Evosite assessment

**Front-End Documentation**

Following is an outline of the steps taken to create the website for the Evosite apprenticeship assessment.

**Starting point?**

* Planning of tasks and timescales (see separate document).
* Download PSD file from the email and open in creative cloud.
* First created the index.html file. Headers and footers will not need to be recreated for each subsequent page. *Note, in this instance when using php, two files (header.php, footer.php) would be used in addition to the contents pages.*
* Created basic file structure with basic tags (HTML, Head, Body) and then added the bootstrap framework.

**Head Tag**

* Within the head tag there are tags linking to Bootstrap CDN, JQuery, and OWL files. Only OWL has been downloaded.
* Links to custom files (style.css, script.js).
* A separate CSS file was created [headerFooter.css) to allow it to be transferred to other pages in the site. It’s also contains other general styles for these pages.
* A title and Meta Tags were added.

**Header Tag**

* Used the Bootstrap framework, altering CSS at times to get the desired effect.
* Had to force changes with in the logo using (!important) to allow changes to the format of the company name.
* In navigation I had to override Bootstrap (!important) when styling links, for example, removing text-decoration.
* Created a media bar with search, Twitter, Google and more. Used a div colouring the background with border radius 50%.

**Footer tag**

* A footer was created using the Bootstrap ‘rows’ and ‘cols’ classes.
* Quick links was created with an unordered list. Adding image and anchor to each list item tags. Had to override Bootstrap (!important) when styling these links.
* Maps was created using the Google maps API. This used javascript. A try catch statement was added in case of external errors.

**Drop down Navigation**

* Created using Bootstrap grid (row and col class). Defined its width so it doesn’t fill the page.
* Use JQuery for toggling. When information link in the navigation is clicked, menu drops down. When clicked elsewhere menu disappears. Used CSS ‘hover’ to ensure the background changes when hovering.

**Announcements bar**

* Announcements are displayed on a bar. Background is not fully solid. Announcements are displayed for a period of 10 secs. The announcements are stored in jquery array. The array is looped (for) through limited times. Tried using a while loop but this crashed the site. A try catch statement was wrapped around this to display errors in the bar. On testing the overflow was set to hidden to prevent message from overflowing onto image below.

**Welcome Page**

* Used jquery to expand the main text and hide the button on click. A class for the button was created so all buttons looked the same (same border radius).
* Added the text and links to the navigation image links and an overlay to the lower image link.

**News carousel**

* Created a news carousel. Altered the CSS in the OWL carousel default file, to change the styling. The navigation arrows were changed using UTC-8 codes in the javascript (an alternative may be necessary). Moving the navigation required finding the class of the navigation in the carousel file and adjusting their absolute positions with CSS. The ‘view all’ button requires locating an active item from the carousel. I have been unable to find this. In future this would be added via a CMS, which would be update automatically.

**Calendar Carousel**

* This was similar to the ‘news carousel’ basic structure.
* I then used jquery to populate containers. Four containers were populated. However, the carousel would not fully loop. Three containers used the ‘active’ class and one used ‘cloned’ class. The contents did not reappear straight after when navigating. Further research needs to be done.
* As an alternative this could be linked to a calendar e.g. google calendars.
* Using for loops (looping events) and if statements (when date has changed) in a function. Using this function to populate the html of the carousel items of the carousel content.

**Twitter Carousel**

* Twitter carousel proved difficult to work. Found some possible plugins after searching google, however more time is required to investigate this furter. I added a twitter timeline widget. I also considered many options including some features from ‘Twitter development’, including embedding tweets.
* The ‘follow us’ button is in the same format as ‘view all’ and ‘read more’ buttons. But does not have the ability to toggle using an if statement in script.js. This would link to a follow us link created from twitter.

**Testing**

The page was tested in google chrome, edge, safari and firefox, including mobile mode. Issues found when in narrow or mobile view.

* “Welcome” h1 tag not wrapping.
* Carousel navigation controls positions altering and looking untidy.

*Note: see further developments*

**Validation**

* This site was validated using W3 Validation service.

**Further Development**

The website used a Bootstrap and jquery CDN. This is useful when sharing sites. I would consider hosting both as this allows alterations to the CSS without using ‘!important’.

The website will be improved with using PHP, node.js and grunt. I will undertake research into these technologies to understand how to integrate databases into the site. For example, the news carousel would be loaded from a Content Management System or Database.

Further reading into OWL carousel is also necessary with regard to populating its contents.

The h1 tag issue within mobile mode will require its size to change to fit the width of the device.

The carousel navigation positional issues will also need to be resolved when in mobile mode. I would consider using ‘@media’ in within CSS and altering the position of the controls.