

Taught Postgraduate Generic Marking Criteria

The College marking criteria set out below should be read in conjunction with discipline-specific criteria as appropriate and should be viewed as a starting point. The College marking criteria provides guidance on the overall standards expected at different grade bands but discipline-specific criteria may be needed in order to ensure that marking decisions are consistent, fair and transparent to both staff and students.

Level 7			
An exceptional answer that reflects outstanding knowledge of material and critical ability ~ Distinction ≥ 70			
Understanding	Depth of knowledge	Structure	General
Advanced, in-depth, authoritative, full understanding of key issues with evidence of originality	Complex work and key issues analysed Wide range of sources used selectively to support argument/discussion Strong evidence of critical approach to key issues and ability to evaluate arguments	Coherent and compelling work logically presented	A++ (90-100) Insightful work displaying in-depth knowledge. For research dissertation/project: publishable quality, outstanding research potential, originality and/or independent thought, ability to make informed judgments. Highest standards of presentation .
			A+ (80-89) Insightful work displaying in-depth knowledge. For research dissertation/project: work of publishable quality, excellent research potential, originality and/or independent thought, ability to make informed judgments. High standards of presentation.
			A (70-79) Thoughtful work displaying in-depth knowledge. For research dissertation/project: good research potential, evidence of independent thought, ability to make informed judgments. High standards of presentation.
A coherent answer that demonstrates critical evaluation ~ Merit 60-69			
Understanding	Depth of knowledge	Structure	General
In-depth understanding of key issues with evidence of some originality	Key issues analysed. Relevant sources used effectively to support argument/discussion Clear evidence of critical approach to key issues and some ability to evaluate arguments	Coherent work logically presented	B+ (65-69) Thoughtful work displaying good knowledge and accuracy. For research dissertation/project: some evidence of research potential, clear thinking and/or ability to make informed judgments. Good standards of presentation.
			B (60-64) Work displays good knowledge and accuracy. For research dissertation/project: some evidence of clear thinking and/or ability to make informed judgments. Good standards of presentation.

The College marking criteria have been reviewed with usage of 0-100% grading structure in line with current College regulations. The criteria set out should be used across the College except where specific banded marking schemes have been approved by CASC.

A coherent and logical answer which shows understanding of the basic principles ~ Pass 50 - 59			
Understanding	Depth of knowledge	Structure	General
Understanding of some key issues with evidence of ability to reflect critically	Some key issues addressed. Relevant sources used to support argument/discussion Some evidence of critical approach to key issues and ability to evaluate arguments	Competent work in places but lacks fluency/coherence	C+ (55-59) Work displays knowledge and understanding in most areas but the standard of work is variable. For research dissertation/project: evidence of clear thinking in places but lacks insight. Satisfactory standards of presentation. C (50-54) Work displays knowledge and understanding in some areas but some key issues are not addressed. For research dissertation/project: some evidence of clear thinking but lacks insight and fluency. Satisfactory standards of presentation.
A superficial answer with limited knowledge of core material and limited critical ability ~ Fail 40 – 49¹			
Understanding	Depth of knowledge	Structure	General
Superficial understanding of some key issues, lack of focus	Key issues not always understood or addressed, gaps in the use of relevant sources used to support work Limited evidence of a critical approach to key issues and ability to evaluate arguments	Weaknesses in structure, fluency and/or coherence	F+ (40-49) Work displays patchy knowledge and understanding and some key issues are not addressed. For the research dissertation/project: limited evidence of clear thinking, insight and/or fluency. Presentational weaknesses.
An answer almost entirely lacking in evidence of knowledge and understanding ~ Fail 0-39			
Understanding	Depth of knowledge	Structure	General
Lack of understanding of, or focus on key issues	Key issues misunderstood or not addressed' Limited or no use of relevant sources to support work No evidence of a critical approach to key issues or ability to evaluate arguments	Work is confused and incoherent	F (33-39) Incomplete answers with only peripheral knowledge relevant to the questions. Displays poor, disorganized presentation. FF (20-32) Some attempt to write something relevant but with many flaws; nothing of substance, FFF (0 -19) Serious errors, largely irrelevant material or unacceptably brief.

Approved CASC March 2015

¹ A mark ≥ 40 - < 49 is condonable where programme specific regulations permit

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