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?

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.The calculator will need to be well described in each line to make it clear to all users(including those using a screen reader) what is happening. 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.

Some users may not understand how the leaving cert points are calculated or why only six subjects are counted so we plan on having an explanation of this linked.

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 expected, 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.