

Formative assessment – can grading help us get there?

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First big change: A new **role**

Politicians' masterplan: A highly educated population is the key to the future!

Before:

Universities led a life of their own



Now:

Expected to become engine for economic growth and innovation





Susan

Inner motivation:

thinks, structures, makes links.

Deep learning is spontaneous:

learning cannot be prevented.

Dominated up until the 1980s.



Robert

External motivation:

diploma, grades, work, pay check.

Surface learning is most natural:

adapts learning to target exams.

Dominates among current students.

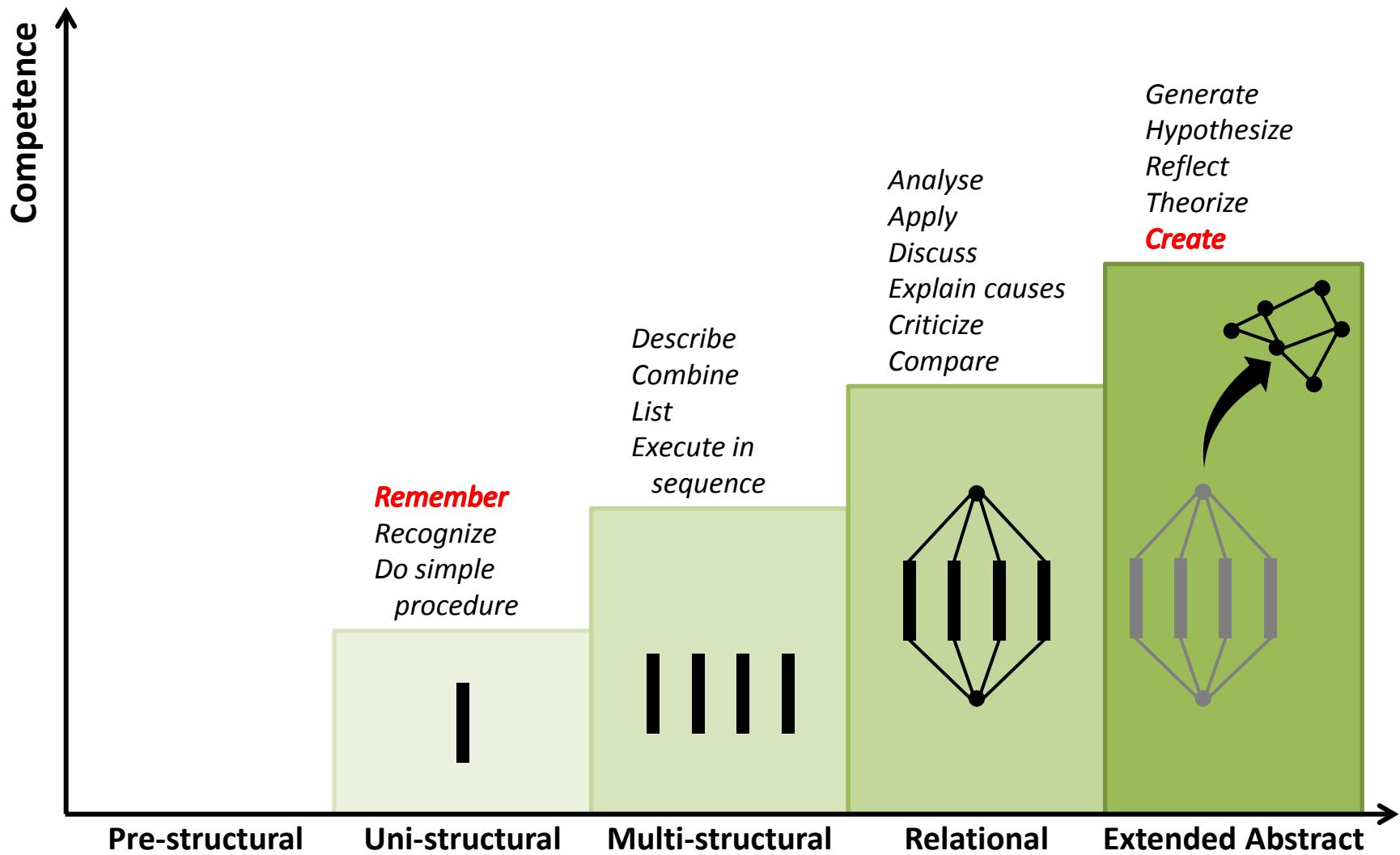
Biggs: A common mistake is to think of these as a **good** and a **bad** student.

The knowledge society requires that **both** succeed in higher education.

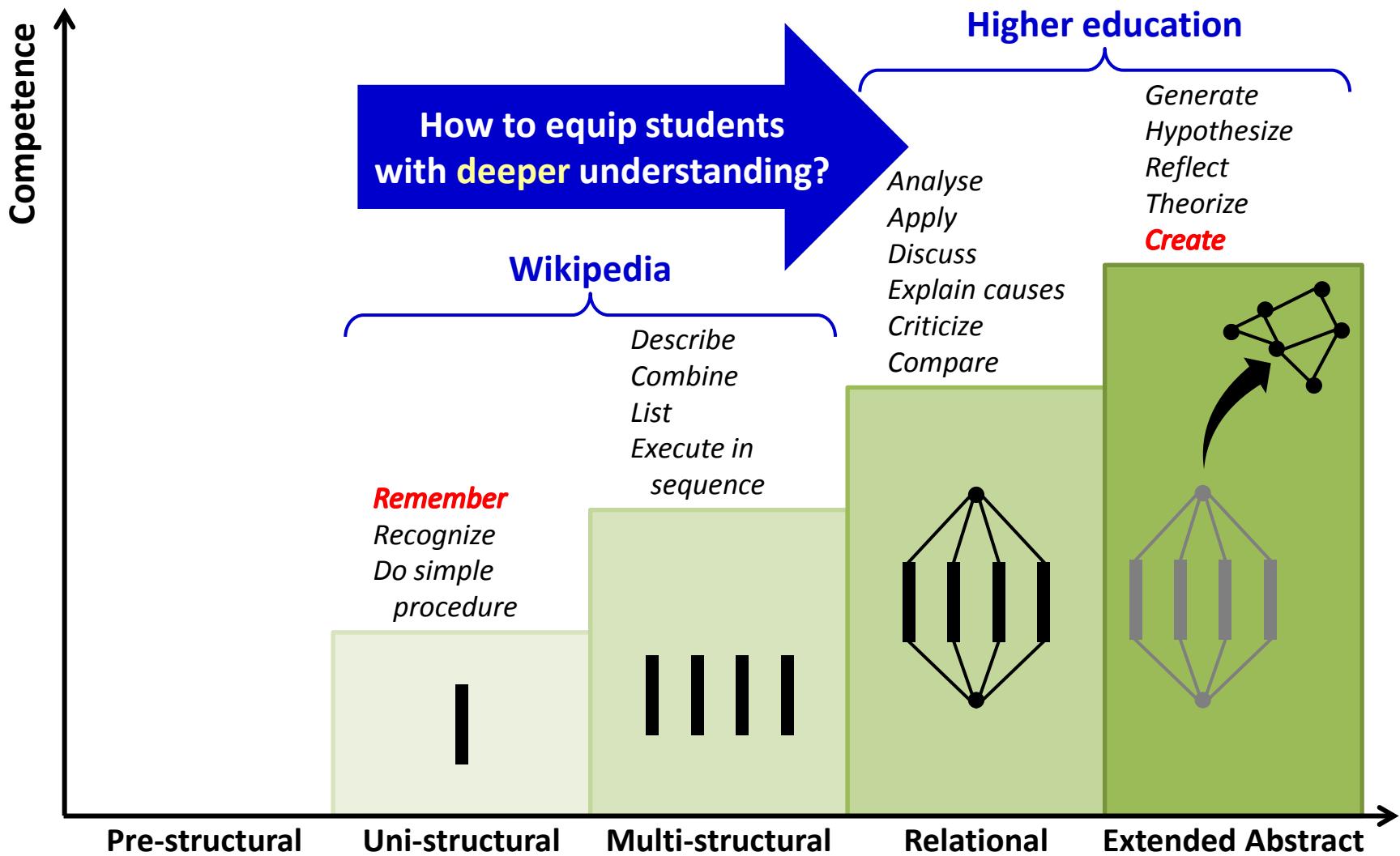
Pedagogical aim:

Teaching and assessment must make Robert *behave as Susan*.

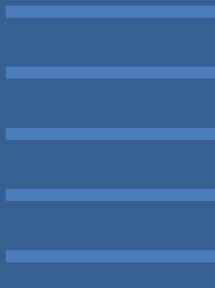
Biggs' SOLO taxonomy



Second big change: **Information overflow**



Learning
Outcomes



Teacher: What activities make students
master the learning outcomes?

Exam

Student: What do I need to learn
to master the exam?

Backwash: Will this be
tested at the exam?



Biggs' Method: Constructive Alignment

Learning
Outcomes



Teacher: Which forms for assessment
will test the learning outcomes?

Exam

Student: By mastering the exam
I fulfil the learning outcomes!



TEACHING

Learning Outcomes

What other skills are required?

What must students be able to do to master the exam?

...

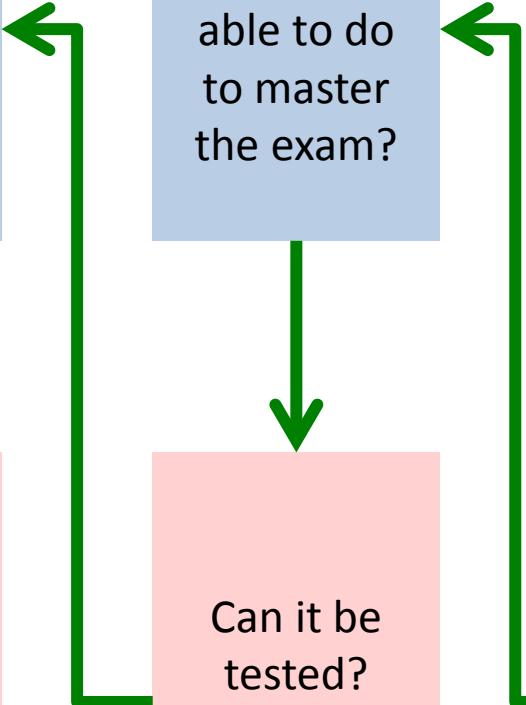
Can it be tested?

Feedback.

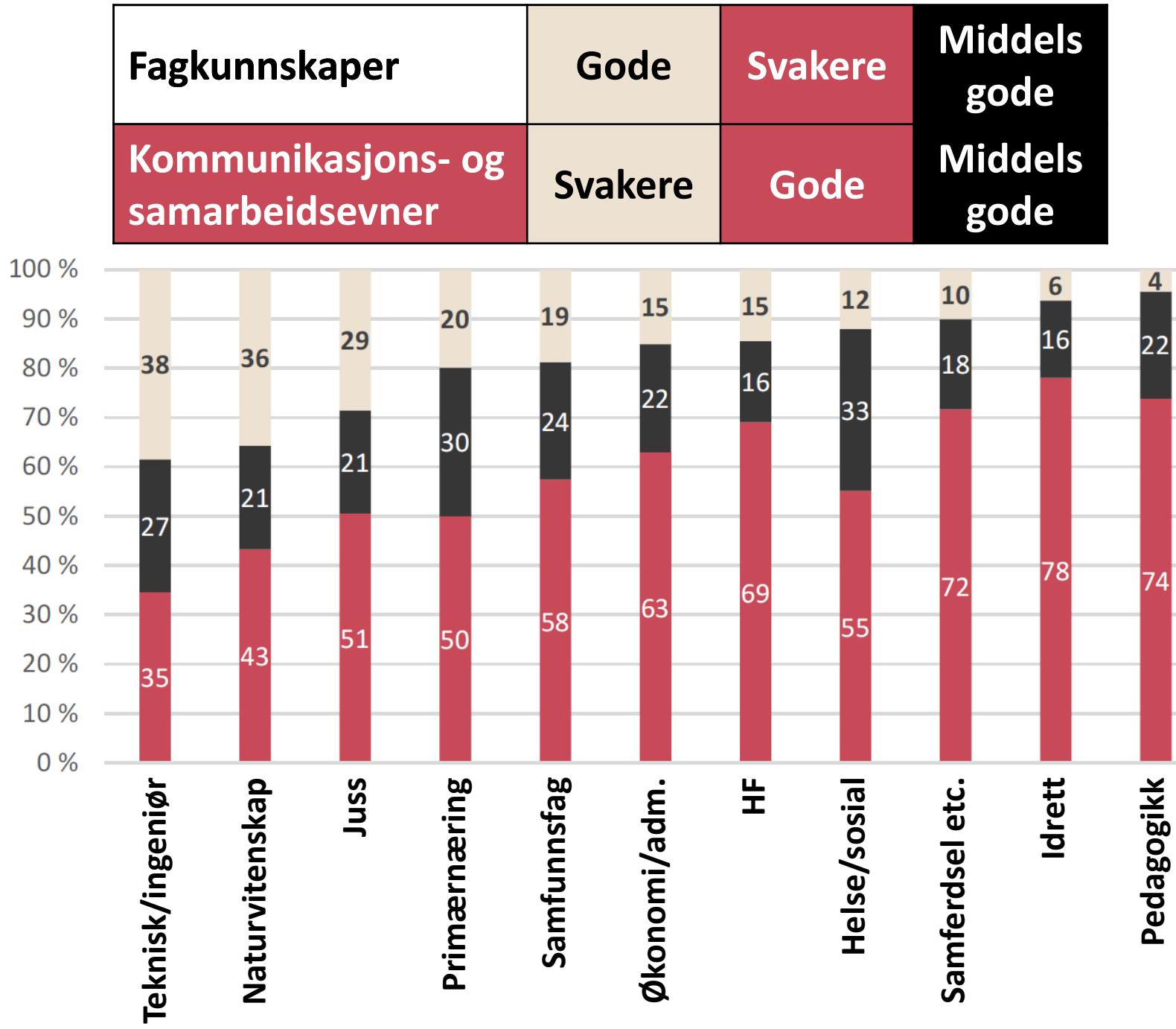
Can it be tested?

Feedback.

Exam
Culminating project:
What students should be able to do when they have completed the course.



Assessment is formative



Hva prioriterer 157 bedrifter som har ansatt naturvitere?

4,7	Har god evne til å tilegne seg ny kunnskap
4,7	Har gode samarbeidsevner
4,6	Er god til å jobbe selvstendig
4,5	Har gode evner til å formidle fagkunnskapen sin
4,5	Er flink til å disponere arbeidstida
4,5	Er god til å operasjonalisere fagkunnskapen sin
4,4	Er god til å løse uforutsette oppgaver
4,3	Har god evne til å utføre yrkesspesifikke oppgaver
4,2	Har god bransje-/ virksomhetsforståelse
4,2	Har gode analytiske ferdigheter
4,1	Er flink til å knytte kontakter
3,9	Har god tallforståelse
3,9	Har god IT-kompetanse
3,9	Er innovativ/har nyskapningsevner
3,7	Har gode lederegenskaper
3,5	Har god forståelse av statistikk
3,5	Er flink til å kommunisere på et fremmed språk

Improvise litt

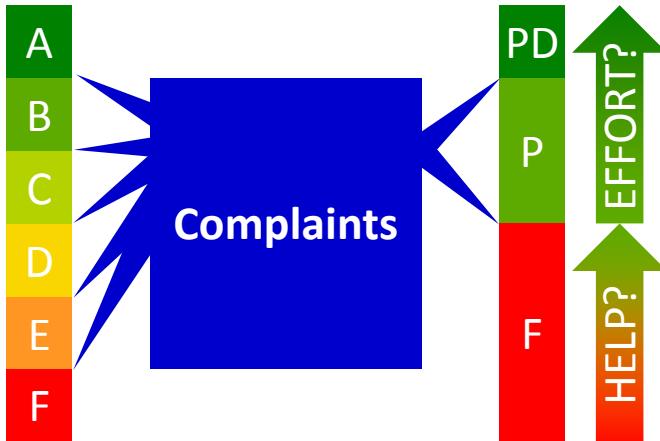
- PhD som transformasjon
- «Readiness to learn»
- Opplæringsdel

Literature suggests pass/fail grading has numerous advantages.
Main obstacle: Many teachers fear students would pass where
the fence is lowest, and therefore stick with letter grades.



A new grading scale?

Pass with distinction, pass with honours, väl godkänd, bestått med glans, laud...



Fewer and easier **complaints**?

Aim:

Courses where students **do** stuff,
that requires **higher cognitive levels**,
supervised by an instructor,
training skills that employers desire,
rewarded for curiosity and sharing,
and assessed by their peers.

Focus: Formative assessment.

Pass/fail benefits:

- less **backwash** and anxiety,
- more collaboration and curiosity.

Incentive for extra effort

- expected by **teachers** and good students.

Coarse scale:

- demands fewer resources,
- grade can be set from a distance - instructor may supervise peer grading.