

Marking Criteria

	Fail	3rd	2:2	2:1	First	Exceptional First
SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE	Misunderstanding of major concepts. Failure to engage with the source materials or to follow the main instructions for the assignment.	Insufficient knowledge of relevant theoretical / technical concepts; uses them rarely and seldom accurately. Little use of relevant sources.	A basic knowledge of the concepts under discussion; uses basic sources aptly.	A sound knowledge of the concepts under discussion; source materials well used to support argument.	Detailed and accurate knowledge and use of concepts and appreciation of the complexity of the topic and approach. High level of expertise in using primary academic sources.	Precise and detailed knowledge of concepts, with striking level of expertise in the material that raises the work far above that which would be expected at this level. Outstanding use of primary academic sources.
DATA METHODOLOGY	Data is absent, unethically obtained, or other than what was required for the work.	Insufficient explanation of the methodology for collecting / analysing data; data is not completely fit for purpose.	Some, but not enough, description of data collection / analysis methods; original data is generally fit for purpose.	Sound data collection / analysis methods, well-executed; sufficient appropriate data. Critical awareness of strengths & weaknesses.	Sophisticated, sound data collection methods that provide sufficient excellent data. Collection, presentation, and/or analysis of data show creativity and critical awareness.	Highly sound, sophisticated data collection methods that provide excellent data that exceeds the bare requirements of the assignment. Collection, presentation, and/or analysis of data show great creativity and critical awareness.

	Fail	3rd	2:2	2:1	First	Exceptional First
ANALYSIS	Inadequate evidence of analysis; below the standard required at the current level of course.	An elementary or incomplete argument that is prone to small logical errors, strays from point or loses focus.	An adequate understanding of the material; maintains focus on topic[s] addressed; the argument is generally successful but some of the evidence may be insufficient.	A sound understanding of the material, with some awareness of the complexity of the issues discussed; the argument is successfully executed.	An original approach to the material that advances a well-considered and subtle analysis.	A fresh and original approach to the material manifesting an outstanding analysis of some complexity. Transcends the expectation of the task at this level
COMMUNICATION & PRESENTATION	The work is poorly structured and below the level required at the current level of the course. Inadequate expression; inadequate presentation.	Writing which is sometimes muddled or incoherent. Frequent errors in using standard English. Presentation does not follow guidelines.	Writing that shows a basic but limited command of expression. Observes the rules of standard English. Presentation in line with guidelines.	Shows a sure command of expression. Sound and accurate prose in standard English. Presentation in line with guidelines.	Coherently organised in a very reader-friendly way, with excellent expression and presentation.	As for 70-79: writing distinguished by a command of style and exposition associated with a higher level.

Note: These criteria are interpreted more generously for students in earlier stages of their degree course, in the sense that first- and second-year students are not expected to display the breadth of knowledge or maturity of judgement expected of finalists.