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| Assessment Brief | | | | |
| **Module title:** | Natural Language Processing (NLP) | | **Module code:** | CSY3055 |
| **Assessment code/title:** | AS1 | | **Assessment weighting/word-limit:** | 40%/ 1500 words |
| **Submission date:** | 13th November 2025 (3pm) | | **Feedback date:** | 9th December 2025 |
| **Module Leader:** | Oluseyi Oyedeji | | **Resit date:** | 26th March 2026 |
| Assessment Task: | | | | |
| **Title (Question):** Individual Proposal for Course Project  **Setting the scene:**  This assignment focuses on developing a comprehensive understanding of some aspects of NLP that you choose to investigate. This assignment is also designed to prepare you for your final project (Assignment two). It requires you to produce a proposal report that:   * Sets out your chosen NLP problem * Reviews existing approaches and methods. * Outlines your proposed methodology, dataset(s), tools, and evaluation strategy. * Defines clear objectives and describe the final artifact you intend to develop. * Identifies potential ethical, legal, or environmental issues associated with your proposed work, and briefly considers possible mitigations.   **The Task:**  You are required to submit an individual proposal report of approximately 1,500 words. Your report should be structured under the following sections:   * **Introduction** – introduce the NLP problem and its importance. * **Literature Review** – discuss existing approaches and methods. * **Proposed Methodology** – describe dataset(s), preprocessing, algorithms/models, tools, and evaluation metrics you plan to use. * **Objectives** – define clear, measurable objectives. * **Final Artifact Proposal** – explain what system, model, or prototype you will develop. * **Draft Table of Contents** – provide an outline for your final project report.   **NLP-Related Topics**  The NLP aspect(s) you choose to focus on can include, but are not limited to:   1. Sentiment Analysis 2. Named Entity Recognition 3. Text Summarization 4. Question Answering Systems 5. Machine Translation 6. Topic Modelling 7. Chatbots and Conversational Agents 8. Transformers (BERT, GPT, etc.)   Ensure the topic is specific, feasible, and aligned with modern NLP challenges and applications.  **Report Requirements**   1. Introduction:  * Provide a clear introduction to your chosen NLP topic. Include background information, the importance of the problem, and why you are addressing this issue. * Briefly outline the potential applications and benefits of solving this problem using NLP techniques.  1. Related Work:   Conduct a literature review on existing work related to your topic. This section should include:   * A summary of previous research papers, articles, or reports that are relevant to your project. * Key techniques and methodologies that have been applied to similar problems. * Any identified limitations or gaps in existing approaches.  1. Proposed Methodology:   Present the methodology you plan to use to address the problem. This should include:   * Data Collection (how you will obtain or preprocess the data)   + Algorithms or models (Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Transformer models, etc.)   + Evaluation metrics you will use to assess the model's performance.   + Tools and technologies (e.g., Python, TensorFlow, PyTorch).  1. Clear Objectives:  * Clearly define the objectives of your project. These should cover the desired outcomes and benchmarks for success. * Ensure your objectives are specific, measurable, and achievable within the project timeline.  1. Final Artifact Proposal:  * Provide a proposal for the final artifact, detailing what you plan to build (e.g., an NLP model, a web-based application). * Explain how the artifact aligns with your methodology and objectives. Include any challenges you anticipate in building this artifact.   **Learning Outcomes aligned to this Assessment:**  On successful completion of this assessment, you will be able to:   1. Explain and justify fundamental concepts and techniques of Natural Language Processing. 2. Analyse, compare and select the most appropriate methods and algorithms for building NLP driven solutions 3. Analyse the potential influence of ethical, legal and environmental issues involved in NLP 4. Investigate and analyse relevant resources, tools, and background information to be used in solving real-life problems   Learning Outcomes are available on the Module Specification for the module, and on the NILE site  **Academic Practice(referencing style, literature usage, AI Usage):**  You must reference all sources appropriately using the Harvard referencing style. Failure to acknowledge sources may constitute academic misconduct. You are allowed to use research papers and technical reports especially in the related works section. | | | | |
| **Assessment Guidance:** | | | | |
| **Reading List: You will find a link to your online reading list on NILE**  **Use of Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) within this Assessment:**  **AI Categories:**  **Category 1: No GenAI allowed**  For this type of assessment, you are unable to use GenAI due to the design of the assessment. For example, a closed book exam where you are required to demonstrate within controlled conditions that you have core knowledge or a skill in a particular area. As it is not possible to use GenAI within this type of assessment, you do not need to acknowledge use of GenAI.  **Academic Practice support**  The Skills Hub is a central repository where you will find a range of support for your study and assessments: <https://skillshub.northampton.ac.uk/> | | | | |
| **Feedback:** | | | | |
| Feedback should be received within 20 working days  An announcement will be sent out via NILE to inform you of when feedback is available.  Instruction on Anonymity for students[**Further guidance is available online**](https://searchtundra.northampton.ac.uk/?tag=4ff5d81d-f7cc-446d-ba9f-444410ae2630) | | | | |

**CSY3055: Undergraduate Marking Rubric**

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| **Assessment Criteria** | **Weight** | **Evidence checklist** | **Learning Outcomes** | **Fail**  Work does not achieve requirements | **Pass**  Work achieves requirements | **Satisfactory**  Work of satisfactory quality | **Good**  Work of worthy quality | **Excellent**  Work of high quality |
| Introduction & Rationale | 15% | Clear problem statement, relevance, rationale | a, f | No clear problem defined; no rationale provided | Problem identified but vague or irrelevant | Problem adequately defined with some rationale | Clear and relevant problem, rationale explained | Excellent, precise problem definition; strong rationale linked to real-world impact |
| Literature Review & Background | 25% | Quality of sources, comparison of methods, academic grounding | a, b, f | No review; irrelevant or missing sources | Minimal review; weak or non-academic sources | Adequate review with some relevant academic sources | Good review; sources relevant and critically compared | Excellent review with strong critical insight and wide coverage of sources |
| Proposed Methodology | 25% | Dataset(s), preprocessing, algorithms, tools, evaluation metrics, feasibility | b, c, e | No clear methodology; unrealistic or missing details | Weak or vague methodology; feasibility doubtful | Adequate methodology with some gaps in detail or feasibility | Clear, feasible methodology with sound justification | Excellent methodology; detailed, realistic, and well-justified |
| Objectives & Artifact Proposal | 15% | Objectives, clarity, measurability, artifact description | b, c, f | No objectives or artifact proposal | Objectives vague or unmeasurable; artifact unclear | Adequate objectives; artifact proposed but weakly described | Clear, measurable objectives; artifact well described | Excellent objectives; precise, measurable, ambitious yet realistic artifact plan |
| Ethics, Legal & Environmental Issues | 10% | Identification of risks, ethical/legal/environmental considerations, mitigation | d | No mention of ethics/legal/environmental issues | Minimal or generic mention without relevance | Adequate coverage of some issues but limited depth | Good coverage of relevant issues with suggested mitigations | Excellent, insightful analysis of ethical/legal/environmental risks with strong mitigation strategies |
| Presentation, Structure & Referencing | 10% | Report structure, clarity, formatting, Harvard referencing | f | Report missing or incoherent; no referencing | Poorly structured; limited referencing | Adequately structured; some referencing errors | Well-structured; clear, consistent referencing | Excellent structure and clarity; flawless referencing; professional presentation |