A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

# Project Exam 1

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Word count

## Design

### **What went well on the project**

Research:

When I was decided on the theme of my blog site. I did some research to see what other blogs were out there that talked about similar themes. The theme of my blog was mostly aimed at a bit of light entertainment for other coders.

Looked at blogs about similar themes

Things that worked well and did not

Ideas about how to make the designs work on mobile and desktop size

Noted down which elements could be reused throughout the site, to help later knowing how to code it so it

I sourced all my images from open sources that had creative commons licences. I used images that had permission to both be used and edited. Many of the images I used in my blog I edited together using photoshop to make them amusing and appropriate for the theme of the site and to the target audience.

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

Designed a bug to go behind the heading, supposed to not really be seen but everyone just said I can’t really see that. But of course they did otherwise they wouldn’t have known it was not there to see.

Modal caused some confusion, On desktop I changed the cursor to be a pointer and zoom out to make it clear to the user where they could click and what would happen.

However I failed to realise that this would not help on mobile and tablets. I soon found through user testing that users hesitated before working out how to close the modal. I Therefore researched to see how other sites do this. I had a look at facebook and first it seemed very similar functionality, I could click outside and it closed. I then noticed that actually Facebook used something that I had not. A common convention. A close button. I added this to my site remembering that accepted convention is an important thing for users [1]. I noticed on the heatmaps and user recordings from hotjar that this helped and especially used by touchscreen users.

The menu button in my design was black, this worked well in theory but when I actually tried it out it disappeared into all the other content so I changed it to green this helped.

When the user scrolled to the end they often continued to try to scroll, there was no indication that there was no more posts left to view.

### **What would you do differently next time**

I would get users to try out the prototype before going to code it. This could have saved some time as I would have found out some of the issues before coding them making fixing them easier.

## Technical

### **What went well on the project**

I read extensively the documentations for the wordpress API which allowed me to make use of many of the different endpoints to create different functions for filtering, sorting, searching, posting comments and sending messages.

To make the fetch requests for blog posts as efficient as possible I only ever fetched 6 posts at a time. When originally thinking about how to show a number of posts and then have a view more button I thought I would need to fetch all the posts and then hide some. I realised quickly that this would not be a very efficient way of doing it, especially when wordpress API has so many ways of fetching posts with pagination [2]. I therefore decided to limit the number of blogposts fetched to 6 for the main blog page, I then subsequently added number of posts already fetched to the number of posts to offset in the url endpoint. This allowed for quick loading for the users.

Reading the documentation for the API allowed me to easily follow how to post comments from a site. As I will not be getting users to login to comment on my site I was required to add a function to the functions.php file in my wordpress backend [3] [4]. I accessed the values from the form using javascript and created a headers object to send the information and save the comments to the backend.

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

When I got users to test my site I found that some of the elements were weirdly placed on safari browsers. I then had to go back and find out what was not supported on this browser using caniuse.com. … blah blah

One user during a user test complained that the posts took too long to load on the carrousel on the home page. I thought about ways I could speed this up. I realised I was fetching the largest size of image for the small previews. I changed these to the small ones which seemed to speed up the loading considerably.

I had to find a wordpress plugin to allow me to post messages to the server, for this I used contact-form-7, supplying endpoints and functionality to post messages [3] and Flamingo [4] a plugin by the same developer that is used to store the messages. After reading up on the documentation and methods for collecting data from forms in a post request [5] [6], I was able to send and receive emails from the blog site to my email address.

I found it difficult to change the color of the svg icons on hover after searching I found that I could use filters in css [9].

### **What would you do differently next time**

I would have planned the coding time even more. I would like to have gone through the interfaces of all the pages and think about the logic behind the different functions. This would have allowed me to make reusable functions from the start and make it more efficient.

I would check the site on all different types of common browser before user testing to sort out styling bugs.

Add social media functions to footer

## WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO

### **What went well on the project**

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

### **What would you do differently next time**

**Checklist**

* Mobile responsive and looks good on all screen sizes (not just one mobile screen and one desktop screen). Meta viewport in the head of the document.
* The HTML is neat and semantic, and the CSS is concise and styles aren't duplicated in media queries.
* Each page has a unique title, one unique h1, and meta description.
* Images are below 200kb and have alt text.
* The site looks good and there's a class in the navigation telling the user which page they're on
* Text lines are kept short. Here's an example of how you can do that using max-width [https://codepen.io/noroff-education/pen/VwYpweQ](https://codepen.io/noroff-education/pen/VwYpweQ" \o "https://codepen.io/noroff-education/pen/VwYpweQ" \t "_blank)
* The colours have good contrast, the text is easy to read and the site is easy for user's to navigate.
* The report includes planning, and covers why decisions were made and how the process was to create site.
* Introduction/Interpretation of the assignment
* Planning
* Target audience/research
* Graphic design: design principles, typography, color
* HTML/CSS: Semantics, structure
* SEO/Content Stategy/WCAG
* Interface Design: Personae/Scenario, Affordances, Navigation, Persuasion, Wireframing, Prototyping
* JavaScript
* Implementation/rollout
* Conclusion

## References

(place references to websites, books, forums etc. that helped you in the project)

## Links to open source images used for my site:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/topgold/2842497804>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/orange-tip-butterfly-5051334/?download>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Wanderer_male_female_philomela_WIKI.JPG#/media/File:Wanderer_male_female_philomela_WIKI.JPG>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bbusschots/5728366550>

[https://pixnio.com/fauna-animals/insects-and-bugs/butterflies-and-moths-pictures/question-mark-butterfly-on-common-milkweed-flower](https://www.flickr.com/photos/texaseagle/7072121083/)

<https://www.pxfuel.com/en/free-photo-omjrd>

<https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-fxpcf>

<https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-jecvw>

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hormiga_panda.png>

<https://freesvg.org/bald-man-walking-in-a-suit-silhouette-vector-image>

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bee_hummingbird_(Mellisuga_helenae)_adult_male_in_flight.jpg>

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/59/Stio_iks.jpg>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/andreaskay/44094238755>

<https://www.maxpixel.net/Insect-Nose-Macro-Close-up-Filbert-Weevil-Bug-106114>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/berniedup/16462044627/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/urtica/28097467522/>

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/sources/sophs-crafts-ravelry-store>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/beetle-mites-mite-infestation-lice-452994/>

<https://www.pxfuel.com/en/free-photo-jdcxl/download>

<https://www.pxfuel.com/en/free-photo-xwyur/download>