

Marking criteria

	Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	Criterion 5	Criterion 6
	Acquisition of knowledge	Interpretation and analysis	Construction of argument	Relevance	Documentation & presentation	Command of English
90+	Outstanding knowledge.	Originality of interpretation harnessed to sense of excitement	Totally and effortlessly convincing thesis with complete command of method and unassailable conclusions.	No addition or subtraction would improve the work.	Displays exceptionally full and appropriate documentation and specially effective presentation.	Error-free, fully appropriate to the task, compellingly communicative style.
80-89	Surprisingly comprehensive -unusual depth/breadth of knowledge.	Unusual intellectual and emotional engagement with material.	Thoroughly convincing and elegant, with excellent choice of evidence, leading to well-founded conclusions.	Unusual ability to maintain reader's interest by choice of argument, evidence, examples etc.	Displays full and appropriate documentation and specially effective presentation.	Highly accurate with appropriate style. Occasional slips or minor infelicities tolerable, but nothing revealing ignorance.
70-79	Clear and full knowledge of what the module covers as defined by aims and objectives.	Very sound understanding of material, balanced, showing due caution.	Very sound skills. Room for disagreement on strength of evidence or conclusions.	Focussing consistently and accurately on the task. Some disagreement possible over aims or choice of examples.	Displays full and appropriate documentation and specially effective presentation.	Very accurate with appropriate style. Occasional slips or minor infelicities of style or register mishaps tolerable, but nothing revealing serious ignorance.
60-69	Provides substantial information, displays a solid knowledge of mainstream material.	Has a clear understanding of the material and its significance.	Argues in an assured and orderly way, with clear development. Shows some understanding of methodology.	Displays a secure sense of relevance of the material to the chosen method of argument.	Displays a thorough grasp of appropriate principles of documentation and presentation.	Mainly accurate. A few spelling mistakes, minor inelegancies of sentence construction, vocabulary choice, textual coherence or register misjudgements tolerable. Nothing revealing systematic ignorance of conventions of academic English.
50-59	Provides a reasonable quantity of accurate information.	Has a competent (if dependent or incomplete) understanding of the material and its significance.	Presents the general outline of an appropriate argument.	Displays a sound general sense of relevance though sometimes wavering and unreflective.	Displays a general grasp of appropriate principles of documentation and presentation.	May show some weaknesses in matters such as spelling, punctuation, vocabulary, sentence construction, textual coherence, but not systematically and none which seriously impede communication.
40-49	Provides a limited quantity of information with some accuracy.	Has some limited understanding of the material and its significance.	Presents some elements of an appropriate argument.	Displays some limited sense of relevance.	Displays some limited care and competence in documentation and presentation.	Regular weaknesses, especially with sentence construction, punctuation, textual coherence, appropriateness. Towards bottom end this shows serious ignorance of how to write in sentences and paragraphs, failure to proofread spelling, carelessness etc. Message is not impeded.
35-39	Limited but inaccurate or very thin	Understanding / interpretation very patchy or misguided	Illogical, ill-considered or poorly constructed	Substantial sections off the point	Frequent flouting of conventions of academic work	Weaknesses of writing are so frequent or serious that they impede message or show lack of willingness to conform with conventions.
25-34	Grossly inaccurate or barely recognisable	Almost no understanding of material	Almost no identifiable arguments	Barely recognisable as work on the topic	Gross and very frequent flouting of conventions	
1-24	No evidence of study	No ability to analyse or interpret	Incoherent throughout	Nothing to do with the topic	Disregard for any formalities of academic work	
<p>The black mark shows, for each of the marking criteria, which of the statements applies to the essay and the approximate mark for that criterion. The overall mark (below) is based on an average of those marks.</p>						
name/registration:		sample		mark: 62		