

Class	Descriptor (which reflects the highest possible mark attainable)	Possible Mark
High Distinction	Your work is exceptional and of sufficient quality to be awarded a high distinction mark. It attains all learning objectives for the unit and adheres to all guidelines. The essential material is presented thoroughly and accurately and weighed appropriately. Moreover, the work is authoritative and amply demonstrates very advanced knowledge and a very advanced ability to integrate the full range of principles, theories, evidence and techniques. The clarity and originality of thought and the way that it is expressed is very impressive for this level of work.	100
		95
		92
Mid- range Distinction	Your work is outstanding and of sufficient quality to be awarded a mid-range distinction mark. Your response to the question is ambitious and perceptive. Your argument is very well structured. It is logical and convincing. You use extensive data and/or literature to support that argument and give very pertinent examples. You demonstrate a very high level of understanding of this topic. To improve future marks you should attempt to refine your analysis and arguments even further.	88
		85
		82
Lower-range Distinction	Your work is excellent and of sufficient quality to be awarded a lower-range distinction mark. It has clear aims and largely achieves them. It draws upon an appropriately wide range of sources, displays considerable analytical depth with substantial evidence of genuinely independent thought, and is written and presented to a very high standard. To improve future marks you should attempt to identify any weaker parts of your argument and/or its presentation, ensure you have addressed opposing viewpoints or evidence decisively, and consider extending the range and use of supporting resources even further.	78
		75
		72
Merit	Your work is very good , and of sufficient quality to be awarded a Merit mark. It addresses the specific topic area very well, with a sound demonstration of knowledge and skills. You provide evidence of appropriate independent reading and thinking and draw upon the literature coherently to substantiate your claims. Your work is comprehensive and well-considered. To improve future marks you should consult a wider range of sources and deepen your analysis.	68
Merit		65
Merit		62
Pass	Your work is good , and of sufficient quality to be awarded a Pass mark. You have demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the relevant principles, theories, evidence and techniques, and you have gone some way to meeting your aims through presenting a coherent argument in a competent manner. To improve future marks you should increase your level of critical appraisal and independent reading, and seek to demonstrate a deeper, and more fully researched, understanding of the subject.	58
Pass		55
Pass		52
Compensatable Fail	Your work demonstrates insufficient knowledge and skills in the specific topic area and does not merit a pass mark. It shows a very basic level of knowledge and understanding. The work lacks coherence and there is only a very limited use of resources. The quality of presentation is poor. You have provided an answer that lacks detail and depth. It is very descriptive and does not fully address the issues raised by the question. Your arguments are often simplistic. To achieve a higher mark you need to make sure that all your points are fully supported with data or evidence from the literature. You also need to achieve greater analytical depth and take fuller account of opposing viewpoints or evidence in order to provide more substantial, comprehensive and nuanced support for your argument.	48
Compensatable Fail		45
Compensatable Fail		42
Fail	Your work demonstrates insufficient knowledge and skills in the specific topic	38

Fail	area and does not merit a pass mark. Your work does not demonstrate adequately the study skills required at this level. Although you show some awareness of the area, you have missed many important facts and concepts and made major errors. You have made no attempt to critically evaluate evidence and shown no evidence of independent research. Your work has minimal underlying structure and is frequently confused and incoherent. To improve future marks you should improve your awareness of the appropriate principles, theories, evidence and techniques and engage more critically with them. You should present and structure your arguments better and make sure that they are substantiated. You should seek to undertake, or demonstrate that you have undertaken, independent research.	35
Fail		32
Fail	Your work is inadequate and does not merit a pass mark. It does not demonstrate even a basic awareness of the subject matter. Your awareness of principles, theories, evidence and techniques is insufficient, and you show little evidence of critical engagement with the material. You have not paid sufficient attention to the quality, range and appropriateness of sources used, and your arguments are partial and unsubstantiated. To improve future marks you should improve your awareness of the appropriate principles, theories, evidence and techniques and engage more critically with them. You should present and structure your arguments better and make sure that they are substantiated. You should seek to undertake, or demonstrate that you have undertaken, independent research.	28
Fail		25
Fail	Your work is severely inadequate and does not merit a pass mark. You show little or confused awareness of the appropriate principles, theories, evidence and techniques, and little evidence of critical engagement. Your arguments are poorly presented and misrepresent or fail to demonstrate an understanding of the subject. Your use of sources is inappropriate and your arguments are unsubstantiated and unstructured. To improve future marks you should improve your awareness of the appropriate principles, theories, evidence and techniques and engage more critically with them. You should present and structure your arguments better and make sure that they are substantiated. You should seek to undertake, or demonstrate that you have undertaken, independent research.	15
Fail	Your work is profoundly inadequate and does not merit a pass mark. You have misrepresented or misunderstood thinking in the discipline and your use of sources is either non-existent or inappropriate. You have not demonstrated any significant awareness of the subject matter. Your work is confused and incoherent and does not address the question posed. To improve future marks you should seek to understand thinking in the discipline and engage critically with it. You should present and structure your arguments better and make sure that they are substantiated. You should seek to undertake, or demonstrate that you have undertaken, independent research.	5
Fail		0