Article 5 – HTML

HyperText Markup Language (HTML) is a markup (not programming) language used to create and structure content on a web page. It is analogous to the skeleton of the web page, i.e., provides the underlying framework upon which styles (CSS) and behaviour (JS) are layered.

HTML is not a markup language as it uses tags to denote different parts of a document such as headings, paragraphs, listings, etc.

A valid HTML document has a hierarchical tree-like structure known as the Document Object Model (DOM).

HTML consists of Semantic tags, which implies that the tags convey meaning, not just for functionality. For example, <nav> for navigation links, <article> for self-contained pieces of content, etc.

Semantic tags are beneficial for two reasons:

1) SEO: Enhances search engines' ability to index content more effectively.

2) Code Readability: Improve code readability, especially in environments involving multiple developers.

HTML 🡪 What the content is

CSS 🡪 How the content looks

JS 🡪 How the content behaves

HTML Tag: <p></p>

HTML Element: <p>Hello World!</p>

**Some Good HTML Practices**

1) Use Semantic Elements

Replace generic <div>/<span> wrappers with purpose-built tags where appropriate:

<header>…</header>

<nav>…</nav>

<main>…</main>

<article>…</article>

<section>…</section>

<aside>…</aside>

<footer>…</footer>

2) Follow a Logical Heading Hierarchy

Use one <h1> tag per page, then nested by <h2> 🡪 <h3> 🡪 … in order. Never skip levels, as that can confuse assistive tech (software that aids disabled people).

3) Group Related Content

Use <section> to break your content into thematic blocks. In longer articles, use <article> to wrap independent content.

4) Keep Your Markup Clean and DRY

Avoid unnecessary nesting of <div>s; if a <section> or <article> will, then use it.

Give meaningful “id” and “class” names for layering CSS/JS by keeping them focused on their purpose (e.g. form-buttons, email-field)