

Assessment Criteria in Art History – Essays & Dissertations

90-100

Truly exceptional work of publishable or near-publishable academic standard. The argument is supported by an exemplary use of images.

80-89

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is of **a superlative standard** for the current level of your degree programme.

- The work is extremely well-structured and coherent, and written with originality and flair.
- The research shows strong evidence of intensive engagement with the course material and also with an appropriate range of primary and secondary resources, well beyond that provided on reading lists.
- The arguments are outstandingly clear and convincing and are illustrated by reference to well documented, detailed and relevant examples
- The presentation conforms to the accepted conventions of good academic practice.
- The argument is supported by an excellent use of images. The image quality is high and the captions are complete.
- Overall, the work demonstrates an outstanding ability for independent thought.

70-79

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is of **an excellent standard** for the current level of your degree programme.

- The work is well-structured, coherent and written with originality and flair.
- The research shows strong evidence of full and critical engagement with the course material and also with a range of primary and secondary resources that go well beyond that provided on reading lists.
- Arguments and issues are illustrated by reference to well documented, detailed and relevant examples.
- The writing is articulate, organised, highly literate and grammatically sound.
- The presentation conforms to the accepted conventions of good academic practice.
- The images are used very well to support the arguments. The image quality is high and the captions are complete.
- Overall, the work demonstrates independent thought.

60-69

A mark in this range is indicative of that the work is of **a good to very good standard** for the current level of your degree programme.

- The work is generally well-structured and coherent.
- The research shows evidence of critical engagement with the course material and a wide diversity of secondary material, with the use of ideas gleaned from this reading to support and develop arguments.
- Arguments and issues are illustrated by reference to well documented, detailed and relevant examples.
- The writing is generally articulate, organised, literate and grammatically sound.
- The presentation generally conforms to the accepted conventions of good academic practice.
- The images are used well to support the arguments. The image quality is good and the captions are complete
- Overall, the work demonstrates a sound understanding of and reflective engagement with the subject.

50-59

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is of a **satisfactory to very satisfactory** standard at the current level of your degree programme.

- The work shows clear knowledge and understanding of relevant course material and is somewhat well-structured and coherent.
- The research focuses on the essay title or question posed and shows evidence that relevant basic works of reference have been read and understood.
- The writing is basically literate and on the whole grammatically sound. The presentation shows some understanding of the accepted conventions of good academic practice.
- The images are used reasonably well to support the material. The quality is good and the captions are complete.
- Overall the work demonstrates some basic understanding of the subject.

40-49

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is of an **acceptable standard** at the current level of your degree programme.

- The work shows limited knowledge and understanding of relevant course material but some structure is discernible in the work.
- The research shows evidence of some reading and comprehension, but the essay or answer covers only a limited range of the relevant material or has a weakly developed or incomplete argument.
- The writing is intelligible.
- The presentation is not entirely out of line with the accepted conventions of good academic practice.
- The material is supported poorly by the images. The quality of the images is low and the captions are not always complete.
- Overall the work demonstrates some minimal understanding of the subject.

20-39

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is **below, but at the upper end is approaching, the standard** required at the current level of your degree programme.

- The work is weak and of an inadequate standard. It is too short, or very poorly organized, or is poorly directed at the essay title or question asked.
- The research shows very limited knowledge or understanding of the relevant course material and displays weak writing and/or analytical skills.
- The writing is poorly structured, exhibits no clear argument, may have very weak spelling and grammar, very inadequate or absent references and/or bibliography and may contain major factual errors. Quantitative work will contain significant errors and incorrect conclusions.
- Few relevant images are used; the captions are poor and the quality of image low.

0-19

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is **far below the standard** required at the current level of your degree programme.

- The work fails to meet one or more of the criteria needed for 20-39.

Plagiarised work will receive a '0' and may incur further penalties such as lowering the final degree classification.

Assessment Criteria in Art History – Workbooks (Art on Site / Rome)

The workbook will be marked for both content and presentation. It should be carefully organised, not just a set of random jottings. You should include sketches and photographs, which should inform your **written commentary and analysis**.

Please note that you must make it clear what purpose each element serves. All the material included **must contribute to your analysis** as well as act as a record of your observation. Again, **a high mark will be awarded to independent observation, careful analysis and communication**. A lower mark will reflect the fact that information has been lifted uncritically out of guidebooks.

Assessment Criteria in Art History - Presentations

70+ Such marks are given for an excellent or outstanding presentation. A presentation of this standard will exhibit excellent levels of knowledge, understanding and presentation skills comprising all the qualities stated above, with additional elements of originality and flair. It will exhibit a critical engagement with the material presented and include independent argument regarding the theme, issue or topic being presented. It will be excellently presented in a fluent speaking style. Good visual material is well and accurately presented as a part of the analysis and discussion.

60-69 A mark in this range is indicative of a good or very good presentation. A presentation of this quality will show a good level of knowledge and understanding of the material covered. It will be well focussed, show evidence of very thoughtful preparation and a very clear comprehension of the material delivered. The material will be well structured, accurate, very coherently delivered and exhibit high level presentation and speaking skills well supported, if relevant, by good use of clear visual aids. ***It is delivered to time.*** Most or all relevant material will be included, any relevant topic, theme or argument will be clearly developed and it will be possible to follow all steps in the logic and reasoning and in the conclusions reached. There should be clear evidence of critical engagement with the theme, issue or topic being presented. ***Appropriate visual material is well-presented, clear and relevant; it is employed to make points and forms part of the overall discussion and analysis.***

50-59 A mark in this range is indicative that the presentation is of a satisfactory to very satisfactory standard. A presentation of this quality will show clear knowledge and understanding of the material covered. It will be focussed and show evidence of thoughtful preparation and clear comprehension of the material delivered. The material will be reasonably well structured, coherently presented and exhibit clear speaking skills supported, if relevant, by adequate use of clear visual aids. There may be some omission of relevant material or limited develop of a topic, theme or argument, it may contain minor factual errors and it may not be possible to follow all steps in the logic and reasoning or in any conclusions reached. ***Appropriate visual material is used and presented in focus, properly identified and complete. It is used in an illustrative rather than an analytic way***

40-49 A mark in this range is indicative that the presentation meets the minimum standard expected. A presentation of this quality will show limited knowledge and understanding of the material covered. It will show evidence of some preparation and comprehension, but the presentation may be weakly organised, cover only a limited range of the relevant material or develop a weak theme or argument. It may exhibit weak presentation or speaking skills, lack appropriate visual aids and may contain some significant factual errors. It may not be possible to follow several steps in the logic and reasoning or in any conclusions reached. ***Appropriate visual material is used poorly (e.g. is out of focus, incorrectly identified, or poorly cropped)***

20-39 A mark in this range is indicative that the presentation is below, but at the upper end of the range is approaching, the minimum standard expected. It indicates a weak presentation below the minimum standard expected. This will be because either the presentation is too short *or too long*, poorly organized, poorly structured and difficult to comprehend, or is poorly focussed on the issue, topic or theme required. It will exhibit minimal knowledge or understanding of the material covered and may display very weak presentation or speaking skills, or contain substantial factual errors. ***Appropriate visual material is***

missing or used inaccurately or poorly (e.g. is out of focus, incorrectly identified, or poorly cropped)

0-19 A mark in this range is indicative that the presentation is far below the minimum standard expected. It indicates an extremely weak presentation that is unstructured and well below the minimum standard expected. This will be because either the presentation is far too brief, very poorly organised and incoherent in content, or fails to address the issue, topic or theme required. The presentation will exhibit minimal evidence of knowledge or understanding of the material, may contain major factual errors and presentation or speaking skills may be extremely weak. ***Appropriate visual material is missing or used inaccurately or poorly (e.g. is out of focus, incorrectly identified, or poorly cropped)***

Balance between content and presentation skills

The balance between content and presentation skills may vary between different forms of presentation – e.g. between a seminar presentation delivering knowledge and understanding of themes or issues and a presentation communicating the results of a research project. The relative importance of content v-s-v presentation skills must always be made clear and any allocation of marks for these different components must always be provided.

In presentations for the Department of Art History, four distinct and **equally weighted** criteria contribute:

- Content/understanding: [problem/evidence/analysis/evaluation - accurately and sufficiently presented]
- Structure: [clarity of explanation & direction - introduction, development, conclusion]
- Presentation: [talking, not reading; voice - liveliness, pace & variety; audience contact?]
- Use of Equipment: [able to handle slide projector/PowerPoint; material relevant and well used; keeping to time]