



聖公會諸聖小學

S.K.H. All Saints' Primary School

Variation for the Improvement of Teaching And Learning

Topic: Past tense

Level: Primary four & five

The team:

School teachers: Ms Poon, Ms Wong, Mr Lai
HKIED: Dr Ruth Wong, Ms Anita Li

1. Object of Learning

The ability to differentiate the use of present and past tense in a contextualized passage.

2. Critical features

- i. To differentiate time adverbials which convey information about past and habitual action.
- ii. To use the correct tense to describe past event and usual habit with or without the presence of time adverbials.

3. Pre-test design and analysis

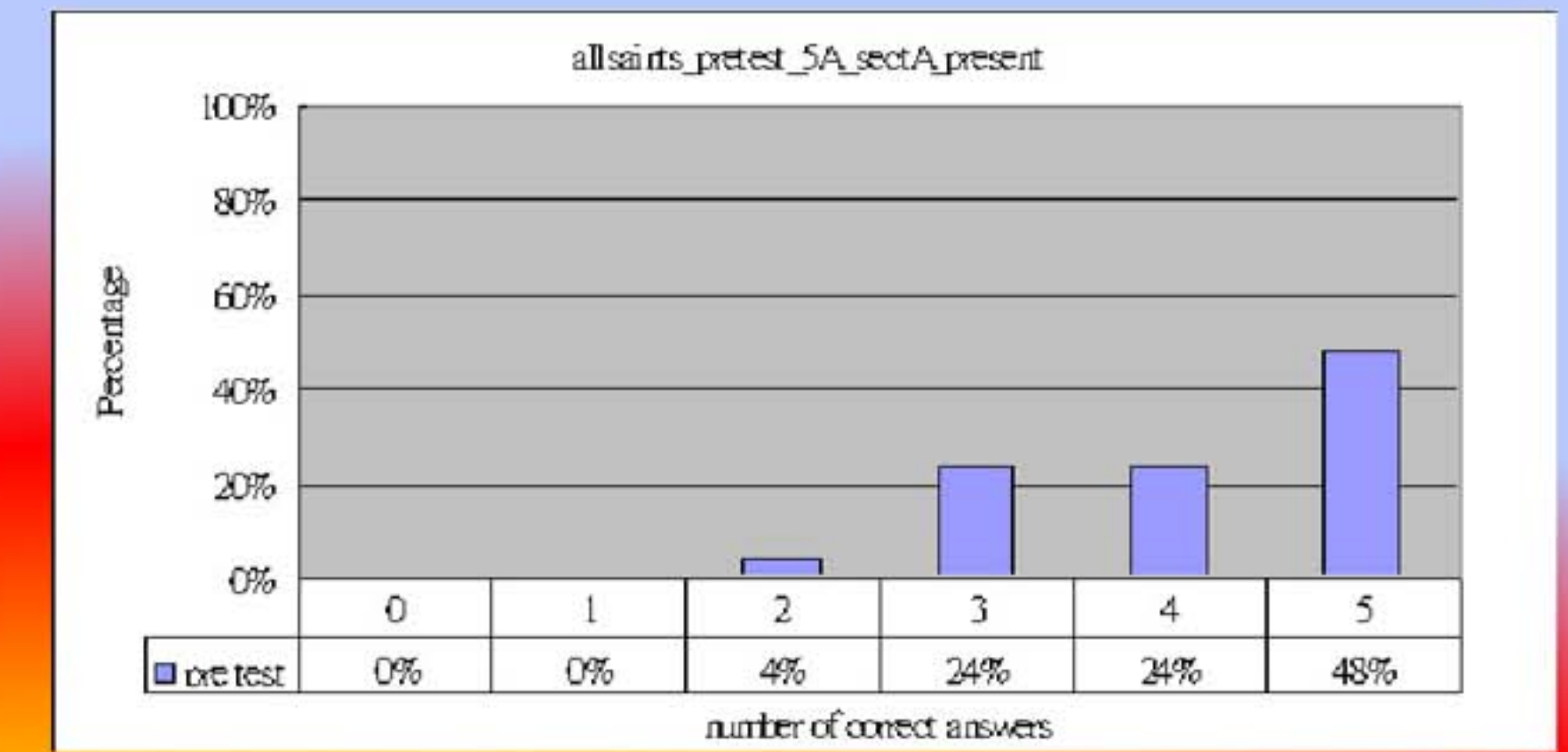
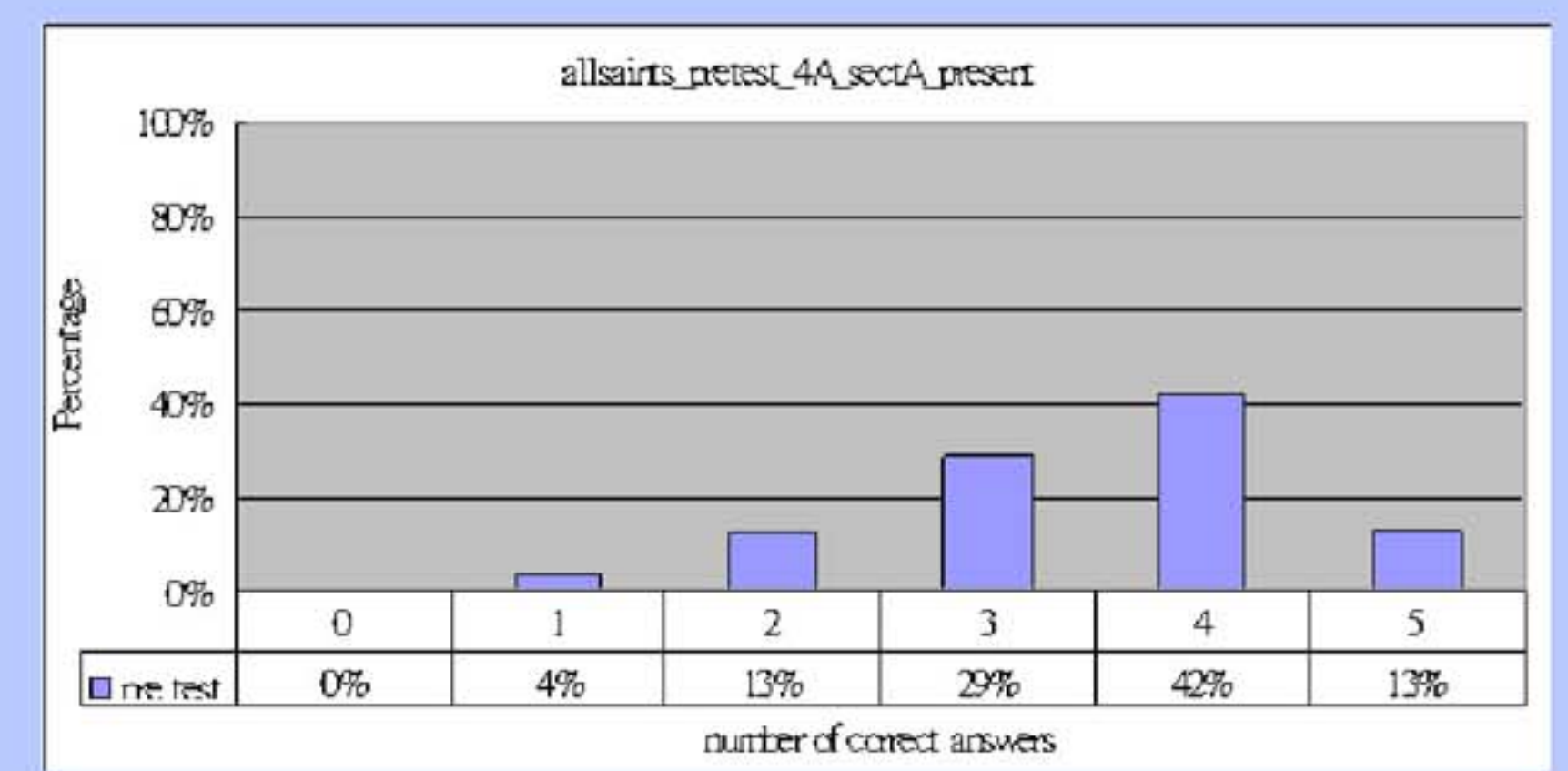
Test Item	Measuring targets (e.g. prior knowledge, understanding of the critical aspects, knowledge transfer)
Part A: put the words in the correct columns	1. differentiate past and present time adverbial
Part B: Choose the correct verb tense	1. differentiate past and present time adverbial 2. use the correct tense to describe past event and usual habit
Part C: Choose the correct verb tense in a contextualized passage	1. differentiate past and present time adverbial 2. use the correct tense to describe past event and usual habit 3. to remember the previous cues: time adverbial that appeared previously but invisible in following sentences
Part D: Write a passage about a past event and his/her usual habit	1. use the correct tense to describe past event and usual habit 2. to remember the previous cues: time adverbial that appeared previously but invisible in following sentences

Section A

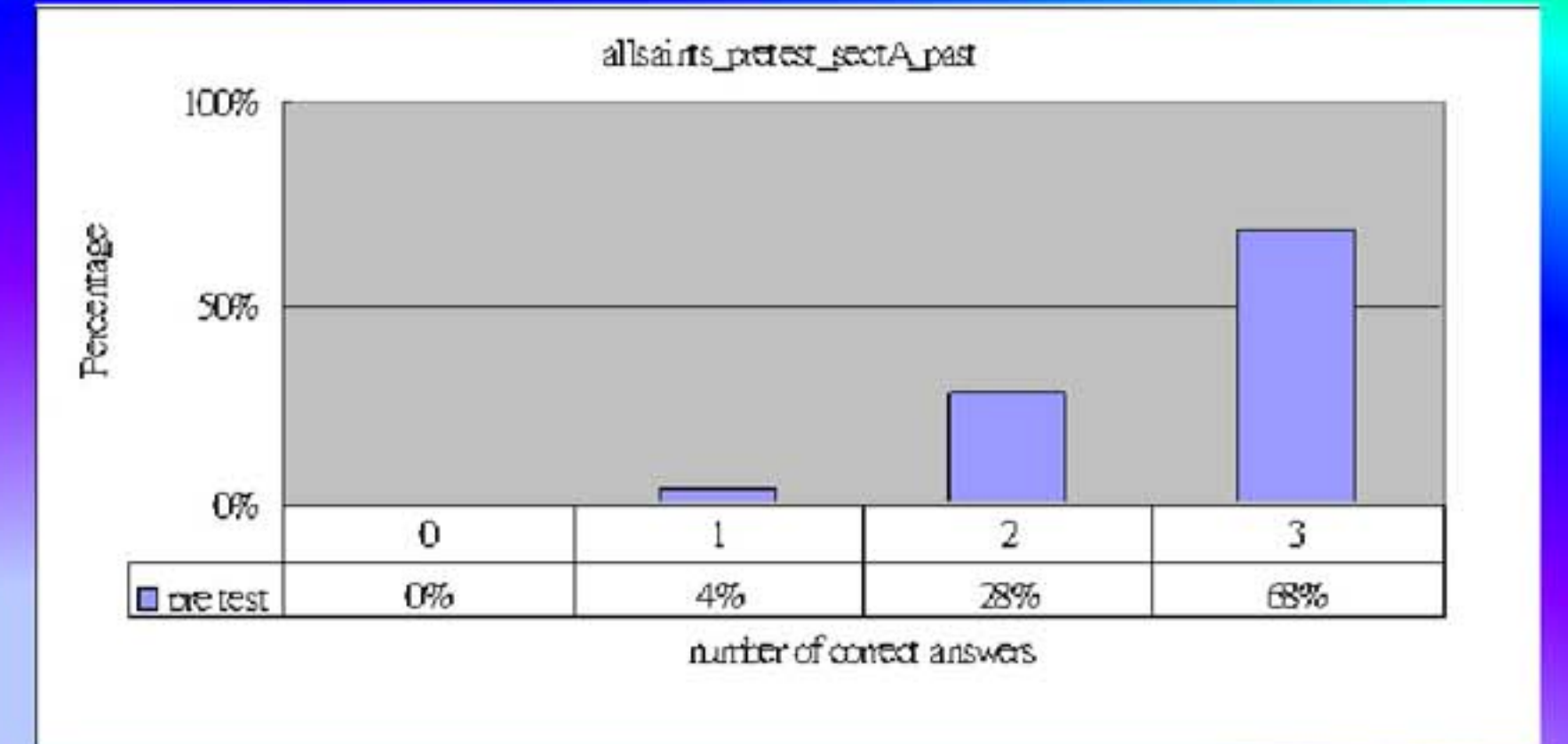
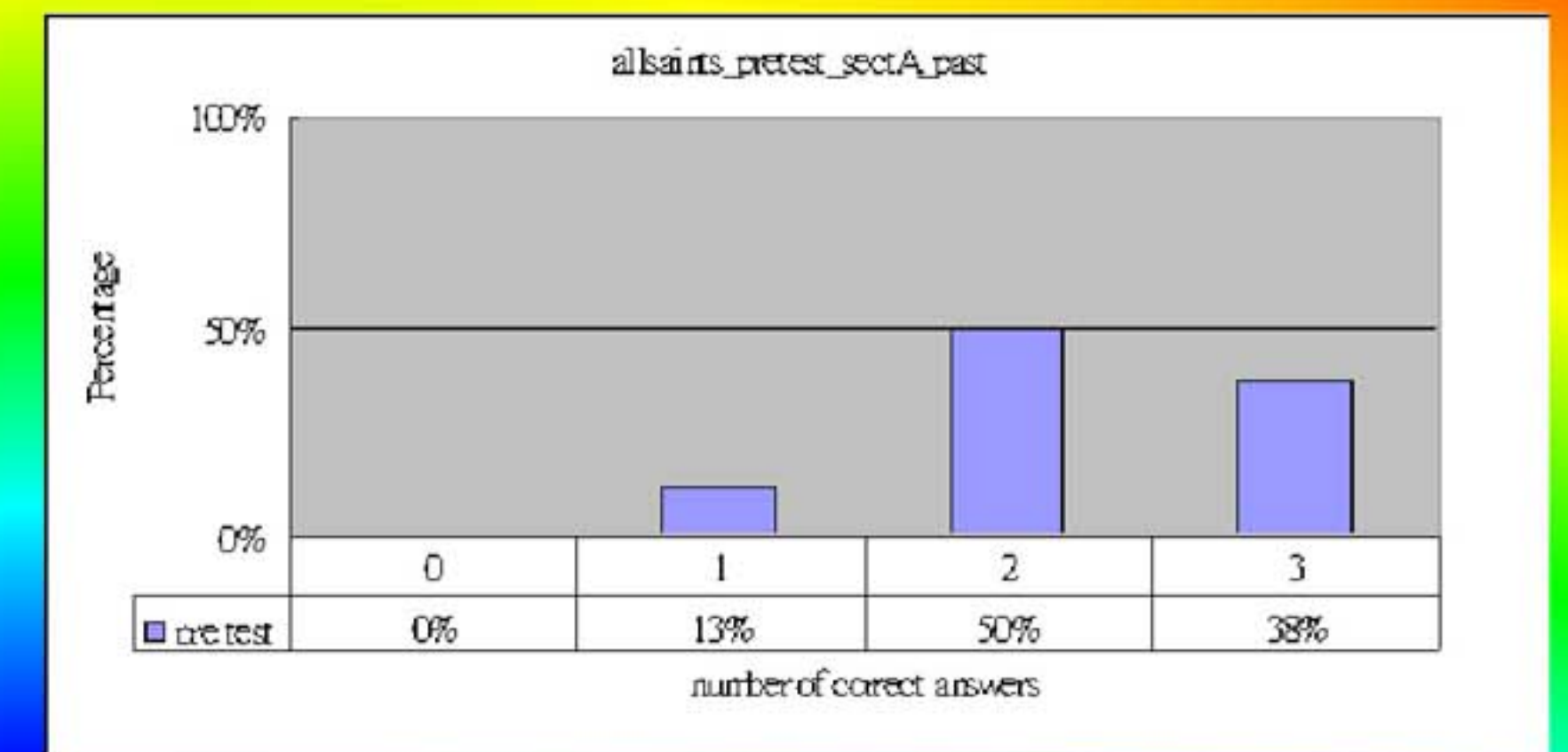
usually ago often
last week always
yesterday today every day

Time adverbial	
Present (現在式)	Past (過去式)
ago	usually
often	always
last week	yesterday
1	today
	every day

Samples of Pre-test



Present time adverbial



Past time adverbial

From the result, we found that P.5 students were better than P.4 students in recognizing the time adverbial.

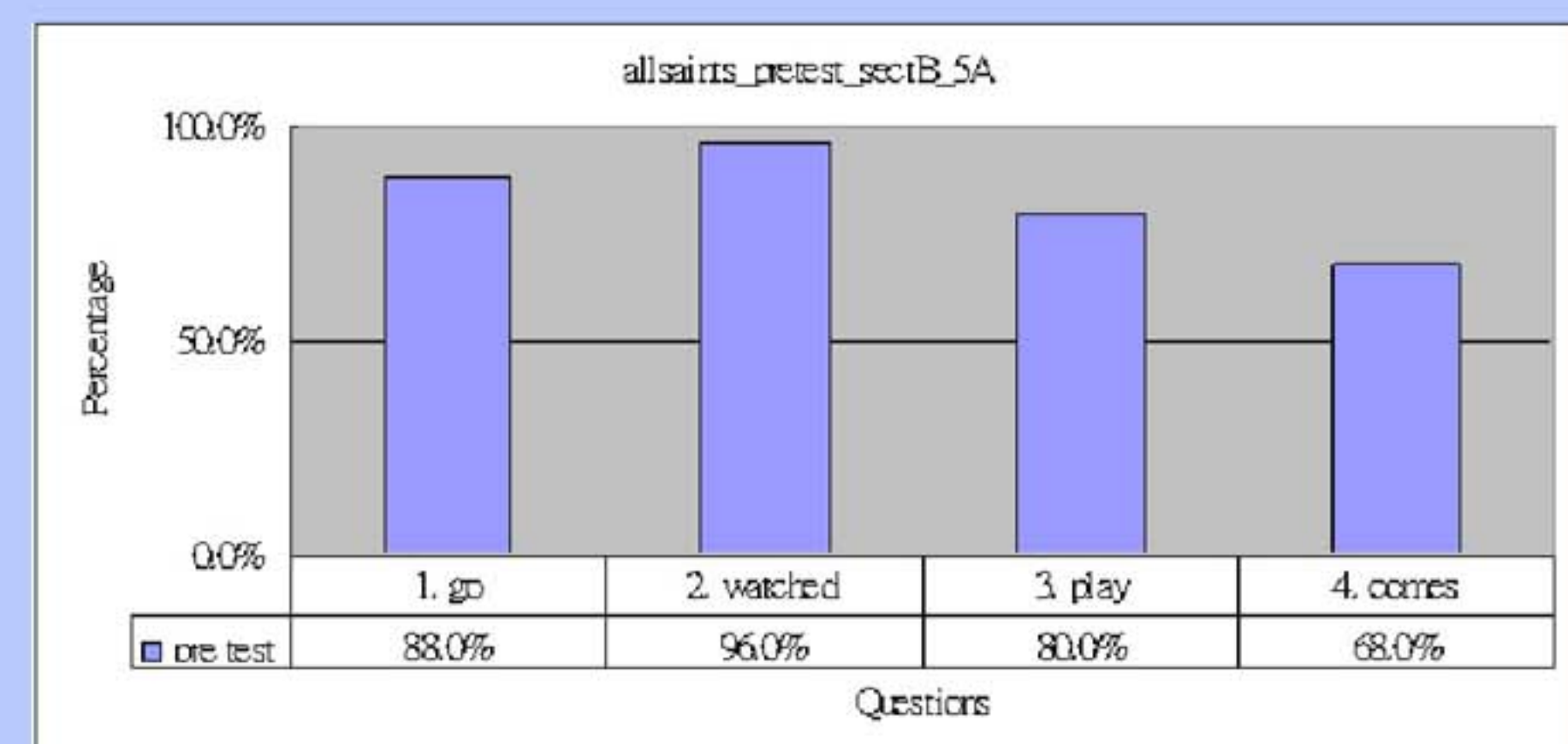
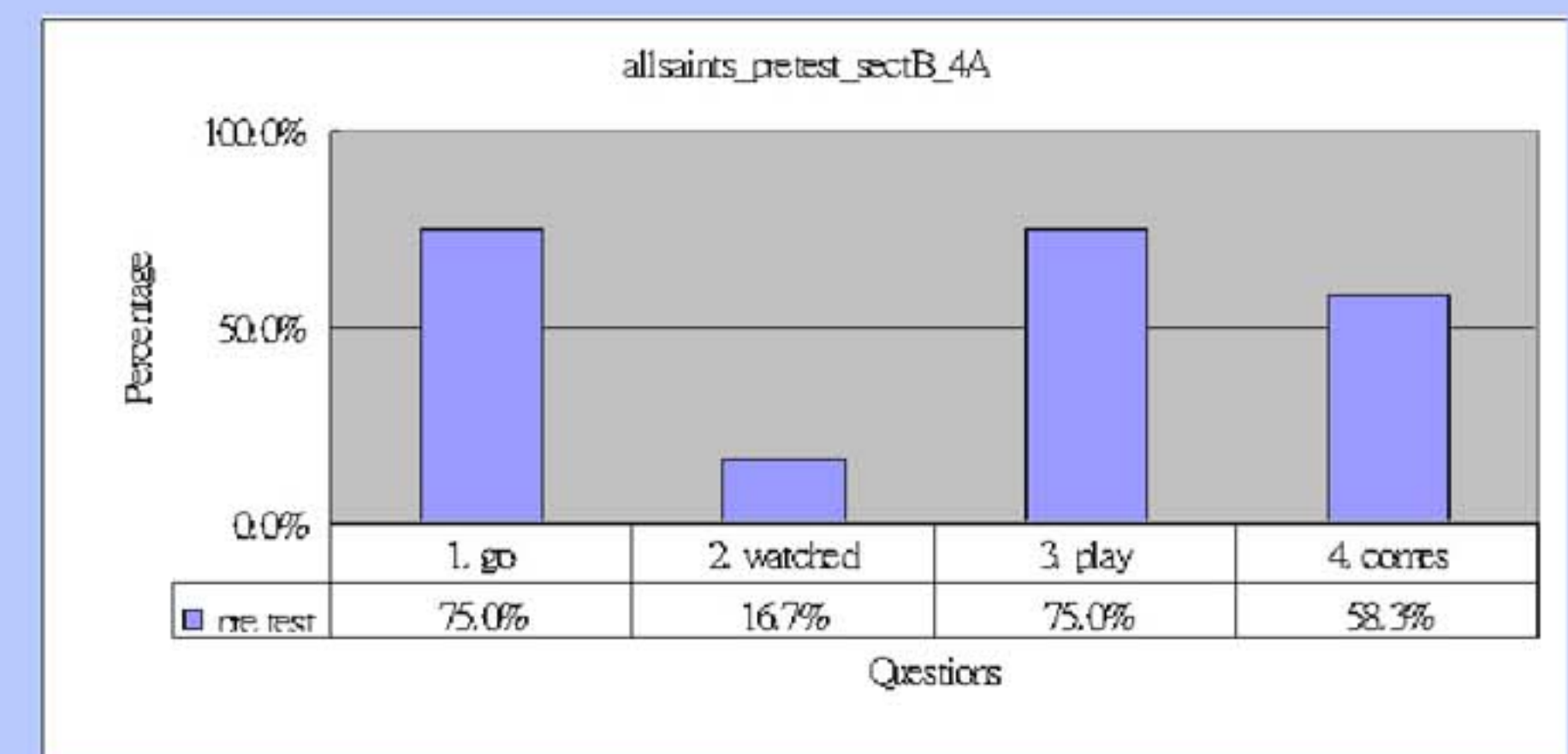
Section B

Part 2

Circle the right answers.

- We go / went to school today.
- Yesterday, we watch / watched a film with Mary.
- I play / played the computer games every day.
- Peter often comes / came to school by bus.

Samples of Pre-test



Both levels were doing fine in present tense, but they had problems with past tense.

Section C

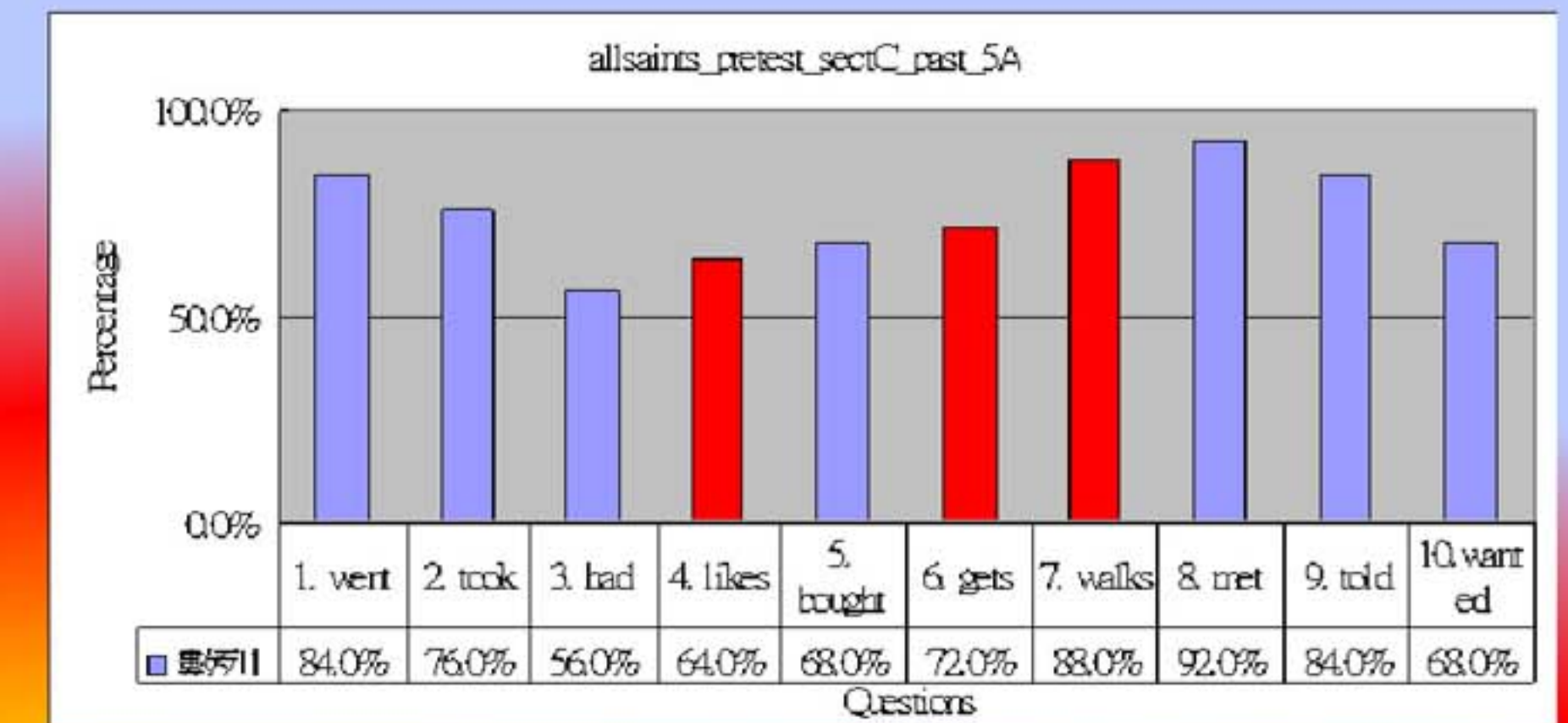
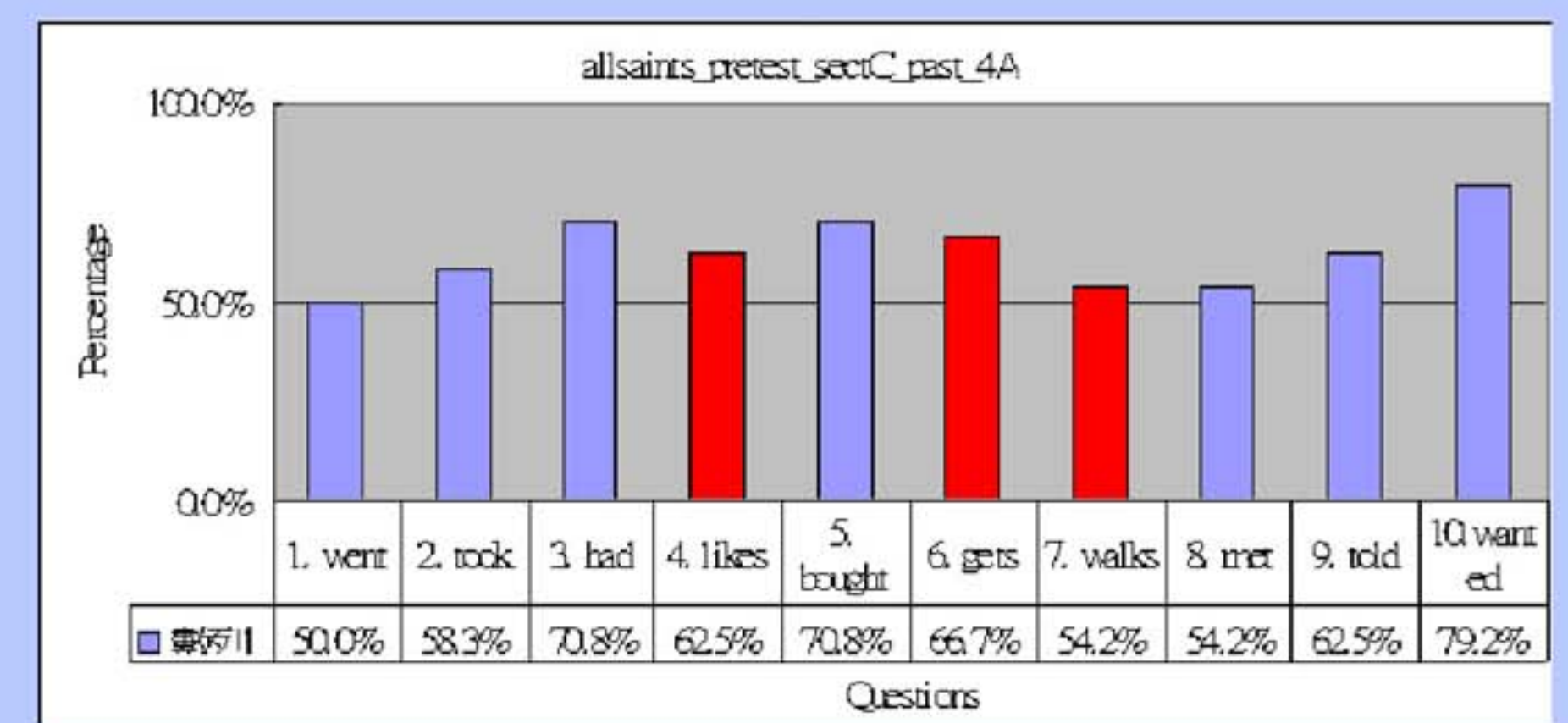
Part 3

Circle the correct answers.

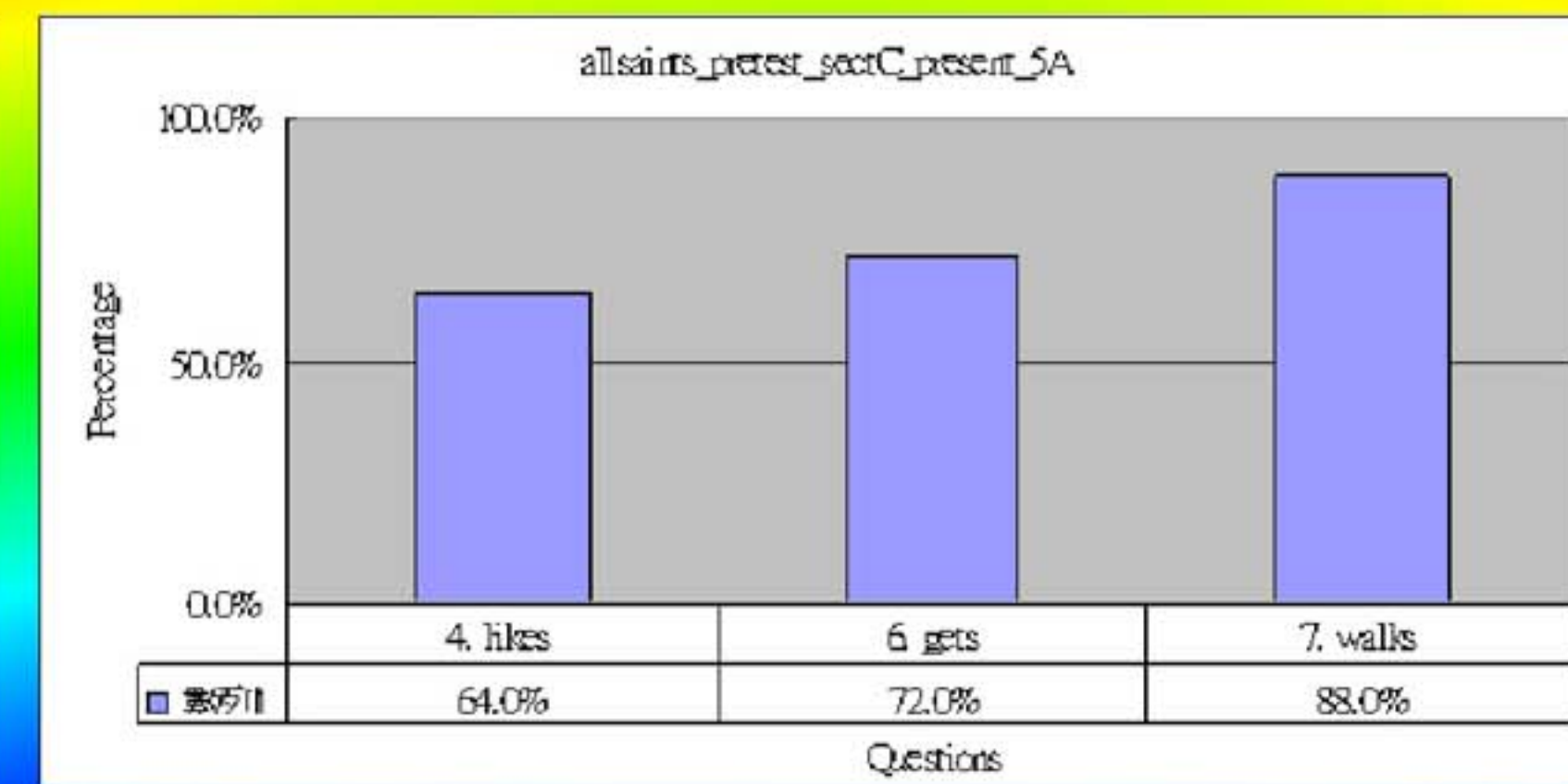
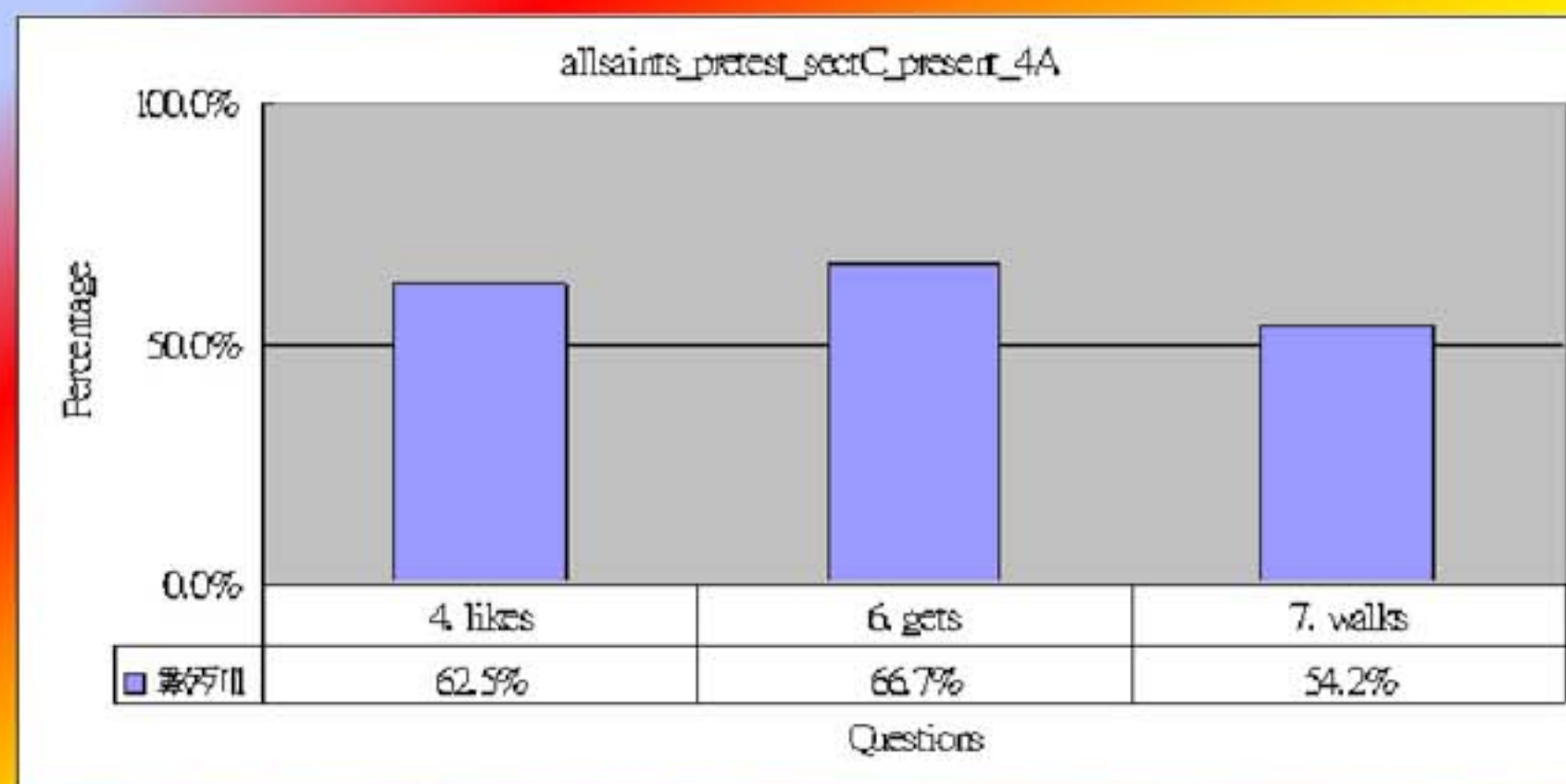
Last Sunday, David goes / went to the Disneyland with his family. They take / took the MTR from Mong Kok to Lantau Island. David has / had a hamburger and a can of coke for lunch. He likes / liked eating beef and drinking soft drinks at home. Mother buys / bought him a Mickey Mouse doll.

David always gets / got up at six o'clock and walks / walked to school. Yesterday, he meets / met Tom on his way to school. David tells / told him that he wants / wanted to go to Disneyland again.

Samples of Pre-test



Past Event



Habitual Action

Students were confused with the use of present and the past tense in a contextualized passage.

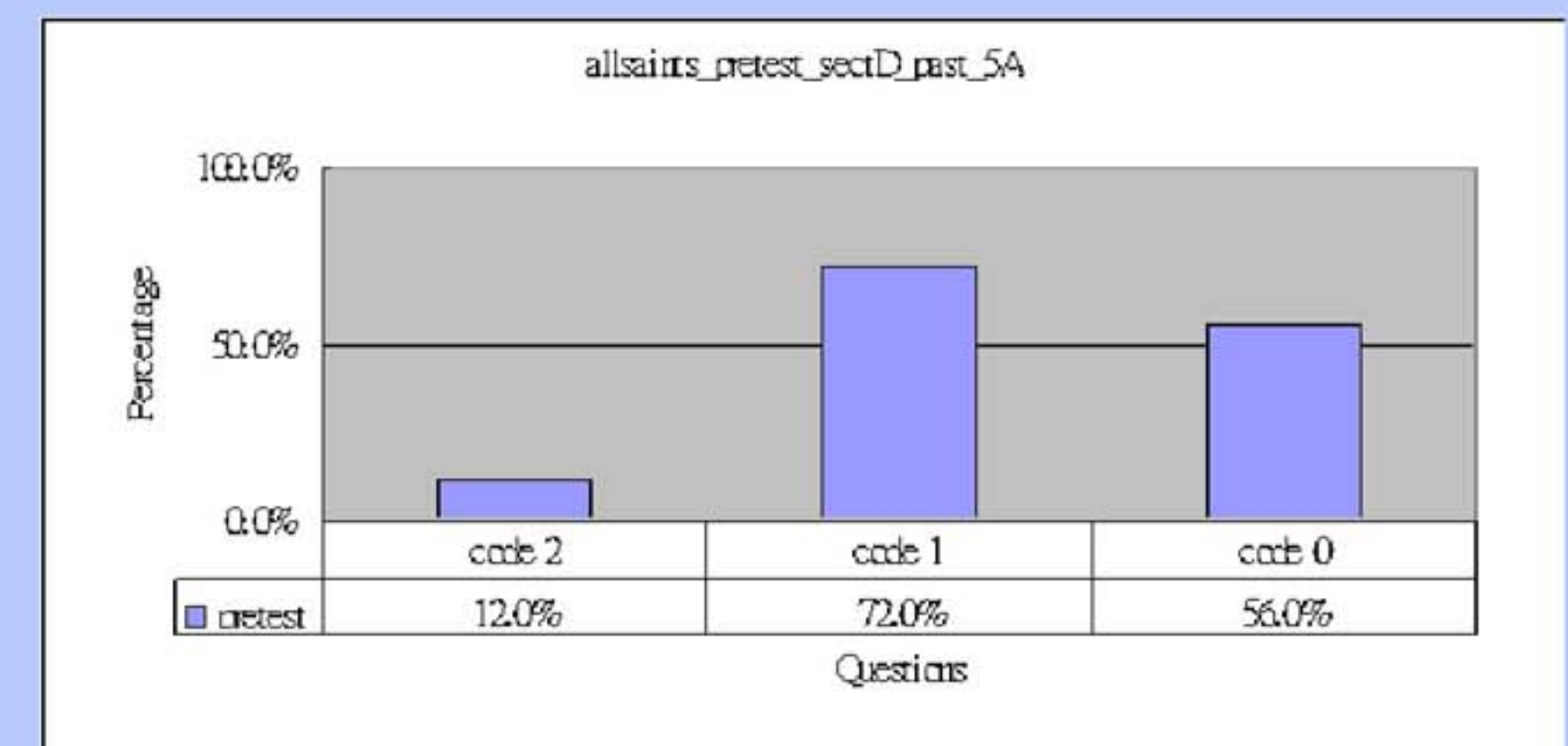
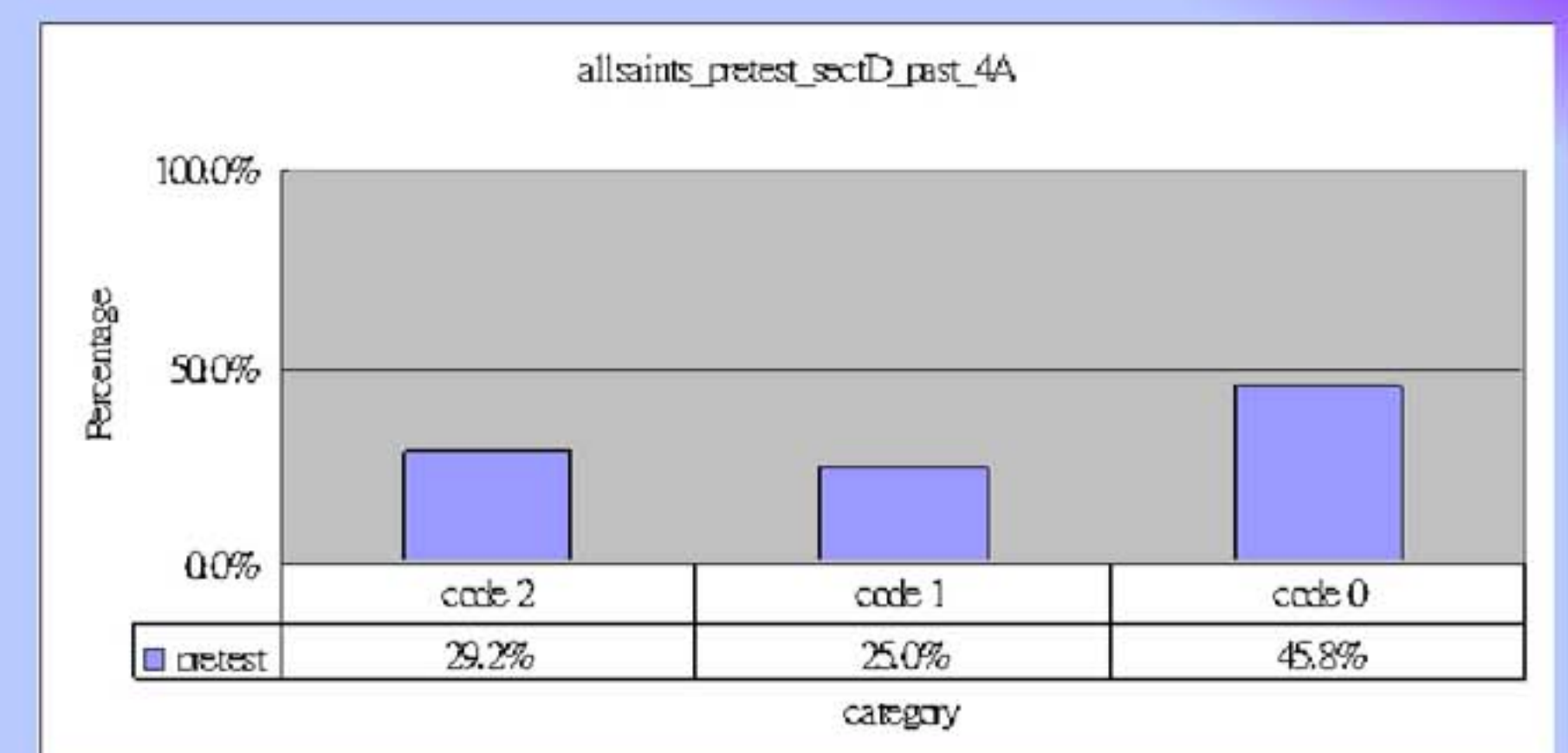
Section D

Part 4

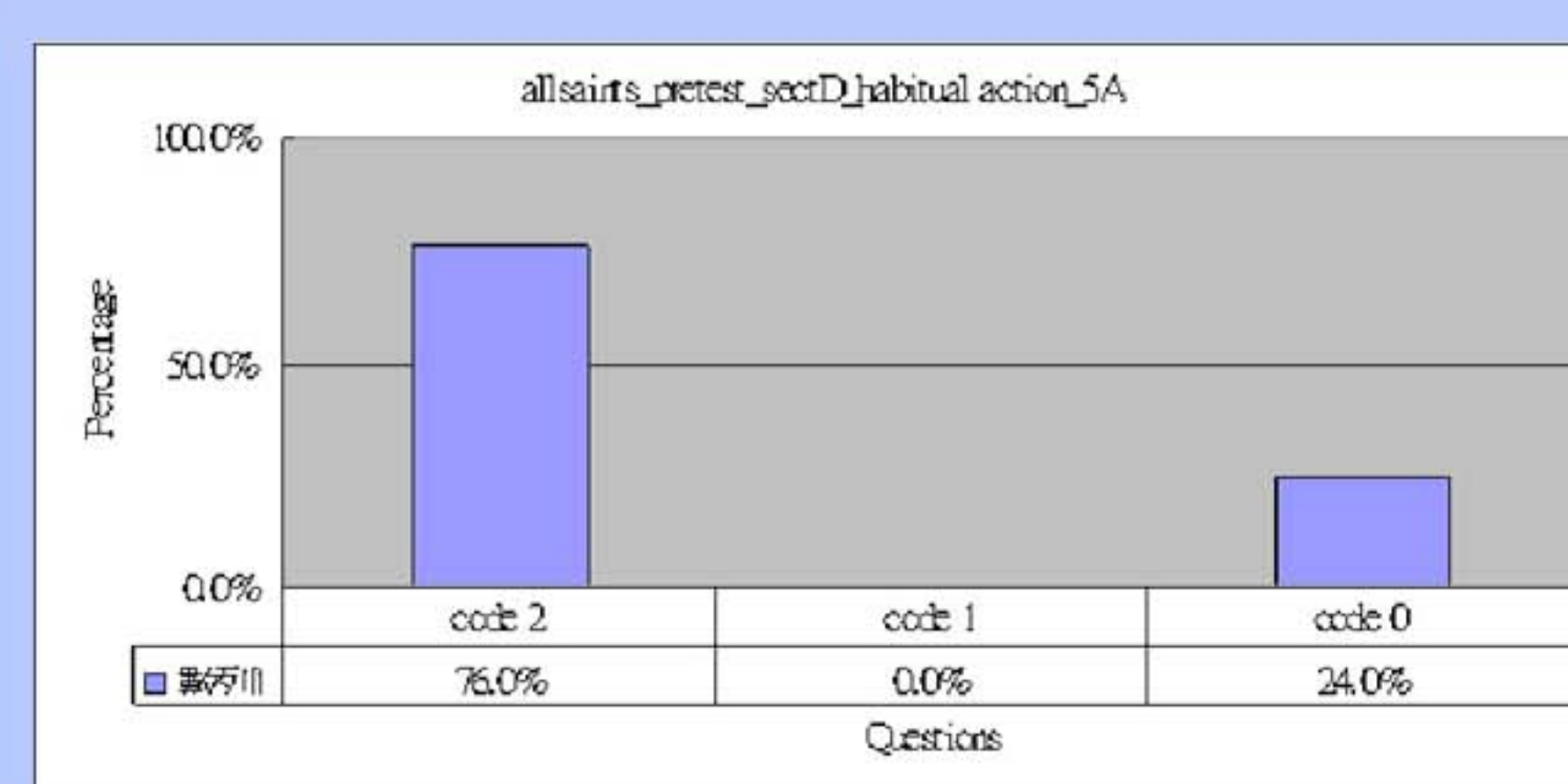
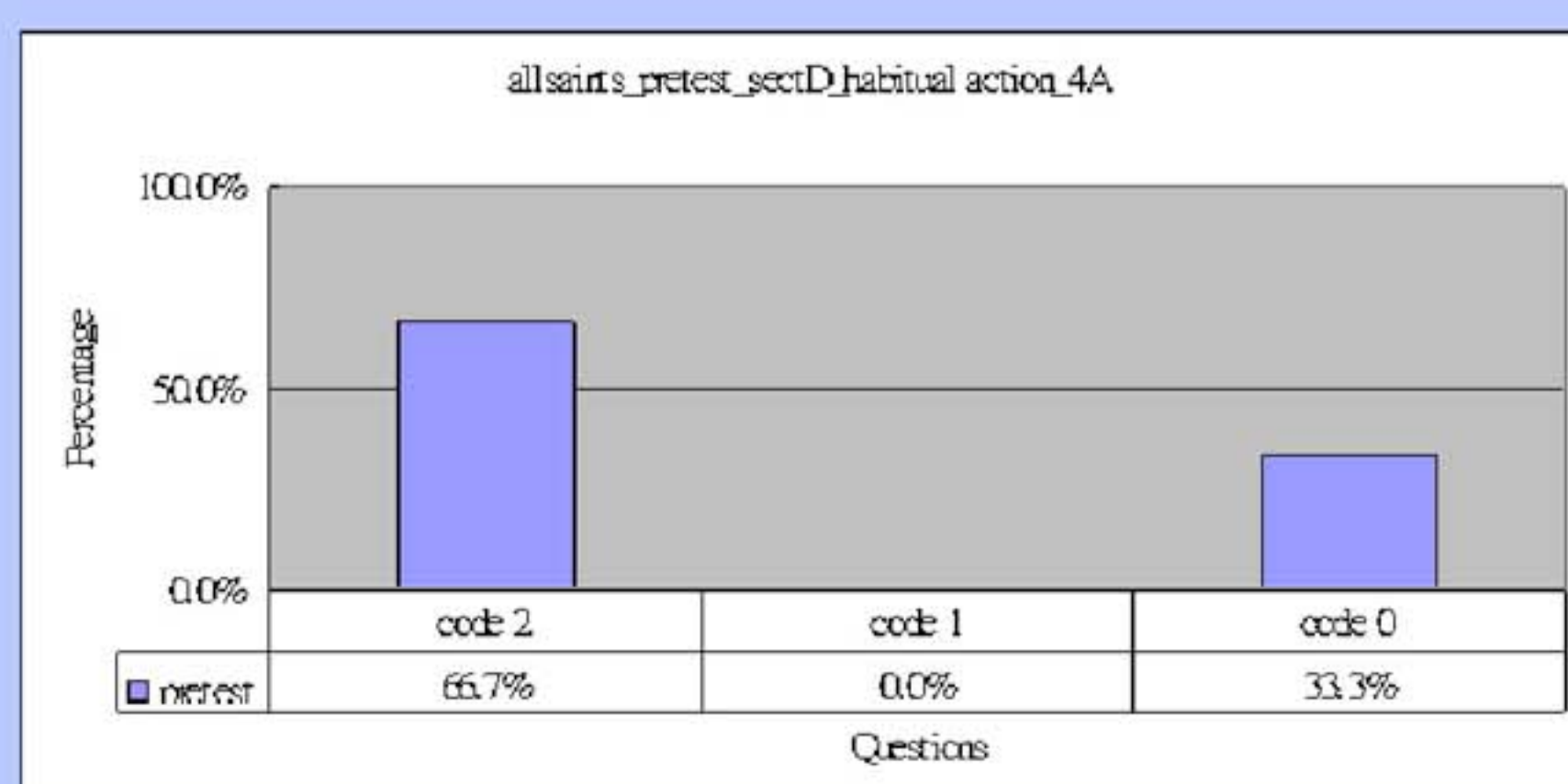
Tell us what you did last Sunday and what food and drinks you like most.

On last Sunday, I stay at home. I watch the TV and I reading the Book, but I very enjoy this day. I like eat susi and pizza most. I like drink lemon tea most.

Samples of Pre-test



Past Event



Habitual Action

The purpose of doing section D is to test students' usage of the present and past tense.

4. Students' performance in Pre-test/interview

1. Students learnt the time adverbial (always, usually, often, sometimes) as a function of frequency, but they did not realize those words could also share a function as a present tense.

2. Most of the students failed to use the previous cues when the time adverbial is clearly present in that particular sentence.

3. In section D, most students were only able to write on the habitual events.

5. Teaching Cycles

Activity	Critical aspect(s) be discerned	Varied	Kept constant
Fill in the blank: write the verb in correct form in a contextualized passage	1. Differentiate the function of the two tenses.	The new sentences (past event with time adverbial) added on the previous passage	The sentences in the previous passage
	2. Decide which tense should be used from the cues in the previous passage	The new sentences (both past event and habitual action without time adverbial) added on the previous passage	The sentences in the previous passage



Dear John,

Every Sunday, I go (go) to a basketball court and play (play) basketball with my brother, Ken.

I usually eat (eat) hotdog for lunch.

Best wishes,
Tom

Dear John,

Every Sunday, I go (go) to a basketball court and play (play) basketball with my brother, Ken.

Last Sunday, we stayed (stay) at home because Aunt Mary came (come) to visit us from Cheung Chau.

Yesterday we went (go) to a Chinese restaurant for dim sum, but usually I eat (eat) hotdog for lunch.

Best wishes,
Tom

- Eric always rides his bicycle in the park on Sundays.
- Tom visited the U.S.A. two years ago.
- Miss Poon sometimes plays games with us in English lessons.
- John likes washing his hair every day.
- Uncle Tom bought me a new toy last month.



Dear John,

I like (like) playing basketball very much. Every Sunday, I go (go) to a basketball court and play (play) basketball with my brother Ken. Last Sunday, we stayed (stay) at home because Aunt Mary came (come) to visit us. She bought (buy) a present for me and my brother. Aunt Mary lives (live) in Cheung Chau with Uncle Sam.

Yesterday we went (go) to a Chinese restaurant for dim sum. We have (have) spring rolls and dumplings, but usually I eat (eat) hotdog for lunch.

Best wishes,
Tom

usually go (set) up at six o'clock in the morning. He plays (play) basketball with his brother.

Yesterday we went (set) up at six o'clock in the morning. He plays (play) basketball with his brother.

Best wishes,
Tom

6. Students' performance in pre-test and post-test

Student A

Pre-test

Post-test

All Saint's Primary School
Learning-Study(English)
Pre test

Name: Tony Ling Wai Ho
Class: P4A (351)
Date: 20th March 07

Part 1
Put the words in the correct columns.

usually ago often
last week always
yesterday today every day

Time adverbial	
Present (現在式)	Past (過去式)
today	usually
always	last week
ago	yesterday
	often
	every day

Part 2
Circle the right answers.

- We go / went to school today.
- Yesterday, we watch / watched a film with Mary.
- I play / played the computer games every day.
- Peter often comes / came to school by bus.

All Saints' Primary School
Learning-Study(English)
Post test

Name: Ling Wai Ho (28) 35
Class: 4A
Date: 25th May 07

Part 1
Put the words in the correct columns.

usually ago often
last week always
yesterday today every day

Time adverbial	
Present (現在式)	Past (過去式)
usually	last week
often	ago
today	yesterday
always	
every day	

Part 2
Circle the right answers.

- We go / went to school today.
- Yesterday, we watch / watched a film with Mary.
- I play / played the computer games every day.
- Peter often comes / came to school by bus.

Student B

pre-test

Part 3

Circle the correct answers.

Last Sunday, David goes / went to the Disneyland with his family. They take / took the MTR from Mong Kok to Lantau Island. David has / had a hamburger and a can of coke for lunch. He likes / liked eating beef and drinking soft drinks at home. Mother buys / bought him a Mickey Mouse doll.

David always gets / got up at six o'clock and walks / walked to school. Yesterday, he meets / met Tom on his way to school. David tells / told him that he wants / wanted to go to Disneyland again.

post-test

Part 3

Circle the correct answers.

Last Sunday, David goes / went to the Disneyland with his family. They take / took the MTR from Mong Kok to Lantau Island. David has / had a hamburger and a can of coke for lunch. He likes / liked eating beef and drinking soft drinks at home. Mother buys / bought him a Mickey Mouse doll.

David always gets / got up at six o'clock and walks / walked to school. Yesterday, he meets / met Tom on his way to school. David tells / told him that he wants / wanted to go to Disneyland again.

Student C

pre-test

Part 4

Tell us what you did last Sunday and what food and drinks you like most.

On last Sunday, I stay at home. I watch the TV and I reading the Book, but I very enjoy this day. I like eat susi and pizza most. I like drink lemon tea most.

post-test

Part 4

Tell us what you did last Sunday and what food and drinks you like most.

Last Sunday, I and my friend went to shopping, I feel very happy. Because I bought somethings to eat. I like eat pizza, chicken wings and chips. I like drinks lemon tea and coke.

7. Teachers' Reflections

Ms Poon's Thoughts

- Students are able to use English to answer the teacher's questions.
- Teaching the definitions are important.
- According to the students, weakness to plan a lesson is much more effective.

Ms Wong's Thoughts

- Students have difficulties to absorb the knowledge of usage of present and past tense at the same time.
- It's hard to solve the problems among different English levels of the students in such a short time.

Mr. Lai's Thoughts

- An intensive study to understand the basic problem of students is necessary.
- The Learning Study approach can help to analyse the basic problem by breaking the teaching process into very small parts.
- Class with a wide learning diversity may find difficulties to proceed.