Tutorial 2

For these exercises, use the CodeIgniter zip file found in the "CodeIgniter resources" folder under "Learning Resources" on this Blackboard module site.

Exercise 1

Install CodeIgniter in a directory under your web server document root, and check that you can run it. See the online notes for instructions on installation and running the default Codeigniter application.

(Note: if you are doing this exercise on a university machine, you will need to download CodeIgniter to your local machine and then FTP it to your public_html directory under the uni web server. The host name for FTP is compute0.westminster.ac.uk, and the username and password will be your uni username and password.)

Explore the code for the Codeigniter application you have installed. Find the file containing the `Welcome` controller. Read through the code and locate the line of code that is responsible for creating the view. Locate the file containing the code for the view. Edit the view and re-run your application. Check that you can see your changes in the browser.

Exercise 2

Create a new controller called Student. Add an action to the controller to display a view that shows details of a single student (you can hard-code these details in the view's HTML).

Use CodeIgniter with your new Controller and action to display the details of the student in a browser.

Exercise 3

We can pass data to views from a controller (we will cover this in more detail next week). In the controller, when we load the view, we can pass a second argument which is an associative array containing the data we want the view to use. So, for example, instead of writing

```
$this->load->view('book');
```

we can write

```
$this->load->view('book',array('title' => 'PHP for Experts','author' => 'Dr X'));
```

In the view file, the array keys become variables. So, using the example above, we can write our view like this:

```
<html> <body> <h2> <?php echo $title ?> was written by <?php echo $author ?> </h2>
</body> </html>
```

where $title will hold the string "PHP for Experts", and $author will hold the string "Dr X" (compare the associative array in the controller example with the two variables in the view example).

Change your code for Exercise 2, so that you pass data to the student view containing the student name, course and picture (you can use URLs to images on the web).

Try experimenting with different array keys in the controller and variables in the view for different bits of data to customise the view.