Exams Reflective Journal

TEAM:

Bledea Mihaela Alexandra – 931/2

Bretan Cezar Alexandru – 931/2

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

**Answer:**

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?

**Answer:**

We felt like we were part of some social experiment that tested the efficacy of a certain set of questions that may be believed to have an effect of assurance applied to their answerers as a consequence of using these in a repetitive task. (TODO)

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

**Answer:**

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 caused confusion 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?

**Answer:**

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?

**Answer:**

From all the tasks we managed to do, we learned how to be more efficient in terms of collaborating with each other 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 have the tendency 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?

**Answer:**

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 on 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.