

The Students of the Caribbean Say “No Way, CXC”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 09/06/2021

The Caribbean Coalition for Exam Redress, in fulfilment of its mandate to amplify the voices of students as important education stakeholders, conducted an online survey of Caribbean students to gauge their level of satisfaction generally with the Caribbean Examinations Council and their exit examinations.

The survey, using the Microsoft Forms platform, was conducted between May 31st and June 2nd, 2021. Respondents originated mainly from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, with sizeable representation of Guyanese and Eastern Caribbean students. 41% identified themselves as CSEC students, while 21% are sitting CAPE Unit I exams, and the remaining 38% being CAPE Unit II students.

The students of the Caribbean are strongly dissatisfied with the actions and conduct of the CXC:

- **More than $\frac{3}{4}$** are dissatisfied with the arrangements for 2021 exams
- **3 out of 4 students** are dissatisfied with the insufficient concessions offered in 2021
- **More than half** do not find the broad topics sufficiently helpful
- **8 out of 10 students** are not ready to take examinations as presently structured and timetabled in 2021
- **72% of students** want creative solutions, not a mere delay of traditional exams
- **7 out of 10 students** are completely dissatisfied with CXC’s deficient communication
- **Most DAMNINGLY 85% of students** do not feel that CXC values them as stakeholders

The Coalition is unconvinced about the seriousness with which the CXC has sought to implement the recommendations of the Independent Review Team. Had the CXC undertaken to rectify issues surrounding stakeholder engagement, contingency planning and communication, perhaps we would not presently find ourselves in the untenable situation we are, where parents, students and teachers have no confidence in CXC.

Arising out of this near **UNANIMOUS** dissatisfaction with CXC, the students of the region **DEMAND:**

- ✚ an **independent commission of inquiry** to investigate the events of 2020-21 and the operations of CXC generally (**87% support**), and
- ✚ a permanent **independent regulatory body** to oversee the operations of CXC (**87% support**)

The Coalition is also concerned about the **disgraceful dereliction of duty** on the part of many regional Ministries of Education, particularly their technocrats, evidenced by their lack of responsiveness to the legitimate concerns of students, parents and teachers and their acquiescence to plans which endanger our students.

The crisis of 2020 has not yet been satisfactorily resolved, and we hurtle toward another crisis this year. Nonetheless, the Coalition hopes, and indeed stands ready to assist in the strategic planning for 2022, recognizing that COVID-19 and its effects, will remain for a while, in order to avoid the now two-year running crisis engulfing the CXC.

Finally, more than 9 out of 10 students support the establishment of a regional parent-student body to advocate for their best interest. Arising therefrom, the Caribbean Coalition for Exam Redress signals its intent to form a permanent advocacy vehicle through which we can continue to promote the best interests of students and parents, amplify their voices and collaborate with other stakeholders as we seek to relook Caribbean educational assessment to keep pace with developments in international best practice.

Based upon the pervasive anecdotal and indeed empirical evidence, the physical, mental, academic and professional health of our region's students is at stake, and thus so too, is CARICOM's capacity for economic growth and development. The need for reform could not be more urgent.

We append at the end of this statement a reader-friendly full report of the CCER Student Engagement Survey.

The Students Have Spoken. Will We Listen?

--END OF STATEMENT--

CARIBBEAN
COALITION
FOR EXAM
REDRESS

The Students Speak!

Caribbean Coalition for Exam Redress Report on
Student Satisfaction with CXC (June 2021)

Introduction

The results presented herein are derived from an online survey conducted by the Caribbean Coalition for Exam Redress between May 31st and June 2nd, 2021.

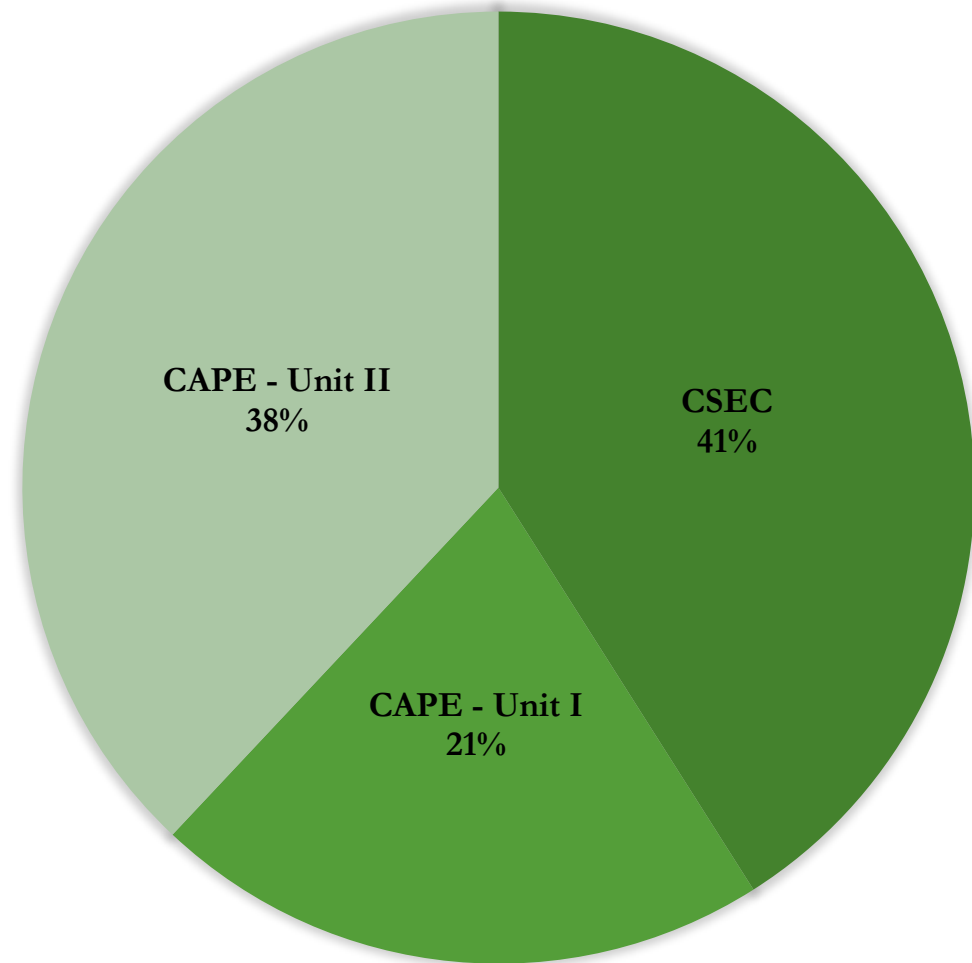
The survey gauged the level of satisfaction generally on the part of the students of the region with the Caribbean Examinations Council and the exit exams.

It was conducted via the Microsoft Forms platform, with automatic data aggregation by that platform and then data analysis by the team at CCER.

Respondents originated mainly from Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados, but there was also significant representation of Guyanese and Eastern Caribbean students.

Composition of Sample

**RESPONDENTS BY EXAMINATION
LEVEL**



Overview

A
E
B
F
D
C

Serviços

-8.1 %

51.3 %

22.8 %

7.9 %

-19.1 %

-10.9 %

-34.1 %

9.2 %

-20.4 %

-20.9 %

30.1 %

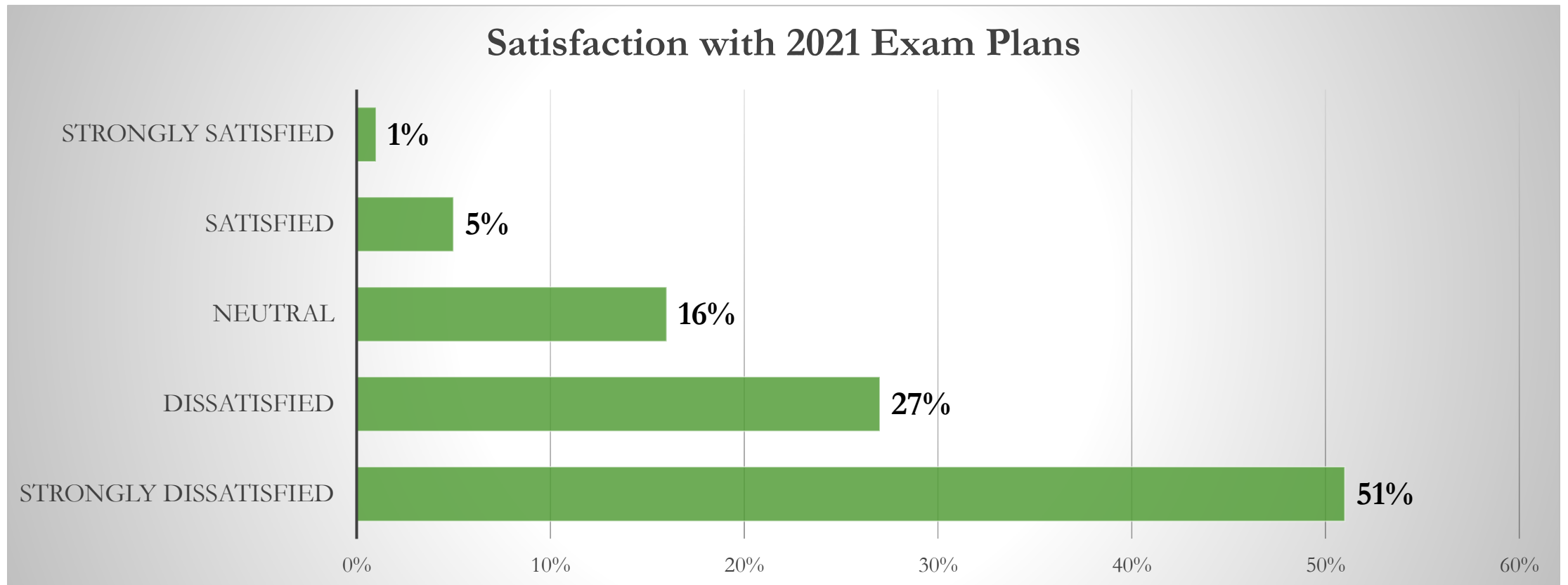
38.4 %

10.5 %

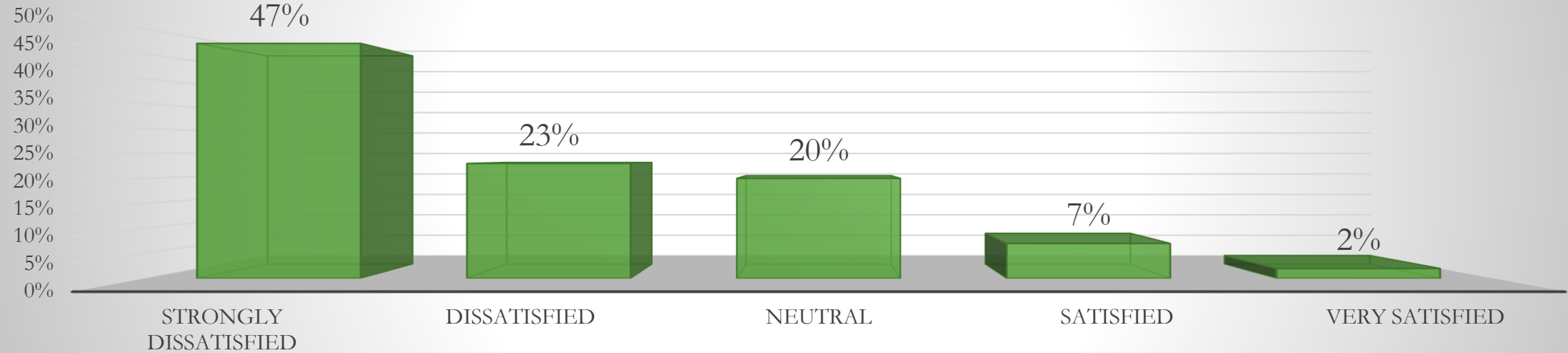
Respondents were asked a series of Likert scale questions assessing their views on:

- The exam plans for 2021,
- The changes made for 2021,
- The delay of exams by 2 weeks,
- The broad topics released by CXC,
- Their own level of preparedness for the exams,
- CXC's communication, and
- The value that CXC has for students

Students are NOT Satisfied with 2021 Exam Plans



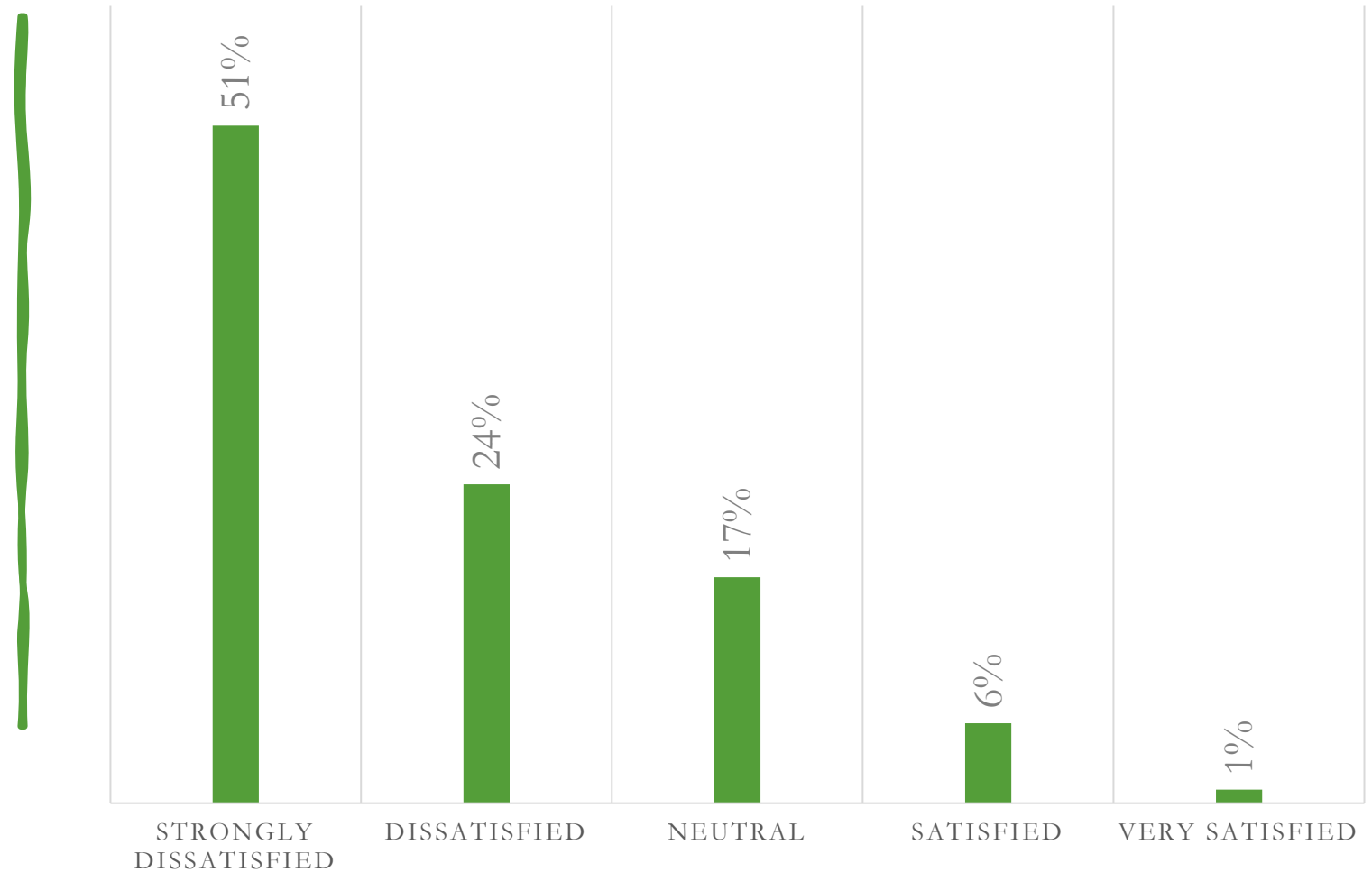
Satisfaction with CXC's Communication



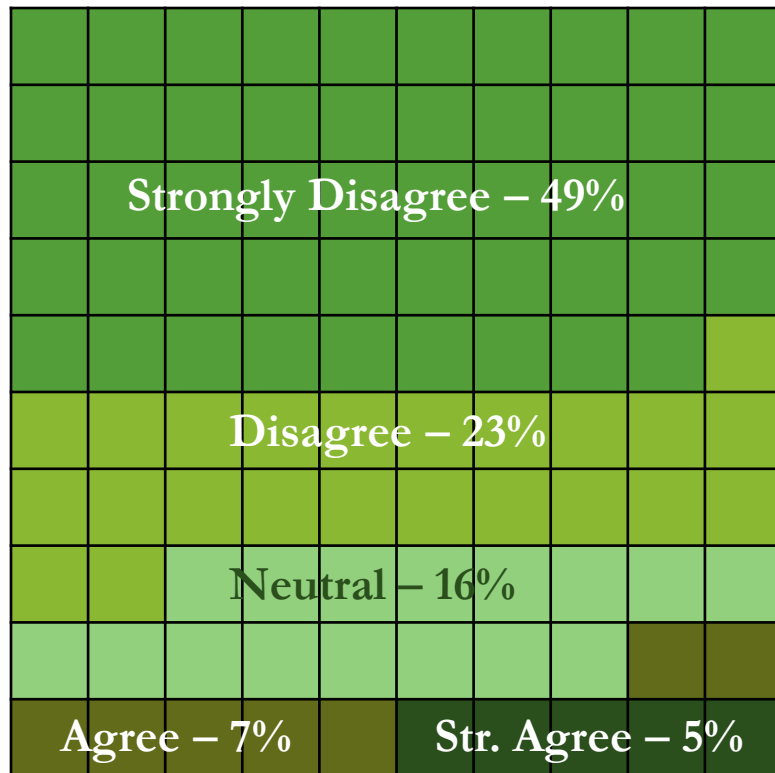
Communication, Communication, Communication

Students
are NOT
Satisfied
with the
2021
Changes

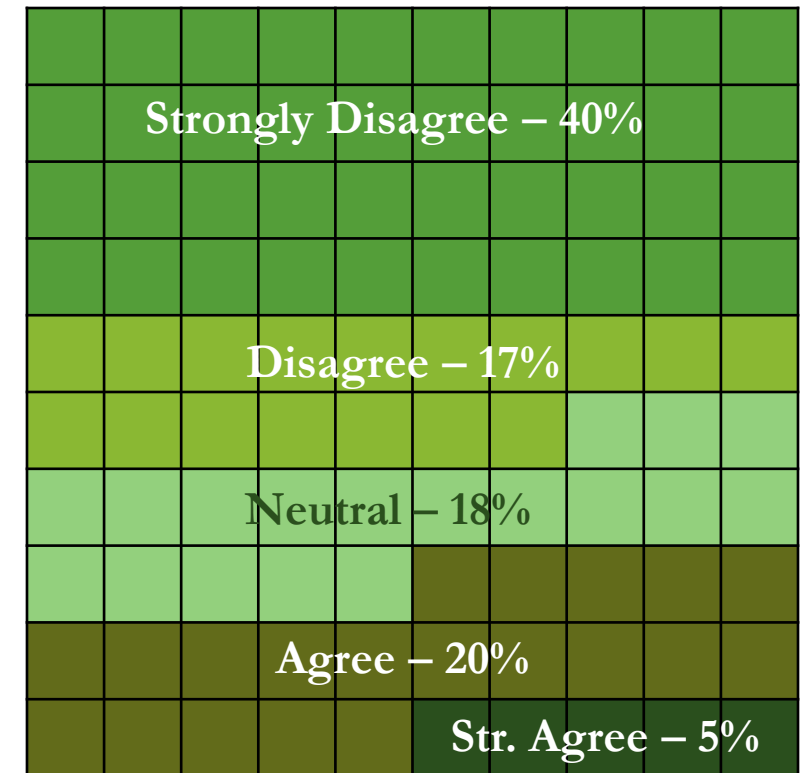
SATISFACTION WITH CHANGES MADE FOR 2021



Students Want Creative Solutions



I am satisfied with the 2-week delay



I am satisfied with the broad topics

Topics as
Broad as
can Be!

Respondent Reports of Dissatisfaction with Broad Topics for CSEC

Subject	Reports
Physics	34%
Chemistry	26%
Biology	22%
Geography	21%
Principles of Accounts	20%
Information Technology	19%
Caribbean History	18%
Technical Drawing	7%
E.D.P.M.	6%

Respondent Reports of Dissatisfaction with Broad Topics for CAPE Unit I

Subject	Reports
Biology	33%
Chemistry	33%
Pure Mathematics	25%
Accounting	24%
Environmental Science	20%
Physics	19%
Geography	18%
Applied Mathematics	11%
Computer Science	6%

Topics as
Broad as
can Be!

Topics as
Broad as
can Be!

Subject	Reports
Environmental Science	28%
Pure Mathematics	25%
Accounting	20%
Applied Mathematics	16%
Chemistry	16%
Sociology	11%
Biology	10%
Geography	10%
Physics	9%

Topics as Broad as can Be!

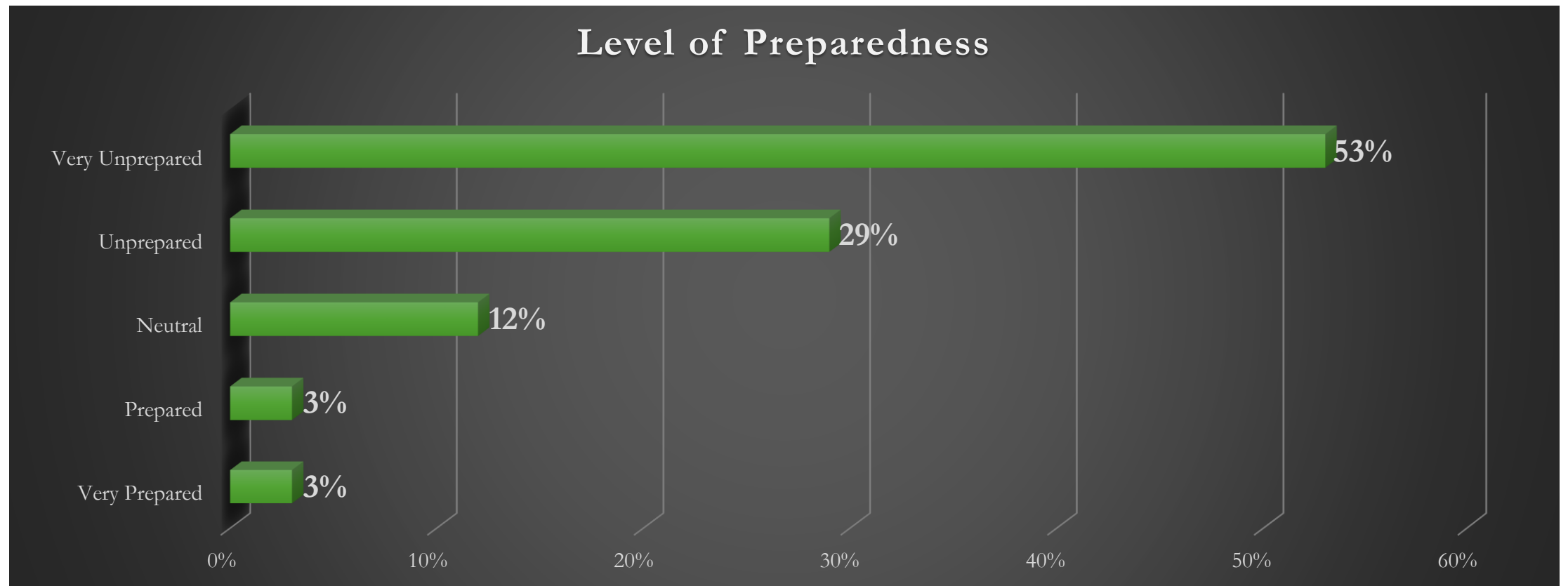
“Nothing really has been taken off the exam.”

“Not completed the topics you are requiring, and study leave has started which mean no teaching”

“The broad topics have stressed me out even more, because I was counting on CXC”

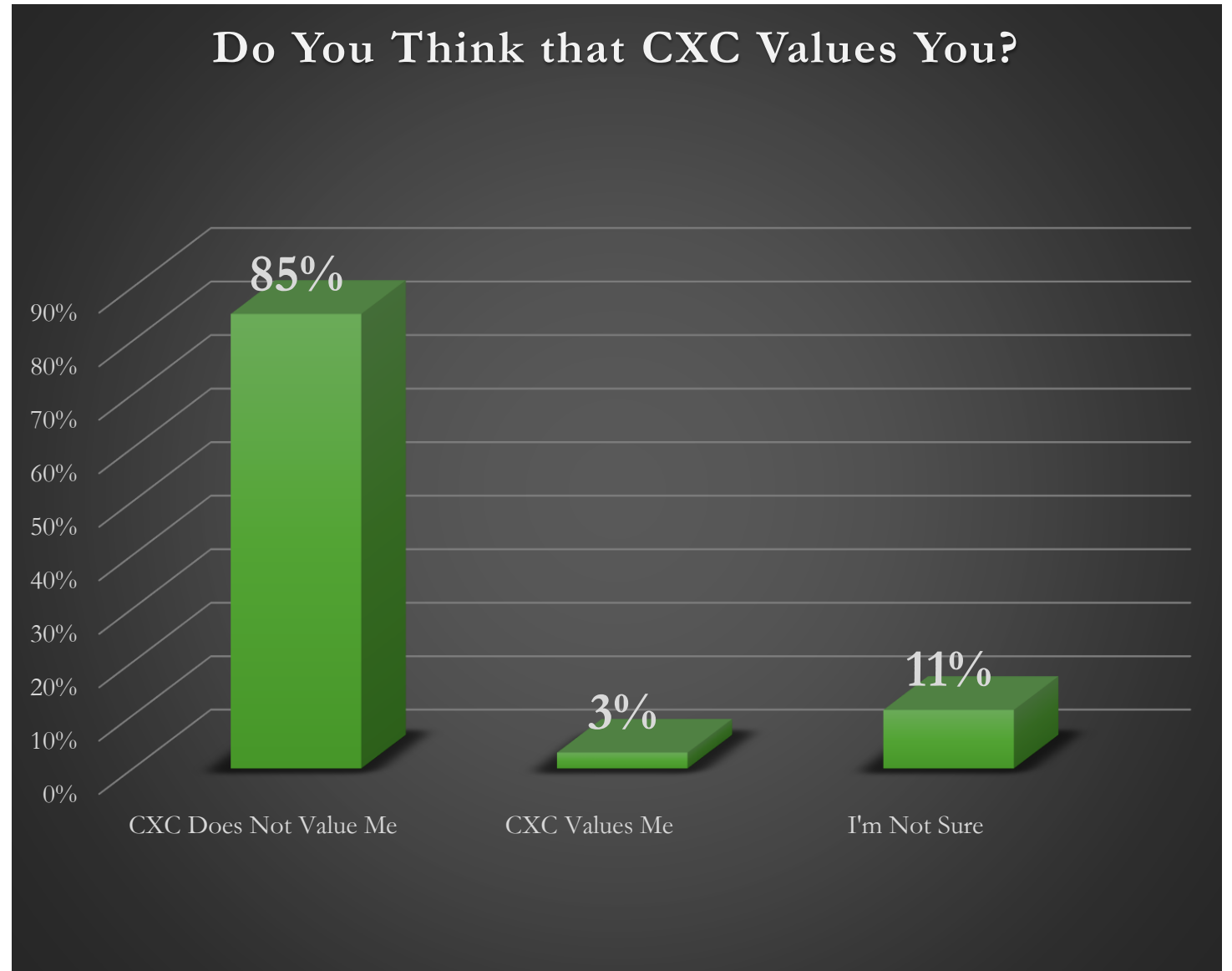
“I don’t know what to prepare for. It could literally be anything”

“For some subjects, the topics have been helpful, but not for most of my colleagues”

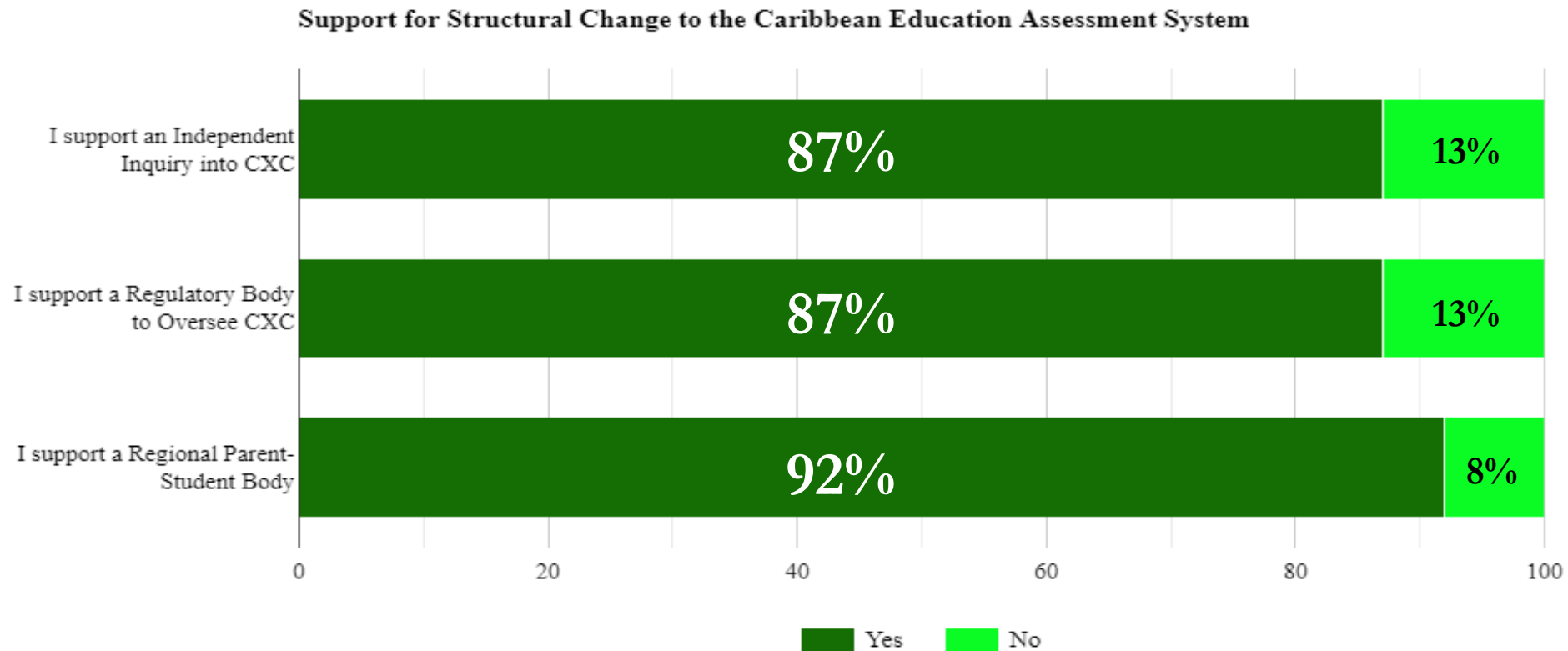


Students are NOT Prepared!

CXC Has Lost the Perception Battle



Students DEMAND Structural Change



Quick Round-Up

This Year's Plans	Confidence	Independent Inquiry	This Year's Changes	Preparedness
78% of students are DISSATISFIED with the arrangements for the 2021 exams	85% of students DO NOT feel that CXC values them as stakeholders	87% of students SUPPORT an independent inquiry into the 2020 results and generally the operations of CXC	75% of students are DISSATISFIED with the insufficient concessions offered by CXC this year	82% of students are NOT READY to take this year's examination
Delay	Communication	Broad Topics	Parent-Student Body	Regulatory Body
72% of students want CREATIVE SOLUTIONS , not a mere delay of traditional exams	70% of students are DISSATISFIED with CXC's deficient communication	57% of students DO NOT find the broad topics as released and revised sufficiently helpful	92% of students SUPPORT the establishment of a regional parent-student body to advocate for their interests	87% of students SUPPORT the establishment of an independent, regulatory body to oversee CXC's operations

The Students Have Spoken! Will We Listen?
