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What is PASS?

Peer Assisted Study Sessions

- Student centered instruction and learning
- 15-20 Students collaborate & assist each other in the learning process
- Sessions led by 2 student facilitators who have taken the course 1-2 years previously



What courses qualify for PASS?

- Undergraduate courses with a large student cohort
- Courses with a history of being challenging to students
- Courses that have a high failure rate

Goals for PASS are to make...
 ...lecture material more **understandable & better consolidated**
 ...it easier for students to receive help and **constructive feedback**
 ...improve **study and learning skills** integral to the university experience

Objectives of TUFF-supported project

Develop and evaluate PASS in the Cell Biology course 2018 (Biology bachelor program, year 2).

Methods

6 PASS sessions of 1 hour each were introduced in the course. During sessions the class worked through material on weekly lectures developed by the student facilitators.

Student voices
9/31 students cited PASS as one of the most memorable activities of the course

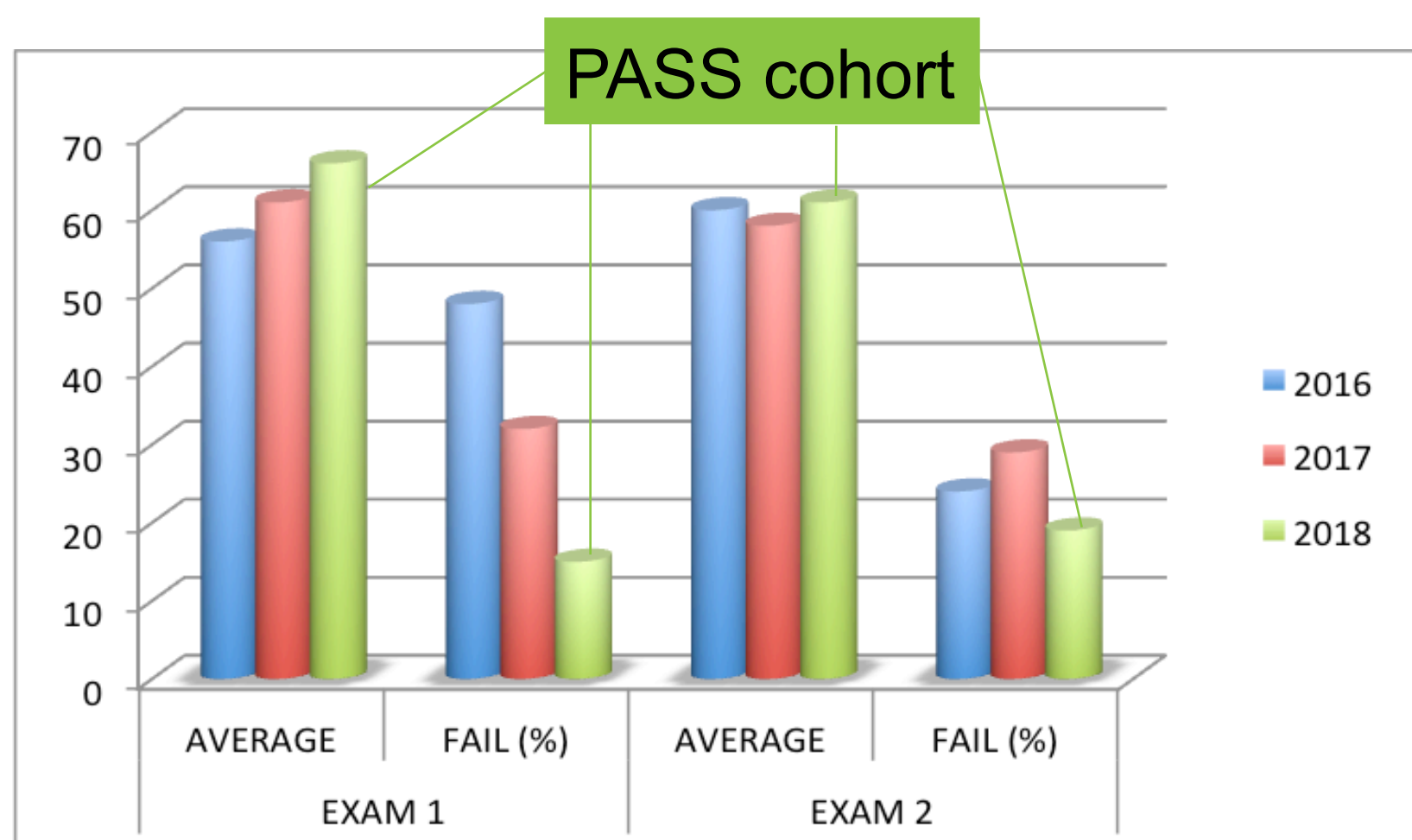


Fig. 1 Exam failure rate for student cohorts 2016-18

Results

There was a major decline in failure rate for the cohort with PASS compared to earlier years (e.g., exam 1 from **48%** to **15%**; fig. 1). The most noticeable result is that a larger proportion of students scored **over 49%** in 2018 when PASS was implemented, compared to the two previous years (fig. 2 & 3, especially for exam 1).

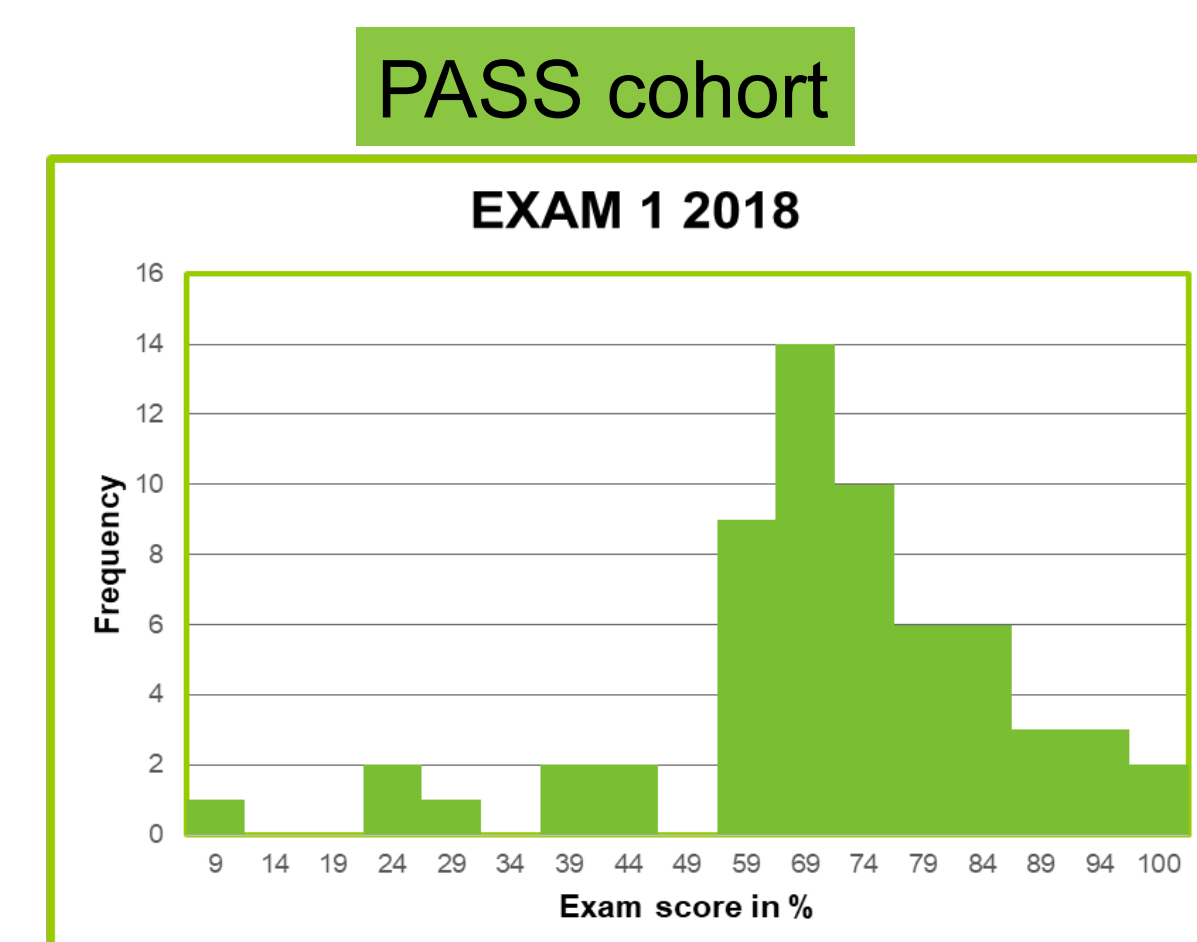
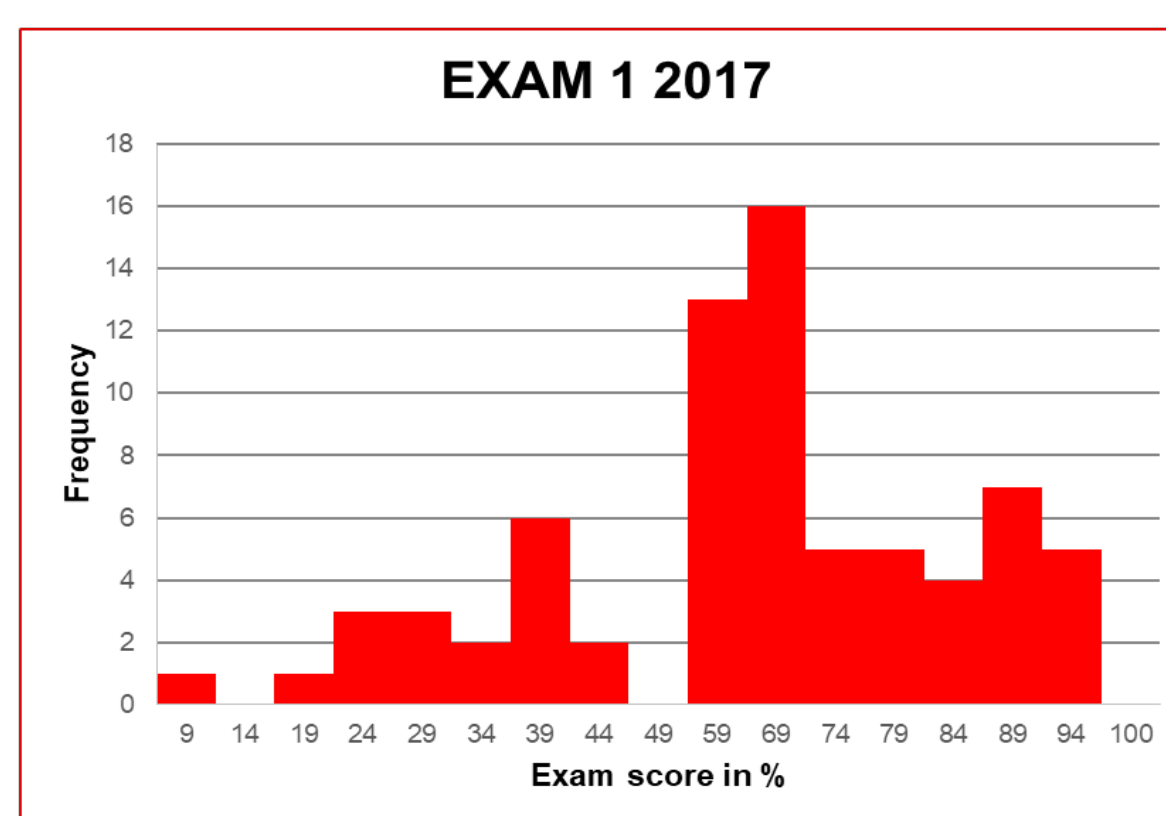
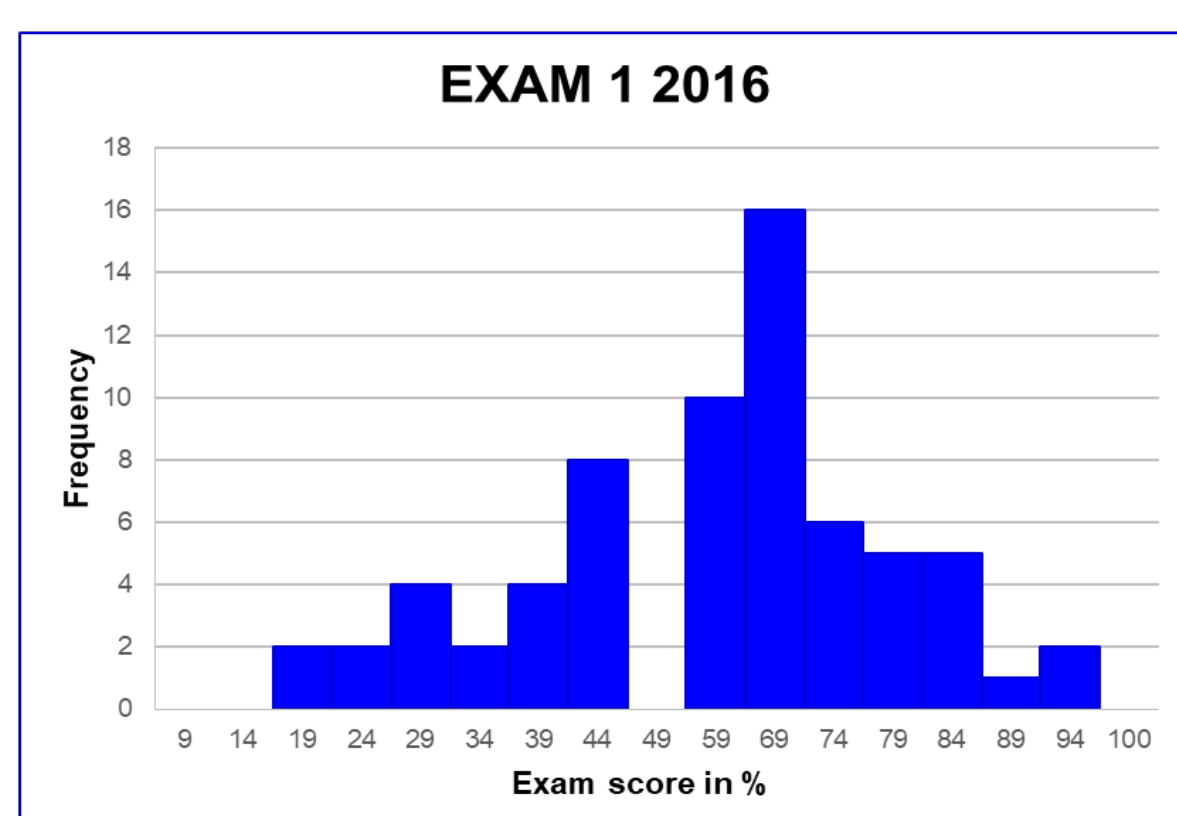


Fig. 2 Exam 1 results by student for student cohorts 2016-18.

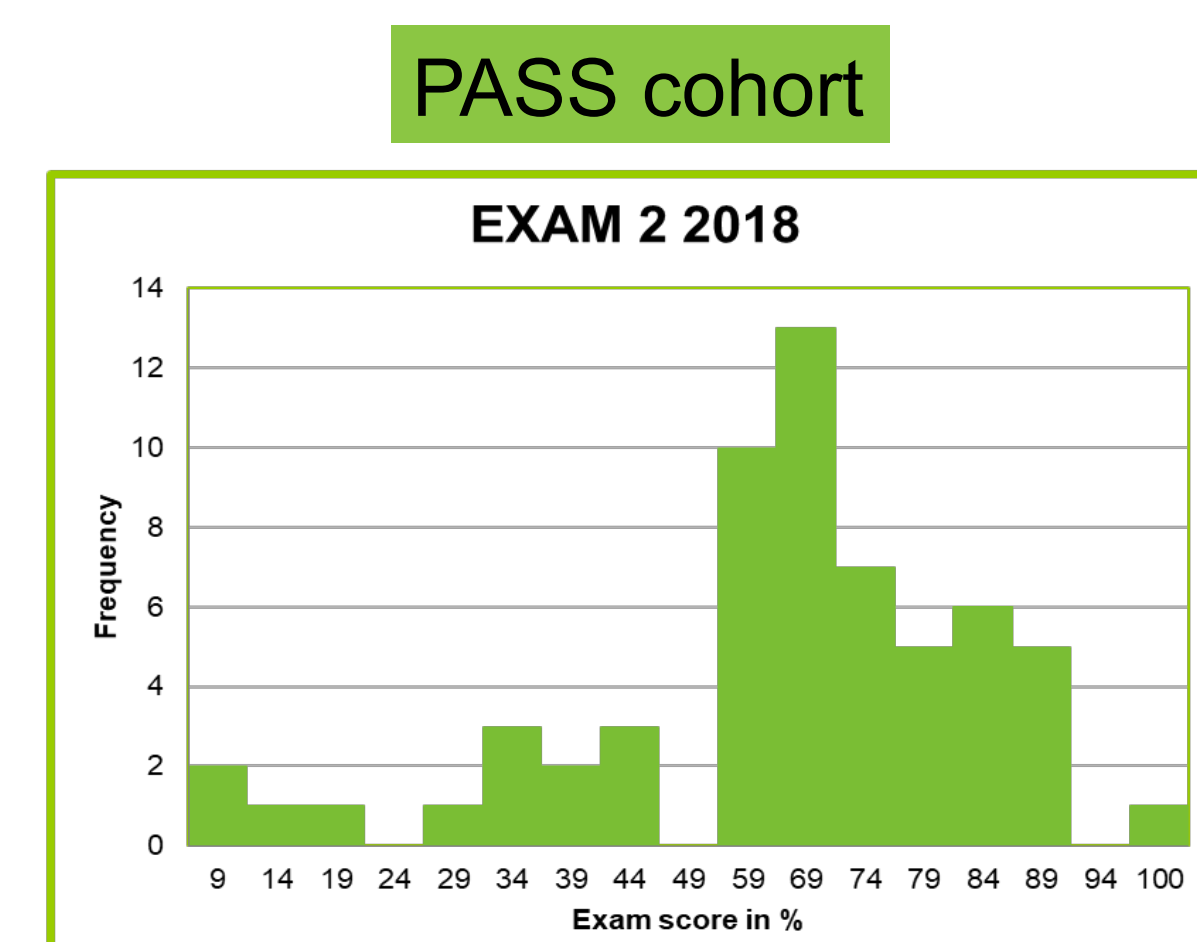
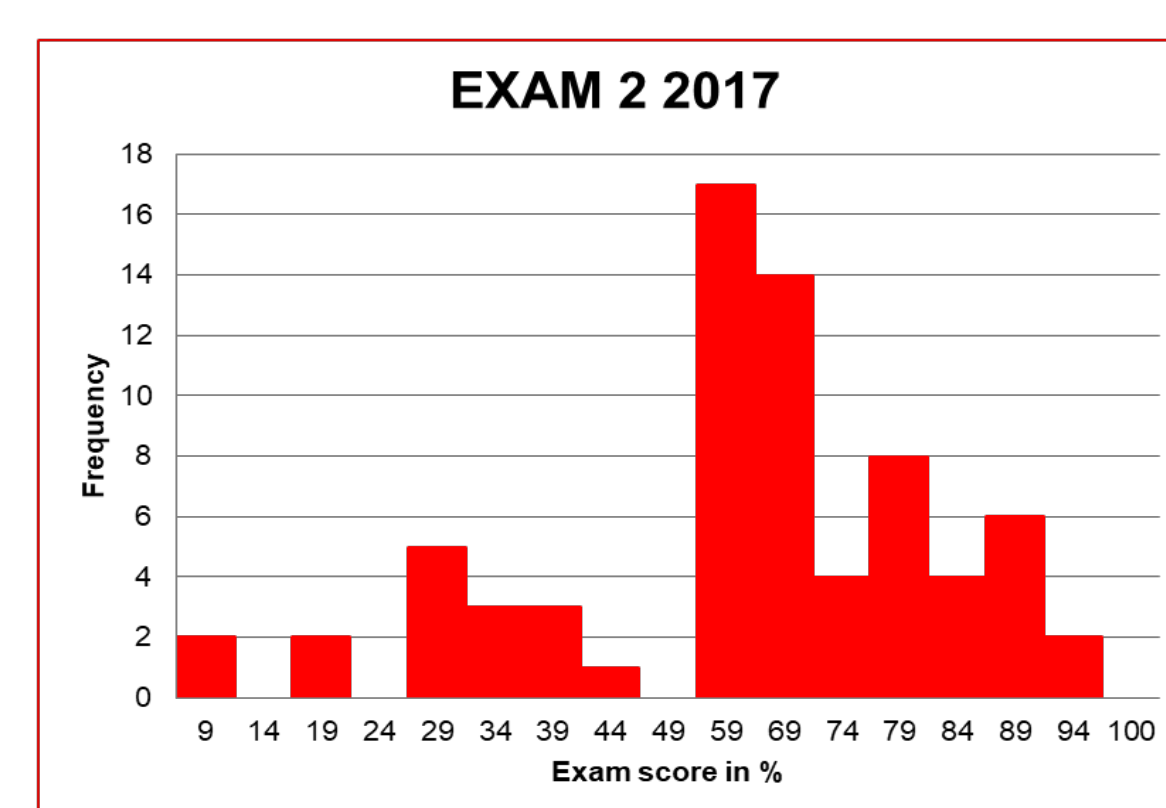
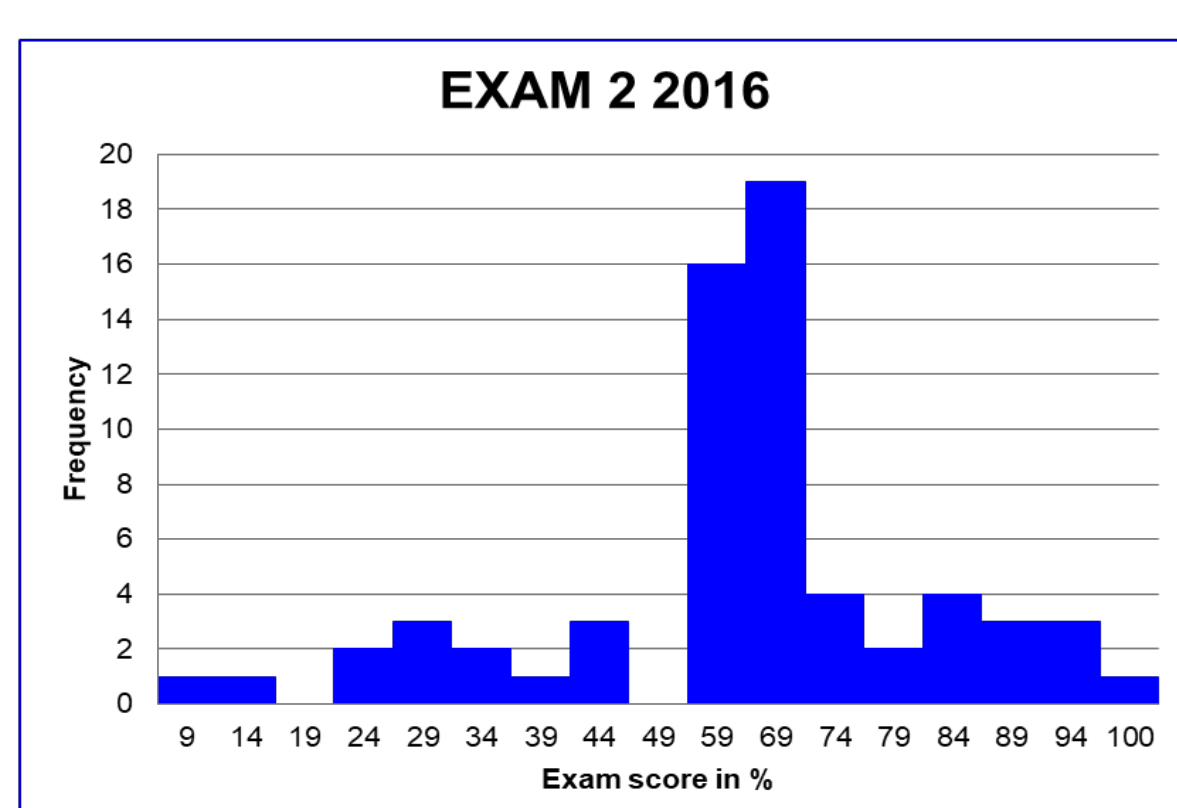


Fig. 3 Exam 2 results by student for student cohorts 2016-18.

Based on these positive results, the aim is to implement PASS in other courses and subjects.