

Aims

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health’s (RCPCH) START assessment (Specialist Trainee Assessment of Readiness for Tenure) is a multi-station, scenario-based, formative assessment of consultant readiness (1). It is undertaken in the penultimate year of paediatric training and has been held 5 times since 2012 and consists of 12 scenarios (stations) mapping to the General Medical Council’s Good Medical Practice domains. One of the areas assessed is teaching. We report an innovative scenario used in this assessment.

Methods

To assess trainees at the top of Miller’s pyramid (2), the authors developed a novel station for the START assessment. The trainees were asked to prepare a micro-teach in the 4 minutes before the station to be delivered to two medical students in the first week of their paediatric attachment during the 8 minute station. Medical students were recruited from University College London Medical School. Topics related to general paediatrics. An assessor observed the teaching delivered by the trainee in the station. Feedback for the whole assessment, benchmarked against described standards, is released some weeks later to the trainees’ e-portfolio.

Results

Thirty one medical students role-played across 3 sittings. Thirty (97%) responded to a survey about their experience. The majority of students found the experience useful and enjoyable (Figure 1). Only 1 (3%) student said they would not role-play for this assessment again. All replied they would, or may, recommend it to other medical students. Twenty five (83%) wanted to be a paediatrician, 14 (37%) had already decided before this role-play. Only 1 (3%) medical student felt they should not have some part in feedback.

Conclusion

Using medical students for a live teaching within a high-stakes, multi-station assessment is novel. It reaches the top of Miller’s pyramid and maps to real life. The medical students who were taught found it worthwhile. For many of them it confirmed their desire to be a paediatrician.

Useful and enjoyable	
1	37%
2	53%
3	10%
4	0
5	0
Total and utter waste of my time	

Figure 1. You kindly participated in the START assessment. What did you think of the experience?

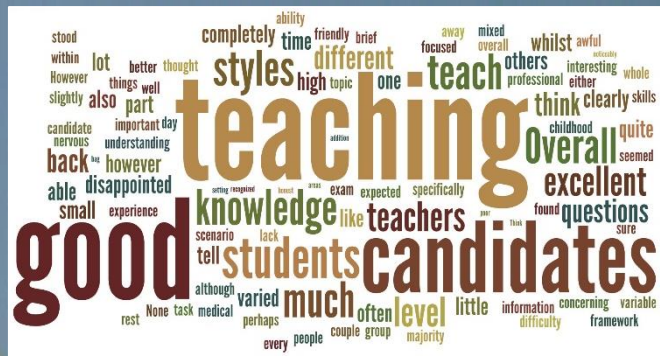
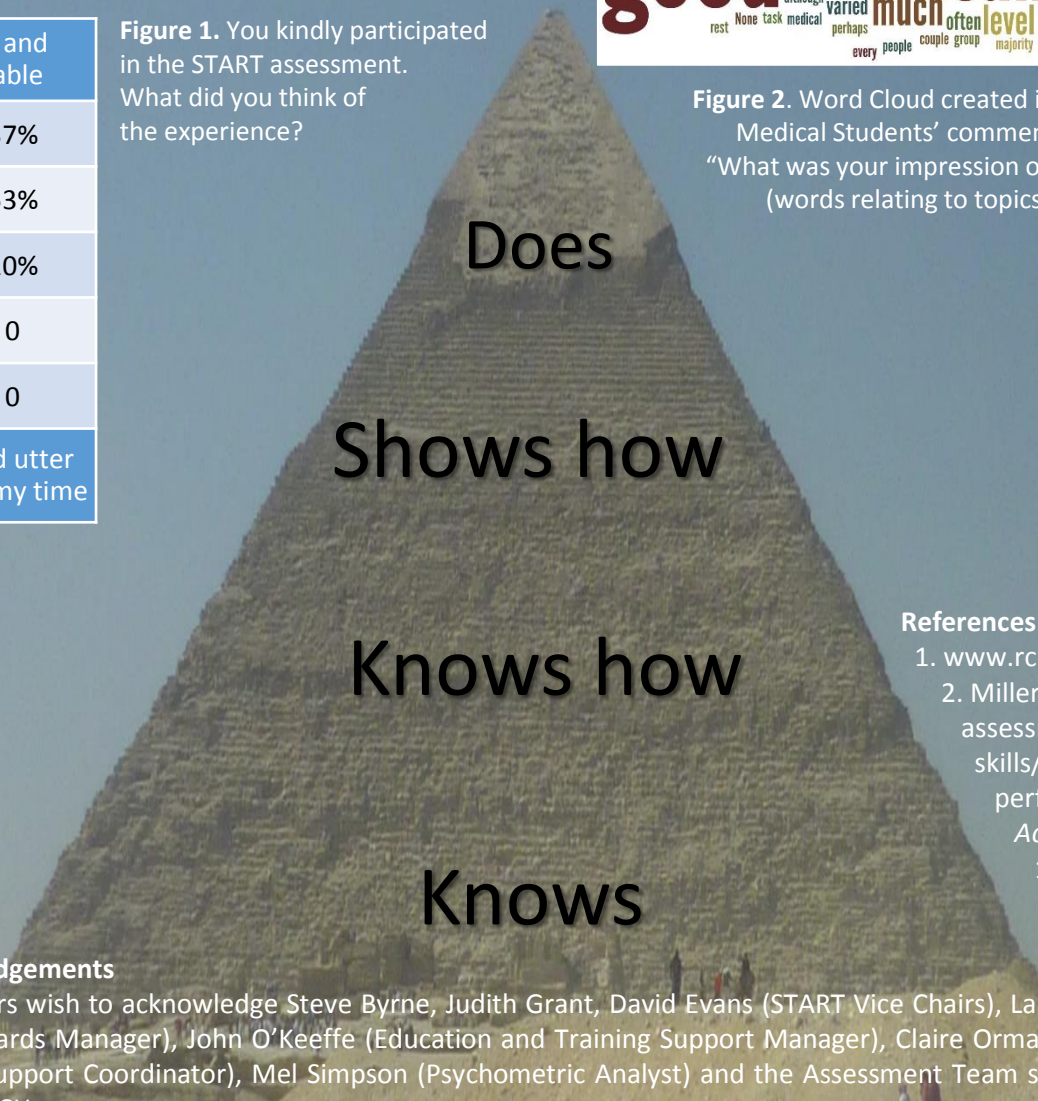


Figure 2. Word Cloud created in wordle.net from Medical Students’ comments to the question “What was your impression of the candidates?” (words relating to topics taught removed).



Does

Shows how

Knows how

Knows

References:

- www.rcpch.ac.uk/start
- Miller GE. The assessment of clinical skills/competence/performance. *Academic Medicine* 1990; 65 (9); S64-S67.

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