***Plan*** The Plan should outline the aims, objectives and a detailed requirements for your project. It should be about 1,500 words in length, and typically around five to seven pages long (these are rough guidelines). The assessment of the Project Plan will take account of the items listed below.

*Aims* describe the broad purposes of the project, and state in general terms what you are setting out to do.

*Objectives* describe concretely how the aims are going to be met; it should be possible to assess concretely/quantitatively whether or not the (list of) project objectives have been achieved.

Note that the objectives should focus on your own actual work, and not the assessment deliverables! For example, an objective might be to produce a short written account of optimizing parallel processors, or to present a structured requirements for a hotel man- agement system, but *must not* state “produce an interim report” as a project objective (but such details may form part of Planning and Timescales).

As part of your aims and objectives, you should give a *summary of the challenges and originality that you intend to bring to your project*, and outline the problem that you are trying to solve. You should explain why your work is more than a re-hashing of other peoples’ ideas, and what fresh input you are going to deliver.



5

*Structured Requirements* Your plan must also include a detailed software requirements for your project, which magnifies your objectives and provides additional details. You may present your detailed requirements in any way you see fit, but writing a *structured requirements list* is a good way of proceeding. This list should specify the *functional requirements [F]*, *resources [R]* and the *quality attributes [Q]* of your software. The aim is to demonstrate that you have a very clear understanding of *what* your final software must be able to do.

*Planning and Timescales* should detail your year’s work plan, and explain target dates and amounts of times required for completions of components of the project. At this stage, a detailed plan should be given for semester 1, and a sketch for semester 2. Include a Gantt chart. You might consider specifying “milestones”, making clear what the key goals of your project are.

*Submission* This handin is due 11:59pm Thursday 20 October 2016 and should be submitted via SVN in the directory /docs/1\_project\_plan.