

# FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

## Grade Descriptors for Years 1, 2 and 3

The following descriptors are relative to year level; that is, the criteria are applied with progressively greater rigour against work in the higher years. Proper discipline-appropriate citation and documentation of source material is, however, obligatory and indispensable at all years and at all grade levels. Student work, particularly towards the bottom of the range, may not always show all the features of a given grade, and in arriving at a given grade, examiners may therefore need to decide how much weight should be given to the various bullet points. Individual disciplines and particular assessment tasks, practical assignments in particular, may need to rely more on some features of a grade than another, or may not require all of the criteria.

### **A+ 90 – 100%**

- Truly exceptional work
- At later year levels, showing evidence of capacity for postgraduate research.
- Displays genuine originality and sophistication of thought. Informed, up-to-date, also highly independent and persuasive.
- Exceptionally advanced conceptually and/or analytically.
- Methodologically sophisticated.
- Shows evidence of wide, enterprising and relevant reading, both primary and secondary.
- Expression lucid and perhaps elegant, and presentation scholarly and professional.
- May have potential for publication.

### **A 80 – 89%**

- Outstanding work
- At later year levels, showing potential for postgraduate research.
- Displays intellectual sophistication and some capacity for original thought.
- Informed, up-to-date, sustains a clear, cogent and persuasive argument.
- Advanced conceptually and/or analytically.
- Shows evidence of wide reading which has been effectively assimilated.
- Considerable methodological skills.
- Expression and presentation scholarly and professional.

### **B 70 – 79%**

- Strong to very strong work.
- Highly competent in conceptual, discursive and interpretive areas. Evidence of insight into topic and material.
- Informed by diligent and intelligent research.
- Shows awareness of methodological issues relevant to the topic, but does not pursue these rigorously or in detail.
- Sustains an argument and/or interpretation.
- Evidence of thinking which goes beyond lectures and tutorial discussion.
- Expression and presentation very competent throughout.

**C 60 – 69%**

- Competent in skills of argumentation and interpretation.
- Sound use of sources.
- Can organise material but argument may lack clarity, or be very derivative, or be poorly structured. Alternatively, it may be good work which goes astray at crucial points.
- Adequate research and assimilation of relevant background material.
- Generally dependent upon lecture and tutorial material.
- Command of writing and presentation skills adequate.

**D 50 – 59%**

- Adequate and passable.
- Lacks sophistication but has some understanding of the material and basic skills of argumentation and interpretation.
- May be poorly structured.
- Work will tend to be derivative and uneven in quality.
- Writing generally but not always grammatical.
- Presentation weak.

**N 45 – 49%**

- Poor quality work which might achieve pass standard with further effort.
- Has some preliminary understanding of the material and relevant issues, but is unable to marshal a coherent argument or to develop detailed interpretation.
- May not understand the material or the question. The response may not be relevant to the question or project.
- May be extensively paraphrased or very derivative.
- May be under-length.
- Expression often ungrammatical, presentation skills very poor.

**N 44 and below:**

- Very poor quality work. Unacceptable.
- Little or no evidence of effort or of basic academic or technical skills.
- Negligible grasp of the material or of relevant issues.
- Expression poor to the point of being illiterate.
- Very badly presented.