

School of Information and Technology Engineering Addis Ababa Institute of Technology Addis Ababa University

Personalized Exam Preparation Companion Project Proposal

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Abstract

The project, **Personalized Exam Preparation Companion**, aims to address the critical challenges students face preparing for entrance examinations. Leveraging the power of artificial intelligence, this innovative application seeks to transform traditional exam preparation methods by offering a personalized, interactive, and comprehensive learning experience. The core objective is to develop an AI-powered platform that not only provides tailored study materials and practice exams but also includes an advanced AI chatbot for immediate queries and a sophisticated system for tracking and analyzing student progress.

Our project is designed to cater to the individual learning needs of each student, enabling them to navigate through vast educational content efficiently. By utilizing machine learning and natural language processing, the application will offer dynamic content recommendations and personalized learning paths. This approach is expected to significantly enhance students' understanding and retention of complex subjects, ultimately leading to improved exam performance.

The project stands out for its potential to revolutionize how students prepare for entrance exams, shifting from a one-size-fits-all approach to a more tailored and effective learning and exam preparation strategy. Personalized Exam Preparation Companion is not just an educational tool but a comprehensive support system, aiming to bridge the gap in current exam preparation methods and empower students to achieve their full academic potential.

Introduction

Background

Personalized Exam Preparation Companion emerged as a revolutionary solution in the realm of educational technology, specifically targeting the challenges faced by students preparing for entrance examinations. This project is born out of a pressing need to transform the traditional methods of examining the student's performance and progress. In light of the Ethiopian Ministry of Education's decision to expand entrance exam content to cover materials from grades 9 to 12, there has been a noticeable decline in the percentage of students passing these exams. This situation highlights a critical gap in the current educational framework and underscores the necessity for a more tailored, efficient, and interactive approach to exam preparation. Recognizing this challenge, we envisioned a solution that provides personalized content, practice exams, and a chat system for a query related to the entrance exam scope.

Motivation

Our project is driven by a heartfelt commitment to address the alarming educational disparities revealed by Education Minister Birhanu Nega's announcement in September 2023. Shockingly, only 3.3% of students, totaling 29,909, achieved a score of 50% or above in the national exam. This represents a stark departure from the historical trend where nearly half of the students typically passed the entrance exam. The evident decline in pass rates underscores a critical need for intervention to reverse this trend and restore students' confidence in their exam preparedness.

Our motivation is rooted in the urgent recognition that the current educational landscape requires a transformative solution. The project endeavors to leverage artificial intelligence to provide a personalized, adaptive, and technologically advanced platform that can equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in these challenging exams. By addressing the specific challenges highlighted by the recent exam results, the companion aims to be a catalyst for a positive shift in academic outcomes, ensuring that a significantly higher percentage of students can confidently pass their entrance exams and pursue their desired educational paths.

Existing Systems

In evaluating the current landscape of entrance exam preparation, several methods and techniques have been identified, highlighting the gaps and problems that the project aims to address:

Traditional Study Guides and Textbooks

1. **Usage**: These materials cover a broad range of topics but lack personalized focus, making it challenging for students to identify and concentrate on their weak areas.

2. **Gap**: Inability to provide tailored learning experiences based on individual student performance and needs.

Generic Practice Exams:

- 1. Usage: Students use standard practice exams that are not tailored to their specific level of preparation.
- 2. **Gap**: These exams do not address individual strengths and weaknesses, limiting their effectiveness in helping students gauge their true progress.

Websites Offering Past Exam Papers:

- 1. **Usage**: These websites compile previous years' exams, but the content is static and doesn't adapt to individual learning progress.
- 2. **Gap**: Lack of dynamic content generation, resulting in limited usefulness once students are familiar with the questions.

Statement of the Problem

Problem Overview: Students preparing for entrance exams are hindered by the lack of quality of education, inadequate progress tracking, and limited immediate assistance in understanding complex subjects. This leads to suboptimal preparation and lower exam success rates.

Significance: The issue significantly affects students' academic success, especially makes exam preparation tedious, and less effective. It also impacts educational institutions' success rates in entrance exams, reflecting on their overall educational quality.

The gap in Current Practice: Current exam preparation methods do not offer tailored learning experiences, dynamic content recommendations, or instant feedback mechanisms, creating a gap in efficient and effective study practices.

Stakeholders:

Students: Require personalized guidance for improved comprehension and performance tailored to their unique learning needs.

Educational Institutions: Rely on elevated exam success rates to maintain and enhance their reputation, academic standards, and competitiveness. The performance of students in entrance exams significantly influences the institution's standing, making an effective exam preparation companion a valuable asset in achieving and sustaining excellence.

Consequences of Ignoring the Problem: Continuing the current trend could result in a perpetuation of persistently low exam pass rates, further eroding educational standards and diminishing the overall quality of academic outcomes. This neglect of the issue may contribute to a widening educational achievement gap, leaving a significant number of students without the necessary resources and support to reach their full academic potential. Additionally, overlooking this problem may hinder educational institutions in maintaining a competitive edge, potentially impacting their reputation and diminishing their ability to attract

and retain high-caliber students and educators. It is crucial to recognize that neglecting this challenge not only jeopardizes individual student success but also poses a long-term threat to the broader educational landscape.

Benefits: This solution aims to:

- 1. Elevate exam preparation efficiency through personalized, adaptive learning experiences.
- 2. Provide precise learning suggestions utilizing machine learning algorithms and natural language processing..
- 3. Provide real-time assistance for queries through an advanced AI chatbot, fostering a dynamic and interactive learning experience that directly addresses students' immediate needs.
- 4. Give unlimited exams to sharpen their skills and to check whether they are on the right track or not.

Objective of the Project

General Objective

Develop a Personalized Exam Preparation Companion, an AI-powered platform tailored for Ethiopian students preparing for entrance exams, to significantly enhance pass rates and boost confidence in exam preparation.

Specific Objectives

- 1. Design an intuitive user interface for the project that allows easy access to personalized practice exams.
- 2. Implement an AI-driven recommendation system to provide students with content tailored to their learning needs and progress.
- 3. Develop an AI chatbot capable of providing instant responses to student queries, enhancing their understanding of complex topics.
- 4. Integrate advanced data analytics to monitor and track student progress, identifying areas for improvement and adapting content recommendations accordingly.
- 5. Generate exams for students based on their study materials.

Proposed System

Personalized Exam Preparation Companion is envisioned as a transformative solution in the landscape of educational technology, particularly for entrance exam preparation. This AI-powered application is designed to effectively bridge the gaps found in existing exam preparation methods, offering a more personalized and interactive approach to learning.

Unlike traditional methods which rely on static content and lack personalized guidance, Our project introduces a dynamic and adaptive learning environment. It recognizes the uniqueness of each student's

learning journey and responds with customized content and support. This approach not only targets the broad spectrum of student needs but also provides an engaging and efficient study experience.

Key Features of Personalized Exam Preparation Companion:

- 1. Tailored Learning Experience: Each student receives practice exams that are specifically adapted to their progress and learning style, moving away from the generic one-size-fits-all approach.
- 2. AI-Driven Recommendations: The system harnesses the power of AI to analyze student performance and offer smart learning suggestions, ensuring that each student focuses on the right topics at the right time.
- 3. Interactive AI Chatbot: An innovative feature providing students with instant responses to their queries, significantly enhancing their understanding of complex subjects and keeping them engaged.
- 4. Progress Tracking with Analytics: our project employs advanced analytics to track each student's progress, offering insights into strengths and areas for improvement, thus enabling a more targeted study approach.
- 5. Scalability for Future Expansion: the project is inherently scalable, primed for future expansion to serve a broader range of exams and educational levels. This adaptability includes the potential extension of the system to assist final-year University students in preparing for the Ethiopian University Exit exams, underscoring its versatility in meeting diverse educational needs.

By addressing the shortcomings of existing exam preparation methods, our system stands to revolutionize the way students prepare for entrance exams. It promises not only enhanced efficiency in exam preparation but also a deeper and more lasting comprehension of the subject matter, laying a solid foundation for academic success.

Economic Feasibility

Developmental Costs

- 1. Skill Development:
 - a. Utilizing free online resources for learning programming languages, AI, and design: \$0.
 - b. Platforms like Codecademy, Coursera, and Khan Academy offer free courses.
- 2. Infrastructure and Technology:
 - a. Leveraging free cloud services and open-source frameworks: \$0.
 - b. Using platforms like AWS Free Tier, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), and open-source tools like TensorFlow or PyTorch.
- 3. Testing and Quality Assurance:

In-house testing by team members: \$0.

Utilizing free testing tools like Selenium or JUnit.

Operational Costs

- 1. Server and Cloud Hosting:
 - a. Initial use of free tier cloud services (AWS, GCP, Azure): \$0.
 - b. Allocating a small budget for potential scaling in the future: \$100 \$200.
 - c. Utilizing services like AWS Lambda or Heroku for cost-effectiveness.
- 2. Database Management:
 - a. Initial use of free or low-cost database solutions (MySQL, mongoDB, PostgreSQL): \$0.
 - b. Allocating a small budget for potential scaling in the future: \$50 \$100.
 - c. Exploring managed database services for cost-efficiency.
- 3. Updates and Maintenance:
 - a. Time allocated within the team for updates and bug fixes: \$0.
 - b. Leveraging version control systems like Git for efficient collaboration.
- 4. Security and Compliance:
 - a. Implementing best practices within the team's capabilities: \$0.
 - b. Regularly updating security measures and staying informed about potential vulnerabilities.
- 5. Personnel:
 - a. Distributed responsibilities within the team for technical support: \$0.
 - b. Utilizing communication platforms like Slack or Discord for community support.
- 6. Marketing and User Acquisition:

Grassroots marketing through social media, university channels, and word of mouth: \$0.

Allocating a small budget for promotional materials or events: \$50 - \$100.

Total Estimated Low-Cost Scenario:

Considering a low-budget scenario, the total estimated cost for both developmental and operational aspects of the project is around \$200 - \$400. This budget is allocated for potential scaling, hosting, and minimal marketing efforts while keeping development costs at a minimum through the use of free resources and skills within the student team.

Scope

1. Inclusions: The project encompasses the development of a comprehensive AI-powered application. This includes features such as personalized practice exams, progress tracking, an AI chatbot for instant queries, and generative AI generating exams.

- 2. Exclusions: Notably, physical study materials, in-person tutoring services, and integration with physical examination centers are explicitly excluded to manage expectations and prevent scope creep.
- 3. Deliverables: Tangible outputs will include a fully functional application, detailed algorithm documentation, user manuals, and regular progress reports.

Technical Scope

- 1. Topics to Explore and Implement: Specific technical topics include algorithms for personalized content recommendation, data structures for efficient progress tracking, NLP for the AI chatbot, and modern web development techniques.
- 2. Explanation: These topics are chosen to ensure efficient data processing, seamless user interactions, and an intuitive interface, with NLP enhancing the communication capabilities of the AI chatbot.

Innovation & Creativity

- 1. Technical Innovation: The project aims for technical innovation through the development of a novel algorithm for dynamic content personalization and the implementation of cutting-edge AI techniques for the chatbot.
- 2. Problem-Solving Innovation: By utilizing existing AI tools to address personalized learning needs, personalized exam preparation companion creatively solves the real-world problem of insufficient personalized guidance in exam preparation.

Market and Startup Opportunities

- 1. Market Analysis:
 - The target market for Personalized Exam Preparation Companion comprises students preparing for entrance examinations in Ethiopia, initially focusing on grades 9 to 12. The market size is significant, given the high number of students taking these exams annually. With the expansion of exam content, the growth potential is substantial, offering a long-term market for personalized exam preparation solutions. The key trends in the education sector, such as the increasing reliance on technology and the demand for personalized learning, align with the project's objectives.
- 2. Competitive Analysis:
 - Key competitors include traditional study guides, generic practice exams, and websites
 offering past exam papers. The strengths of the project lie in its personalized approach,
 AI-driven recommendations, and interactive features. Unlike competitors, it addresses

individual learning needs, offers dynamic content, and provides instant assistance through the AI chatbot. Weaknesses of competitors include their inability to adapt to individual progress, lack of personalized guidance, and static content.

3. Value Proposition:

Our project stands out by offering a tailored, adaptive, and technologically advanced platform. Its personalized learning paths, dynamic content recommendations, and real-time assistance through the AI chatbot provide a unique value proposition. The comprehensive support system, addressing the gaps in traditional methods, positions Personalized Exam Preparation Companion as a transformative tool, aiming not just to improve exam performance but also to boost students' confidence in their academic journey.

4. Business Model:

The business model revolves around providing access to the companion platform through subscription plans. Revenue will be generated through subscription fees, offering different tiers based on the level of access and additional features. Potential partnerships with educational institutions for bulk licensing could also be explored. As the user base grows, opportunities for data analytics and insights may present additional revenue streams through anonymized data monetization or collaboration with educational research institutions.

Methodology

1. Development Approach:

a. Personalized Exam Preparation Companion will follow an agile development methodology, emphasizing flexibility and responsiveness to user feedback. Iterative development cycles will allow continuous improvement based on real-world usage, ensuring that the application aligns with user expectations and evolving educational needs.

2. Project Phases:

- a. Requirements Gathering: Understand user needs, content requirements, and technical specifications.
- b. Design and Prototyping: Create user interfaces, algorithm prototypes, and system architecture.
- c. Development and Iterative Testing: Implement features, conduct ongoing testing, and refine based on feedback.
- d. Deployment and User Feedback: Release the application to a limited audience, gather feedback, and make necessary adjustments.
- e. Ongoing Maintenance and Improvement: Continuously update and enhance the application based on user feedback, technological advancements, and changing educational requirements.

3. Roles and Responsibilities:

- a. UI/UX: Develop design specifications for the user interface, ensuring a seamless and user-friendly experience.
- b. Developers: Code implementation based on design specifications and Contribute to the development of AI algorithms and chatbot functionality.
- c. Testers: Conduct thorough testing to identify and address bugs or issues.
- d. Project Managers: Oversee project progress, coordinate tasks, and ensure timely delivery.
- 4. Tools and Technologies:
 - a. Programming Languages: Node for backend, Flutter for frontend and mobile application.
 - b. Development Environments: VSCode for general development, Jupyter Notebooks for AI-specific tasks.
 - c. Version Control: Git for code versioning.
 - d. Project Management: Jira for task tracking and collaboration.
 - e. AI Frameworks: TensorFlow and PyTorch for machine learning and AI components.
 - f. Mobile and Web Development Frameworks: Flutter for building interactive user interfaces, providing a consistent experience across both web and mobile platforms.

Resource Acquisition

Data Requirements and Acquisition Plan

Our project relies on data processing, particularly in the domains of machine learning and natural language processing. In this section, we will outline our possible sources of data and our plan for acquiring and processing such data.

- 1. **Educational Institutions:** We will collaborate with educational institutions that provide entrance exam preparation materials, practice exams, and other educational content. These institutions can provide valuable and authoritative data, such as textbooks, sample questions, which are essential for our AI models.
- 2. **Public Educational Resources**: Open educational resources, such as freely available textbooks, lecture notes, and study materials, will serve as another valuable source of data. We will explore partnerships with organizations that provide open educational content to supplement our dataset.
- 3. **Ministry of Education**: To identify the various factors contributing to student failure, we intend to conduct additional research by obtaining relevant information from the Ministry of Education. This includes requesting access to available previous exams and data.

Hardware Requirements and Acquisition/Access Plan

In terms of hardware requirements, our project demands computing devices, encompassing personal computers for application development and testing, as well as mobile devices, specifically those compatible with the Flutter framework, to facilitate not only the deployment and utilization of our application but also the ongoing development processes.

Risk, Risk Management and Contingency Plans

Risk Identification and Assessment:

Technical Risks:

Data Unavailability:

- 1. Impact: Moderate
- 2. Likelihood: Medium
- 3. Relying on free or open datasets may not fully meet specific needs, potentially leading to limitations in dataset quality or relevance.

Algorithm Complexity:

- 1. Impact: Low
- 2. Likelihood: High
- 3. Limited access to premium AI tools may hinder the development of highly complex algorithms. The focus should be on practical, less complex models within the budget constraints.

Resource Risks:

Skill Gaps within the Team:

- 1. Impact: Moderate
- 2. Likelihood: High
- 3. A constrained budget for external training resources may result in addressing skill gaps taking longer. Encouraging proactive peer learning becomes crucial to compensate for this limitation.

Schedule Risks:

Unexpected Delays

- 1. Impact: High
- 2. Likelihood: Medium
- 3. Limited resources may impede the ability to expedite tasks in case of unexpected delays.

Risk Mitigation Strategies:

Technical Risks:

Open Datasets:

- 1. Prioritize the use of open educational datasets available for free.
- 2. Understand the limitations and plan accordingly to mitigate the impact of potential data unavailability.

Open-Source AI Frameworks:

- 1. Leverage free and open-source AI frameworks, such as TensorFlow or scikit-learn, to address algorithm development challenges.
- 2. Utilize readily available tools and libraries to stay within budget constraints.

Resource Risks:

Peer Learning:

- 1. Encourage collaborative learning within the team.
- 2. Establish regular knowledge-sharing sessions to address skill gaps collectively without incurring additional costs.

Online Resources:

- 1. Utilize free or low-cost online resources for skill enhancement.
- 2. Platforms like Khan Academy, Coursera, and Fast.ai offer valuable learning materials suitable for a student's budget.

Schedule Risks:

Prioritization:

- 1. Clearly define and prioritize essential tasks and features.
- 2. Focus on delivering a minimum viable product first to ensure that critical aspects are addressed even with limited resources.

Flexible Timelines:

- 1. Adopt a flexible approach to project timelines.
- 2. Be prepared to adjust schedules based on available resources and unexpected delays.
- 3. Regularly reassess project timelines to maintain adaptability.

Contingency Plans

Data Unavailability:

Synthetic Data:

- 1. If primary data sources are unavailable, consider creating synthetic data or using publicly available simulated datasets.
- 2. This ensures continuity in development despite potential data challenges.

Algorithm Complexity:

Simplified Models:

- 1. Develop simplified models using readily available tools and libraries.
- 2. In case of challenges with complex algorithms, having simpler alternatives ensures progress in AI development within the budget.

Skill Gaps within the Team:

Peer Support Groups:

- 1. Establish peer support groups within the team to address knowledge gaps collectively.
- 2. Regular team discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions can compensate for limited external training resources.

Unexpected Delays:

Prioritized Features:

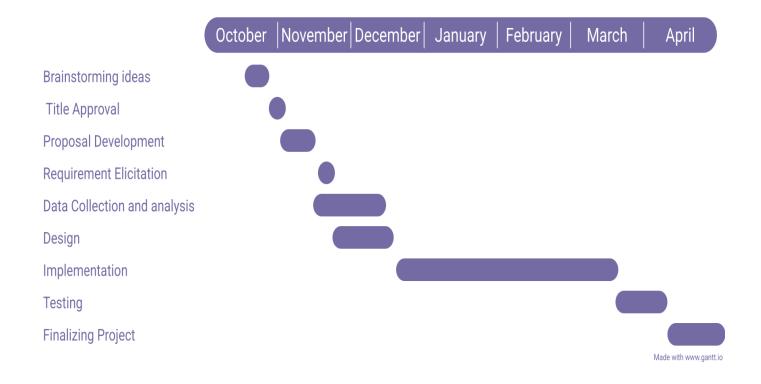
- 1. In case of delays, focus on delivering core features and functionalities first.
- 2. Ensure that the most critical aspects of the project are not compromised even if some non-essential features are delayed.

Community Assistance:

- 1. Seek support from online communities or forums for troubleshooting and guidance.
- 2. Utilize the power of collaborative online platforms to overcome unexpected challenges within the constraints of a student budget.

Acknowledging the financial constraints, these risk management and contingency plans emphasize practical solutions that align with the limitations of a student's budget. Emphasis is placed on open resources, peer learning, and adaptability in timelines. These plans are designed to ensure successful project execution while keeping costs to a minimum, promoting a proactive and collaborative approach within the student team. Regular communication and flexibility will be key to overcoming challenges and ensuring project success.

Time Management Plan



Quality Management Plan

Potential Risks Related to Software Quality:

Inadequate Testing Coverage:

- 1. Risk: There's a risk of incomplete testing, leading to undetected defects in critical functionalities.
- 2. Mitigation: Develop a comprehensive test plan that includes unit testing, integration testing, system testing, and acceptance testing. Automated testing tools will be employed to enhance testing coverage.

Changing Requirements:

- 1. Risk: Frequent changes in requirements may result in a misalignment between the software and user expectations.
- 2. Mitigation: Implement a robust change management process. Regularly communicate with stakeholders to understand evolving requirements and update documentation promptly. Conduct impact assessments before approving changes.

Performance Issues:

- 1. Risk: The software may experience performance issues under high loads or specific usage scenarios.
- 2. Mitigation: Perform thorough performance testing, simulating various usage scenarios and load conditions. Optimize code and architecture based on performance testing results.

Project Management Plan to Enable Quality:

Testing Considerations:

- 1. Unit Testing: Conducted by individual developers to ensure the correctness of individual components.
- 2. Integration Testing: Validates the interaction between integrated components.
- 3. System Testing: Evaluates the system as a whole to ensure it meets specified requirements.
- 4. Acceptance Testing: Involves end-users to verify that the software meets business requirements.

Quality Assurance:

- 1. Establish a dedicated QA team responsible for reviewing and approving deliverables at each stage.
- 2. Implement a peer-review process for code, design, and documentation to ensure quality standards.

Communication Management Plan

By leveraging Slack, Google Meet, and Telegram for fast communication, the project team aims to ensure real-time collaboration and quick issue resolution. These platforms will facilitate seamless information sharing, discussions, and video conferences, enhancing the overall efficiency of internal communications. Regular updates, milestone meetings, and final project meetings will be conducted via these channels to maintain a transparent and collaborative working environment. External communication will be managed through Google Sheets for project reports and Google Meet for stakeholder meetings. And also if we get time, Usability and Acceptance Testing Analysis Plan will be executed using suitable communication channels within the project team and with end-users.

We will describe our detailed communication plan as follows:

Type of Communication	Method / Tool	Frequency/ Schedule	Information	Participants / Responsibilities
Internal Communicat	tion:			
Project Meetings	In person and slack	Weekly and on-event	Project status, problems, risks, changed requirements	Project Team members
Sharing of project data	Shared Project Server	When available	All project documentation and reports	Project Team Members
Milestone Meetings	Google meet	Before milestones	Project status (progress)	Project team members
Final Project Meeting	Google meet	End of semester	Wrap-up Experiences	Project team members
External Communica	tion and Reporting:			•
Project Report and defense	In person	as per requirement	Project status - progress - forecast - risks	Project advisors, Project team members
Meetings with advisor	In person/ zoom meeting	twice/once a week	Project status - progress - forecast - risks	Project advisor, Project team members

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Glossary

- AI: Artificial Intelligence
- NLP: Natural Language Processing
- AWS: Amazon Web Services
- GCP: Google Cloud Platform
- MySQL: An open-source relational database management system
- **PostgreSQL**: An open-source object-relational database system
- TensorFlow: An open-source machine learning framework developed by Google
- PyTorch: An open-source machine learning library developed by Facebook
- VSCode: Visual Studio Code, a source-code editor developed by Microsoft
- **Jupyter Notebooks**: An open-source web application that allows you to create and share documents that contain live code, equations, visualizations, and narrative text
- Git: A distributed version control system for tracking changes in source code during software development
- **Agile Development Methodology**: An iterative and flexible approach to software development that emphasizes collaboration, customer feedback, and adaptability
- Gantt Chart: A type of bar chart that illustrates a project schedule, showing the start and finish dates of the various elements of a project
- UI/UX: User Interface/User Experience

Appendix B: Survey Questionnaire

- 1. User preferences for study materials.
- 2. Satisfaction with existing exam preparation methods.
- 3. Interest in AI-powered exam preparation tools.
- 4. Feedback on proposed features of the Personalized Exam Preparation Companion.

Appendix C: Budget Breakdown

- 1. Developmental Costs
- 2. Operational Costs
- 3. Marketing and User Acquisition Costs
- 4. Total Estimated Low-Cost Scenario

Appendix D: Risk Management Matrix

- 1. Technical Risks
- 2. Resource Risks
- 3. Schedule Risks

REFERENCE

Similar Projects in different countries

• https://elearningindustry.com/how-ai-is-personalizing-education-for-every-student

Data sources

- https://www.coursehero.com/file/149334517/grade-12-biodocx/
- https://fetena.net/start/entrance/

Researches on the problem statement

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