HCI Project

Part1.

Understanding of chosen Demographic / User

Generic user goals for interaction with this system:

-> User may easily choose their desired subjects, level and grade

-> Quick navigation through each subject field.

-> Receive a calculation of their points total which will be based

on their top 6 subject results.

-> Now have a good understanding of what post second level courses

they may apply for or be eligible for,(applies to current/past

students).

Target user base:

-> Classes of users:

1.Current Leaving Certificate Students:

-> This will be our main target group for this application

as it is directly linked to their final year in school

where they will sit and complete their leaving certificate

examinations.

Expected skill level & technology expertise:

- Ability to easily navigate the web page to meet their needs.

- A reasonable understanding of the Leaving cert points

system and how it works allowing them to do complete the

task mentioned above.

Possible Barriers:

- Not having a connection to the internet which is required

to load the web page which holds the calculator.

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2.Parents/Teachers:

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In what contexts will the chosen user use the product or service? When and where will this occur? What are their goals and motivations? Try to identify any limiting factors/barriers to use in these environments?

**Students:**

**In what context will they use it?**

Students will use this calculator when trying to determine what marks they will require in specific subjects in order to obtain their desired results.

To determine how many points they receive from certain subjects.

To show the difference between points obtained from an ordinary level exam and a higher level exam.

**When will they use it?**

Students will likely use this calculator when they are in fifth and sixth year.

**Where will they use it?**

Students should be able to access this calculator anywhere. On their phones, computers and tablets. They will likely use it at home when deciding on how much work they will need to do.

**What are their goals?**

To calculate the total number of points they obtained from their subjects.

To determine what grades will be required in order to achieve a certain number of points.

To show the difference between points obtained from higher and ordinary level exams.

To show how many extra points are available by sitting higher level maths.

**Parents/Teachers**

**In what context will they use it?**

Parents/Teachers of students will use this calculator when they want to understand what sort of grades their children/students will require when sitting the leaving cert.

**When will they use it?**

They will likely use the calculator when their children/students are in sixth or fifth year in school.

**Where will they use it?**

Parents/teachers could potentially use this calculator at any time. At home at work or even while out and about. The calculator must therefore be accessible on all platforms.

**What are their goals?**

To calculate the total number of points their child/student obtained from their subjects.

To determine what grades will be required by their child/student in order to achieve a certain number of points.

To show the difference between points obtained from higher and ordinary level exams.

To show how many extra points are available by sitting higher level maths.

**Past students**

**In what context will they use it?**

When trying to determine how many points they received in their leaving cert, perhaps for a job.

**When will they use it?**

When they have already finished their leaving cert but wish to check their points again.

**Where will they use it?**

They could check points at any time so must be accessible from all platforms.

**What are their goals?**

To calculate the total number of points they obtained in the leaving cert.

What functionality should be provided to meet the needs and expectations of the users, and the environments and situations in which they will use this product or service? The reasons for this functionality being provided should be clearly motivated by points discussed in 1 and 2.

Users of the calculator should be able to choose up to six of the subjects they are sitting. Only six subjects can count towards their 600 point cap.

Users will be able to choose their subject from a drop down menu. If the desired subject isn’t listed they can choose “other” as an option.

Users should be able to choose whether they are taking the subject at ordinary or higher level.

To do so they simply select from a drop down menu their desired level. This option will be on the same line as the subject it relates to.

The calculator should deal with special subjects like maths. If the maths exam is sat at higher level then the student receives a bonus 25 points. The calculator needs to cater for this.

If a user only chooses say four subjects then the calculator should return the results of them four subjects.

The calculator should show clearly the total number of points calculated from the input grades.

LCVP option?

Usability Considerations and Expected Problems

Based on the user and contextual factors previously identified, what usability problems and issues might be expected? What considerations should be made when providing the needed functionality to the user to overcome them?

* [Learnability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learnability): How easy is it for users to accomplish basic tasks the first time they encounter the design?
* Efficiency: Once users have learned the design, how quickly can they perform tasks?
* Memorability: When users return to the design after a period of not using it, how easily can they re-establish proficiency?
* Errors: How many errors do users make, how severe are these errors, and how easily can they recover from the errors?
* Satisfaction: How pleasant is it to use the design?

The calculator we plan on creating has a simple layout with drop down options. The majority of internet users will have encountered something similar previously.

We want the calculator to be as easy as possible to use from a users first encounter. Therefore we plan on making the calculator very accessible. We also plan on providing a set of instructions for those who are not as familiar with using web applications. A video run through of the calculator will also be provided.

The calculator should perform its task as soon as the user is ready. Once a user inputs all their data they simply click a button labeled “get points” or similar.

Users should have no problem remembering how to use the calculator but in rare cases when users forget how to use it they will still have the option of viewing the instructions.

The calculator will be somewhat protected from user errors as it will only give users certain options. However if say a user were to forget to enter one of their subjects and they noticed the points seemed lower than they should we could provide a field that tells users how many subjects they had entered. This should clear things up for the majority of users.

The calculator should be quick and easy to use. it should provide its end result in a clear manner.

- Screen reader

- Leaving cert explanation