

Assignment Marking Criteria: ISC Modules

N.B. These marking guidelines refer only to work submitted for CSxxx modules. Modules taught by other departments are assessed in accordance with the procedures of the relevant department – these are normally published in the departmental Student Handbook. Essay and examination marks fall into the following classes:

First Class:	70 and above
Upper Second (2.1):	60 – 69
Lower Second (2.2):	50 – 59
Third:	40 – 49
Fail:	0 – 39

To achieve good marks you must ensure your work:

- Is relevant – answer the question set and think about the purpose of the question.
- Displays a wide knowledge of the topic through background reading (with accurate references).
- Is clearly presented, well-constructed and draws a well-argued conclusion.

Marking criteria - Essays, Tests, Dissertations and Examinations

80+	Very exceptional work of the highest standard.
70+	Outstanding work which answers the question comprehensively, shows real understanding of the topic based on wide reading, clearly demonstrates powers of critical analysis and originality of thought. Displays skilful command of language, economy, precision and clarity in expressing difficult ideas.
60+	A comprehensive answer which is well-argued and logical. Demonstrates good understanding of the reading material and does not rely on lectures alone. Shows some independence of thought and critical analysis. Well-constructed and fluently written.
50+	A fairly good answer, less well constructed and with less evidence of background reading. May be derivative or disorganised in its presentation or fail to address an aspect of the question.
40+	Very derivative, unclear or superficial arguments and little evidence of wider reading. May fail to address the question, contain errors or lack cohesion. Poor presentation and style.
-40	Conspicuously brief or incomplete. Shows no understanding of the topic and fails to answer the question. No evidence of reading, very poor written style, errors of spelling and grammar.
0	Mark given when no work has been submitted for the assignment.

Marking Criteria – Presentations and Group Work

First Class Honours		
80-100	Outstanding	Thorough understanding of key concepts/theory/topic. Relevant and effective use of material and media. Rhetorically compelling presentation. Evidence of a wide reading, critical understanding, and independence of thought. Well-structured, fluent argument. Excellent synthesis of material, including integration of the different contributions made by individual group members. Evidence of exceptional planning, organization, and coordination. Exceptional performance in the Q&A.
70-80	Excellent	
Upper Second Class Honours (2.1)		
60-69	Very Good	A very good, if imperfect, grasp of the material and its implications. Identifies the focus of the question and displays clear understanding of contrasting viewpoints. Convincing presentation style with effective use of media and good synthesis of material, including integration of the different contributions made by individual group members. Evidence of good planning, organization, and co-ordination. Very good performance in the Q&A: some slight stumbles but able to answer all questions fairly accurately and thoroughly
Lower Second Class Honours (2.2)		
50-59	Good	A good grasp of the material. A general ability to present relevant argument but might contain some irrelevant material. Some coherent argument but there may be weaknesses in overall structure and clarity. Presentation style may lack polish or rhetorical sophistication. Fair synthesis of material, including integration of the different contributions made by individual group members. Would have benefitted from better planning and organization. Able to answer some questions accurately.
Third Class Honours (3rd)		
40-49	Satisfactory	A basic grasp of the material. It may be marred by either poor discriminative ability, an element of conceptual naïveté, or both. There may be a tendency to unsubstantiated assertions, shallow interpretation, and errors of fact or theory. Little evidence of further reading or independent thought. Poorly structured and presented; lacking in rhetorical appeal. There may be poor synthesis of material, including integration of the different contributions made by individual group members. There may be little evidence of planning, organization, and coordination. Inability to answer questions accurately or completely.
Fail		
30-39	Marginal Fail	Does not satisfy the minimum requirements for the exercise in question. Typically, there will be little understanding, even of class material. There may be no structure. It may not address the topic. Total inability to answer relevant questions.
20-29	Clear Fail	
0-19	Little or nothing of merit	

Marking Criteria – Participation

69.5+ (First Class Honours) – Excellent OR Outstanding Participation

- Consistently arrives on time and fully prepared for class
- Actively supports, engages, and listens to peers on a consistent basis
- Plays an active role in discussions on a consistent basis
- Comments consistently advance the level and depth of the dialogue
- Comments consistently demonstrate strong engagement with assigned readings

59.5-69.4 (Upper Second Class Honours) – Very Good Participation

- Arrives fully prepared and on time at almost every session
- Actively supports, engages, and listens to peers on a regular basis
- Regularly plays an active role in discussions
- Comments often advance the level and depth of the dialogue
- Comments often demonstrate strong engagement with assigned readings

49.5-59.4 (Lower Second Class Honours) – Good Participation

- Arrives fully prepared and on time most of the time
- Makes a sincere effort to interact with peers when given the opportunity
- Occasionally participates constructively in discussions, but often needs prompting
- Sometimes makes relevant comments based on the assigned readings

39.5-49.4 (Third Class Honours) – Satisfactory Participation

- Limited interaction with peers
- Preparation, and therefore level of participation, is inconsistent; may arrive late to class regularly
- Rarely participates unless called upon
- Comments are generally vague or drawn from outside of the assigned readings

0-39.5 (Fail)

- Limited interaction with peers
- Preparation, and therefore level of participation, is inconsistent; may arrive late to class regularly
- Rarely participates unless called upon
- Comments are generally vague or drawn from outside of the assigned readings