Assessment Schedule – 2025

Digital Technologies: Demonstrate understanding of usability in human-computer interfaces (92006)

Assessment Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of usability in human-computer interfaces involves: • describing the purpose of human-computer interfaces • describing usability principles and their use in human-computer interfaces.	*Examine the usability of human-computer interfaces* involves: • explaining how usability principles have been applied in human-computer interfaces • explaining the usability of human-computer interfaces in terms of usability principles.	*Evaluate the usability of human-computer interfaces* involves: • comparing the usability of human-computer interfaces • applying usability principles to suggest improvements to human-computer interface usability.

Cut Scores

Not Achieved	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
0 – 2	3 – 4	5 – 6	7 – 8

Evidence

N1	N2	A3	A4	M5	M6	E7	E8
Matches one usability principle (or none) with its description.	Matches one usability principle (or none) with its description.	Matches TWO usability principles with their descriptions.	Matches THREE usability principles with their descriptions**.**				
Attempts to define and give an example of 'Match between the system and real world', OR **gives an example**.	Attempts to define and give an example of 'Match between the system and real world', OR gives an example.	**Gives a definition and / or example** of 'Match between the system and real world'.	Gives a definition **and** example of 'Match between the system and real world'.	**Explains** how TWO usability principles were implemented in the candidate's chosen interface.	**Explains in detail** how TWO usability principles were implemented in the candidate's chosen interface.	**Compares the usability** of TWO interfaces, identifying one of the interfaces as being more effective in how it applies THREE usability principles to enable the user to achieve their purpose.	Compares the usability of TWO interfaces, identifying one of the interfaces as being more effective in how it applies THREE usability principles to enable the user to achieve their purpose.
				Discusses at least TWO usability principles and how they could be implemented in the NCEA credits app scenario.	Discusses at least TWO usability principles and how they could be implemented in the NCEA credits app scenario.	**Recommends** TWO improvements to one of the interfaces, explaining how these would enable the interface to better address usability principles.	Recommends TWO improvements to one of the interfaces, explaining how these would enable the interface to better address usability principles.
		Identifies and describes how TWO usability principles have been used in the Mako and JB Hi-Fi interfaces.	Identifies and describes how at least THREE usability principles have been used in the Mako and JB Hi-Fi interfaces.	*OR* **Discusses** at least TWO practical examples of applying Māori usability principles to the NZ artist scenario.	*OR* Discusses at least TWO practical examples of applying Māori usability principles to the NZ artist scenario.		
				Some aspects of the explanation and discussion may be partial or weak.		Some aspects of the comparison and recommendations may be partial or weak.	
				Of the 4 usability principles, at least 3 must be correct.			

N0 = No response; no relevant evidence.

Sample Evidence

Part	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
A (a)	The candidate successfully matches at least TWO of the usability principles with their definitions: Error prevention: 6 Visibility of system status: 2 Accessibility: 1		
(b)	'Match between the system and the real world' means the interface should use words, colours, and icons that are familiar to the user, following real-world conventions. An example would be using red text for a warning or error message, or using a magnifying glass icon for search.		
(c)	An example of mātāpono Māori being used for usability is an 'About' page that has photos or information about the people who own the business. This is whanaungatanga, which means to create connections and relationships. Another example is the use of manaakitanga (respecting the users) by providing clear navigation and a user-friendly UI, with easy-to-read fonts and clearly contrasting colours.		
B (a)	'Consistency and standards' is shown by the placement of the search and shopping cart icons in the top-right corner. 'Match between the system and real world' is shown by use of the magnifying glass icon for search, and the bag icon for the shopping cart. 'Aesthetics and minimalist design' is shown by the icons, as they take up less space than using words. It is also shown by the 'Shop' drop-down menu, showing different categories.		
(b)	'Match between the system and real world' is shown by the use of the icons in the top-right corner, making it easier for users to find the functionality. 'Visibility of system status' is shown by the number of search results being shown. 'Flexibility and efficiency of use' is shown by the ability for users to filter results by brand, price, and category. They can also sort the results by relevance or (presumably) other things like price.		

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C		Usability principle (1): Aesthetic and minimalist design The interface implements the usability heuristic 'Aesthetic and minimalist design' effectively. It does this by having a simple, uncluttered design with plenty of white space and no unnecessary content on the page. This means the user is less likely to be overwhelmed by content and it is therefore easy for them to find what they are looking for. *OR* In the navigation bar, options are grouped under drop-down menus, meaning there are fewer links in the navigation bar to confuse the user. This means the user is less likely to be overwhelmed by content and it is therefore easy for them to find what they are looking for. Usability principle (2): Mātāpono Māori The interface implements mātāpono Māori effectively. Te reo Māori has been used accurately throughout the website, with correct macrons. This demonstrates manaakitanga – respecting te reo Māori. *OR* When signing up for an account, users can identify their iwi, showing that the business cares about their Māori heritage. Additionally, when selecting their iwi, as the user types the name, a list of options is filtered further with each keystroke, enabling users to quickly find their iwi.	

Part	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
D		Scenario (a) – NCEA credits app The app's interface should incorporate the 'Aesthetic and minimalist design' heuristic, and therefore be uncluttered and only contain relevant information, making it easier for students to use. When displaying subjects, the interface could use icons for each subject, following the 'Match between system and the real world' heuristic and making it easier for students to recognise the subject. The app should apply 'Consistency and standards' by having the search and login links at the top-right of the interface, making it easier for students to find them and use the app for its purpose. *OR* Scenario (b) – Artist's website Including the use of te reo Māori throughout the website, with links in both English and Māori, would give mana to the language and support those who want to use it but are not confident with it. Including an 'Account creation' function, and also an 'About' page that has photos and / or information about the artist and their background is whanaungatanga. This enables the business to build relationships with their customers by finding common connections.	

Part	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
E (a)			*The Warehouse vs Māori by Design* The Warehouse does a better job of enabling its users to meet their purpose, for the following reasons: The ‘Create account’ form on The Warehouse website has the button disabled until each of the fields has been successfully filled out, whereas on Māori by Design, the user can click on the button with fields empty. This shows better ‘Error prevention’ from The Warehouse. The Warehouse also has better ‘Error prevention’ on the password field, where a list of requirements appears and is ticked off as the user enters their password, whereas with Māori by Design, the user has to submit the form to find out if their password is strong enough. The Warehouse demonstrates ‘Match between the system and the real world’ here too, as the password requirements have a red cross icon next to them until they are successfully met, at which point a green tick appears. On the search results page, The Warehouse has a much wider range of filters available, enabling the user to more easily find what they are looking for. While both interfaces have filters, The Warehouse has more and therefore better meets ‘Flexibility and efficiency of use’. When removing an item from the shopping cart, The Warehouse demonstrates ‘User control and freedom’ by having a pop-up asking the user to confirm that they want to remove the item from the cart. This is much better than Māori by Design, where the user could easily accidentally remove something from the cart.
(b)			Māori by Design should improve its ‘Create account’ page, disabling the submit button and adding a dynamic list of password requirements so that the user cannot submit an uncompleted form. Then they will know whether their password is sufficiently secure. This would better meet ‘Error prevention’, and stop users making mistakes and getting frustrated. Māori by Design could also improve their shopping cart by adding a confirmation option when users try to remove an item from the cart. This would better meet ‘User control and freedom’, and would avoid users accidentally removing an item from the cart. If this accidental removal were to happen, users may get frustrated and leave the site, which could lead to lost sales for the business.