

Marking Criteria

First Class (70%+)

First class work displays the following attributes, though not necessarily all:

- Acute and relevant focus on the task set
- Excellent awareness of the wider philosophical dimensions of the subject
- Ability to understand and solve problems
- Cogent and structured argument
- Analytical and critical appreciation
- Subtle and perceptive analysis
- Wide and thorough reading
- Subtlety and/or originality
- Fluent writing and clarity of expression
- Presentation to a high scholarly standard
- An argument which is fully documented and well referenced.

Upper Second Class (60 - 69%)

Upper second class work shows some of the qualities of First Class work but not in such a sustained way. Work of upper second class is very good and is characterized by the following attributes, though not necessarily all:

- Sound focus on task set
- Sound awareness of the wider philosophical dimensions of the subject
- Ability to understand and solve problems
- Thoughtful analysis
- Well developed and structured argument
- Wide coverage
- Thorough reading and preparation
- Coherent writing
- Clear and careful presentation which is well documented and referenced
- Some originality and/or critical appreciation of the subject

Lower Second Class (50 - 59%)

Lower second class work shows some of the qualities seen in a higher class, but not in a sustained way. It is of a sound and good standard, and is characterized by the following attributes, though not necessarily all:

- Focus on task set
- Adequate ability to identify and solve problems
- Some awareness of the wider philosophical dimensions of the subject
- Measure of analysis
- Reasonable, but not always complete, answer to the question
- Solid level of argument, though not always relevant
- Range of reading
- Satisfactory written style
- Sound presentation, with limited use of examples or references

- Some attempt at originality or critical appreciation of the subject

Third Class (40 - 49%)

Third class work may show some of the qualities seen in a higher class though in a limited way. It is still of an honours standard and is characterized by the following attributes, though not necessarily all of them:

- Descriptive work
- Discernible focus on the task set
- Some attempt at identifying and solving problems
- An argument which lacks structure and/or relevance
- Limited range of reading
- Some references and examples
- Need for attention to writing and presentation

Fail (39% or less)

A fail is an unacceptable and unsatisfactory answer characterized by the following:

- Little or no focus on the task set which may be extremely brief
- Lack of ability to identify and solve problems
- Poor knowledge and understanding of the subject
- No or hardly any references or examples
- Insufficient reading
- Bad presentation (sometimes making the answer barely intelligible)