Marking Scheme for Research Essay

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| Equivalent degree grade | % mark range | Notes to 1st and 2nd supervisor |
| 1 | 70+ | Must be very clearly written with a very good understanding of the literature review and no significant errors. The review should be on the topic of the project or closely aligned to it. Should contain a very clear introduction and what motivates the topic. The conclusions section should contain a very clear description of the open problems in the field and a discussion of how one might approach them, particularly the ones pertinent to the research project. The essay should contain very clear insights into the field in the 2-3 chapters that will be included between introduction and conclusions. The tables, references and figures should be at the level of a research paper. |
| 2.1 | 60-69 | Must be well written with a good understanding of the literature review and no significant errors. The review should be on the topic of the project or closely aligned to it. Should contain a clear introduction and what motivates the topic. The conclusions section should contain a clear description of the open problems in the field and how the research project relates to these open questions. The essay should contain insights into the field in the 2-3 chapters that will be included between introduction and conclusions. The tables, references and figures should be almost at the level of a research paper. |
| 2.2 | 50-59 | The essay is not clearly written. The introduction and conclusions as well as the main part of the essay are not well structured and offer no insights into the field. Not sufficient quality of tables, figures and references. |
| Fail | 40-49 | Generally inadequate. Failure to describe the open questions in the field and relate these open questions to the project. Inadequate quality of figures, tables and references. |
| Fail | 0-39 | Never considered as a possible pass. Incomplete or no evidence that the student has actually performed a sufficient literature review and understood the open problems in the field. |

When rewarding the students with 1st class marks, the below performance indicators

should be kept in mind.

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| 70-79 | This should only be awarded where the essay is deemed of very high  quality, containing no substantive errors and showing a very good understanding of the open problems. |
| 80-89 | This should only be awarded where the essay is deemed outstanding as judged against all of the criteria. |
| >90 | This is reserved for work of excellent quality in all aspects listed under the marking criteria. Few students would normally meet this standard and it should be reserved for very exceptional individuals who have clearly demonstrated a deep understanding of the open problems in the field and suggested ways for overcoming them. |