

School of Law

Scheme of Grade Descriptions for Written Examination Questions

A higher degree of accuracy may be expected in open book exams, term essays, or seen exams (where exam material is seen in advance of sitting the paper).

Grade	Award level	Numerical range	Description
A1	First	75 or above	Outstanding. Deep and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of principles and concepts related to the topic. Integrates information into a wider context. Excellent analysis and interpretation. Evidence of a significant amount of outside reading, extremely well understood and integrated. A logically structured and clear approach. Answer is original and reflective. If a factual scenario is in question, the answer provides well-reasoned, legally sound solution or advice and explains risks and consequences.
A2	First	70–74	Excellent. A comprehensive knowledge and understanding of principles and concepts. Excellent analysis and interpretation. Evidence of a significant amount of outside reading, fairly well understood and integrated. Answer may have neglected to deal with one or two minor aspects of the issues involved. A logically structured and clear approach. Answer is reflective and shows some potential for originality. If a factual scenario is in question, the answer provides well-reasoned and legally sound advice or solution.
B1	2.1	65–69	Very Good. A substantial but not totally comprehensive knowledge and understanding of principles

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			<p>and concepts. Shows a very good competence in the subject without being excellent or outstanding. Very good analysis and interpretation. Evidence of some outside reading fairly well understood and integrated. Some gaps in knowledge. Student can argue the key issues in an intellectually organised manner. A logically structured and clear approach. Limited reflective elements in the answer. If a factual scenario is in question, the answer identifies the issues and nuances and resolves the problem question in a legally sound manner.</p>
B2	2.1	60–64	<p>Good A competent and organised approach to the subject matter. A reasonable knowledge and understanding of principles and concepts. Very good analysis and interpretation. Student is very familiar with the material covered in lecture notes, but may show limited evidence of wider reading. Answers reasonably well organised. Some minor errors may be present If a factual scenario is in question, the problem has been approached well, the issues identified and advice given but a particular fact or nuance has been missed.</p>
B3	2.2	55–59	<p>Competent Shows evidence of having put significant work into studying the subject. A reasonable level of knowledge. Good analysis and interpretation. Some gaps/oversights in either knowledge, or in the approach taken. Limited evidence of wider reading. Reasonable analytical and interpretative skills. May have some errors, including an occasional significant one. If a factual scenario is in question, the problem has been correctly identified and a</p>

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			reasonable attempt has been made to deal with the legal issues concerned.
C1	2.2	50–54	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Shows a familiarity with the subject material covered in the question.</p> <p>The approach taken to answering the question is rather limited</p> <p>Focuses on material covered in lecture notes. Little or no evidence of wider reading.</p> <p>A basic knowledge of key principles and concepts only.</p> <p>Limited analytical and interpretative skills.</p> <p>The work is still of sufficient standard to merit a second class honours award, but may have more errors than a B3 answer.</p> <p>If a factual scenario is in question, while the student might have dealt with the matter using relevant material and authorities, the solution or answer offered does not really amount to a firm grasp of the key points.</p>
C2	Third	45–49	<p>Acceptable</p> <p>Conversant with the subject area.</p> <p>A sufficient answer, which rarely strays beyond the basics.</p> <p>Some significant gaps in knowledge.</p> <p>Limited analytical and interpretative skills.</p> <p>May have more numerous errors than 2.2 honours answers.</p> <p>If a factual scenario is in question, the student has identified the relevant context and set of legal issues involved but has failed to grasp the full extent of the problem within the question.</p>
C3	Third	40–44	<p>Minimally Acceptable</p> <p>A minimally sufficient answer.</p> <p>Shows a basic knowledge of key principles and concepts.</p> <p>Significant gaps in knowledge or understanding.</p> <p>May have omitted to answer part of the question.</p> <p>Answer is basic and factual with some significant errors.</p> <p>Very limited analytical and interpretative skills.</p>

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			If a factual scenario is in question, the student has identified the relevant context and set of legal issues involved but has failed to identify some key issues within the problem question.
D1	Compensating fail	35–39	<p>Weak</p> <p>A poor answer, unsatisfactory in some significant ways, but has some knowledge of key issues.</p> <p>Student is unable to correctly recall important material related to the question at hand.</p> <p>Errors are either numerous or relate to central issues.</p> <p>Little or no evidence of analytical and interpretative skills.</p> <p>Answer is disorganised and lacks intellectual depth.</p> <p>If a factual scenario is in question, identification or application of legal issues is poor.</p>
D2	Compensating fail	30–34	<p>Poor</p> <p>Very poor answer.</p> <p>The student either has very little knowledge of the subject area, or lacks the ability to express their knowledge in an organised fashion.</p> <p>Student may have shown some small knowledge of the area.</p> <p>Little or no evidence of analytical and interpretative skills.</p> <p>If a factual scenario is in question, the relationship between the law and facts is not understood or possibly not even attempted.</p>
F	Fail No compensation allowed	29 or below	<p>Unacceptable</p> <p>An outright fail.</p> <p>Little or no evidence of knowledge of key principles and concepts.</p> <p>No evidence of analytical or interpretative skills.</p>
NG	Fail No compensation allowed		No work submitted for assessment.

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G	Audit	–	An Audit grade will be used to give formal recognition on the student's transcript of courses for which the student attended no less than 80% of the contact hours for the course but did not participate in the assessment instruments of the course.
I	–	–	Certified illness or immediate family bereavement.
M	–	–	Awarded in cases of projects spanning multiple semesters or sequences of definitely linked modules.
P	–	–	Pass in a module taken on a pass/fail basis. Attains the standard described for a D2 or any better grade described above.
N	–	–	Failure in a module taken on a pass/fail basis. The description for an F above applies