

Marking Criteria Oral Presentations

LEVEL 6

Exceptional (90-100%) EXCEPTIONAL FIRST CLASS. An answer that fulfils all of the criteria for Outstanding and in addition shows an exceptional degree of insight and independent thought, together with flair in tackling issues. Work displaying the highest level of scholarship and originality attainable at level 6. Presentation is clearly structured and within the specified time limit. There is excellent and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieved highly effective audience engagement throughout.

Outstanding (80-89%) CLEAR FIRST CLASS. An authoritative answer that provides a fully effective response to the question. It should show a firm command of the literature and an ability to integrate that literature and go beyond it. The analysis must achieve a high level of quality early on and sustain it through to the conclusion. Sources should be used accurately and concisely to inform the answer but not dominate it. There should be a sense of a critical and committed argument, mindful of other interpretations but not afraid to question them. Presentation is clearly structured and within the specified time limit. There is excellent and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieved highly effective audience engagement throughout.

Excellent (70-79%) LOW FIRST CLASS. A sharply-focused answer of high intellectual quality, which adopts a comprehensive approach to the question and maintains a sophisticated level of analysis throughout. It should show a willingness to engage critically with the literature and move beyond it, using sources creatively to arrive at its own independent conclusions. Presentation is clearly structured and within the specified time limit. There is excellent and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieves highly effective audience engagement throughout.

Very Good (60-69%) Clearly structured work displaying an ability to deal with the concepts, sources and arguments relevant to the topic under discussion and critical judgement in selecting, evaluating and organising material. In the 64-60 range the work will display some of the qualities of excellence outlined above, although some aspects will be less fully realised. The 69-65 range represents a degree of achievement in all or most respects. Presentation is structured and within the specified time limit. There is good and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieves effective audience engagement occasionally.

Good (50-59%) Sound and competent work which covers the subject matter and is appropriately organised and presented. May tend to some narrative and description rather than analysis but does attempt to answer the question. Work in the 54-50 band is likely to be factually sound but to show only a general grasp of the issues which the question is raising, and to be weak in critical awareness and analytical qualities. There may be some evidence of the inclusion of irrelevant material, a certain lack of focus in the discussion or deficiencies in the evidence used to support the argument. The presentation may deviate slightly from the specified time limit. There is some use of presentational aids. The presentation achieves sporadic audience engagement.

Pass (40-49%) Work which is adequate but limited. It may include irrelevant material and be too descriptive and narrative. Some aspects of the question may be answered competently, but others will be ignored because of omissions in the reading, factual inaccuracy, difficulty in identifying the key issues and arguments. The presentation deviates from the specified time limit, or is too short. There is poor use of presentational aids. There is some effort to engage the audience.

Fail (30-39%) Work which is poorly structured and of very limited relevance to the question. It may be distinguished by a lack of supporting evidence, misunderstandings, a failure to address the question asked, substantial generalisation and the lack of any argument. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement.

Clear Fail (20-29%) Work which shows little or no real understanding of the question and which displays little or no evidence of learning. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement.

Bad Fail (10-19%) Work which fails on all criteria. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement.

Outright Fail (0-9%) Incomplete work, or work with absolutely no relevance to the question. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement. A mark of 0 will be awarded for plagiarism or failure to attend the session.

LEVEL 5

Exceptional (90-100%) EXCEPTIONAL FIRST CLASS. An answer that fulfils all of the criteria for Outstanding and in addition shows a high degree of insight and independent thought, together with some flair in tackling issues. Work displaying the highest level of scholarship and originality attainable at level 5. Presentation is clearly structured and within the specified time limit. There is excellent and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieved highly effective audience engagement throughout.

Outstanding (80-89%) CLEAR FIRST CLASS. A sound answer that provides an effective response to the question. It should show a sound command of the literature and an ability to integrate that literature and an attempt to go beyond it. The analysis should achieve a sustained level of quality. Sources should be used accurately and concisely to inform the answer but not dominate it. There should be some sustained attempt at critical and committed argument, which is mindful of other interpretations but not afraid to question them. Presentation is clearly structured and within the specified time limit. There is excellent and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieved highly effective audience engagement throughout.

Excellent (70-79%) LOW FIRST CLASS. A focused answer of sound intellectual quality, which adopts a comprehensive approach to the question and maintains a level of analysis throughout. It should show a willingness to engage critically with the literature and an attempt to move beyond it, using sources to arrive at its own conclusions. Presentation is clearly structured and within the specified time limit. There is excellent and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieved highly effective audience engagement throughout.

Very Good (60-69%) Structured work displaying an ability to deal with the concepts, sources and arguments relevant to the topic under discussion and judgement in selecting, evaluating and organising material. In the 64-60 range the work will display some of the qualities of excellence outlined above, although some aspects will be less fully realised. The 69-65 range represents a degree of achievement in most respects. Presentation is structured and within the specified time limit. There is good and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieves effective audience engagement occasionally.

Good (50-59%) Sound work which covers the basic subject matter and is appropriately organised and presented. May tend to narrative and description rather than analysis but does attempt to answer the question. Work in the 54-50 band is likely to be factually sound for the most part but to show only a general grasp of the issues which the question is raising, and to be weak in analytical qualities. There may be some evidence of the inclusion of irrelevant material, a certain lack of focus in the discussion or deficiencies in the evidence used to support the argument. The presentation may deviate slightly from the specified time limit. There is some use of presentational aids. The presentation achieves sporadic audience engagement.

Pass (40-49%) Work which is adequate but limited. It may include irrelevant material and be too descriptive and/or narrative. There may be an attempt to answer some aspects of the question, but others will be ignored because of omissions in the reading, factual inaccuracy, difficulty in identifying the key themes. The presentation deviates from the specified time limit, or is too short. There is poor use of presentational aids. There is some effort to engage the audience.

Fail (30-39%) Work which is poorly structured and of very limited relevance to the question. It may be distinguished by a lack of supporting evidence, misunderstandings, a failure to address the question asked, substantial generalisation and the lack of any real argument. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement.

Clear Fail (20-29%) Work which shows little or no real understanding of the question and which displays little or no evidence of learning. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement.

Bad Fail (10-19%) Work which fails on all criteria. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement.

Outright Fail (0-9%) Incomplete work, or work with absolutely no relevance to the question. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement. A mark of 0 will be awarded for plagiarism or failure to attend the session.

LEVEL 4

Exceptional (90-100%) EXCEPTIONAL FIRST CLASS. An answer that fulfils all of the criteria for Outstanding and in addition shows a good degree of insight and some independent thought, together with some flair in tackling issues. Work displaying the highest level of scholarship and originality attainable at level 4. Presentation is clearly structured and within the specified time limit. There is excellent and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieved highly effective audience engagement throughout.

Outstanding (80-89%) CLEAR FIRST CLASS. A solid answer that provides an effective response to the question. It should show some command of the literature and an ability to integrate that literature. The analysis should achieve a sustained level of quality. Sources should be used accurately and concisely to inform the answer but not dominate it. There should be some attempt at critical and committed argument, which is mindful of other interpretations but not afraid to question them. Presentation is clearly structured and within the specified time limit. There is excellent and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieved highly effective audience engagement throughout.

Excellent (70-79%) LOW FIRST CLASS. A focused answer of intellectual quality, which adopts a comprehensive approach to the question and maintains a sophisticated level of understanding throughout. It should show a willingness to engage critically with the literature, using sources effectively to arrive at its conclusions. Presentation is clearly structured and within the specified time limit. There is excellent and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieved highly effective audience engagement throughout.

Very Good (60-69%) Structured work displaying an ability to deal with the sources and/or arguments relevant to the topic under discussion and judgement in evaluating and organising material. In the 64-60 range the work will display some of the qualities outlined above, although some aspects will be less fully realised. The 69-65 range represents a degree of achievement in some respects. Presentation is structured and within the specified time limit. There is good and interactive use of presentational aids. The presentation achieves effective audience engagement occasionally.

Good (50-59%) Competent work which covers the basic subject matter and is appropriately organised and presented. May tend to narrative and description but does attempt to answer the question. Work in the 54-50 band is likely to be factually sound for the most part but shows only a general grasp of the question, and to be weak in argument. There may be some evidence of the inclusion of irrelevant material, a certain lack of focus in the discussion or deficiencies in the evidence used to support the argument. The presentation may deviate slightly from the specified time limit. There is some use of presentational aids. The presentation achieves sporadic audience engagement.

Pass (40-49%) Work which is adequate but limited. It may include irrelevant material and be too descriptive and/or narrative. Some aspects of the question may be answered, but others will be ignored because of omissions in the reading, factual inaccuracy, difficulty in identifying the relevant themes. The presentation deviates from the specified time limit, or is too short. There is poor use of presentational aids. There is some effort to engage the audience.

Fail (30-39%) Work which is poorly structured and of very limited relevance to the question. It may be distinguished by a lack of supporting evidence, misunderstandings, a failure to address the question asked, substantial generalisation and the lack of any real comprehension. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement.

Clear Fail (20-29%) Work which shows little or no real understanding of the question and which displays little or no evidence of learning. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement.

Bad Fail (10-19%) Work which fails on all criteria. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement.

Outright Fail (1-9%) Incomplete work, or work with absolutely no relevance to the question. The presentation excessively deviates from the specified time limit, or is considerably too short. There is lack of use of presentational aids and lack of audience engagement. A mark of 0 will be awarded for plagiarism or failure to attend the session.