

LEVEL 6 ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATION

Student name:		Student ID number:	
Programme:	BEng Electrical & Electronic Engineering		
Module:	Applied Programmable Logic Controllers		
Module code:	ACDA6000	Contribution to Overall Module Assessment (%):	100%
Lecturer:	Steve Mosey	Internal Verifier:	
Assignment Title:	Factory Control	Word count (or equivalent):	4000
Submission deadline:	TBC	Return date of provisional marks & written feedback:	20 Working Days
Submission method:	All written assessments, where practical and possible, must be submitted via Turnitin unless otherwise instructed by the Lecturer. (Please DO NOT put this assessment specification into Turnitin or it will match many similarities with other students' submissions.) Alternative submission method (if applicable): Late submission of the assessment will result in a late penalty mark: Work which is submitted up to 1 week late will be capped at 40% for the first attempt and will be awarded a mark of 0% for re-assessment. Late submission penalties may be lifted only if there is an approved extenuating circumstances claim. Work submitted more than 1 week late will be considered as a non-submission and will not be marked. The work may be considered as a submission for reassessment if offered by an Examining Board or if there is an approved extenuating circumstances claim.		
Academic honesty / referencing:	Academic honesty is required. In the main body of your submission you must give credit to authors on whose research and ideas your work is based. Append to your submission a reference list that indicates the books, articles, etc. that you have used, cited or quoted in order to complete this assessment.		

Module Learning Outcomes (from module syllabus)

1. Design software code for, and properly document, a given control application.
2. Design and document the hardware and software required for fault diagnostics, operator controls, and safe operation of a PLC.

TASK DESCRIPTION

A word on the use of ChatGPT and similar generative AI systems

As you work on your assignments, you may be considering using generative AI for background research. It is acceptable to use these tools as a resource, but it is important to be aware that they often make mistakes and may not be completely accurate, particularly when asked for references.

You must remember that as a student **you** are ultimately responsible for anything you submit, and relying solely on generative AI could lead to your work getting a lower grade than you are capable of, or your work being investigated for academic malpractice. Copying and pasting text directly from these tools without proper citation or attribution is not only unethical but could also result in serious consequences such as failing the assignment or even being expelled from the university.

It is therefore crucial to use generative AI only as a starting point and then verify and fact-check any information you obtain. You should also ensure that any work you submit reflects your own understanding and originality, and that you properly reference any sources you use.

You may use these tools as indicated in the table below, but you must use them ethically, and you should always strive for academic honesty and integrity.

Use of Generative AI in Assessment

(Lecturer to indicate Yes or Not against each element)

RESEARCH	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to support you in research and data analysis.	Yes ☐ No ☒
STRUCTURE	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to support you in structuring your submission, including creating a draft argument structure, identifying parts and headings, etc.	Yes ☒ No ☐
PROOFREADING	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to check your own text/creation for grammatical and syntactical mistakes, including getting suggestions to rephrase your work.	Yes ☒ No ☐
WRITING	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to create text for submission.	Yes ☐ No ☒
CREATIVE	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to create creative materials, such as images.	Yes ☐ No ☒

PROGRAMING	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to create and check code.	Yes ☐ No ☒
NONE	For this assessment, you are not allowed to use any type of Generative AI support. This includes research support, structure support, writing/proofreading support and creative support.	Yes ☐ No ☒

You are required to design and control a factory system which sorts 4 different packages based on size and weight. Using Factory I/O, design a factory which can achieve the requirement, the factory and must contain and control the following as a minimum: -

- 4 conveyor belts
- 2 pushers
- 1 conveyor scale
- 2 Diffuse sensors
- 1 Emergency Stop
- 2 Buttons
- 1 Siren.
- 1 Warning light
- 2 Stack lights

To limit the current draw at start up, each of the conveyors should be started in sequence.

A manual reset of alarm signals once the alarm issue is corrected.

The system will require a HMI for operator interaction. The HMI must have the following controls and displays available on the root screen: -

- Buttons for starting and stopping the system
- An emergency stop button
- A button to reset all counters
- Box size counters
- A replication of the stack lights on screen
- Fault and warning indicators

A fault and warning screen which displays alarm and warnings.
Warning and alarm must include: -

- Counter warning number exceeded for each counter

An engineering screen which has data entry points for:

- Pre-setting counter Warning numbers

The factory must also have the following which may be manually controlled

- 1 package Emitter
- package Removers

Provide a formal report detailing your factory I/O operation, your report should, as a minimum,

include the following:

- An operational Flow Chart.
- An alarm / warning strategy and the operational parameters of each.
- A copy of your ladder logic program, complete with a brief of each rung's operation.

Your assignment report is to be submitted as a professional word-processed report. Any hand annotated areas of your submission will be excluded from the assessment process.

A copy of your report must be uploaded to via Moodle to Turnitin.

A zipped copy of your assignment folder including your Factory I/O scene and a full copy of your Siemens project, should be uploaded to the Assignment folder Uploads section of the Moodle page for this module.

Please ensure that all files are closed before they are zipped.

Assignment TASKS

Task 1 – Provide a brief literature review of several PLCs currently used in industry and provide a table of Pros and Cons of each in your opinion.

Task 2 – Utilising the components within Factory I/O, design a factory process capable of sorting a range of package sizes and weights (minimum 4 different types)

Task 3 – Write a ladder logic program to control your factory process

Task 4 – Incorporate a HMI device into your factory and program

Task 5 - Provide a formal report detailing tasks: 1 to 4

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS IN THE COMPLETION OF TASKS

NOTE: The guidance offered below is linked to the five generic assessment criteria overleaf.

1. Engagement with Literature Skills

Your work must be informed and supported by scholarly material that is *relevant* to and *focused* on the task(s) set; you should make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources, where appropriate (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline). You should provide evidence that you have accessed a wide *range* of sources, which may be academic, governmental and industrial; these sources may include academic journal articles, textbooks, current news articles, organisational documents, and websites. You should consider the *credibility* of your sources; academic journals are normally highly credible sources while websites require careful consideration/selection and should be used sparingly. Any sources you use should be current and up-to-date, mostly published within the last five years or so, though seminal/important works in the field may be older. You must provide *evidence* of your research/own reading throughout your work, using a suitable referencing system, including in-text citations in the main body of your work and a reference list at the end of your work.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

Marks for engagement with literature skills will be gained through the use of information collected from appropriate reference material embedded in mainly the introduction, but also in the discussion and conclusion sections of your report. This reference material should be used to explain concepts and to support arguments in the discussion of your results.

2. Knowledge and Understanding Skills

At level 6, you should be able to demonstrate coherent and detailed knowledge and a systematic understanding of the subject area, at least some of which is informed by the latest research and/or advanced scholarship within the discipline. You should be aware of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge. Your work must demonstrate the growing extent of your knowledge and systematic understanding of concepts and underlying principles associated with the subject area. *Knowledge* relates to the facts, information and skills you have acquired through your learning. You demonstrate your *understanding* by interpreting the meaning of the facts and information (knowledge). This means that you need to select and include in your work the concepts, techniques, models, theories, etc. appropriate to the task(s) set. You should be able to explain the theories, concepts, etc. meaningfully to show your understanding. Your mark/grade will also depend upon the *extent* to which you demonstrate your knowledge and understanding; ideally each should be complete and detailed, with comprehensive coverage.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

Marks for knowledge and understanding skills will be given for the accuracy of your description of the concepts and principles of factory automation and how this relates to your proposed design.

3. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

You should be able to: critically evaluate evidence, arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data some of which are at the forefront of a discipline (and that may be incomplete) to devise and sustain arguments, to make judgements and/or solve problems; describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline. Your work must contain evidence of logical, analytical thinking, evaluation and synthesis. For example, to examine and break information down into parts, make inferences, compile, compare and contrast information. This means not just describing what! But also justifying: Why? How? When? Who? Where? At what cost? At all times, you must provide justification for your arguments and judgements. Evidence that you have reflected upon the ideas of others within the subject area is crucial to you providing a reasoned and informed debate within your work. Furthermore, you should provide evidence that you are able to make sound judgements and convincing arguments using data and concepts. Sound, valid conclusions are necessary and must be derived from the content of your work. Where relevant, alternative solutions and recommendations may be proposed.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

Marks for cognitive and intellectual skills will be given for the quality and validity of your interpretation of the results gathered.

4. Practical Skills

At level 6, you should be able to apply the methods and techniques that you have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply your knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects. You will deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry relevant to the discipline, and apply them in complex and unpredictable contexts, to devise and sustain arguments and/or to solve problems. You should be able to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions. You should be able to demonstrate how the subject-related concepts and ideas relate to real world situations and/or a particular context. How do they work in practice? You will deploy models, methods, techniques, and/or theories, in that context or circumstances, to assess current situations, perhaps to formulate plans or solutions to solve problems, or to create artefacts, some of which may be innovative and creative. This is likely to involve, for instance, the use of real world artefacts, examples and cases, the application of a model within an organisation and/or benchmarking one theory or organisation against others based on stated criteria. You should show awareness of the limitations of concepts and theories when applied in particular contexts.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

Marks for practical skills will be given for your use of the available tools, models and techniques to produce and explain your design and results in relation to the required design specification.

5. Transferable Skills for Life and Professional Practice

Your work must provide evidence of the qualities and transferable skills necessary for graduate-level employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances. This includes demonstrating: the learning ability for professional development to advance existing skills and acquire new competences of a professional nature that will enable you to assume significant responsibility within organisations; that you can initiate and complete tasks and procedures, whether individually and/or collaboratively; that you can use appropriate media to effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences; fluency of expression; clarity and effectiveness in presentation and organisation. Work should be coherent and well-structured in presentation and organisation.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

Marks for transferable skills for life and professional practice will be given for the structure, coherence, presentation and overall quality of your report.

STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM

This section details the *extent* to which the assessment criteria are demonstrated by you, which in turn determines your mark. The marks available for each category of skill are shown. Lecturers will use the space provided to comment on the achievement of the task(s), including those areas in which you have performed well and areas that would benefit from development/improvement.

Generic Assessment Criteria	Marks available	Marks awarded
1. Engagement with Literature Skills		
This will be assessed by the quality of your literature review.	10	
2. Knowledge and Understanding Skills		
This will be assessed by the quality of your Factory design	30	
3. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills		
This will be assessed by the quality of you documented ladder logic program and the documentation of your alarm strategy	30	
4. Practical Application Skills		
This will be assessed by the design and operation of your HMI screens and controls.	20	
5. Transferable Skills for Life and Professional Practice		
This will be assessed by the quality and presentation of report/diagrams/illustrations.	10	

Assessment Mark (Assessment marks are subject to ratification at the Exam Board. These comments and marks are to give feedback on module work and are for guidance only until they are confirmed.)	Late Submission Penalties (tick if appropriate)		%
	Up to 1 week late (40% Max)		
	Over 1 week late (0%)		

GENERIC ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Level 6

In accordance with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, at the end of Level 6 students should have coherent and detailed knowledge and a systematic understanding of their subject area, at least some of which is informed by the latest research and/or advanced scholarship within the discipline. They will be able to accurately deploy established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline, using their conceptual understanding to devise and sustain arguments and/or to solve problems. They should be aware of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge. They should be able to critically evaluate evidence, arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions. They will apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects. They will have the ability to manage their own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline). They will demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts; the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

Level 6	FAIL	MARGINAL FAIL	SATISFACTORY (3 rd / Pass)	GOOD (2.2 / Pass)	VERY GOOD (2.1 / Merit)	EXCELLENT (1 st / Distinction)	EXCEPTIONAL (1 st / Distinction)
Category	0-29%	30-39%	40-49%	50-59%	60-69%	70-84%	85-100%
Engagement with literature (including reading, referencing, academic conventions and academic honesty)	Little or no evidence of reading and/or reliance on inappropriate sources. Views and findings mostly unsupported and non-authoritative. Referencing conventions used incoherently or largely absent.	Poor engagement with essential reading. No evidence of wider reading. Reliance on inappropriate sources, and/or indiscriminate use of sources. Heavily reliant on information gained through class contact. Inconsistent and weak use of referencing.	Engagement with a limited range of mostly relevant and credible sources. Some omissions and minor errors. Referencing conventions evident though not always applied accurately or consistently.	Engagement with an appropriate range of research-informed literature, including sources retrieved independently. Some over-reliance on texts. Referencing may show minor inaccuracies or inconsistencies.	Engagement with a wide range of research-informed literature, including sources retrieved independently. Selection of relevant and credible sources. Very good use of referencing, with no/very few inaccuracies or inconsistencies.	Engagement with an extensive range of relevant and credible literature, informed by the latest research. Consistently accurate application of referencing.	Exceptional engagement with an extensive range of relevant and credible literature, informed by the latest research. High-level referencing skills consistently and professionally applied.
Knowledge and understanding (Coherent and detailed knowledge and systematic understanding of the subject area,	Major gaps in knowledge and systematic understanding of the subject matter. Substantial inaccuracies. No	Gaps in knowledge, with only superficial systematic understanding. Some significant inaccuracies and/or irrelevant	Limited knowledge and systematic understanding of the relevant concepts and principles within the subject area	Knowledge is reasonably detailed, accurate with a good systematic understanding of the field of study and to some	Knowledge is reasonably extensive coherent and detailed. Exhibits very good understanding of	Excellent coherent and detailed knowledge and systematic understanding of the principles and theories of	Exceptionally coherent and detailed knowledge and systematic understanding of the principles and theories of

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at least some of which is informed by the latest research and/or advanced scholarship within the discipline.)	awareness of knowledge of the latest research and/or advanced scholarship within the discipline.	material. No awareness of knowledge of the latest research and/or advanced scholarship within the discipline.	which to some limited extent, is informed by current research and scholarship.	extent, current research and scholarship.	the breadth and depth of established views, and the work is, at least in part, well-informed by current research and scholarship.	current research and scholarship. Clear awareness of challenges to established views and the limitations of the knowledge base.	the subject, well-informed by current research and scholarship. A critical, sophisticated and nuanced awareness of the ambiguities and limitations of knowledge.
Cognitive and intellectual skills (Conceptual and critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of research, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete); logic, argument and judgement.)	Wholly or almost wholly descriptive work. Little or no analysis, synthesis or evaluation. Failure to develop arguments, leading to illogical or invalid judgements. Unsubstantiated generalisations, made without use of any credible evidence.	Largely descriptive work, with superficial use of critical evaluation. Weak development of arguments and judgements. Information accepted uncritically, uses generalised statements made with scant evidence and unsubstantiated opinions. Ideas sometimes illogical and contradictory.	Limited attempt at critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation, tending towards description. Some evidence to support emerging arguments and judgements but these may be underdeveloped or with a little inconsistency / mis-interpretation. Asserts rather than argues a case.	Some critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Can analyse new and/or abstract concepts and data without guidance. An emerging awareness of different stances and ability to use evidence (that may be incomplete) to support the argument. Mostly valid arguments and logical judgements. Some tendency to assert/state opinion rather than argue on the basis of reason and evidence.	Sound critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation demonstrating critical thinking. Ability to devise and sustain persuasive arguments, and to review the reliability, validity and significance of evidence (that may be incomplete) to make mostly appropriate and valid judgements.	Excellent critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Ability to investigate contradictory or incomplete information and make strong, persuasive, arguments and sophisticated judgements. Some evidence of independent thought and ability to 'see beyond the question', suggesting a grasp of the broader field and wider concepts.	Exceptional critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation based on judiciously selected evidence. Ability to investigate contradictory or incomplete information and make strong, persuasive, arguments and sophisticated, nuanced, judgements. Evidence of independent thought and ability to 'see beyond the question', suggesting an outstanding grasp of the broader field and wider concepts.
Practical skills	Limited or no	Rudimentary	An adequate	A good and	A very good	An advanced	Exceptional

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Category	0-29%	30-39%	40-49%	50-59%	60-69%	70-84%	85-100%
(Apply/deploy accurately established tools and techniques; initiate and carry out projects; formulate solutions to solve problems in complex and unpredictable contexts.)	use of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. Little or no appreciation of the context of the application. Limited understanding of the application of theory to practice or making appropriate links between the two. Very weak problem-solving skills in complex and unpredictable contexts.	application of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques but without consideration and competence. Flawed appreciation of the context of the application. Weak understanding of the application of theory to practice, with only occasional evidence of making appropriate links between the two. Weak problem-solving skills in complex and unpredictable contexts.	awareness and mostly appropriate application of well-established methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. Basic appreciation of the context of the application. Theoretical knowledge and understanding applied in practice, but not always making logical links between the two. Can identify problems and propose basic solutions in complex and unpredictable contexts without fully appreciating the complexity.	appropriate application of standard methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. Clear appreciation of the context of the application. Mainly consistent, accurate and logical application of theory to practice, making appropriate links between the two. Can identify problems and propose mostly appropriate solutions in complex and unpredictable contexts.	application of a range of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. Very good consideration of the context of the application, with perceptive insights. Can identify problems and propose appropriate solutions in complex and unpredictable contexts. Evidence of some innovation and creativity.	application of a range of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. The context of the application is well considered, and insightful. Application and deployment extend beyond established conventions. Can identify complex problems and propose excellent solutions. Innovation and creativity evident.	levels of application and deployment skills in unpredictable, practical contexts, drawing skilfully on the latest research within the discipline. Can identify complex problems and propose sophisticated solutions. Assimilation and development of cutting edge processes and techniques.
Transferable skills for life and professional practice (Exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; professional development; initiate and complete tasks)	Communication medium is inappropriate or misapplied. Work is poorly structured, disorganised and/or confusingly expressed. Very weak use of language and/or very	Communication medium is poorly designed and/or not suitable for the audience. Work is poorly presented in a disjointed manner. It is loosely, and at times incoherently, structured, with	Can communicate in a suitable medium but with some room for improvement. Mostly ordered presentation and structure in which relevant ideas / concepts are reasonably expressed. Work	Can communicate effectively in a suitable format, but may have minor errors. Mostly coherent, organised work, in a suitable structure and is for the most part clearly expressed. Can	Can communicate well, confidently and consistently in a suitable format. Work is coherent, fluent, well-structured and organised. Can work very well autonomously	Can communicate professionally confidently and consistently in a suitable format. Work is coherent, very fluent and is presented professionally. Can work autonomously	Can communicate with an exceptionally high level of professionalism. Work is exceptionally coherent, very fluent and is presented professionally. Can work

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and procedures: individually and/or collaboratively; use appropriate media to communicate effectively; fluency of expression; clarity and effectiveness in presentation and organisation.)	inappropriate style. Little or no evidence of autonomy (or collaboration, where relevant) in the completion of tasks. Little or no evidence of the skills required in graduate employment.	information and ideas often poorly expressed. Weak use of language and/or inappropriate style. Weak independent initiative (or collaboration, if relevant). Limited evidence of the skills required in graduate employment.	may lack coherence in places. Can work as part of a team, but with limited involvement in group activities. Demonstrates the basic skills required in graduate employment, with some areas of minor weakness.	work effectively independently and/or as part of a team, with clear contribution to group activities. Demonstrates the skills required in graduate employment, with some areas of strength and some of minor weakness.	and/or as part of a team, with very good contribution to group activities. Demonstrates very good graduate employment skills, with just occasional minor weakness.	with initiative. Where relevant can work professionally within a team, showing leadership skills as appropriate, managing conflict and meeting obligations. Demonstrates excellent graduate employment skills and an appetite for further development.	exceptionally well and professionally within a team, showing advanced leadership skills. Demonstrates exceptional graduate employment skills and an appetite for further development.

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