A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

# Project Exam 1

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Word count

## Design

### **What went well on the project**

I had a quick and easy start to the project because the idea and design came to me straight away. Within the first week the design and a simple prototype for web was ready to go. The project really motivated me to to what I wanted and everything kind of just fell into place. After finishing the first part of the design I created a plan for the rest of the project as one sprint divided into two parts. The programming and the testing, fixing and writing part. I gave myself three weeks to program my design, and one week to test and implement the changes.

Graphical user interface, application, PowerPoint

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Fig. 1

I decided on a simple format for the plan to match the overview I had in my head. Seeing as I am just one person, I didn’t see the point of pretending to make it for a team and I also avoided putting in too many details as I wanted to focus on starting the project.

I considered myself as the target audience for this project. I follow quite a few instagram moms and found inspiration there, and tried to imagine them and their followers as target audience as well. In addition to this though, the website is in reality made for mine and Mias family that doesn’t get to see her every day.

I feel like I understand both UX and interaction design quite well, and it comes easy to keep the user in mind when I design and choose technical solutions for my project.

I like to keep things simple, but the user experience is always in front. I try to find balance between giving too little information for the user, and breaking the flow of the interaction and the design with too much information. One example og this is the contact form. I chose to not have the requirements visible from the start because it is intuitive. The users know what to put in and if they had to read about the requirements then they would have to stop and read, and think.

A picture containing diagram

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Fig 2. Adobe XD

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

I had some feedback from testing that the colors were too similar. I find it challenging to decide between what the rules tell me I should do, and what I believe people will find most aesthetically pleasing. Especially with a project like this when I am free to do what I want and choose something that is for me.

### **What would you do differently next time**

Next time I would do two rounds of testing. One for design and one for finished product to test the functions as well. In addition I would try to find two colors in the same palette I have now, but that contrast a bit more than the header and footer color do.

I would also have started creating for mobile first. I know it is standard practice now, but chose not to because of the carousel. But when I did the testing I didn’t have the mobile version ready and realised that not many could test the site well because they just have their phones. Next time I am not making that mistake.

## Technical

### **What went well on the project**

I have a good handle on html now and don’t really have to think when writing it. The same goes for css for the most part, although there are always kinks and problems that take a while to solve. But I always solve it or find an alternative solution, given enough time.

Fetching the api also went really well. I learned a lot more and started to quickly realise what the problem was if something didn’t go as planned. Some examples are I forgot to tick an api box in the custon post type on wordpress and realised pretty quickly. As well as an issue that arose with the custom posts api and the issue was that it fetched the first 10 posts.

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

I have struggled a bit with javascript up until now. It took a long time for simple functions to work but I am more seasoned with troubleshooting so that helped me to kind of understand it a bit better.

I am very pleased with the carousel, but it was quite difficult and it still has some issues. I didn’t manage for it to loop though all the latest posts on mobile, it only does two. I also have some code on the sort filter that is not very good. It also created an issue where it only loads the second page of posts with four posts, when sorted by oldest. And the load more button disappears.

### **What would you do differently next time**

I wanted the blog page to have loaded all the posts so it just had to show more when pressing the load more button, that way I would get lower load times. I am now thinking that it would have been better to fetch more each time the button is pressed because it is more reusable. A blog can have hundreds of posts and it shouldn’t fetch them all at once. This would also have made it easier to create the sort filter.

The form has some issues that I really want to fix. The size changes when the error message pops up. It should be that size all the time as the fields would also be clearer to the user. I also want to add that the error messages pops up after the user clicks away from the input field. That way they wouldn’t need to press submit to find out the mistake.

Another feedback I got was that the images on the gallery section were not clickable and didn’t open a large version. Although it was not required from the project exam I will add it later because all user tried to click them as I could see on hotjar. I tried briefly but it wasn’t as easy as I had hoped after finishing the modal, so I put it aside.

## WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO

### **What went well on the project**

I have simple html. Though I use quite a few divs, it is not nearly as much as other pages I see, and I try to use section for the big sections instead of divs. Also I have correct use of the h1, h2, h3 and p tags.

I ran a WCAG check on my site through siteimprove.com, and it got a score of 88.4/100. I am pretty pleased with such a good score and that it is as accessible as it is. The A-level score, most important requirements it should meet, got a score of 96.4/100.

I am also pleased with the content I created and also how I set up the custom posts and fields. It makes it easy to add and change content later. I have removed website from search engines through wordpress as well.

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

Struggled a little with the custom fields and custom posts in the beginning, but after I got the hang of it it was really quick and easy to update and add content to the page.

I also have a sneaking suspicion that my color palette is not accessible for people with vision impairments such as all types of color blindness. But didn’t check since I decided not to change it for now.

### **What would you do differently next time**

Next time I would add tags to my content and page to make it more visible on search.

I would also add more add more custom post types for the different types of content I have on the page so I can easily update it through wordpress if I want.

Lastly I would go through all my divs and see if some of them can be removed. I find using wrappers easier and also neater, but some places I think I can remove a few other ones.

## References

(place references to websites, books, forums etc. that helped you in the project)

* <https://cssgradient.io/>
* <https://www.w3schools.com/howto/tryit.asp?filename=tryhow_css_modal>
* <https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css_modal_images.asp>
* My Rainydays project: <https://stupefied-kilby-2a4dff.netlify.app/>
* <https://zoenvoorgust.com/>
* <https://blog.logrocket.com/build-image-carousel-from-scratch-vanilla-javascript/>