

Faculty of Law Assessment Criteria

The Faculty of Law made the following assessment criteria to evaluate the performance of students in different assessments throughout their study at the faculty. This document can also guide students to perform better in assessments by knowing the minimum requirements to get each grade.

First Class (70% and above, A)

An excellent submission that fulfils the brief demonstrating outstanding quality.

Submissions in this band will usually display many of the following qualities:

- Complete foundational knowledge and deep understanding of the subject.
- Excellent analysis of the material and sound application of theoretical concepts and frameworks.
- Evidence of wide reading and extended study to broaden the knowledge base.
- Development of clear, coherent, and authoritative arguments based on evidence and supported by reasons.
- Accurate and clear communication of material with very good use of English and no significant errors.
- Creativity and originality of treatment of issues evidencing a critically evaluative and analytical approach.

Upper Second, 2(i), (60-69%, B)

Good to very good – a competent/highly competent submission that fulfils the brief in all but minor detail.

Submissions in this band will usually display many of the following qualities:

- Appropriate foundational knowledge and a good understanding of the subject.
- Good analysis and evaluation of the material and an ability to relate theory to specific contexts.
- A significant level of effort to engage with the subject material and the task, showing good study skills.
- Above-average effectiveness in developing arguments based on good analysis and reasoning.
- Good presentation and communication of the arguments with good use of English and only minor errors or grammatical mistakes.

- Above-average originality and independent thought showing critical and analytical approach with good structuring of the material.

Lower Second, 2(ii), (50-59%, C)

Fair to adequate. The submission largely fulfils the brief but with some flaws or omissions which prevent it being assessed as competent.

This *adequacy* is demonstrated by:

- Adequate knowledge and a good grasp of relevant principles and concepts and their application with some correctable errors, flaws and omissions.
- Firm analysis and evaluation of the material that demonstrates basic understanding of the subject.
- Average effectiveness in developing a logically constructed and clear arguments.
- Evidence of some taking of responsibility for own learning.
- Standard approach to the presentation and communication of the material which lacks independence of thought.
- Appropriate use of English, with only a few significant errors.
- Limited originality and creativity of thought showing competent structuring of materials.

Third Class (40-49%, D)

Sufficient to pass with Honours, but no more – some significant inadequacies exist. The submission is primarily derivative or descriptive in its approach to the brief, rather than demonstrating critical evaluation or analysis.

Submissions in this band will usually display many of the following qualities:

- Elementary foundational knowledge, showing some significant errors, omissions or irrelevancies.
- Weak analysis of the material and some misunderstanding of key principles and concepts or the appropriate application of those theoretical constructs.
- Limited evidence of study or engagement with the literature or of a commitment or effort in taking responsibility for own learning.
- Weakness in the ability to express opinion and a modest structure to the material is developed.

- Limitations in communications skills in presenting a persuasive line of argument based on reasoning and authority.
- Poor use of English, with many grammatical and/or spelling errors.
- Lacking insight by the adoption of standard techniques rather than the development of original or creative approaches.

Fail (Below 40%, F)

0-39% is a wide range of marks and levels of failure range from non-submission or submission of a wholly-plagiarised piece of work or one that in any other way contravenes the University's regulations, via irrelevance or unsubstantiated assertions to something that is at least the student's own work.

The submission is insufficient to pass or to be compensated. The submission does not address the terms of the brief, or fails to provide sufficient bulk to meet the requirements of the brief. To pass, fresh or resubmitted work would be needed.

This insufficiency is demonstrated by:

- Unfamiliarity with foundational knowledge of the course material. Very serious errors or omissions.
- A lack of understanding of theoretical foundations or their practical application. Evidence of independent thought is absent.
- No evidence of serious commitment to engage with the course material through study.
- The submission is a random series of points, lacking a clear structure.
- Poor presentation or communications skills.
- No attempt at analysis – the work is descriptive or a regurgitation of course material.
- Work that makes no attempt at originality.