

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET

Unit title:	Graduate Skills
Assignment set by:	Marie Carroll
Assignment ID:	1CWK100
Assignment title:	Report and Reflection
Assessment weighting:	100%
Type: (Group/Individual)	Individual
Hand-in deadline:	As specified on Moodle
Hand-in format and mechanism:	An MS Word document submitted through Moodle. The document will include your report, your Skills Audit and a reflection.

Learning outcomes being assessed:

LO1: Evaluate a range of information sources for appropriateness.

LO2: Develop an argument and integrate with appropriate sources.

LO3: Reflect on their work and set targets for improvement through Personal Development planning.

Note: it is your responsibility to make sure that your work is complete and available for marking by the deadline. Make sure that you have followed the submission instructions carefully, and your work is submitted in the correct format, using the correct hand-in mechanism (e.g. Moodle upload). If submitting via Moodle, you are advised to check your work after upload, to make sure it has uploaded properly. Do not alter your work after the deadline. You should make at least one full backup copy of your work.

Penalties for late hand-in: see Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes of Study (<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/academic/casqe/regulations/assessment/docs/ug-regs.pdf>). The timeliness of submissions is strictly monitored and enforced.

All coursework has a late submission window of 5 working days, but any work submitted within the late window will be capped at 40%, unless you have an agreed extension. Work submitted after the 5-day window will be capped at zero, unless you have an agreed extension.

Please note that individual tutors are unable to grant extensions to coursework.

Exceptional Factors affecting your performance: see Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes of Study (<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/academic/casqe/regulations/assessment/docs/ug-regs.pdf>). For advice relating to exceptional factors, please see the following website: <https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/student-case-management/guidance-for-students/exceptional-factors/> or visit a Student Hub for more information.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the unacknowledged representation of another person's work, or use of their ideas, as one's own. Manchester Metropolitan University takes care to detect plagiarism, employs plagiarism detection software, and imposes severe penalties, as outlined in the Student Handbook (http://www.mmu.ac.uk/academic/casqe/regulations/docs/policies_regulations.pdf and Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes (<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/academic/casqe/regulations/assessment/docs/ug-regs.pdf>). Bad referencing or submitting the wrong assignment may still be treated as plagiarism. If in doubt, seek advice from your tutor.

Your work will be submitted through Moodle, with TurnItIn enabled. TurnItIn is a tool used to identify plagiarism and collusion in written submissions.

Assessment Criteria:	Indicated in the attached assignment specification.
Formative Feedback:	You can get formative feedback on your overall writing style such as grammar, punctuation, language and structure, through Studiosity .
Summative Feedback Format:	Marks and feedback will be returned through Moodle 4 weeks after your submission date.

The Assessment Specification

This assessment is in two parts. Part 1 is a report, and Part 2 is a written reflection. The requirements for each are described below.

Part 1

Choose one of the report titles listed below, and write a 2,000 word report. Some titles are generic, and suitable for students on any of our courses, whilst others are appropriate for students on our more specialised courses, Computer Games Development and Computer Animation & VFX.

Each title requires you to think critically about the topic, present arguments, and form your own opinion. You should source evidence to support the arguments presented

The report must be approximately 2,000 words in total, and must be in MS Word format.

References should be written in the Harvard style. You will have a lecture in week 4 covering library skills, including referencing, and avoiding plagiarism will be part the lab activities in that week.

The overall structure for your report should be:

- Title/cover page
- Contents page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Main body*
- Conclusions
- References

*The main body of your report will have headings specific to your chosen report title. In the main body you will present the different arguments related to the topic you have chosen.

Report Titles for All Students:

- One of the key debates related to autonomous cars is around road safety, and who is ultimately responsible in the event of an accident. Some people argue that we can never have truly driverless cars because a human should always be ready to intervene to prevent accidents. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this point of view?
- Robotic pets and conversational robot companions could help to combat loneliness in the elderly, especially those living alone. To what extent do you agree that robots should be part of the approach to 'care in the community' for the elderly?
- "Modern technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and algorithms, cut business costs and facilitate activities (such as internet searches and autonomous driving) which would otherwise be impossible. But they remove human involvement from the decision-making."
[\[https://www.regulation.org.uk/specifcics-artificial_intelligence.html\]](https://www.regulation.org.uk/specifcics-artificial_intelligence.html). But can we rely on technology to always get decisions right, or are there circumstances where you believe humans should always have the final say?

- “AI presents three major areas of ethical concern for society: privacy and surveillance, bias and discrimination, and perhaps the deepest, most difficult philosophical question of the era, the role of human judgment”. [<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/10/ethical-concerns-mount-as-ai-takes-bigger-decision-making-role/>]. Which of these do you consider to be the most serious ethical concern, and why?
- Recently there have been many technological advances that have changed the way software can be developed. These include low-code or no-code environments and code generated by AI. The CEO of GitHub was reported in 2017 to think that “automation will bring an end to traditional software programming” (<https://www.businessinsider.com/github-ceo-wanstrath-says-automation-will-replace-software-coding-2017-10?r=US&IR=T>). To what extent do you think that there is an on-going important role for skilled software designers and developers?
- A September 2021 article in the Independent claimed that computers are “worse for environment than plane travel” (<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/ict-computers-climate-change-carbon-footprint-b1917767.html>). To what extent do you think that individual computer users are responsible for the carbon footprint of their use of computers?
- Computer programs have been written that automatically create art, literature and music, but there is debate as to whether computers will ever be able to show creativity. Based on current applications and your expectations of future improvements in computing, do you believe that computers will become able to show creativity?
- GitHub have recently released an AI code suggestion tool named GitHub Copilot (<https://copilot.github.com/>) that uses AI to try to guess what code you might be trying to write, and automatically inserting it into your programme when asked. Supporters argue that it has the potential to save developers collectively millions of hours spent writing common functions. However, the launch has not been straightforward.

An early draft of a research paper written by security experts (<https://arxiv.org/abs/2108.09293>) indicates that almost 40% of the code suggestions made by Copilot, if adopted as-is, would introduce security vulnerabilities to the system being developed. Others have noted that because the AI was trained on code hosted on GitHub, code samples added by Copilot can contain leaked secrets (e.g. keys, passwords, configuration details) or that developers may end up including code in violation of its license (https://www.theregister.com/2021/07/06/github_copilot_autocoder_caught_spilling/).

Review the evidence that has emerged so far, and discuss whether GitHub were right to launch Copilot at this stage, and whether they should continue to make the service available, given the problems encountered.

Report Titles for Computer Games Development:

- “‘Crunch’ is a necessary working practice to produce computer games which meet the expectation of consumers.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- “‘Loot boxes’ are an essential component of recouping the increasing costs of computer games development.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Non-fungible Tokens (NFTs) have been touted as revolutionary for a number of digital sectors, including computer games, art and other digital media. Do you see a role for NFTs in the future of the digital industry?
- Availability of consumer hardware such as games consoles and graphics cards has become increasingly sparse, with some products becoming near impossible to obtain in recent years. What are the key driving factors behind the reduced availability of technological products, and what could be done to help make these products more available?

Report Titles for Computer Animation and VFX:

- ‘Deep Fakes’ have become relatively commonplace and part of mainstream knowledge over recent years. In what ways, if any, do you believe they may affect Visual Effects in the future?
- ‘Virtual Production’ is a relatively new field that leverages real-time rendering to complement more traditional post-production and rendering pipelines. How do you see this field evolving?
- During the global pandemic, many industries had to quickly adapt to allow employees to work from home on a large scale. What particular problems were Visual Effects and Animation houses/studios faced with, and in what ways may it influence ongoing working practices now that offices are reopening?
- Film, TV and Games can be seen as being on increasingly converging routes in terms of production cost and scale, storytelling, variety and complexity. Technologically, related to the final visuals of Film, TV and Games, to what extent do they differ, and how do you believe they will change over time?

Part 2

In week 2 of Graduate Skills you were asked to complete a Skills Audit. For Part 2 of this assessment you should submit a copy of your Skills Audit, with a short reflection.

Your reflection should be one page (i.e. a side of A4).

Your reflection should explain what conclusions you came to after completing your Skills Audit. You should comment on:

- What skills do you already feel competent in? **How did you develop these skills?**
- What skills do you most need to develop? **How do you think you can develop these skills?**
- What goals did you add to your 5 Year Plan for this year? **Why did you choose these goals?**

Assessment Criteria

Your work will be assessed based on six criteria:

Criterion	Weighting
Academic writing style, report structure and report presentation	15%
Report introduction	10%
Presentation of a balanced argument	35%
Report conclusion	20%
References	10%
Reflection	10%

Each of these criteria will be assessed using the marking grids available on the following pages:

Criteria	0-19	20-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-85	86-100
Academic writing style, report structure and report presentation 15%	<p>Little or no attempt has been made to present the report well, and it does not follow a report structure. The standard of academic writing is poor, with many errors in grammar and punctuation.</p>	<p>The report is neither presented nor structured well. The standard of academic writing needs much improvement. There are many errors in grammar and punctuation.</p>	<p>The report is presented to a reasonably good standard, and it is structured well. The standard of academic writing needs much improvement. There are many errors in grammar and punctuation.</p>	<p>The report is presented to a very good standard, and it is structured well. The standard of academic writing is good, but with clear room for improvement. There are quite a few errors in grammar and punctuation.</p>	<p>The report is presented to a very good standard, and it is structured well. The standard of academic writing is good. There are a few errors in grammar and punctuation.</p>	<p>The report is presented to a very good standard, and it is structured very well. The standard of academic writing is very good. There are a few errors in grammar and punctuation.</p>	<p>The report is presented to a professional standard. The report structure is excellent. The standard of academic writing is very high, with almost no errors in grammar and punctuation.</p>
Report introduction 10%	<p>There is no introduction, or the introduction does not describe the topic of discussion. No attempt has been made to provide a thesis statement or route map¹.</p>	<p>The introduction is vague in describing the topic of discussion. No attempt has been made to provide a thesis statement or route map¹.</p>	<p>The report topic is introduced with a reasonably clear general statement. The thesis statement and route map¹ are missing, or are not clearly defined.</p>	<p>The report topic is introduced with a clear general statement. There is a reasonable attempt at a thesis statement, but there is no route map¹.</p>	<p>The report topic is introduced with a clear general statement. There is a reasonable attempt at a thesis statement, and route map¹.</p>	<p>The report is introduced very well, with a general statement, a thesis statement, and route map¹, which are largely articulated well.</p>	<p>The report is introduced exceptionally well, with a general statement, a thesis statement, and route map¹, which are all very clearly articulated.</p>

¹ If you are not sure what a general statement, a thesis statement, and route map are, please refer to the lecture in week 3

Criteria	0-19	20-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-85	86-100
Presentation of a balanced argument 35%	No attempt has been made to present an argument based on the chosen topic.	Some attempt has been made to present an argument, but little attempt has been made to consider all sides of the question.	A reasonable attempt has been made to present an argument, but the discussion lacks balance. There are other aspects of the argument that have not been considered.	A good attempt has been made to present a balanced argument. There are other aspects of the argument that have not been considered.	The report presents a well-balanced argument. The different sides of the argument could be discussed more critically.	The report presents a very well balanced argument. All sides of the question have been considered critically.	The report presents an exceptionally well balanced argument. All sides of the question have been considered critically and with insight.
Report conclusion 20%	No attempt has been made to present a conclusion, or the conclusion is not relevant to the question.	The conclusion is a statement of fact, and does not reflect the writer's own opinion on the chosen question.	The conclusion is largely a statement of fact, and lacks any meaningful insight into the writer's opinion on the chosen question.	The conclusion goes some way to articulating the writer's opinion on the chosen topic. Little or no reference is made to the discussion in the main body of the report.	The conclusion is a good attempt at articulating the writer's opinion. Some reference is made to the discussion in the main body of the report.	The conclusion articulates the writer's opinion clearly. The decisions are clearly linked to the discussion presented in the body of the report.	The conclusion articulates the writer's opinion clearly, and is insightful. The decisions are clearly linked to the discussion presented in the body of the report.

Criteria	0-19	20-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-85	86-100
References 10%	There are no references, or they are not relevant to the chosen topic. The Harvard style has not been used.	The choice of sources is very limited in scope, or have limited relevance to the topic. Little or no effort has been made to use references to support the arguments presented. Citations do not follow the Harvard style.	A wider variety of sources could have been selected, but those selected are relevant. The main body lack adequate use of references to support the arguments presented. Citations do not follow the Harvard style.	A good variety of relevant sources has been selected. The main body of the report makes some good use of the resources to support the arguments presented. Citations do not follow the Harvard style.	A good variety of relevant sources has been selected. The main body of the report makes some good use of the resources to support the arguments presented. Sources are cited accurately in the Harvard style.	A good variety of relevant sources has been selected. Sources have largely been used effectively to support the arguments presented in the body of the report. Sources are cited accurately in the Harvard style.	An excellent variety of relevant sources has been selected. Sources have been used very effectively to support the arguments presented in the body of the report. Sources are cited accurately in the Harvard style.
Reflection 10%	There is no Skills Audit, or it is incomplete. There is no reflection.	There is no Skills Audit, it is incomplete. The reflection is brief and only partially addresses the three bullet points.	The Skills Audit is complete or almost complete. The reflection is largely factual, and does not address, or only partially addresses, the 'How' and 'Why' questions in the three bullet points.	The skills audit is complete or almost complete. The reflection is largely factual, and does not address the 'How' and 'Why' questions in the bullet points.	A largely complete Skills Audit was submitted. The reflection largely covers all three bullet points thoroughly. More consideration could be given to one or more of the 'How' and 'Why' questions.	A complete Skills Audit was submitted. The reflection largely covers all three bullet points thoroughly. The reflection demonstrates thoughtful consideration of the 'How' and 'Why' questions.	A complete Skills Audit was submitted. The reflection covers all three bullet points thoroughly. The reflection demonstrates thoughtful consideration of all the 'How' and 'Why' questions.