

General grading descriptors – Mathematics for Computer Science

Degree class	Grade	Grading descriptor
First	Perfect 1st	As for Exceptional 1st, but with all areas deemed beyond expectation of the level.
	Exceptional 1st	Exceptional knowledge and understanding of the subject and its underlying concepts; exceptional demonstration of relevant skills; excellent communication; performance in some, if not all, areas deemed beyond expectation of the level. Answers all correct and no errors in working out or explanations. Demonstration of a deep level of understanding of the material.
	Low - High 1st	Excellent knowledge of the subject as the student is typically able to go beyond what has been taught (particularly for a high 1st); excellent demonstration of relevant skills; demonstrates strong communication skills. Answers correct and very few errors in working out or explanations. Demonstration of a high level of understanding of the material. Elegant and clear solutions produced.
Upper second	2:1	As below for 2:2 but very good work characterised by evidence of wider understanding of the subject; identification and selection of material to inform development of work; very good demonstration of relevant skills; demonstrates good communication. Mostly correct answers and working out. Demonstration of a very good level of understanding of the material.
Lower second	2:2	A good breadth of knowledge and understanding of the taught content; uses set material to inform development of work; addresses all aspects of the given brief; good demonstration of relevant taught skills, though may be limited in range; communication shows clarity but structure may lack coherence. A substantial proportion of answers and working out correct. Demonstration of a good level of understanding of the material.
Third	3rd	Knowledge and understanding is sufficient to deal with terminology, basic facts and concepts but fails to make meaningful synthesis; relies on set material to inform development of work; generally addresses most of the requirements of the given brief; adequate demonstration of relevant skills over a limited range; communication/presentation is generally competent but with some weaknesses. Demonstration of some level of understanding of the material, but this may be lacking in places.
Fail	Mid - Marginal fail	Insufficient knowledge and understanding of the subject and its underlying concepts; naively follows or may ignore set material in development of work; given brief may be only tangentially addressed or may ignore key aspects of the brief; demonstration of relevant skills over a reduced range; communication shows limited clarity, poor presentation, structure may not be coherent. No demonstration of understanding the material. A fail may result from not enough of the work being carried out.
	Low fail	Highly insufficient or no evidence of knowledge or understanding of the subject; understanding of taught concepts is typically at the word level with facts being reproduced in a disjointed or de-contextualised manner; ignores set material in development of work; fails to address most or all of the requirements of the brief; fails to demonstrate relevant skills; lacks basic communication skills. No demonstration of understanding the material. A fail may result from not enough of the work being carried out.
Zero	Zero	Work of no merit or not submitted, may arise from a penalty for academic misconduct in some cases.