

FAQ for remote exam

(v. 2021-06-08)

Web Applications I / Applicazioni Web I

Oral exam

Can the oral exam result in a reduction of the overall score compared to the one obtained by evaluating the project?

No, except the case in which the student is not able to explain the project, which results in the failure of the exam.

Will the student be able to share the screen from his/her computer/VM during the oral exam?

No, the teacher will share his screen, using the code submitted by the deadline.

During the oral discussion can we keep some sheets/diagrams/etc. to help us remember the parts of the project?

Yes

Can I refuse the mark given at the end of the oral exam?

No, but you are free not to take the oral exam. Note that you will know the score assigned to the project before taking the oral exam.

During the oral exam can I provide a fix for some features that, after submission, I discovered they were not working correctly?

In general, it will be possible to discuss about such issues, but they will not modify the score of the submitted project. It will not be possible to test code that is new/modified with respect to the already submitted one.

Will you publish some details/justifications about the mark assigned to the project?

Details about the marks will be given during the oral discussion (for those who choose to participate), or with individual meetings for the others, after the orals are finished.

Can I ask for explanations about the mark given to the project before the oral exam?

Unfortunately, for time reasons, it is not possible to provide individual feedback on this without taking the oral exam. However, exams are public, and you are free to listen to other students' oral exam and apply your own judgement about what could be wrong or not completely satisfactory in your project. This could be especially useful for future exam dates.

Project: general approach

Should the application behave exactly as the examples provided during the course?

No, they are only to be considered as an example of good practices; what is required is highlighted in each submission requirement.

Should we consider the case in which the user reloads the page or navigate through forward/back browser buttons?

No, it is not needed. Only the buttons/links/mechanisms provided by the application will be used to navigate in the application itself. However, remember that protection by authentication is expected to be working regardless of the method used to access the content.

Do we need to handle all possible errors that might happen in the application (database open error, network communication issues, ...)?

Up to you, but make sure you handle at least very important error conditions. Handling errors that seldom happen (e.g., database connection error) might help but it is not strictly required.

I used features (e.g., custom hooks or others not explained during the lectures) that were not required for the exam. Can I hope to get a better mark/score?

You can achieve the maximum score also without using such features. The use of such features cannot compensate for errors/mistakes in other parts of the project.

Do we get extra points for implementing an additional feature X?

No extra points for features that are not requested.

Should we implement advanced features such as form field autocompletion, suggestions, responsive layouts, etc.?

Again, no extra points for features that are not requested.

How should we behave for situations which are not directly specified in the assignment?

The situations that are not explicitly mentioned in the text, or that are ambiguous, can be freely interpreted by the student. As a suggestion, you should strive for the simplest solution, and for following the established best practices in web applications.

What should be the layout of the application? Should we put a navigation bar, a menu, modal windows, ...?

Consider, as a user, what you would like to see in the app in every situation, and how typical SPAs behave. The details are up to you. We do not care too much about the graphical aspect of the application provided that the adopted decisions are reasonable. Using the default styles of the CSS framework should greatly help in this regard.

Is any documentation required for the project?

No, except for the README.md as specified in the submission instructions, for readable code, and code comments where necessary.

Project: programming

Can packages/libraries X be used?

Yes, but 1) they must be available as npm modules that can be installed with npm install or must be self-contained; 2) you need to fully understand how to use them correctly, and be able to explain what they do during the oral exam.

Can react-bootstrap be used?

Yes

Can we use a mix of bootstrap and react-bootstrap or basic bootstrap only?

Yes, but make sure that everything is working. Probably, relying only on react-bootstrap instead of basic bootstrap or a mixture would be safer.

Can class components (or a mixture functional components and class components) be used, if desired?

Yes, if you fully understand how to use them correctly, and be able to explain it during the oral exam.

Is it mandatory to use the session authentication mechanism explained in the lectures for authentication, with Passport.js?

Yes.

Can we use CORS or proxy or another deployment method?

You must use a proxy on port 3001 (thus CORS is not necessary).

Can we submit a “production build” from the development environment?

No.

Do we need to submit the node_modules folder?

Absolutely NOT!

Do we need to commit/submit the package-lock.json?

Yes, it is preferred.

Do we need to provide instructions on how to start the project?

No, it should start exactly as detailed in the submission instructions.

What does it mean to tag the project as “final” in GitHub?

You must add a “tag” in git and push it to the server. It can be done with “git tag final ; git push origin --tags” or in the GitHub webpage (create a release). See also: <https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Git-Basics-Tagging>