

## Marking Guidelines for Final Year Projects

This is an outline of the marking scheme to be used by project examiners. It is provided to students so that they have a good understanding of what is expected of their work, and of the relative value of different components.

For particular projects, examiners may vary this scheme to reward features of the project that are not covered in the list below.

Note: Criteria **A** and **F** are assessed by the supervisor (*SV*) only, whereas the other criteria are assessed by the supervisor and the second examiner (*E*).

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Qualities</i>	<i>Mark</i>
<b>A.</b> Early and sustained engagement <i>(to be assessed by SV)</i>	Early and sustained engagement with the project, as evidenced by submission of the project proposal, and the diligence and commitment shown.	10%
<b>B.</b> Oral Presentation skills <i>(to be assessed by SV and E)</i>	The project concepts are explained clearly and concisely. The presentation is well-organised and provides a comprehensive account of the most important aspects of the project. Visual/aural/software presentation aids are clear and comprehensible. Correct and comprehensive answers are provided to questions.	10%
<b>C.</b> Quality of exposition and technical writing <i>(to be assessed by SV and E)</i>	Organisation of the report. Summary of background and description of aims. Logical and technical correctness of mathematical/computational/scientific content. Clarity of arguments. Use of appropriate notation. Correct and consistent citation style. Correct use of language, grammar, spellings and punctuation. Evidence of mathematical/scientific/computational literacy.	20%
<b>D.</b> Depth and breadth of project <i>(to be assessed by SV and E)</i>	Conceptual and technical skills demonstrated. Report exhibits the student's accumulated background knowledge of their field. Range of sources are identified; synthesis of knowledge from these sources. Used of sophisticated arguments and technologies.	20%
<b>E.</b> Novelty <i>(to be assessed by SV and E)</i>	Aspects of the project go beyond normal course work, for example, material scoured (and cited!) from published research or advanced texts / evidence of understanding of advanced learning and skills.	20%
<b>F.</b> Independent learning and initiative <i>(to be assessed by SV)</i>	Evidence of self-directed learning. Demonstration of initiative and independence such as in literature search, assimilation and application of new concepts, use of software, project write up etc. Independent achievement of short and long-term project goals.	20%

**Plagiarism:** instances of suspected plagiarism will be dealt with by following the NUI Galway Code of Practice. Where any instance plagiarism is established, the appropriate sanctions determined by that policy will be applied, up to and including referring cases to the University Disciplinary Committee. For more information, see <http://www.nuigalway.ie/plagiarism/>.

*The following rubrics give a rough outline of the characteristics that a project awarded a mark in the band indicated would have. **These guidelines are not prescriptive**; their purpose is to contribute to the determination of consistent and fair marks for projects that differentiate appropriately between projects of different standards.*

### **85 – 100 (1st Class Honours)**

- The report is very well organised, with appropriate use of sections, sub-sections, paragraphs and appendices, with well-thought-out use of diagrams, figures and tables.
- The report shows excellent use of clear and logical language and arguments.
- The report provides evidence of a very high level of insight, independent thought and innovation.
- The ideas in the report are consistently interesting and show a level of novelty that extends beyond the usual undergraduate curriculum.
- The report makes excellent use of existing literature, providing insightful evaluations and integrating this literature with the project.
- The report provides a unique and novel exposition of known results, or demonstrates a high degree of scientific depth and understanding.
- The presentation is very well organised and provides evidence of a very high level of insight.
- The report shows evidence of the use of sophisticated techniques and/or technologies.

For a mark in this range, the report should show excellence and a high degree of achievement in most of the headings listed under Assessment Criteria A–F.

### **70 – 84 (1st Class Honours)**

- The report is well-organised, with appropriate use of sections, sub-sections, paragraphs and appendices, with well-thought-out use of diagrams, figures and tables.
- The report shows very good use of clear and logical language and arguments.
- The report provides evidence of a high level of insight, independent thought and innovation.
- There are several interesting, novel ideas in the report.
- The report makes very good use of existing literature, providing insightful evaluations and integrating this literature with the project.
- The report demonstrates a high degree of scientific depth and understanding.
- The presentation is well organised and provides evidence of a high level of insight.
- The report demonstrates extensive use of advanced techniques and/or technologies.

For a mark in this range, the report should show a very good level of attainment in most of the headings listed under Assessment Criteria A–F.

### **60 – 69 (2nd Class Honours - Grade I)**

- The report is well-organised, with appropriate use of sections, sub-sections, paragraphs and appendices, with well-thought out use of diagrams, figures and tables.
- The report shows good use of clear and logical language and arguments.

- The report evidences of a good level of insight and independent thought.
- The report demonstrates a good degree of novelty.
- The report makes good use of existing literature, providing insightful evaluations and integrating this literature with the project.
- The report demonstrates a good degree of scientific depth and understanding.
- The presentation is well organised and provides evidence of the ability to explain the project to an interested, but not necessarily expert, audience.
- The report demonstrates use of advanced techniques and/or technologies.

For a mark in this range, the report should show a good level of attainment in most of the headings listed under Assessment Criteria A–F.

### **50 – 59 (2nd Class Honours - Grade II)**

- The report is adequately organised, with appropriate use of sections, sub-sections, paragraphs and appendices, with well-thought out use of diagrams, figures and tables.
- The report shows adequate use of clear and logical language and arguments.
- The report evidences of a reasonable level of insight and independent thought.
- The report contains some interesting ideas, but these are not particularly novel.
- The report shows adequate judgement and understanding in the areas of the selection of research methods, data collection, data analysis and interpretation of research results.
- The presentation is well organised.
- The report demonstrates some use of advanced techniques and/or technologies.

For a mark in this range, the report should show an adequate level of attainment in most of the headings listed under Assessment Criteria A–F.

### **40 – 49 Pass**

- The report is completed and submitted on time.
- The report and the presentation provide evidence of some scientific understanding.

Marks in this range will be awarded to project reports that show adequate levels of attainment in some of the headings listed under Assessment Criteria.

### **0 – 39 Fail**

- The report is poorly organised and lacks appropriate use of sections, sub-sections, paragraphs and appendices. The use of diagrams, figures and tables is poorly thought out.
- The language and arguments of the report and the presentation lack clarity.
- The report and the presentation lack evidence of insight and independent thought.
- There is a lack of interesting ideas in the report.
- The report does not make appropriate use of existing literature, failing to evaluate this literature and fails to integrate it into the project.

- The report shows poor judgement and understanding of the project area and related science.

Marks in this range will be awarded to project reports that fail to show adequate levels of attainment in the headings listed under Assessment Criteria.