

TM470 TMA03

THE COMPUTING PROJECT

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PREVIOUS TUTORIALS

- Recordings in the Online Tutor Group Room
 - TM470 Introduction
 - TM470 TMA01
 - TM470 TMA02
- If you haven't already watched them please do!
- Especially TMA02, as some of the material on report formatting is still relevant!



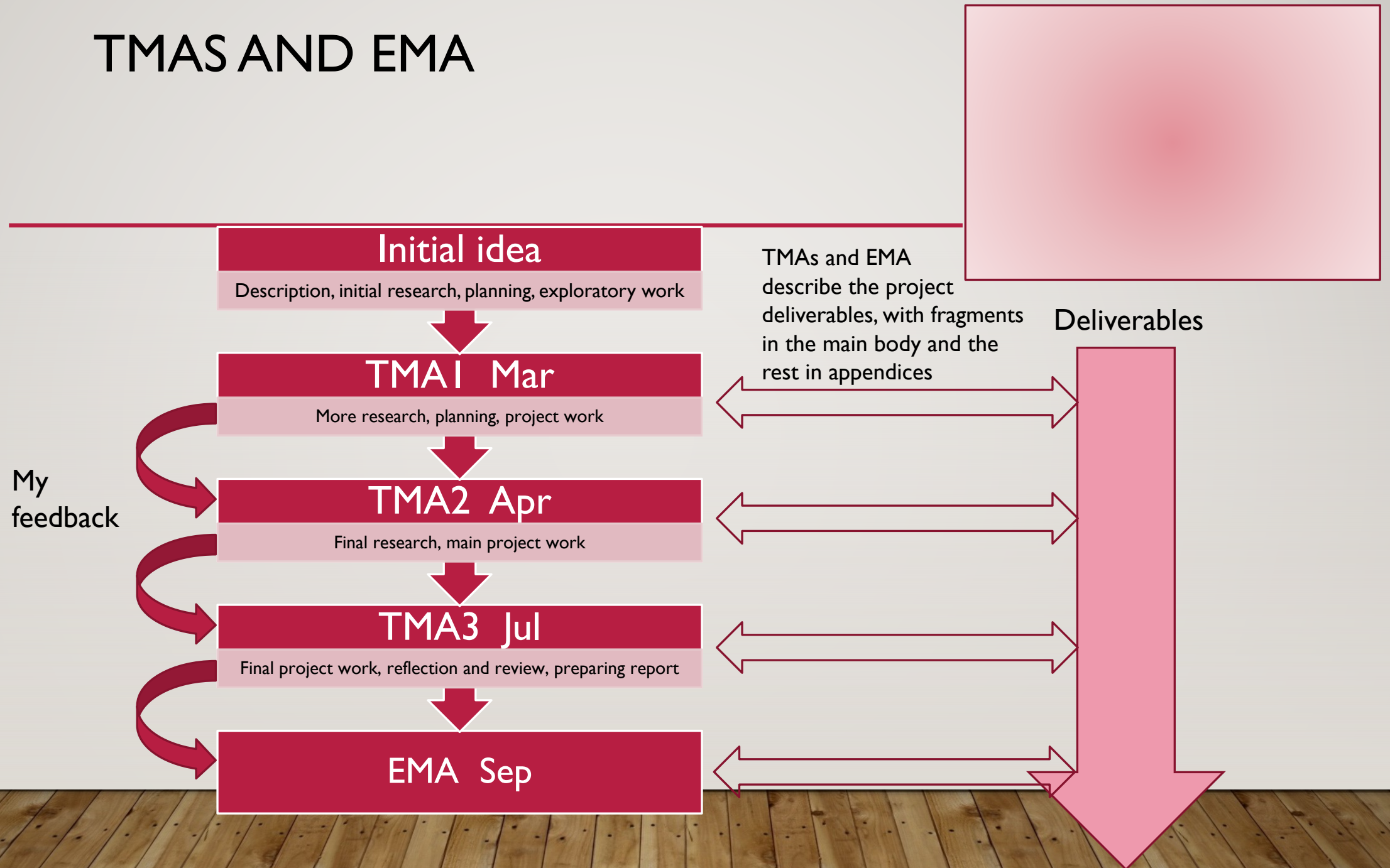
TMAS AND EMA

	Date	Weighting	
TMA 1	3 Mar	5%	Getting started and project refinement and plan
TMA 2	14 Apr	10%	Background research and initial development
TMA 3	7 Jul	10%	First draft of project report, project work largely complete
EMA	14 Sep	75%	Final project work, evaluation and reflection, final report



Grade (indicative %)				
1	2	3	4	5
(85%+)	(70–84%)	(55–69%)	(40–54%)	(0–39%)
Distinction				Fail

TMAS AND EMA



MARKING - REMINDER

- TMAs marked by myself. EMAs are marked by myself and second (and possibly third) markers
- Second markers tend to be a bit harsher with marks – they haven't seen the TMAs and won't give you the benefit of the doubt regarding elements that don't come across well in the EMA
- I will fight for a good mark for you if you give me the tools to do so.



CONGRATULATIONS!

-
- You have successfully completed TMA02!



- BUT

- your TMA grades are STILL not necessarily a good guide to your final result



- Each TMA is evaluated on different sets of Learning Objectives, with different weightings
- The EMA evaluates ALL Learning Objectives, again with different weightings (and by a second marker)



TMA02 MARKING REVIEW

- Needed to show progress beyond TMA01
- Some new LO's considered, e.g. LSEPI, and weightings changed
- It was OK if scope / deliverables / plans changed, indeed might be a good thing!
- Expectation was that the project was underway, but only preliminary deliverables (if any) actually available



THOUGHTS, HINTS AND OBSERVATIONS ON TMA03

- Here are a number of things to consider about TMA03
- In no particular order
- May not apply to all projects
- Guidance and suggestions only - not a requirement!



OVERALL APPROACH



- Option One:
 - Another “Project Progress Report”, like TMA02 but demonstrating that you have made further progress on as many LOs as possible
 - Can reuse or slightly modify material from TMA02
 - Consider this if you haven’t really made as much progress as you had hoped
- Option Two:
 - A draft version of your final report (with placeholders / notes for incomplete sections)
 - Recommended if you feel ready for it!



THE FIRST TWO PAGES (STILL APPLIES!)

- After reading the first two pages of you report you reader should know (in reasonable detail):
 - The problem description
 - Aims of the Project
 - Background
 - Project Deliverables
 - Project Scope



THE TARGET AUDIENCE



- What can you assume about the reader for TMA03 and the EMA report?
 - A good technical knowledge of OU module subject areas (TT284 / TM352 etc.)
 - Familiarity with technical terms
 - Understanding of the requirements / limitations that TM470 puts on your project
 - Little to no knowledge of your problem domain
- There is no problem stating up-front what you are assuming about your reader



WHAT WILL THE MARKER READ?

- All of the main body of your report
 - (But with a deep sigh if there are more than about 10,000 words in it!)
- They will like diagrams, tables and screenshots (where applicable)
- They will NOT automatically read your appendices
 - But they might flick through them, especially if there is a meaningful link / explanation in the main report
 - Hence an appendix without such a link is unlikely to be read (so why have it anyway – all appendices should be there for a reason)



WHAT TO INCLUDE

- Only the report document!
 - (If your project deliverable is a itself a report, it is OK to include that separately)
- Do not include code files, applications or any other supporting files
 - They will be ignored
 - Hence, if you want to show off your code put interesting extracts in the main report
 - Make use of screenshots (or photographs) if you want to show your project in action
- Upload maximum size is now 50Mb (up from 10Mb)
 - NOT an invitation to include huge amounts of data
 - Just a reflection that diagrams, photos etc. might go a bit over the 10Mb limit



ROLES WITHIN THE PROJECT

- Although this is an “individual” project you may find yourself playing different “roles” within that project:

- The project manager
- The developer
- The tester
- The customer
- + others

Obviously, in a larger project, these roles might well be filled by different people!

- There may be “tension” between these roles but that is OK. It happens in all projects, it is up to you to manage and resolve these conflicts
- If it happens, don’t hide it – write about it in your report!



ROLES OUTSIDE THE PROJECT



- Is it OK if some of those “roles” are actually taken by someone else?
 - Yes! Although you are responsible for the project you can bring in others to help
- But:
 - All such help should be acknowledge in your report
 - (You don’t have to use names – “My manager at work reviewed this” is fine)
 - The bulk of the project work should clearly be your own
- So I can “ask an expert”?
 - Yes, (or you can ask me!), just acknowledge the source and evaluate the credibility of the answer



OTHER RESOURCES

- Don't forget the TM470 Resources page

- <https://learn2.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=208844&cmid=1707957>

- Scroll down to find some resources specific to TMA03 and the EMA



Podcast: Planning, presenting and reflecting

Additional study materials for TMA 03 and EMA

- Skills of Analysis and Synthesis
- Writing, Structuring, Styling and Editing Reports
- Legal, Social, Ethical and Professional issues

INDICATIVE MARKING SCHEME



- See <https://learn2.open.ac.uk/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=1707940§ion=4> at the end of TMA03. Make sure you address these.
- Ask yourself where the Learning Outcomes are demonstrated in your TMA?

THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

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