

UNDERGRADUATE DESCRIPTORS with effect from academic year 2015-16; approved by Senate May 2015

Grade A* 80% and above

Outstanding performance, exceptionally able –pass

- Articulates an outstanding and comprehensive understanding of the question or problem
- Includes all of the most relevant information and issues raised by the question
- Demonstrates outstanding in-depth knowledge of appropriate reading through extensive references to texts, including journal articles
- Shows outstanding originality in problem solving, critical thinking, analysis and evaluation
- Presents outstanding arguments in a fluent and convincing manner.
- Displays an outstanding ability to synthesise concepts, knowledge and theory
- Shows in-depth awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the question

Grade A 70-79.9%

Excellent performance – pass

- Articulates an excellent understanding and interpretation of the question or problem
- Includes most of the relevant information and issues raised by the question
- Demonstrates an excellent in-depth knowledge of appropriate reading through references to texts, including journal articles
- Shows originality in problem solving, critical thinking, analysis and evaluation
- Shows an excellent understanding of theoretical/conceptual issues
- Presents excellent arguments in a balanced and coherent way
- Demonstrates excellent ability to analyse issues raised, synthesise materials and evaluate evidence presented
- Shows awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the question

Grade B 60-69.9%

Very good performance – pass

- Articulates a very good understanding and interpretation of the question or problem
- Includes many of the most relevant information and issues raised by the question
- Demonstrates a very good knowledge of appropriate reading through references to texts, including journal articles
- Shows some elements of problem solving, critical thinking, analysis and evaluation
- Shows consistent understanding of theoretical/conceptual issues
- Present arguments in a balanced and coherent way
- Demonstrates a very good ability to analyse issues raised and evaluate evidence presented
- Shows some awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the question

Grade C 50-59.9%

Good performance – pass

- Articulates a good understanding and interpretation of the question or problem
- Brings in several of the main points and issues raised by the question

- Demonstrates a good knowledge of appropriate reading through references to texts, including journal articles
- Shows some elements of problem solving, critical thinking, analysis and evaluation, but not consistently applied
- Shows good understanding of some theoretical/conceptual issues
- Presents most arguments reasonably clearly
- Demonstrates a good ability to analyse issues raised and evaluate evidence presented
- Shows good awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the question

Grade D 40-49.9%

Satisfactory Performance – pass

- Articulates satisfactory but limited understanding and interpretation of the question or problem
- Discusses some of the main points/issues raised by the question
- Demonstrates satisfactory knowledge of appropriate reading through references to texts, including journal articles
- Shows some satisfactory but inconsistent attempts to problem solve, analyse and evaluate
- Shows partial understanding of theoretical/conceptual issues
- Presents some arguments with some clarity
- Demonstrates a satisfactory ability to analyse issues raised or evaluate evidence presented.
- Shows satisfactory but limited awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the question
- Indicates that additional engagement may be required to sustain and enhance performance in subsequent modules and levels

Grade E 30-39.9%

Unsatisfactory performance - fail

- Articulates very limited understanding of the question or problem set
- Discusses few or none of the main points/issues raised by the question
- Demonstrates insufficient knowledge of appropriate reading through references to academic texts, including journal articles
- Shows narrow understanding of theoretical/conceptual issues
- Includes arbitrary or inaccurate factual information
- Presents arguments with little clarity
- Demonstrates very limited ability to analyse issues raised or evaluate evidence presented
- Shows limited awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the question

Grade F 20-29.9%

Unsatisfactory performance- fail

- Articulates extremely limited or no understanding of the question or problem set
- Discusses mostly marginal or irrelevant points
- Demonstrates very limited or no knowledge of appropriate reading through references to academic texts, including journal articles
- Shows very narrow understanding of theoretical/conceptual issues

- Includes arbitrary or inaccurate factual information
- Presents arguments with very little clarity, or presents no argument at all
- Demonstrates little or no ability to analyse issues raised or evaluate evidence presented
- Shows very limited or no awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the question.

Grade G < 20%

Unsatisfactory performance or non-submission- Fail

- Articulates little or no understanding of the question or problem set
- Discusses only marginal or irrelevant points
- Demonstrates virtually no knowledge of appropriate reading through references to academic texts, including journal articles
- Shows very narrow or no understanding of theoretical/conceptual issues
- Includes arbitrary or inaccurate factual information
- Presents arguments with very little clarity, or presents no argument at all
- Demonstrates virtually no ability to analyse issues raised or evaluate evidence presented
- Shows very limited or no awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the question