

Marking Criteria for Coursework

3 in a category or above	Poor	Limited	Fair	Good	Excellent	Outstanding	Exceptional
	0-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
1. Introduction, argument and conclusions	Does not respond to the task set, with either no argument or argument presented is inappropriate & irrelevant. Conclusions absent or irrelevant.	An indirect response to the task set, with a rudimentary argument & conclusions. Not sufficiently focused on the subject area.	A satisfactory response with a general understanding of the topic but a limited sense of argument & partial conclusions.	A good response with a clear argument and logical conclusions.	A distinctive response with an insightful argument and sophisticated conclusions. Shows a thorough grasp of issues.	An impressive, nuanced response with a perceptive argument and superior conclusions. There is a striking grasp of complexities and significance of issues.	Exceptional response with a precise and subtle argument and conclusions. Grasp of complexities and significance of issues surpasses the standards associated with 80-89%.
2. Engagement with literature	Non-existent or irrelevant reading.	Significant omissions in reading with weak understanding of literature consulted.	Evidence of some understanding of literature consulted but not a wider reading.	Demonstrates plentiful relevant reading and sound understanding of literature consulted	Extensive reading and exceptional understanding of literature consulted.	Ambitious reading and use of relevant literature that extends beyond the taught elements of the module.	Level of literature review and synthesis at a quality suitable for journal publication.
3. Analysis: reflection, thought, & conceptual framework	Shows poor understanding of the issues under discussion. Uncritical use of material.	Shows some understanding of the material used but conceptually limited or with wrong application.	Some competent reproduction of ideas, grasp of issues and their broader implications but lacks critical approach and independent evaluation.	Evidence of student's own analysis that is well-organised and informed, covering relevant issues with insights into broader implications. Concepts are defined and used systematically and effectively.	Innovative analysis with critical thinking using concepts that are deftly defined and used with an excellent sense of theoretical context	Analysis demonstrates independent thinking that is critically perceptive. Concepts are deftly defined and accurately employed with a superior sense of theoretical context.	Exceptional thought and awareness of cutting edge discussion. Conceptual framework is outstanding in terms of critical insight and theoretical approach.
4. Empirical knowledge & use of examples (as relevant)	No use of examples or evidence to support claims made or empirical material is irrelevant/inaccurate.	Empirical material is limited in quantity and quality with little substantiation of claims.	Evidence of empirical material but not always effectively used to support claims.	Substantive amount of in-depth empirical material to support most claims.	Original, highly relevant and detailed use of empirical material.	Impressive, detailed and distinctive empirics with clear reflection on data used.	Comprehensive use of more than precise empirical material with critical reflection on data used.
5. Structure, writing, illustrative material and references (as relevant)	Very poorly expressed and presented that seriously interfere with comprehension and almost no illustrative material and/or referencing.	Structure and writing detract from conveying of ideas with minimal illustrative material and/or referencing.	Structure and writing sometimes detract from the conveying of argument and ideas with adequate illustrative material and/or referencing.	Good structure and writing that do not detract from conveying of argument and ideas with a comprehensive use of illustrative material and/or referencing.	Excellent structure and writing with an extended set of impeccable illustrative material and/or references.	Structure, writing, referencing and illustrative material used demonstrates verve and greatly enhances ideas.	Structure, writing and referencing and illustrative material is impeccable and as if professionally copy edited.