

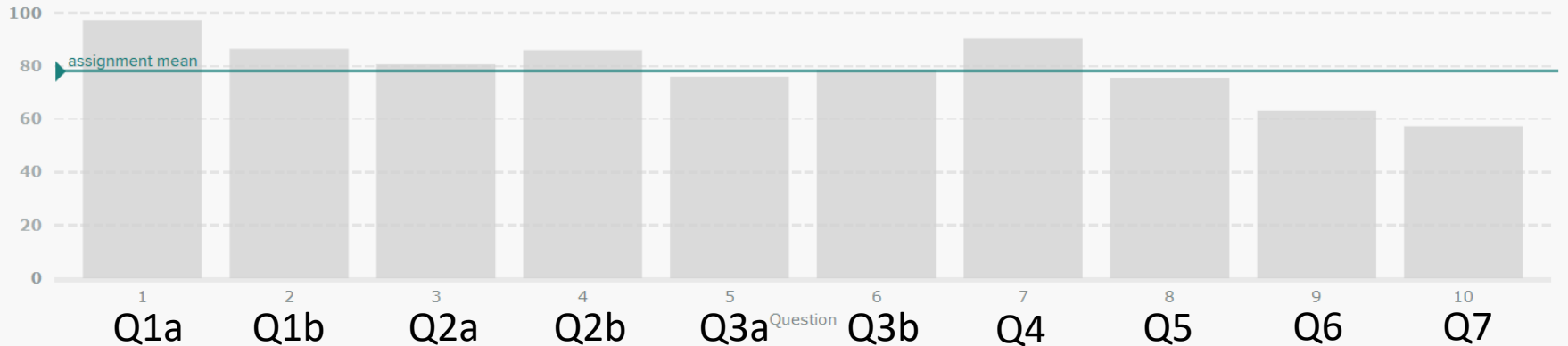
Course Correction?



SML201: Introduction to Data Science, Spring 2019

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Midterm stats



- Everyone knows the basics of R programming
- Everyone can do basic data wrangling
- Q6 (in-depth understanding of modelling with categorical vs. continuous variables) and Q7 (complex data wrangling) remain a challenge
 - Genuinely difficult questions (but doable since we worked on similar or identical questions in lecture)
- Overall, I think that most people learned a lot, and everyone learned a fair amount

Course grades

- The midterm grades are my best guess about what grade you will get for the course, assuming you don't improve
 - And don't slack off
- Estimated project grade: $0.25 \times MT + 0.75 \times 100$
 - An expectation, not a promise
 - Good high-quality reports will get high scores
- A bonus of three points was awarded to everyone before converting scores to grade points
 - On reflection, the midterm was slightly more difficult than I wanted it to be

Course survey

- About 25% responded
 - I appreciate your time
 - For the most part
 - I don't know what the rest of you are thinking

Are lectures going too fast?

- Most respondents think we are going too fast. Few think we are going too slow
- If you don't understand something, you are likely not alone: speak up
 - I care much more about people understanding everything fully than about covering more material
 - I am happy to not move on until everyone who is awake is satisfied that they understand everything
 - My responsibility is to listen to you, but your responsibility is to speak up

Are the assessments fair?

- Several people argued that hand-written midterms, clicker quizzes, and autograded assignments are flawed and/or needlessly stressful ways of assessing students
 - I don't necessarily disagree
 - I am not entirely sure what happened with the last clicker quiz question
 - I will try to re-think clicker quizzes
 - Note that each clicker question is worth a lot less than a typical exam question
 - I have to assign grades and motivate people to study *somehow*
 - Getting things exactly right is not everything, but it is important
 - You can always try to argue with the autograder (but don't bank on winning)

Were people without programming experience left behind?

- Several students argued yes
- I don't think it can be quite true: performance on Q1 and Q2 indicates that basically everyone in the class now knows the basics
- Fixing this issue is my first priority
 - Come talk to me. We'll figure out a plan. I will do my best to help
 - My default plan: redo the precept problems. Come talk to me any time, office hours or not, if you encounter difficulties

Organization & communicating course requirements clearly

- There evidently was an issue
- Please ask right away if anything is unclear
- I believe everything should be straightened out at this point
 - Please ask on Piazza if there is an issue!
- Exception: catch-up sessions
 - I do try to announce those as far ahead in advance as I can, but I am running those on my own free time

Do I type too fast?

- It seems like I do
 - Ask questions
 - Follow along the code on the course website (maybe modifying it as needed) instead of copying everything

Is there enough guidance for precept problems?

- I will be including more hints going forward
- Most hints are of the form “this is from lecture”/”this is from the readings”
 - Keep this in mind!

Questions? Comments?

- I will keep checking the Google Forms form
 - But I (obviously) can't respond to comments there

Review

- As much as we have time for
 - ggplot
 - Variable selection
 - Fairness criteria