PGR208 Exam Report

I don’t really know what I would have done differently if I were to do this project for a second time, as it was the weirdest course I have had so far. I had to learn almost everything from different sites/resources online as the teacher we started off with was not ideal to say the least. From the third week I took matters into my own hands and started learning android programming from different sites/resources online such as the CodeCademy site, youtubers and some other sites/resources.

The introduction of new lecturers towards the end of the course was a significant turning point. These educators brought a fresh perspective and a more effective teaching style, which was a very welcomed change. They demonstrated a deep understanding of the subject matter and had a great way for explaining complex concepts in an accessible manner. Unfortunately, their arrival coincided closely with the exam period, meaning that much of my preparation was already done through my self-study efforts.

One of the biggest challenges was the timing of the new lectures, which ran parallel to the exam period. As a result, I entered the exam relying primarily on the knowledge I had acquired through self-study.

The creation and refinements of activities and adapters, was by far the most time consuming tasks and where I spent most of my time.

Each activity, from MainActivity to ProductDetailsActivity, had to be carefully designed to ensure an intuitive and responsive user experience. Crafting the transitions and state management between these activities, ensuring that data was passed seamlessly, and that user inputs gives the correct response was a complex process that required numerous iterations and testing cycles.

The adapters, particularly AllProductsRecyclerAdapter were very demanding. These components are crucial for rendering lists of products and orders efficiently. I invested a significant amount of time in designing these adapters. Perfecting the view binding and recycling within the adapters was a detailed endeavor to optimize performance and smooth scrolling. The adapters also needed to interact flawlessly with the backend data structures, requiring a deep dive into understanding how data is fetched, processed, and presented.

There was no specific part of the delivery I was more satisfied with than others, I am more proud of and happy for myself that I was able to learn so much on my own, and structure the learning myself and completing the exam with a result I was happy with . I spent a lot of time on every part of the project, and even though I had to put in some extreme hours of work on the activities and adapters as mentioned earlier, I also had to put in a lot of hours on the other parts of the project as well.

This is by far the most challenging, frustrating and annoying exam I have had so far. It is also the exam I have learned the most from, and the lessons learned from this period of intensive work, I will say are invaluable and have contributed significantly to my development as an programmer.