

# First Year Computer Science Projects at Coventry University

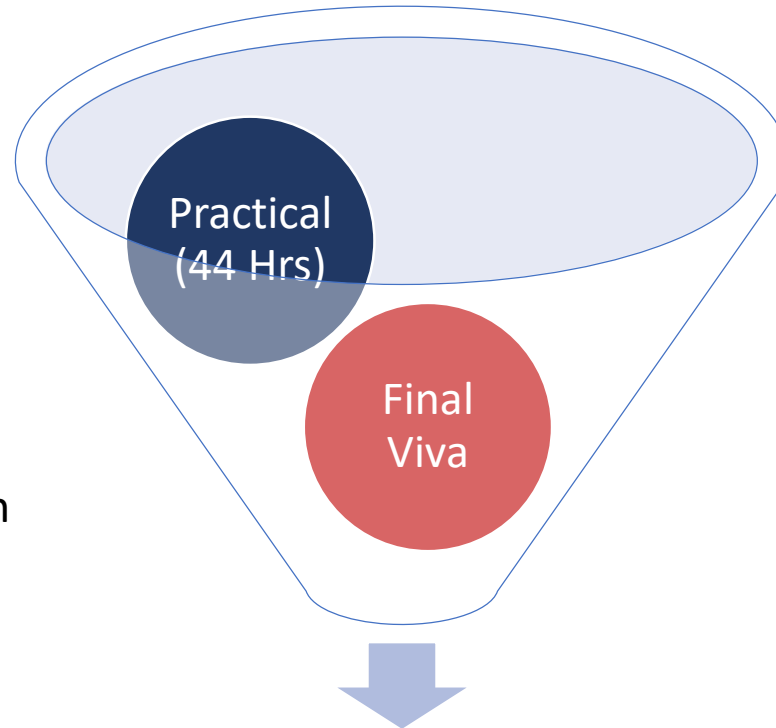
Activity-Led Integrative Team Projects with Continuous Assessment



Programming



Software Design



Self Study



Mathematics

**Dr Simon Billings**

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**Activity Led Project**



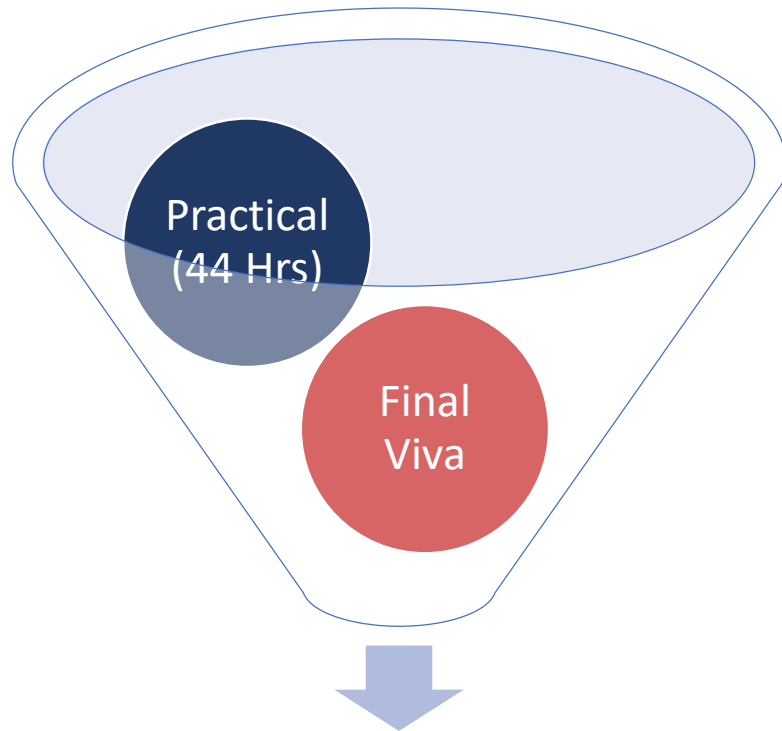
**Dr Matthew England**

Coventry University

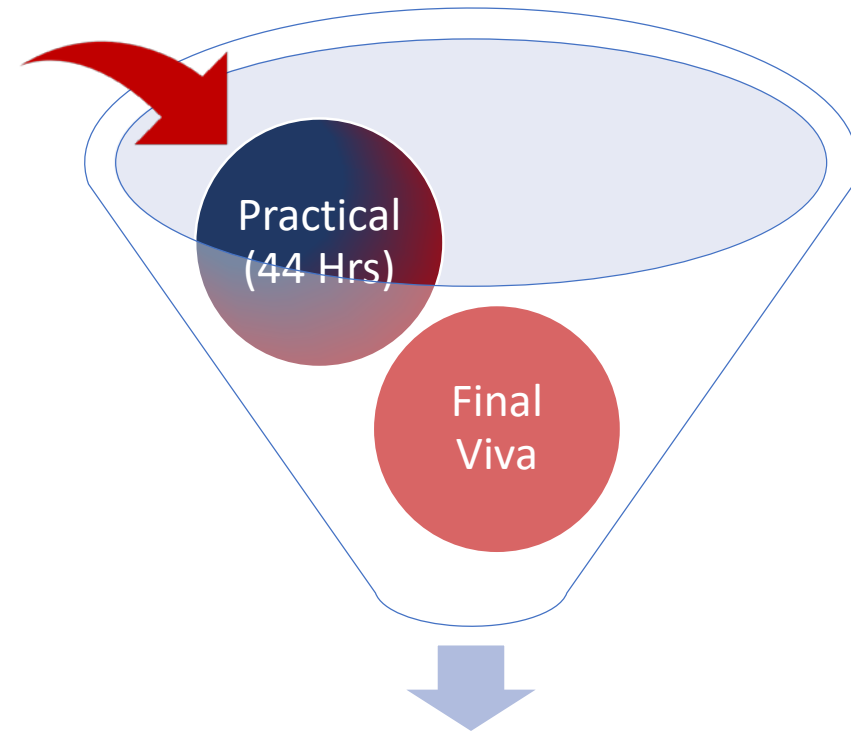
[matthew.england@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.england@coventry.ac.uk)

# Creating a New Project

## Introducing Continuous Assessment



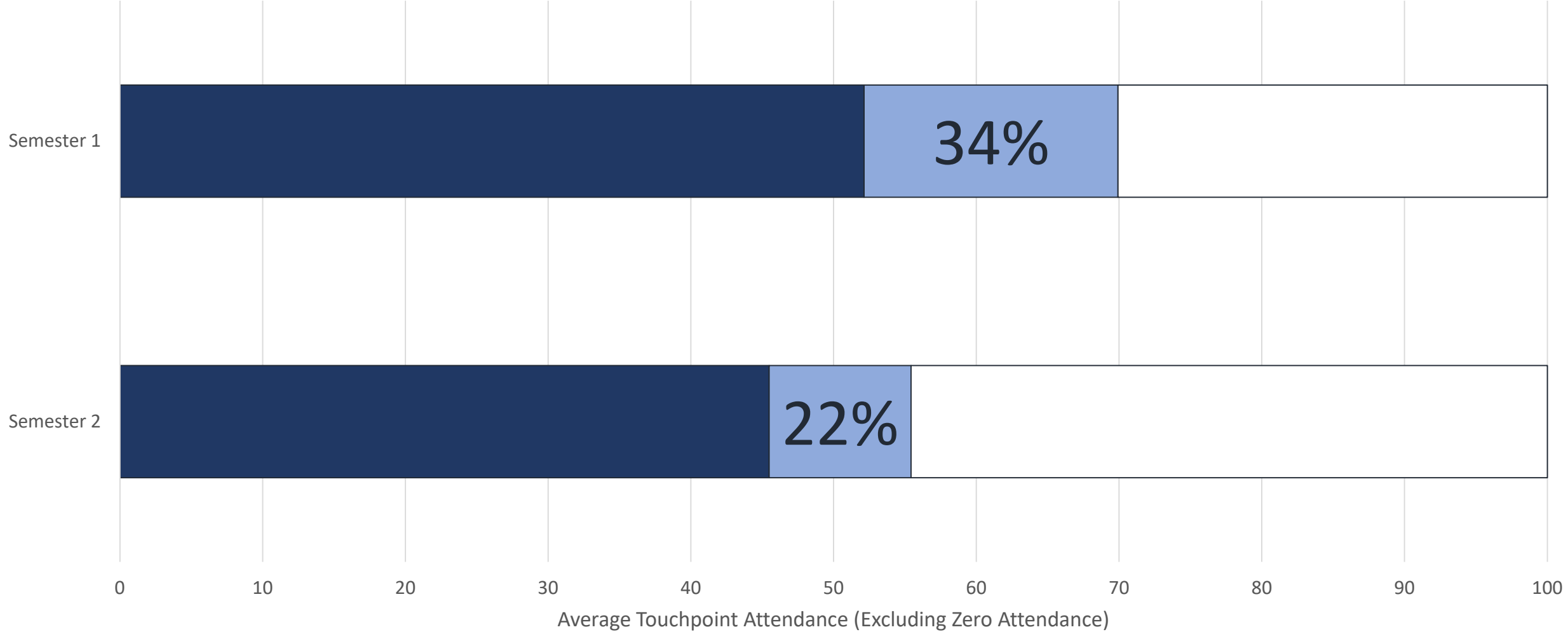
Original Project



New Project  
Continuous Assessment

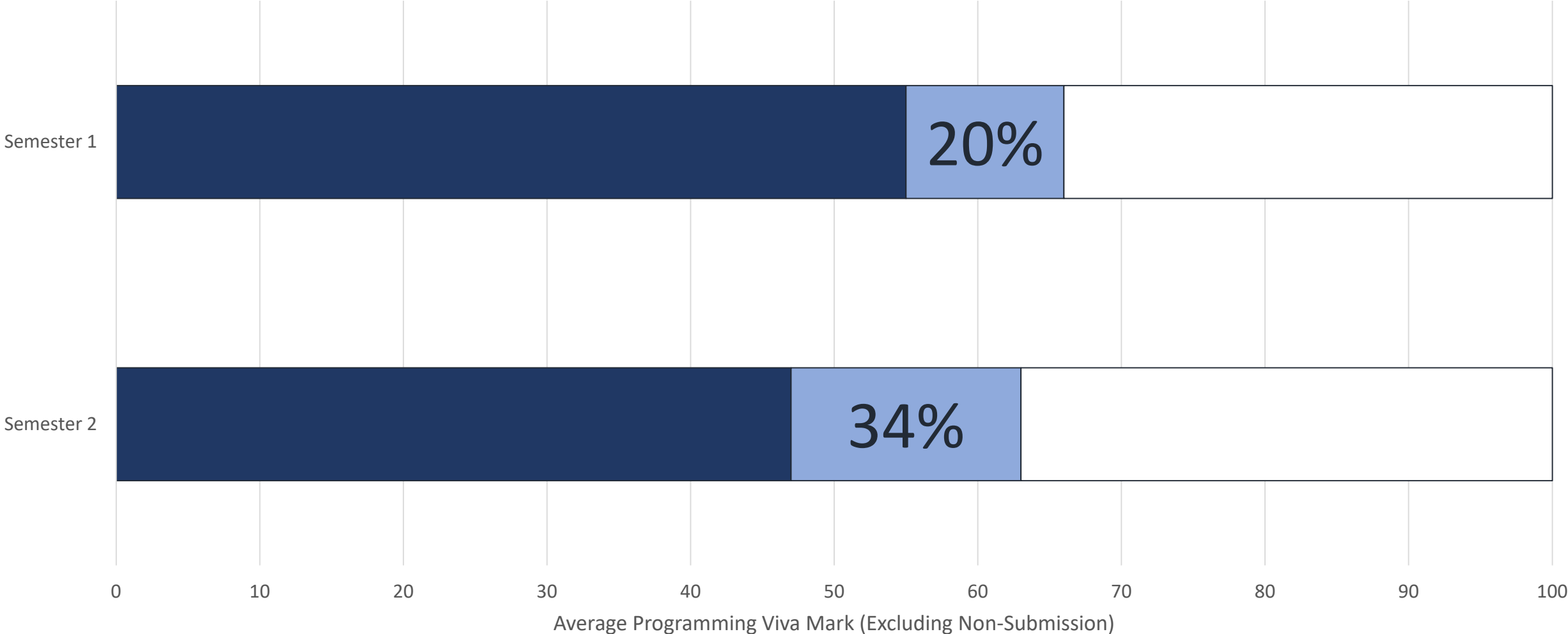
# Results

## Tutorial Attendance



# Results

## Academic Performance



“Group members are not showing up  
and do not participate actively”

“all the work done on the project is not assessed  
so less motivation to do the actual project”

“Being marked each week ... encouraged me to push  
myself and work hard each week”

“great opportunities to demonstrate team-player  
as well as leadership qualities”

# Refining the Process

## Last Year's Challenges

### 1. Gaming the System

we allowed students to demonstrate progress in either tutorial each week ...  
... so they only attended one of their two tutorials.

 This year we only have one tutorial session a week

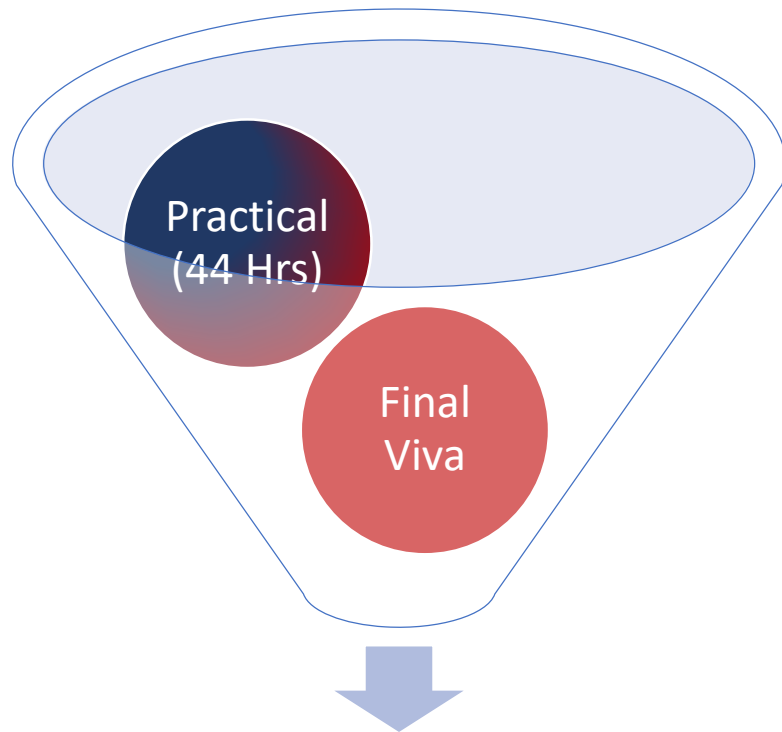
### 2. Perceptions of Consistency

“I did more work than my friend, but they got a better mark.”

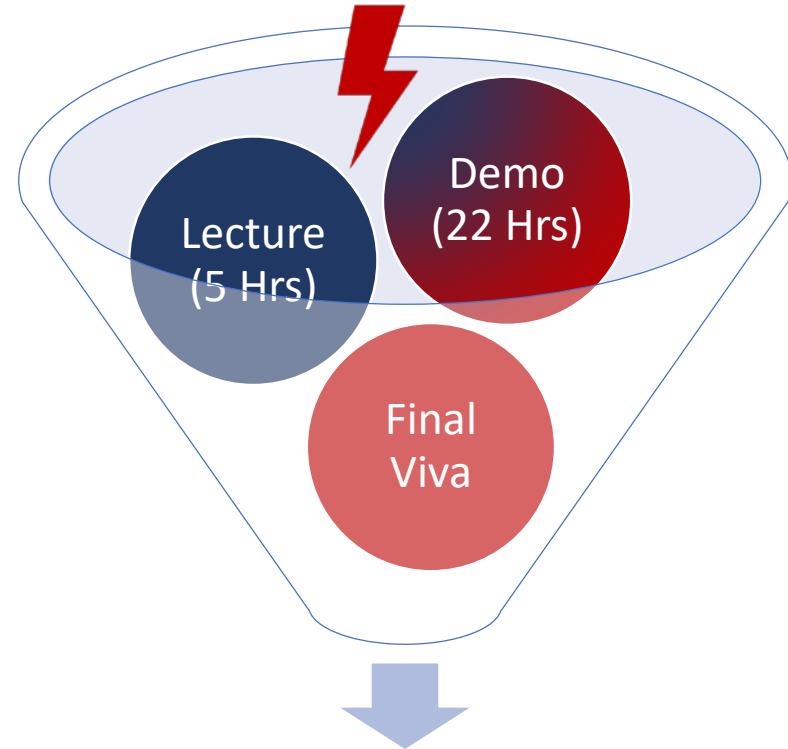
 This year groups demonstrate progress in presentations to their peers

# Refining the Process

## Goodbye Practical



**Previous Project**  
Continuous Assessment



**Current Project**  
Continuous Assessment

4

Isaac

35%

I adapted our code to work with the Discord API. There is a lot of code to adapt so I will continue working on this next week.

Helped Group C understand the Discord API documentation.

3

Arthur

20%

I got some examples of our API working, but am still trying to integrate them with our code.

2

Philip

25%

I added more natural replies and fixed several bugs where the wrong replies were sent.

2

Neal

15%

Improved the message handling code to accept full sentences.

1

Iain

5%

I was sick most of the week but started looking into how error messages can work if there is no internet.

-

None

00%

No sixth team member.



5

Your **planning** makes professional use of several recognized tools and includes all of the detail needed to implement the entire project. You've mastered **complex programming** concepts through your own independent study. You rely on professional documentation and tools.

4

Your **planning** makes competent use of several recognized tools and includes much of the detail needed to implement the entire project. You've mastered **fundamental programming** concepts and have developed competence with **complex programming** concepts through your own independent study. You rely on professional documentation and tools.

3

Your **planning** makes competent use of one recognized tool and includes much of the detail needed to implement the entire project. You've competence with **fundamental programming** concepts and are working toward competence with **complex programming** concepts through your own independent study. You adapt code from examples and tutorials as part of your independent study of complex programming concepts.

2

Your **planning** makes basic use of one recognized tool and includes at least enough detail to begin implementing the project. You're working toward competence with **fundamental programming** concepts (variables, conditionals, iteration, functions). You adapt code from examples and tutorials as part of your study of fundamental programming concepts.

1

You can demonstrate progress on the project this week, but it does not reflect six hours of independent work, or falls below the standard detailed above. If you've been ill or busy with other work this is understandable, but if you're struggling please talk to your tutor about how we can support you.

0

You have nothing to demonstrate on the project this week or are absent. If you've been ill this week don't worry, we'll use your five best weekly marks.

**Fundamental Programming Concepts**

Introduced early in your programming classes these are vital tools for any programmer. You don't need to know them all right away, but by the end of the project make sure you understand them all. Examples: Variables, Loops, If/Else, Functions.

**Complex Programming Concepts**

You'll only explore a few of these in your classes this semester, so you'll need to do some independent study to learn more. Examples: Using Libraries/Toolkits/Algorithms, API & Database Integration, Object Orientation, Error Handling, Unit Testing.

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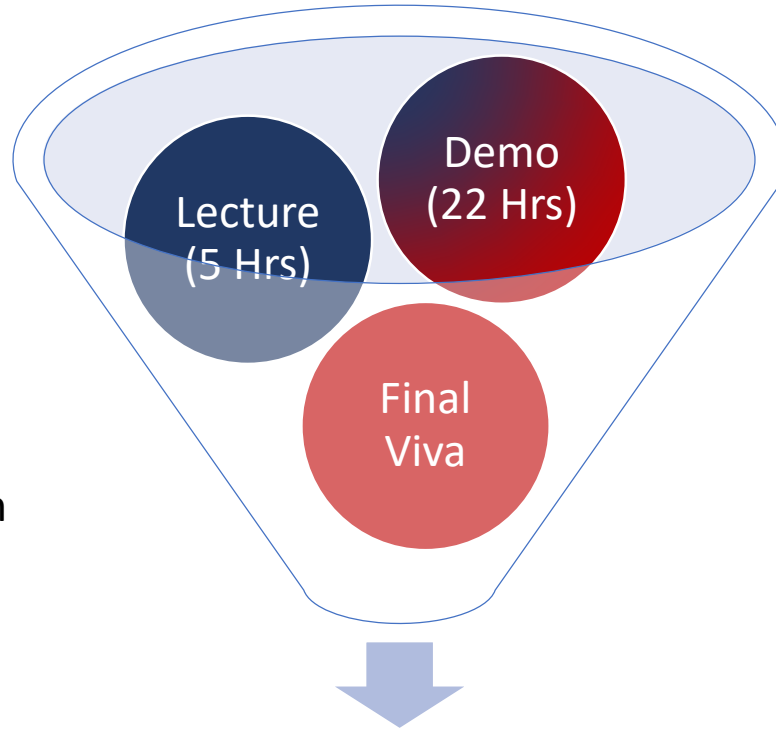
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