**Theory**

**Understanding Project Requirements**

When starting a web development project, it’s crucial to first understand the project requirements. This ensures that the development process is structured and follows a clear plan. The key steps involved in understanding project requirements typically include:

1. **Defining Project Scope:** Determine the goals of the project. What features and functionalities are required?
2. **Identifying Technical Needs:** What technologies will be used (e.g., frameworks, databases, front-end libraries)?
3. **Understanding User Requirements:** What do the end-users expect from the application in terms of functionality, usability, and performance?
4. **Setting Milestones:** Break down the project into manageable stages with deadlines.
5. **Choosing the Tech Stack:** Choose tools, libraries, and frameworks that best suit the project. For example, Django for the backend, PostgreSQL for the database, and React for the front-end.

**Setting Up the Environment and Installing Necessary Packages**

Once you have a clear understanding of the project requirements, setting up the development environment is the next step. This usually involves:

1. **Creating a Virtual Environment:** This isolates your project’s dependencies and ensures that you don't clash with other projects or system libraries.
2. **Installing Dependencies:** The project will likely require several libraries (e.g., Django, database connectors, or third-party APIs).
3. **Managing Dependencies with requirements.txt:** This file lists all necessary packages and their versions for the project, which makes it easier for others to replicate the environment.
4. **Version Control:** It's essential to use version control (such as Git) for collaboration and tracking changes to your project.