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Assignment Group………………931…………………..

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Courses Reflective Journal – as an individual task

**Description**: What happened? When and where? Who else was involved? What did you do? What did other people do? What was the outcome?

**Feelings**: What were you feeling during the situation? What do you think other people were feeling about the situation? How do you feel about the situation now?

**Evaluation**: What went well? What didn’t go well? What positive or negative things did you (or other people) contribute to the situation?

**Analysis**: Why did (or didn’t) things go well? What theories or research can help you better understand the situation?

**Conclusions**: What did you learn from this situation? If this situation happened again, what would you do differently?

**Action Plan**: What skills do you need to develop to handle a situation like this better? How will you develop the skills you need?

* Laboratories Reflective Journal - – both as an individual task and as a group task

**Description**: What happened? When and where? Who else was involved? What did you do? What did other people do? What was the outcome?

individual task

a group task:

During the course, we participated in a series of in-class laboratories that took place every Tuesday at 4 pm in even weeks, from the 7th of March to the 23rd of May. These laboratories were held in a dedicated room at the FSEGA building. Looking back on those experiences, we realize they provided valuable opportunities for learning and collaboration.

Each laboratory session began with our teacher assigning us a new task to complete both in class and at home. In the first twenty minutes, our teacher would explain the tasks, walk us through the necessary software, and provide helpful examples to ensure we understood how to set up the testing environments. These explanations were crucial in guiding us toward the successful completion of the tasks.

To tackle the assignments, we were initially grouped into pairs, and we continued to work together in those pairs for the remaining laboratories. As a team, we would first discuss the tasks and collectively understand the requirements. However, due to the limited time allocated for each laboratory, we often found it necessary to divide the tasks between us to complete them promptly. Nevertheless, we always helped each other, whenever one of us encountered difficulties or had concerns.

At the end of each laboratory session, during the last five minutes, we would come together as a group to share and present our work to one another. It was an opportunity to consolidate our efforts and see the collective progress we had made. Working closely with a partner allowed us to leverage each other's strengths.

In reflecting on our experience with the take-home assignments, we realize that finding a suitable time interval that accommodated both of our schedules was a significant challenge. Given the remote nature of the assignments, we opted to have virtual meetings using Discord as our communication platform. This allowed us to connect and collaborate despite being physically apart.

One notable aspect of these assignments was the constraint that they could only be performed on a single machine. As a result, we developed a system where one of us would share our screen while the other provided suggestions, corrections, and ideas. To ensure a fair and equitable distribution of work, we would frequently swap roles for each assignment. This allowed both of us to actively participate in the coding process and contribute equally to the project.

Engaging in this collaborative process brought its own set of benefits and challenges. On one hand, it fostered a sense of teamwork and mutual support. Sharing our screens and working together in real time enabled us to leverage each other's strengths, brainstorm ideas, and address issues collaboratively. It also provided an opportunity for continuous learning and skill development as we shared our knowledge and expertise.

**Feelings**: What were you feeling during the situation? What do you think other people were feeling about the situation? How do you feel about the situation now?

individual task

a group task:

Reflecting on the situation, we both agreed that we had a sort of mixed feelings, we were curious and excited but we also had a bit of fear inside of us. Our other colleagues, we believe experienced feelings closer to ours, because our semi-group was always focused on doing tasks properly and giving our best.

Looking back on the situation now, we feel a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Despite the challenges we faced, we were able to successfully collaborate and complete the assignments.

**Evaluation**: What went well? What didn’t go well? What positive or negative things did you (or other people) contribute to the situation?

individual task

a group task:

During solving the assignments, we encountered ups and downs, but in the end, we managed to find a way to do things well. The communication using the Discord platform went well and was beneficial since it helped us to collaborate and work simultaneously, despite being physically apart. This facilitated clear and efficient communication, enabling us to discuss tasks, share ideas and provide feedback in real time. Working in pairs also went well for us. We were both open to opinions and suggestions and active to help each other when in need. We encountered some difficulties while solving the assignments, like managing to configure the software tools required for automating testing. But we managed to finish all the assignments on time and present them in the class. We both brought positive things to the work, coming up with good ideas or ways of solving the bugs.

**Analysis**: Why did (or didn’t) things go well? What theories or research can help you better understand the situation?

individual task

a group task:

Reflecting on the laboratory activities, we realize that things went well, firstly because both knew each other and worked together before, allowing us to work in a time-efficient manner. Secondly, we both wanted to fulfill each task and we both gave our best to do so. To better understand what happened during the laboratories, a deeper knowledge of Black Box Testing, White Box Testing, Integration Testing, Exploratory Testing, and Automation might be useful.

**Conclusions**: What did you learn from this situation? If this situation happened again, what would you do differently?

individual task

a group task:

From this situation, as we had to collaborate for each assignment we learned to listen to other people’s ideas and opinions, to be open-minded, and try different things. Since we had limited time to solve all the assignments, we learned to be time-efficient. Being a pair of two, we learned to split the work equally, such that none of us would have to work more. We learned to support each other and we developed a closer friendship. If this situation happened again, we wouldn’t do anything differently. We enjoyed working this way.

**Action Plan**: What skills do you need to develop to handle a situation like this better? How will you develop the skills you need?

individual task

a group task:

Reflecting on the situation and on the fact that we had to work in pairs and use various testing mechanisms to solve the assignments, we believe we could focus our attention on developing more useful team skills like improving our communication or finding other tools that would be beneficial to work remotely. We believe it would be helpful to learn and use the testing techniques employed during the assignments, more in practice. This would point out as being valuable for us to better understand them. To further develop these skills, continuing to work in pairs and applying these theories in another practical project, we believe would be enough.

* Seminars Reflective Journal – both as an individual task and as a group task

**Description**: What happened? When and where? Who else was involved? What did you do? What did other people do? What was the outcome?

individual task

a group task:

During the course, we participated in a series of seminars that took place every two weeks on a Wednesday. These seminars were held in a dedicated room at the FSEGA building. At those seminars, other students from our group and other groups attended, along with our teacher. The seminars involved various team-based activities aimed at enhancing our research and analytical skills.

Reflecting on these activities, we recall that while we were not always on the same teams during the seminars, we collaborated closely on the portfolio projects and Systematic Literature Review (SLR). We utilized Discord as a communication platform to coordinate our efforts remotely. This allowed us to effectively share ideas, divide tasks, and provide feedback to one another.

One significant aspect of these activities was the requirement to search for research articles related to established themes. This task challenged us to extract relevant information and present it concisely, improving our ability to critically analyze scholarly sources. Moreover, these activities proved to be particularly valuable as they aligned with our ongoing Bachelor's Thesis projects. The articles we explored focused on testing tools, which directly contributed to our thesis research. We were able to install and examine these tools, ultimately creating user manuals for their usage. This hands-on experience not only enriched our understanding of testing methodologies but also provided practical insights that we could apply to our own research.

Additionally, the SLR portfolio demanded a deeper exploration of related articles to develop a comprehensive literature review. This exercise honed our skills in selecting relevant sources, extracting key ideas, and synthesizing information. The outcome of this collaborative portfolio work extended beyond the completion of the assignment itself. It empowered us with newfound skills in reviewing literature, critical analysis, and practical application of research findings.

**Feelings**: What were you feeling during the situation? What do you think other people were feeling about the situation? How do you feel about the situation now?

individual task

a group task:

Reflecting on the situation, we both agreed that we had sort of mixed feelings, we were curious and excited but we also had a bit of fear inside of us, because we thought we might not manage to finish all the portfolios. However, it was fun for us to work together. Our other colleagues, we believe experienced feelings closer to ours.

Looking back on what we’ve managed to do, we are proud of ourselves for how we’ve embraced the situation. Despite the problems that occurred, we managed to finish all the portfolios on time.

**Evaluation**: What went well? What didn’t go well? What positive or negative things did you (or other people) contribute to the situation?

individual task

a group task:

While solving the tasks for the portfolios and SLR we encountered ups and downs. The most frequent obstacle we faced was a shortage of articles that complied with the task requirements, for example, for the Inspection portfolio, we did find a couple of tools that had articles attached to them, but it was unfeasible for us to get them in a usable state due to OS requirements or no longer being under maintenance. Or, in the case of the SLR, most papers regarding automated test case generation didn’t have mentioned concrete datasets used or results. After extensive research, we managed to fulfill the literature requirements, even though we still had to make some small compromises.

After obtaining the articles and managing to install the required tools, we were able successfully to summarize the papers and create the user manual. Experiences from which we developed increased attention to detail and found more sites with full-access articles that further helped us in developing our thesis.

The outcome of our participation in these activities extends beyond the successful completion of the assignments. We have gained a set of transferable skills, such as critical thinking, information synthesis, and effective teamwork, which will continue to benefit us in our academic and professional endeavors. Furthermore, the experience of conducting a systematic literature review has instilled in us a heightened awareness of the importance of rigorous research methodology and the necessity of staying current with emerging trends and developments in our field.

**Analysis**: Why did (or didn’t) things go well? What theories or research can help you better understand the situation?

individual task

a group task:

Reflecting on the activities we participated in, we observed the key traits that helped us carry out the tasks were the good communication and time management we both shared, as well as the implication of our teacher that frequently provided feedback for us. One theory that we believe can help us understand the situation better could be related to the effectiveness of teamwork. From such a theory, we could extract the factors that influence teamwork, like clearer communication, shared goals, mutual trust, and respect, and further work on them.

**Conclusions**: What did you learn from this situation? If this situation happened again, what would you do differently?

individual task

a group task:

From this situation, we developed better skills for searching articles and extracting key information from them. Additionally, we learned about the amount of interest given to the research topics we were assigned. If we were to do something differently, we would change the way we were searching for articles of interest, since we developed better ways and learned to search by keywords instead of a complete string.

**Action Plan**: What skills do you need to develop to handle a situation like this better? How will you develop the skills you need?

individual task

a group task:

Reflecting on this situation, we recognize the need to further enhance the ability to skim through articles efficiently. This skill is crucial in managing a situation like this effectively and delivering prompt results and responses. Our approach to developing this capability would be twofold. First, we would engage with a variety of articles, technical documents, and other informational resources, thus exposing ourselves to diverse content types and enhancing one’s familiarity with them. Second, we would actively seek educational resources, like blogs or online tutorials, that offer explicit guidance on efficient skimming techniques.

We believe that to handle a situation like this better it would be essential to know how to skim through articles efficiently. This skill can be developed only through practice and perhaps by finding some useful blogs that explain to you the essential steps. By combining deliberate practice with guided learning, we anticipate seeing consistent improvement in this skill over time.

* Exams Reflective Journal – both as an individual task and as a group task

**Description**: What happened? When and where? Who else was involved? What did you do? What did other people do? What was the outcome?

individual task

a group task:

In this collaborative exercise on May 27th, 2023, that stretched over 10 hours, we embarked on a journey of both learning and self-discovery. Our team, comprising my colleagues and me, gathered virtually on Discord to tackle a series of tasks, the most prominent of which was creating reflective journals. We found this task to be both challenging and enlightening, as it required us to revisit our experiences, analyze them critically, and identify areas of learning and potential improvement.

Our journey didn't stop there; we also delved into the world of code writing and bug detection. This part of the task pushed us to tap into our problem-solving skills and attention to detail, as we navigated through complex lines of code and sought out hidden errors.

Throughout this process, we relied heavily on brainstorming sessions. This wasn't just a problem-solving journey for us; it was a learning opportunity. It pushed us to think outside the box, articulately express our thoughts and ideas, and appreciate the diverse perspectives within our team. Reflecting on these sessions now, we realize how they helped us grow not just as individuals but as a cohesive unit.

The outcome of this exercise went beyond just completed assignments. It was a comprehensive learning experience that solidified our understanding of testing and honed our analytical thinking skills. More importantly, it allowed us to explore the concept of self-improvement and instilled in us a keen desire to continually enhance our skills and capabilities. Looking back now, we appreciate this unique blend of technical learning and personal development that this experience offered.

**Feelings**: What were you feeling during the situation? What do you think other people were feeling about the situation? How do you feel about the situation now?

individual task

a group task:

During the development of the reflexive journals as a group, we experienced a sense of annoyance. We felt that we had to repeat ourselves excessively and some of the questions posed challenges in providing adequate answers. However, we were also intrigued by the opportunity to learn about reflexive writing. This process allowed us to analyze both the strengths and weaknesses of our work, affirming our learning experience.

We speculate that other groups shared similar sentiments of frustration due to the need for repetitive explanations and the unexpected time investment.

Reflecting on the situation now, we feel a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment in completing the assigned tasks.

**Evaluation**: What went well? What didn’t go well? What positive or negative things did you (or other people) contribute to the situation?

individual task

a group task:

In the evaluation of our efforts to solve the exam tasks, we believe that our team communication and collaborative efforts significantly contributed to our successful completion of tasks. Despite our physical separation, the remote platform allowed for effective dialogue and problem-solving. This experience revealed the power of digital tools in enabling collaboration, which we now appreciate more.

However, we did encounter a significant challenge - understanding the concept and format of a reflective journal. Initially, this confused us and delayed our progress. But, instead of letting this obstacle deter us, we decided to take it as a learning opportunity. We researched extensively on the subject, discussed our findings, and eventually gained a clear understanding. This process, albeit stressful and repetitive, was a demonstration of our resilience and adaptability.

There were undoubtedly both positive and negative contributions from each of us during the situation. On the positive side, we all showed commitment, open-mindedness, and a willingness to learn. These attributes fueled our progress despite the challenges. However, the initial lack of understanding regarding reflective writing posed a negative impact. It served as a reminder that understanding the task at hand is critical before diving into solving it.

In retrospect, we feel a sense of pride and accomplishment in our ability to overcome challenges and learn from the process. This experience has not only enriched our analytical thinking but also reinforced our self-confidence and ability to work effectively as a team. We are now more aware of the value of research, understanding, and effective communication in tackling challenges.

**Analysis**: Why did (or didn’t) things go well? What theories or research can help you better understand the situation?

individual task

a group task:

Reflecting on our work, we realize our initial difficulties stemmed from a hasty approach. We jumped directly into problem-solving without fully understanding the task, which led to inefficiencies. This experience taught me the importance of taking a moment to understand the requirements before attempting to solve a problem, a lesson we will carry into future tasks. Once we shifted our strategy and took the time to study unfamiliar concepts, our work progressed more smoothly. This reinforces the idea that taking a step back to learn can lead to more efficient progress in the long run.

Success came as we shared a common interest and will to complete the tasks efficiently and correctly. Reflecting on this, we realized the power of shared goals and how they can unite a team in their efforts. This was a valuable lesson in team dynamics that we will take with us into future collaborative projects.

To better understand the situation, we believe perhaps more information or examples of reflective writing would be helpful, as well as some studies that explain their true purpose and what benefits they can bring.

**Conclusions**: What did you learn from this situation? If this situation happened again, what would you do differently?

individual task

a group task:

From all the tasks we managed to do, we learned how to be more efficient in terms of collaboration and in terms of time management. We also learned what a reflective journal is and how to do this properly. It bettered us with more attention to our actions and brought a significant impact on our analytical thinking. The skills we developed—efficient collaboration, improved time management, and analytical thinking—not only apply to this specific situation but are also universally beneficial. They can be leveraged in other group projects, future employment, and even personal relationships. The lessons learned through this experience have a broader impact on our lives, making us more thoughtful and effective communicators, planners, and problem solvers.

We observed that we tend to skip directly to solving part of any problem instead of making sure its hypothesis is clear to us, which is a habit that if this situation happened again, we would like to change and do things differently.

**Action Plan**: What skills do you need to develop to handle a situation like this better? How will you develop the skills you need?

individual task

a group task:

Reflecting on the situation, we believe we could improve our skills of understanding requirements and texts, critical thinking, analytical thinking, and time management because all of these proved to be very important in handling such a situation. We could say that we’ve got these traits in a reasonable capacity but there’s always a place for improvement.

To develop our understanding of requirements and texts, we can practice by reading complex academic articles or challenging books and summarizing them. We could also engage in group discussions about these texts to ensure we've understood them correctly.

For critical and analytical thinking, we might solve complex problems or puzzles, analyze case studies, or even debate various topics. This can help us look at situations from different perspectives and analyze them deeply. By implementing these strategies, we hope to be better equipped to handle similar situations in the future.