CS1CT Observations – 16/10/2023 – 2hr beginner Python lab

* Student A struggles and does not grasp key concepts whilst student B,C and D are more advanced.
* Student B, C and D have always finished within the given lab time and often collaborate – they work at the same pace.
* Student A does collaborate with the rest of the group but often falls behind and then stops working with the group as they cannot keep up
* Student C writes the pre-lab by hand and scans a pdf to bring to the discussion. The others type their answer with word.
* Student B and D check their code compiles before submitting the prelab via word doc whilst student A does not compile their code and their code does often not compile.
* When I asked each student if they look back on their work student B and C said they sometimes look over their work whilst student A and D do not.
* I often have verbal discussions with B, C and D about high level concepts and changes to their code. Student A prefers me to draw out diagrams and work with pen and paper to show concepts.
* Student A is copying answers and probing for me (demonstrator) to give them the final solution – they are not learning and developing as a computer scientist
* Students B, C and D have been making mistakes and correcting themselves without prompt from myself – they have developed their own self-reflection methods which work for them.