

## KBS UNDERGRADUATE CATEGORICAL MARKING CRITERIA

CLASS	MARK	READING & KNOWLEDGE	UNDERSTANDING, ANALYSIS AND ARGUMENT	ORGANISATION AND PRESENTATION
HIGH FIRST 85+  <i>'Exceptional'</i>	100 95 85	Very extensive reading and exceptionally comprehensive knowledge which indicates a high level of independent background research.	Very full and perceptive awareness of subject matter, with original critical and analytical assessment of the issues and excellent grasp of their wider significance. Combines a comprehensive understanding of theoretical issues and empirical application. Clear evidence of a high level of originality and independent thought along with an ability to defend a position logically and convincingly with arguments presented that are sophisticated and challenging.	Very well structured piece of work demonstrated by an excellent arrangement & development of material & argument. Excellent English and meticulous presentation, immaculate referencing and extensive bibliography/list of references. Observes the word limit.
FIRST  <i>'Excellent'</i>	78 75 72	Wide reading and comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter which goes beyond the course material and lectures.	Full and perceptive awareness of issues, demonstrating an appreciation of all major points and a clear grasp of their wider significance. Clear evidence of independent thought, ability to defend a position logically and convincingly. At the higher end, can make linkages between theoretical issues and empirical application and also demonstrates some originality and flair.	Well-structured piece of work with very careful thought given to arrangement and development of material and argument. Excellent English with appropriate referencing and comprehensive bibliography/list of references. Observes the word limit.
UPPER SECOND  <i>'Very Good'</i>	68 65 62	Very good range of reading and good knowledge which comprehensively covers course material and may go beyond this.	A comprehensive argument demonstrating a sound awareness of issues and a serious understanding of their wider significance. Evidence of careful thought with a well-developed argument. Use of theories, concepts and research findings which are largely precise although there may be factual errors or inaccuracies.	Well-organised answer with a clear structure which facilitates the development of material and argument. Very good English with appropriate referencing and bibliography. Observes the word limit.
LOWER SECOND  <i>'Good'</i>	58 55 52	Fair range of reading and reasonable knowledge of course material	Essay is a satisfactory response to the question. It demonstrates some grasp of theory and its relation to empirical data but less awareness of issues and their wider significance. It is largely accurate but may contain more than minor errors such as incorrect facts or errors of omission. There may be some attempt at serious argument but this is not fully developed. The essay may appear correct but lacks originality and clarity of thought for an above average grade.	Good effort to organise the material and argument. Adequate English with reasonable referencing and bibliography. Adequate observation of the word limit.
THIRD  <i>'Satisfactory'</i>	48 45 42	Some reading but with incomplete knowledge of course material.	Awareness of issues and of their wider significance but at a basic level. Largely descriptive with some errors and omissions. Limited argument.	Structure of the essay is weak and there is a limited effort to organise material and argument. Satisfactory English but may contain some errors. Limited referencing and bibliography. May not observe the word limit.
<i>'Pass'</i>	40			
FAIL  <i>'Limited'</i>	38 35 32	Limited reading with evident gaps in knowledge. Lack of familiarity with course material is evident.	Limited awareness of issues and of their wider significance and contains a small amount of acceptable and relevant information. Clearly deficient answer which contains substantial errors, omissions or irrelevancies.	Structure is largely absent indicating very little effort put into organising material. Significant errors in English and poor referencing and bibliography. Does not observe the word limit.
LOW FAIL <30 <i>'Very Limited'</i>	25 20 10 0	Very limited level of reading and failure to demonstrate competent knowledge. Knowledge of course material is absent.	Lacks familiarity with the subject, demonstrating very poor awareness of issues and of their wider significance. Competent understanding is absent and assignment is characterised by confusion.	Assignment lacks structure and there is a clear absence of organisation of material. Substantial errors in English, poor or absent referencing, word limit ignored.