

SP - (16677) - QUESTION CHOICE AND ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FINNISH MATRICULATION EXAMINATION CHEMISTRY TESTS

Veli-Matti Vesterinen (Finland)¹; Karoliina Salmenperä (Finland)¹

1 - University of Turku

Short Abstract

The Finnish matriculation examination is a national high-stakes summative assessment of the learning outcomes administered at the end of upper secondary school. In the matriculation examination tests Finnish students are able (within certain limits) to choose which questions they answer. This allows the students to pass the tasks they might find too difficult. The aim of this study was to examine the way different question types affect question choice and student achievement in the matriculation examination chemistry tests. The results of the study show that low achievers in chemistry, physics and mathematics avoided algebraic questions and preferred contextual essay questions. However, based on the linear regression models the significant predictors for high achievement varied from question to question. Although high achievement in mathematic test was a predictor high scores in algebraic questions, for other question types high achievement in biology tests or Finnish language tests was a more significant predictor. Based on the results of the study, some ways to prevent achievement in a chemistry test being too reliant on mathematical or writing skills of students are discussed.