

Marking Criteria

(Descriptive Criteria for Classing Examination Answers, Submitted Essays and Dissertations - extract from "Guidelines for Examiners and Assessors for Tripos Examinations 2016")

First, higher range [80 or above]

Work in this category shows excellent command of the topic. It displays an excellent level of understanding of the question set. It is well organised, clearly expressed and cogently argued. Work in this category will either approach the question set from an unexpected angle, contain unusually elegant, illuminating or original passages, or be especially well illustrated in a relevant fashion.

First, middle range [75 to 79]

Work in this category shows excellent command of the topic. It displays an excellent level of understanding of the question set. It is well organized, clearly expressed and cogently argued.

First, lower range [70 to 74]

Work in this category shows all the merits of Upper Second class work. Yet it goes beyond such work either in terms of its range, detail, precision, clarity or sophistication of argument.

Upper second, higher range [65 to 69]

Work in this category shows sound knowledge of the topic. It displays very good understanding of the question set. It is clearly organised and cogently argued. Work in this category will normally contain a detailed and broad based engagement with the relevant material.

Upper second, lower range [60 to 64]

Work in this category shows sound knowledge of the topic. It displays good understanding of the question set. It is clearly organised and cogently argued.

Lower second, higher range [55 to 59]

Work in this category shows some weaknesses in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organization, breadth of reference, or focus on the wording of the question set. But it shows sound basic knowledge of the topic. Achieving this mark on a question therefore signifies that the candidate has firm control of the essential points.

Lower second, lower range [50 to 54]

Work in this category shows extensive weaknesses in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organisation, breadth of reference, or focus on the wording of the question set. But it shows sound

basic knowledge of the topic. Achieving this mark on a question therefore signifies that the candidate has firm control of at least some of the essential points.

Third, higher range [45 to 49]

Work in this category shows some basic knowledge of the topic. Yet it displays some serious deficiencies in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organisation, breadth of reference, or focus on the wording of the question set.

Third, lower range [40 to 44]

Work in this range shows some basic knowledge of the topic. Yet it displays extensive serious deficiencies in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organisation, breadth of reference, or focus on the wording of the question set.

Fail, higher range [30 to 39]

Work in this range shows an attempt to answer the question set. It may display some basic knowledge of the topic. Yet it is either irrelevant to the question set, incoherent, unsystematic, superficial, or unacceptably brief. Work at the lower end of this range will have more than one of these defects.

Fail, middle range [10 to 29]

Work in this category shows an attempt to answer the question set. Yet it fails to show any basic knowledge of the topic.

Fail, lower range [0 to 9]

Work in this category shows no attempt to answer the question set. It fails to show any basic knowledge of the topic.

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