

Appendix 14: Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) — horizontal navigation bar (WDD)

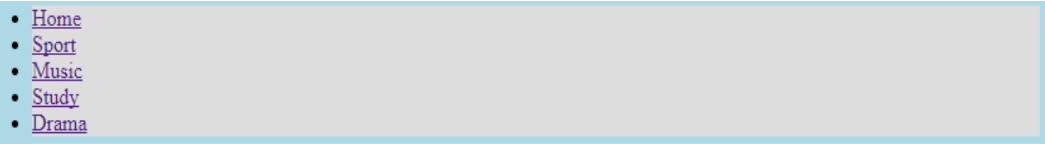
The HTML 5 <nav> element is used to contain website navigation links, usually as a navigation bar. A navigation bar is declared as an unordered list of hyperlinks:

```
<nav>
  <ul>
    ...
    <li>hyperlink</li>
    <li>hyperlink</li>
    ...
  </ul>
</nav>
```

The look and feel of a navigation bar is then created using CSS declarations.

List of hyperlinks before and after CSS declarations

Before CSS declarations are added, the list of HTML hyperlinks are displayed as a simple bullet point list:

- 
- [Home](#)
 - [Sport](#)
 - [Music](#)
 - [Study](#)
 - [Drama](#)

HTML

```
<nav>
  <ul>
    <li><a href="home.html">Home</a></li>
    <li><a href="sport.html">Sport</a></li>
    <li><a href="music.html">Music</a></li>
    <li><a href="study.html">Study</a></li>
    <li><a href="drama.html">Drama</a></li>
  </ul>
</nav>
```

The addition of CSS declarations alter the position, look and behaviour of the list to create a navigation bar.

[Home](#) [Sport](#) [Music](#) [Study](#) [Drama](#)

CSS

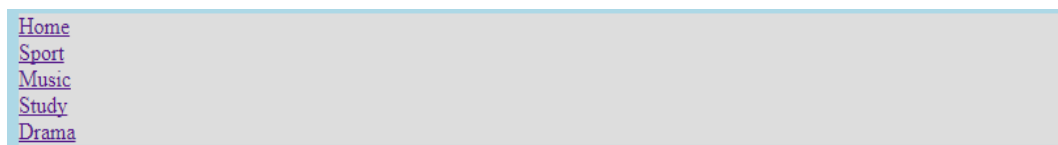
```
nav ul {list-style-type:none;}
nav ul li {float:left;width:80px;text-align:center}
nav ul li a {display:block;padding:8px}
nav ul li a:hover {background-color:#000;color:White}
```

The following examples breakdown the above code and provide explanations of each declaration. They have been taken from the navigation bar used within the *Higher Computing Science example website*. The example website can be downloaded as a zip file from the [Higher Computing Science](#) page on SQA's website. To view the full code in context, open and view the source code from any of the example web pages along with the external CSS file.

Example: removing bullets points

Declaring the `list-style-type` of the unordered list element as `none` removes the bullet points from the list:

```
nav ul {list-style-type:none}
```

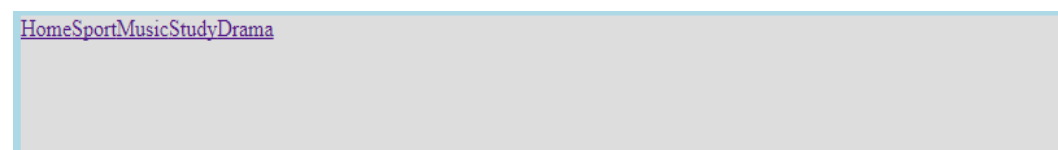


Using descendant selectors (`nav ul`) ensures that the style is only applied to the `ul` element within the `nav` element.

Example: positioning list items horizontally

To ensure the list of hyperlinks is distributed horizontally, each `<li>` element is floated to the left:

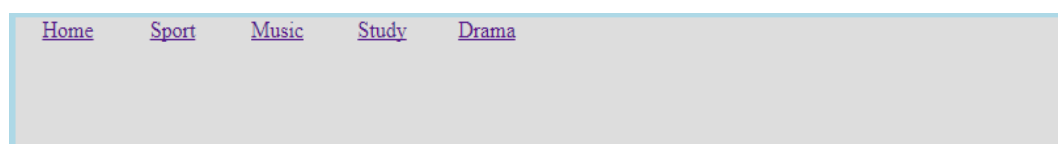
```
nav ul li {float:left}
```



Example: spacing out each list item

To create space between each list item, a width is declared and the link text is centred within each width:

```
nav ul li {float:left;width:80px;text-align:center}
```



Example: creating clickable boxes

In most navigation bars, clicking the area around the hyperlink also selects the link. A clickable box area around the link text is achieved by displaying the <a> element as a block:

```
nav ul li a {display:block}
```

Example: controlling vertical alignment

The vertical positioning of the link text in the navigation bar is controlled by declaring the height of the <nav> element and including padding within the <a> element:

```
nav {height:35px}  
nav ul li a {display:block;padding:8px}
```



Example: adding interactive colours

The state of the <a> element can be styled to change the background colour and text colour of each link, when the mouse hovers over an <a> element:

```
nav ul li a:hover {background-color:#000;color:White}
```

