A comparison of 340 participants’ performances on a compact programme of 17 science practical tasks according to their English language proficiency and geographical areas

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This paper presents the findings of research conducted using a programme of physical science practical activities. The compact programme consisted of 17 practical activities accompanied with written instructions rather than a paper-and-pencil only type of diagnosis. Examples of these items will also be included in the full conference paper.

The research was conducted with 340 participants in the Western Cape and the results with regard to differences in language and geographical areas where the participants’ institutions are located will be presented in this paper.

Figure 1 shows the comparison of the science practical achievement scores (out of 25) of participants according to their English language proficiency.

The study also categorised the English second language participants according to their schools/institutions. Figure 2 distinguishes between English second language participants at the schools in townships and in more privileged areas.

The full paper will present these findings in more detail and elaborate more on the similarities and differences between the performances of these participant groups.