

Name: _____ Email: _____

**I450 – Designing and Developing an Information System
Midterm Exam - Fall 2004**

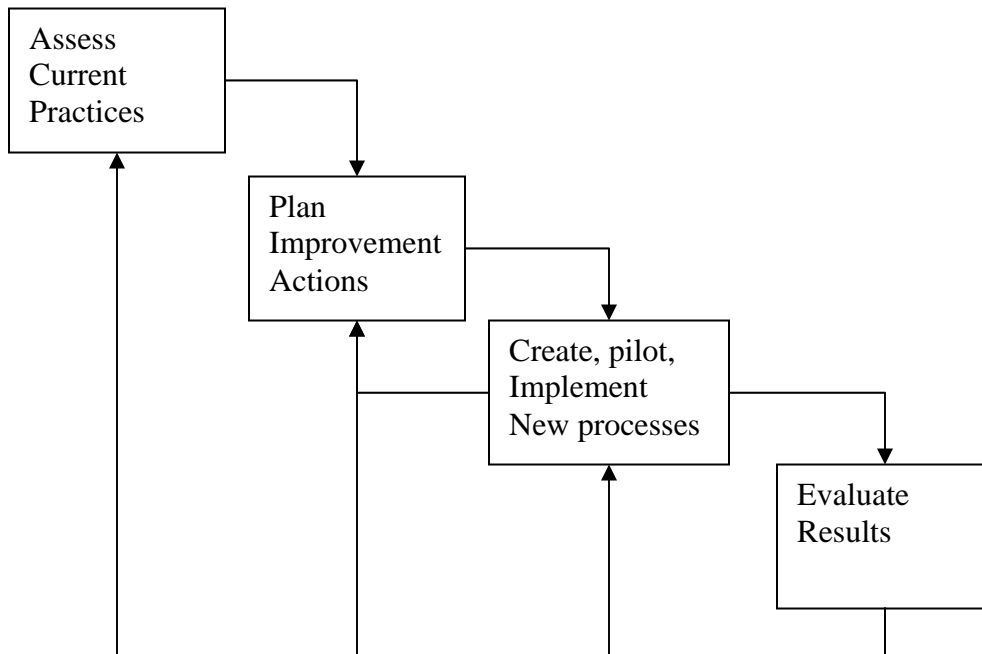
Conciseness in communicating ideas is a skill that takes practice. Your goal should always be to communicate the most amount of information in the smallest amount of space. For example, long email messages are less likely to be responded to than brief email messages. The questions are phrased in a way that might be posed in an email message from your supervisor. Answer the following question in the space provided on this paper. We've provided a range of the count of words in your response that you should target. If you go under the range you will probably be incorrect. If you go above the range you are wasting both time and space, and will probably be incorrect.

1: There is a growing interest on the part of organizations to purchase commercial off the shelf (COTS) systems, rather than creating their own customized applications. There are, of course, both advantages and disadvantages to such an approach. In particular, we trade off the speed with which we can deploy solutions with the accuracy with which we may meet our ultimate requirements. Your supervisor is interested in putting solutions into place sooner rather than later and is convinced that a COTS solution (if available) can help achieve this goal. Describe a model for deploying a COTS solution. (Hint: consider modifications to the waterfall model) (Points: 33, Minimum words: 50, Maximum words: 150)

2: I've previously described the task completion continuum using the diagram below. Describe the effects of a task being completed early (Points: 33, Minimum words: 50, Maximum words: 150)



3: From Wiegers Chapter 4: The following diagram illustrates what is called the “Process Improvement Cycle”. Compare and contrast this process model with the classic waterfall and spiral development models. (Points: 33, Minimum words: 50, Maximum words: 250)



Extra Credit: Provide a reasonable example of why it might be acceptable to be late on completing an assigned task. (Points: 10, Minimum words: 25, Maximum words: 50)