

Masters 50% pass mark							
	Top Distinction	Good Distinction	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Refer	Fail
	A	A	A	B	C	D	F
	100-90	89-80	79-70	69-60	59-50	49-35	34-0
Research and sources	outstanding breadth and/or suitability of sources; excellent awareness of currency and significance; reading is systematic, structured and innovative	excellent breadth and/or suitability of sources; excellent awareness of currency and significance of sources;	high degree of relevant own reading, very good breadth and/or suitability of sources; very good awareness of currency and significance of sources;	evidence of own reading, very good breadth and/or suitability of sources; very good awareness of currency and significance of sources used;	A range and/or suitability of sources used; awareness of currency and significance of sources;	Sources used are restricted in breadth and relevance to the topic.	Limited research; limited critical awareness of the literature

understanding and engagement with knowledge	<p>Innovative or new insights into topic</p> <p>Insightful and thorough critical analysis;</p> <p>Relates theory to illuminate and develop practice in an innovative manner</p>	<p>New insights; flexibility of thought</p> <p>Sophisticated and or innovative thorough critical analysis;</p> <p>Relates theory to illuminate and develop practice in an insightful manner</p>	<p>Thorough critical analysis;</p> <p>Comprehensive and critical understanding of topic which acknowledges the complexity</p> <p>Well-developed systematic critical analysis with understanding of complexity of key issues;</p> <p>Relates theory to illuminate and develop practice</p>	<p>Detailed treatment of the complexity of the topic; thorough critical analysis</p> <p>Relates theory to illuminate practice</p>	<p>Understanding of the topic; critical analysis; synthesis of ideas;</p> <p>Relates theory to practice appropriately</p>	<p>Does not adequately address the task posed; mainly descriptive with minimal analysis;</p> <p>Lacks linkage between theory and practice</p>	<p>Limited understanding of the topic; has significant omissions; limited or no insight in the topic;</p> <p>Serious misinterpretations in application of theory to practice</p>
Organisation and presentation	<p>Coherent & compelling argument; systematic, structured and innovative; well presented; profession standard</p>	<p>Coherent & compelling argument; systematic & structured; well presented; profession standard</p>	<p>Coherent & compelling argument; systematic & structured; well presented; high academic standard</p>	<p>Clear argument supported by evidence; systematic and structured; few language errors; academic conventions followed</p>	<p>Language errors generally do not impede understanding; systematic & structured; referencing accurate.</p>	<p>Language errors impede understanding; argument lacks structure & coherence; referencing mostly accurate.</p>	<p>Language errors significantly impede understanding; argument not developed; referencing inaccuracies.</p>

- yellow criteria may be most relevant to assignments whose focus is on relationship between theory and practice

Masters 40% pass mark						
	70 and over	69 -60%	59-50%	49-40%	39-30%	29-0%
Coverage	Demonstrates a sophisticated, critical treatment which shows understanding of breadth and complexity of the topic.	Demonstrates a comprehensive and critical understanding of the complexity of the topic.	Demonstrates critical and substantial understanding of complexity of the topic.	Demonstrates understanding of the topic. Basic synthesis of ideas. May contain some significant omissions.	Demonstrates some understanding of relevant issues.	
Analysis	Sophisticated, critical and thorough analysis with originality	Well-developed systematic critical analysis with understanding of complexity of key issues	Good critical analysis with understanding of complexity of key issues	Some critical analysis but with some descriptive elements.	Mainly descriptive with minimal analysis.	Descriptive with no analysis of the main ideas
Engagement theory/lit	Demonstrates excellence in the appropriate use of current theory/ literature Where relevant relates theory to illuminate and develop practice in an insightful manner	Demonstrates high level in competence in use of range of current theory/ literature Where relevant relates theory to illuminate and develop practice	Demonstrates an appropriate use of a range of current theory/ literature Where relevant relates theory to illuminate practice	Engagement with range theory/ literature Where relevant relates theory to practice appropriately	Some engagement with theory but lacks range, relevance, depth and currency	Little or no reference to literature
Organisation	Logical and systematic organisation. Sophisticated and insightful argument	Logical and systematic organisation. Clear argument with no repetition	Logical and systematic organisation. Clear argument with no repetition	Clear organisation Generally clear argument Appropriately structured	Some attempt to organise. Argument lacks of clarity (e.g. repetitive).	No clear structure Argument hard to follow
Presentation	Elegant use of language. Academic conventions followed.	Concise and effective use of language Academic conventions	Length requirement met Academic conventions followed.	Length requirement met Academic conventions followed.	Length requirement met Academic conventions mostly followed.	Length requirements not observed; does not follow academic conventions; language errors

	Accurate proof-reading. Follows presentation guidance	followed. Accurate proof-reading. Follows presentation guidance	Few errors in language or proof-reading. Follows presentation guidance	Few errors in language or proof-reading but no significant effect.	Some errors in language or proof-reading but no significant effect.	impact on intelligibility; poor proof-reading.
--	--	---	---	--	---	--

QAA Key features of masters are systematic knowledge, informed by current advances in the discipline, comprehensive understanding of approaches to advancement of the discipline, originality in application of knowledge,

Honours Level

	Top first 100-90	Good first 89-80	First 79-70	Two one 69-60	Two two 59-50	Third 49-40	Refer 39-30	Fail <30
Research and reading	outstanding breadth and/or suitability of sources; excellent awareness of currency and significance of sources;	excellent breadth and/or suitability of sources; excellent awareness of currency and significance of sources	very good breadth and/or suitability of sources; very good awareness of currency and significance of sources	appropriate or good breadth and/or suitability of sources; appropriate or good awareness of currency and significance of sources;	adequate breadth and/or suitability of sources; adequate awareness of currency and significance of sources	limited breadth and/or suitability of sources; limited awareness of currency and significance of sources	very limited breadth and/or suitability of sources; very limited awareness of currency and significance of sources used;	reading is none existent or extremely limited;
understanding and engagement with knowledge	nuanced knowledge; sophisticated and innovative analysis and/or evaluation; nuanced and sophisticated understanding of relationship between theory and practice or case-study; consistently shows superior questioning of concepts with interrogation of assumptions and reflection on own value systems	accurate and detailed knowledge of the complexity; sophisticated and innovative analysis and/or evaluation; nuanced and sophisticated understanding of relationship between theory and practice or case-study; consistently shows superior questioning of concepts with interrogation of assumptions and reflection on own value systems	accurate and detailed knowledge of the complexity; sophisticated analysis and/or evaluation; sophisticated understanding of relationship between theory and practice or case-study; consistent questioning of concepts with interrogation of assumptions and reflection on own value systems	accurate knowledge of the topic; analytic and/or evaluative in parts; good understanding of relationship between theory and practice or case-study; intermittent questioning of concepts with some interrogation of assumptions and reflection on own value systems	accurate knowledge of the topic, but which is descriptive and uncritical; adequate e of relationship between theory and practice or case-study; limited understanding of the significance of topics	mainly accurate knowledge of the topic, but which is descriptive and uncritical; limited awareness of relationship between theory and practice or case-study; little understanding of significance of topics	does not demonstrate sufficient knowledge; very limited awareness of relationship between theory and practice or case-study; very little understanding of the significance of topics	significant misunderstandings; no understanding of the meaning and significance of topics
organisation and presentation	Creative in argument; Imaginative approach. Accurate presentation	Fluid argument; Accurate presentation	Strong argument; Accurate presentation.	Coherent argument; Accurate presentation.	Clear structure; mostly accurate presentation	Structure lacks clarity; presentation has some weakness that impair meaning	Poor organised; presentation inaccuracies which significantly impair meaning	Significant weaknesses in organisation and presentation

Key to use:

- **pink** criteria may be most relevant for reflective assignments
- **green** criteria may be post relevant to assignments whose focus is on relationship between theory and practice
- Presentation includes spelling, punctuation grammar and referencing following the University approved system

QAA Key features of honours systematic understanding, coherent and detailed knowledge, and appreciation of uncertainty

Intermediate								
	90+	89-80	79-70	69-60	59-50	49-40	39-30	29 -0
Research and reading	outstanding breadth and/or suitability of sources; excellent awareness of significance of sources;	excellent breadth and/or suitability of sources; excellent awareness of significance of sources;	very good breadth and/or suitability of sources; very good awareness of significance of sources;	appropriate or good breadth and/or suitability of sources; appropriate or good awareness of significance of sources;	adequate breadth and/or suitability of sources; adequate awareness of significance of sources;	limited breadth and/or suitability of sources; limited awareness of significance of sources;	very limited breadth and/or suitability of sources; very limited awareness of significance of sources;	reading is none existent or extremely limited;
Understanding and engagement with knowledge	Exceptional and systematic understanding	Extensive and systematic understanding	Well-developed and systematic understanding	Systematic but uneven understanding	Systematic but limited and uneven understanding	Coverage and understanding likely to be uneven or incomplete.	Coverage and understanding will be uneven and incomplete.	Coverage and understanding will be absent.

Organisation and presentation	Well defined argument. Accurate presentation	Clear argument. Accurate presentation	Argument mostly clear; generally accurate presentation	Argument may be broken in places; few errors in presentation	Argument may be broken and unclear; lack of accuracy in presentation	Argument largely absent, flaws and inconsistencies in presentation	Argument absent, structure disjointed. referencing seriously inconsistent; communication unclear; serious errors	Referencing seriously inconsistent or omitted; communication unclear; major errors
--------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Presentation includes spelling, punctuation grammar and referencing following the University approved system

QAA Key features of Intermediate level: knowledge and critical understanding, application of concepts, understanding of the limits of their knowledge

Foundation							
Criteria	80+	79-70	69-60	59-50	49-40	39-30	29-0
Research and reading	breadth of reading, including original and current source material	wide and relevant reading including major articles and books, including some current sources	evidence of relevant reading, including articles and books	reference to some relevant reading	Limited relevant reading, or the writing is over-dependent on quotations from other sources without adequate analysis	Little or no evidence of relevant reading, or considerable reliance on quotations from other sources without analysis	There is no evidence of relevant reading

Understanding and engagement with knowledge	exceptional level of understanding ; develops understanding though use of theory	very clear understanding of the issue(s) and uses theory to support analysis	a good understanding of the issue(s); uses theory appropriately	an understanding of the issue(s); makes links to theory	Limited understanding of the issue(s); writing is largely descriptive	Poor understanding of the issue(s),	No evidence of understanding of the issue(s).
Organisation and presentation	consistently very high standard of academic expression	Written in a clear academic style and statements are clearly articulated; high standard of academic expression,	Written in a clear academic style; high standard of presentation	Written in a reasonably clear academic style; satisfactory standard of presentation	The style of writing is unclear in parts; presentation is unsatisfactory.	The style of writing is very unclear; presentation is of very poor.	The style of writing is exceptionally poor; presentation is inadequate.

QAA Key features of foundation level: Knowledge of concepts, ability to present and evaluate and interpret data and to develop argument.