
Coursework commentary 2018–2019

CO3353 Software engineering project management

Coursework assignment 1

General remarks

The overall standard of performance on these coursework assignments was satisfactory. However, there are a number of important criteria that students are failing to pay sufficient attention to when addressing these assignments. You are reminded to put the number of words at the beginning of the coursework assignment. The instructions for these assignments clearly stated that the number of words in total for each piece of work should **not exceed 3,000**.

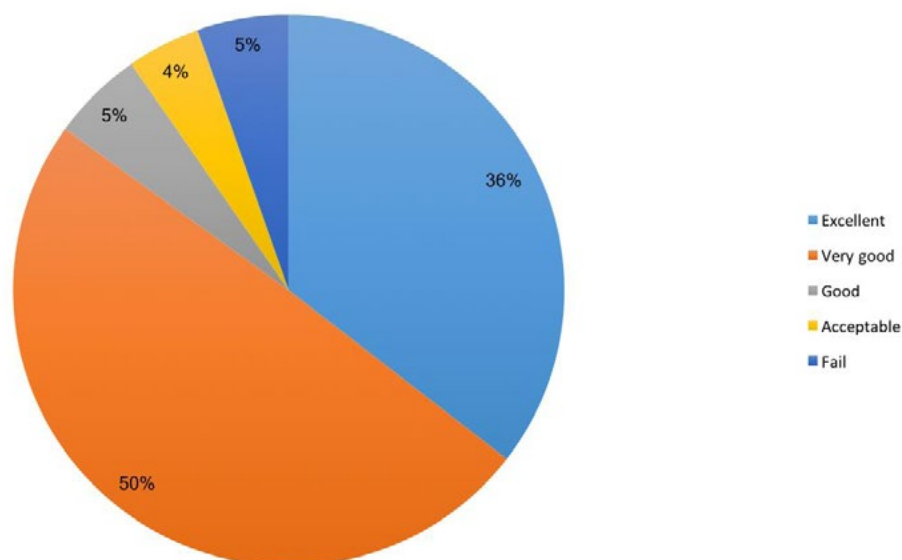
You are also reminded that it is important to show citations within the main text of your report. If an idea is not your own, you need to credit the work from which it is taken.

Presentation of your work should also receive attention. You are encouraged to make your work look like something that you are proud of. The examiners encourage you to produce a well laid out, grammatically correct and spell-checked report.

Coursework assignment 1 consisted of four questions. Each question carried a designated number of marks. It was therefore important that students took the number of marks for each section into consideration when answering these questions.

See 2018–2019 cohort mark distribution below:

CO3353 CW1 Cohort mark distribution 2018-19



Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This was a straightforward question, which most students answered well. However, some students provided answers that were too broad, discussing information that was not pertinent to the question. In some cases, students lost marks because although they explained the problems that might be encountered in interviewing, they did not suggest ways in which these drawbacks might be overcome. In some answers there was also over-reliance on a single academic source. Students are expected to consult with a wide range of sources in undertaking their coursework assignments.

Question 2

This question carried an equal number of marks to Question 1. There was a broad range of answers that were acceptable in answering this question. Good answers provided a balanced approach to discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each interviewing mode. For example, students could discuss the advantages and disadvantages of issues such as the degree of 'presence' experienced in these two types of interviews, defining presence as the impact of the environmental context, body language, and so on. In addition, issues such as cost, time, etc were all appropriately discussed and the pros and cons of each evaluated.

Question 3

Answers to this question were disappointing. In answering this question many students simply provided references from the literature of five modes of conflict resolution – such as, confrontation, compromise, smoothing, forcing and withdrawal modes – but failed to elucidate further on these.

Where students scored highly on this question was where they gave good examples of each of these modes, either from the literature or from their own personal experience.

Question 4

A strength of the responses to this question was that students provided a balanced discussion to their answers. Good answers considered both the positive and negative aspects of conflict occurring within a project. The highest marks were scored where answers came to a firm conclusion on the subject and these conclusions were supported by appropriate references from the literature.

Coursework commentary 2018–2019

CO3353 Software engineering project management Coursework assignment 2

General remarks

The overall standard of performance on these coursework assignments was satisfactory. However, there are a number of important criteria that students are failing to pay sufficient attention to when addressing these assignments. You are reminded to put the number of words at the beginning of the coursework assignment. The instructions for these assignments clearly stated that the number of words in total for each piece of work should **not exceed 3,000**.

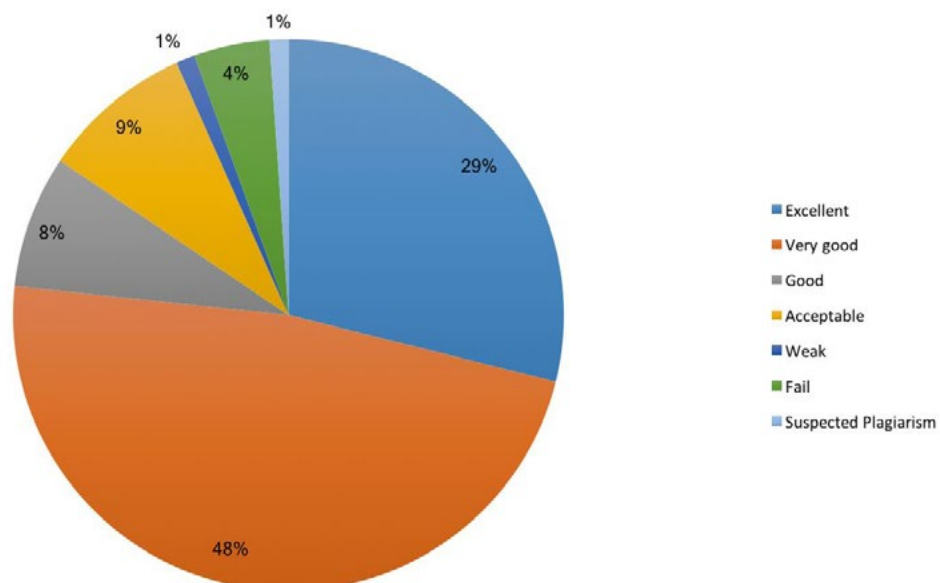
You are also reminded that it is important to show citations within the main text of your report. If an idea is not your own, you need to credit the work from which it is taken.

Presentation of your work should also receive attention. You are encouraged to make your work look like something that you are proud of. The examiners encourage you to produce a well laid out, grammatically correct and spell-checked report.

Coursework assignment 2 consisted of four questions. Each question carried an equal number of marks.

See 2018–2019 cohort mark distribution below:

CO3353 CW2 Cohort mark distribution 2018-19



Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Good answers to Question 1 provided definitions at the outset of the terms **strategic level plans** and **project level plans**. For each of these definitions, in-text citations were provided indicating where these definitions were sourced. Overall, the question was well answered as a result of the fact that students provided interesting and varied examples of projects that they had worked on. Some answers elaborated on a project undertaken in a commercial environment, while other answers focussed on academic projects. Either focus was acceptable, and in general students provided interesting and pertinent examples.

Question 2

Depending on the example given in answer to Question 1, a wide variety of technologies were cited as being appropriate to support the strategic and project level plans described. Technologies to support strategic level plans tended to be those associated with supporting the strategic aims and objectives of the organisation, such as systems which might provide competitive advantage; whereas the technologies cited to support project level plans tended to include Project Management technologies such as Gantt charts.

Question 3

Answers to this question were disappointing. Many students provided large amounts of information on risk in general, but did not focus on the question being asked which was to discuss the characteristics of information systems projects that are associated with minimum risk. Some of the better answers to this question discussed the issues that are considered high risk in projects and then deduced that if these characteristics are not present or are avoided in a project, then they may be considered low risk. This was an acceptable way of going about answering this question.

Question 4

This question was generally answered as bookwork. Most answers to this question provided definitions of what is meant by quantitative and qualitative assessment methods for measuring project quality. In some instances, students provided a table describing the advantages and limitations of each method. This was an appropriate way of answering this question. Where students provided good examples to support their answer, they were rewarded with additional marks.