Department of Social Sciences Marking Scheme

Criterion / Grade	Knowledge of relevant materials and evidence of reading (25)	Presentation and structure (20)	Argument and response to question (20)	Understanding of issues/Application (25)	Referencing and conforming to instructions (10)
A+ **1st** **80-100%**	As for A along with demonstration of comprehensive understanding of the topic; brings in relevant material (perhaps national and international) beyond that covered in the module;	As for A along with exceptionally clear and concise language in creating coherent arguments	As for A along with the synthesis of a broad range of relevant material; clearly shows evidence of original thought	As for A along with demonstration of strong critical evaluation of material	As for A
A **1st** **70-79%**	Breadth and depth of reading and understanding of relevant arguments and issues; Perhaps some areas covered in depth and awareness of provisional nature of knowledge. Uses appropriate terminology consistently.	Clarity of argument and expression; Has defined objectives in detail and addressed them comprehensively; Analytical and clear conclusions well grounded in literature; Fluent writing style appropriate to type of assignment; Grammar and spelling accurate.	Shows an ability to synthesise a range of material and addresses all parts of the assignment topic; Perhaps shows unique or imaginative insights.	Depth of insight into theoretical issues and/or application to practice; Where appropriate, demonstrates an ability to apply ideas to new material or in a new context.	Uses a standard referencing system correctly and consistently; Work has been submitted within time boundaries and within prescribed parameters (e.g. word length).
B **2:1** **60-69%**	Draws on a range of sources; Perhaps some areas covered in depth; Good knowledge of topic and use of appropriate terminology.	Has defined objectives and addressed them through the work; Good summary of arguments based in theory/ Literature Language fluent; Grammar and spelling accurate.	Generally accurate and well-informed answer to the question that is reasonably comprehensive; Creates an argument that shows evidence of having reflected on the topic.	Demonstrates the ability to work with theoretical material effectively and/or shows evidence of application.	Referencing is mainly accurate; Work has been submitted within time boundaries and within prescribed

					parameters (e.g. word length).
C **2:2** **50-59%**	Uses a limited range of source material; Reasonable knowledge of topic and some use of appropriate terminology.	Has outlined objectives and addressed them at the end of the work; Some evidence of conclusions grounded in theory/literature; Language mainly fluent; Grammar and spelling mainly accurate.	Addresses main issues of assignment topic without necessarily covering all aspects. Develops and communicates a basic logical argument with some use of appropriate supporting examples and evidence.	Demonstrates the ability to address theoretical material and/or shows evidence of application.	Referencing is mainly accurate; Work has been submitted within time boundaries and within prescribed parameters (e.g. word length).
D **Pass** **40-49%**	Shows only sparse coverage of relevant material or contains some errors and omissions; Limited knowledge of topic but some use of appropriate terminology. Over-dependence on source material.	Has provided generalised objectives and focused the work on the topic area; Limited evidence of conclusions supported by theory/literature; Meaning apparent but language not always fluent; Grammar and/or spelling contain errors.	Shows some sign of understanding of the question set, though not necessarily sustained; Fails to support arguments with adequate evidence.	Demonstrates a basic ability to address theoretical material and/or shows limited evidence of application.	Some attempt at referencing; Deviates slightly from the required parameters.
Fail **39% -**	Contains very little appropriate material or contains numerous errors and omissions; Lacks evidence of knowledge relevant to the topic and/or significantly misuses terminology; Is plagiarised.	No information provided regarding objectives of assignment; Unsubstantiated/invalid conclusions based on anecdote and generalisation only, or no conclusions at all; Meaning unclear and/or grammar and/or spelling contain frequent errors.	Only briefly acknowledges the question if at all; Lacks any real argument or argument is illogical and incoherent.	Demonstrates a lack of understanding of theoretical material and/or lacks application.	Referencing is absent or unsystematic; Deviates significantly from the required parameters.

Sources

Business assessment criteria grid (devised by Margaret Price and Chris Rust, Oxford Brookes University).

Redman, P. (2001) *Good Essay Writing: A social sciences guide,* London, Sage Publications.

WIT/NALA Literacy Development Centre marking scheme originally adapted from Open University Materials.

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