

HARRY POTTER & THE PERPETUAL STRUGGLE
TO FIND MY HOGWARTS HOUSE
WITH AN ANALYSIS OF: HOUSE STEREOTYPES & TRENDS



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-ABSTRACT-

Harry Potter is the best-selling book series in history. Book fans and movie-goers alike have dreamed of attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to be sorted into one of the four houses. Gryffindors are brave, Hufflepuffs are loyal, Ravenclaws are clever, and Slytherins are ambitious; but are all four houses treated equally?

Harry Potter is a Gryffindor, and it is from his perspective that the books are written. This gives the other three houses an unfair disadvantage when it comes to establishing brands. Through several internet questionnaires on Qualtrics and MTurk, it was determined that it is very easy for individuals who have not read the books nor seen the movies to form stereotypes of the houses.

For many fans who are able to see past the bias presented in the books, it is common to take online quizzes to determine their appropriate houses. While many of these tests exist, there is only one website with the credibility to establish the “true” test of houses: Pottermore. On the contrary, the current format of the Pottermore quiz is not practical in testing its users due to the fact that it randomizes questions. It may be surprising to learn that the best test for discovering one’s house lies on the popular website of Reddit.

Ever wondered how the houses compare in performance? Which house has the best GPA, highest income, and is most likely to watch *The Bachelor*? Through surveys, many trends were found between houses and their occupants’ behavior. Gryffindors absolutely love summer; Hufflepuffs are the most bilingual; Ravenclaws are commonly found in the northeast; and Slytherins are the most likely to get married. Who knew!?

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-BACKGROUND-

THE WIZARDING WORLD

In 1997, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* was published by J.K. Rowling to extensive praise and success. Seven books, eight movies, and two theme parks later, the Harry Potter series has become one of the most popular franchises of the century. Inside this realm lies the wizarding world: a universe of wizards, witches, and fantastical beasts living in secrecy from non-magical beings. The main protagonist, Harry Potter, is a young boy who discovers he is a wizard. Each novel in the series correlates with a different year of Harry's life. During his adventures, Harry must fight trolls, werewolves, dementors¹, death eaters², sphinxes, mermaids, and a multitude of other creatures. All of these battles build up to his final showdown against the evil Lord Voldemort. Each of these battles, however, must be managed around Harry's class schedule.

In order to become a witch or wizard, a child must attend schooling where they are trained in the arts of charms, transfiguration, potions, and many more fascinating subjects. There are currently eight known schools and academies in the wizarding world. They are found in the following locations: Massachusetts, France, Scotland, Scandinavia, the Amazon, Japan, Uganda, and Russia. It is in one of these schools that the majority of Harry Potter's story takes place.

¹ A dementor is a cloaked skeleton that sucks out one's soul

² A death eater is one of Lord Voldemort's (the main antagonist) minions

HOGWARTS

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is a boarding school for young wizards and witches between the ages of 11 and 17. It is located in the northern mountains of Scotland and is known as one of the greatest academies in all the wizarding world. In addition to being a beautiful castle with thousands of rooms, Hogwarts sits on a vast plot of land with a shimmering lake and dense forest. The castle and grounds contain hundreds of secrets and magical properties for students to explore.



In the 10th century, Hogwarts was founded by the four greatest witches and wizards of the age: Godric Gryffindor, Helga Hufflepuff, Rowena Ravenclaw, and Salazar Slytherin. Together they built the school and sought after its occupants. Each founder had different ideas about what makes a witch or wizard worth teaching and they each valued different attributes in their pupils. Therefore, students were handpicked based on their qualities and subsequently matched with the respective founder. Knowing that they would not be alive forever, the founders created a hat with magical abilities to divide students into houses. Since then, this sorting hat has placed students in one of the following four houses: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, or Slytherin.

SORTING

Upon entering Hogwarts as a first-year, incoming students are immediately sorted into their appropriate houses. This is known as “The Sorting Ceremony” and takes place in front of the entire school. At the beginning of the ceremony, an old and tattered hat called “The Sorting Hat” is placed on a stool for all to see. It then sings a song about its origin and the four houses. The song changes every year and it is rumored that the hat spends the entire year thinking of the lyrics for its next song. Following the song, first-years are called up one by one and the sorting hat is placed upon their heads. After a moment, the hat will shout out the name of the house that the student belongs to. This may happen very quickly or the hat may take more time to think it through. While deciding his or her fate, the hat may whisper into the student’s ear, sharing its thoughts and presumptions. While known to occasionally take students’ requests into consideration, the hat’s decision is final and once sorted, students remain a part of their house for the entirety of their school career.



HOUSE DYNAMICS

At Hogwarts, a house is both a living and learning community for its students. A dormitory is shared between the entire house and may only be entered by members of that house. Most lessons include all members of the same year and same house. Sometimes two

houses will split a lessons between themselves; this is especially true in the first two years of schooling when the curriculum is the most cemented. From the third year and beyond, class schedules become more complex since the students pick their own schedules; however, it is still common practice to have class with members of the same house.

The Great Hall (dining hall) consists of four long tables: one for each of the four houses. Although students may sit at whichever table they like during normal mealtimes, it is common practice to sit at the table corresponding with one's house. Since mealtimes, classes, and places of residence are shared with housemates; consequently, most of a student's interaction is with members of the same house. Additionally, each house has a single faculty member appointed as its Head of House. The Head of House acts as an advisor and mentor for his or her entire house.

The houses compete throughout the school year by earning and losing points for various activities. Points may be given or taken away by professors and members of faculty. Common ways to earn points include: performing well in class, answering questions correctly, and performing civic duties for the school. At the end of the year, the house with the most points wins the House Cup. In addition to the House Cup, there is a yearly sports competition between the houses. The main sport at Hogwarts, Quidditch, pits the houses against each other in an annual tournament. Together, both the House and Quidditch Cups create a sense of rivalry between the houses. The greatest and most anticipated rivalry is the one between Gryffindor and Slytherin. This is due to the competitive nature of both these houses, as well as the historical tendency for them both to do well in the Quidditch Cup.

GRYFFINDOR:

Perhaps the most boisterous founder of Hogwarts was Godric Gryffindor. He was tall and muscular with a lion-like mane of wavy red hair and a beard to match. He had green eyes, peach colored skin, and is depicted with his famous sword, which he had great skill in wielding. He was known to be brave and heroic and valued students who also exemplified these qualities. Godric was also proud, opinionated, and commanding, with a tendency to act before thinking. He is remembered for being the founder most accepting of Muggle-born³ witches and wizards. The most famous relic of Godric is his goblin-made sword. The sword may present itself (by magically appearing out of the Sorting Hat) to any worthy Gryffindor that may need it.



The Gryffindor house mascot is a lion and its house colors are scarlet red and gold. Gryffindor house corresponds to the element of fire. The house ghost is Nearly Headless Nick, a friendly ghost that had the unfortunate circumstance of being executed without proper beheading. The Gryffindor dormitory is located in Gryffindor tower, the third tallest tower in the castle (behind Ravenclaw tower and the Astronomy tower). The entrance is hidden behind a portrait of The Fat Lady. To enter, one must present The Fat Lady with the proper password of the week. Once inside, the common room is a circular brick room full of squishy armchairs, tables, and many boards with notices and reminders.

³ Muggle is wizard slang for non-magic folk, Muggle-born wizards are those born to two Muggle parents

The room is decorated with different shades of red, as well as portraits of famous Gryffindors. There are many bookcases and several windows that look onto the grounds. Dominating the room is an enormous fireplace, one of the largest in the castle. Because of this, the common room is known as the warmest of all the common rooms, staying toasty even in the coldest of Scotland's winters.



HUFFLEPUFF:

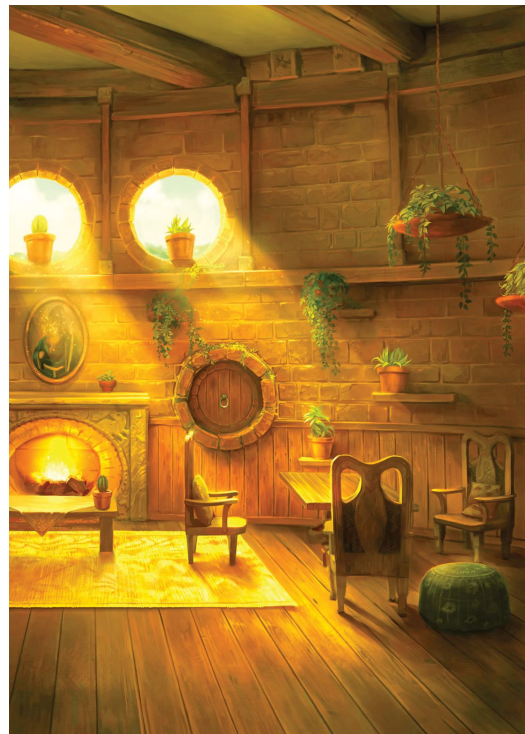
While the other founders chose to have special students who possessed certain qualities, Helga Hufflepuff accepted them all regardless of their talents. She is known for treating her students equally and not applying particularly strict standards of selection to her house. She had a gift for food-related charms and arranged the house-elf⁴ force to work in the kitchens of Hogwarts, allowing them somewhere safe to live where they would not be mistreated. A kind, caring, and tolerant woman, Helga was round and plump with red hair and blue eyes. She is often



⁴ A house-elf is a small elf that is essentially a slave or servant for a wizard or community of wizards. Most house-elves enjoy spending their entire life working and do not seek freedom.

portrayed sporting a wide smile and was very good friends with Rowena Ravenclaw. The most famous relic of Helga is her small golden cup that was passed down through her descendants.

The Hufflepuff house mascot is a badger and its house colors are yellow and black. Hufflepuff house corresponds to the element of earth, and many Hufflepuff students are said to be extremely talented in the subject of Herbology. The house ghost is The Fat Friar, a kind and helpful ghost that is always willing to give advice or direction to students in need. The Hufflepuff basement serves as the common room. It is found one floor below the ground in the same corridor as the kitchens. The entrance is concealed behind a stack of barrels. No password is required. Instead, one must tap a specific barrel to the rhythm of “Helga Hufflepuff”. If the wrong lid is tapped or if the wrong rhythm is used, the intruder will be sprayed with vinegar. The basement itself is round, earthy, sunny, and low ceilinged. There are many circular windows that provide ample sunlight and views of rippling grass and dandelions outside. There are lots of yellow hangings, burnished copper, and overstuffed sofas and armchairs decorated in



yellow and black. The common room is also the only one that uses many live plants in its decorations. There is a large mantelpiece with carvings of badgers on it underneath a large

portrait of Helga Hufflepuff. The basement is known as the coziest and most comfortable common room in all of Hogwarts.

RAVENCLAW:

Noted for her beauty and intimidation, Rowena Ravenclaw was the founder that most prided intelligence and creativity in her students. Rowena was known to have the strictest standards in choosing her pupils, accepting only those showing originality and a strong desire to learn. She was tall and slender with long black hair and dark eyes. Many spoke of her grand beauty in a fearful way, for she was a very strict and austere woman. She is well known for her gift in magical architecture, and was the founder who had the greatest impact on the design and logistics of the school. She possessed a magical diadem⁵ that was known to increase the wearer's wits and critical thinking. Rowena's daughter, Helena, stole the diadem and ran away in order to make herself more clever and important. Rowena died shortly later, thought to have grown ill due to a broken heart.



The Ravenclaw mascot is an eagle and its house colors are blue and bronze. Ravenclaw corresponds to the element of air. The house ghost is The Grey Lady, who is in fact Helena Ravenclaw herself. She is seldom seen by students and keeps to herself in the highest halls of the castle. The location of the dormitory is in Ravenclaw tower, the second

⁵ A Diadem is similar to a crown or tiara

tallest tower in Hogwarts behind the Astronomy tower. The entrance is a door with a bronze knocker in the shape of an eagle. Instead of a password, students must answer a riddle asked by the eagle knocker. The riddle changes every day. Through the door, the common room is wide and circular with very large arched windows hung with blue and bronze silks. The floor is covered with a large dark blue carpet decorated with stars, which reflect onto the domed ceiling. In the center of the room is a marble statue of Rowena Ravenclaw. There are also many chairs, desks, and bookcases for studying. The tower has perhaps the best views in Hogwarts, with the room being described as the most airy of all the common rooms. It is noted that the sound of wind whistling around the windows is relaxing to fall asleep to. Though the drafts may be chilly in the winter, the common room presents a grandeur that is unrivaled by the other dormitories.



SLYTHERIN:

The most controversial founder of Hogwarts is Salazar Slytherin. He is known for his ambition and sorcery, being arguably the most powerful of all the founders. His most famous family trait is his ability to speak with snakes, known as Parseltongue. Bald with a long white beard and always wearing robes of emerald and silver, Salazar was known to

possess great cunning and determination. These were the qualities that he sought after in his pupils. Although Rowena Ravenclaw was strict in her student standards for ability, Salazar was strict in other manners. He was a strong advocate for blood-purity. Essentially, he did not want students who were not pure-blood wizards⁶ to be allowed at Hogwarts. He believed that only wizards of true blood should be able to



learn and practice magic and found Muggles⁷ to be a threat to the wizarding world. He especially despised Muggle-borns and disagreed with the other founders' tolerance and acceptance of them. Because of this, a large rift appeared between Salazar and the other three founders, and he eventually left the school.

The mascot of Slytherin house is a serpent and its house colors are emerald green and silver. Slytherin corresponds to the element of water. The house ghost is The Bloody Baron, a menacing ghost who keeps to himself in the dungeons. The Bloody Baron attended Hogwarts during the founder's time. Rowena Ravenclaw sent him to find her daughter, Helena, and return her and the diadem to Rowena. The Baron was madly in love with Helena, and after she refused to return with him, he killed her. He was then so overcome with grief that he used the same knife to kill himself.

The Slytherin common room, also known as the Slytherin dungeon, is in the dungeons of Hogwarts beneath the Black Lake. It has many angled windows that look out into the lake's depths, giving the room an eerie glow of green. The walls and floors are

⁶ Pure-Blood wizards are those whose parents are both wizards

⁷ Muggle is a non-magic human

made of dark stone, and there are lots of green lamps, black leather sofas, and dark wood cupboards. There is also a large fireplace in the middle of the far wall. Through the windows, students can glimpse the creatures of the lake swimming by. It is said that the sound of water rings through the dungeon and is very calming and soothing. Although the dungeon is cold and dark, it has quite an intimate atmosphere that promotes deep thought and tranquility.



HOUSE QUALITIES

Due to each founder valuing different qualities in their students, each house is known for having members with certain traits and characteristics that set them apart from others. Please note that not everyone exemplifies each attribute that correlates with his or her house. This list is very general and there are many exceptions.

GRYFFINDORS may be:

Brave Daring Extroverted Valiant Courageous Experience-Oriented Confident

Blunt Playful Humorous Abrasive Stubborn Arrogant Prideful Conceited

And may be prone to:

Live in the moment Not take important things seriously Own their mistakes
 Seize chances to make change Have unwavering morals Act without thinking

HUFFLEPUFFS may be:

Loyal Tolerant Patience Hard Working Friendly Dedicated Honest Genuine
 Fair Just Accepting Giving Dependable Stagnant Indecisive Passive Soft

And may be prone to:

Emphasize rules and equality Show strong emotions Believe in work and reward
 Become hindered by conflicting goals Take no action Act as a mediator Self-pity

RAVENCLAWS may be:

Intelligent Wise Clever Logical Creative Introverted Analytical Curious
 Absent-minded Observant Cynical Independent Introspective Exclusive Calm

And may be prone to:

Observe more often than participate Show selective interest Bouts of obsession
 Act standoffish and critical Have trouble seeing the big picture Close-mindedness

SLYTHERINS may be:

Ambitious Cunning Determined Resourceful Innovative Accomplished Driven
 Perfectionistic Realistic Talented Charismatic Manipulative Ruthless

And may be prone to:

Motivation by success Commonly act as the leader Cost/benefit analysis
 Close-knit relationships Use others to achieve their goals Care about impression

WRITING BIAS

In order to properly find someone's correct Hogwarts house, one must remove any bias that he or she is subject to. One of the biggest issues in house balance is the bias that comes from J.K. Rowling's writing. The Harry Potter novels are told from the perspective of Harry Potter himself; therefore, it is his view of Hogwarts and the wizarding world that readers are exposed to. Before arriving at Hogwarts and without knowing what the houses are, Harry receives some information from four individuals who show strong bias:

1. Harry runs into a fellow incoming student named Draco Malfoy while buying dress robes. Draco says, "I know I'll be in Slytherin, all our family have been - imagine being in Hufflepuff, I think I'd leave, wouldn't you?" (Rowling, *Sorter's Stone* 77). Harry does not have a good first impression of this boy.
2. After his conversation with Draco, Harry's mentor Hagrid, whom he likes and trusts, gives him a short rundown of a couple houses: "[Slytherin and Hufflepuff are] Hogwarts houses. There's four. Everyone says Hufflepuff are a lot of duffers but---" "I bet I'm in Hufflepuff," said Harry gloomily. "Better Hufflepuff than in Slytherin," said Hagrid darkly. "There's not a single witch or wizard who went bad who wasn't in Slytherin. You Know Who⁸ was one" (80). This quote proves to be false, as every house has put forth some dark wizards. In Hagrid's defense, however, Slytherin has created the most dark wizards out of the four.

⁸ You-Know-Who is the nickname of Voldemort, the series main villain

3. Harry's first real friend that he meets on the train to Hogwarts, Ron Weasley, tells him, "My brothers are in Gryffindor. Mom and dad were in it too. I don't know what they'll say if I'm not. I don't suppose Ravenclaw would be too bad, but imagine if they put me in Slytherin" (106).
4. Harry also meets a girl on the train named Hermione Granger. She asks, "Do you know what house you'll be in? I've been asking around, and I hope I'm in Gryffindor, it sounds by far the best; I hear Dumbledore himself was in it, but I suppose Ravenclaw wouldn't be too bad" (106).

Because of these four interactions, Harry enters Hogwarts with the opinion that Gryffindor is the superior house. This is further confirmed when both Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger are sorted into Gryffindor. After an altercation with Draco Malfoy (who is sorted into Slytherin), it is made clear to Harry that Slytherin is an undesirable house. Therefore, when the sorting hat is placed upon Harry's head, Harry pleads with it to not sort him into Slytherin. Harry's wish is granted and he is sorted into Gryffindor and reunited with his friends.

Due to the sorting, most of Harry's interactions are with fellow Gryffindors. Almost all of the reader's viewpoint is told from the Gryffindor perspective. This is especially prevalent in the first few books when Harry's only friends are Ron and Hermione, both Gryffindors. Consequently, readers will tend to root for Gryffindor in any house competition. In addition to this Gryffindor bias, Harry becomes enemies with Draco Malfoy, Professor Severus Snape, and Lord Voldemort. All three of these characters were sorted

into Slytherin and this further inflames Harry's negative attitude towards Slytherin. This creates a Gryffindor versus Slytherin mentality, with Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff greatly ignored in many of the Harry's conflicts.

The last piece of bias in JK's writing is a very simple one. The houses are always written and said in the following order: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin. Whether it is due to this being alphabetical order or because that is how they are seen counter-clockwise on the Hogwarts crest, it creates a sense of "Gryffindor first, Slytherin last".

The later books do a better job of giving the other houses additional noteworthiness, but Harry cannot help showing extreme Gryffindor favoritism and Slytherin disdain. Unfortunately, the movies tend to further promote Slytherin as "evil". Consequently, casual fans of the series may be prone to the belief that Gryffindor is the good house and Slytherin is the bad house. This is not factual. There are many Gryffindor characters who may be considered villains in the story, the most noteworthy of these being Peter Pettigrew, Lord Voldemort's personal assistant. On top of this, there are several Slytherins who end up being a hero, including Severus Snape himself. It is unlucky for those who identify themselves as Slytherin that Harry was sorted into Gryffindor. One can only imagine the narrative of the story if it were the other way around.

-RESEARCH & ANALYSIS-

METHODS

For research, two anonymous internet questionnaires were executed through Qualtrics and posted for the general users of MTurk, a survey website. The second questionnaire had four sections and could be stopped at any time; therefore, the sample sizes dwindle as the survey went on. There were five convenience sample outcomes.

- Sample 1: 1000 respondents between the ages of 18-25 living in the USA who have not read nor seen a Harry Potter book or movie. These respondents have not taken any quizzes, whether online or in-person, to discover their Hogwarts house.
- Sample 2: 1000 respondents between the ages of 18-25 living in the USA who have read and seen all the Harry Potter books and movies. These respondents have taken the official Pottermore quiz, at least once, to discover their Hogwarts house.
- Sample 3: 500 respondents from Sample 2 who additionally took the full and extended Pottermore quiz posted on Reddit by user Niffler Felicis (u/n1ffler).
- Sample 4: 400 respondents from Sample 3. This Sample includes four groups of 100 respondents. Each group corresponds with a Hogwarts house that they received from taking Niffler's full Pottermore quiz.

The reason for the age specification is due to the fact that some of the research provided in this thesis will be working with performance and statistics in college and young adulthood. Additionally, this age group was determined to be the point of interest for the author as well as this thesis' readers. It can also be argued that this range is part of the generation that grew up with the Harry Potter series. For consistency and clarity, it was kept the same on all samples.

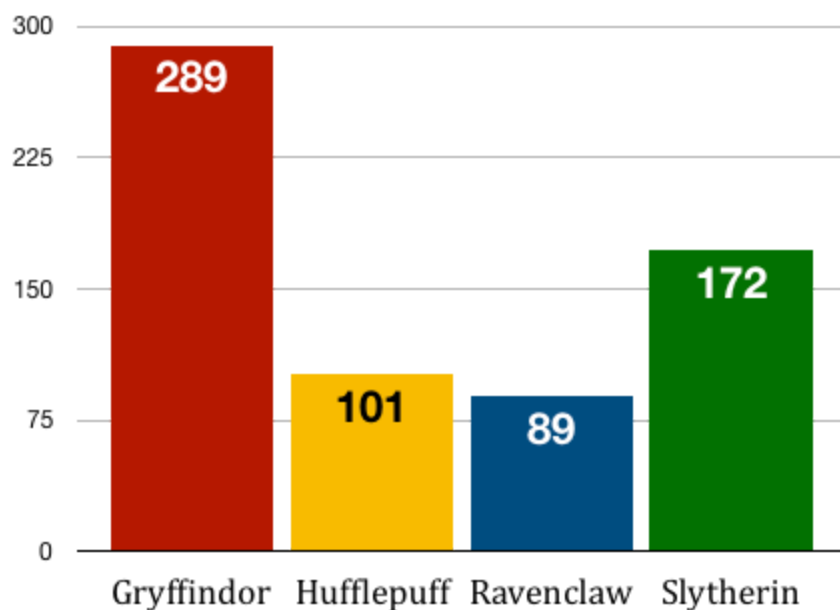
NON-READERS' HOUSE STEREOTYPES

In order to better understand the stereotypes associated with each house for those unfamiliar with the Harry Potter universe, a study was conducted to research individuals who have not read the Harry Potter books nor seen the movies. The purpose of this study was to find out if there are any predisposed stereotypes that come along with each house, and how giving some information about the houses affects one's opinion of each house. The convenience sample used for this research portion is named "Sample 1" and consists of 1000 respondents. This sample was 47% male and 53% female. The median age was 21. All 1000 respondents fall within the following three parameters:

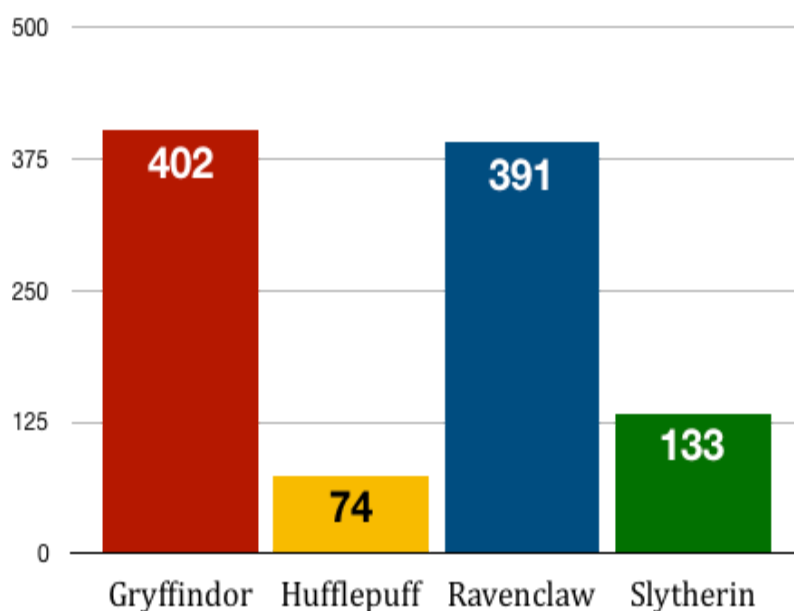
1. 18-25 years old living in the United States
2. Have never seen nor read a single Harry Potter book or movie.
3. Have never taken a quiz of any sort to find their appropriate house.

The following data was found:

Can you name any Hogwarts houses? Type your answer(s)



Going only by the name of the house, do any of these names look or sound better than the others? (Select one)



The chart on the left shows that more than a fourth of respondents were able to recall Gryffindor, while between 8% and 18% could recall the other three. The reason the numbers do not add up to 1000 is because respondents could give more than one answer, or no answers at all.

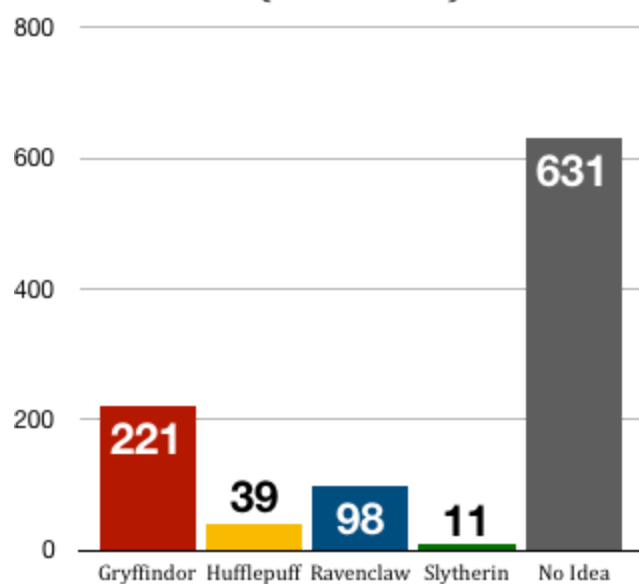
Respondents were then told the names of the four houses and asked which name they liked better than the others. Respondents felt that Gryffindor and Ravenclaw had better names than Hufflepuff and Slytherin, as seen in the chart to the left.

Next, respondents were asked to type the first words that came to mind when they thought of each house's name. This question was timed and only 20 seconds were allowed for answers. These are the top 10 responses given for each house:

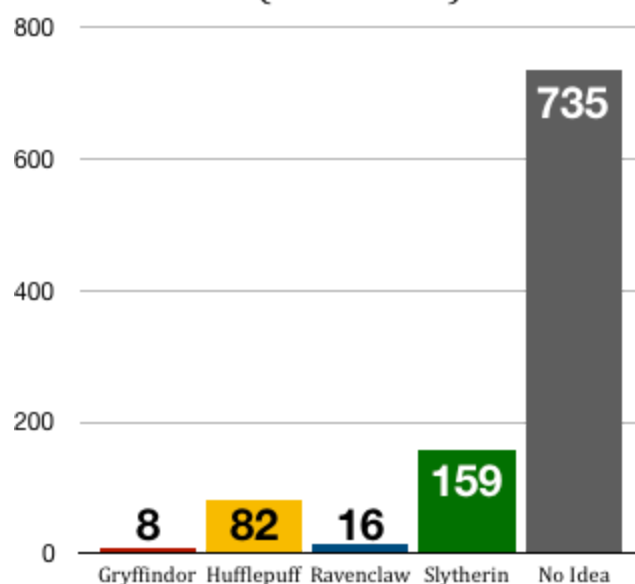
Gryffindor	Hufflepuff	Ravenclaw	Slytherin
Harry (109)	Loyal (44)	Smart (62)	Snake (191)
Brave (56)	Huff (33)	Raven (61)	Snape (97)
Ron (41)	Nothing (31)	Nerd (54)	Sneaky (40)
Hermione (34)	Wolf (29)	Blue (19)	Evil (32)
Lion (18)	Pig (14)	Wise (19)	Slither (30)
Red (16)	Loser (13)	Claw (15)	Green (22)
Loyal (15)	Yellow (11)	Eagle (12)	Cool (21)
Great (14)	Boring (10)	Cold (8)	Slick (21)
Gryffin (11)	Kind (10)	Attractive (8)	Voldemort (19)
Dumbledore (9)	Twilight (9)	Talons (8)	Black (18)

Some respondents were already aware of some of the major characters associated with each house, as well as some of the correct colors and animals. It is important to note that while some of these top words are correctly associated with each house, the percent of respondents who typed these words is small when compared to the total number (1000) of those that were surveyed. A vast majority of respondents typed very obscure and random words or simply could not get their answers out in time. Respondents were then asked how they feel about the houses, with the associating charts found on the next page.

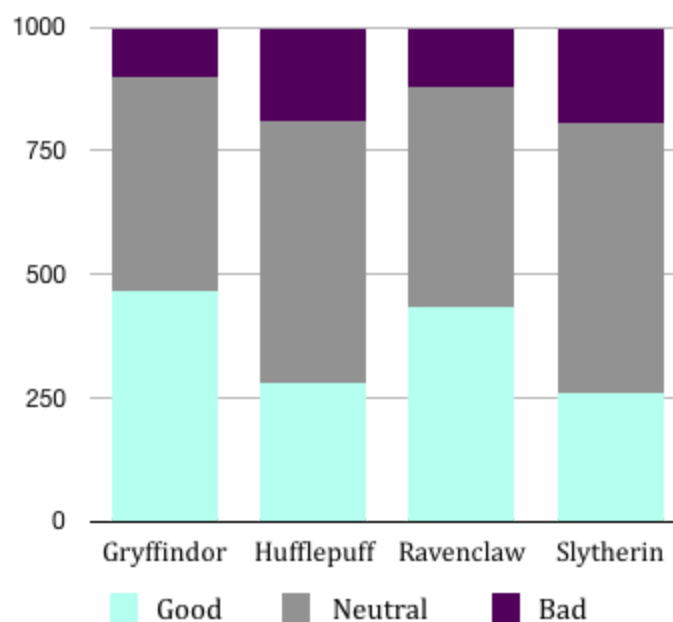
With no further knowledge,
would you consider any of these
houses to be the best?
(Select One)



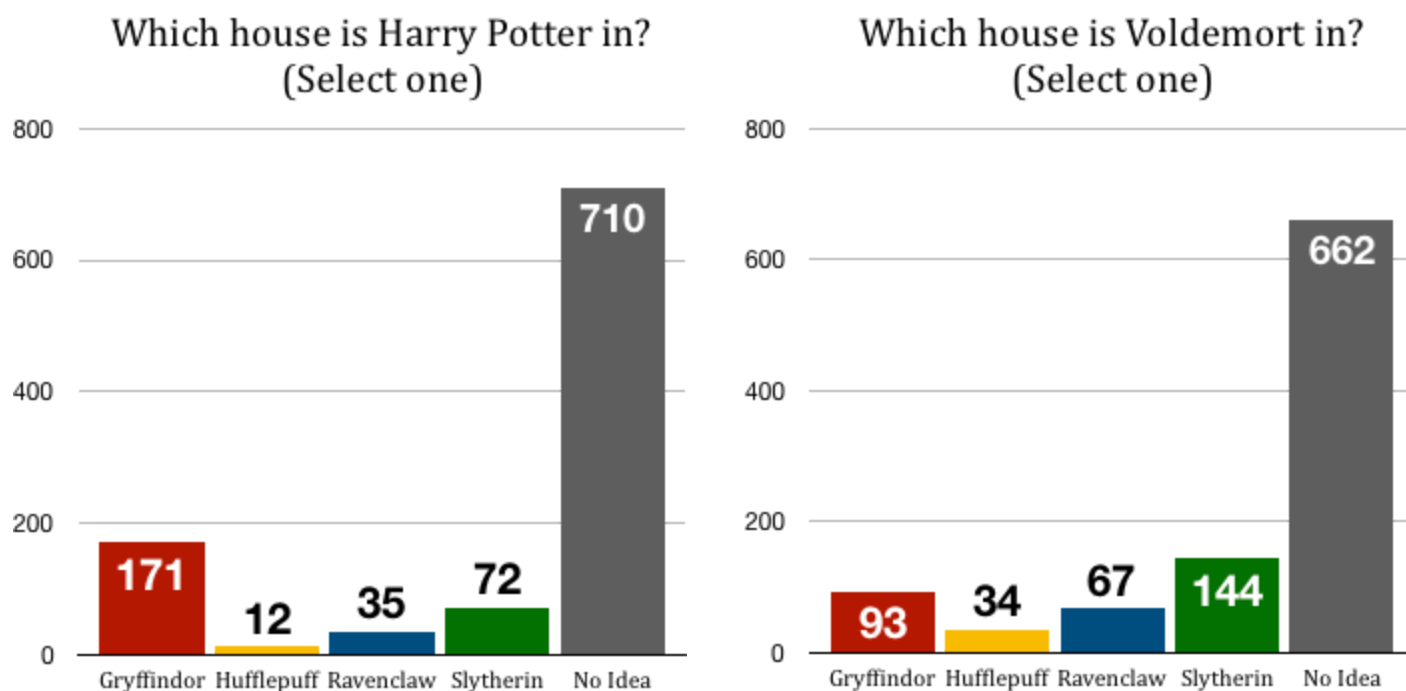
With no further knowledge,
would you consider any of these
houses to be the worst?
(Select One)



Choose whether you believe each
house is "good" - "neutral" - or
"bad"



While a majority of respondents did not know if they consider any house to be the best, Gryffindor composed almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of respondents' selections. This is probably due to word of mouth and respondent's knowledge of Harry's house. A majority of respondents had no idea which house was the worst, although Slytherin and Hufflepuff had a bit more responses than Ravenclaw and Gryffindor. Overall, more respondents felt that each house was neutral rather than good or bad. Gryffindor and Ravenclaw were seen as better than Hufflepuff and Slytherin, but only slightly. This is most likely due to the names of the houses. The names Hufflepuff and Slytherin were seen as undesirable while Gryffindor and Ravenclaw had more desirable names. This is unfortunate for Hufflepuff and Slytherin because even if someone does not have any information about the houses, these two houses are already at a disadvantage. Respondents were then asked two questions regarding their knowledge of Harry and Voldemort's houses.

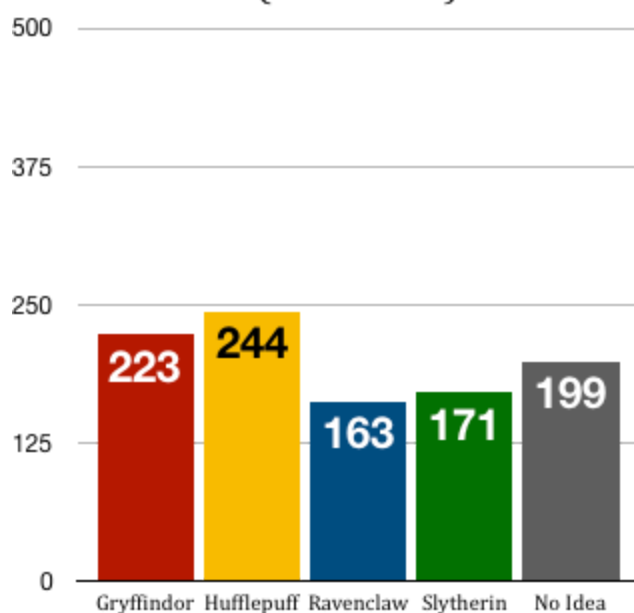


Although the majority of respondents were either unsure or wrong, 17% correctly guessed that Harry Potter is a Gryffindor. 12% of respondents wrongly believed Harry Potter is either a Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, or Slytherin. Similarly with Voldemort, the majority of respondents were either unsure or wrong. Though 14% correctly guessed that Voldemort is a Slytherin. 19% of respondents wrongly believed Voldemort is either a Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, or Ravenclaw. All of the above statistics are great news for this research. They prove that the majority of respondents do not know a lot of information regarding the Harry Potter series.

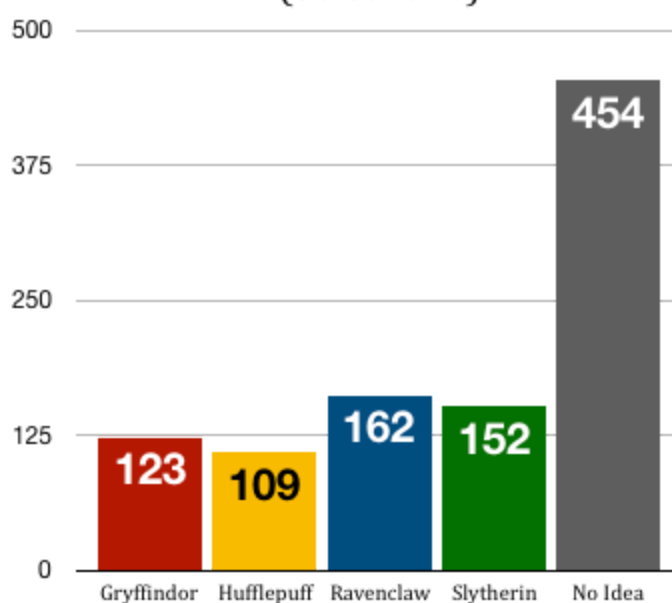
Respondents were told the following and asked the same three questions as earlier:

1. Gryffindors value: Bravery, Chivalry, Confidence, Courage
2. Hufflepuffs value: Loyalty, Kindness, Honesty, Hard Work
3. Ravenclaws value: Intelligence, Wisdom, Creativity, Originality
4. Slytherins value: Leadership, Ambition, Determination, Innovation

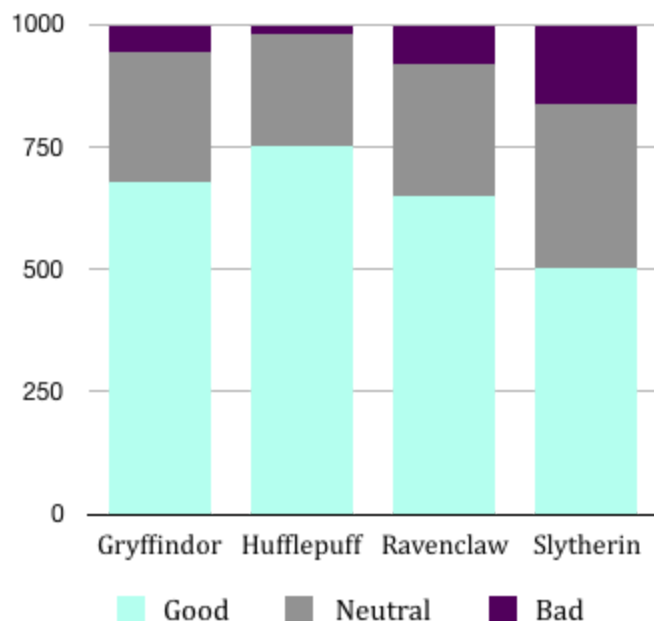
Now, would you consider any of these houses to be the best?
(Select one)



Now, would you consider any of these houses to be the worst?
(Select one)



Choose whether you believe each house is "good" - "neutral" - or "bad"



It is important to note that a majority of respondents felt that every house is good after hearing its values. Slytherin had a bit less votes for good and a bit more votes for bad than the other houses, but they are all still relatively similar in their spread. One point of notice is how few respondents voted Hufflepuff as bad. In addition, Hufflepuff had the most good votes, meaning that more respondents are agreeable to Hufflepuff's values than any other house.

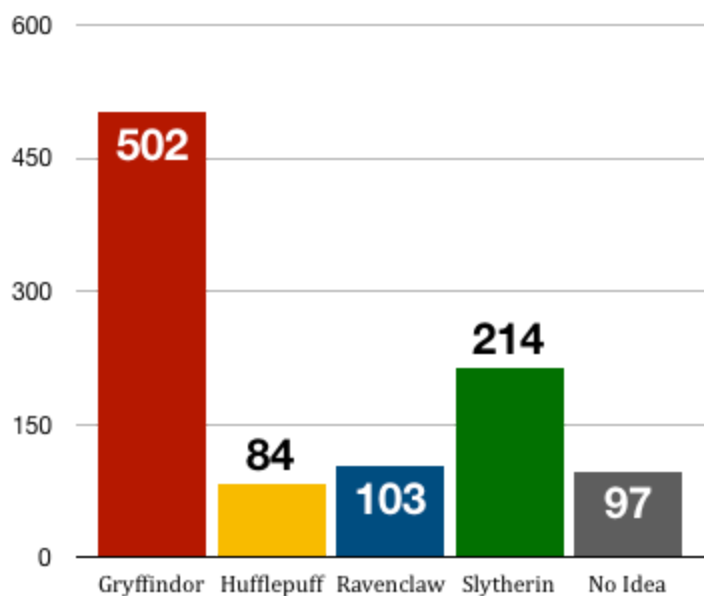
Hufflepuff and Gryffindor had more votes for

best and less votes for worst than Ravenclaw and Slytherin; however, overall vote totals were very close when compared with the total people voting. In addition, there was a substantial amount of unsure votes, especially when deciding which house is worst. This proves that by just looking at the house's values, one cannot easily decipher which houses are better or worse than the others. Since a house's most unique and independent aspect is its values, this should mean that all houses are relatively equal; however, due to character bias that will be proved upcoming, this is not the case.

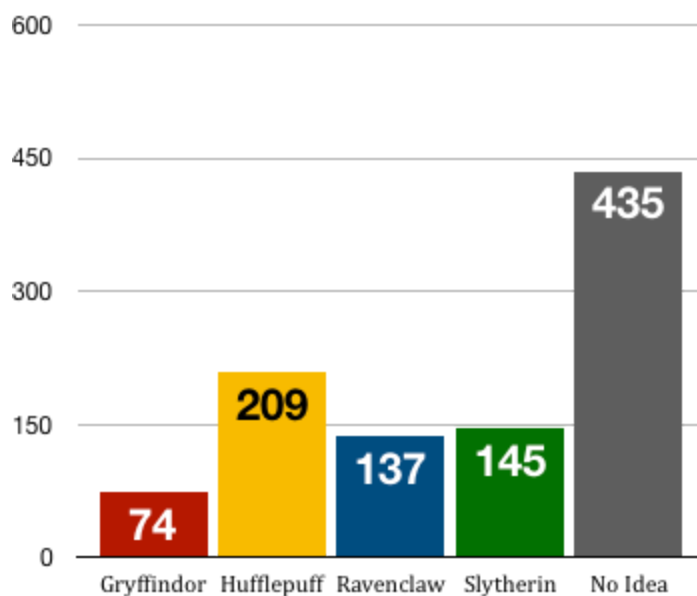
Respondents were then told the following and asked the same three questions:

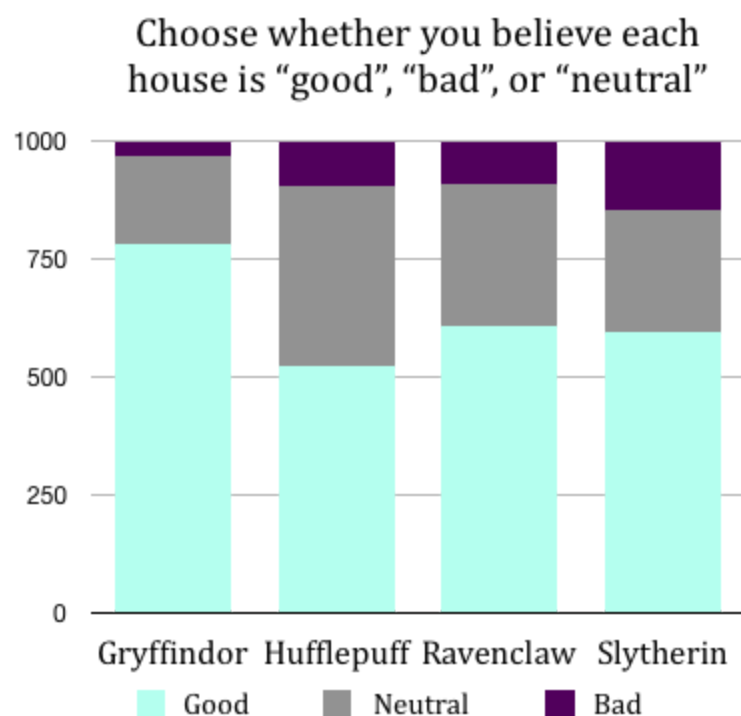
1. Out of all the characters in the books with known houses who have spoken dialogue (lines), the following represents an approximate percent distribution:
 - a. Gryffindors = 47%
 - b. Slytherins = 30%
 - c. Ravenclaws = 20%
 - d. Hufflepuffs = 12%

Now, would you consider any of these houses to be the best?
(Select one)



Now, would you consider any of these houses to be the worst?
(Select one)





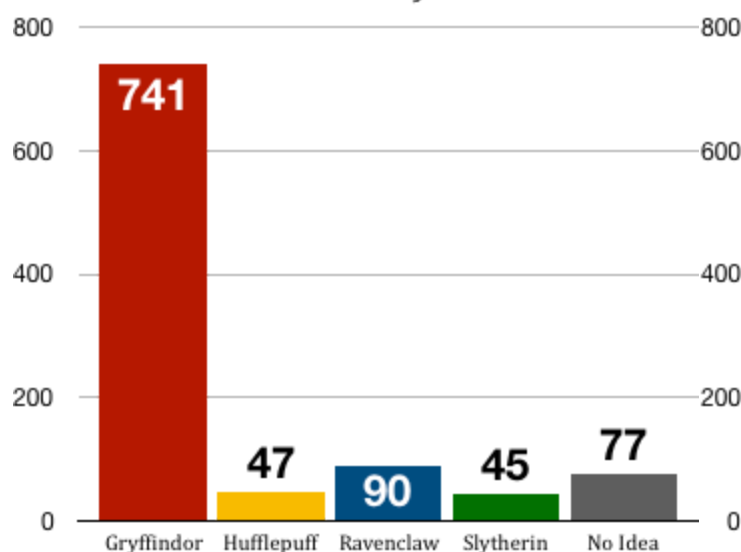
The biggest change in this set is that Gryffindor saw an enormous increase in votes for best house. A majority of respondents felt that Gryffindor is the best house after being shown its book prevalence in addition to its values. Slytherin also saw an increase in votes for best while both Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw saw a decrease. Most respondents were still unsure of which

house is the worst; however, Hufflepuff saw an increase while Gryffindor saw a major decrease. A majority of respondents still felt that all four houses were good; however, Hufflepuff's numbers swayed towards bad when compared with the previous charts. Slytherin and Gryffindor both saw an increase in good votes, while Ravenclaw remained roughly the same. This shows that a decent number of respondents value representation, with Hufflepuff being shown as underrepresented and Gryffindor being shown as heavily represented.

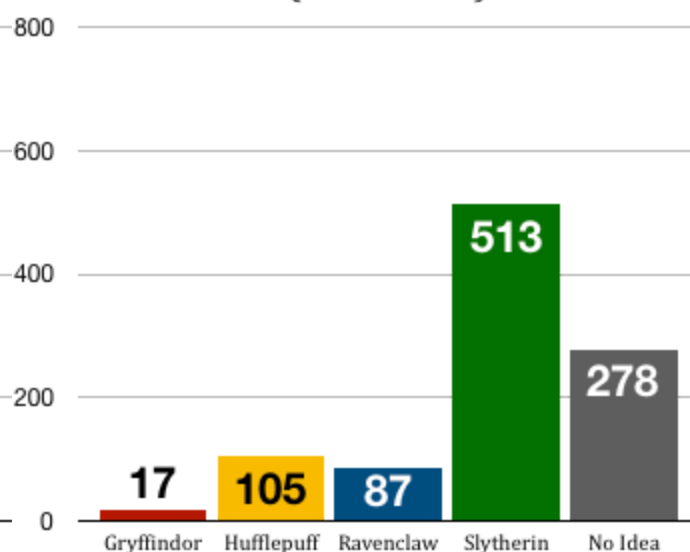
Respondents were then told the following and asked the same three questions:

1. Harry Potter, the series' main protagonist, is in Gryffindor.
2. Voldemort, the series' main antagonist, is in Slytherin.

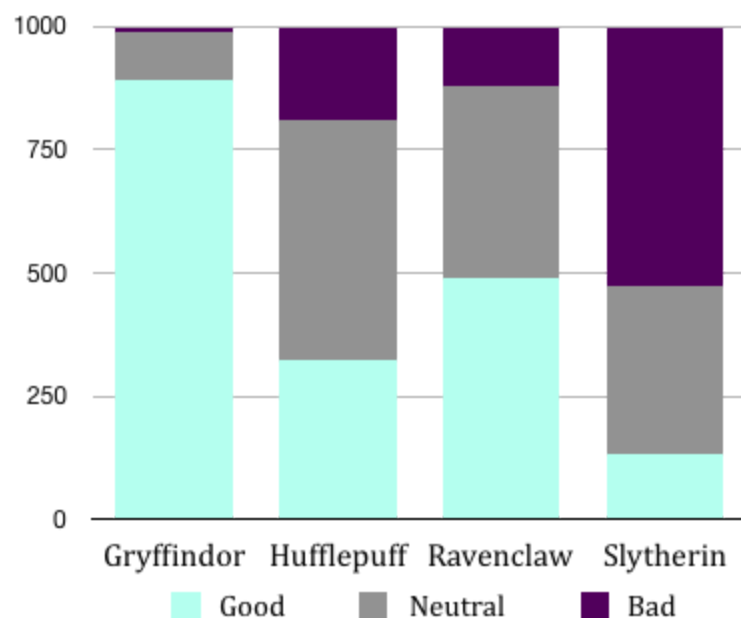
Now, would you consider any of these houses to be the best? (Select one)



Now, would you consider any of these houses to be the worst? (Select one)



Choose whether you believe each house is "good" - "neutral" - or "bad"



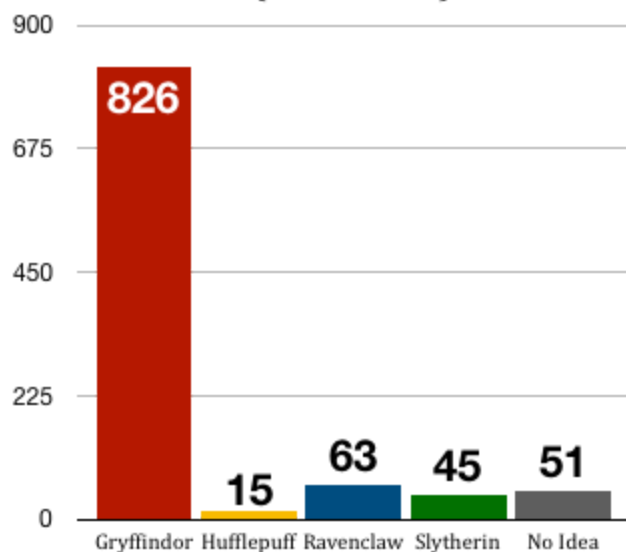
After knowing Harry and Voldemort's specific houses, respondents were keen to paint Gryffindor as good and Slytherin as bad. Only 1% said Gryffindor is bad and only 13% said Slytherin is good. A great majority of 89% said Gryffindor is good and 53%

said Slytherin is bad. Hufflepuff's greatest vote was neutral at 49% and Ravenclaw was seen as good by a slight minority at 49%. 74% felt that Gryffindor is the best house and 51% thought that Slytherin is the worst. Overall, this is very interesting considering how much response tendencies flipped after the previous question. After finding out the houses of the main protagonist and antagonist, respondents immediately painted Gryffindor as good and Slytherin as bad. This shows just how much a specific character and his or her actions can change the view of an entire house.

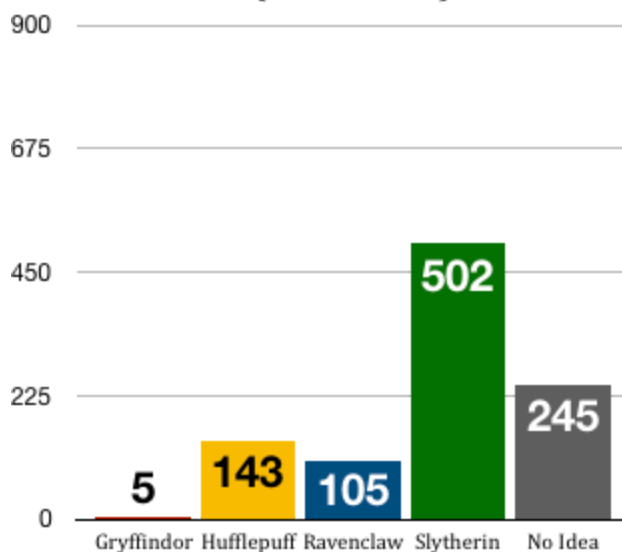
Respondents were then told the following and asked the same three questions:

1. Here is a list of the top 10 characters in order by prevalence of lines in the books, along with their appropriate houses:
 1. Harry Potter - Gryffindor
 2. Hermione Granger - Gryffindor
 3. Ron Weasley - Gryffindor
 4. Albus Dumbledore - Gryffindor
 5. Rubeus Hagrid - Gryffindor
 6. Minerva McGonagall - Gryffindor
 7. Remus Lupin - Gryffindor
 8. Lord Voldemort - Slytherin
 9. Severus Snape - Slytherin
 10. Sirius Black - Gryffindor

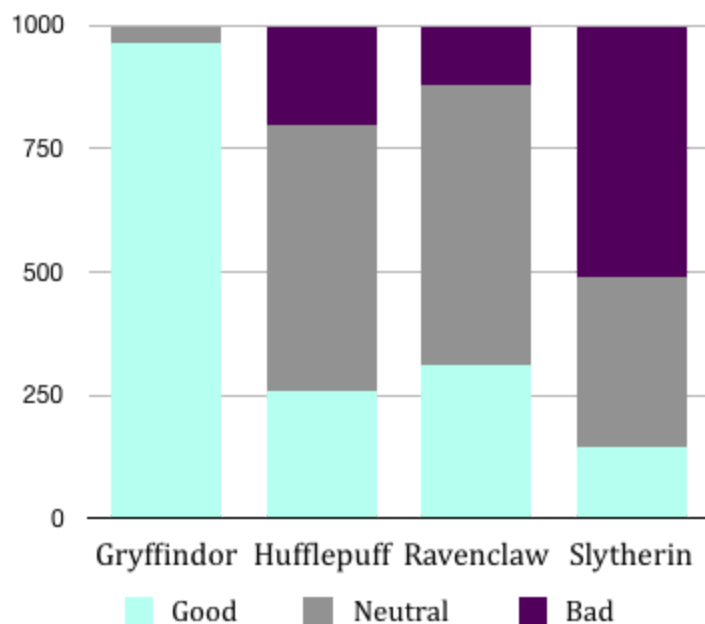
Now, would you consider any of these houses to be the best? (Select one)



Now, would you consider any of these houses to be the worst? (Select one)



Choose whether you believe each house is "good", "bad", or "neutral"

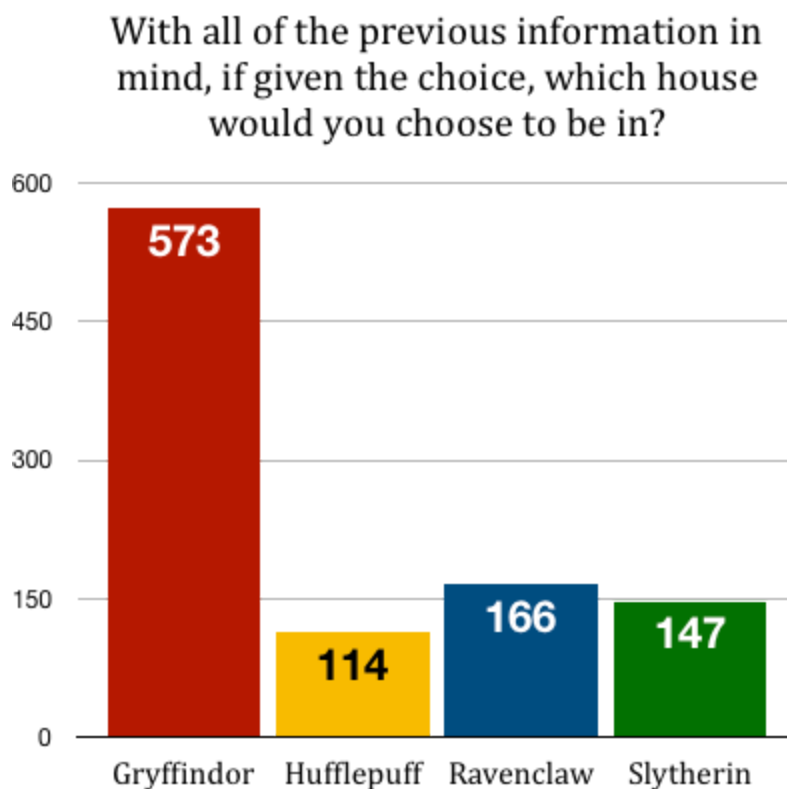


While the spreads of Gryffindor and Slytherin remained very similar, Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw lost a significant amount of their good votes in exchange for neutral. 54% and 57% of respondents said they felt Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw respectively were neutral. This is due to both of these house's lack of character representation in the novels and

movies. Neither house has a major (top 10) character with a significant amount of lines.

Gryffindor had only 0.3% of respondents vote that it is a bad house. This shows that Gryffindor's heavy influence in the books sways people towards a favorable view.

To conclude the survey, respondents were asked one final question:



After being given the values of each house, a couple major characters' houses, and the overall spread of house representation, 57% of respondents would choose to be sorted into Gryffindor. This number may seem low when compared with how many people chose Gryffindor as the best house in the previous question. The reason for this could be several things: some people like underdogs, some may not want to be in the popular house, some of the other house's values may have resonated with them better, etc.

The overall takeaway from this is that Gryffindor is a heavy favorite for the casual fan. Without knowing anything about the houses, opinions were fairly stable. None of the houses stood out significantly against the others. When given the values that each house correlates with, this fact was further proven; respondents' opinions were almost even. It was only after being told that Harry is a Gryffindor and Voldemort is a Slytherin that responses became skewed towards Gryffindor's favor. Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw hurt from lack of representation when respondents were given the influence of each house on the novel's characters. In summary, Gryffindor benefits from character bias while Slytherin suffers from it, and Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw are not given adequate portrayal for their impact to make a difference on a casual fan.

HOW TO FIND YOUR HOGWARTS HOUSE

In order to properly compare statistics between respondents and what house they identify as, the following question must be answered: how does one find his or her house? Unfortunately for Muggles, there is no way to determine one's house with absolute certainty, seeing as the sorting hat is beyond reach. There are, however, some ways that can come close.

A quick Google search will show that there are thousands of online quizzes claiming that they will sort the user into his or her proper house. Before Pottermore was created, those seeking their proper house placement would have to gamble their fate with any quiz they came along. The problem with this is that a quiz created by anyone other than J.K.

Rowling herself holds no credibility or merit. Thankfully, J.K. created her own official quiz in 2012 when the website Pottermore was launched.

The current Pottermore online quiz presents the user with eight questions. These questions are randomly selected from a set of 28 questions. Each question has a certain weight in the outcome, with the user being presented with their house once the quiz concludes. Users may only take the quiz once per account. Below is an example of three questions:

1. Given a choice, would you rather invent a potion that guarantees you:
 - a. Love
 - b. Glory
 - c. Wisdom
 - d. Power
2. Which road tempts you most?
 - a. The wide, sunny, grassy lane
 - b. The narrow, dark, lantern-lit alley
 - c. The twisting, leaf-strewn path through the woods
 - d. The cobbled street lined with ancient buildings
3. Dawn or dusk?
 - a. Dawn
 - b. Dusk

Many of the questions are heavily detailed, and it is clear that J.K. went through a lot of time and effort to make this quiz. If the quiz fulfilled its purpose, it should leave the user with no doubt about what house he or she belongs in; however, there is one very large problem with the current format of the Pottermore quiz: the random selection of questions.

By giving each user a different set of questions, J.K. effectively created a sense of randomization when it comes to outcomes. For example, one user may be asked “Dawn or

dusk?” but a different user may be asked “Black or white” in replacement. Because of this, it is very common for users to take the quiz multiple times (on different accounts) and receive entirely different questions; therefore, presenting them with a different resulting house. This creates a sense of confusion and doubt. If users receive the house that they are pleased with, then there would be no issue. Yet, many users do not receive the house they desire and simply blame it on the fact that they received a set of bad questions.

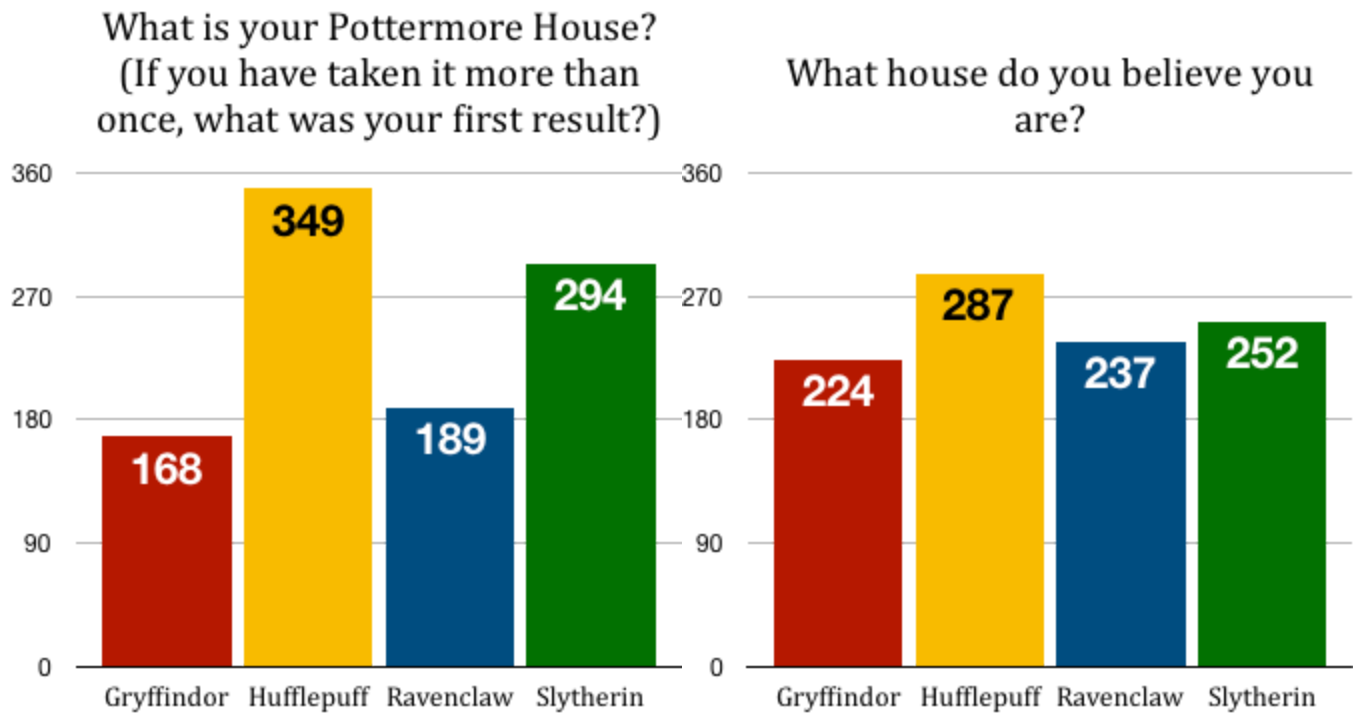
One could argue that the randomization is tied with the fact that the sorting hat is a sentient being whose opinions and mood may vary. The randomization in questions may be J.K.’s way of invoking the sorting hat into the quiz. This is not correct due to the fact that the sorting hat is able to see everything inside one’s mind. It does not pick and choose the preferences and values that it wishes to see. The fact that users can take the quiz multiple times and receive different results proves the flaw in the system. The sorting hat would never change his opinion based on time of day.

To further prove the claim that the current format of the Pottermore quiz does not fulfill its purpose in sorting users into the proper house, a study was conducted to research individuals who have read the Harry Potter books, seen the movies, and also taken the Pottermore house quiz. The purpose of this study was to find out if the current format of the Pottermore house quiz should be changed. The convenience sample used for this research portion is named “Sample 2”. This sample was 46% male and 54% female with an average age of 21. All 1000 respondents fall within the following three parameters:

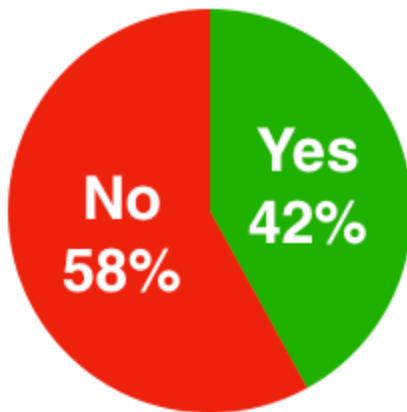
1. 18-25 years old living in the United States
2. Have read every Harry Potter book and seen every Harry Potter movie

3. Have taken the official Pottermore house quiz at least once

The following data was found:



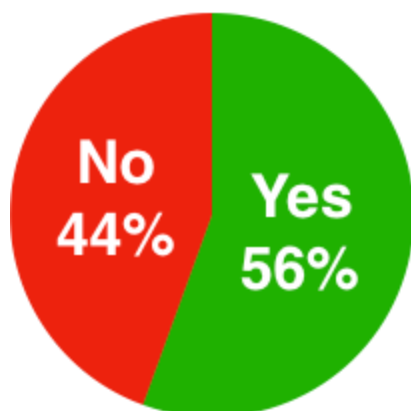
Was your first Pottermore house placement the house you believe you are?



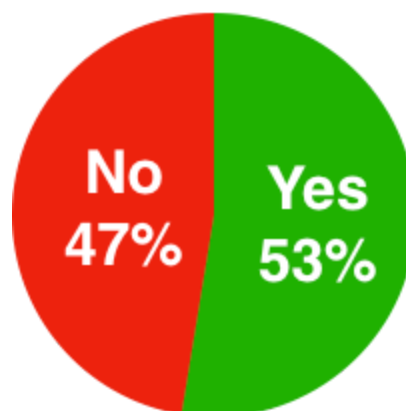
While the spread for respondents' Pottermore house is more varied, the spread for the house they believe they are in is more uniform. This uniformity correctly reflects Hogwarts, where each house has a relatively equal number of students. In addition, only 42% of respondents felt that Pottermore sorted them into the correct house on the first try. Although the house that people believe

they are in is not a good determining factor of their correct house, more often than not, individuals have a good sense of which house they belong to.

Have you taken the
Pottermore quiz more than
once?

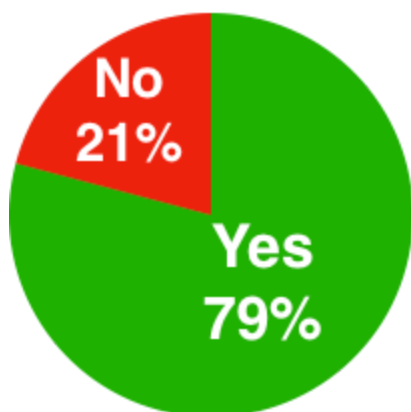


Was your result the same on
your second take?

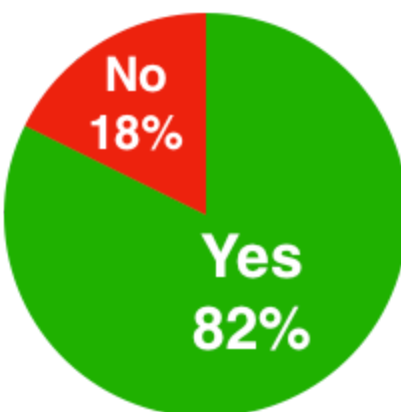


The above circle charts show that a majority of respondents have taken the Pottermore quiz more than once: a total of 564. A follow-up question was asked for only these 564 people: “Was your result the same on your second take?” 53% of respondents said their resulting house was the same while 47% said it was different. This is a huge discrepancy in Pottermore’s claim to find users the one true house they belong to. If 47% are able to take the quiz multiple times and get different results, how can a quiz claim that it will provide you with the right outcome?

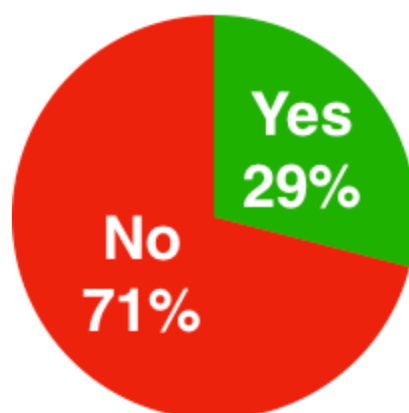
Do you think the Pottermore quiz questions are relevant to determining one's house?



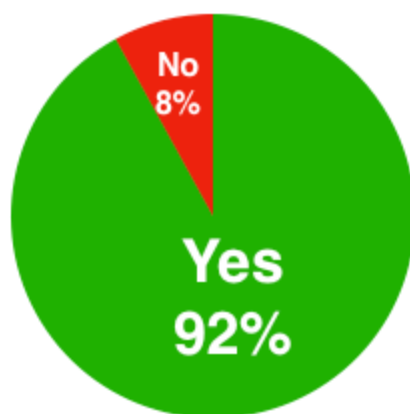
Do you believe that eight (8) questions is too short to determine one's house?



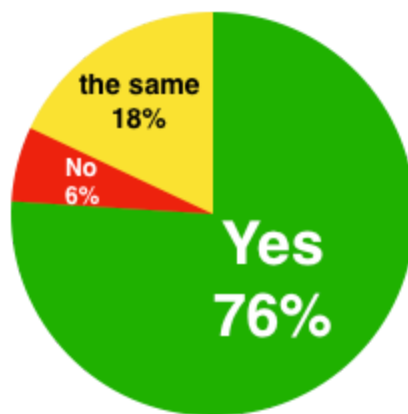
Do you believe the current format of the Pottermore quiz delivers user's one true house?



If you could, would you take a full Pottermore quiz that provided all twenty-eight (28) questions?



Would you trust this full quiz in determining your official house more than you trust the basic one?



As seen above, 79% of respondents felt that the current Pottermore questions are relevant; therefore, it is not the questions that is an issue. 82% believe that eight questions is too short to determine one's house, proving that the majority of people would like the quiz to be longer. Most respondents believe that the current format does not deliver accurate results, with 71% reporting this. 92% of respondents reported that they would be

willing to take a full Pottermore quiz with all 28 questions, a great amount considering the sample size. Lastly, 76% said that they would trust this full and extended quiz even more than the current format. All of this data proves that the majority of Pottermore users would like the house quiz to be longer and do not feel the current quiz provides an accurate result.

It is clear that a full and extended Pottermore quiz is in need to find one's true house. Luckily, there is one, but not on Pottermore. A Reddit user with the username u/N1ffler and name tag "Niffler Felicis" was able to crack the code of Pottermore's house quiz and discover the grading scheme of every single question and its weights. With this information, Niffler was able to create a full Pottermore quiz that will present users with all 28 questions and sort them into their respective house. This quiz has been cross-referenced with the original Pottermore test and has proven to be 100% accurate. The quiz was posted 10 months ago and since has become extremely popular in the Harry Potter Reddit community. Niffler has even added additional full quizzes corresponding with other Pottermore quizzes (wand, patronus⁹, Ilvermorny¹⁰ houses, etc.). The full version of the quiz can be found on many additional platforms now, although Niffler's remains the original. The link to this full post with all quiz links can be found in the sources section of this thesis.

In order to prove that this full quiz is the correct way to discover one's proper house, a study was conducted with 500 individuals from Sample 2. These participants willingly took the full Pottermore quiz on Niffler's Reddit page. The purpose of this study was to find out if the full 28-question Pottermore quiz is a more accurate determiner of

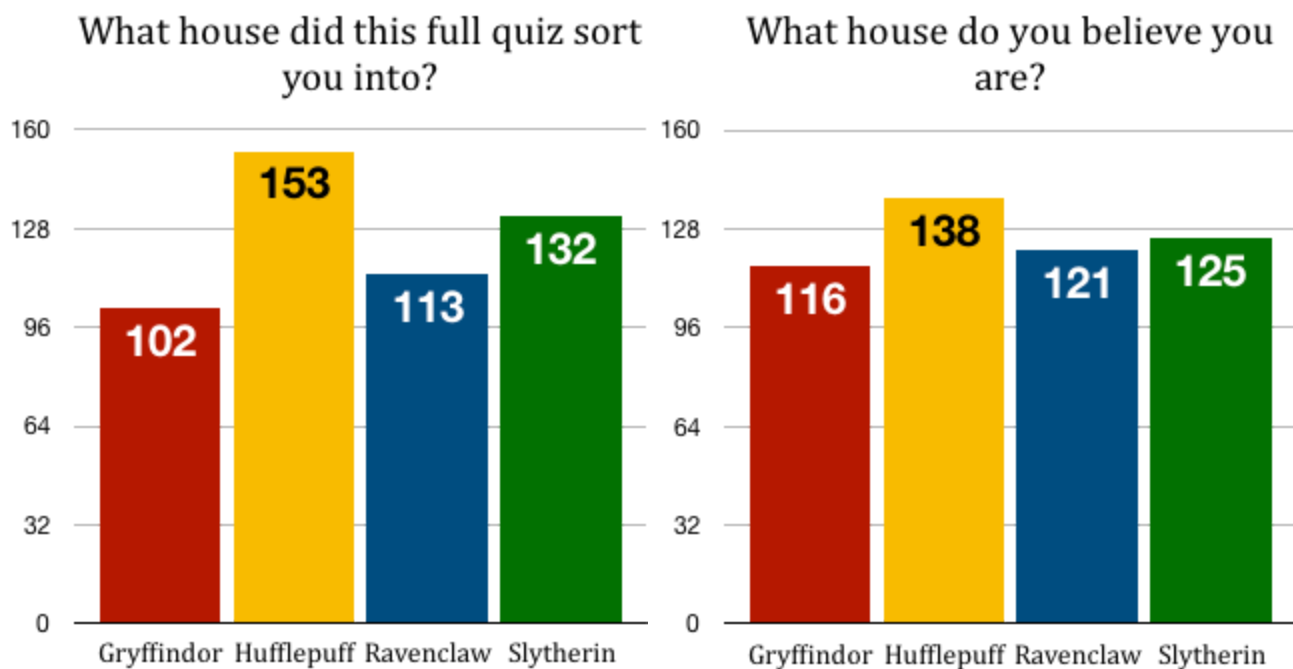
⁹ A patronus is a spell that shoots a luminescent animal out of the caster's wand

¹⁰ Ilvermorny is the American wizarding school that has its own unique houses, similar to Hogwarts

one's house. The convenience sample used for this research portion is named "Sample 3". This sample was 49% male and 51% female with an average age of 21. All 500 respondents fall within the following five parameters:

1. 18-25 years old living in the United States
2. Have read all Harry Potter books and seen all Harry Potter movies
3. Have taken the official Pottermore house quiz
4. Participated in Sample 2 of this study
5. Have taken the full 28-question Pottermore quiz on Niffler's Reddit page

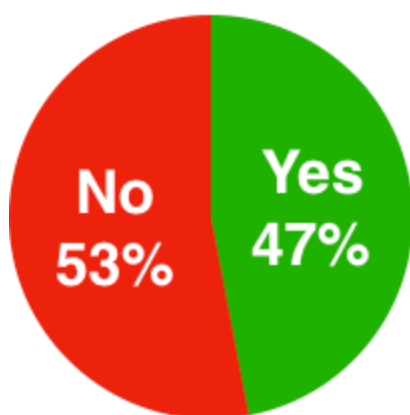
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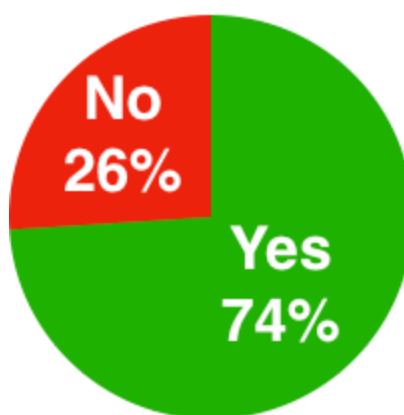
Already one can see that the results of this quiz are much more uniform than the results of the original Pottermore quiz. In the original quiz, Hufflepuff (349) had over double the occupants that Gryffindor did (168). Now, Hufflepuff only has about 50% more

occupants than Gryffindor. The spread of the houses that the respondents believe they are in remained roughly the same, proving that the 500 individuals taken from Sample 2's 1000 respondents were an accurate representation of the overall sample.

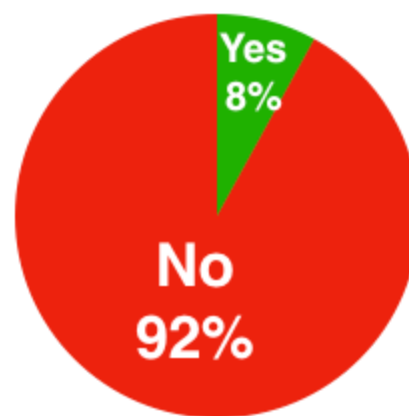
Was your resulting house from the full quiz the same as your original Pottermore result?



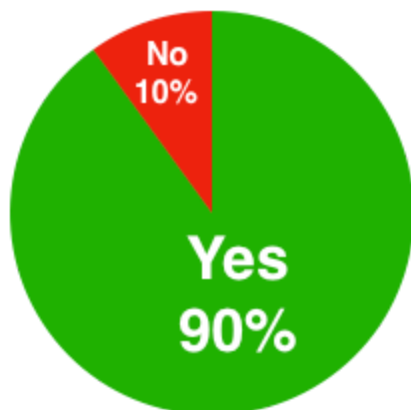
Was your resulting house from this full quiz the same as the house you believe you are?



Did you think this full quiz was too long?



Even if you do not believe that your result from this full quiz matches your correct house, do you trust this full quiz more than the original Pottermore quiz?



Respondents were much more favorable towards this full quiz than the original Pottermore quiz. 53% reported that their house changed from the original Pottermore's result. This means that over half of those surveyed were sorted into a different house after answering all 28 questions than the house that they were sorted into after only answering eight. This proves that the shortened version of the quiz is not reliant in relaying accurate information. Additionally, 74% of respondents felt that the full quiz matched them into the same house that they believe they should be in.

This is great news because although one's opinions does not reflect the sorting hat's judgement, it is seen in the Harry Potter novels that everyone is pleased with his or her house placement. Not once is the reader shown an instance where a character is unhappy with his or her house. On top of this, a vast majority of 90% reported that they trust this full quiz more than the original one. More questions equals more chances for the quiz to get one's house correct. Lastly, 92% shared that they did not believe the quiz is too long, proving that those willing to take the quiz would not be hindered by its length.

In conclusion, no online quiz is perfect in determining one's correct and proper house. Until Muggles create their own sorting hat, they will be forced to rely on J.K.'s Pottermore quiz. Thankfully, the full and extended version was discovered and this is as close as someone can get to true and accurate results. Due to the fact that these questions were created by J.K. herself, no one can argue that they are not correct in painting a picture of one's house. Since the full quiz with all 28 questions is available to take, there is no better way to find the proper house that fits each unique individual.

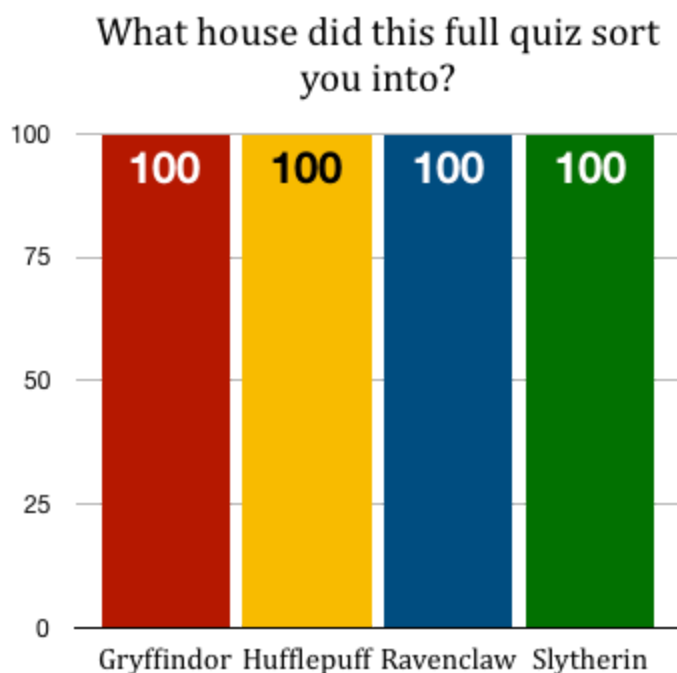
HOUSE TRENDS IN YOUNG ADULTS

Since it has been established that there is a correct way to determine one's Hogwarts house, data analysis can be applied to find trends and patterns within each house. A study was conducted with 400 individuals from Sample 3. The purpose of this study was to find out if there are any correlations between young adults' houses and their performance and preferences in college and life. The convenience sample used for this

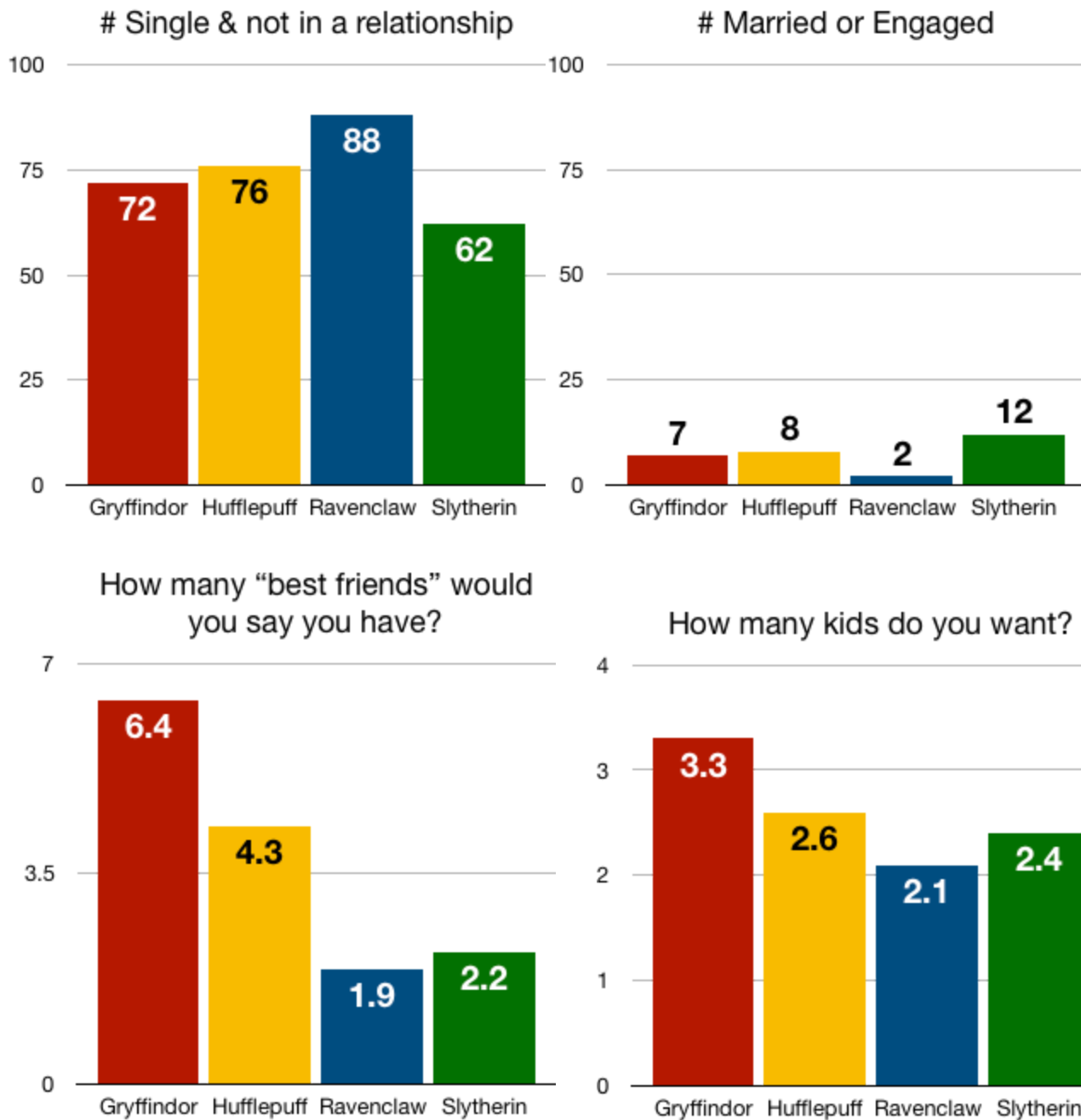
research portion is named “Sample 4”. This sample consists of four groups of 100 individuals. Each group corresponds with a Hogwarts house that they were sorted into from Niffler’s full Pottermore quiz. This sample was 47% male and 53% female with a median age of 20. All 400 respondents fall within the following six parameters:

1. 18-25 years old living in the United States
2. Have read all Harry Potter books and seen all Harry Potter movies
3. Have taken the official Pottermore house quiz
4. Participated in Sample 2 of this study
5. Have taken the full 28 question Pottermore quiz on Niffler’s Reddit page
6. Participated in Sample 3 of this study

The following data was found:

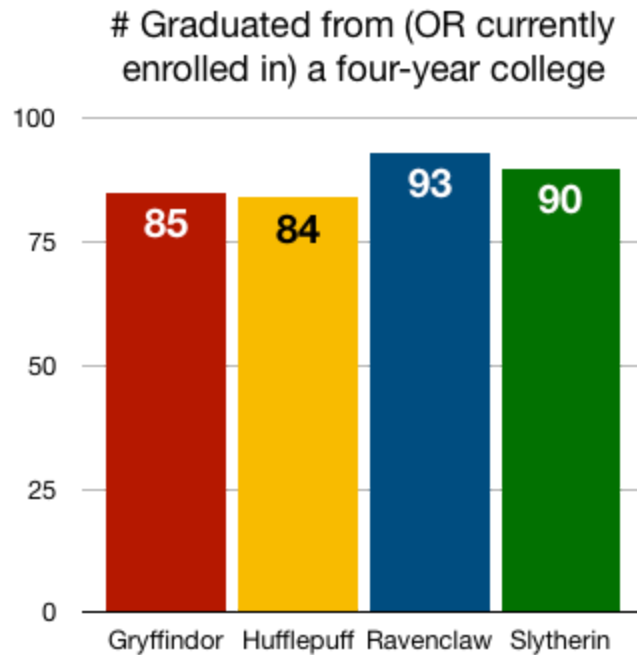


In order to confirm that groups were separated accordingly and narrowed down to 400 respondents while maintaining 100 individuals per house, the question to the left was asked. Barring any misclicks or confusion by respondents, groups were established correctly and there are exactly 100 respondents per house participating in this sample.

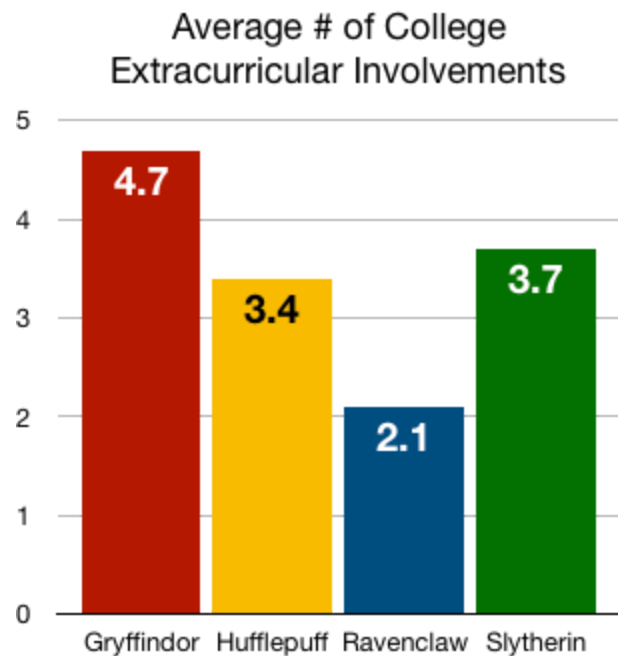
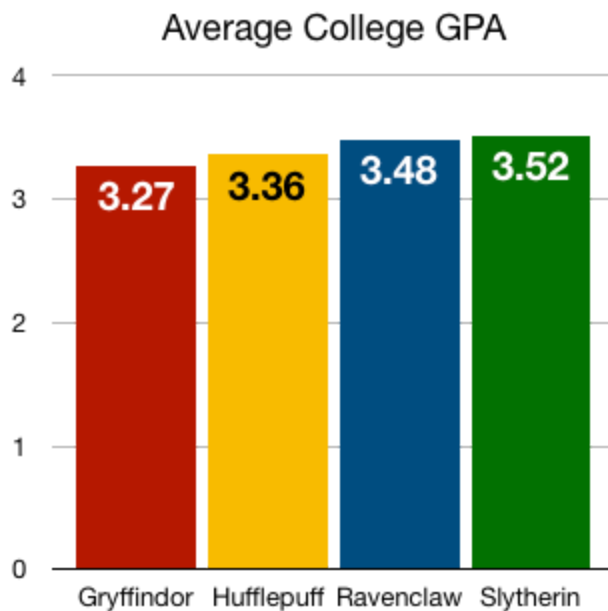


Ravenclaws were the most likely to be single and the least likely to be married or engaged, while Slytherins were the least likely to be single and the most likely to be married or engaged. Gryffindors reported a significantly higher amount of "best friends" than Ravenclaws and Slytherins, meaning that either Gryffindors have more best friends or

they consider a greater variety of individuals to be their best friends. Gryffindor also would like the more kids than the other houses.

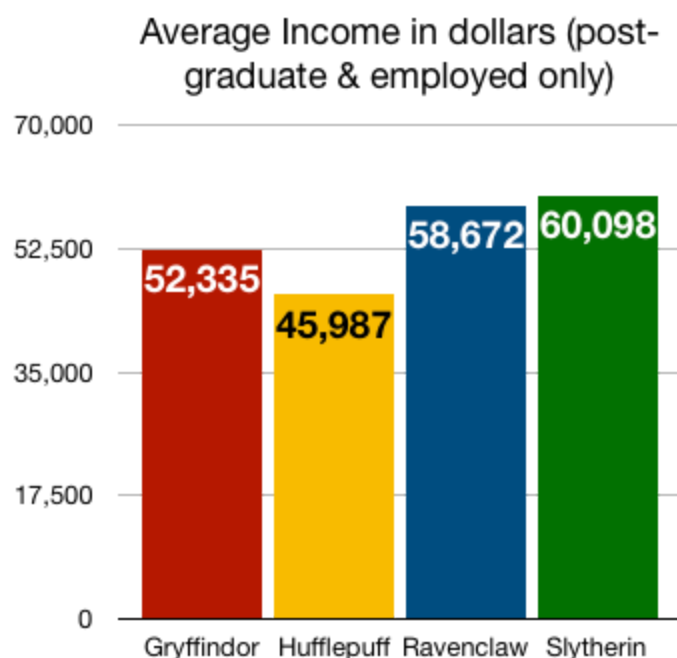


Respondents were asked if they have graduated from or currently attend a four-year university. Ravenclaw had the most college attendees at 93 while Hufflepuff had the least at 84. If they answered yes to this question, they were directed to two more questions in which the data is shown below.



Slytherins and Ravenclaws had a bit higher average GPA than Hufflepuffs and Gryffindors. It is important to note that one's major is a huge factor in GPA, and is a very large variable

in this determining factor. The reason these GPA's are all above the nation's average for college graduates is probably due to the fact that many respondents are still currently in their first couple years of college, giving their GPA a likely boost. Gryffindors reported being much more involved than the other houses, while Ravenclaws were seen as the least

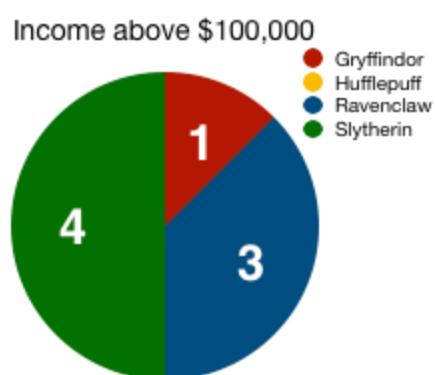
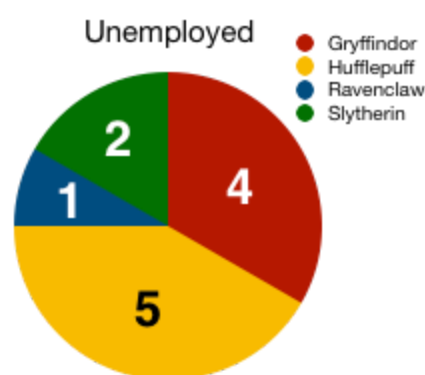


involved.

Respondents who reported already graduating from college were asked for their average income. Much like GPA, Slytherins and Ravenclaws were ahead of Gryffindors and Hufflepuffs; however, Hufflepuffs had a significantly lower average than the other three houses.

There were eight respondents who

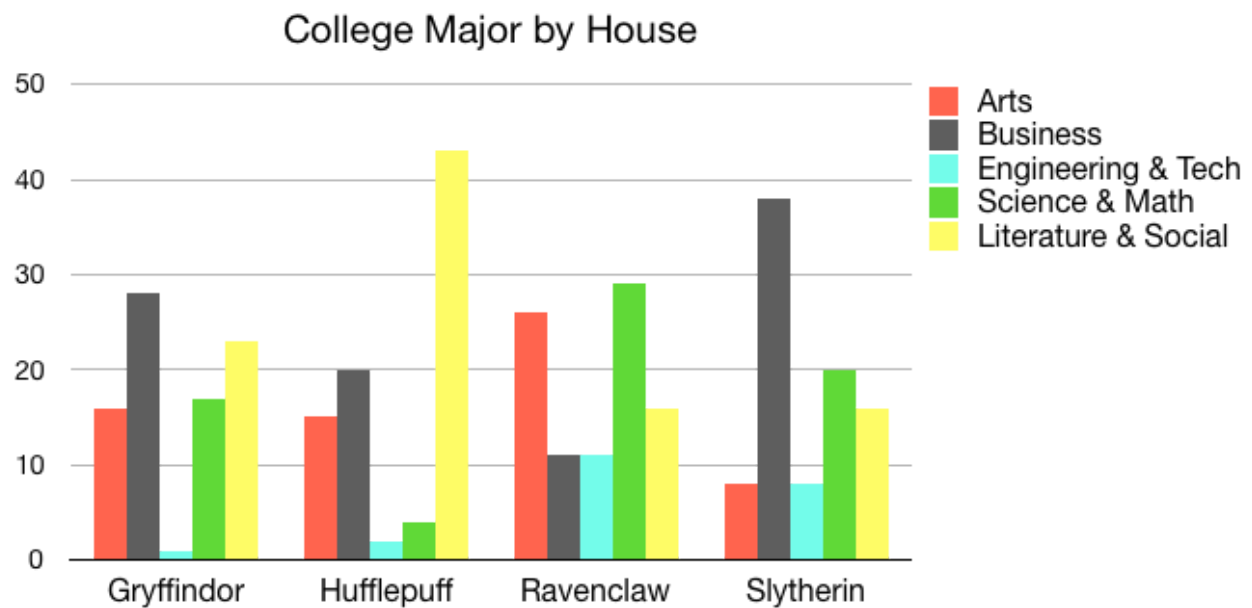
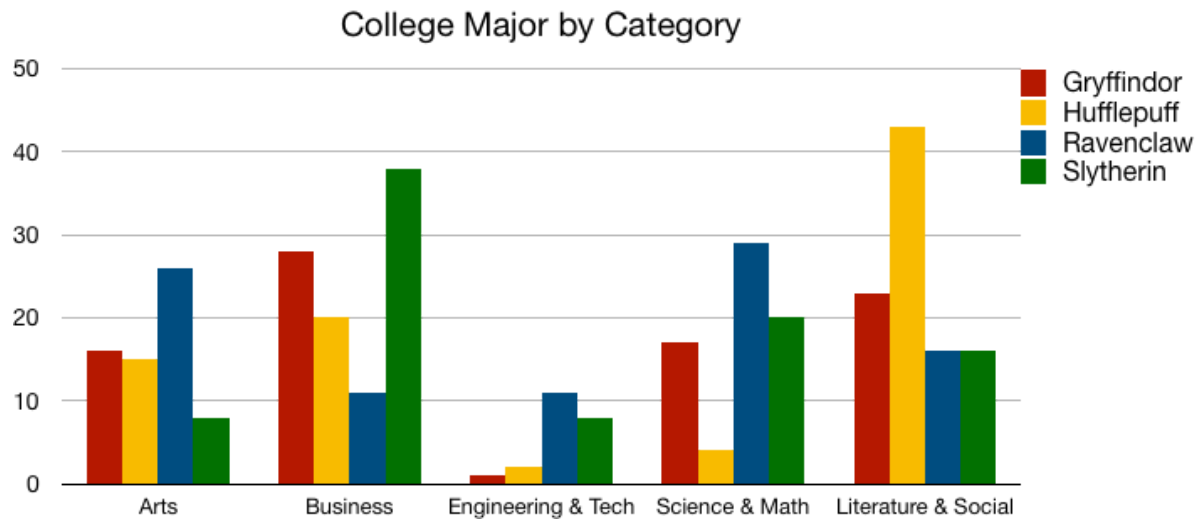
reported making more than \$100,000 a year in their



occupation. Four of these were Slytherins, three were Ravenclaws, one was a

Gryffindor, and there were no Hufflepuffs. Additionally, 12 respondents reported being

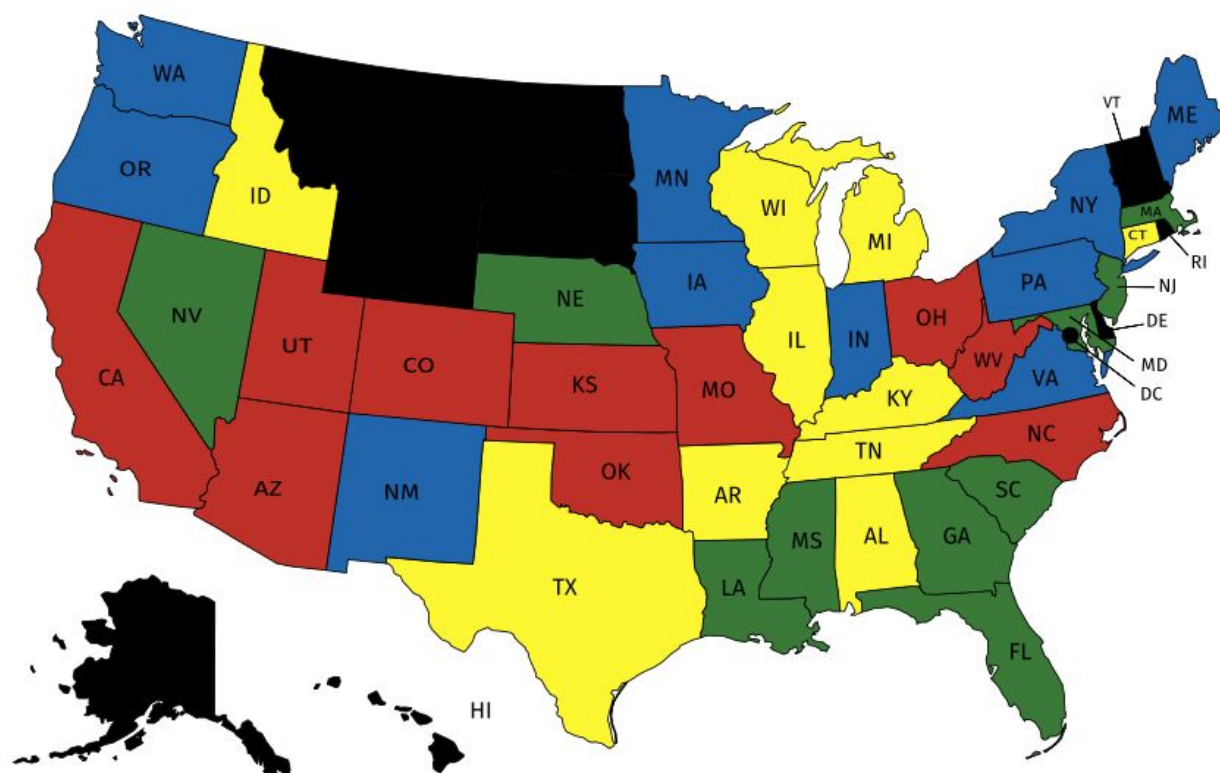
unemployed and not a student. Five of these were Hufflepuffs, four were Gryffindors, 2 were Slytherins, and 1 was a Ravenclaw.

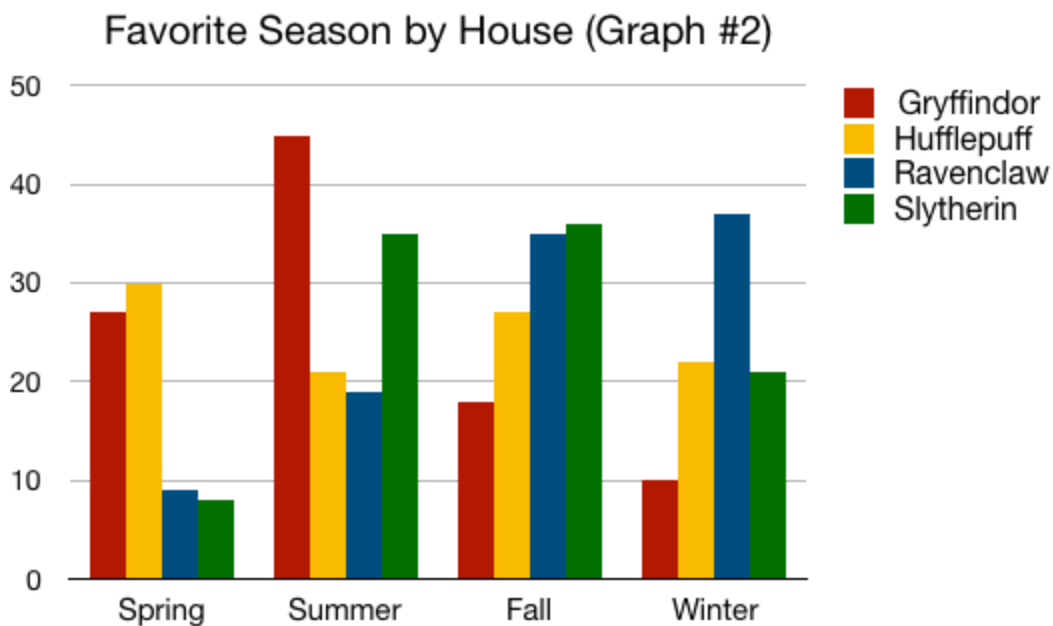
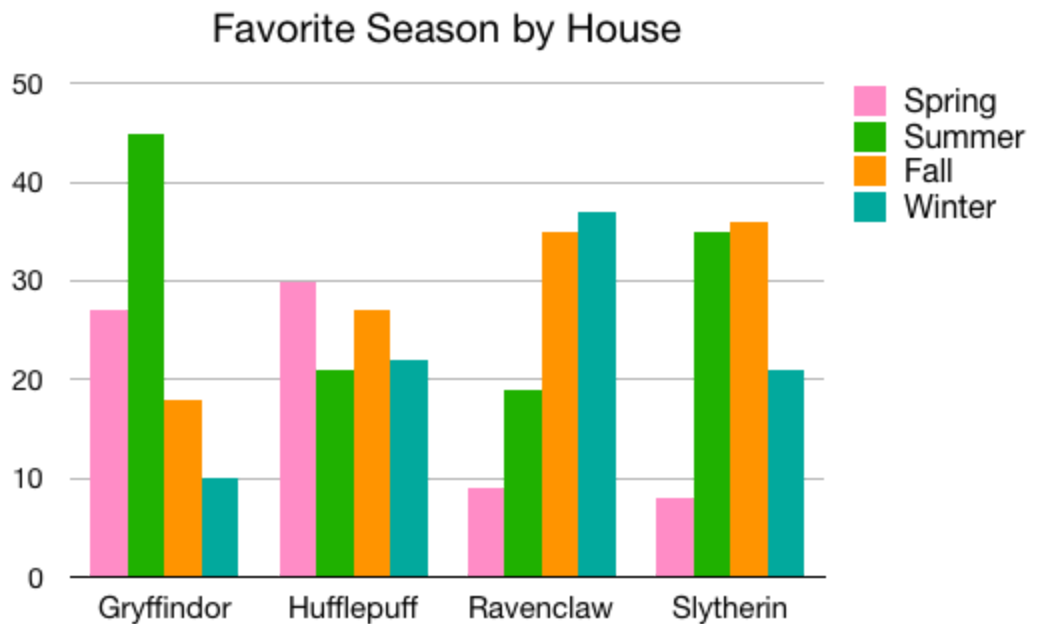


There are many takeaways from the two charts above. Gryffindors prefer Business but are well represented in all majors except for Engineering & Tech where they are small in numbers. Hufflepuffs very strongly prefer Literature & Social majors, with the highest

percent out of all the houses. Hufflepuffs avoid Engineering & Tech and Science & Math. Ravensclaws enjoy Science & Math and the Arts, with the highest influence in both of these categories, and also had the highest percentage of Engineering & Tech. Overall, Ravensclaws had a decent representation in every category. Slytherins prefer Business with the highest representation in this category, and also sport influence in Science & Math. Slytherins presented a minimal showing in the Arts.

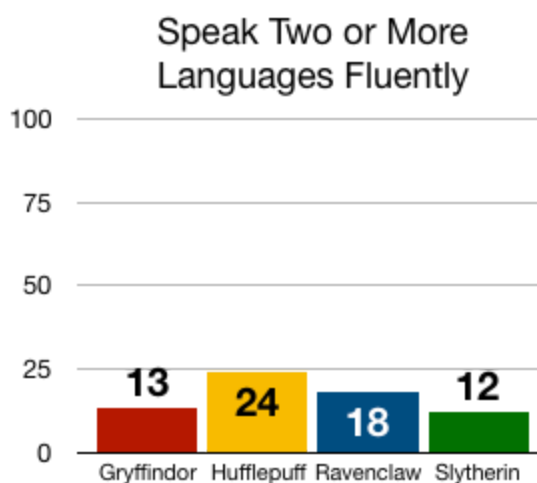
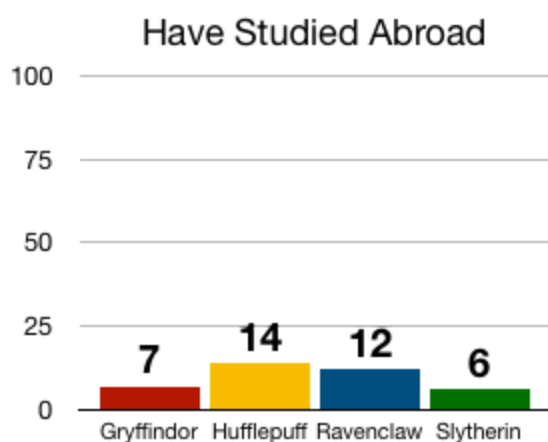
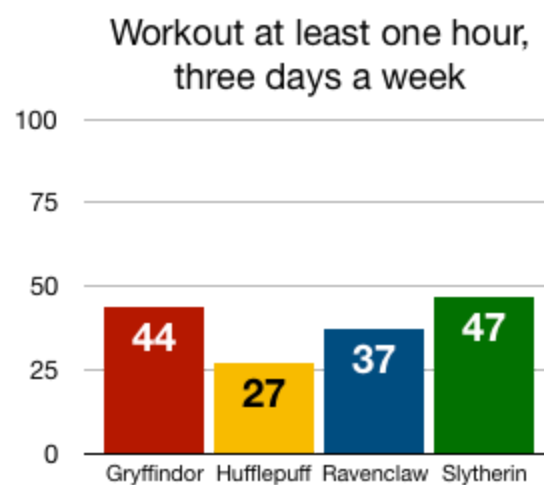
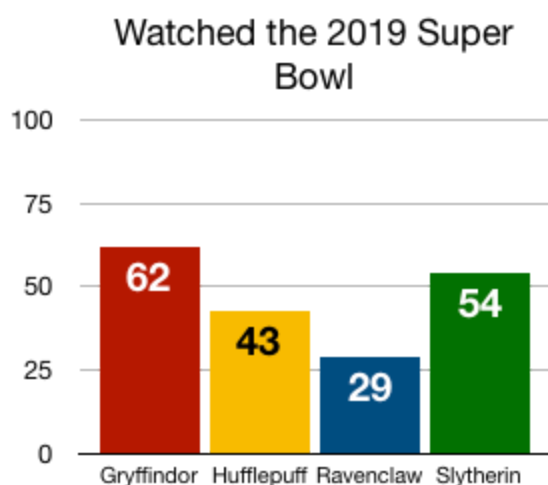
Respondents were also asked what state they live in. The map below is colored in to represent which house had the highest number of respondents per state. Red = Gryffindor, Yellow = Hufflepuff, Blue = Ravenclaw, Green = Slytherin, and Black = no respondents for this state. Ravenclaw had a high representation in the northeast, Slytherin was heavy in the south, Hufflepuff gravitated towards the heartland, and Gryffindor was more commonly found out west.

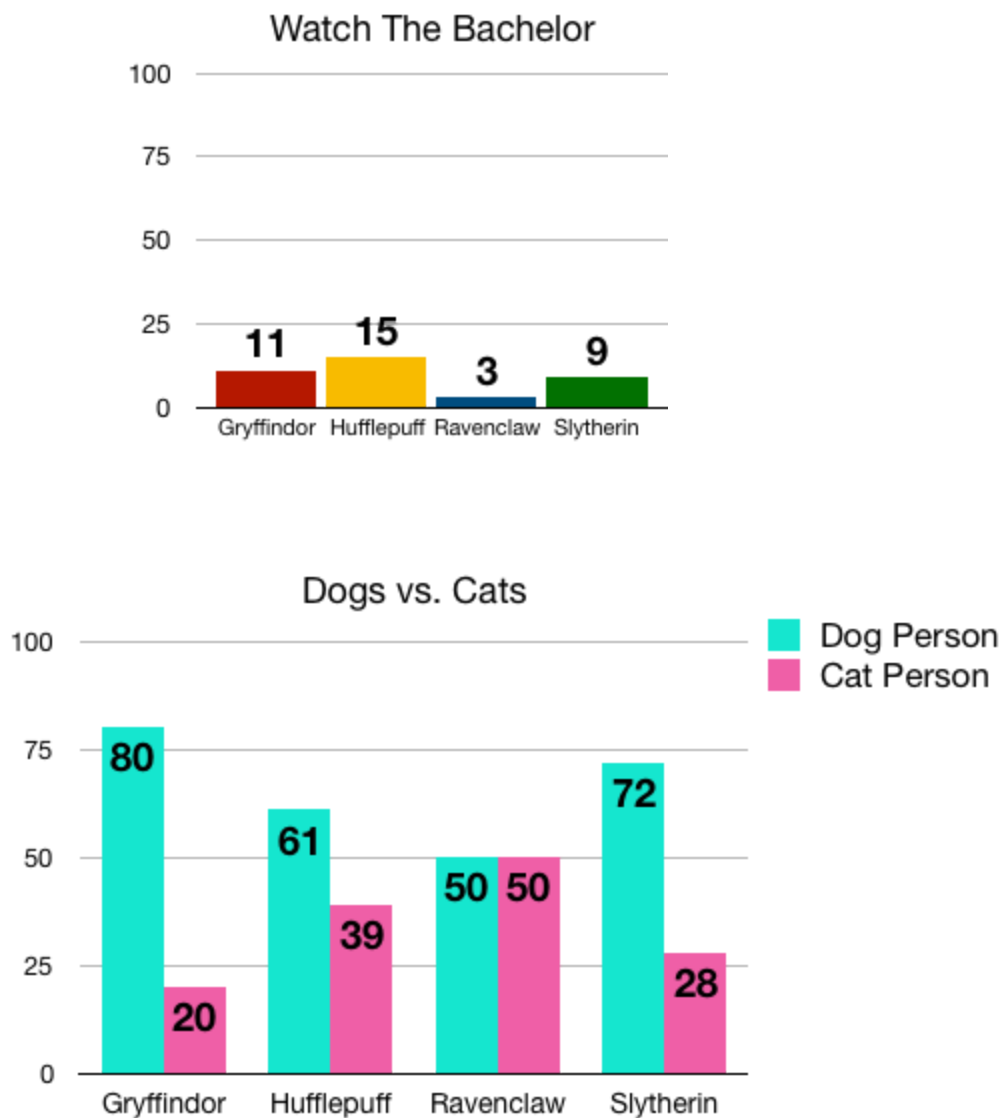




The two charts on the previous page display different views of each house's favorite season. Gryffindors strongly prefer summer with almost half of Gryffindor respondents reporting that summer is their favorite season. Gryffindors, on average, do not prefer winter. Hufflepuffs have a fairly equal taste in their seasons, with spring only slightly edging out the other three. Ravenclaws enjoy winter and fall best, with a distaste for spring. Slytherins also have an unliking to spring; however, their favorite seasons are fall and summer.

In addition to giving their favorite season, respondents also were asked a few fun questions to see if there were any interesting trends between the houses:





Some notable distinctions are that Gryffindor and Slytherin were more likely to watch the Super Bowl and workout, while Ravenclaws and Hufflepuffs were more likely to study abroad and speak more than one language. Gryffindors are also much more likely to prefer dogs than Ravenclaws. Ravenclaws were very unlikely to watch The Bachelor.

-CONCLUSION-

The four Hogwarts houses of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin are all incredible and unique in their own ways. While some of them share many similarities, others have striking differences. They each play off each other, and together they create the perfect balance of strengths and weaknesses in Hogwarts. On top of providing ample background, this thesis explored research done in three subjects: non readers' house stereotypes, how to find your Hogwarts house, and house trends in young adults.

Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin all suffer from house prejudice while Gryffindor is blessed with an extreme amount of favoritism by the casual fan. This is due to the fact that Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw have a lack of representation in the novels, while Slytherins are often portrayed as the villains. Gryffindors are usually seen as the heroes, since it is from Harry Potter's Gryffindor perspective that the novels are written. It was found in research that those who have not read the books nor seen the movies saw the four houses as almost equal when given just their names and values. It was only after being given information about the main occupants of each house that respondents were quick to paint Gryffindor as good and the other three as either undesirable or bad.

It is very common for fans of the series to want to know what house they belong to. The only way this can be properly found is through the official Pottermore test; however, the Pottermore website uses a randomization feature to present the user with only eight out of 28 possible questions. Through surveys, it was determined that users would like to have the opportunity to take the full quiz with all questions, and that they would trust this

extended quiz more. A Reddit user named Niffler Felicis created the full Pottermore quiz with all the questions and correct answers. It is this quiz that should be taken to discover one's proper Hogwarts house.

Once the correct way to sort individuals was determined, data could be collected to see if there were any trends or commonalities between the houses. There was a lot of fun and interesting data collected; however, it is very important to not generalize an entire house just based on a specific sample. In addition, not everyone in a house is similar in their values and actions. For example, Ravenclaws proved to be more artsy than the other three houses; but, this does not mean that all Ravenclaws like the arts. There are many exceptions to the data found, and generalizing a house just because of a few of its individuals is what creates negative stereotypes and associations.

Overall, if you have not read the Harry Potter novels, PLEASE DO! They are a fabulous adventure into the wizarding world and will open your eyes to many important lessons in duty, friendship, and love. If you are already a fan of the series, I hope you enjoyed this thesis, learned something new, and will go on to discover your true Hogwarts house. It does not matter if you are a Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, or Slytherin, "the stories we love best do live in us forever. So whether you come back by page or by the big screen, Hogwarts will always be there to welcome you home" (Rowling).



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*All images are from Pottermore.com