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# **Project Exam 1**

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Word count: 916



## Design

After deciding on the topic I wanted a design that would feel thematically at home. The blog contains book reviews and recommendation. The design should be clean and inviting and inspire a calm and cozy feeling. The target audience for the blog is adults that enjoy reading and are proficient in the use of modern technology.

The home page has a hero image that represent a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere. It involves warm colours, and the image combined with the quote in the middle should help the user understand what the blog is about. The user is also met with images of book covers right away. The background colour for all pages is the colour of parchment. I think the overall colours scheme and the images on the about pages also help set the tone.

After implementing the styling from my prototype to the book reviews page I was uncertain how well it worked. In hindsight I think it would have worked better with more text than the large images. I could have included an extract from the copy and potentially the date it was posted. I knew I would need a lot of time to code all the functionality of the page, so I didn't prioritize this change. It is something that I would change if I had had more time.

One thing I would do differently next time is spend more time in the design phase to properly layout different screen sizes. I made a prototype for mobile and desktop view, but ended up using a lot of time on coding to find something that worked well for the medium sized screens.

## Technical

I had a detailed plan for how I would spend the time with the coding, but quickly went out of order with the different issues I tackled. Next time I will allow for more flexibility in my plan.

The HTML and CSS coding went well. I did not run into issues before I started implementing JavaScript. I had no clear idea of how to do any of the major tasks: the carousel, image modal and the "view more" for the blog list page. My JavaScript skills are beginner level and



the only code I felt confident in doing was the form validation and the fetching of the API. I relied heavily on tutorial videos to complete the rest of the code. All of them are linked below.

One of the biggest issues I faced was how to make the arrows on the carousel work. I followed a video guide (CodingNepal, 2023) that seemed to have exactly what I was going for, but on my carousel the right arrow would disappear permanently after clicking it. I did a lot of troubleshooting by googling and searching through websites about web development, before I was able to find a solution.

A lot of the guides I followed (DotWebdesign, 2022 & Mr. Web Designer, 2021) was difficult to implement because I was fetching my elements from an API while the guide had it hardcoded. Some of my functions ended up being very long and difficult for me to read (like the `getDetails` function in `blog-post.js`, because everything needed to be done in the same place the API was fetched. I am not confident this is the best way to solve it but with my limited skills this was what I was able to do.

When it comes to making the code readable and structured, I think I have a long way to go. This is a place where I'll need to trust my experience and growth over time.

There are still a lot that can be done with the website. The main feedback I got from user testing was that the search bar was not functional and the categories on the book reviews page were not clickable. Neither of these were requirements for the exam, but if I were to work further on the website these would be priorities to fix. On the blog specific pages, it would also be helpful to have a button that takes the user back to the top of the page.



## WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO

I used WAVE evaluation tool and a colourblind web page filter from Toptal.com to make sure the site follows the WCAG guidelines.

There were some issues connected to WordPress. Setting it up and hosting a domain for the API went well, but figuring out how to get certain elements from the API was difficult. I tried using both regular posts and the WooCommerce plug in for this, but I found neither of them optimal. With the help of the REST API Handbook I was able to make it work, but the way I am getting information about book title and author is not ideal. I added the information as tags and categories and there is most likely a better way to do it, maybe with the use of plugins. The REST API Handbook helped me figure out how to get the URL to fetch more than 10 posts and how to get embedded information.

My focus when it comes to SEO was to create high-quality, relevant, and engaging content. The webpage has a simple site structure and is optimized for mobile users. All pages have relevant titles and meta descriptions. The individual blogposts are not optimized for search engines as they include no keywords or categories. Next time I will do even more research beforehand, to find out what keywords are relevant.



## References

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