CRITERION A: PLANNING

DELIVERABLE 1: THE SCENARIO

Criterion	Document	Method of submission	Recommended word count
A	Description of scenario	Extended writing	175-250

The following key questions should be considered

- Who is the client?
- Is the choice of client appropriate?
- Why is the product being developed?

Before reaching a decision for the proposed product the student and/or computer science teacher must determine:

- if the student has the technical skills and access to the software required to develop the product
- whether the client's hardware and software is compatible with the product
- if the data required for the product can be obtained by either the student and/or appropriate third parties
- how any security implications for the development and operation of the product can be resolved.

The rationale and success criteria should be developed in consultation with their client. The student needs to remember they are producing software for a client/customer not for themselves. It is important that the software produced *is what the customer needs, not what the student wants*. Therefore it is important that the criteria that will satisfy the client is thoroughly understood. To that end, students should conduct two interviews with the client in the planning phase.

- Interview 1 is to get the initial information from the client, to gather as clear a picture of the needs the software is to solve as possible. Include the transcript of the 1st interview in an appendix and refer to it in your main text.
- Interview 2 is to present the proposed rationale and success criteria to the client for their approval. Amendments should be made as per the clients suggestions/requests so the final product has the best chance of meeting their needs. Include the transcript of the 2nd interview and refer to it in the main text. Ensure the client adequately communicates that the success criteria is satisfactory. It is recommended to have them sign their acceptance of the final success criteria.

IB Moderator comment / advice:

Too many students decided on a product ("I want to make a website/program a game") and then found a client to match. Some schools adopted a standard approach where the teacher was the client, setting a task for the student. These approaches should be discouraged. Contrived tasks and clients were routinely seen in the weaker pieces submitted.

DELIVERABLE 2: RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSED SOLUTION

Criterion	Document	Method of submission	Recommended word count
A	Rationale for the proposed product	Extended writing	175-250

The rationale behind the choice of the proposed product must be in extended writing, with reference to the student's consultations with the client and/or adviser, justifying how the choice of this particular product is an effective solution.

The rationale behind the choice of technology stack has been provided. Your choice of technology stack must be relevant to your project, not simply because it is what you have the most experience with.

Some past examples that were not fully thought through:

- "An alarm clock to wake you in the morning" … does it really make sense that this would be a desktop web browser app? Surely it requires to be a background system process. If you insist on using Javascript, use Cordova to compile it to a device app, otherwise make it a native app.
- "Map based tool for use on the road" … but was written in Java, but not made into an Android app instead only made for Desktop use.

(refer subject guide, p82)

DELIVERABLE 3: SUCCESS CRITERIA

Criterion	Document	Method of submission	Recommended word count
A	Success criteria for product	Bullet points	

The success criteria (that are evaluated in criterion E) should be listed in the form of bullet points.

Ensure you are specific! Avoid generic success criteria such as:

- Runs without bugs, runs without crashing
- User friendly in appearance

If the student is the client, they must have an adviser who can review the success criteria and provide the validation of the product.

IB Moderator comment / advice:

Too many students had generic success criteria – these criteria must be specific and testable. The Criteria for Success are essential to the project and must be explicitly addressed in the test plan and in the evaluation (and preferably also in the video).