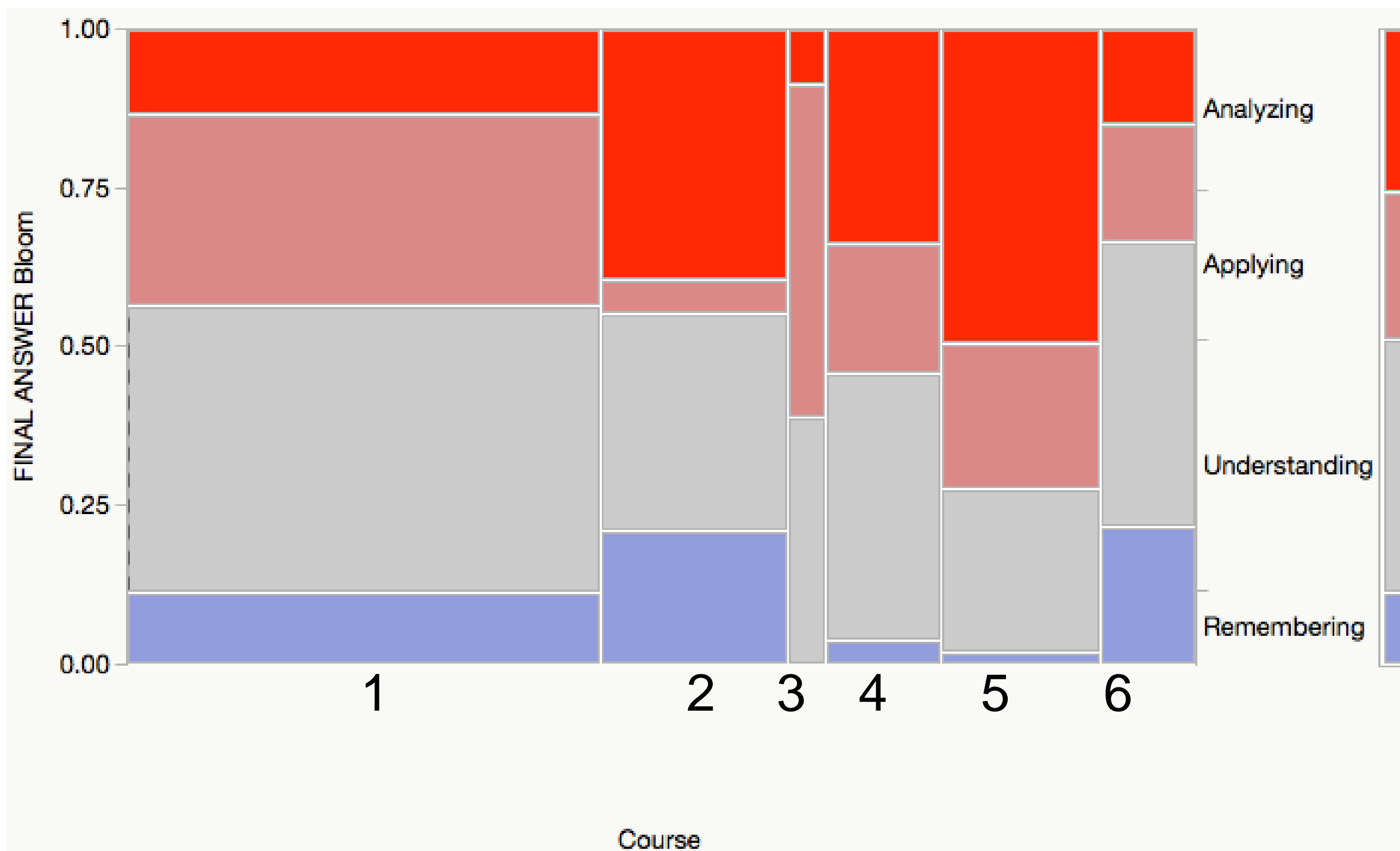


Zheng AY, Lawhorn JK, Lumley T, Freeman S. Application of Bloom's Taxonomy Debunks the 'MCAT Myth'. Science 2008;319(5862):414–5.

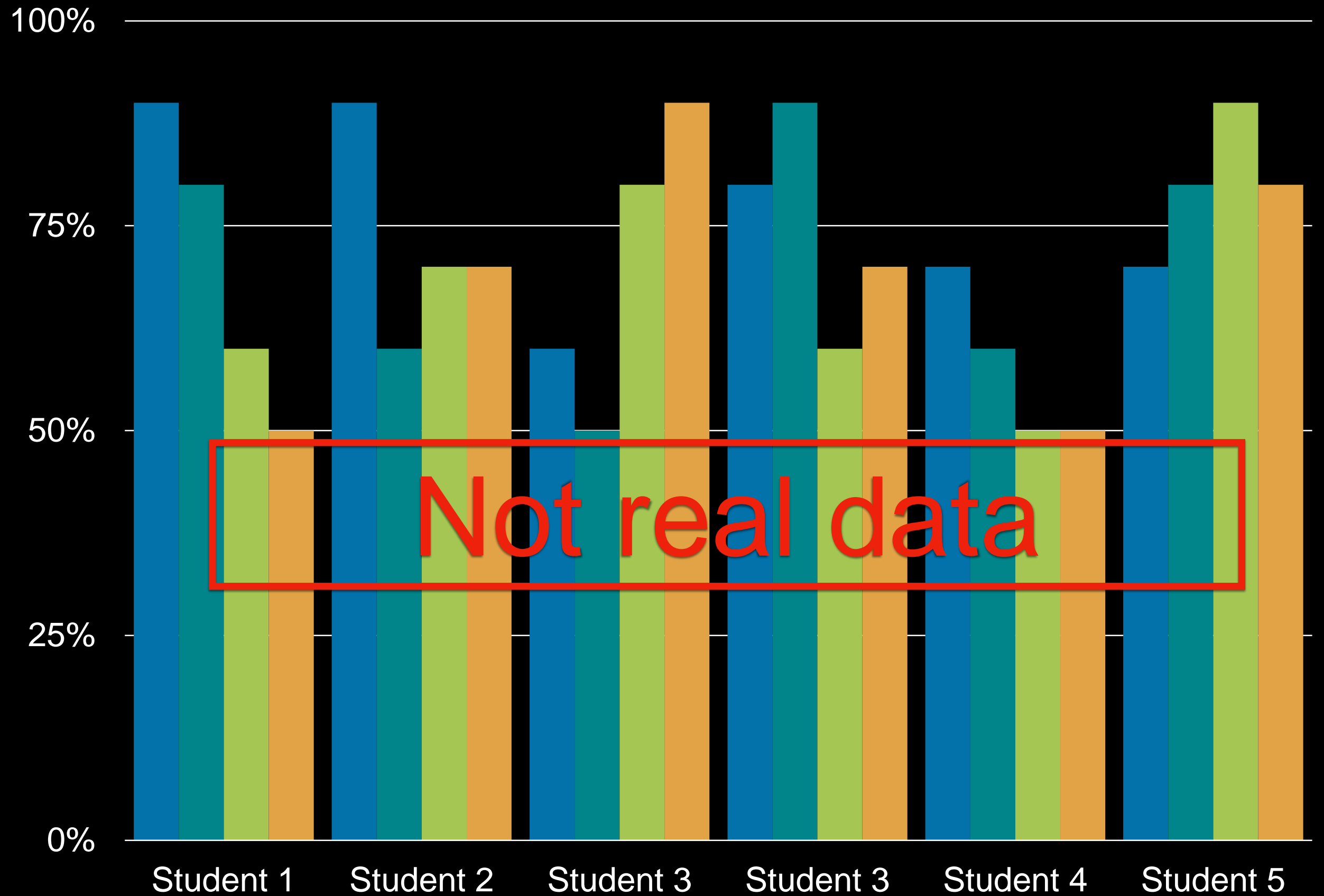
HMS 1st year quiz/exam questions



Hausmann et al. Unpublished data.



■ Remembering ■ Understanding ■ Applying ■ Analyzing

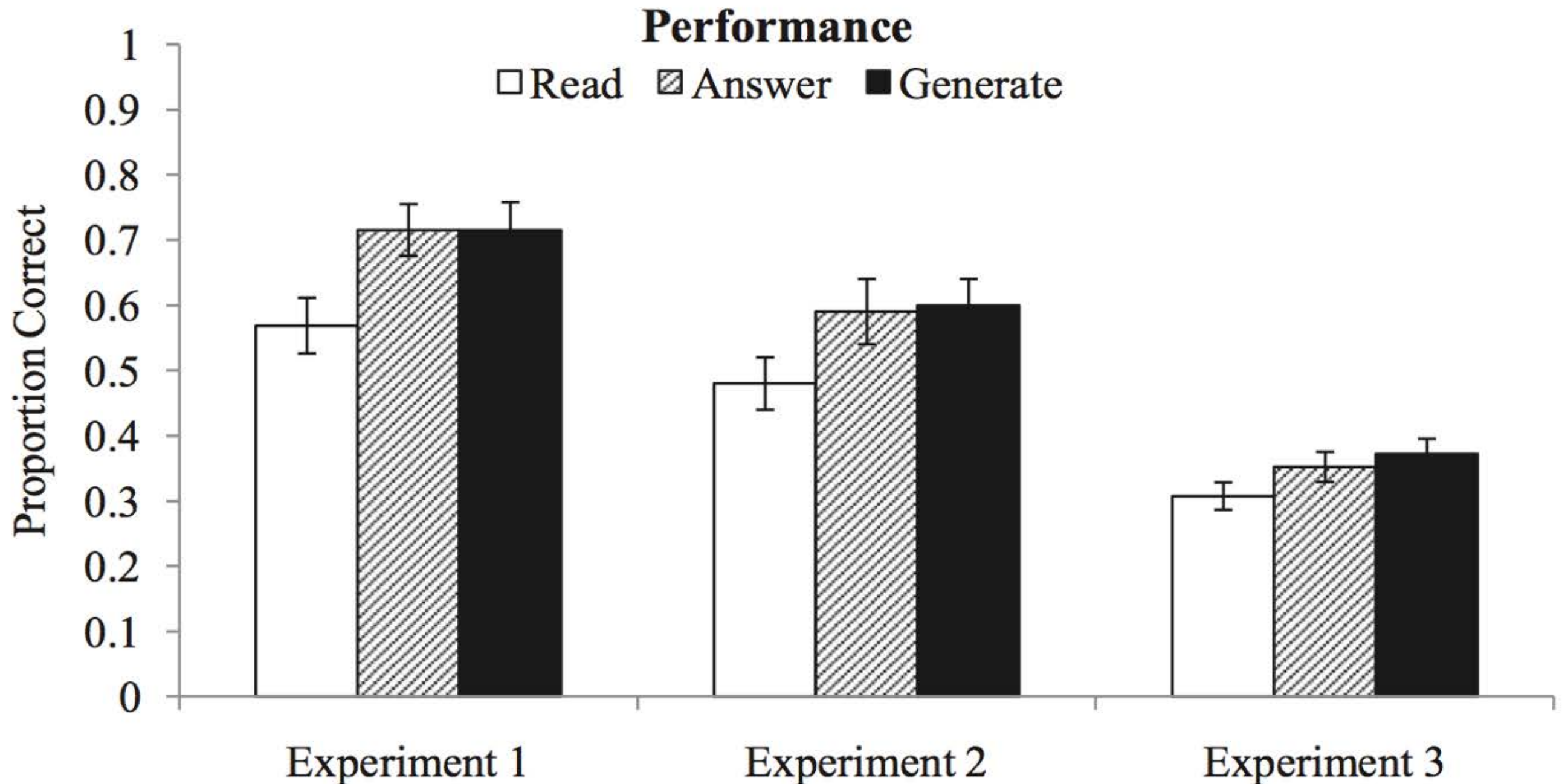


Case #2

- You are evaluating a patient in the emergency department with one of your trainees.
- A 6 year old male with asthma presents with respiratory distress.
- This is the third time in three months that the patient is seen in the emergency department.
- Both parents smoke and there are pets in the home. In reading the notes, you learn that adherence to his asthma inhalers has been an issue in the past.
- What questions will you ask your trainee to teach them during this situation?

Your questions #2

Learner-generated questions are as good as teacher's questions



McDermott KB, Roediger HL. A comparison of study strategies for passages: Rereading, answering questions, and generating questions. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied* 2010;16(3):308–16.

AskUp

Learn better, together.

[Generate Question](#)

Four-question technique

- What one important concept, research finding, theory, or idea did you learn?
- Why do you believe this concept is important?
- How does what you learned apply to some aspect of your life?
- What questions has this activity raised for you?
What are you still wondering about?

Any questions
?

Take-home points

- Questions require retrieval practice, a strategy that is essential for learning
- Questions can assess for different types of knowledge in Bloom's taxonomy
- 4 questions:
 - What one important concept did you learn?
 - Why do you believe this concept is important?
 - How does what you learned apply to some aspect of your life?
 - What questions has this activity raised for you?

The Critical Importance of Retrieval for Learning

Jeffrey D. Karpicke^{1*} and Henry L. Roediger III²

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