

CO457 Business Modelling Notes for Task 4 CW1

Introduction:

In CW1 for CO457 Business Modelling the 4th Task states:

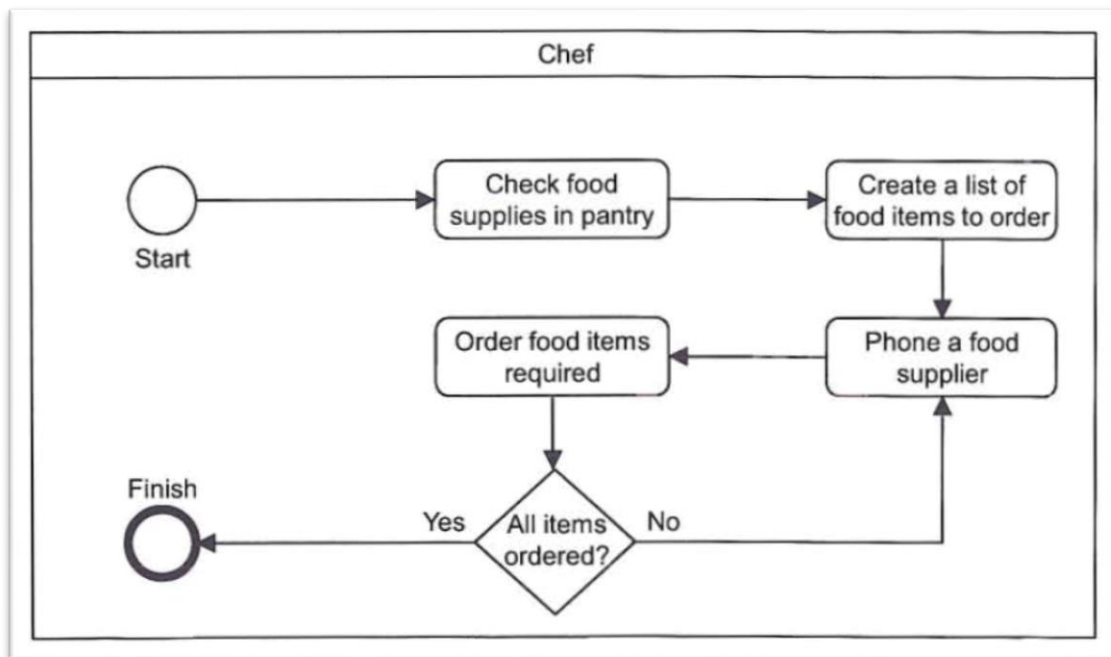
1. Eight Sequence Flow Diagrams, Two for each Restaurant Department

Create sequence flow diagrams for your activities table, for each of the restaurant's departments (Bar; Dining; Kitchen; Back Office). You will create two sequence flow diagrams per restaurant department, but you can choose which activities you create them for.

This 4th Task is asking you to draw sequence flow diagrams for the various activities and roles you have already worked out in the previous tasks, so there must be parity here.

The sequence diagrams that you create must adhere to the principals of good business modelling, in that they must be detailed (within the context of what needs to be shown), consistent in their approach and above all clear. Precision in the creation of your diagrams is paramount and it is attention to detail and consistency that will earn you assessment credit.

Below is an example sequence flow diagram for the role of Chef. In this example the activity being modelled is the ordering of food items. Note, you should not use any of the examples provided within our presentations as one of your sequence flow diagrams. However, you should use the examples as a reference point for your own work i.e. if you are unsure of your approach see how it corresponds to the example provided.



What to consider when developing your Sequence Flow Diagrams

The following describes the aspects involved in creating a perfect sequence flow diagram model. Attention to detail in the creation of your model is paramount. The concept for the model is relatively simple, but in order to achieve a good mark you must execute it perfectly.

- You should aim to produce logical sequence flow diagrams, as opposed to conceptual or physical, as these will give more scope to develop your modelling approach
- All of the objects (activity/decision boxes, start/finish, connecting lines) within each sequence diagram should be exactly the same size each time they are used
- All the objects should be proportionally spaced, both vertically and horizontally, the same way each time, so that your diagrams appear uniform in their approach
- Angle joints used in connecting lines should always be 90 degrees
- The text within the boxes/on lines should be black using a plain readable font (Ariel is a good choice), no less than 10pt in size, and no greater than 14pt
- The text within the boxes will succinctly record the activity taking place within the sequence diagram at that point or question being considered in the case of decision boxes
- The text placed on a line to represent a specific decision e.g. Yes or No in the example diagram above, should be of the same type/size as the text inside the boxes
- The lines connecting the activity boxes should be perfectly vertical or horizontal connecting from the middle of the appropriate box side, or from the corner of decision boxes
- An appropriate circle object should be used to determine the Start and Finish of the sequence e.g. thin for the start and a thicker border for the finish
- The layout of each sequence flow should be going from left to right and top to bottom, so that they always start in the top left corner and always finish bottom left
- The connecting lines should be solid, singular, black and the same thickness as the box borders
- The connecting lines should all be uniformly thick, but not too thin or too wide
- The ends of the connecting lines should be solid black filled arrow heads, with the tip of the arrow just making contact with the next object
- The model should be well balanced and laid out on the page e.g. like the examples provided in the presentations
- All the boxes should have the same thickness, black borders, but not too thin or too wide
- Each sequence diagram should be placed in a box clearly labelled with the role of the employee responsible for completing the sequence activities, so that the boundary is clearly defined
- Each sequence diagram should be labelled with an appropriate title, such as 'Serving Drinks from Bar to Dining Area', along with your name as the creator of the model, the date of its creation and its revision number

As you can see from the list above the sequence flow diagrams must be exactly produced. However, it would be a very good idea to start with a rough model drawn out on a piece of paper first for each one. This way you can work through what you want to produce, which will make executing it a lot easier when it comes time to produce the final version in a drawing package.

How to Develop your Sequence Flow Diagram Model

Although you can draw out your sequence flow diagrams in any drawing package you feel comfortable with (including paper and pen, although you will need to scan what you draw and place it as an image into the CW1 Word Template), we recommend Microsoft PowerPoint as a simple to use tool and it is what we will demonstrate within your class.

Microsoft PowerPoint can be used for all of the models we are going to produce and it has the ability to save each of its slides as separate JPG images (use Save As), so that they can then be inserted into the CW1 Word Template. Our aim is to teach you the techniques of modelling, not how to use specific drawing software, so the drawing tools are up to you.