

CITS5502 Software Processes

Week 10 Workshop – exam format and revision

Format of the exam

The exam will consist of 6 questions, in which you will be given the facts of a scenario, and asked to make recommendations or answer questions about it. The questions can be on any of the topics we have covered in the lectures, workshops or assignments.

The exam instructions are as follows:

Candidates may bring one A4 page of notes to the examination. These notes must be hand written, not photocopied or printed and may be written on both sides of one A4 page. The page can not be folded or have any attachments. Any notes that do not meet these conditions will be considered unauthorized material, and will be removed by the exam invigilators. Your notes page must be submitted with your exam paper at the end of the exam.

Books and calculators may NOT be taken into the examination room.

Exam papers are to be collected with the examination answer booklets.

You will not need a calculator, and will not need be asked to perform any mathematical or statistical calculations. However, you should be able to recognize when a particular technique (e.g. curve fitting, comparing models) is relevant, and be able to state what you would need in order to apply it.

Exam assessment

When marking exam answers, we aim to test whether you can:

- identify the relevant features of the scenario, and which topics or principles we have covered are relevant to the questions being asked
- show how the relevant topics or principles apply to the scenario
- justify a particular approach or recommendation or answer

A smaller number of marks will be allocated to clarity and logical flow of the answer – however, a majority of the marks are for the other factors already identified.

Sample questions

Some sample questions/scenarios for you to practice with will be made available on the website before the end of the last week of semester.

Suggested revision strategies

An excellent way to revise for the exam is to practice answering a scenario-based question under exam conditions (i.e., with only 20 minutes to plan and write an answer).

An even better way is to come up with your own scenario-based questions! It can be easy to simply read lecture slides (or a textbook chapter), and yet not retain much of the content. You will recall (and be able to apply) the material much better if you try and actively ask yourself, as you revise:

- In what sort of situations would I apply this? Can I think of concrete examples?
- If I had a choice (e.g. to recommend one software process model over another), can I think of situations where one would be preferable to another?
- Are there scenarios in which this topic or principle would *not* be relevant?