Descriptor	Grade Band	Mark Range	Typical Mark	Description
Outstanding (85-100)	1st – Highest	93-100	93 or 100	Outstanding attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. An exam script in this category clearly and consistently surpasses normal expectations, in terms of scholarship, for the relevant level of study. Work in this category typically meets the expectations of 'excellent' work and also: introduces original ideas and insights; is comprehensive (relative to the level of study) in its identification of relevant (in terms of breadth or depth) literature; is uniquely perceptive at evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of its sources; draws on an exceptional range (or depth) of detailed examples or case studies, integrates the student's own approach within wider scholarly frameworks; contains no referencing errors; and is exceptionally well written.
	1st – Outstanding	85-92	88	
Excellent (70-84)	1st – High	80-84	82	Excellent attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. An exam script in this category typically: has excellent direct focus on the question; engages directly and in-depth with relevant themes from the module/course; has excellent structure and organisation of material; reflects superior analytical and reasoning skills; makes a clear and convincing argument of the student's own; identifies and accurately discusses the most relevant literature; convincingly evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of its sources; makes excellent use of appropriate and detailed examples or case studies; contains very few referencing errors; follows all presentation requirements; is clearly and fluently written.
	1st – Mid	75-79	77	
	1st – Low	70-74	72	
Good to Very Good (60-69)	2.1 – High	67-69	68	Good to very good attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. An exam script in this category typically: has good direct focus on the question; engages directly with relevant themes from the module/course; has good structure and organisation of material; reflects good analytical and reasoning skills; makes a clear argument of the student's own; identifies and accurately discusses a good range of relevant literature; successfully evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of its sources; arguments are illustrated with reference to well documented, detailed and relevant examples or case studies; contains few referencing errors; follows all presentation requirements; is written clearly in a comprehensible way.
	2.1 – Mid	64-66	65	
	2.1 – Low	60-63	62	
Satisfactory (50-59)	2.2 – High	57-59	58	Satisfactory attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. An exam script in this category typically: engages directly with the question; reflects knowledge of relevant themes from the module/course; makes an attempt to structure and organise the material; directly or indirectly suggests an argument; contains satisfactory analysis and reasoning; contains accurate discussion of some relevant literature, which may or may not include reflection on strengths and weaknesses; identifies some appropriate examples or case studies, but these may not be fully documented or detailed; shows knowledge of appropriate referencing practice but this may be inconsistently applied; follows most presentation requirements; is written in a generally comprehensible way, though may contain writing errors. An answer which would normally fall into the 60-69 range may fall into the 50-59 class if it is too short, rushed, unfinished, or badly organized, even though it may make some good points in other ways.
	2.2 – Mid	54-56	55	
	2.2 – Low	50-53	52	
Weak (40-49)	3rd – High	47-49	48	Weak attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. An exam script in this category typically: engages directly or indirectly with the question; reflects limited knowledge of relevant themes from the module/course; has weak structure and organisation of material; does not build a clear argument in a successful way; contains weak analysis and reasoning; identifies some relevant literature/sources, though there may be errors in accuracy; is limited in its evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of sources; identifies examples or case studies, which may have limited relevance
	3rd – Mid	44-46	45	
	3rd – Low	40-43	42	

				and/or be weakly developed; shows some knowledge of appropriate referencing practice; follows some presentation requirements; may be unclearly written.

Poor (20-39)	Borderline Fail	35-39	37	Poor attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. An exam script in this category typically: does not engage with the question, though it may attempt to answer a different question; reflects very limited knowledge of relevant themes from the module/course; is poorly structured and organised; does not build a clear argument; contains poor (or little) analysis and reasoning; shows little awareness of relevant examples or case studies; identifies and discusses few relevant sources (and/or contains significant errors in accuracy and understanding); may contain a significant amount of irrelevant material; may show limited knowledge of appropriate referencing practice; may be deficient in length against the word count to an extent that noticeably undermines its scholarly quality; may be extremely unclearly written and/or presented.
	Fail	20-34	30	
Very Poor (1-19)	Bad Fail	1-19	15	Very poor attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. An exam script in this category typically: reflects almost no knowledge of relevant themes from the module/course; is very poorly structured and organised; contains no argumentation, analysis or reasoning; shows very poor awareness of relevant examples or case studies; identifies and discusses no relevant sources (and/or contains no significant evidence of accuracy and understanding); may contain a significant amount of irrelevant material; may show very limited knowledge of appropriate referencing practice; may be deficient in length against the word count to an extent that significantly undermines its scholarly quality; may be extremely unclearly written and/or presented.
Absence of Positive Qualities (0)	Zero	0	0	No demonstrable attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. An exam script in this category typically: has not been submitted; and/or has had a penalty applied for major academic misconduct.