

LEVEL 6 ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATION

Student name:		Student ID number:	
Programme:	L6 BA (Hons) Computer Animation; L6 BA (Hons) Games Design		
Module:	Advanced Character Animation		
Module code:	M6X02056	Contribution to Overall Module Assessment (%):	100%
Lecturer:	Phil Organ	Internal Verifier:	Rich Morgan
Assignment Title:	Advancing believability. Animating sincerity.	Word count (or equivalent):	2500
Submission deadline:	Friday 8 December 2023.	Return date of provisional marks & written feedback:	No later than 20 working term time days, post submission date.
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): Coursework Late submission of the assessment will result in a late penalty mark. Penalties for late submission: Up to one week late, maximum mark of 40%. Over one week late, 0%. Only the Extenuating Circumstances Panel may approve a change to submission dates.		
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)			
• Critically analyse and cultivate their animation ability to high-end levels of character performance and/or realism. • Select, evaluate and employ industry method processes, trends, techniques and production environments to progress their own developing animation skillset.			

TASK DESCRIPTION

The aim of the module is to *support* your work on the INDEPENDENT PROJECT – in that you have more opportunity to research, develop and target a particular aspect of the animation you are undertaking and submit a **series of studies** that can aid the later stages – and animation quality – later on in the production, when tackling this work.

Students are asked to construct a single - or series - of innovative self-directed animations (to total some 20-30 seconds) that will inform and direct further animation / character work undertaken on their INDY_P studies and/or relevant CG subject. NOTE ~ Further guidance on the incorporation or possible use of AI in 23/24 (e.g. CHAT GPT) to be provided.

You need to package these visual clips/progression reel/demo's within the conventions of a technical document, blog, research paper, online tutorial (you will need to decide the best form to take). Whatever the presentation form it will need to contain these animated examples or representations, in 3D, in support of the topic/project/ being considered.

Supporting material, to help:

It is important to recognise you will need:

- a) new (previously un-assessed – or to be assessed elsewhere) animations;
- b) you are free to use free online/rigs;
- c) it is best to think the methods / techniques / understanding will help to inform the IP project/production;
- d) that you work towards separate individual 3D sequences (2D is permissible for development purposes only).

To this end the work you do here is largely dependent upon your own self-directed specialist area and character animation investigations. With animating anything – and particularly those projects that involve bipeds, quadrupeds, fantasy characters and creations – you are required to develop practical character/story-based animated demonstrations of your research findings.

Planning and development of the animated examples – together with reviews of the findings – are important to complete the animation(s) to the optimum levels. It is expected that topics to be considered may isolate technical and/or artistic categories specific to the student's research needs, with advice and support from specialist academic staff.

- You need to define the animation selection being analysed; the research and practical parameters to the studies of the scene/purpose/animation to be conducted.
- How will the work and study conducted here help your main production (January 2024+)?
- Are you choosing something out of your comfort zone – or a part of your animation skillset – that needs attention? Is it directly linked to a shot/scene or something of a more general pipeline/production method?
- Bringing life to an inanimate object – and the different options/tools/techniques for doing this....?

Whatever you choose to study, practice and implement the emphasis is on extending your character skills and to help to utilise the principles of animation and cinematic storytelling elsewhere (on your main IP work).

(PmO / July 2023).

“Believe in your character. Animate (or write) with sincerity.”
Glen Keane

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 (20 % marks available)

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: *To complete these animations effectively a good working research strategy is needed and you will need to consider what will help in the style, movement, staging, performance for these clips (i.e. relevant to the chosen study). You are directed towards using established sources for all types of animation and what to discover are the driving forces behind the animation(s), the relationship to the audience, the theatrical appreciation of acting, motion, etc. Other forms of technical research may also need to be undertaken in order to create optimum levels of control and manipulation.*

2. Knowledge and Understanding Skills (20 % marks available)

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: *The tasks undertaken may incorporate a knowledge of a wide range of motion studies (live action, animation, simulations), acting styles, action sequence constructions, ideas of body language and reading facial expressions. You are also required to judge how best to perform these animated realisations, evaluating your aims in what you're assimilating, together with careful breakdowns of the actions and reactions.*

3. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills (20 % marks available)

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: *You may need to consider best practices and develop a quality on determining what works best visually for your animated sequences. Assessment is spread across a number of categories and it is not all final material. There is a level of informative and/or imaginative leaps in the work that are inspiring and evocative, working very well in engaging the intended audience.*

4. Practical Skills

(20 % marks available)

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: *Assessment in these parts will also be determined on how well you have both conceived and initiated your plans, how well you conduct your reviews – technically - in order to develop a style. Animation is a visual experience and one of the requirements is to evoke empathy, familiarity, likeability/appeal, representation, etc. You will be expected to convey the production processes and coherent technical areas well for all of your ‘character’ work; to produce animations that convey a particular feeling, action, emotion or sensation from what is originally a very passive, immobile creation. With the right balance of craft and technique – art and technology - you will be creating life from lifelessness.*

5. Transferable Skills for Life and Professional Practice

(20 % marks available)

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: *Work is all presented with high levels of sophistication and consideration. The work communicates the visual style and intention behind the material and demonstrates the level of professionalism adopted by the student throughout. Management of the tasks, report document, file systems, etc. have all been executed to a high level.*

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	20%	
2. Knowledge and Understanding Skills	20%	
3. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills	20%	
4. Practical Application Skills	20%	
5. Transferable Skills for Life and Professional Practice	20%	

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 (50% 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	Major gaps in knowledge and systematic understanding of the subject matter.	Gaps in knowledge, with only superficial systematic understanding. Some significant	Limited knowledge and systematic understanding of the relevant concepts and	Knowledge is reasonably detailed, accurate with a good systematic understanding of the field of study and to	Knowledge is reasonably extensive coherent and detailed. Exhibits very good understanding of the	Excellent coherent and detailed knowledge and systematic understanding of	Exceptionally coherent and detailed knowledge and systematic understanding of the principles and

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%
subject area, at least some of which is informed by the latest research and/or advanced scholarship within the discipline.)	Substantial inaccuracies. No awareness of knowledge of the latest research and/or advanced scholarship within the discipline.	inaccuracies and/or irrelevant material. No awareness of knowledge of the latest research and/or advanced scholarship within the discipline.	principles within the subject area which to some limited extent, is informed by current research and scholarship.	some extent, current research and scholarship.	breadth and depth of established views, and the work is, at least in part, well-informed by current research and scholarship.	the principles and theories of current research and scholarship. Clear awareness of challenges to established views and the limitations of the knowledge base.	theories of 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 (Apply/deploy accurately established tools and techniques; initiate and carry out	Limited or no use of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques.	Rudimentary application of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques	An adequate awareness and mostly appropriate application of	A good and appropriate application of standard methods,	A very good application of a range of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques.	An advanced application of a range of methods, materials, tools	Exceptional levels of application and deployment skills in unpredictable, practical contexts,

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%
projects; formulate solutions to solve problems in complex and unpredictable contexts.)	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.	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.	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.	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.	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.	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.	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 and procedures: individually and/or collaboratively; use appropriate media to	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.	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 work effectively independently and/or	Can communicate well, confidently and consistently in a suitable format. Work is coherent, fluent, well-structured and organised. Can work very well autonomously and/or as part of a team, with very good contribution to group activities.	Can communicate professionally confidently and consistently in a suitable format. Work is coherent, very fluent and is presented professionally. Can work autonomously with initiative. Where relevant	Can communicate with an exceptionally high level of professionalism. Work is exceptionally coherent, very fluent and is presented professionally. Can work exceptionally well and professionally within a team, showing advanced leadership

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%
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.	Work 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.	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.	Demonstrates very good graduate employment skills, with just occasional minor weakness.	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.	skills. Demonstrates exceptional graduate employment skills and an appetite for further development.

THIS DOCUMENT IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN WELSH