# BAX 422 Assignment 3

(1) Do the following IN YOUR BROWSER, no programming required. Please write down your answers (concise written answers please) (20pts).

a) go to https://www.ebay.com and search for "iphone 6s"

b) what type of search request is eBay using, GET or POST? (2 pts)

GET request.

This is the url for the search request:

<https://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_from=R40&_trksid=p2334524.m570.l1313&_nkw=iphone+6s&_sacat=9355&LH_TitleDesc=0&_osacat=9355&_odkw=iphone+6s>.

The ‘?’ and ‘=’ indicate that it is a GET request.

c) which URL variable represents the search term? (2 pts)

The variable in the URL that identifies the page number is ‘\_nkw’.

d) can you come up with a shorter URL that produces the same search result page? (4 pts)

<https://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_nkw=iphone+6s>

e) click on the next search result page and observe how the URL changes. what variable in the URL identifies the page number? (2 pts)

The variable in the URL that identifies the page number is ‘\_pgn’.

f) what is the feature common to each item in the search results page? i.e., what item do i need to select to obtain each item among the search results? (4 pts)

The feature common to each item in the search results page is ‘s-item\_\_info clearfix’ of ‘class’ attribute under a ‘div’ tag.

g) identify the "SPONSORED" search results. what do they have in common? how does it look in the HTML source code? why is there no easy way to identify them? can perhaps regex help? (6 pts)

The commonality is that each ‘SPONSORED’ search result has a ‘class’ attribute of ‘s-item\_\_title--tagblock\_\_SPONSORED’ under the ‘span’ tag. However, there is no clear distinction in the parent tag between the common listing and sponsored listing. Regex can help with identifying the ‘SPONSORED’ search result as each sponsored item has ‘UnifiedRankingScenario’ in the ‘data-track’ attribute. If ‘UnifiedRankingScenario’ exists in the ‘data-track’ attribute, it is a sponsored item.