

**SCHEME OF GRADE DESCRIPTIONS**

Grade	Award level	QPV	Description
A1	First	4.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outstanding performance..</li> <li>▪ In-depth knowledge and understanding of principles and concepts related to the topic. Integrates information into a wider context.</li> <li>▪ Excellent analysis and interpretation.</li> <li>▪ Evidence of a significant amount of outside reading.</li> <li>▪ A logically structured and clear approach.</li> <li>▪ Answer is original and reflective.</li> </ul>
A2	First	3.60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excellent performance.</li> <li>▪ A comprehensive knowledge and understanding of principles and concepts.</li> <li>▪ Excellent analysis and interpretation.</li> <li>▪ Evidence of a significant amount of outside reading.</li> <li>▪ Answer may have neglected to deal with one or two minor aspects of the issues involved.</li> <li>▪ A logically structured and clear approach.</li> </ul>
B1	2.1	3.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Very good performance.</li> <li>▪ A substantial but not totally comprehensive knowledge and understanding of principles and concepts.</li> <li>▪ Shows a very good competence in the subject without being outstanding.</li> <li>▪ Very good analysis and interpretation.</li> <li>▪ Some gaps in knowledge. Student can argue the key issues in an intellectually organised manner.</li> <li>▪ A logically structured and clear approach.</li> </ul>
B2	2.1	3.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good performance.</li> <li>▪ A competent and organised approach to the subject matter.</li> <li>▪ A reasonable knowledge and understanding of principles and concepts.</li> <li>▪ Very good analysis and interpretation.</li> <li>▪ Student is very familiar with the material covered in lecture notes, but may show limited evidence of wider reading.</li> <li>▪ Answers may be organised rather than inspired.</li> </ul>
B3	2.2	2.80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Competent performance.</li> <li>▪ Shows evidence of having put significant work into studying the subject.</li> <li>▪ A reasonable level of knowledge.</li> <li>▪ Good analysis and interpretation.</li> <li>▪ Some gaps/oversights in either knowledge, or in the approach taken. Limited evidence of wider reading.</li> <li>▪ Reasonable analytical and interpretative skills.</li> <li>▪ The work is still of sufficient standard to merit an honours award.</li> </ul>
C1	2.2	2.60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Satisfactory performance.</li> <li>▪ Shows a familiarity with the subject material covered in the question.</li> <li>▪ The approach taken to answering the question is rather limited</li> <li>▪ Focuses on material covered in lecture notes. Little or no evidence of wider reading.</li> <li>▪ A basic knowledge of key principles and concepts only.</li> <li>▪ Limited analytical and interpretative skills.</li> </ul>

C2	Third class honours	2.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acceptable performance.</li> <li>▪ Conversant with the subject area.</li> <li>▪ A good average answer, which does not stray beyond the basics.</li> <li>▪ Some significant gaps in knowledge.</li> <li>▪ Limited analytical and interpretative skills.</li> </ul>
C3	Third class honours	2.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimally acceptable performance.</li> <li>▪ A basic pass. Shows a basic knowledge of key principles and concepts.</li> <li>▪ Significant gaps in knowledge or understanding.</li> <li>▪ May have omitted to answer part of the question.</li> <li>▪ Answer is basic and factual with some errors.</li> <li>▪ The standard of work is sufficient to obtain a passing grade.</li> <li>▪ Limited analytical and interpretative skills.</li> </ul>
D1	Compensating Fail	1.60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weak performance, compensating fail.</li> <li>▪ A poor answer, unsatisfactory in some significant ways.</li> <li>▪ Student is unable to correctly recall important material related to the question at hand.</li> <li>▪ Little evidence of analytical and interpretative skills.</li> <li>▪ Answer is disorganised and lacks intellectual depth.</li> </ul>
D2	Compensating fail	1.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor performance, compensating fail.</li> <li>▪ Very poor answer. The student either has very little knowledge of the subject area, or lacks the ability to express their knowledge in an organised fashion.</li> <li>▪ Student may have shown some small knowledge of the area.</li> <li>▪ Little evidence of analytical and interpretative skills.</li> </ul>
F	Fail	0.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An outright fail no compensation allowed..</li> <li>▪ The work is completely unsatisfactory and shows very little evidence of effort.</li> <li>▪ Little or no evidence of knowledge of key principles and concepts.</li> <li>▪ No evidence of analytical or interpretative skills.</li> </ul>

For essay-type assignments, which are completed over a greater period of time than examinations, faculty assessing the work may also wish to give due regard to the following criteria:

- Originality
- Adoption of a critical perspective
- Fulfilment of the initial brief
- Referencing
- Relevance to the topic
- Factual accuracy
- Grammar and spelling
- Presentation

Guideline percentage bands associated each grade:

Grade	QPV	Percentage band
A1	4.00	75% or more
A2	3.60	70%
B1	3.20	65%
B2	3.00	60%
B3	2.80	55%
C1	2.60	50%
C2	2.40	45%
C3	2.00	40%
D1	1.60	35%
D2	1.20	30%
F	0.00	Less than 30%