

MASTERS DEGREE ASSIGNMENT SPECIFICATION

Student name:		Student ID number:	
Programme:	MSc Environmental Conservation and Management		
Module:	Environmental Policy & Planning		
Module code:	ACBA7004	Contribution to Overall Module Assessment (%):	100%
Lecturer:	Dr Alissa Flatley	Internal Verifier:	Professor Rhian Jenkins
Assignment Title:	EIA critique: case study	Word count (or equivalent):	4,500 word report and 10 minute presentation/crit
Submission deadline:	Report due:09/01/24 Conference Journal and Presentation: 23/01/24	Return date of provisional marks & written feedback:	Report: 16/01/24 Conference Presentation: 23/01/24
Submission method:	All written assessments, where practical and possible, must be submitted via Turnitin unless otherwise instructed by the Lecturer. (Please DO NOT put this assessment specification into Turnitin or it will match many similarities with other students' submissions.) Alternative submission method (if applicable): Late submission of the assessment will result in a late penalty mark. Penalties for late submission: Up to one week late, maximum mark of 50%. Over one week late, 0%. Only the Extenuating Circumstances Panel may approve a change to submission dates.		
Academic honesty / referencing:	Academic honesty is required. In the main body of your submission you must give credit to authors on whose research and ideas your work is based. Append to your submission a reference list that indicates the books, articles, etc. that you have used, cited or quoted in order to complete this assessment.		

Module Learning Outcomes (from module syllabus)

On successful completion of this module students will be able to: -

1. Critically assess theory and practice in environmental policy and planning.
2. Research and identify appropriate environmental impacts for a specific project.

3. Assess development options within a strategic policy framework and apply theoretical constructs to this.

TASK DESCRIPTION

Assessment: Report, collection of reports (Journal) and Conference presentation

Select an EIA of your choice. It is essential you select and get hold of the document in plenty of time to assess its application. It is preferable to pick an EIA with which you are familiar, for example, a bypass near your family home or Swansea Bay tidal lagoon.

1. Report

Using your chosen example, evaluate the process of EIA, comment on its supporting legislation, review academic literature and express opinion on any recent changes. This should include gaps that your example identifies between theory/law and practice.

Report format based on *Environmental Impact Assessment Review (Journal)*. No more than 4,500 words, excluding appendices ¹. **70% of the module mark.**

Report: Tuesday 9th January 2024

2. Conference

a. Collection of reports in a journal

After the feedback comments from staff have been returned, the group needs to organise editorial meetings to publish the collection of reports (which should address any issues raised in the staff comments) using the journal Environmental Impact Assessment Review guidelines. Hence you **ALL** need to coordinate the report format before the conference. The conference reports should be bound (spiral or could be in the form of a website²), published, and ready for distribution at the conference. Remember that presentation and consistency is essential in journal compilation. **10% of the module mark**

Conference Journal: Tuesday 23rd January 2024 before 9.00 am

b. Conference Presentation

Your report and response to staff comments should then be presented at a public conference. 10 mins presentation plus 5 mins discussion. **20% of the module mark.**

Conference Presentation Tuesday 23rd January 2024 From 1.00 pm

¹ Refer to the collection of papers section i.e. it is advisable to use an agreed template at the earliest possible opportunity. Editorial group.

² E.g. <https://uwtsdenviplangpolicy.wordpress.com/>.

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS IN THE COMPLETION OF TASKS

NOTE: The guidance offered below is linked to the five common assessment criteria.

1. Research-informed Literature

Your work must be informed and supported by scholarly material that is *relevant* to and *focused* on the task(s) set. You should provide evidence that you have accessed a wide *range* of sources, which may be academic, governmental and industrial; these sources may include academic journal articles, textbooks, current news articles, organisational documents, and websites. You should consider the *credibility* of your sources; academic journals are normally highly credible sources while websites require careful consideration/selection and should be used sparingly. Any sources you use should be current and up-to-date, typically published within the last five years or so, though seminal works in the field may be older. You must provide *evidence* of your research/own reading throughout your work, using in-text citations in the main body of your work and a reference list that is alphabetical at the end of your work. Please use a recognised referencing system.

Guidance Specific to this assignment: Review published literature on EIA theory and familiarise yourself with the process.

2. Knowledge and Understanding of Subject

Your work must demonstrate the growing extent of your knowledge and understanding of concepts and underlying principles associated with the subject area. *Knowledge* relates to the facts, information and skills you have acquired through your learning. You demonstrate your *understanding* by interpreting the meaning of the facts and information (knowledge). This means that you need to select and include in your work the concepts, techniques, models, theories, etc. appropriate to the task(s) set. You should be able to explain the theories, concepts, etc. meaningfully to show your understanding. Your mark/grade will also depend upon the *extent* to which you demonstrate your knowledge and understanding; ideally each should be complete and detailed, with comprehensive coverage.

Guidance specific to this assessment: Review and evaluate your selected EIA case study

3. Analysis

Your work must contain evidence of logical, analytical thinking, evaluation and synthesis. For example, to examine and break information down into parts, make inferences, compile, compare and contrast information. This means not just describing What! but also justifying: Why? How? When? Who? Where? At all times, you must provide justification for your arguments and judgements. Evidence that you have reflected upon the ideas of others within the subject area is crucial to you providing a reasoned and informed debate within your work. Furthermore, you should provide evidence that you are able to make sound judgements and convincing arguments using data and concepts. Sound, valid conclusions are necessary and must be derived from the content of your work. There should be no new information presented within your conclusion. Where relevant, alternative solutions and recommendations may be proposed.

Guidance specific to this assessment: Consider your EIA in the context of the mandated theory – Identify clear gaps between theory and practice.

4. Practical Application and Deployment

You should be able to demonstrate how the subject-related concepts and ideas relate to real world situations or a particular context. How do they work in practice? You will deploy models, methods, techniques, and/or theories, in that context, to assess current situations, perhaps to formulate plans or solutions to solve problems, some of which may be innovative and creative. This is likely to involve, for instance, the use of real world examples and cases, the application of a model within an organisation and/or benchmarking one organisation against others based on stated criteria. You should show awareness of the limitations of concepts and theories when applied in particular contexts.

Guidance specific to this assessment: *Evaluate your chosen EIA considering best practice examples from elsewhere.*

5. Skills for Professional Practice

Your work must provide evidence of the attributes expected in professional practice. This includes demonstrating your individual initiative and/or collaborative working. You must communicate effectively in a suitable format, which may be written and/or oral, for example, essay, management report, presentation. Work should be coherent and well-structured in presentation and organisation.

Guidance specific to this assessment: *Co-ordination of class submission in the format of an academic journal, following editorial guidelines*

Essential Resources:

- Resources listed on the lecture schedule and on Moodle
- The student handbook
- Academic skills dept.

MARKING CRITERIA AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

This section details the assessment criteria. The *extent* to which these are demonstrated by you determines your mark. The marks available for each criterion are shown. Lecturers will use the space provided to comment on the achievement of the task(s), including those areas in which you have performed well and areas that would benefit from development/improvement.

Common Assessment Criteria Applied	Marks available	Marks awarded
1. Research-informed Literature Extent of research and/or own reading, selection of credible sources, application of appropriate referencing conventions.	20	
2. Knowledge and Understanding of Subject Extent of knowledge and understanding of concepts and underlying principles associated with the discipline.	20	
3. Analysis Analysis, evaluation and synthesis; logic, argument and judgement; analytical reflection; organisation of ideas and evidence	30	
4. Practical Application and Deployment Deployment of methods, materials, tools and techniques; application of concepts; formulation of innovative and creative solutions to solve problems.	20	
5. Skills for Professional Practice Attributes in professional practice: individual and collaborative working; deployment of appropriate media; presentation and organisation.	10	

Assignment Mark (Assessment marks are subject to ratification at the Exam Board. These comments and marks are to give feedback on module work and are for guidance only until they are confirmed.)	Late Submission Penalties (tick if appropriate)		Pass Mark 50%
	Up to one-week late	50%	
	Over one week late	REF	

COMMON ASSESSMENT AND MARKING CRITERIA

	OUTRIGHT FAIL	UNSATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY	PASS/ GOOD	MERIT/ VERY GOOD	DISTINCTION EXCELLENT	EXCEPTIONAL
Assessment Criteria	0-29%	30-39%*	40-49%	50-59%	60-69%	70-79%	80-100%
1. Research-informed Literature Extent of research and/or own reading, selection of credible sources, application of appropriate referencing conventions	Little or no evidence of reading. Views and findings unsupported and non-authoritative. Referencing conventions largely ignored.	Poor evidence of reading and/or of reliance on inappropriate sources, and/or indiscriminate use of sources. Referencing conventions used inconsistently.	References to a limited range of mostly relevant sources. Some omissions and minor errors. Referencing conventions evident though not always applied consistently.	Inclusion of a range of research-informed literature, including sources retrieved independently. Referencing conventions mostly consistently applied.	Inclusion of a wide range of research-informed literature, including sources retrieved independently. Selection of relevant and credible sources. Very good use of referencing conventions, consistently applied.	A comprehensive range of research informed literature embedded in the work. Excellent selection of relevant and credible sources. High-level referencing skills, consistently applied.	Outstanding knowledge of research-informed literature embedded in the work. Outstanding selection of relevant and credible sources. High-level referencing skills consistently and professionally applied
2. Knowledge and Understanding of Subject Extent of systematic knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of concepts and underlying principles associated with the discipline.	Major gaps in knowledge and understanding of material at this level. Substantial inaccuracies.	Gaps in knowledge, with only superficial understanding. Some significant inaccuracies.	Evidence of knowledge and understanding of current and relevant concepts and underlying principles but with some gaps or errors.	Knowledge is accurate with a good understanding of the field of study.	Knowledge is extensive. Exhibits understanding of the breadth and depth of established and contemporary views.	Excellent mastery of a complex and specialised area of knowledge and skills, with an excellent critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights at the forefront of the field. Clear awareness of challenges to established views and the limitations of the knowledge base.	Exceptional mastery of a complex and specialised area of knowledge and skills, with an exceptional critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights at the forefront of the field. A critical awareness of the ambiguities and limitations of knowledge.
3. Analysis Analysis, evaluation and synthesis; logic, argument and judgement; analytical reflection; organisation of ideas and evidence	Unsubstantiated generalisations, made without use of any credible evidence. Lack of logic, leading to unsupportable/missing conclusions. Lack of any attempt to analyse, synthesise or evaluate.	Some evidence of analytical intellectual skills, but for the most part descriptive. Ideas/findings sometimes illogical and contradictory. Generalised statements made with scant evidence. Conclusions lack relevance.	Evidence of some logical, critical thinking and some attempts to synthesise, albeit with some weaknesses. Some evidence to support findings/ views, but evidence not consistently interpreted. Some relevant conclusions and recommendations, where relevant.	Evidence of logical, analytical, critical thinking and synthesis. Can analyse new and/or complex data and situations without guidance. An emerging awareness of different stances and ability to use evidence to support the argument. Valid conclusions and recommendations, where relevant	Evaluates methodologies, current research and ideas critically and, where appropriate, proposes new hypotheses/ideas. Evaluates and synthesises complex issues both systematically and creatively. Makes sound judgements and proposes convincing arguments in the absence of complete data. Sound, convincing conclusions / recommendations.	Excellent critical evaluation of methodologies, current research and ideas and, where appropriate, proposes new hypotheses/ ideas. Evaluates and synthesises complex issues systematically and creatively. Makes excellent judgements and proposes convincing arguments in the absence of complete data. Strong, persuasive, conclusions, justifiable recommendations. Work is of conference publishable quality.	Exceptional critical evaluation of methodologies, current research and ideas and, where appropriate, proposes new hypotheses/ ideas. Evaluates and synthesises complex issues at a high level of mastery. Makes outstanding judgements and proposes highly convincing arguments in the absence of complete data. Highly persuasive conclusions. Work is of journal publishable quality.
4. Practical Application and Deployment Effective deployment of appropriate methods, materials, tools and techniques; extent of skill demonstrated in the application of concepts to a variety of processes and/or contexts; formulation of innovative, original and creative solutions to solve problems.	Limited or no use of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. Little or no appreciation of the context of the application.	Rudimentary application of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques but without consideration and competence. Flawed appreciation of the context of the application.	A satisfactory awareness and mostly appropriate application of well established methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. Some appreciation of the context of the application.	A good and appropriate application of standard methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. Good appreciation of the context of the application, with some use of examples, where relevant.	A very good application of a range of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. Very good consideration of the context of the application, with perceptive use of examples, where relevant. Evidence of some originality, innovation and creativity.	An advanced application of a range of methods, materials, tools and/or techniques. The context of the application is well considered, with extensive use of relevant examples. Application and deployment extend beyond established conventions. Originality, innovation and/or creativity evident throughout.	Outstanding levels of application and deployment skills. Assimilation and development of cutting edge processes and techniques.
5. Skills for Professional Practice Demonstrates attributes expected in professional practice including: individual initiative and collaborative working; deployment of appropriate media to communicate (including written and oral); clarity and effectiveness in presentation and organisation.	Communication media is inappropriate or misapplied. Little or no evidence of autonomy in the completion of tasks. Work is poorly structured and/or largely incoherent.	Media is poorly designed and/or not suitable for the audience. Poor independent or collaborative initiative. Work lacks structure, organisation, and/or coherence	Can communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences in a suitable format but with some room for improvement. Can work autonomously and as part of a team, but with limited involvement in group activities. Work lacks coherence in places and could be better structured.	Can communicate effectively in a suitable format, but may have minor errors. Can work effectively autonomously and as part of a team, with clear contribution to group activities. Mostly coherent work and is in a suitable structure.	Can communicate well, confidently and consistently in a suitable format. Can work very well autonomously and as part of a team, with very good contribution to group activities. Work is coherent and fluent and is well structured and organised.	Can communicate professionally and, confidently in a suitable format. Can work professionally autonomously and within a team, showing leadership skills as appropriate, managing conflict and meeting obligations. Work is coherent, very fluent and is presented professionally.	Can communicate with an exceptionally high level of professionalism. Can work exceptionally well and professionally autonomously and within a team, showing advanced leadership skills. Work is exceptionally coherent, very fluent and is presented professionally.

Student Self Evaluation Form

Student name:		Student P number:	
Programme:		Year of programme	
Assignment Title:			

This section repeats in brief the common assessment criteria detailed on previous pages. The *extent* to which these are demonstrated by you determines your mark. Using these criteria, tick the box that best indicates the level of achievement you feel you have achieved with regard to each of them.

Common Assessment Criteria Applied	Level of Achievement						
	REFER			PASS		DISTINCTION	
	OUTRIGHT FAIL	UNSATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY	GOOD	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT	EXCEPTIONAL
1. Research-informed Literature	0-29%	30-39%	40-49%	50-59%	60-69%	70-79%	80-100%
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Knowledge and Understanding of Subject	0-29%	30-39%	40-49%	50-59%	60-69%	70-79%	80-100%
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Analysis	0-29%	30-39%	40-49%	50-59%	60-69%	70-79%	80-100%
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Practical Application and Deployment	0-29%	30-39%	40-49%	50-59%	60-69%	70-79%	80-100%
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Skills for Professional Practice	0-29%	30-39%	40-49%	50-59%	60-69%	70-79%	80-100%
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

PLEASE COMMENT ON AREAS IN WHICH YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE PERFORMED WELL	PLEASE COMMENT ON AREAS YOU FEEL THAT YOU NEED TO DEVELOP

Student's Name		Date	
Student's Signature			