ASSESSMENT AND INTERNAL VERIFICATION FRONT SHEET (Individual Criteria)

(Note : This version is to be used for an assignment brief issued to students via Classter)

Course Title	Bachelor of Science (Hons). In Multimedia Software Development Bachelor of Science (Hons). In Software Development Bachelor of Science (Hons). In Networking		Lecturer Name & Surname	Gerard Said Pullicino	
Unit Number & Title	**ITPRJ-606-1606 IT Project**				
Assignment Number, Title / Type	**Assignment 1**				
Date Set	**25/03/2021**	**Deadline Date**	**21/05/2021**		
Student Name		**ID Number**		**Class / Group**	

Assessment Criteria	Maximum Mark
• **AA 2 Implement a research structure for a given subject area**	7
• **AA 5 Organise collected data in a valid and correct way in own project.**	7
• **KU 3 Discuss the suitability of different research methodologies to different subject areas.**	5
• **AA 1 Select the correct research methodology for a specific subject area.**	7
• **KU 1 Recognize different research methodologies and their use within a project**	5
• **KU 4 Explain the different research methodologies used by different authors in a subject area**	5
• **KU 5 Explain the distinction between different research types for a specific topic**	5
• **KU 2 Identify areas of academic discourse within a specific subject area**	5
• **KU 6 Identify a valid number of research papers in a given subject area that are related to own project**	5
• **KU 7 Indicate how results may be presented in the context of own documentation**	5
• **AA 3 Assess collected information related to the implementation of the research process of own project**	7
• **AA 4 Present different research perspective in chosen subject area for a project**	7
• **SE 1 Appraise how results are collected by the majority of researchers in own chosen subject area**	10
• **SE 2 Create a valid set of results based on collected data for own project**	10
• **SE 3 Derive conclusions from valid scientific data correctly to determine results of own project**	10
Total Mark	100

Notes to Students:

- This assignment brief has been approved and released by the Internal Verifier through Classter.

- Assessment marks and feedback by the lecturer will be available online via Classter (Http://mcast.classter.com) following release by the Internal Verifier

- Students submitting their assignment on Moodle/Unicheck will be requested to confirm online the following statements:

    Student's declaration prior to handing-in of assignment
    - ❖ I certify that the work submitted for this assignment is my own and that I have read and understood the respective Plagiarism Policy

    Student's declaration on assessment special arrangements
    - ❖ I certify that adequate support was given to me during the assignment through the Institute and/or the Inclusive Education Unit.
    - ❖ I declare that I refused the special support offered by the Institute.

ICT Project Assignment

This assignment contains tasks which will give you practical skills in the preparation of your dissertation. Completing these tasks will give you practice in the skills that you will need to use to prepare the supporting documentation and presentation of your dissertation. You are therefore encouraged to perform ALL of the tasks below as part of your submission for this subject. Please note that this assignment is assessed *independently* of the dissertation and carries its own assessment, which is 100% of the marks for the ICT project module in the third year of the degree.

Your submission for this course will be a git enabled folder with a minimum of one commit per task. For each commit description, please include the location of the files and all the information required to access the files necessary for each task. The upload will be to a unicheck enabled submission on Moodle at the end of the course.

Unless advised otherwise, documents submitted for this assignment should either be PDF files or HTML web pages which can be accessed offline with the appropriate relative paths.

Task 1 - Concept mapping

You are required to use Xmind to create a valid concept map of either your own dissertation, or a dissertation of your choice from the past dissertations repository.

Your concept map should follow the following rules:

1. Leaf nodes should be sources supporting a concept.
2. No two identical leaf nodes (similar elements should be linked by relationships).
3. All relationships should be labelled.
4. All referenced papers should be included in the concept map.
5. All referenced papers should be listed in a separate bibliography in correct format.

The concept map should be uploaded in .png format in a resolution of at least 1920x1080 (ensure that the assessor can easily zoom in and read the text of the citation).

Apart from your concept map include a 150 word paragraph explaining the limitations of your concept map, and any observations you may have on the limitations of the research subjects that have been explored. These may be justified if you are referring to your own dissertation. Please note that this is an assessment of the concept map NOT your literature review.

(14 marks)

Criteria Assessed
• AA 2 Implement a research structure for a given subject area
• AA 5 Organise collected data in a valid and correct way in own project.

Poor quality work (0-5 marks)	Moderate quality work (6-11 marks)	Top quality work (11-14 marks)
No clear structure defined, no understanding of the difference between sub topics and relationships, few to no sources referenced	Clear structure, good understanding of topics and subtopics, some relationships missing, some sources within the papers omitted	Clear structure, good understanding of topics and subtopics, all sources included and correctly related and referenced

Task 2

When you write your methodology, a specific order of elements needs to be observed. For task 2, you are required to write an explanation of the elements needed in your methodology and the reason why each section is required. Aim for a wordcount of approximately 1,200 words for this section, which should contain the following three elements:

Ethics:

Explain what mitigations are required to ensure ethics are correctly followed at the following stages of research (Refer to Cresswell):

1. Prior to beginning the study
2. Beginning the study
3. Collecting data
4. Analysing data
5. Reporting, Sharing and Storing data

Introduction:

List what elements *have* to be included in the introduction to any methodology.

Research Design:

Justify a research design for a specific dataset (you may either use your own dataset or the dataset of research that was used in a past dissertation). Explain why you have chosen that specific research design from the options of Quantitative, Qualitative or Mixed Methods. One example of a justification is a *deficiency in past research*. You need to at least define that justification and add another two justifications to your own research approach based on your chosen data.

(12 marks)

Criteria Assessed
- KU 3 Discuss the suitability of different research methodologies to different subject areas.
- AA 1 Select the correct research methodology for a specific subject area.

Poor quality work (0-4 marks)	Moderate quality work (5-8 marks)	Top quality work (8-12 marks)
No mitigations mentioned, poor understanding of the reasons for ethics provisions, poor understanding of the required recordkeeping for good research. Justifications for research do not make sense.	Some mitigations mentioned, the phases are tackled correctly and references to Cresswell are made correctly. One justification for the research being carried out mentioned and explained	All ethical issues and their mitigations at the different phases of the study are mentioned in detail. Three justifications mentioned in detail and justified logically and convincingly.

Task 3

In this section, please find the following sample purpose statements (Cresswell p.170):

1. Case study/Qualitative study The purpose of this _____ (strategy of inquiry, such as ethnography, case study, or other type) study is (was? will be?) to _____ (understand? explore? develop? discover?) the _____ (central phenomenon being studied) for _____ (the participants, such as the individual, groups, organization) at _____ (research site). At this stage in the research, the _____ (central phenomenon being studied) will be generally defined as _____ (provide a general definition).

2. Quantitative study The purpose of this _____ (experiment? survey?) study is (was? will be?) to test the theory of _____ that _____ (describes outcomes) or (compares? relates?) the _____ (independent variable) to _____ (dependent variable), controlling for _____ (control variables) for _____ (participants) at _____ (the research site). The independent variable(s) _____ will be defined as _____ (provide a definition). The dependent variable(s) will be defined as _____ (provide a definition), and the control and intervening variable(s), _____, (identify the control and intervening variables) will be defined as _____ (provide a definition).

Select three academic papers you are referencing in your literature review (or select three sources from a past dissertation of your choice) and create a purpose statement for the academic papers being referenced. You need to include 3 purpose statements for 3 different sources, and correctly cite the sources you are using. Select the correct script and try to include all the elements of the scripts. Cresswell also includes a reference to a mixed methods purpose statement, if the study of your choice is a Mixed methods study.

(15 marks)

Criteria Assessed
- KU 1 Recognize different research methodologies and their use within a project
- KU 4 Explain the different research methodologies used by different authors in a subject area
- KU 5 Explain the distinction between different research types for a specific topic

Poor quality work (0-5 marks)	Moderate quality work (6-10 marks)	Top quality work (11-15 marks)
Wrong purpose statement template chosen for a paper. The purpose statement does not match the research type. Only one purpose statement included	Three purpose statements mentioned and cited correctly. In some cases, the wrong purpose statement template was used, but the study was correctly explained.	Three purpose statements are mentioned and cited correctly based on the correct research papers and are the correct purpose statements for the research model being used..

Task 4

Now it is time for your own opinion. Do you agree with the conclusions of the sources you created the purpose statements for? If you agree, explain why you agree and cite elements highlighting your agreement in the dissertation. If you disagree, explain why you disagree and cite elements highlighting your disagreement. You need to make at least 5 points of agreement and disagreement in this section. Are any of these papers being used in your own dissertation?

(10 marks)

Criteria Assessed
- KU 2 Identify areas of academic discourse within a specific subject area
- KU 6 Identify a valid number of research papers in a given subject area that are related to own project

Poor quality work (0-3 marks)	Moderate quality work (4-6 marks)	Top quality work (7-10 marks)
No logical conclusions drawn, no understanding of agreeing or disagreeing in an informed way with the cited sources.	Some logical agreements and disagreements shown. Minimum 3 points of agreement and disagreement	Three purpose statements are mentioned and cited correctly based on the correct research papers and are the correct purpose statements for the research model being used.in the papers is referenced.

Task 5

Explain the meaning of the following terms, with at least one example based on your own observations for each:

1. Experimental protocol
2. Independent variables
3. Dependent variables
4. Experimental design
5. External validity of an experiment
6. Sampling types
7. Coding
8. Research triangulation

(19 marks)

Criteria Assessed
- KU 7 Indicate how results may be presented in the context of own documentation
- AA 3 Assess collected information related to the implementation of the research process of own project
- AA 4 Present different research perspective in chosen subject area for a project

Poor quality work (0-6 marks)	Moderate quality work (7-13 marks)	Top quality work (14-19 marks)
Incorrect definitions for any of the terms above. No examples given.	Correct definitions for the above terms given, however the examples given are either the typical examples found in the actual reference of the term or the examples are not explained.	Correct definitions given, with examples taken from samples of the student's own research, and explained using examples given by the student himself/herself

Task 6

Critically analyse the process of the development of this report. Write a section outlining how your understanding of your subject matter has changed in the context of the process of doing academic research.

This section needs to contain an element of self-reflection, and there is the requirement of analysis on the experience of the change in understanding of the subject that you are exploring in your dissertation or a past dissertation of your choice.

Please use the following points as guidance to answer this question:

1. What was your starting understanding of the problem area?
2. What was the initial choice of method with respect to methodology?
3. How did the methodology change based on the literature review?
4. How did the chosen methodology affect the presentation of results?
5. What are the limitations highlighted in your or other dissertations?
6. What possible areas of related study do you believe are feasible, based on the presented results?

(30 marks)

Criteria Assessed
- SE 1 Appraise how results are collected by the majority of researchers in own chosen subject area
- SE 2 Create a valid set of results based on collected data for own project
- SE 3 Derive conclusions from valid scientific data correctly to determine results of own project

Poor quality work (0-10 marks)	Moderate quality work (11-20 marks)	Top quality work (21-30 marks)
No thought given to understanding the process of the dissertation. Poor explanation of the strength of the process and how it changes the understanding of a subject.	Fair understanding of the academic process, with a good knowledge of the process involved. Examples given from own experience, illustrated by explanations from own or others literature	A clear understanding of the academic process. Explanation illustrated by examples from own or other sample dissertation, showing the way that the dissertation is structured and how the dissertation was built section by section.