

Criteria for Marking

| Grade | Description | Criteria for essays and other non-language elements |
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| 20 19 18 17 | Excellent (First Class) | Outstanding work , displaying wide knowledge, awareness of the current state of thinking on the subject, critical analysis, independence of mind, and intellectual rigour. Theories are properly understood and critiqued by close engagement with points of detail. There is substantial evidence of independent study beyond a basic/core bibliography. Clearly prepared, with a well structured argument, avoiding irrelevance. Originality is rewarded, but is not a necessary requirement. |
| 16 15 14 | Very Good (II.1) | Well-organised, detailed and logical work, showing a thorough understanding of the subject as taught, with some evidence of study beyond a basic/core bibliography. Theories are properly understood and critiqued by means of engagement with points of detail, with only minor omissions. Clearly prepared, with a well-structured argument. |
| 13 12 11 | Good (II.2) | Work displaying overall competence and an understanding of the basics of the subject. The answer contains reasonably good information, but there may be only limited evidence of additional, independent study beyond a basic/core bibliography and there may be a small number of minor errors. There may be insufficient discussion, and conclusions may not always be adequately supported. |
| 10 9 8 | Acceptable (III) | Work displaying limited comprehension of basic facts and principles, with significant gaps or errors of detail, some irrelevance, and badly constructed argument; it may be largely descriptive, rather than arguing a case; or it may fail to focus properly on the question set. |
| 7-7.5 | Barely Acceptable | Work displaying barely adequate comprehension of basic facts and principles, with significant gaps or errors of detail, some irrelevance, poorly constructed argument or no argument at all. |
| 6 5 | Compensatable Fail | Work displaing inadequate understanding of basic facts and principles, with significant errors, omissions or irrelevance, and which shows a lack of grasp of the essentials of the subject. |
| 0-4 | Fail | Work displaying misunderstanding of basic facts and principles, with significant errors, omissions or irrelevance, and which shows a lack of grasp of the essentials of the subject. |