

**Wales Institute for Work-based Learning
Level 4 - Academic Skills**

Generic criteria is used to inform marking decisions made against specific module criteria. Higher education learners are expected to demonstrate academic skills in the presentation of their work, and this is implicit in the marks awarded for the modules they complete. The criteria given below sets out the standards of academic skills expected against each of the mark ranges as they apply to specific module criteria.

Note: The mark ranges refer to specific module criteria mark ranges, and the corresponding academic skills illustrate what is expected for marks to be awarded against the mark ranges. Clear feedback will be given to learners in relation to academic skills.

Level 4 study introduces learners to Higher Education. They are expected to demonstrate skills and competencies relevant to the assessment requirement; to be able to clearly express ideas orally; and to be coherent and structured in terms of written or other media. Forms of expression at this level may be descriptive, but learners are expected to demonstrate an increasing understanding of the theory that underpins their study, and a developing ability to analyse and draw conclusions

Learners are expected to demonstrate relevant study skills and competencies which are practical and transferable. They are expected to adhere to standard practice in terms of style and presentation and the correct use of sources and referencing. The required assessment needs to be sequenced and structured correctly and to address specific guidance e.g. word counts. The reading undertaken and vocabulary used must address content and be level appropriate.

Specific module mark range	
70%+	Excellent and articulately expressed and showing a high level of understanding. Relevant theories are analysed and related appropriately to the study. Excellent intellectual skills. Excellent range of sources used and correctly referenced using standard processes. Very well presented and appropriately styled and structured. Very good range of vocabulary utilised and applied at the correct level.
69 -69%	Very good information base; explores and analyses with some originality. Very good level of intellectual skills. Good management of learning resources with some self-direction. Well-structured and clearly expressed. Language is very good and subject and level appropriate.
50 -59%	Good information base that begins to explore and analyse but is still mainly descriptive. Acceptable understanding demonstrated. Good use of learning resources. Language is generally appropriate for the subject and level.

40-49%	Basic information base with weak evidence of understanding of major issues. Largely descriptive. Some difficulties with analysis. Basic use of learning resources with no self-direction. Some difficulty with structure and accuracy in expression. Needs to develop better structure and appropriate vocabulary.
0 -39% (Fail)	Limited information base; limited understanding of discipline. Wholly descriptive with little evidence of intellectual skills. Inadequate use of learning resources. Major problems with structure and accuracy of expression. Very weak practical and professional skills.