

Task 1 – Distinction Strategy Summary

What Task 1 Really Tests

- Task 1 is about decision-making, not just writing or design.
- Examiners reward visible professional judgement.
- Distinction work anticipates failure, user needs, and business impact.

Activity A(i) – Research

- Purpose: understand the tourism/leisure digital landscape before designing.
- Research includes hardware/software use, emerging technologies, and regulations.
- Notes must be factual only – no analysis or solution ideas.
- Research strengthens later justification and regulation sections.

Activity A(ii) – Proposal

- Core of Task 1: designing and justifying a solution.
- Includes business context, functional and non-functional requirements.
- Requires decomposition, KPIs, user acceptance criteria, and risk mitigation.
- Distinction proposals explain why decisions were made and link everything to the scenario.

Activity B – Design Documentation

- Purpose: prove the solution can actually be built.
- Includes UI designs, data requirements, algorithms, and a test strategy.
- Designs must allow a third-party developer to build without clarification.
- System must show front-end and back-end complexity.

Functional & Non-Functional Requirements

- Functional: what the system does (features and behaviours).
- Non-functional: how well it performs (security, performance, accessibility).
- Each requirement must be testable, measurable, and justified.

Decomposition & Algorithms

- Break the system into subsystems, then break one subsystem further.
- Algorithms must include decision points and failure paths.
- Happy-path-only logic limits marks.

KPIs (Key Performance Indicators)

- Split clearly into Business KPIs and Technical KPIs.
- KPIs must be measurable and scenario-specific.
- Each KPI should imply an action if performance is poor.
- Example thinking: UX → engagement → revenue.

Risk Mitigation & Regulation

- Identify realistic risks such as data loss, security breaches, misinformation.
- Explain consequences and proportional mitigation strategies.
- Show how regulations (GDPR, WCAG, cookies) affect design decisions.

Technology Dissection Approach

- Start from user journeys, then features, then data and rules.
- Use React for UI and experience, Express for logic and trust, database for persistence.
- Choose tools based on system needs, not comfort.

Distinction Mindset

- Ask: Would a developer trust this? Would a client sign this off?
- Show layered thinking: overview first, then depth.
- Focus on clarity, realism, and professional reasoning.