**Index Plan**

**A.1**

A.1.1

**Kirsty-**

I was born on the 22nd of April 1993. I have lived in Dalbeattie my whole life. It is a very small town but will always be home to me. I have a big family and have been brought up in a very social environment. My parents have always encouraged me in playing lots of different sports. For as long as I can remember I have played Tennis and as I have grown I have taken up Badminton, Football and Hockey. I have always found playing sports so much fun, I love being active and trying new things. Therefore my favourite subject at school was always P.E. I work at The Anchor Hotel in Kippford.

My ambitions and goals in life are really just to try and be a good, kind person. I kind of always wanted to make my mark on the world, to just do something amazing and actually be somebody. But, I know that will never happen.

Right now I only have little goals. For example getting my degree and doing that as best I can with always aiming high.

I would say music is what I get to motivate me. It kind of gets me going. But, my parents and family are good at keeping me focused and keeping me on the right track of what I want.

Some of my inspiration comes from my parents. I could only dream of having what life they have created. They have given me what I hope to give my children. I aspire to one day be the kind of parents they are to me.

Others who have inspired and influenced me are a combination of Chris Brown, Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift. Not because of their fame but because of their talent. The thought of being able to put words together into a song the way they do is amazing to me. I seem to be able to connect to their songs. No matter what I do I listen to music. Music is a massive part of my life, I love it. If I am ever feeling sad or down I just need to listen to a song and it can completely change my mood and make me feel great. To be able to have that effect on people is inspirational on its own without all their charity work they do. They are inspirational to me because they have influenced so many people all over the world. Their music brings so many different people together no matter their back ground or the colour of their skin or what nationality you are it just does not matter, all that matters is the music. That is amazing. That is inspirational.

**Paul-**

I was born in Dumfries but I have lived in Annan all my life. I play football every Tuesday for a pub team in Dumfries. I spend a lot of my spare time caring for my nana. I worked for a year at DGRI as an admin assistant. My main personal goal is to work at the hospital in Dumfries as a user support engineer.

**Ryan-**

I was born in Dumfries at the Cresswell hospital, which was demolished in place of a new maternity unit at the DGRI. I grew up in Lochside with my older brother, my mum and dad. I have worked at the local Morrison’s for just over a year.

A.1.2

**Kirsty-**

I did not really have much prior knowledge, everything is pretty much being learnt from scratch. The only Computer based work I have done was an Intermediate 2 in Information Systems.

**Paul-**

The only prior knowledge I had was from doing Information Systems at school. I also did IT support for all the meeting rooms at the education centre for my year’s apprenticeship.

**Ryan-**

The only prior knowledge that I had on entry to this course was that I studied Higher Information Systems during High School and the UWS Summer School, which ran for a few weeks before entry to the course.

A.1.3

**Kirsty-**

When I first started the course I was not very confident at all considering I did not have much of a background in Computing. I thought I would be behind the entire class because of it, which made me incredibly nervous. But, this has helped me as I was more prepared in knowing that I had a lot of work to do in order to catch up on people, so this in effect has been a great motivator and made me work harder.

The big target of getting the degree will be a big motivator for me, but the main one will be the fact that the degree will lead to a higher chance of getting a job which is what I really want. I try not to focus on any negatives so hopefully nothing will de-motivate me.

**Paul-**

I was pretty confident coming into this course as I enjoy working with computer hardware and software. My motivation for doing this course was so that I could get a well-paid job after I get my degree.

**Ryan-**

The things that motivated me on entry to this course was the chance of a better job that I will enjoy. So that I can own a house and a reasonably good car.

**A.2**

A.2.1

**Kirsty-**

I think I have good time management. In High school I had to juggle 3 different sports, a part time job at the Anchor, and also keep up with school work. This required me having to manage where and what times I had to be at each activity. With having a part time job at 14 I had the responsibility of having to be there in time. If not there were consequences, which helped me understand how important good time management is. My part time job has and will help me with jobs in the future.

Now, my time management involves work and of course University, which I am always here in good time for. I also have to travel by bus that I need to be on time for, or else I would be late getting into University. Being early and on time for University every day is very important to me because if I was turning up late most days that would not give my lecturers a good impression. In the future when going for a job, they may ask for a reference from the University and if they say I was coming in late employers would not want to hire someone who was unreliable in time keeping. So the fact that I have good time skills means I don’t really have to worry about being late.

**Paul-**

I currently don’t have a job so I have plenty of time to do University work. Working at the hospital for a year taught me how to save money from working. I travel to University by car, so I’m able to get back and forward to easily.

**Ryan-**

My time management is affected by working a part-time job as well as University studies. My part time job has taught me many useful skills; such as how to multi-task better and the importance of time management. I travel between University and work using my own car, which helps with time management because it only takes me roughly 10 minutes to get from my house to the University. This makes it easier if I need to get any extra University work done or we need to meet as a group to finish any projects because it is only a small drive away.

A.2.2

**Kirsty-**

My approach to learning I would say is very positive. I really enjoy learning new things and being able to expand my knowledge. As humans we always have to learn or else we will never adapt or change with our surroundings, we can’t be stuck in the past.

**Paul-**

I have a positive approach to learning when it is to do with learning about computers. I’m very interested in learning the hardware and software aspects of computers so that keeps me motivated, which in turn keeps me positive.

**Ryan-**

My approach to learning is very positive when it comes to computing as I like to challenge myself and learn new skills, which will gives me a positive attitude towards learning.

A.2.3

**Kirsty-**

I am not going to lie, being assessed really scares me. But it’s what we have to do so I just get on with it. I just try to be prepared for any assessments and do my best. If I don’t do so well then I ask for feedback and focus on what I could have done better so that next time I don’t make the same mistakes. Nobody wants to do badly in assessments, but I try and keep a positive attitude by saying now I know what areas are weak and I am able to focus on these.

**Paul-**

I have a negative view towards assessments as I always worry that I’m going to fail. I’m not very good at revising so I always worry that I will fail my assignments.

**Ryan-**

My approaches to assessments are that I find them difficult and I require lots of revising before the assessment to get the feeling that I am going to pass. But, at the same time I am positive that I can learn new things from doing the assessments that I am set.

A.2.4

**Kirsty-**

My motivations have to be my ambition to do well. I have a real drive to get myself a good job that I really enjoy therefore that will consist of a lot of hard work, work that I am willing to put in. I also have really good people around me that keep me going and remind me regularly of my goals, not only family but this class. Everyone here is very supportive towards each other and we all help each other.

**Paul-**

My main motivation to do this course is to get a good job by the end of the course, preferably as a user support engineer.

**Ryan-**

My motivation for completing each module of the degree is the thought of failure. If I know there is a chance that I will fail, then it will push and motivate me to try my best to get the optimal grade.

**A.3.**

A.3.1

In our group we are all at the same kind of level. Where we are pretty much learning things from scratch, which means when doing tasks we are working on everything together as a team. No one is doing everything on their own. We all want to do the best we can so we keep each other motivated and we have the kind of friendship that if someone is stuck or is feeling down about any of the work, we will support each other and help out. When taking on a group task, we always sit down and discuss what is required. We then get to work after discussing each of our ideas. We always let everyone have a say so that no one feels left out. We are all pretty easy going, so coming to decisions is relatively easy. The only difficulties we have encountered are that me and Ryan work so it can be difficult getting time to do group work, so we contact each other through text and Facebook.

A.3.2 Description of our group-based learning.

Our group based learning has involved creating Power Point Presentations so far and we have our first report to write up. These tasks we have had to do together have given us an idea of how to work as a team to get the work done and at a good standard. In the future we will have to face bigger projects together that will be challenging and complex.

**B.1**

B.1.1

**Kirsty-**

For me personally I feel that my background, personal goals and influences have affected my performance. They have given me goals as something to work hard for. In effect they have given me a lot of motivation to put in the work so that I can then reach those goals that I have set for myself.

**Paul-**

I think that since we all come from a similar background and have the same personal goals then it made our experience a lot easier as we all get on very well.

**Ryan-**

All members of the group have similar backgrounds. Our personal goals for the course are roughly the same and we all have different influences. But, different influences doesn’t affect our performance in a negative way, in fact these similarities give us a positive performance as a group.

B.1.2

**Kirsty-**

I would not say it was entirely important that people have prior knowledge. This course is designed so that they cover all the basics and go through the work as though you have not had any experience in the modules. Having said that having prior knowledge would be a real advantage and would make the first year experience a lot more relaxed and would make it easier to settle down.

**Paul-**

I think that since Ryan went to summer school, that has benefited our gaming classes as he has some experience of C# programming.

**Ryan-**

My prior knowledge was a positive factor because I went to summer school before entry to the course. So I had experience in c# programming which we have covered in our games development module. Both Paul and Kirsty did not attend summer school, so I had the chance to help them get up to speed with the basics.

B.1.3

**Kirsty-**

Confidence and motivation for me personally are two very important factors. My confidence when I started this course was low, but as the weeks went on my confidence has grown so much, as I have seen that prior knowledge was not that important and there are other students in the same position as me. Motivation I would say is so important when going to Universtiy, if you do not have the motivation to do your work you will struggle. Compared to being at school there is a lot of independent work and you have to do it by yourself. There is no more being spoon fed by teachers, you have to have that motivation inside to get the work done. They say that it is a lack in motivation that causes students to drop out.

**Paul-**

I don’t think it was significant as we all had a good level of confidence and we are all motivated to get as good as result as possible.

**Ryan-**

No, the level confidence and motivation on entry wasn’t significant because we all had a similar level of confidence and were all motivated on starting this course.

**B.2**

B.2.1

**Kirsty-**

Time management for me has been easy. I always make sure I am on time for anything I do. Planning within the group when we can go through work that needs to be done can be difficult with mine and Ryan’s part time job in the equation, but we try as best we can to spend the appropriate time needed to get the work done. Sometimes we meet early before classes start if we are working later on after class.

**Paul-**

Our time management structure I thought has worked really well. Two members of the group have jobs which can be difficult, so we had to arrange times and meetings around their hours of work.

**Ryan-**

Our time management plan never had many effects. Apart from me and Kirsty having jobs, so we had to arrange when we were and weren’t working.

B.2.2

**Kirsty-**

I enjoy learning and developing myself, therefore my approach to learning is very positive and effective. I enjoy it so I pick up the work a lot better than what I would if I did not like doing the work.

**Paul-**

Our approach to learning was quite effective as we took the time to research and prepare our presentation.

**Ryan-**

Our approach to learning was effective because we put a lot of time into researching what we put into the presentation.

B.2.3

**Kirsty-**

Being assessed as scary as it is, I feel our group has tackled the PowerPoint Presentations very well. After presenting our work in front of the class I feel the feedback we get is important, as we can then improve on things needing worked on and also see what we have managed to do well.

**Paul-**

I think it was as we got to present our presentation to an audience and lecturer who provided us with very valuable feedback on how we could improve our presentation.

**Ryan-**

Yes, because we were getting assessed by our lecturer. We were also asked questions about the presentation that would affect how we were assessed.

B.2.4

**Kirsty-**

My motivations within the course have affected my performance by giving me the drive of wanting to do well and keep on top of the work load. It has made my performance very good. Motivation within the group is very high as we work off of each other and keep each other encouraged to do well.

**Paul-**

I think that we are all pretty motivated individuals which had a positive effect on our approach to the presentation.

**Ryan-**

We all had the same motivations so I think that we had a positive approach to the assessment.

**B.3**

B.3.1

The benefits of group work are that three heads are better than one. Three different points of views and ideas are being put into the work. Having each other to brainstorm with, means that the best work is being chosen to put forward for our assessments. Having other people to share the work load is also a benefit, we all help each other with the work and it is a lot of fun being part of a group.

The costs of group work are that we can disagree about things within the work, which can lead to arguments and people getting upset. So that can cause bother in group work. Other problems with group work can be people being controlling and taking charge of everything and not giving the rest of the group a say in the work. Another thing is people not pulling their weight and contributing ideas to tasks.

**D.**

We think that the induction process should be improved as we were given a lot of useless pieces of information during the induction. We were also split into groups to be given a tour however the groups were too large and people standing at the back of the group couldn’t hear what the person giving us the tour was saying.

**E.**

**Kirsty-**

Ryan- I have known Ryan my whole life. We have grown up with each other so it was a really big relief having him on the course with me and made me feel better knowing someone in class. He has been a really big help. He seems to know a lot about the subjects and whenever I need any help he is always there for me.

Paul- I met Paul during the second week of University. We seemed to get along really well. We bonded over the sweet harmony of Taylor Swift. Paul seems to be a very motivated person and this helps keep me motivated as well.

**Paul-**

Kirsty – I met Kirsty the second week into the course and we seemed to get on really well together. She is very good at website design and has helped me a lot especially with my CSS so she is a valued member of the group.

Ryan – I met Ryan on the second week as well and we have become really good friends. Ryan did summer school so he has background knowledge of C# compared to me and Kirsty who didn’t go to summer school so he has been able to provide us with valuable help when needed when designing our game.

**Ryan-**

Paul – I met Paul on the second week of the course and we have become good friends, he has helped me

Kirsty – I have known Kirsty for most of my life as we grew up together because of our parents knowing each other. We get on really well, and I know her pros and cons and can deal with them and she has helped with expanding what I am saying, so I add more detail to what I am saying.