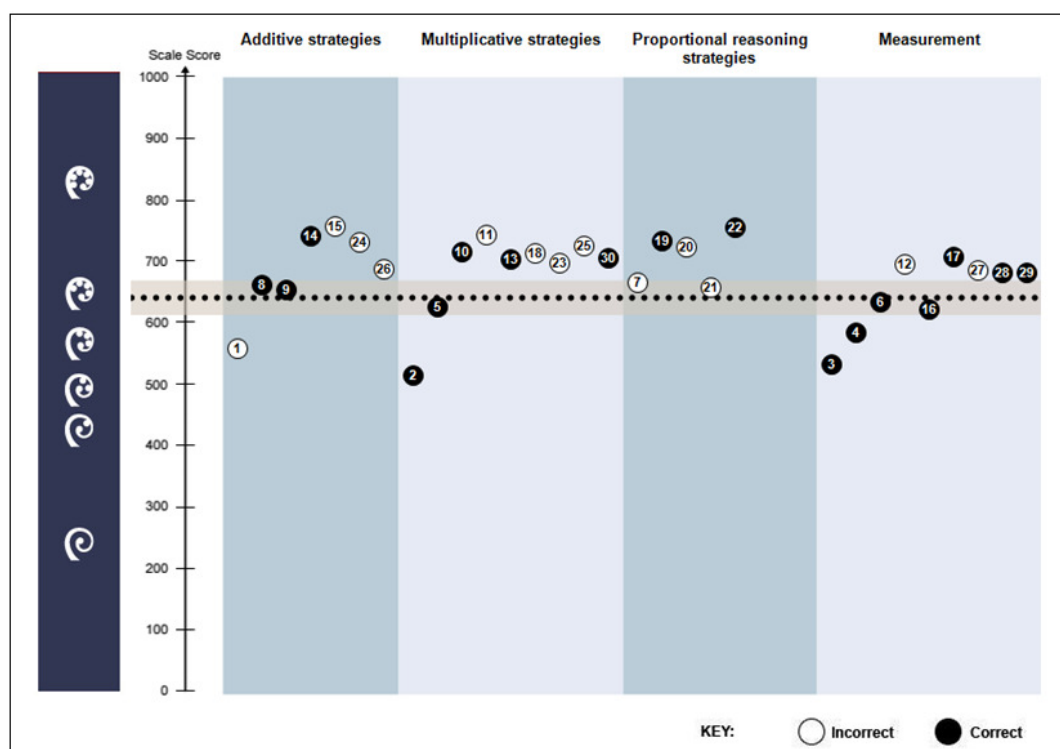


Understanding the Dots



The dotted line on the individual report is used to show where the Learner's achievement is located on the measurement scale.

The line stretches across the report so that the Learner's location on the scale can be compared with the location on the scale of each of the assessment questions. In general, students should correctly answer approximately 70% of the questions located at the same level as the line. They should get more than 70% of the questions located **below** the line correct, but less than 70% of the questions located **above** the line correct.

We can use the line to look for outcomes to questions that are unexpected. For instance, Learners are expected to get questions correct that are located well below the level of the line almost all of the time. A wrong answer for one of these questions is surprising and could suggest that the Learner has a "gap" in the area the question is focused on. Similarly, Learners are not expected to get items correct that are well above the line. A correct answer here is also a surprise and could indicate the Learner has a strength with these kinds of questions.

When looking at which questions the Learner answered correctly and incorrectly we should be careful to use any information from the reports with care. It is not appropriate to draw conclusions about what a student can and cannot do from responses to one question. An incorrect response for instance, might mean that the student has misunderstood the question, rather than they have a weakness with a particular concept. When we see a pattern of responses for a Learner across several similar questions, or when several Learners have had a problem with the same question we may become more convinced that we have identified a real issue.

The dotted line is often located lower on the scale than most of the questions used in the assessment. This is because when the computer is selecting questions it tries to find the point on the scale where the learner would correctly answer about half (50%) of the questions located at that level. Using this 50% criterion is the most efficient way to find the students' overall achievement level. The dotted line on the other hand shows the location on the scale where they would get about 70% of the items located at that level correctly.