

Grade Related Criteria: Second and Third Year

First Class Honours (70-100%)		Grade	Grade descriptor	Mark
		A++	Answer cannot be bettered	100
Relevance	Knowledge well applied to set task, readings fully integrated into answer, appropriate links between research and conceptual of discipline cited	A+	Exceptional insight	90
Content	Wide, detailed and accurate knowledge, evidence of reading, beyond references provided. Clear understanding of alternative concepts/ideas/ theories. Good understanding of basic research methodologies, and research/ understanding linkages.	A	Excellent synthesis/originality	80
Presentation	Clear/ fluent expression, well-presented, suitable use of graphs, tables, maps, accurate spelling and grammar, referencing as appropriate, good ability to use different genres as appropriate, e.g, essay, project report.	A-	Good synthesis/ originality	75
Second Class Honours Grade I (2.1) (60-69%)				
Relevance	Knowledge applied to set task, readings integrated into answer, some relevant research integrated.	B+	Comprehensive, high competence & well-read but lacks originality	68
Content	Wide knowledge of subject matter, evidence of considerable background reading, awareness of different concepts/ ideas/ theories. Reasonable understanding of basic research methodologies, and research/ understanding linkages	B	Comprehensive & competent with good evidence of reading but lacks originality	65
Presentation	Reasonably clear/ fluent expression, satisfactory presentation, appropriate use of graphs, tables, maps, accurate spelling and grammar, referencing as appropriate, ability to use different genres, as appropriate, e.g, essay, project report.	B-	Competent summary of ideas with evidence of reading	62
Second Class Honours Grade II (2.2) (50-59%)				
Relevance	Knowledge generally applied to set task, some use made of readings, little/ no relevant research cited	C+	Slightly better than C on stated criteria	58
Content	Adequate but not necessarily complete knowledge of subject matter, evidence of some background reading, limited understanding of alternative /ideas/ theories. Some understanding of basic research methodologies, and research/ understanding linkages	C	Basically competent but lacks breadth and/or depth	55
Presentation	Reasonable expression, satisfactory presentation, limited use of graphs, tables, maps, reasonably accurate spelling and grammar, Referencing acceptable, some ability to use different genres, as appropriate, e.g, essay, project report.	C-	Slightly worse than C on stated criteria	52

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Third Class Honours (45-49%)				
Relevance	Not fully focussed on set task, but major points relevant, very little evidence of understanding of basic concepts, task not fully attempted	D+	Slightly better than D on stated criteria	48
Content	Clear evidence of knowledge but several factual errors, no evidence of background reading. Accurate reproduction of lecture material, but no evidence of understanding/ knowledge of alternative concepts/ideas/ theories, basic research methodologies	D		45
Presentation	Acceptable expression, no/ inappropriate use of graphs, tables, maps, no referencing, inaccuracies in spelling/ grammar create some difficulty, limited ability to present work in different genres, as appropriate, e.g. essay, project report			
Pass (40-44%): Minimum acceptable standard of response				
Relevance	Limited focus on task, limited evidence of some understanding of basic concepts, no linkage theory/ research to material	D-		42
Content	Reproduction of lecture notes, with errors, lack of detail, no evidence of any background reading, no evidence understanding basic research methodology.			
Presentation	Weak expression, inaccuracies create considerable difficulty for understanding, little/ no evidence of ability to use different genres as appropriate, e.g. essay, project report			
Fail (E) (25-39%): Mark less than 35% is a non-compensatable fail				
Relevance	Basic focus on task, but serious omissions, major irrelevancies – within general field, but not focussed on actual topic. E 1 35 Content	E+	More relevant/correct material than E	38
Content	Some knowledge of subject matter, major inaccuracies, incomplete answer, no evidence of any background reading, no evidence understanding basic research methodology, serious misunderstandings of basic theories/ concepts/ ideas	E	Displays some knowledge of material	35
Presentation	Very weak expression, very confused and difficult to understand	E-	Less relevant/ correct material than E	30
Fail (F) (0-24%)				
Relevance	No focus on set task, maybe not even on general field, very little/ no engagement with material	F+	Little relevant/ correct material but some evidence of engagement with question	20
Content	Very little/ no knowledge of subject area, no evidence background reading, knowledge of basic theories/ concepts/ ideas plagiarised	F	Very little relevant or correct material	10
Presentation	Extremely weak expression, very confused, very hard to understand	F-	Contains no relevant or correct material	0

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