

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (ITS315118)

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external assessments. The primary audience for this document is the course Setting Examiner and Exam Critics. It may also be of use to teachers and students.

These specifications must be read in conjunction with the Course Document.

The external assessment consists of a **3 hour written examination**

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

- Criterion 1: identify, analyse and solve real-world information problems
- Criterion 2: describe, explain and analyse the components of an information system, and the inter-relationships between these components
- Criterion 3: describe, explain and analyse social, legal and ethical issues associated with information systems
- Criterion 5: use and evaluate an information system
- Criterion 8: communicate ideas and information in a variety of forms

WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

The following specifications for each section are outlined in **Table** below:

- the distribution across the sections of:
 - criteria
 - time allocations
- the number and type of items.

Section	A	B
Criteria and Elements	Criterion 1: E1, E2 and E3 Criterion 2: E1, E2 and E3 Criterion 3: E1, E2, E3 and E4 Criterion 5: E1, E2, E3 and E4 Criterion 8: E1, E2, E3 and E4	Criterion 1: E1, E2 and E3 Criterion 2: E1, E2 and E3 Criterion 3: E1, E2, E3 and E4 Criterion 5: E1, E2, E3 and E4 Criterion 8: E1, E2, E3 and E4
Course Coverage	Section 1, 3, 4, 5 (limited to evaluation)	Section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (limited to evaluation)
Number of items	3 questions based on a provided Case Study Question 1— evaluation of current system Question 2— application of PLC and SDLC Question 3 — Social, Legal and Ethical issues relevant to the Case Study	5 questions based on a provided Case Study Question 4 — online research of existing systems to meet the needs of the Case Study Question 5 — comparative strengths and weaknesses of alternative systems Question 6 — designing an information system to meet the needs of the Case Study Question 7 — SDLC developing and testing processes Question 8 — stakeholder management, social and legal issues

Section	A	B
Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Item type(s) format fine – describe response type only	Medium length text response to questions	Short-medium length text response to questions
Suggested time allocation	70 minutes	110 minutes total: 20 minutes researching and 90 minutes answering the questions.
Rating allocation (either Rating or Mark Allocation – weighting must be specified)	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+,C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p> <p>Algorithm to achieve final rating from Sections A – B will take account of the fact that each section carries equal weight.</p>	

ASSESSMENT

A set of solutions or a marking tool will be developed by the Setting Examiner, provided to markers at the marking meeting that follows the external written examination; and will be available from TASC in the following year.

The external assessment must include items that, separately or together, give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A.

Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document.

CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATION

- Each candidate is required to use a computer (either supplied by the school/college or their own personal computer). The computer must have internet connectivity.
- Candidates will be required to undertake research on the internet and respond to the case studies provided.
- TASC will supply each candidate with a numbered USB stick on which their responses must be saved.
- Candidates will be required to save their response to both sections of the paper in the same document. Candidates should save their file regularly whilst working.
- Any source of information must be referenced after the candidate's answer to that question by supplying URL(s) of the source(s), and identifying any other communications made, such as email. If candidates have communicated via email they must also include a pdf copy of that email and its contents as part of the files saved on the USB stick provided.
- When the document is complete candidates must make sure it is saved in its final form on the USB stick. As well, the document must be saved to the USB stick in PDF format. It is the candidate's responsibility to check that both files have correctly saved to the USB stick, and are readable. If the file cannot be read or has not been saved, it cannot be assessed. TASC will take no responsibility for the files not being accessible.
- Any difficulties at the time of saving the file to the USB must be reported to the External Assessment Supervisor.
- The candidate's TASC ID Code (shown on their pink notice of enrolment) must be shown in the file title and the footer of the document. Candidates' names must not appear anywhere in the file.
- Candidates must not collaborate with other candidates undertaking this examination, either verbally or electronically. To do so will mean that they are considered to be in breach of TASC external examination rules. See: <https://www.tasc.tas.gov.au/students/exams/rules/>
- Candidates can bring with them a set of ear buds (basic style only). These must not be headphones or buds that cover the ear and must not have Bluetooth connectivity capabilities. (If candidates bring these they will NOT be permitted to have them in the examination room).

WRITTEN EXAMINATION CHECKLIST

SECTION A

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
- all questions are compulsory

SECTION B

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8
- provide multiple opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A against each Criteria
- all questions are compulsory