

KK02 — Features of a brief that documents a problem, need or opportunity

Analysis & Design · Comprehensive exam study guide

STUDY DESIGN — YOU MUST KNOW

- problem/need/opportunity outline
- proposed users
- programming languages to be used
- feasibility
- originality

A **brief** is the short founding document that frames a project before analysis. You must know its features and the difference between a problem, need and opportunity.

Features of a brief

- **Outline of the problem/need/opportunity** — the situation being addressed.
- **Proposed users** — who the solution is for.
- **Programming languages to be used** — the intended development tools.
- **Feasibility** — whether the project is achievable within time, budget and skills.
- **Originality** — whether the idea is new or how it differs from existing solutions.

Problem vs need vs opportunity

Term	Meaning
Problem	Something not working that must be fixed.
Need	A requirement that is currently unmet.
Opportunity	A chance to gain an advantage (e.g. a market gap).

Key definitions to memorise

Brief	A short document outlining the problem/need/opportunity, proposed users, languages, feasibility and originality of a project.
Feasibility	Whether a project can realistically be completed within available time, budget, skills and technology.

Exam technique

EXAM TIP

- List the five features precisely — ‘feasibility’ and ‘originality’ are easily forgotten.
- Distinguish a brief (frames the project) from an SRS (detailed requirements, KK09).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Confusing the brief with the SRS — the brief is brief and high-level.
- Omitting feasibility/originality from the features list.

Quick revision checklist

- I can list the five features of a brief.
- I can distinguish a problem, a need and an opportunity.

Exam practice — questions & model answers

Q1. List three features a brief should contain.

List · 3 marks

Model answer

- Any three: problem/need/opportunity outline; proposed users; languages to be used; feasibility; originality (3).

Q2. Explain why feasibility is included in a brief.

Explain · 2 marks

Model answer

- It states whether the project can realistically be completed within time, budget and skills (1),
- so resources are not committed to an unachievable solution (1).