Hi Everyone
Here are some guidelines to help prepare for the assessments:

Please read all the notes below, covering:
1. Process: The mentors want to see your thinking early
   - IN THE ASSESSMENT (Assessment Engagement Requirements)
2: NB: What about LOAD SHEDDING?
3: Technical Preparation: Pseudocode / Workflows / Database Design
4. Technical Preparation: Practice
5.Personal Preparation: Focus
6. Questions & Connecting with the Mentors
7. What concepts will this assessment cover?

Please note that the assessment process *is not like an exam* - it's more like the experience of a workplace **urgent work request**. So we do not follow exam conditions. You are required to talk with the mentors about the challenge. You are welcome to talk normally with each other, just not discuss the challenge with each other.
codeX assessments are as much about how you go about problem solving as they are about the code you produce. Your mentors need to be able to see your process.

While codeX has prepared these challenges, *in the work world there will be times when something urgent comes up and you need to drop everything and focus on solving it, quickly and thoroughly*.
You don't get to prepare then; you simply must be prepared at that moment. codeX assessments are designed to ensure that you are able to put your skills into practice when the need arises.

Please note for the assessment:

1. Process: The mentors want to see your thinking *early*.

We want to see how you go about **thinking about the challenge**, as well as how you solve it.

> In a working environment, holding on to your work until it's finished is actually *high risk*, and creates *distrust* with other team members. Share early, share often!

The whole team's success depends on each person's work, so showing your thinking early allows team members to see:
- how you are solving a problem,
- where other work may be impacted,
- and if there is something you've missed they can let you know with lots of time to make adjustments.

You are required to connect with the mentors at a minimum of 3 times - during planning, before 12 and before 3pm. This will help you to be clear if you are going in the right direction and correct quickly, as well as reduce any panic you may be feeling.

IN THE ASSESSMENT: Please make sure you:

1. Create your **Kanban Board and Pseudocode** (we will share a doc in Google Classroom)
    a. Share your Kanban links and Pseudocode with mentors@projectcodex.co
    b. Your Kanban planning should follow the **Thin Slicing** approach
2. **Verify your thinking with the mentors**, and email mentors@projectcodex.co if you are stuck in any way
3. **Share your github links** at the time indicated in the assessment (repository then deployed link)
4. **Deploy quickly and re-deploy updates** regularly after that.
5. **Share your links early** in the day - waiting for the last moment will put you at a disadvantage.

This is to help you get into the practice of engaging with mentors, in preparation for engaging with more experienced coders & team leads.

Please note that all coders must **complete the assessments in the time set**.

We are not able to assess work completed after the deadline.

For this reason it's essential that you commit to Github at the time the mentors request at the latest; and update your work on a regular basis. If you have any problems committing your code, please email mentors@projectcodex.co immediately.

And rather than getting stuck on the early challenges and running out of time please make sure you ask for help or clarification as soon as you get stuck.

2. What about Load Shedding?

You will be required to continue on the assessments through load shedding.

1. Make sure your battery is fully charged at all times prior to load shedding (not only when you expect it).

    NB: If your machine does not work without a charger (i.e. your battery is not working), please replace your battery. Alternately, you may need to make a plan to go somewhere where there is power during your area's loadshedding.

    Do not assume you can stop work and this will be accepted.

2. Save an offline copy of the challenge; and write it out by hand if you are likely to run out of power.

3. If your battery runs out during load shedding: **Pen and paper will still work**.

- If you have internet make sure you commit regularly (every hour or so) and deploy before you run out of battery.
- Write down the key parts of the challenge you have not completed so that you can work if you run out of battery.
- **If you do run out of battery:** make sure you can capture what is left with pen & paper - diagrams, pseudo-code, and key aspects of the code you would need to put in place to complete the challenges.
    - Write **pseudocode** (get familiar with the links below)
    - Go into detail in the **Workflow, including writing names of files, variables, functions etc.**
    - Draw **diagrams** that you can photograph & upload later

- and do everything you can to **show that you understand** the challenge, and how you would go about solving it.

4. If your power goes out when load shedding was not expected… **inform the mentors *immediately* - via Slack or Whatsapp.**
    - And then follow Step 2 above.

3: Technical Preparation: Thin Slices / Pseudocode / Workflows

- **THIN SLICES**
    - Complete your planning following the **Thin Slicing** approach
- **PSEUDOCODE**
    - Practice writing Pseudocode: This is a valuable skill for everyone, and also can be your last resort if your backup plans for load shedding aren't working
    - Collaborative Learning, Workflow & Pseudocode Links on Google Classrooms
- **WORKFLOWS**
    - Video: Basic introduction to Workflows: What is a Workflow? (**2**m36s)
    - Do a Workflow modeling Inputs / Outputs / Process TEMPLATE - AWD Workflow
    - Take a previous challenge and complete a **Workflow** for it, focusing on the Inputs, the Outputs, and what processes, functions, tests etc. you need to complete the challenge.

Look for new challenges and complete the steps above for all of them - *you don't need a computer at all!*

4: Technical Preparation: Practice

Further, to prepare for the assessments: You need the practice of doing these steps regularly in order to be confident that you can do them for a new challenge in a short space of time.
NB: don't just read / watch videos - it won't be enough.

- Go over your curriculum exercises
- Do them again without looking at your previous work
- Try new challenges that are similar (make them up, it's great practice!)
- Start with the Planning and Pseudocode, *then* write the code

5. Personal Preparation: Focus

Working under pressure is an important developer skill. The non-tech part of the codeX curriculum matters here!
Refresh your memory on:

- *Learning*:
    - The six learning strategies for deep learning
    - The neuroscience of problem solving and developing mental models
- *Planning:* How to unpack work clearly into Kanban tasks
- *Personal Development*: Managing Panic: how to stay present when you are feeling stressed. Vagus Nerve Exercises To Rewire Your Brain From Anxiety

Give yourself the very best chance you can!

6. Questions & Connecting with the Mentors:

Remember that you are **required** to ask questions during the Assessment (at least 3 engagements with mentors), and that the mentors are *not able to respond to vague questions, eg. "please help me".*

BUT! Mentors will not respond to vague questions, eg, "please help me" or "it's not working as expected".
So please make sure you **provide detail up front**:

- What is the specific challenge/question you have, or the plan/idea you are confirming
- Which aspect of the challenge are you focused on?
- For bugs/ errors: What were you trying to do & what turned out different?
    - What is your guess about what might be missing?
    - What kind of error is it? Why might you have an error in this part of the code?
- What would you like help with?

With this detail, the mentors are able to respond to the questions.
(And please don't ever just paste a link into the email; always tell us what you are asking for).
We look forward to reading your well thought-through questions ❔📝💡

7. What concepts will this assessment cover?

As previously communicated, the following concepts will be covered in the assessment:
The concepts covered in this assessment are:

- **Layout, Responsiveness and TDD**

During the assessment you will be given the following challenges:

- A web page challenge - Create a responsive web layout
- You will be given a test and need to implement the function that makes it pass
- You will be given a function, and need to write tests for it.

Prepare well and be open to communicating!

Instructions with guidelines will be issued on the day of assignment; please make sure you read the instructions carefully before starting working on the assessment. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to the mentors.

May your assessment show your strengths!
Team codeX