**Taught Postgraduate Marking Criteria (Essays and Dissertation)**

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| **An exceptional answer that reflects outstanding knowledge of material and critical ability ~ Distinction ≥ 70** | | | |
| **Knowledge and Understanding** | **Application, argument and critical analysis** | **Structure & Presentation** | **General** |
| Advanced, in-depth, authoritative, full understanding of key issues with evidence of originality | Complex work and key issues analysed. Extensive range of sources used effectively to support argument/discussion  Strong evidence of critical approach to key issues and ability to evaluate arguments | Coherent and compelling work. Excellently presented | **(90-100)** Insightful work displaying in-depth knowledge. For research dissertation/project: publishable quality, outstanding research potential, originality and/or independent thought, ability to make informed and critical judgments. Highest standards of presentation. |
| **(80-89)** Insightful work displaying in-depth knowledge. For research dissertation/project: work of publishable quality, excellent research potential, originality and/or independent thought, ability to make informed judgments. High standards of presentation. |
| **(70-79)** Thoughtful work displaying in-depth knowledge. For research dissertation/project: good research potential, evidence of independent thought, ability to make informed judgments. High standards of presentation. |
| **A coherent answer that demonstrates critical evaluation ~ Merit 60-69** | | | |
| **Knowledge and Understanding** | **Application, argument and critical analysis** | **Structure & Presentation** | **General** |
| In-depth understanding of key issues with evidence of some originality | Key issues analysed. Relevant sources used appropriately to support argument/discussion  Clear evidence of critical approach to key issues and some ability to evaluate arguments | Coherent work logically presented | **(65-69)** Thoughtful work displaying good knowledge and accuracy. For research dissertation/project: some evidence of research potential, clear thinking and/or ability to make informed judgments. Good standards of presentation. |
| **(60-64)** Work displays good knowledge and accuracy. For research dissertation/project: some evidence of clear thinking and/or ability to make informed judgments. Good standards of presentation. |

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| **A coherent and logical answer which shows understanding of the basic principles ~ Pass 50 - 59** | | | |
| **Knowledge and Understanding** | **Application, argument and critical analysis** | **Structure & Presentation** | **General** |
| Understanding of some key issues with evidence of ability to reflect critically | Some key issues addressed. Relevant sources used to support argument/discussion  Some evidence of critical approach to key issues and ability to evaluate arguments | Competent work in places but lacks fluency/coherence | **(55-59)** Work displays knowledge and understanding in most areas but the standard of work is variable. For research dissertation/project: evidence of clear thinking in places but lacks insight. Satisfactory standards of presentation.  **(50-54)** Work displays knowledge and understanding in some areas but some key issues are not fully addressed. For research dissertation/project: some evidence of clear thinking but lacks insight and fluency. Satisfactory standards of presentation. |
| **A superficial answer with limited knowledge of core material and limited critical ability ~ Fail 40 – 49** | | | |
| **Knowledge and Understanding** | **Application, argument and critical analysis** | **Structure & Presentation** | **General** |
| Superficial understanding of some key issues, lack of focus | Key issues not always understood or addressed, gaps in the use of relevant sources used to support work  Limited evidence of a critical approach to key issues and ability | Weaknesses in structure, fluency and/or coherence | **(40-49)** Work displays incomplete knowledge and understanding. Some key issues are not addressed. For the research dissertation/project: limited evidence of clear thinking, insight and/or fluency.  Presentational weaknesses. |
| **An answer almost entirely lacking in evidence of knowledge and understanding ~ Fail 0-39** | | | |
| **Knowledge and Understanding** | **Application, argument and critical analysis** | **Structure & Presentation** | **General** |
| Lack of understanding of, or focus on key issues | Key issues misunderstood or not addressed. Limited or no use of relevant sources to support work  No evidence of a critical approach to key issues or ability to evaluate arguments | Work is confused and incoherent. The work is completely lacking in structure. | **(33-39)** Incomplete answers with only peripheral knowledge relevant to the questions. For the research dissertation/ project: hardly any evidence of clear thinking, insight and/ or fluency. Displays poor, disorganized presentation.  **(20-32)** Work is mainly inaccurate. Some irrelevant material and contains significant flaws; nothing of substance. For the research dissertation/ project: no evidence of clear thinking, insight and/ or fluency.  **(1 -19)** Serious errors, largely irrelevant material or unacceptably brief.   1. A mark of zero may for example be awarded in accordance with penalties for late submission for which no special dispensation has been made or where submitted work is deemed to be of no academic merit, as a penalty in some misconduct cases. |

ESSAY/DISSERTATION

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| ASSESSMENT CRITERION. | WEIGHT |
| Understanding | 40 |
| Depth of Knowledge | 40 |
| Structure | 20 |