

School of Theology, Religious Studies & Islamic Studies

Marking Criteria for essays and assignments

Note: At level 6 we expect our students to show the ability to develop a rigorous approach to the acquisition of a broad knowledge base; employ a range of specialised skills; evaluate information, using it to plan and develop investigative strategies and to determine solutions to a variety of unpredictable problems; operate in a range of varied and specific contexts, taking responsibility for the nature and quality of outputs.

%Grade	Characteristics of % grade band
0%	penalty grade for academic malpractice
1-9%	of no relevance whatsoever to the objectives of the module assessment
10-19%	- very little if any relevance or substance - lacking in application or quality
20-34%	- an attempt has been made to address the relevant issues - still mainly of little relevance or is scanty - backed up with little or no evidence - style may be inappropriate - with serious errors of grammar, spelling and structure - displays some intellectual or practical application
35-39%	- some relevant issues are addressed - answer is largely anecdotal - backed up with little evidence - style may be inappropriate - serious errors of grammar, spelling and structure - inability to handle knowledge - limitations in practical skills.
40-49%	- main issues have been addressed - there may be some omissions - little theoretical content - style may be inappropriate, with errors of grammar, spelling and structure - limited in interpretative use of knowledge or in some practical skills
50-59%	- competent answer, which addresses the main issues satisfactorily - may contain minor omissions or errors - theoretical issues are addressed, but may be somewhat superficial - grammar and style are largely good

	• good grasp of knowledge and practice with some limitations
60-69%	• all main issues addressed with clarity • evidence of wide reading • work is well organised • relevant arguments cogently developed and supported by appropriate evidence • there may be the beginning of critical and analytical ability—though this does not need to be present to achieve this level • there are clear insights and competent evaluation of material • well presented and structured • grammar and style are good • good capacity to interpret and use material flexibly, no practical inadequacies • at the higher margin work will not contain any errors or omissions
70-79%	• well presented and structured • comprehensive and insightful exposition of relevant theory and research • grammar and style are excellent • demonstrates creative flair or excellent skill in performance linked with strong interpretative understanding.
80-89%	• as 70-79 • descriptive work may be at a publishable level; for instance, on par with the descriptive abilities found in a book review in a peer reviewed academic publication • creative flair combined with strong interpretative understanding
90-100%	• As 80-89 but highly original or innovative, or creates an entirely new synthesis of ideas • of publishable quality • creative flair combined with profound interpretative understanding