

MARKING CRITERIA for EXAMS and ESSAYS and COURSEWORK

The following criteria are the basis on which the Department assesses both exam answers and coursework.

Literal Grade	Criteria (Problem type answers are marked on a semi-absolute scale)
A*	Exceptional Answer is an exceptionally well presented exposition of the subject, showing: (i) command of the relevant concepts and facts, (ii) a high critical or analytical ability**, (iii) originality, and (iv) evidence of substantial outside reading (where applicable). Numeric marks available 100, 95, 90, 85.
A	Excellent Answer is a very well presented exposition of the subject, showing many of the above features, but falling short in one or two of them. Numeric marks available 80, 76, 72.
B	Very Good to Good Answer (i) shows a clear grasp of the relevant concepts and facts, (ii) gives an accurate account of the relevant taught material (<i>as exemplified in the model answer</i>), and (iii) shows evidence of some outside reading or of critical or analytical ability**. Numeric marks available 68, 65, 62.
C	Adequate Answer: (i) shows a grasp of the basic concepts and facts, (ii) gives a mainly accurate account of at least half of the relevant taught material (<i>as exemplified in the model answer</i>), and (iii) does not go beyond that, or goes beyond that but is marred by significant errors. Numeric marks available 58, 55, 52.
F	Unsatisfactory Answer: 1.shows only a weak grasp of the basic concepts and facts, and is marred by major errors or brevity; numeric marks available 48, 45, 42; 2.shows a confused understanding of the question; is too inaccurate, too irrelevant, or too brief to indicate more than a vague understanding of the question; 35, 30, 25; 3.includes at most one to four sentences or facts that are correct and relevant to the question; numeric marks available 20, 15, 10, 5; 4.contains nothing correct that is relevant to the question; numeric mark 0.

** *Analytical* = assessing a hypothesis or statement by breaking it down into its elements and examining their inter-relationships and contribution to the whole; cf. *Critical* = judging a hypothesis or conclusion by examining the validity of the evidence adduced for it.