

Activity 6: evaluation of your database solution

The final step in the assessment is to write an evaluation of the process of designing, developing and testing the database.

What should the evaluation include?

- Include both the good and bad points of the design, development and testing process.
- Don't be afraid to say what went wrong and what might be the flaws in your database.



To revise the evaluation process turn to pages 78 and 79.

Preparing for the evaluation

By the time you get to this last activity you could well be running short of time. Also, it may be difficult to remember some of the issues you had in the earlier activities (which you may have done several days previously).

To make sure you cover everything, keep the document you will use for your evaluation open throughout the assessment and, when you think of things you should put in the evaluation, make a note of them in the document.

Some questions to address in your evaluation

- Did your final product match the design?
- Did you discover flaws in your design during implementation?
- Were there any aspects of the design, development or testing you had problems with?
- What further work would the database need before it could be used for real?

Point, Evidence, Explain

You can use the P.E.E. technique to structure what you write in your evaluation.

- 1 Make a **Point**.
- 2 Provide **Evidence**.
- 3 **Explain** why this is important.

You might find it helpful to use a table to remind you how you use this technique.

Point	Evidence	Explain
My user interface is easy to use.	The layout is consistent, all the fields are clearly labelled and Save and Cancel buttons are provided.	Consistent and clear labelling helps the user know how to use the form. The Cancel button is important so that the users can back out of the update if needed.
My database needs further work to make it really useful.	There is no facility to draw graphs from the data on weigh-ins.	Members are likely to want a graph of their weight loss over time.

Sample response extract

I did all the tests and found no errors.

Improved response extract

I did all the tests in my test plan and I found no errors. Due to time limitations, I did not test the queries, forms and reports. I only tested the input validation on the tables. This means that I have not tested the database thoroughly enough and I should have created more test data to cover these aspects of the database, where errors may well exist.

This is just a simple point. It does not provide any evidence or explanation.

This makes the point, provides evidence (says what the learner did and did not test) and explains the issues that the lack of testing can cause.

Now try this

Choose one section (design, development or testing) of your work and write an evaluation of it.