

PHAS1901 Article assignment

Marking scheme: Summary of marking criteria and classification

Content: *Is the science content correct? Accurate & well-explained? Clear & understandable?*

- A:** Clear, direct, and accurate, sensitive to ambiguities and anomalies.
- B:** Largely clear, sometimes direct, accurate.
- C:** Usually comprehensible and technically correct, but little sense of ambiguity; simplistic.
- D:** Sometimes incomprehensible and/or inaccurate, poor word choices.

Organisation: *Is the piece organised well to get the message across?*

- A:** Focussed entirely on the assigned topic and fluent, with specific support for ideas; logical.
- B:** Focussed on topic, less fluent largely in that introductions, transitions, and conclusions are more contrived and artificial than logical.
- C:** "Fuzzy" focus, stiff in introductions, transitions, and conclusions; occasional lapses in logic, but a general sense of central purpose.
- D:** Emptiness, too little content (information, support) to achieve the intention of the assignment; illogical (i.e., lists not orderly, paragraphs unfocussed, transitions confusing).

Conventions (grammar, spelling, constructions, etc): *Is the piece written in good English (allowing for informality of this exercise)? Do sentences mean what the writer wants them to mean?*

- A:** Generally mechanically and grammatically correct, with no serious grammar errors (no sentence fragments, run-on sentences, subject-verb agreement errors, or such illiteracies as "she done" or "ain't got none"). *Not necessarily absolutely perfect but very few errors for this mark.*
- B:** Slightly mechanically flawed (apostrophe, spelling, punctuation, etc., errors) but no serious grammar errors.
- C:** Mechanically flawed, some serious grammar errors.
- D:** Mechanically and grammatically flawed. Consistently poor sentence construction.

Assignment: *Is this piece successful as a popular article for a non-scientific audience, explaining a concept in physics? Will the target audience understand the main points?*

- A:** Responsive to topic and intention, usually contextualises information.
- B:** Responsive to topic but less conscious of the intention of the assignment. Some technical terms not explained. Some lack of clarity in explanations.
- C:** Reveals a general sense of topic or a tendency to veer off topic, but usually returns to it. Too much unexplained jargon to be understandable to a nonscientist. Confusing explanations.
- D:** Lacking in a clear sense of central purpose, loses sense of assigned topic and method. Difficult to follow in general.

Format: *Does the piece follow the instructions given? (margins at least 2.5 cm all round, single spacing, no less than 12 pt font, clear paragraphing).*

5% of the final mark docked for each of the above requirements not fulfilled.

Length: *Does the piece fall within the given limits of 1000 words \pm 50 words?*

20% of the final mark will be deducted for being between 900-950 or 1050-1100 words and 40% for less than 900 or more than 1100 words.