Criterion A: Planning

# Description of Scenario

My client will be Minh Pham, a student at Inglemoor High School. Minh is highly concerned with his grades, as they have a strong effect on his future. Thus, he spends much of his time trying to calculate the minimum scores he will need on certain tests and assignments in order to obtain his desired grade. This is a very tedious task, as the process varies for each class. Different classes have different weight systems, different types of assignments, or the student may even have a different letter grade goal for each class. Minh is not alone, as many students struggle through this monotonous in order to gain insights on their grades. The product I will be developing will help streamline this process, making it extremely easy to see how a student must perform to reach certain letter grades.

The following is an excerpt from an interview I conducted with Minh, where I asked him various questions about what he would like to see in the project. At the time this interview was conducted, he had already decided he wanted a product relating to his grades in some way.

**Q: What are some of the problems you encounter with your grades?**

A: Sometimes I don’t know how my test is going to affect my grade.

**Q: What specific features are you looking for in this program?**

A: I want something where I could put in my current grades, and then figure out what I need on the next test to get an A.

**Q: What features on the current grades site would you like implemented in this new program?**

A: I’m interested in a cleaner design. I’m also interested in some sort of planner feature.

**Q: To remind you of upcoming assignments?**  
A: Yes.

**Q: What features is the current grades site lacking?**

A: I kind of want a grade calculation summary on all my classes. If I go to English, there’s no way to tell what makes up what. Like maybe give the user the ability to make categories? So, if I need to work on my essay, I can put all my essay grades under it.

# Rationale for proposed solution

I have decided to approach this problem with a Java application. I chose Java as it is compatible with a variety of operating systems. This is important to my client, who uses a variety of devices and would greatly increase convenience if he could use the product on any of his devices. I have confirmed with the client that his devices are compatible with Java applications. The IDE I will be using is NetBeans, which I chose due to my familiarity with it. In addition, NetBeans will give me the ability to design the sleek user interface that my client desires. As the product requires file input and output in order to save the user’s data, some security concerns may be raised. However, all the files will be stored on the user’s computer, so there is little concern of outside intervention. Finally, the use of a graphical user interface is needed, as there are many components that must be displayed to the user at once.

# Success Criteria

The interview I conducted with Minh revealed the various criterion I need to accomplish with the final product for it to be considered a success. These include:

* The ability to see how assignments will affect the user’s grade
* The ability to save and store the user’s information in a file to avoid being forced to re-input data
* A calendar and planner system that will remind the user of upcoming due dates
* A clean user interface that is easy to navigate and understand