MARKING CRITERIA for EXAMS and ESSAYS

The following criteria are the basis on which both exam answers and course work essays are assessed. Feedback should include comments on the structure, referencing and diagrams, as well as the content and the students understanding of the topic. Due allowance is made for which year is being marked and for the time available in an exam. **NB**: Problem type answers should be marked on a semi-absolute scale.

Mark (%)	Criteria
100 95 90 85	**Exceptional** Answer is an exceptionally well presented exposition of the subject, showing (1) command of the relevant concepts and facts, (2) a high critical or analytical ability***, (3) originality and (4) evidence of substantial outside reading (where applicable). Comments from markers should show how this exceeds the expected level of performance of a student at this stage of their degree.
80 76 72	**Excellent** (*approx 1st class*): Answer is (1) a very well presented exposition of the subject, (2) shows command of the relevant concepts and facts and (3) most of the above features, but falling short in one or two of them.
68 65 62	**Very Good** (*approx Upper 2nd class*): Answer shows (1) a clear grasp of the relevant concepts and facts, (2) gives an accurate account of the relevant taught material (as exemplified in the model answer), and (3) shows evidence of some outside reading or critical or analytical ability**..
58 55 52	**Good** (*approx Lower 2nd class*): Answer shows (1) a grasp of the basic concepts and facts, (2) gives a mainly accurate account of at least half of the relevant taught material, but (3) does not go beyond that, or goes beyond that but is then marred by significant errors.
48 45 42	**Adequate** (*approx 3rd class*): Answer shows (1) only a moderate grasp of the subject, and (2) is marred by major errors or brevity, but (3) by presenting at least a third of the material expected of a Very Good answer, shows sufficient relevant knowledge to reach degree level.
<u>Below 40</u> 38 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0	**Fail** Answer shows a weak grasp of the subject that includes about one third of the material expected for a Very Good answer. Major errors of understanding may be evident, or the answer is too brief to show better than a Pass level of understanding. Answer shows (1) a confused understanding of the question, and (2) insufficient relevant knowledge to reach degree level by presenting less than a third of the material expected of a Very Good answer. Answer is too inaccurate, too irrelevant, or too brief to indicate more than a vague understanding of the question, and presents less than a quarter of the material expected of a Very Good answer. Answer presents only one, two or three sentences or facts that are correct and relevant to the question. Answer contains nothing correct that is relevant to question.

**Analytical = assessing a hypothesis or statement by breaking it down into its elements and examining their inter-relationships and contribution to the whole; cf. critical = judging a hypothesis or conclusion by examining the validity of the evidence adduced for it.