**3.4 I can explain the effectiveness of tests and reflect on their purpose**

The purpose of tests are to identify areas/ systems that require improvement/ fixing, and that work done meets requirements. There are only a limited number of tests which can be performed, and these are usually listed in a specification given to the tester(s). Again, one cannot perform an exhaustive number of tests to eliminate all errors, as this may cost more resources and would delay a product’s completion.

It is important and is more effective to test early on, to avoid only discovering avoidable errors later on in the process which may stop or increase the time/ costs for a project.

Testing can be done manually by people testing that, for example, links/ buttons all work and that pages look right, or automated checking by a program that checks background links all work. Automated testing is therefore not effective at seeing if the website looks as it should and would not identify wrong pictures being used or spelling errors, for example.

Comparatively, manual testing, whilst good when done by experienced people checking all parts of a website, may not always be effective at catching errors in the html/ CSS. It is also often the case that manual testers will not have access to background systems so could not be effective at checking this. The purpose of my running tests on my website was to find any errors I had caused and to make sure it met the specification. Whether those tests are effective will be clear once my work is marked.