

Foundation Coursework Assessment

Further Science Coursework: Part 1

What was the brief?

This coursework involved completing an experiment and then evaluating the results that were gathered throughout the experiment. The experiment consisted of two different weighted objects to complete a total of 50 swings while hanging from an apparatus by some string. The balls would be timed to see which one would complete the 50 swings first, however the balls would go through this process 7 different times at 7 different lengths of string. Once the experiment was complete, I then had to evaluate the results.

What feedback did I receive?

The feedback that was received made me realise that I had to put a lot more work into my coursework. There were little errors that had cost me marks. For example, I hadn't put in a content page and my bibliography was terrible. I hadn't used any labelling on the images/diagrams that I used and didn't label my graphs with enough detail. Along with not labelling my graphs, I also didn't put any units by the result numbers.

I was advised to use ballpoints as it would have made it more readable. This is a good learning curve for me as I have never thought of using bullet points for when I need to explain something.

Another point was that I didn't completely explain what the experiment was about. I feel like I could have explained it a bit more than I did to make sure that anyone who reads my introductions know exactly what was asked of me and what I had to do.

Another improvement that was advised was the fact that I didn't research what the outcome could have made. I put down what my personal opinion and personal thoughts were, but didn't think about looking for other possible outcomes or look at a similar experiment that have been done in the past.

A major point was that I didn't seem to analyse the results to my full potential. The analysis I gave was short and not explained in great detail. I believe that if I followed the handbook that was given, the structure and overall outcome of the report would have been better.

What have I learned and what would I change for next time?

The things I would change if I were to do this again would be to make sure that all graphs, diagrams and tables have suitable labelling and units where necessary. I would make sure that I have all additional pages, i.e. content page and bibliography will have the most amount of information I can provide. I need to improve my bibliography in terms of having more citations so that I can justify more work. Most importantly I will make sure to research whatever I am working on so that I can have a separate view on what the outcome of an experiment could be. It would also be good for the bibliography as there will be more content on there.

Future poster

What was the brief?

This coursework involved creating a poster that was about the future of hybrid engines. I had to come up with some comparisons as to why they are known to be the future of the automobile

world. I had to gather information to support both arguments, some supporting that they are the future and some supporting that they aren't.

What feedback did I receive?

I had a positive comment given in terms of the number of sources I presented in the poster. It clearly showed that I had got plenty of information from the internet and referenced it well in the IEEE format.

One point that I was given that can help me improve my poster would be to proofread it once I have finished. There are multiple cases on this poster that clearly show I did not read all of the poster and check it all. For example, I have a title covering part of the text and blocking some information. Another reason why I should have proofread it is because the title of the poster is completely unrelated to the work and needs to be changed.

Another point on how to improve this work was to use less labels on the graphs that I had produced. I had irrelevant information on them that were just taking up too much space on the graph making it hard to read. Another point on having too much information on was the ending paragraph and the conclusion. For a poster I seemed to have added too much information for a poster as it was hard to read. If I had used less information it would have been more readable and tidied the poster up a little.

What have I learned and what would I change for next time?

The changes that I would make if I were to do this again would be to make the paragraphs shorter and simplify my writing. This will aid the poster in terms of being neat as it will leave more room for additional information such as images and graphs. I did include images in my poster however because there wasn't much room left over, they were blurred as I had to shrink them down to fit. I will make sure that any images that I include in my work can be seen and understood clearly.

The main thing I have learnt is to proofread my work when I have finished it. This poster is filled with errors that could have been resolved if I had proofread them. Things like the title being in the way of some text and images that aren't clear enough to see are some of the improvements that could be made by just reading over my work.

Presentation and reflection

What was the brief?

This coursework was to create a presentation about how my first term of university went. I had a series of titles to follow which included:

- Highlight's of term 1
- Areas I want to improve
- Areas I am strong in
- Conclusion

What feedback did I get?

I was reminded that I had to include my name in the title slide. This point led to another point which was to proofread my work. This point is supported by another point stating that my grammar wasn't brilliant and that there were spelling and punctuation errors within the presentation.

I was advised to make sure to look through the assignment brief thoroughly as at some points within the PowerPoint I had information that was irrelevant to the brief. In this case I hadn't included

any presenter notes that meant I had too many words on my PowerPoint. Presenter notes were also part of the assignment brief, again supporting that I should have looked through the brief better.

A good point that was made was the fact that I reflected well. I put in some good points of the year and also bad points and also reflected on the bad points that were made to make further improvements on my work for my next term.

What have I learned and what would I change for next time?

Like the other two pieces of coursework, I need to proof read my work when I am finished with it. This will eliminate any silly errors and will gain me marks for having less mistakes. Another learning curve would be to make sure that I have read and understood the entire assignment brief so that I don't miss any points on what it is about. It will also help me as I might be able to seek some information from the brief that could help with my actual assignment.

Overview of foundation year

Last year, foundation showed me that I was very lazy with my work and would be settled with whatever I produced. It has taught me to make sure I read through my work and not to rush as I come up with careless mistakes when I do. I had a lot of weaknesses looking back, and I don't intend to bring them forward into first year. Things like not paying attention in class and settling for the first bit of work that I do, won't be brought into the first year as I can see now that it hindered my results significantly. My strengths however were my attendance, I made sure to go to every lecture I could and also attempt to make every guessed lecture that was on offer. I will still aim to do this in first year along with asking for help whenever I am stuck.

I have already made changes going forward into first year, mainly when I am not at uni. I have gone out and got myself some leaning equipment that will make it easier for me to work and learn at home. This way I will be able to revise and gather information for any projects that I may be doing easier.

Conclusion

In conclusion I am not best pleased with how my foundation year went. I need to make sure that all work that is submitted by me is to the best of my ability and I will make sure this happens by proof reading it and researching the topic beforehand. I need to make sure that I get any help that I can get and to not be scared to ask questions in class or outside of class if I am confused about something or don't understand the work needed to be done.