

Economics Education in the 21st Century

A Quantitative Analysis of Bachelor Curricula in the Netherlands

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Rethinking Economics NL



What do Dutch economics bachelor programs teach?

- Data source: course outlines
- 275 courses
- 62 indicators for each course
- Triangulated by students who followed the courses



Economics BSc in (weighted) course types

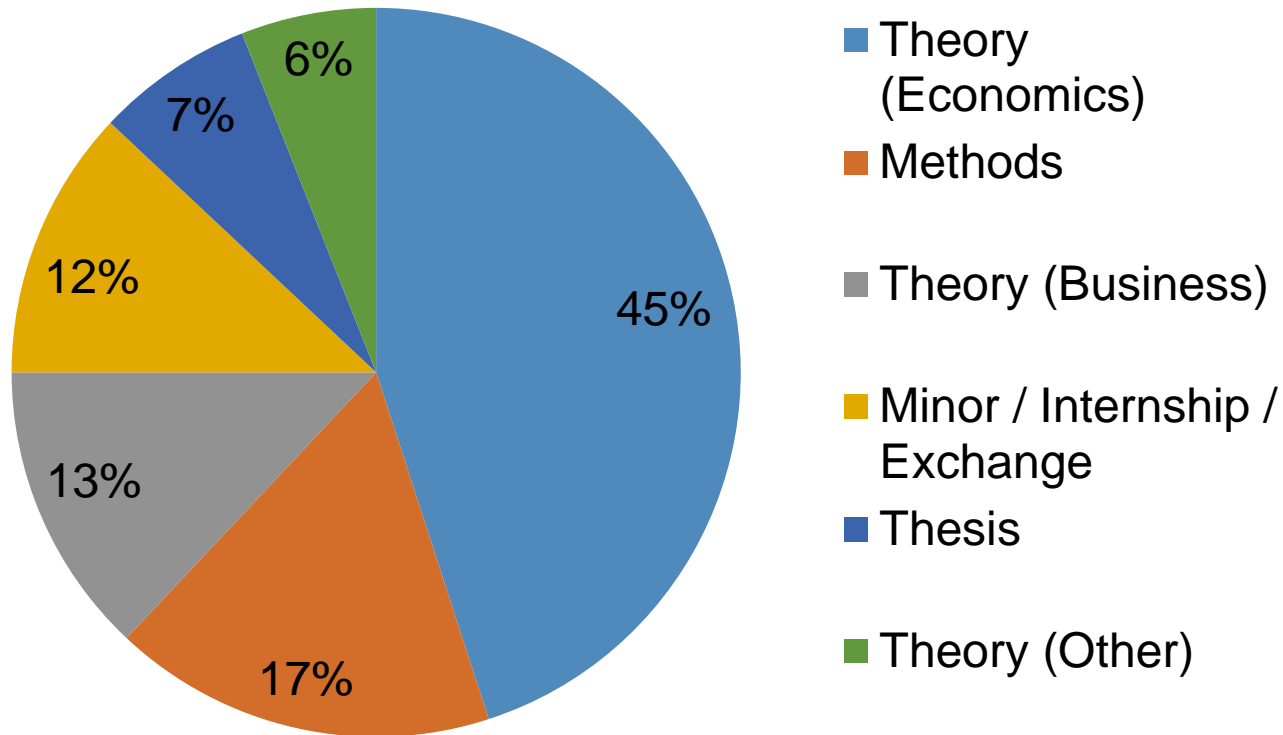


Figure 1: Average distribution of course types in Dutch economics curricula.



Sub-questions

1. Research methods
2. Critical thinking
3. Theoretical approaches
4. Real world economics



What research methods are taught?



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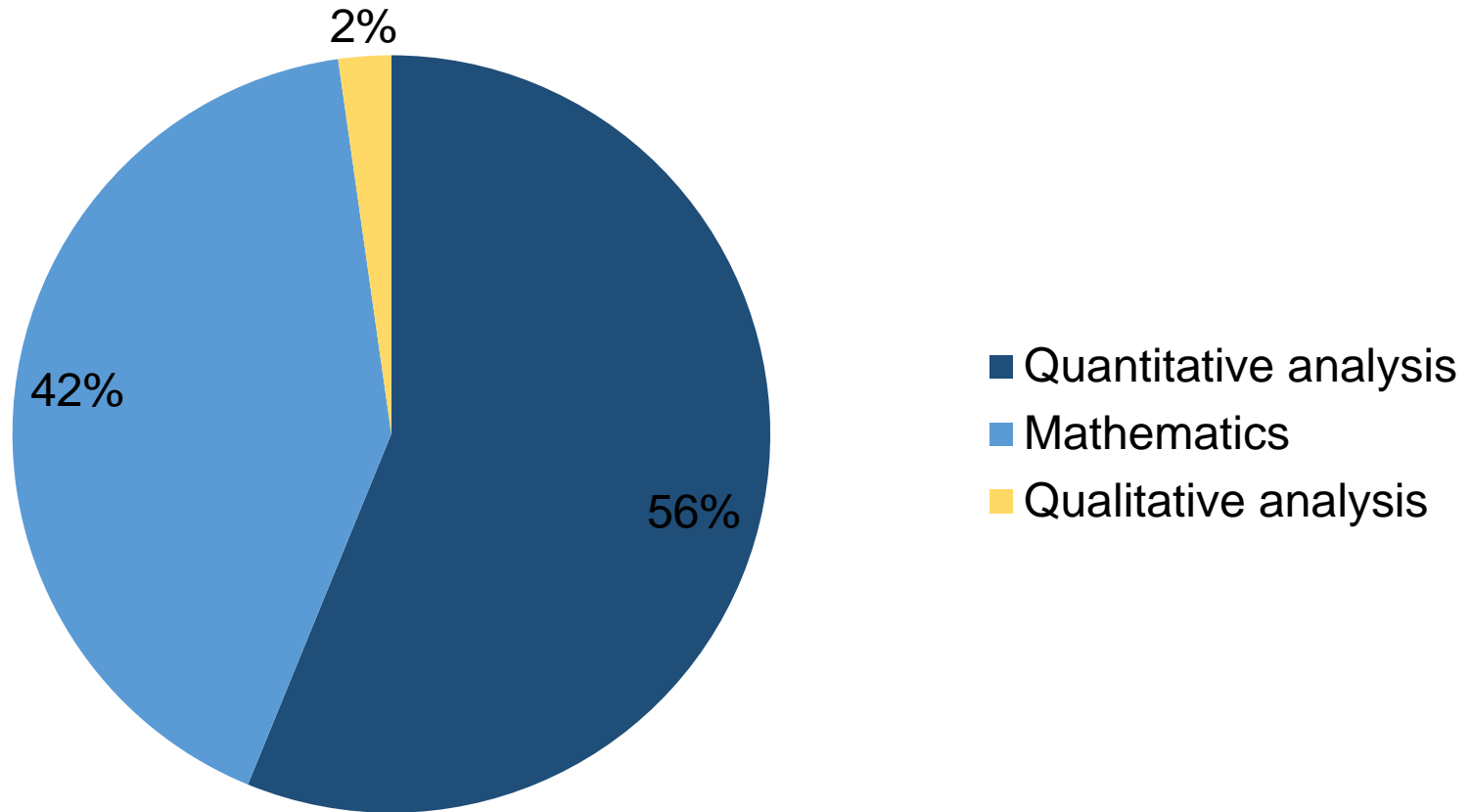


Figure 2: Proportion of research methods in methods courses.



What tools for critical thinking are taught?



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Obligatory Course(s) on	
Ethics	5 of the 9 universities
Philosophy of Science	6 of the 9 universities
Economic Methodology	5 of the 9 universities

Table 1: Proportion of ethics, philosophy of science and economic methodology courses



What disciplines are taught?



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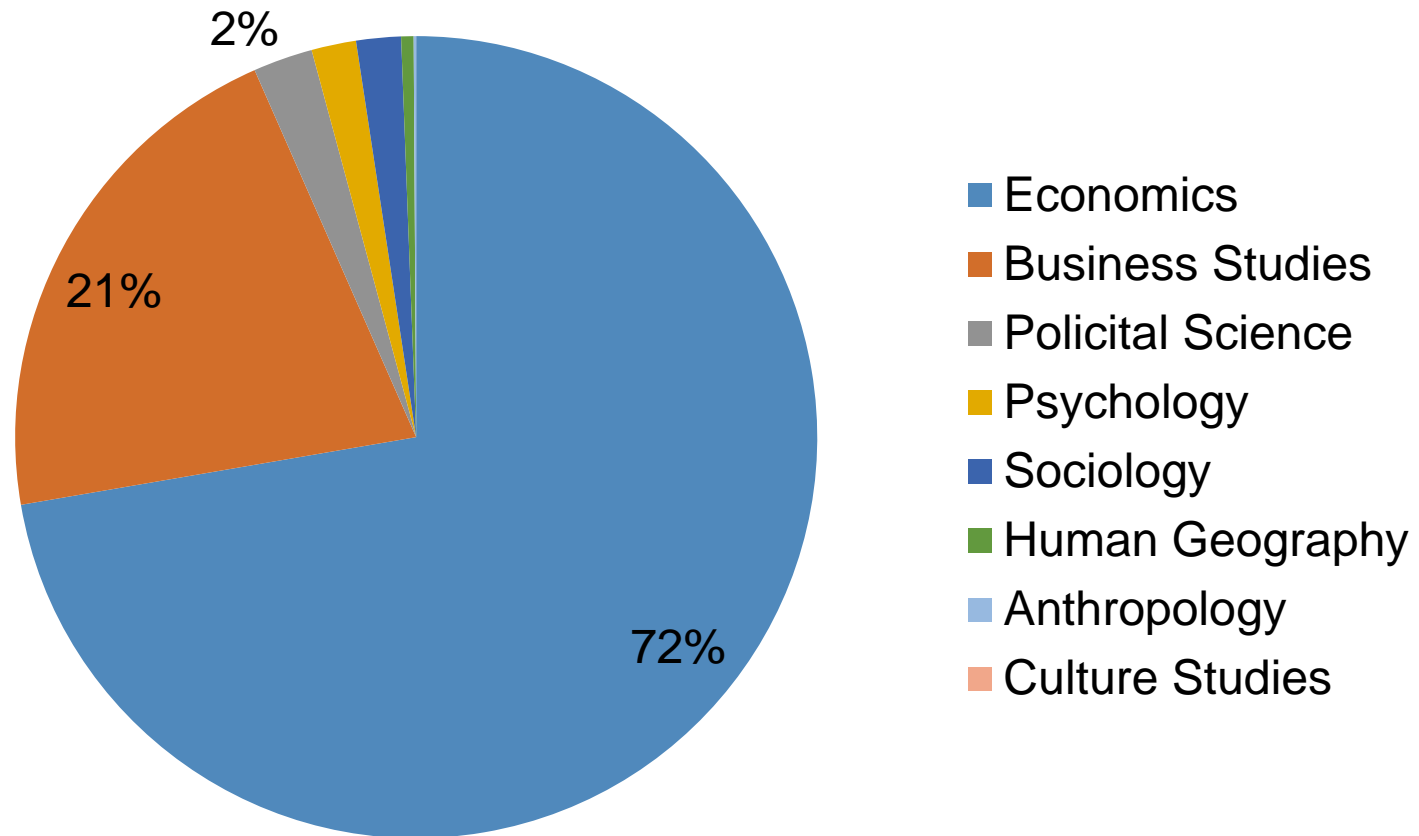


Figure 3: Distribution of disciplines in theory courses in Dutch bachelor curricula.



What economic approaches are taught?



What economic approaches are taught?

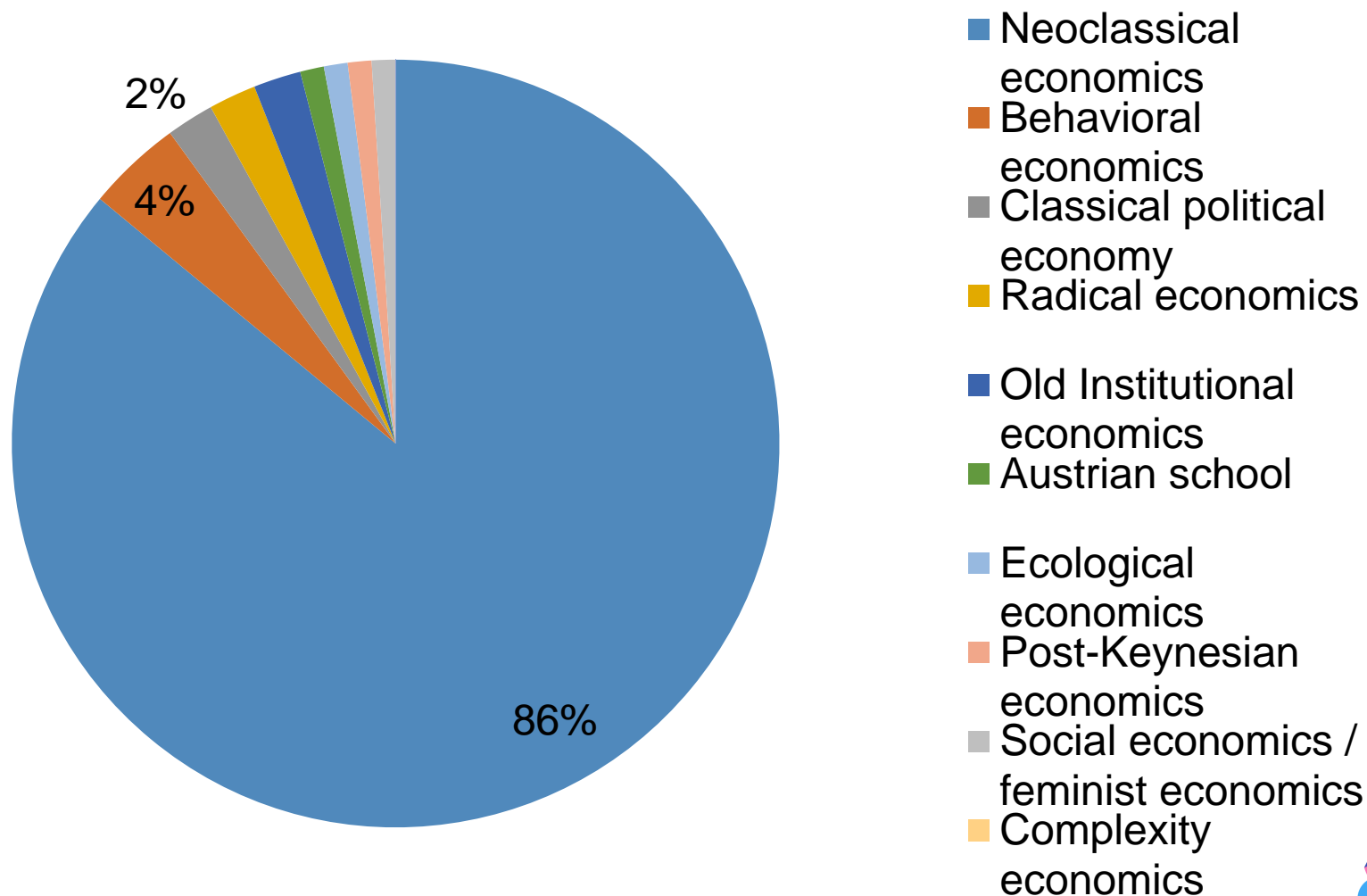


Figure 4: Percentage of economic theoretical approaches in theory courses of the entire bachelor



How much real world economics is taught?



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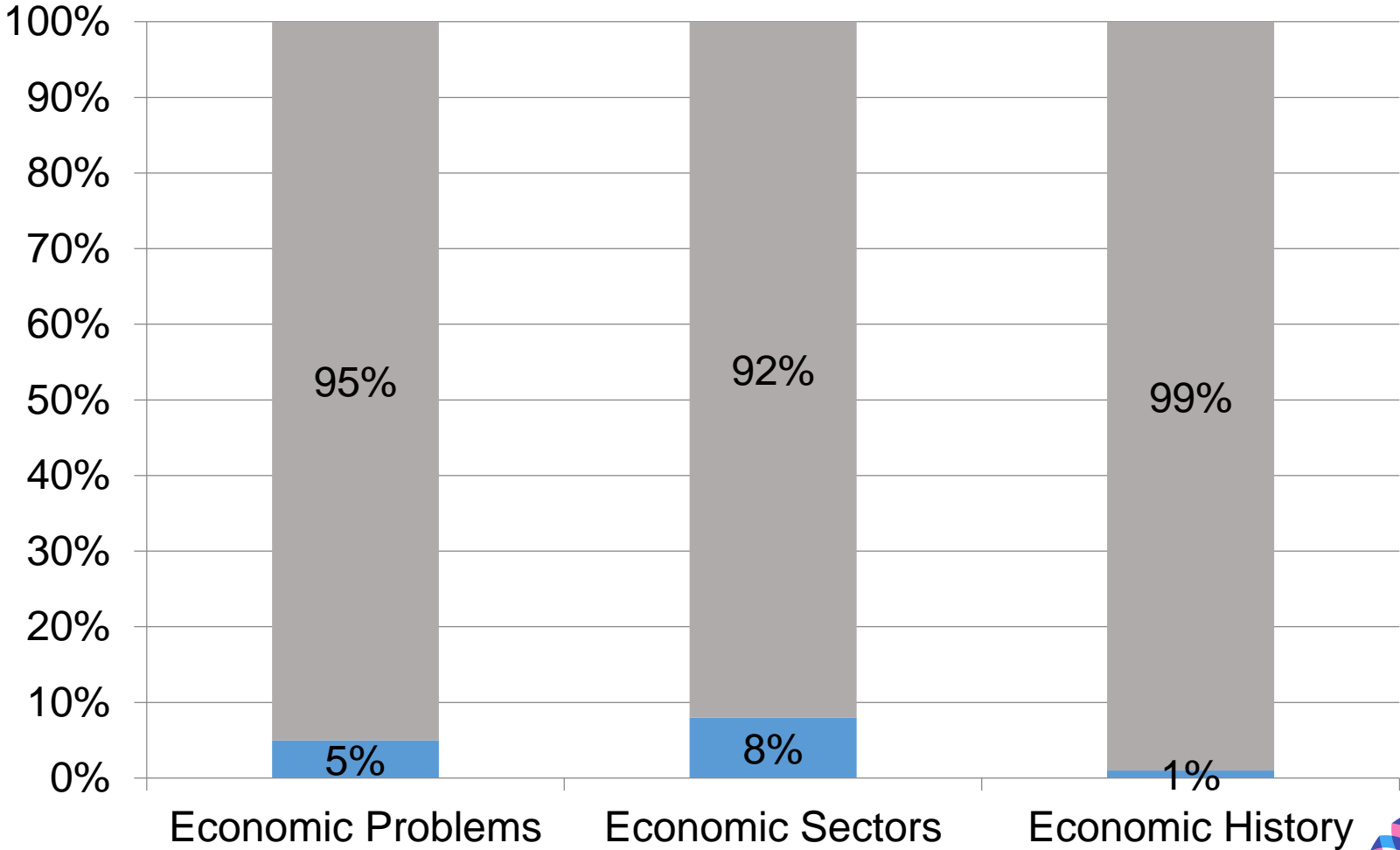


Figure 5: Proportion of real world economics in theory and methods courses (>50% of the course)



How much real world economics is taught?

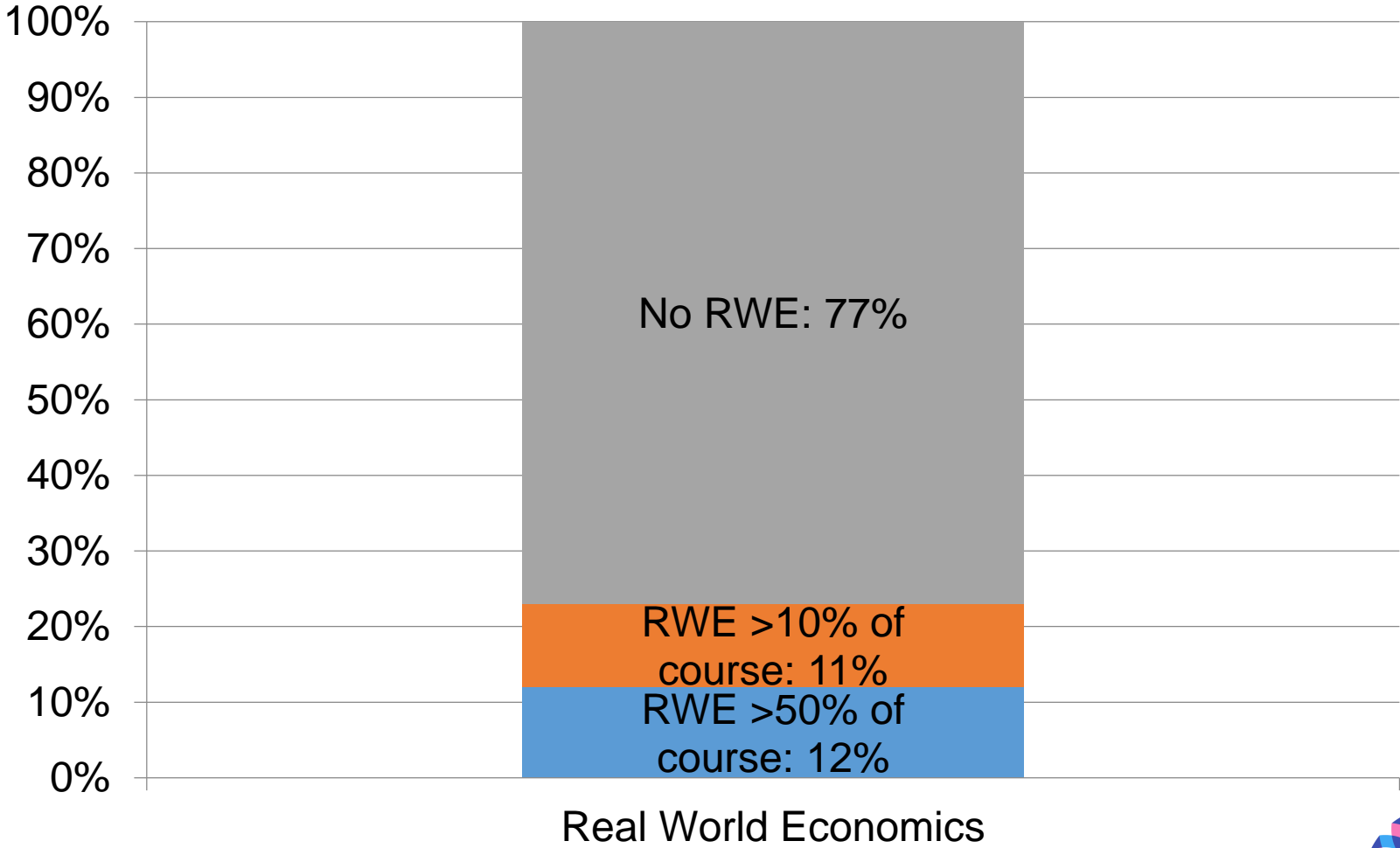


Figure 6: Proportion of real world economics (economic problems, economic sectors and/or economic history) in theory and methods courses



What should be the focus of an economics education?

- A. Learning to “think like an economist”
- B. Understanding “the economy”

