

English EXAM
Tatu Bogdan CTI-EN Y2 3.1

1. Describe your educational background and professional experience (between 20 lines – 30 lines).

Starting off, a bit about my early years of education. I studied at General School/Middle School Nr. 30, during which I went to a few chess tournaments and some math related school competitions and national contests. I also had a brief period of education in the United States, in 4th and 5th grade at Oak Hill Elementary in Virginia.

I graduated Constantin Diaconovici Loga National Highschool with a baccalaureate degree, where I started learning and found my passion of informatics. I've gone to Informatics Olympiads over three years, even reaching nationals one year, but stopped in the last year and replaced them with smaller team-oriented contests, such as Catalyst and other contests that my teacher informed me about, so that I can take time to work toward my degree and not have it all used up by the Olympiad.

I am currently working on getting my Computer Science degree at The Polyethnic University of Timisoara. Even though I work a decent amount every semester to get a scholarship, I wouldn't say it's indicative of my abilities, since most of the lectures aren't going to add up to any significant experience on the domain that I will choose to go on post-graduation.

As for professional experience, I can't say I had any hands-on work per se, as I've never had a job or internship before, but I'll be looking for one in Year 3, since I'll have more time on my hands. Until then, I'm going to keep on doing what's already worked great for me, individual learning at home at my own pace, cumulating knowledge little by little, mostly from content creators on YouTube that already work in the IT industry, but also setting my sights on stand-alone coding projects and working hard on them daily.

2. Provide 3 examples of signpost language items characteristic of the following stages of a presentation: announcing the topic, stating the purpose of the presentation, giving an overview of your presentation.

1) Announcing a topic:

- I'm going to talk about...
- My presentation is concerned with...
- My topic today is...

2) Stating the purpose of the presentation:

- My objective is to...
- The purpose/aim of this presentation is...
- I'd like to update you on...

3) Giving an overview of your presentation:

- I'd like to start/begin by explaining...
- Next/After that/Then, I'll go on to...
- Finally/Lastly I'll provide answers to...

3. Name three presentation strategies to get/refocus your audience's attention.

1) Telling a joke/story/anecdote

2) Sharing interesting facts

3) Asking a rhetorical question

4. Name and describe two threats to team collaboration. What can be done in order to increase collaboration? Describe at least two examples.

1) Size of the team

With the growth in team size, coordination between members becomes harder and harder. Large teams can be inefficient and less effective because of logistical challenges and process losses. Furthermore, interaction among members is often more superficial, and thus less meaningful. Working closely with others to achieve mutual goals is often one of the most rewarding dimensions of team participation, but one that teams that are large and dispersed often lose

2) Education level

Level of education is negatively correlated with group collaboration. Members who are very knowledgeable and highly trained tend to be resistant to perspectives and ways of doing things other than their own. Simply put, they have a hard time compromising. True collaboration requires an openness and willingness to understand and agree with other perspectives.

a. Team Composition

New teams that are comprised of members who have successfully worked together in the past are at a distinct advantage as they have a history of trust and interpersonal

strengths from which to draw, whereas team members without any history must go through the typical posturing and interpersonal jockeying that take place at the start of a new team. Thus, when possible, designing teams in which 20% or more of the members have successfully worked together in the past can help establish a strong foundation of collaboration. People who have had negative experiences working together in the past may not be a good fit for a new team. While a small amount of interpersonal tension can be helpful, too much can engender negative emotional contagion that can sabotage trust and good will.

b. Meeting Space

The physical or virtual setting where meetings take place can also have a significant impact on collaboration. The setting should reflect the values of the organization and the goals of the team, and it should be conducive to effective and balanced communication. Rooms that are inviting and conducive to allow members to see and hear one another are obviously the most effective. Thus, consideration should be given to seating arrangements and the layout of the room. A study group that meets in a classroom would feel very different from a group meeting in a dorm room. Each setting has its relative strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, eating a meal together, or simply sharing snacks or soft drinks, may increase the sense of community and cohesion.