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BUILD BLOCK BRIEF · FALL 2026–27

Foundation · The Karachi File CIVIC LANE

Project menu session 5 · this brief session 5 · project chosen session 6 · build from session 7 · 179 students · 38 teams at the final cut · courses: GBMS323, GCOO326, GHCR313, GHCS324, GHFQ318, GHIP322, GHRW321, GHIS312, GHTP314, GCAP314, GHHS325, GCDD328, GHHE312, GMTC312, GCCO437, GRQR811, GRRM671

What your team is building

Fieldwork within Defence, Clifton, Saddar and PECHS. Every project carries a literature chapter, a survey instrument, eight weeks of data, statistical analysis, a constitutional and ethical chapter, and a recommendation to the authority named.

Your block's conveners. Aisha Ismail (leads the block) · Eesha Ali Alvi · Maria Tahir.

WEEKEND TRACK

5 students in this block (1 team) are taught only at the weekend. Their check-ins, guest session and Review slot run in weekend slots. No team mixes weekday and weekend students.

ONE PROJECT, SEVERAL GRADEBOOKS

You submit **one** piece of work, and each course that marks it looks at a different dimension, out of 15. **At most eight courses mark one team file.** A course you take that falls outside those eight sets you a **lens note** instead — an individual piece on the same project from that course's angle, 3,000 words, same rubric, out of 15, with a viva out of 5. No student carries more than two: from a third, that course marks your viva out of 20 instead.

YOUR MARKS FROM THIS PROJECT

30 sessional work — a team mark of 15 from each course that marks your file, plus your own viva of 5, held in class in the Presentations & Viva week, plus your teacher's quizzes and assignments 10
30 the mid-term
40 the final

This replaces most coursework, not classes.

The projects in this block

Your team chooses one of these in session 6, with your convener. **At most two teams take the same project, and only on different sites or areas.** The full question, the work and the required pieces for each project are in the Ideas Book. Each line below says what your team leaves behind by December, and the skill you take away.

PROJECT	WHAT EXISTS BY DECEMBER	SKILL
The Gig Economy at the Door Reports to: Sindh Labour & Human Resources Dept	**A costed minimum protection package and an anonymised survey and earnings-diary dataset from about 100 riders, handed to the Sindh Labour &** Human Resources Department.	running a diary-based sample survey
Electricity and Study Hours Reports to: K-Electric · NEPRA	A neighbourhood electricity reliability index for PECHS and Saddar, with the working outage logger, handed to K-Electric and NEPRA.	turning logged readings into an index
Women's Mobility on Shahrah-e-Faisal Reports to: Sindh Mass Transit Authority	**A wait-time and boarding dataset for eight bus stops, with timetable and design recommendations, handed to the Sindh Mass Transit Authority.**	timing and counting at fixed observation points

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PROJECT	WHAT EXISTS BY DECEMBER	SKILL
What Is in the Water? Reports to: KWSC · PCRWR	A map of water-test results from 40 flats, with recommended testing points, handed to KWSC and PCRWR.	sampling and testing water in a laboratory
The Lost Letter Study Reports to: Sindh Social Welfare Dept	A pilot civic-trust map of two Karachi areas showing letter returns by drop point, offered to the Sindh Social Welfare Department.	designing and running a field experiment
Public Space and the Young Reports to: Cantonment Board Clifton · KMC Parks	A mapped audit of 12–15 free public spaces, with three low-cost space proposals, handed to Cantonment Board Clifton and KMC Parks.	auditing and mapping how a place is used
Child Begging at the Signals Reports to: Sindh Child Protection Authority	A costed intervention proposal resting on pavement counts and a driver survey, handed to the Sindh Child Protection Authority.	costing a policy recommendation
The Neighbourhood Sound Map Reports to: Sindh EPA	A sound map of two residential areas, with the built logger and a courtesy protocol, handed to Sindh EPA.	calibrating a meter and logging readings
What a Hundred Rupees Buys Reports to: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics · Sindh Bureau of Supply & Prices	**A neighbourhood purchasing-power index with its working calculator, handed to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and Sindh Bureau of Supply &** Prices.	building a price index
The Guard Census Reports to: Sindh Home Dept · Sindh Labour Dept	**An anonymised dataset on about 100 guards'** pay, hours and sleep, with recommended standards, handed to the Sindh Home and Labour Departments.	surveying a workforce anonymously
Street Lighting and Fear After Dark Reports to: KMC · PECHS Society	A lamp database, a map of reported dark spots and a costed lighting plan for PECHS Blocks 2 and 6, handed to KMC and PECHS Society.	building an asset inventory and costing repairs
The Café as Third Place Reports to: Cantonment Board Clifton · KMC	**An outlet database of 60 cafés and dhabas**, with a short brief on who uses them and what the city should protect, handed to Cantonment Board Clifton and KMC.	designing a database from survey returns
Where the Rubbish Waits Reports to: Sindh Solid Waste Management Board	A collection-point map and eight-week pickup log, with a costed revised collection round, handed to the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board.	logging a public service against its schedule

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PROJECT	WHAT EXISTS BY DECEMBER	SKILL
The Footpath You Cannot Walk On Reports to: KMC · Cantonment Board Clifton	A footpath condition log at 50-metre intervals naming three priority stretches, handed to KMC and Cantonment Board Clifton.	measuring and logging a street survey
Drains Before the Monsoon Reports to: Cantonment Board Clifton · DHA	An inlet database with graded photographs and a costed pre-monsoon cleaning schedule, handed to Cantonment Board Clifton and DHA.	inspecting and grading infrastructure condition
Shade and the Street Reports to: KMC Parks · Sindh EPA	A heat-against-canopy model of the measured streets, with the built logger and a costed planting list, handed to KMC Parks and Sindh EPA.	building and calibrating a temperature logger
The Zebra Crossing Nobody Stops At Reports to: Traffic Police Karachi · KMC	A costed crossing audit of the team's main roads naming five crossings to repaint or signalise, handed to Traffic Police Karachi and KMC.	running a structured traffic count
Why Graduates Leave Karachi Reports to: Sindh Planning & Development Dept	A policy brief and anonymised survey dataset on why graduates leave, handed to the Sindh Planning & Development Department.	writing a policy brief from survey data
Mental Health Help-Seeking Among the Young Reports to: Sindh Mental Health Authority	A service-design brief, with the signposting sheet given to every participant, handed to the Sindh Mental Health Authority.	surveying a sensitive subject safely and anonymously
The Informal Rental Market Reports to: Sindh Home Dept · Sindh Board of Revenue	**A rent database and asking-rent index for Saddar and PECHS, with a rental-regulation brief, handed to Sindh Home Department and Board of Revenue.**	building a rent index from published listings
The Sun on the Roof Reports to: NEPRA · Sindh Energy Dept	A working yield-and-payback calculator and a lane-by-lane panel count, handed to NEPRA and the Sindh Energy Department.	working out payback on an energy investment
The Signal You Pay For Reports to: PTA	A map of measured signal strength and sampled data speed at fixed points in two areas, set against PTA's published standards and handed to PTA.	measuring a service against its published standard
The Speed-Breaker Census Reports to: Cantonment Board Clifton · Karachi Traffic Engineering Bureau	A mapped register of speed breakers on the surveyed lanes, with a standard profile and removal list, handed to both authorities.	mapping and measuring road features

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PROJECT	WHAT EXISTS BY DECEMBER	SKILL
Water at the Wudu Tap Reports to: KWSC · Sindh Auqaf Dept	A working savings calculator and built flow counter, with a costed low-flow retrofit, handed to KWSC and the Sindh Auqaf Department.	measuring flow and costing a retrofit

What each course marks

CODE	COURSE	WHAT THIS COURSE MARKS — 15 MARKS
GBMS323	**Business Maths & Stats** Zaeem Farooqui	**This course marks the evidence:** the sampling plan and why it was chosen, the survey instrument, the accuracy of the data entry and cleaning, the descriptive and inferential analysis, the charts, and whether the conclusions drawn are the ones the numbers support. 15 marks, team.
GCOO326	**Object Oriented Programming** Yahya Ali Rashidi	**This course marks the software:** the class model behind the data-capture and reporting tool, the correctness of its encapsulation and inheritance, its handling of bad input and file errors, and the readability of the code the team submits. 15 marks, team.
GHCR313	**Comparative Religions** Dr Ambareen Atiq	**This course marks the plural-community chapter of the file:** how accurately each community's position is described, whether primary sources and named voices were used, and how carefully difference is handled where the civic problem affects communities unequally. 15 marks, team.
GHCS324	**Communication Skills** Eesha Ali	**This course marks the spoken half of the file:** the interviews used to gather evidence, the eight-minute pitch, its structure, delivery and handling of questions, and the quality of the criticism each student gives to other teams. 15 marks, team.
GHFQ318	**Fehm-e-Quran** Noman Idress	**This course marks the ethical reading in the file:** the passages chosen, the accuracy of their translation and reference, and the care with which the obligation they describe is stated and connected to the civic problem the cohort studied. 15 marks, team.
GHIP322	**Ideology & Constitution of Pakistan** Dr Ambareen Atiq	**This course marks the constitutional and civic chapter of the file:** which rights, duties and powers the problem actually engages, which tier of government owns it, the accuracy of every citation, and the strength of the argument for action. 15 marks, team.

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CODE	COURSE	WHAT THIS COURSE MARKS — 15 MARKS
GHRW321	**Academic Reading & Writing** Maliha Khaqan	**This course marks the written file itself:** the thesis and its control, the structure of the argument, the integration and citation of sources, the accuracy of summary and paraphrase, and the quality of the revision between draft and final. 15 marks, team.
GHIS312	**Introduction to Social Psychology** Maria Tahir	**This course marks the social-psychological reading of the file:** how group, attitude and influence concepts are applied to the people surveyed, whether the interpretation is warranted by the evidence, and the care taken not to over-read it. 15 marks, team.
GHTP314	**Theories of Personalities** Syed Shaheer Jawaid	**This course marks the personality chapter:** which theories are applied to the people and behaviours in the file, the accuracy of the application, and the honesty about what the evidence cannot show. 15 marks, team.
GCAP314	**Applied Physics** TEACHER TO BE NAMED	**This course marks the physical measurement in the file:** what was measured (flow, load, noise, power, distance), the instrument and units, the uncertainty stated, and whether the numbers are used correctly in the argument. 15 marks, team.
GHHS325	**History & School of Psychology** Aisha Ismail	**This course marks the historical chapter:** how the problem was understood and dealt with over time, the primary and secondary sources used, and the accuracy and balance of the account. 15 marks, team.
GCDD328	**Digital Logic Design-LAB** Haris Yaseen	**This course marks any device the team builds or wires to collect evidence** — a counter, a sensor, a logger — judged on whether the circuit is documented, tested and gives readings the team can trust. Where the team built no device, this course marks the student's named section alone. 15 marks.
GHHE312	**History of English Language** Amna Khan	**This course marks the language of the record:** how the public body and the public describe the problem, the English, Urdu and borrowed terms used on signs, notices and documents, and what that shows about who the message is written for. 15 marks, team.

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CODE	COURSE	WHAT THIS COURSE MARKS — 15 MARKS
GMTC312	**Theories of Communication Design** Dr. Sabir Ahmed	**This course marks how the finding is communicated:** the charts, maps and one-page summary for the authority, judged against the communication principles taught in the course and on whether a busy official would read them. 15 marks, team.
GCCO437	**Computer Organization & Assemble Language-LAB** Mariha Fahad	**This course marks the low-level tooling behind the evidence:** any program, microcontroller routine or data-handling script the team wrote, judged on whether it is documented, tested and reproducible. Where the team wrote none, this course marks the student's named section alone. 15 marks.
GRQR811	**Advanced Qualitative Research** Muhammad Usman Warriach	**This course marks the methodological argument:** the fit between theory, question and tradition, the defensibility of access and sampling, the visibility of the coding and memo trail, the handling of consent, withdrawal and reflexivity, and the answer given under cross-examination on method. 15 marks, team.
GRRM671	**Research Methodology** Rafia Khan	**This course marks the whole brief:** whether the question is researchable, whether the design answers it, the quality of the instrument and the pilot, the completeness of the consent and data-handling record, the accuracy of the analysis, and the defence of the method under questioning. 15 marks, team.

What to hand in

- **GBMS323 Business Maths & Stats** — By session 11 the team files the survey instrument, the cleaned data set as a spreadsheet, the analysis workbook with every formula visible, and a four-page statistical annex of charts and tables for the Karachi File.
- **GCOO326 Object Oriented Programming** — By session 11, a working C++ program that records the team's survey responses, validates them, stores them to file and prints the summary tables used in the written report — submitted with source, class diagram and AI declaration.
- **GHCR313 Comparative Religions** — By session 12 a referenced chapter of about 900 words on how the civic problem falls across Karachi's religious communities, with consented interview notes, filed with the team's Karachi File and AI declaration.
- **GHCS324 Communication Skills** — By session 12 the recorded eight-minute cohort pitch and its slide deck, the interview log with consent notes, and AI declaration, submitted with the team's Karachi File.

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- **GHFQ318 Fehm-e-Quran** — By session 12 a referenced chapter of about 800 words setting out the passages, their translation and the obligation they place on a reader, filed with the team's Karachi File and AI declaration.
- **GHIP322 Ideology & Constitution of Pakistan** — By session 12 a written constitutional framing chapter of about 1,200 words with a duty-bearer map naming the responsible tier and office, filed with the team's Karachi File and AI declaration.
- **GHRW321 Academic Reading & Writing** — One written file per team — first draft in session 10 for peer review, final submission in session 12 with the reference list, the source log and AI declaration.
- **GHIS312 Introduction to Social Psychology** — By session 11 the team files a social-psychology chapter of four pages inside the Karachi File, tied to the survey evidence, with the concepts used defined and sourced.
- **GHTP314 Theories of Personalities** — By session 11 the team files a personality-theory chapter of three pages inside the Karachi File, applying two named theories to the behaviour observed, with sources.
- **GCAP314 Applied Physics** — By session 11 the team files a measurement annex inside the Karachi File: the quantity measured, the method, the readings with uncertainty, and the calculation that turns them into the claim the file makes.
- **GHHS325 History & School of Psychology** — By session 11 the team files a history chapter of three pages inside the Karachi File, with at least two primary sources and a timeline.
- **GCDD328 Digital Logic Design-LAB** — By Session 11 the circuit diagram, the test log and the raw readings go into the evidence annex.
- **GHHE312 History of English Language** — By Session 11 the team files a two-page language note with the examples photographed or transcribed, nobody identified.
- **GMTC312 Theories of Communication Design** — By Session 11 the team files the visual summary and a short rationale for each design choice.
- **GCCO437 Computer Organization & Assemble Language-LAB** — By Session 11 the source code, test runs and a short readme go into the evidence annex.
- **GRQR811 Advanced Qualitative Research** — By session 12 the study file: theorised question, methodology chapter draft, approved ethics submission with signed consent forms, anonymised transcripts, coding book and memo trail, and analysis with extracts — plus AI declaration.
- **GRRM671 Research Methodology** — By session 11 the complete research brief is submitted: question, literature review, design, instrument, signed consent forms, anonymised pilot dataset, analysis and findings — with AI declaration attached.

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How big the file is

The written file is **3,000 words for every member**, plus or minus ten per cent — 15,000 words for a team of five, 12,000 for four, 9,000 for three — plus the artefacts: the evidence or data log with its instrument, interview notes and consent log, any program with its tests, the pitch deck, the AI declaration, the draft-to-final revision log, the two-page brief for the body the project reports to, delivered by the team, and the handover page (data, methods, what next year's team should do). In the venture and client lanes the live thing itself is the largest artefact. Each member owns one section of 3,000 words with their name on it, one artefact they built, and one part they can defend alone at viva. A lens note is 3,000 words on the same project. The full format is in "The Folio — required format", in the portal.

Dates

Session 5	12 Oct	Your personal brief, with your claim code, in class. The project menu — twenty minutes of class: your block's projects, each with its title, its problem in one line and who it is for; your team notes the three it likes. And the full projects, the same week: this brief, the Ideas Book and the format sheet, in the portal. Read your three projects in full.
Guest session	Session 4 or 5	A practitioner from outside the university speaks to your school, on whichever of those two sessions the speaker can make. Attendance is compulsory. Each student writes one page on it for their own file; it is not marked.
Session 6	19 Oct	Your team makes its final choice of project with your convener and names itself. Sealed prediction: before any data, your team writes what it expects to find, signs it and seals it with your convener. Your convener opens it at your team's first viva. It carries no marks. Straight after, your team fills in the ethics screening sheet in class (the ethics sheet and any field plan are due Sat 24 Oct). Then design the instrument or find the client, and split the sections.
Sessions 6–7	19 Oct – 8 Nov	Data collection may begin once your team's ethics screen is cleared. The mid-term (26 Oct – 1 Nov) comes between the two sessions. The build itself starts in session 7.
Session 7	2 Nov	One-page plan uploaded to the portal by Sat 7 Nov: the question, the instrument or the client charter, who owns what. Not marked — it is the gate. This week the convener merges the marking courses' requirements into the file's sections, so the team writes one document and not eight. Clients matched to teams; field plans signed. Build starts: rubric issued, roles confirmed, team charter uploaded by Sat 7 Nov. Build-with-AI workshop for venture and client teams.
Session 8	9 Nov	Iqbal Day, Mon 9 Nov, is a holiday; Monday classes are made up on Tue 10 Nov. Scope agreed with the convener. Client or subject confirmed. Your school arranges its industrial visit for some point between now and session 11.
Session 10	23 Nov	Draft review, inside a normal class: each course teacher sees the teams in their own section for about ten minutes each — show what exists, not what you plan. The convener samples three files per block.

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Session 11	30 Nov	The artefact goes live or reaches its first complete state.
Session 12	7 Dec	The last class. Final file uploaded in the Folio submission window, Sat 12 – Wed 16 Dec, with its AI declaration, the two-page brief written for the body your project reports to, and the handover page (data, methods, what next year's team should do). Venture teams evidence the first paying customer. The whole window is on time; nothing is accepted after Wednesday 16 December.
Presentations & Viva	14–19 Dec	No new teaching. Vivas in class: each course holds its own, team by team, in its class in the Presentations & Viva week — about three minutes per student, on your own part as that course sees it. Alumni viva panels sit through the week; the main panel day is Sat 19 Dec.
The Karachi Review	Mon 21 Dec	Your team exhibits at its own table, across the campus, all day. The day opens with a thirty-minute handover of studies to the public bodies who asked for them; press and industry attend. Eleven panels — a teacher and an alumnus each — circulate the exhibition and score you at your table, about eight minutes a team. Not marked separately; the panel sheet goes to every course marking the file.
Weekend	—	Weekend cohorts hold all of the above in their Saturday and Sunday slots; the Karachi Review runs on a weekend afternoon.

Rules for this lane

What counts as done

One documented file on a real problem, built on evidence you gathered yourself, with a recommendation you are prepared to defend.

People

Anyone you interview or survey is told who you are, what the work is for, and that they may decline. Names and identifying details are removed before anything is written up. No photographs of people without their spoken consent.

Honesty

Report what you found, including the parts that do not support your argument. Inventing or padding data is an integrity offence and is treated as one.

Safety

Work in pairs when collecting evidence, in daylight, in public places. No fieldwork in any location your convener has not agreed. Once your ethics screen is cleared, data collection may start from Session 6 (from 19 October).

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Marks

You are marked on the quality of the evidence and the reasoning, not on whether the problem gets solved.

Two teams to a project, at most

No project is taken by more than two teams, and two teams share one only on different sites or areas. Your convener records your choice in session 6 and may refuse a third team.

Before you leave campus

Whatever your lane: no team collects data before its ethics screen is cleared, and no team leaves campus before the fieldwork gate opens on Saturday 10 October, the duty phone exists and the team has signed out on the sign-out sheet. The duty number is on your field card.

Using AI

You are expected to use Claude and similar tools — to research, to build, to draft, to model numbers. Three rules. Check everything a tool gives you before you use it, and record the check. Declare what you used in the AI declaration bound into the file, as the HEC *Framework on the Use of Generative AI Tools* (2026) requires. Be able to explain, at the viva, everything your team built. **Work you cannot explain is not credited to you.** Undeclared use, or use to fabricate data, references or results, is academic misconduct. Never put real client, patient or examinee data, or anything identifying a real person, into a tool.

BLOCK CONVENER

PROGRAMME HEAD

DATE ISSUED