

Assessment Criteria for School of Life Sciences PGT Coursework / Exams

A given piece of work may not satisfy all the criteria in a particular mark range, and indeed does not have to be given a mark within this range. The criteria should be used to decide the most appropriate grade band category in which to place the work and then a final mark within this range allocated.

Provision of feedback

As well as providing a mark for a given assignment it is equally important to provide feedback to the student as to why a particular mark was awarded, and how the student might improve their work in future assignments.

Feedback can be provided on individual scripts (that are returned to the student) or via Sussex Direct. The latter provides the opportunity to provide both generic feedback (which can be useful where the entire class has completed the same assignment) and individual feedback (for when an individual student requires feedback that is specific to them either because the assignment is individually tailored or because a particular student requires specific advice that does not apply to the class as a whole).

Ideally assignments should be marked and feedback given as promptly as possible, this is particularly true when a student's subsequent assignment is due shortly after this one. Module or course convenors can advise on when subsequent assignments will be.

Grade		Essay (please note that referencing is not required in exams)	Research Proposal	Lab Report (for taught practical classes)	Research Project Report (dissertation)	Research Project Performance (conduct during research placement)	Oral Presentation for Research Project
80-100	Distinction	An outstanding answer well written, logical and critical. Shows originality, flair and a full understanding of the subject. Clear, relevant and consistent use of citation/referencing. Excellent sources and validation of ideas and information.	An outstanding piece of work showing evidence of a thorough understanding of the science related to the project, the problem(s) to be addressed and how to address them. A wide range of appropriate information sources is used, and these are properly cited and referenced.	An outstanding report. Succinct, precise, numerically accurate where relevant. A clear understanding of the principles demonstrated.	Outstanding performance showing a high level of initiative, originality, independence and thoughtfulness. Evidence of a significant body of research undertaken and independent thought and reasoning. Presentation of data at a standard acceptable for publication in a research journal. Clear, relevant and consistent use of citation/referencing.	Outstanding contribution to the design and planning of the project. An outstanding understanding of the methodology involved and ability to successfully undertake the research. A very high level of commitment to the project including timekeeping and organisation.	An outstanding, balanced, well-timed, clearly presented talk, showing extensive preparation and an excellent ability to explain the research. Accurate and perceptive answers to questions demonstrating excellent knowledge and engagement with the topic.
70-79	Distinction	An excellent account showing appreciation of all the main points. Well written critical and logical. Shows a full understanding of the subject. Clear, relevant and consistent use of citation/referencing. Excellent sources and validation of ideas and information.	An excellent account showing a strong understanding of the science related to the project supported by a number of key references properly cited. A set of aims clearly related to the science described, and good approaches to solving the problem(s) discussed.	A full report. Succinct, precise, numerically accurate where relevant. A clear understanding of the principles demonstrated.	An excellent project performance showing significant originality, independence and thoughtfulness. Evidence of a significant body of research undertaken. Presentation of data generally at a standard acceptable for publication in a research journal. Clear, relevant and consistent use of citation/referencing.	Excellent contribution to the design and planning of the project. An excellent understanding of the methodology involved and ability to successfully undertake the research. A high level of commitment to the project including timekeeping and organisation.	A thorough, complete, well-timed, very well presented talk showing good preparation and a good ability to explain the research. Correct and detailed answers to questions demonstrating good knowledge of the topic.

60-69	Merit	Comprehensive answer. Clear, logical and accurate. Well structured showing a good grasp of the subject and an ability to think around it effectively. Clear, relevant and mostly accurate citation and referencing.	A good report showing a clear understanding of the science related to the project and the problem(s) to be addressed. At least two appropriate, and properly cited references. Sensible approaches to solving the problem discussed.	A good report. Succinct, precise, numerically accurate where relevant. May omit small amounts of detail.	A very good project. Research written up with clarity. Evidence of a significant body of research undertaken. Clear presentation of data. Clear, relevant and mostly accurate citation and referencing.	A very good contribution to the design and planning of the project. A good understanding of the methodology involved and ability to successfully undertake the research. A good level of commitment to the project including timekeeping and organisation.	A good, relevant, well-timed and clear presentation with appropriate explanations. Correct but not extensive answers to questions.
50-59	Pass	Satisfactory answer with few errors and omissions, but limited in scope and argument. Or, may be a very good answer to a closely related or simpler question. Shows sound understanding of the subject. Possible minor inconsistencies and inaccuracies in citation and referencing.	An adequate report showing a basic understanding of the science related to the project and the problem(s) to be addressed. Attempts are made to use appropriate sources of information but these may not be the best sources or they may be poorly cited or referenced. At least a partly sensible approach to solving the problem(s) discussed.	Satisfactory report. Significant detail omitted or analysis may contain errors.	Satisfactory project that is organized logically but may not demonstrate a full understanding of the subject. Alternatively a well understood project but where the presentation may fall short of acceptable standards. Possible minor inconsistencies and inaccuracies in citation and referencing.	Some contribution to the design and planning of the project. An acceptable understanding of the methodology involved and competence shown in the lab. A fair level of commitment to the project including timekeeping and organisation.	A good, adequately-timed and presented talk, with appropriate explanations for the most-part. Mostly accurate but some incomplete or confused answers to questions demonstrating some incomplete knowledge.
30-49	Fail	Brief account revealing only a limited understanding of subject. Could include irrelevant material, errors or omissions. No serious attempt to cite/reference. Or major inaccuracies and omissions in citation and referencing detail and style.	An unsatisfactory report that suggests that the nature of the project /background science is not understood or that little effort has been made to demonstrate understanding. Little or no attempt to provide appropriate citations. Poorly thought out approaches to solving the problem.	Report may address only part of the practical tasks or contain substantial errors.	Inadequate project performance and report, only a basic understanding of the research shown and a limited body of research undertaken. Poor attempt to cite/reference, or major inaccuracies and omissions in citation and referencing detail and style.	Minimal contribution to the design and planning of the project. Minimal understanding of the methodology involved and barely satisfactory abilities shown in the lab. A lack of commitment to the project with poor timekeeping and organisation.	An incomplete, poorly prepared presentation that may be too short or extensively lengthy, only covering some of the main points and lacking detail. Poor and confused answers to questions demonstrating a lack of knowledge.

15-29	Fail	Inadequate answer. Includes points relating to only part of the question. Shows limited understanding of the subject. No serious attempt to cite/reference. Or major inaccuracies and omissions in citation and referencing detail and style.	Very poor report containing information that has little relationship to the project and no real attempt to define the aims of the project, or approaches to be used in it.	Reports may address only part of the practical tasks and contain substantial errors.	Inadequate project and report, presentation style poor with little understanding of the research shown and a severely limited body of research undertaken. No serious attempt to cite/reference, or major inaccuracies and omissions in citation and referencing detail and style.	Little or no contribution to the design and planning of the project. Minimal understanding of the methodology involved and limited competency shown in the lab. A lack of commitment to the project with poor timekeeping and organization.	An inadequate presentation with poor delivery demonstrating a lack of preparation and poor relevant knowledge of the topic. Little ability to answer questions.
0-14	Fail	Answer contains mostly irrelevant information. Shows little understanding of the subject. No serious attempt to cite/reference. Or major inaccuracies and omissions in citation and referencing detail and style.	Report contains mostly irrelevant material.	Report contains mostly irrelevant information. Shows little understanding of the subject or analytical skills.	Totally inadequate project and report. Presentation style extremely poor and little or no understanding of the research shown. Very little research undertaken. No serious attempt to cite/reference, or major inaccuracies and omissions in citation and referencing detail and style.	No contribution to the design and planning of the project. Little or no understanding of the methodology involved and limited competency shown in the lab. An almost complete lack of commitment to the project with very poor timekeeping and organization.	A totally inadequate presentation demonstrating little evidence of preparation or relevant knowledge of the topic. Inability to answer questions.