

THE COMMAND AND STAFF SCHOOL
08 JCSC DEFENCE & STRATEGIC STUDIES MODULE
GROUP PRESENTATION ASSESSMENT

1. **Introduction.** As part of the course requirements for the Defence and Strategic Studies (DSS) module, course members will complete a group oral presentation assessment on Wednesday 22 & Thursday 23 October.
2. The DSS presentation provides the course member with an opportunity to conduct personal research in an allocated DSS area based on the material covered during the module, personal experience and professional/academic interest. Course members will be expected to apply concepts, theories and insights gained during lectures and associated readings during their presentations.
3. **Format.**
 - a. Each presentation will examine and present conclusions regarding the question outlined in Annex A.
 - b. Course members will conduct a 20-minute presentation¹ on the allocated question, within groupings as per the schedule specified in Annex B.
 - c. The presentation will provide a succinct summary of the analysis and conclusions derived from the group's research for the presentation – speaking time may be dictated within the group but is advisable to be equally assigned.
 - d. At the end of the presentation, course members will answer questions from the assessment board, in order to probe the groups learning and engagement with the material. This will allow presenters to develop or emphasise points as well as expand on their own personal learning. This segment will contribute to the final result for the presentation. Each group will be asked one (1) collective question that all group members will contribute to. This will be followed by one (1) individual question to each group member. Questions will be clear and concise and pertinent to the presentation. As such, group members are expected to answer in a concise and accurate manner.
 - e. The group may decide the method/style of delivery of the presentation. PowerPoint (or similar format) is NOT obligatory. Course members will present the assessment board with 3 x copies of a standardised printout which includes a cover page and list of references. A template will be included on the Assessment Tile of DSS Block. If a group chooses not to use PowerPoint, they should provide the DS with a handout covering their main themes, arguments and list of references.
 - f. Course members are reminded of academic conventions and the need for thorough and complete referencing. Course members are minded to review MU's Policy on Academic Integrity and unit Standing Orders Chapter 5 Section 6. Where an assessor has reasonable grounds to believe that a case of academic

¹ For a group of three, time will extend to 30 minutes.

misconduct has been identified (which includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) to complete all or part of this assessment without acknowledgement), the assessor may refer the matter to the Head of the Department.

4. Grading.

- a. Assessment Boards will be comprised of Maynooth University academics and military DS.
- b. 200 marks are allocated to this presentation. Course members are encouraged to review the breakdown of marks and associated marking rubric in Annex C.

DSS GROUP PRESENTATION		
CRITERIA	MARKS	%
Content		
Use of sources, depth of research, knowledge, accuracy, framework & theory	80	40
Analysis		
Evaluation, logic & reasoning, argument, synthesis (cohesion & linkages)	80	40
Style		
Expression, tone, flow	20	10
Individual Content & Analysis		
Depth of research, knowledge, accuracy, Evaluation, logic & reasoning, argument	20	10
TOTAL	200	100

- c. For two member groups, for every full minute over or under 20mins, 1 mark will be deducted from the overall score (maximum deduction 5 marks). Therefore, there is no deduction for presentations that finish between 19:00 and 21:00.
- d. For three member groups, for every full minute over or under 30mins, one (1) mark will be deducted from the overall score (maximum deduction 5 marks). Therefore, there is no deduction for presentations that finish between 29:00 and 31:00.
- e. **Presentations will be stopped after 25 minutes for 2 member groups/ 35 minutes for 3 member groups.**
- f. The presentation and the questions from the assessment board are marked.
- g. All groups will attend all presentations within their syndicate except for the presentation immediately preceding their own presentation.

5. **Feedback:** Written Feedback will be provided to each course member.

6. **POC.** Comdt Simon Keenan

08 JOINT COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE
DSS PRESENTATION TOPICS

1. Shifting patterns of global power: implications for the international security order.
 - a. *Group should examine changes in global power distribution (multipolarity, rise of China, relative US decline) and assess strategic implications for int'l security.*
2. Hybrid warfare as a contemporary security challenge.
 - a. *Group should assess the nature of hybrid warfare and its implications for defence strategy.*
3. Security challenges in fragile and failing states.
 - a. *Group should frame their presentation on selected examples drawing conclusions for wider body of knowledge on the topic of failed and failing states.*
4. The influence of ideology and identity politics on contemporary conflicts.
 - a. *Group should examine how ideological beliefs and identity politics shape conflict, causes, conduct, and resolution prospects.*
5. The evolution of collective security in the 21st century.
 - a. *Group should evaluate how collective security mechanisms (regional architectures, UN, etc.) have adapted or failed to modern security challenges.*
6. The relationship between climate-related stress and armed conflict.
 - a. *Group should explore how climate change and resources stress can contribute to instability and conflict, drawing on chronicled examples.*
7. The influence of strategic culture in shaping the competitive strategies of states in the international arena.
 - a. *Group should consider what implications this has for global power dynamics.*
8. Women's participation in peacebuilding & conflict resolution
 - a. *Group should examine how women's participation can be enhanced to achieve sustainable security outcomes. Refer to a particular region.*
9. The European response to Russian aggression in Ukraine.
 - a. *Group should assess the effectiveness of European response and consider what lessons can be learned from this experience for future geopolitical realities.*
10. Disinformation as a contributing factor in radicalising individuals and groups.
 - a. *Group to consider to what extent disinformation contributed to radicalisation. Use case studies by way of example. Determine strategies states can employ to mitigate these effects.*

11. Integrating the military instrument to enhance societal resilience.
 - a. Group should assess the utility and limitations of the military as an instrument of national power in addressing non-traditional national security threats in concert with other instruments available to states. Draw on case studies to illustrate both successful and problematic applications. Consider political, logistical, ethical, and strategic factors.*

Annex B**08 JOINT COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE**
DSS PRESENTATION AGENDA

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
All	22 October 1000 - 1030	DH	01	Comdt	Harmon	Shifting patterns of global power: implications for the international security order.
				Lt Cdr	Stack	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
01	22 October 1130 - 1200	SR02	02	Lt Cdr	Carr	Hybrid Warfare as a contemporary security challenge.
				Comdt	McNamara	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
02	22 October 1130 - 1200	SR03	03	Comdt	Quinn	Security challenges in fragile and failing states.
				Comdt	Bolger	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
01	22 October 1400 - 1430	SR02	04	Comdt	Woulfe	The influence of ideology and identity politics on contemporary conflicts.
				Comdt	Moroney	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
02	22 October 1400 - 1430	SR03	05	Comdt	Hickey	The evolution of collective security in the 21 st century.
				Comdt	Rath	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
01	23 October 0930 - 1000	SR02	06	Comdt	Waters	The relationship between climate-related stress and armed conflict.
				Comdt	Culbert	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
02	23 October 0930 - 1000	SR03	07	Lt Cdr	Flynn	The influence of strategic culture in shaping the competitive strategies of states in the international arena.
				Comdt	McIntyre	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
01	23 October 1130 - 1200	SR02	08	Comdt	McGrath	Women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.
				Comdt	Fagan	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
02	23 October 1130 - 1200	SR03	09	Comdt	O'Reilly	The European response to Russian aggression in Ukraine.
				Lt Cdr	Donaldson	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
01	23 October 1400-1430	SR02	10	Comdt	McDonnell	Disinformation as a contributing factor in radicalising individuals and groups.
				Lt Cdr	Quigley	

Board	DTG	Loc	Group	Rank	Name	Topic
02	23 October 1400-1445	SR03	11	Comdt	Beatty	Integrating the Military Instrument to enhance social resilience.
				Comdt	Doyle	
				Maj	Poussonn	

Annex C

PERCENTAGE BAND	CONTENT (use of sources, breadth/depth of research, knowledge)	ANALYSIS (evaluation, logic and reasoning, argument)	STYLE (expression, tone, flow)
80% +	Extremely comprehensive solution. Exceptional research conducted. Highly innovative and imaginative. Questions orthodoxy effectively.	Flawless logic. Exceptionally insightful. Extremely convincing, compelling and authoritative argument. Highly effective critical analysis of underlying concepts and theories. Demonstrates high levels of originality and independent thought. Possibly of publishable quality.	<u>Written</u> : Tone completely appropriate. Precise and unequivocal expression. Excellent structure. Flows eloquently. Highest standards of presentation ¹ achieved. <u>Oral</u> : ² Very little (if any) dependence on notes / notes used very effectively without undermining engagement with the audience. Exceptional IPD. ³ Excellent level of engagement maintained with the audience throughout. Highly effective use of briefing aids.
70% to 79%	Highly comprehensive solution with high levels of accuracy. Extremely effective research that engages with debates within the relevant literature. Range of sources used selectively and imaginatively to support argument. Good attempt to challenge orthodoxy.	Highly logical. Excellent understanding of underlying concepts. Extremely well-constructed argument displaying critical analysis, originality and independent thought. Most persuasive.	<u>Written</u> : Tone appropriate. Highly competent expression. Very well structured. Flows fluently. Very good standards of presentation throughout. <u>Oral</u> : Little dependence on notes / notes used effectively without undermining engagement with the audience. Very good IPD and engagement with the audience. Very good use of briefing aids.
60% to 69%	Considered most of the essential issues. Relevant literature/key texts used effectively to engage with current debates. Good degree of accuracy demonstrated. Reasonable attempt to challenge orthodoxy.	Sound logic and understanding of underlying theories and concepts. Convincing and concise argument. Critical evaluation of perspectives with some evidence of originality.	<u>Written</u> : Tone generally suitable. Coherent expression. Well structured. Flows well. Standards of presentation generally adhered to. <u>Oral</u> : Not overly dependent on notes. Good IPD demonstrated. Audience well engaged throughout. Good use of briefing aids.
50 to 59%	Some omission of key/relevant issues, with some minor inaccuracies. Satisfactory research demonstrating reasonable familiarity with relevant literature.	Satisfactory logic. Reasonably coherent and convincing solution. Demonstrate some capacity to reflect critically on underlying theories and concepts, but little evidence of originality.	<u>Written</u> : Adequate tone and expression but may need some amending. Standards of presentation generally adhered to with some amendments necessary. Structure and flow could be improved. <u>Oral</u> : Some reliance on notes but did maintain a satisfactory level of audience awareness. Elements of IPD could be improved. Briefing aids could be used more effectively.
45-49%	Question addressed but several relevant issues not covered. Evidence of a basic familiarity with relevant literature. Contains inaccuracies.	Logic open to some doubt. Underdeveloped and unconvincing argument. Limited evidence of critical analysis. Has a basic grasp of underlying concepts, but a lack of understanding is demonstrated in places.	<u>Written</u> : Tone in need of some amendment. Expression often less than satisfactory. Standards of presentation not adequately addressed. Structure in need of significant revision. <u>Oral</u> : Very dependent on notes. IPD requires significant improvement. Briefing aids unsuitable.
40% to 44%	Limited consideration of relevant issues. Limited research. Incomplete knowledge of subject evident. Contains significant inaccuracies.	Logic poor. Limited understanding of underlying concepts. Not very convincing. Critical analysis limited.	<u>Written</u> : Tone and/or expression in need of significant amendment. A significant number of errors in presentation. Structure requires major reworking. <u>Oral</u> : Almost complete dependence on notes. IPD very poor. Inappropriate use of briefing aids.
Under 40%	Little relevant information. Poorly researched. Contains fundamental errors.	Logically unsound. Completely unconvincing argument. Question not addressed. Little or no understanding of key issues and underlying concepts. Little or no evidence of ability to critically analyse.	<u>Written</u> : Tone completely unsuitable/inappropriate. Expression weak and ineffective. Muddled arrangement. Careless writing style with errors in presentation consistent throughout. Flow disjointed and difficult to follow. Structured very poorly. <u>Oral</u> : Complete dependence on notes; the brief is read. IPD completely unsatisfactory. Briefing aids entirely unsuitable/inappropriate.

¹ Standards of presentation refer to spelling, grammar, punctuation, syntax and referencing.

² Additional aspects to be considered for oral assessment under the criterion of style.

³ Interpersonal Dynamics (IPD): eye contact, mannerisms, body language, confidence, etc.