Assignment 2

Questions and Answers

Overview

- We are going to go through the assignment components in a different order.
- I will have covered some of this in going through the specification at a high level anyway.
  - The diagram and report.
  - The nation and electorates.
  - Issues.
  - Parties and people.
  - Stances, and electorate stances.
- This should help see how things fit together.
- There is a fair bit of flexibility in what you do, not just how you code what needs to be done.

The diagram and report

- These are important.
- They help us understand what you are trying to do.
- Even if you don't actually get as far as implementing aspects you can still describe your intentions and get marks for the report part.
- The report is worth about 1/8 of the assignment.

- With the diagram you can submit early.
- I've set it up so I should get notifications of submissions and, if I have time, I'll mark them as they come in.

The nation and the electorates

The nation of …

Electorate One	Electorate Three
Electorate Two	Electorate Four

- What is an electorate?
  - The term refers to a physical area, part of the nation.
  - You don't need to model it as an area, for the purposes of this assignment it's a collection of people who are eligible to vote.
  - There are different electorates so there are different collections of people.
    - People are in exactly one electorate each.

- How large is each electorate?
  - This is up to you. They don't have to have the same number of people.
  - The number can be random.
- Do I need to model individuals within an electorate?
  - No, see the electorate stance for more on this.
- What do I call my nation/electorates/(candidates and other people)?
  - Whatever you like as long as the names aren't offensive and contain only printable characters, probably some alphabetical and maybe some punctuation.
- Can the names be random?
  - Sure, but they don't have to be.

Issues

- Hopefully the idea of an issue is relatively clear.
- I haven't had any questions about this yet except in the context of stances.
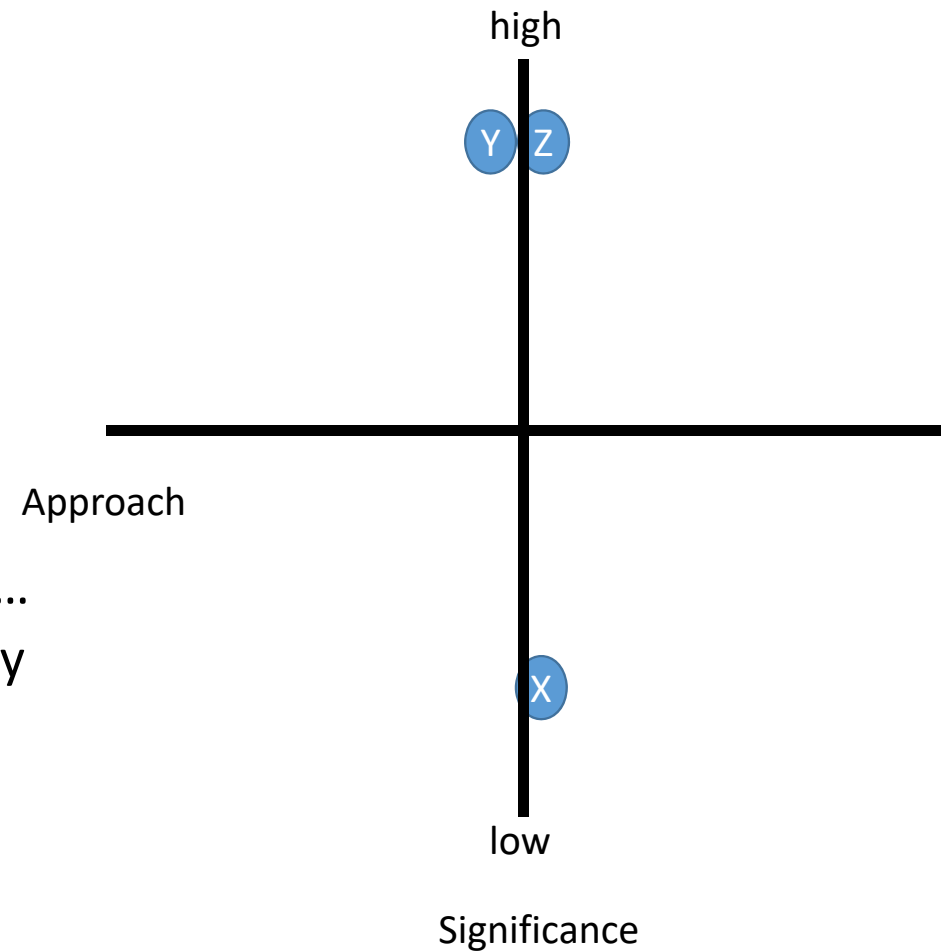
Parties and people

- I haven't had any questions about this yet except in the context of stances.

Stances

- A stance is a viewpoint or attitude towards an issue.
- We model it using two components:
  - Significance.
  - Approach.
- The scale refers to each of these being measurable/comparable.
  - They don't have to be numerical but it would be easier to work with them if they are.
- Parties and individuals have specific values on the scales, randomly generated initially from within the party range.
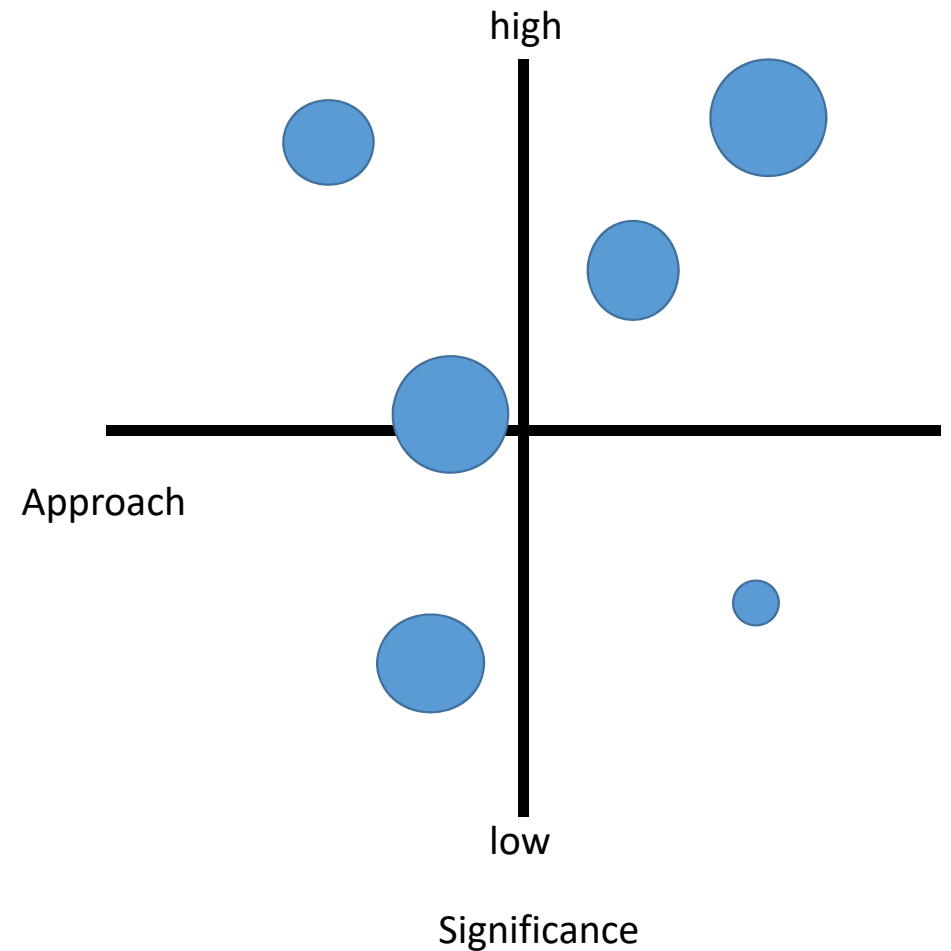
Stance: Example

- Consider the two components.

- Example: 3 parties: X, Y, and Z.

- Issue : Concern about invasions by giant spiders.
  - 1 party doesn't think it's important.
    - Their leader refers to reports as "Fake news!"
  - The other parties think this is a major concern …
  - Party Y thinks strengthening defences is the way to go.
  - Party Z thinks we need to get the company SpiderKill to exterminate the nests.
  - Party X prefers the more generally applicable approach taken by Y.

high

Y Z

Approach

X

low

Significance

Electorate stances

- An electorate is a collection of people but you don't need to represent the views individually, you can cluster them or consider them to be some sort of distribution that you sample from.

- For clustering we might have 10,000 people but represent their views in terms of 6 clusters.
  - The size of the spots represents the number of voters within each cluster.
  - The centre of the cluster represents the stance of that cluster.

high

Approach

low

Significance

APE: The campaign and election day …

Setup → | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | . . . | m | m+1 | → Wrap-up

The campaign days…   Election day!

- APE should start by setting up the nation for the election, with the n electorates.
- There are then m days of campaigning.
  - Spending and income each day, see the next slide.
- Then there is the election day.
- Finally, APE should provide a report on what on the results.

Money and the financial manager

- Each party starts with some money.

- Every campaign day the financial manager brings in money from loyal supporters across the nation, and from interest groups.

- Each day the campaign managers spend money, with the aim of using all their campaign money by the end of the campaign.

- It's up to you as to as how this works including:
  - The currency and amounts you are dealing with are up to you.
  - The money can be evenly distributed between the electorates, but doesn't have to be.

Events

- You expect these will have some impact on the popularity of candidates or the stance distribution.

- You can make each of the events equally likely if you like.

- The details are mostly up to you.

Marking guide and bonuses

- There will be a marking guide released fairly soon.
- Typically with A2 we mark out of x and to get all the marks you only need to get x-y, where x is about 80 and y is positive.
- There are also some bonuses associated with novelty and niceness.
  - Particularly nice output, interesting details, excellent theming …
  - You wouldn't need to get any bonuses to get 100% for the assignment.