

Common Grading Scale

Description	Letter	Characteristics
An exceptional work that demonstrates outstanding originality, authoritative knowledge and understanding, and methodological rigor.	A (80+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherent and compelling work exceptionally presented • Authoritative knowledge and understanding • Clear evidence of independence of thought and originality • Exemplary methodological rigour • High critical judgement and confident grasp of complex issues • Evidence of innovative and original use of sources • The very highest standards of presentation
A very good work that reflects outstanding knowledge of material, critical ability, and communication skills	A (70s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough and systematic knowledge and understanding of the topic • Good originality in approach or application • Methodological rigor in presentation • Very good critical judgement and grasp of complex issues • A wide range of sources used selectively • High standards of presentation, including grammar and style
A coherent work that demonstrates good knowledge, critical evaluation, communication skills	B (60s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good knowledge and understanding of key issues • Some evidence of originality in approach or application • Sound methodology employed with good coherence • Some relevant sources employed to support argument/discussion • Good grasp of complex issues, with some good critical evaluation present • Good standards of presentation, including grammar and style
An acceptable work that shows understanding of the basic principles	C (50s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work displays basic knowledge and understanding in most areas but the standard of work is variable • Largely descriptive or narrative in focus, with little original insight or critical evaluation • Some sources used to support argument/discussion, but sources are of insufficient standard or relevance • Limited evidence of a critical approach and of the ability to evaluate • Satisfactory standards of presentation, with consistent errors or grammar and style issues
A failing work with limited knowledge of core material and limited critical ability	Moderate Fail (40s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaknesses in structure, fluency and/or coherence • Superficial understanding of some key issues • Key issues misunderstood or not addressed • Little to no use of relevant sources to support work • Minimal evidence of a critical approach and of the ability to evaluate • Significant weaknesses in style and grammar • Failure to follow some assignment instructions but of sufficient quality to satisfy learning outcomes
A weak fail	Weak Fail (Below 40)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is confused and incoherent • No use of relevant sources to support work • Disorganized presentation • Lack of understanding of, or focus on key issues • No evidence of methodology • Poor presentation • Failure to follow some or all assignment instruction and unacceptable level of work