

# Coursework commentary 2018–2019

## CO3318 Information systems management

### Coursework assignment 1

#### General remarks

Overall, the performance on the coursework assignments this year was satisfactory. Students had taken note of the advice given in previous years and had taken care to directly address the questions being asked of them.

However, students are reminded to take care in the way in which their answers are structured and presented. You are encouraged to provide clear paragraph headings throughout your reports and to ensure that you write an introduction and conclusion to your work. You are also reminded to put the word count at the top of each coursework assignment.

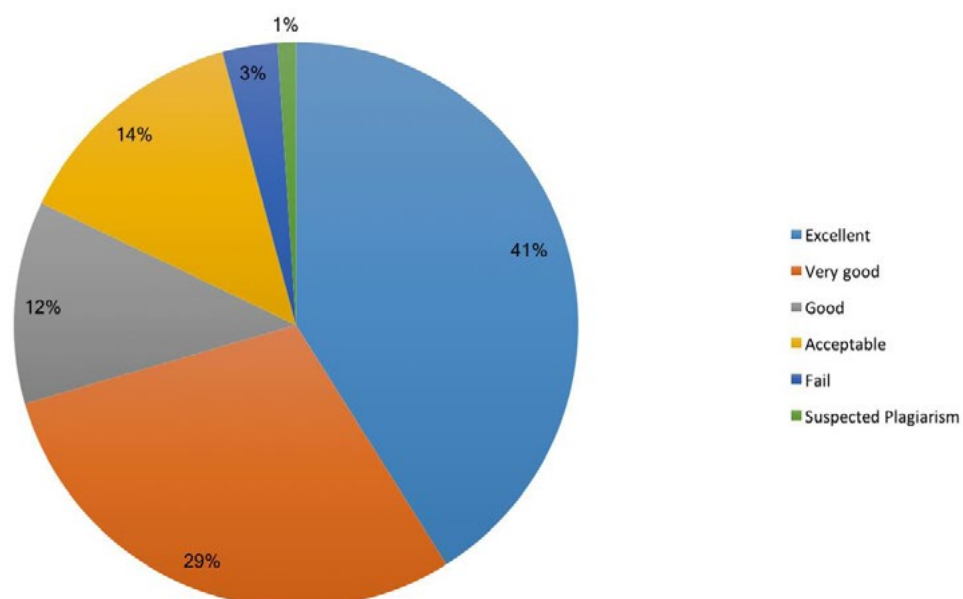
It is very important to put citations to the sources referenced within the text of the report itself, and the detail of these references in a list at the end of the report (you can find advice on academic writing on the VLE).

#### Comments on specific questions

Coursework assignment 1 consisted of two questions. The questions were independent of each other. This meant that students were required to conduct in-depth research into two separate subject areas. In those cases where the report reflected the student's efforts to read widely and seek appropriate citations to support their assertions, they scored high marks. In those cases where students simply regurgitated what is contained in the recommended textbooks, they scored minimal marks.

See 2018–2019 cohort mark distribution for CO3318 CW1 below:

**CO3318 CW1 Cohort mark distribution 2018-19**



**Question 1**

In general, this question was well-answered. It was clear that many students had thought carefully about the issue and put effort into finding supporting evidence for their answers. The question required students to discuss their views on the suitability of electronic collaborative systems for consultations between doctors and patients. Good answers provided a definition at the outset of what they understood by the term electronic collaborative systems. They then went on to provide a wide range of supporting evidence as to both the advantages and disadvantages of using these systems for healthcare consultations. Where students provided a balanced view, this was rewarded accordingly. In order to gain high marks it was important that the answer provided the student's own views in the concluding paragraph. In general where students scored highly on this question it was on the basis of the quality and appropriateness of the supporting citations that they provided for their assertions.

**Question 2**

This was a straightforward question. Students were required to give five reasons why managing data in organisations is difficult. Some students failed to discuss five reasons, providing only two or three. You are reminded to read the question very carefully and to provide exactly what is required of you. If the question asks for five reasons then that is what should be given. In addressing this question many students adhered too closely to the information provided in the textbook. Good answers first identified five reasons why managing data is difficult, and then went on to give specific examples from the literature or from their own experience to expand on why these issues create difficulties for an organisation; for example, what the impact of information overload might be on an organisation. Once again it was important for students to provide not only their views on these issues but also to give supporting evidence from the literature.

# Coursework commentary 2018–2019

## CO3318 Information systems management

### Coursework assignment 2

#### General remarks

Overall, the performance on the coursework assignments this year was satisfactory. Students had taken note of the advice given in previous years and had taken care to directly address the questions being asked of them.

However, students are reminded to take care in the way in which their answers are structured and presented. You are encouraged to provide clear paragraph headings throughout your reports and to ensure that you write an introduction and conclusion to your work. You are also reminded to put the word count at the top of each coursework assignment.

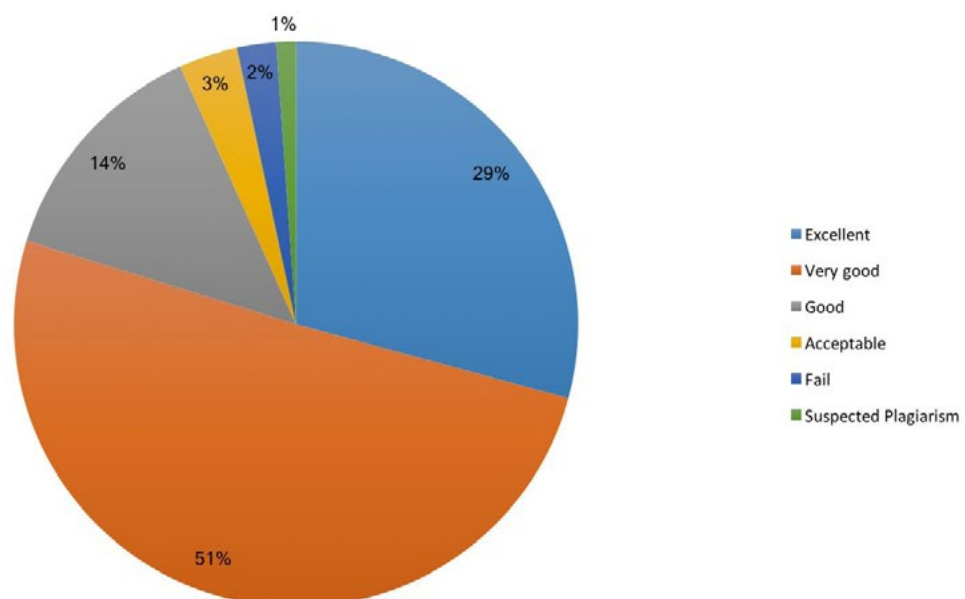
It is very important to put citations to the sources referenced within the text of the report itself, and the detail of these references in a list at the end of the report (you can find advice on academic writing on the VLE).

#### Comments on specific questions

Coursework assignment 2 consisted of two questions. The questions were independent of each other. This meant that students were required to conduct in-depth research into two separate subject areas. In those cases where the report reflected the student's efforts to read widely and seek appropriate citations to support their assertions, they scored high marks. In those cases where students simply regurgitated what is given in the recommended textbooks, they scored minimal marks.

See 2018–2019 cohort mark distribution for CO3318 CW2 below:

**CO3318 CW2 Cohort mark distribution 2018-19**



**Question 1**

Good answers to this question provided a definition and explanation of what is meant by 'Blockchain technology' at the outset of the report. In addition they provided an explanation of what is meant by the term 'disruptive technology'. The question asked in this assignment was very specific in that it requested a discussion on whether Blockchain had disrupted the ways in which industries function.

Many students provided examples of how Blockchain has been a disruptive technology at the organisational level, citing examples of specific organisations that have been disrupted by the introduction of Blockchain. However, this did not address the question asked, which was to address the question of whether it had disrupted the ways in which industries function. Where students discussed the impact of Blockchain on entire industries and provided examples of these industries they were rewarded with appropriate marks.

A positive aspect of student answers to this question was that many students provided a concluding paragraph in which they weighed up their arguments and directly addressed the question of the extent to which they agreed with the categorisation of Blockchain as a disruptive technology.

**Question 2**

This was a straightforward question and there were many different and acceptable approaches taken by students to answering it. Some good answers to the question provided a range of criteria against which they compared the potential differences in perspectives between developers of Information Systems and typical end users. In other approaches, students provided a range of categories by which the two groups could be compared. For example, differences arising between developers and end users as a result of their educational background, motivations or objectives. Another interesting approach taken by some students was to create a table in which they listed the differences between these two groups. All of these approaches were appropriate.