On your summons

Lecture notes

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Welcome to this lecture! Today, we're going to answer some key questions regarding your summons.

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This is the first question: what are the summons?

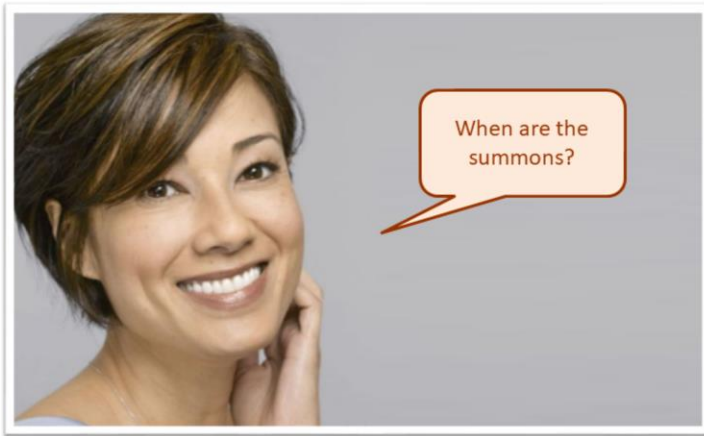This is a good definition: an evaluation summon (or summon for short) is an official call by the university in which the students are evaluated regarding a subject during a period of time. Some summons have lectures and some summons don't have any lectures.

This is the second question: when are the summons?

In accordance to the current regulations, there are three summons: the first one is called June, the second one is called September, and the third one is called December.

The timeframe of the June summon lasts from mid February till early June. During this timeframe, the lecturers deliver their lectures on the subject and the students have to work on their deliverables. The control check is in mid June

WARNING: please, consult the USE's e-learning platform for updates to the information shown in this slide.   Additional labs might be used if necessary.

The timeframe of the September summon lasts from mid June till early September. During this timeframe, there are not any lectures, but the students have to work on their deliverables. The control check is in mid September.

WARNING: please, consult the USE's e-learning platform for updates to the information shown in this slide.

The timeframe of the December summon lasts from early October till late December. During this timeframe, there are not any lectures, but the students have to work on their deliverables. The control check is typically in late December, but some years it's scheduled in early January.

WARNING: please, consult the USE's e-learning platform for updates to the information shown in this slide.

NOTE: please, realise that the December summon of a given course runs in parallel with the February summon of the next course. Courses are independent from each other; the subject improves every year, which means that the lectures delivered during the February summon of a course might not be useful for the students who enrolled the December summon of the previous course.

This is the third question: what does exactly the evaluation build on?

Your evaluation builds solely on five deliverables and one control check. And that's the same in every summon.

The deliverables

- They help put theory into practice
- Decide on whether you wish to earn an A⁺, an A, a B, or a C
- Deliver them by the deadlines
- Work in groups of up to six students

The lecturers are responsible for releasing the requirements specification of a number of projects that consists in producing small web information systems. The lecturers are also responsible for stating the minimum requirements that your deliverables must meet so that you can earn an A⁺, an A, a B, or a C; if your deliverable doesn't meet the requirements to earn a C, then it will be awarded an F of an F⁻.

NOTE: Mark A⁺ corresponds to "Sobresaliente 10 con opción a matrícula de honor"; mark A corresponds to "Sobresaliente 9"; mark B corresponds to "Notable 8"; mark C corresponds to "Aprobado 6"; mark F corresponds to "Suspenso 4"; and mark F⁻ corresponds to "Suspenso 1".

The control check

- They check if your deliverables correlate to your knowledge level
- They must be passed individually, without any collaborations
- They are graded as either PASSED or FAILED

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Unfortunately, we, the lecturers, can't blindly trust you: we know there are students who cheat and we must ensure that no student who cheats passes this subject. There are also some students who don't meet the goals of this subject, even though they have produced every deliverable in time. We are talking about students who manage to assemble a project that works, but don't actually understand what they've done; or students who literally gobble up their partners, who cannot learn because their mates don't give them the opportunity to work; or students who search for a "gobbler" partner and ride his or her coattail. That means that we have to make control checks. A control check is a meeting in which the students, individually, have to make a few changes to their deliverables; if you've actually worked on your projects and you've actually learnt from them, then passing your control checks should be like ringing a bell; if you don't pass it, the lecturers might investigate your case in an attempt to discern the reason why you didn't pass it.   Control checks are evaluated as either PASSED or FAILED.
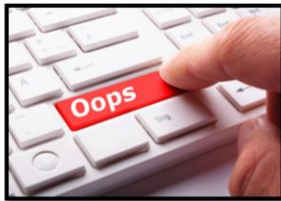
Sufficient conditions for failure

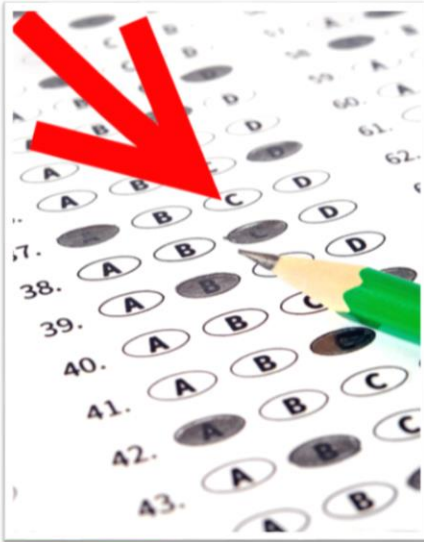HTTP errors — Panics — Wrong data — Missing CRUDS — Hacking

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Each deliverable or control check is accompanied by a specific evaluation procedure. There are, however, some sufficient conditions for failure, namely:

- A legal interaction with your system results in an HTTP error.
- A legal interaction with your system results in a panic.
- Submitting a form with wrong data is not detected.
- There are missing CRUDS use cases.
- An actor can illegally list, edit, or delete data that belongs to another actor.

Please, note that the above conditions are sufficient conditions for failure; passing them does not entail that your deliverable or control check is passed; you must also pass the specific evaluation procedure.

The critiques

- Lecturer mistakes
  - Mistakes are checked
  - Marks are corrected
- Student mistakes
  - Lecturers may ask students to fix them
  - Student have ½ hour to work on the fixes
  - Maximum mark C or PASSED

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There's a critique that is organised by the end of the course. Generally speaking, a critique helps correct evaluation mistakes. Exceptionally, if you have failed a deliverable or a control and the lecturer who has evaluated it thinks that you might fix it in just half an hour, he or she will let you know. If you manage to fix your deliverable or your control during the critique, you may pass it but your maximum mark will be C for deliverables and PASSED for controls.

If you're planning on passing the subject in your critique, that's a wrong plan. If the lecturers have made a mistake regarding your evaluation, they'll fix it and you'll earn your mark; if they didn't make a mistake, but they think that your work is close to a C, they then may ask you to make corrections. But realise that you have just half an hour. You've got to prepare your corrections at home and prove that you can fix the problems that your lecturer highlights.

This is the fourth question: what about grading?

The ingredients

Deliverable	Title	Weight	Grade
D01	Introduction	20%	G01
D02	Functional testing	20%	G02
D03	Performance testing	20%	G03
D04	Acceptance testing	20%	G04
D05	Hackathon	20%	G05
		Weighted average	G

Control Check	Grade C (PASSED or FAILED)

This slide shows the ingredients of your grade: there are five deliverables, each of which has a weight on your final grade, and a control check, whose grade can be either PASSED or FAILED.

The general rule

- If G >= 5.0 and C = PASSED, then
  - Your grade is the weighted average of the grades of your deliverables rounded to the nearest decimal
- In all other cases:
  - You'll be awarded grade F or F⁻ depending on how bad your results are.

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The general grading rule is as follows: if your average weighted grade in your deliverables is at least 5.0 and you don't pass your control check, then your grade will be the weighted average of the grades of your deliverables rounded to the nearest decimal; in all other cases, your grade will be F ("Suspenso 4") or F⁻ ("Suspenso 1") depending on how bad your results are.
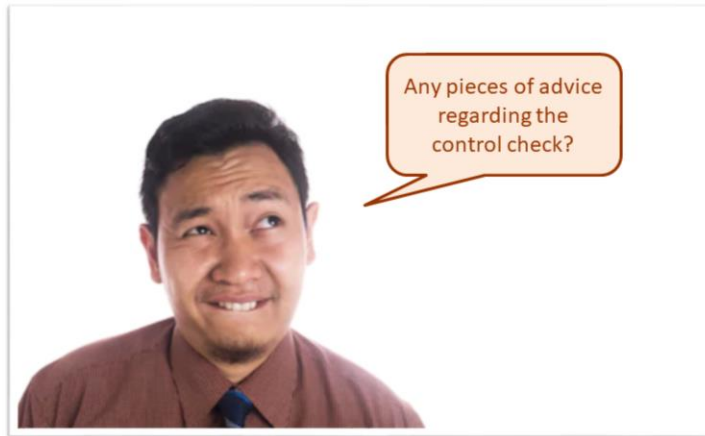
The exception in June

- If G >= 5.0 and C = FAILED, then
  - The grade awarded in June will be F
  - The grade awarded in September will be the weighted average of the grades awarded to your deliverables rounded to the nearest decimal if your pass the September control check or F, otherwise

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There's an exception in June: if your average weighted grade in your deliverables is at least 5.0 and you don't pass your control check, then you'll be awarded an F in June, but you may re-take your control check in September. If you pass your control check in September, then your grade will be the weighted average of the grades awarded to your deliverables rounded to the nearest decimal; otherwise your grade will be F ("Suspenso 4").

This is the fifth question: any pieces of advice regarding the control check?

The overall picture

- It's a request for maintenance
- It involves a project at Level C
- There's a new entity in the system
- There are new management use cases
- You have four hours

Let's start with providing an overall picture: the control check consist in a request for maintenance that involves the project that you produced in one of your deliverables at level C. Basically, the request consists of adding a new entity to the system and implementing the corresponding management use cases. You have four hours to work on your control check.

You'll be requested to produce the following items taking into account the request for maintenance:

- A README file in which you comment on your doubts and decisions regarding the control check.
- A new version of your UML conceptual and domain models.
- A new version of your Eclipse project.
- Your deployment artefacts ready to be deployed to the pre-production environment.
- A deployment of your project to Clever Cloud.

Note that there's a template for your control check that is available at the USE's e-learning platform. The template does not provide every detail regarding the control, but helps you get acquainted with it and have an overall picture of what you'll be requested to produce.

Our best piece of advice is: use the template to train a lot!

The rules

- Bring your own laptop
- Have your crib sheet
- Don't talk to anyone
- No Q&A with lecturers

The rules during the control are very simple:

- Bring your own laptop. No computer in the laboratory will be available.
- Have your crib sheet. It's strongly recommended that you bring your own crib sheet.
- Don't talk to anyone. It's an individual evaluation test.
- No Q&A with lecturers. Use the README file to comment on your doubts and solutions if necessary.

The sixth question is: do you have any questions? Please, note that these slides won't be updated with the questions and the answers produces during the lectures. It's your duty to attend the lectures and take notes.

Thanks for attending this lecture! See you next day!