

9.11 Level descriptors

80+	Includes everything expected from an exceptional essay, but with additional originality, flair, or confidence in terms of argument or interpretation.	Outstanding
70-80	An impressive standard of work beyond what might be regarded as essential to meet the learning outcomes. Accurate interpretation of the specific assessment criteria. Excellent command of theoretical concepts with ability to critically review and analyse evidence within an articulate, a well-constructed argument arriving at sound conclusions. Creative work demonstrating original thought Shows excellent use of English and referencing.	Exceptional
60-69	Demonstrates a good understanding of the theoretical material and key issues. Arguments are well constructed with good use of examples and factual accuracy. Beginning to demonstrate use of own initiative or confident original thought. Excellent use of English and referencing	Above average
50-59	A good standard of work. Demonstrates familiarity with the subject and covers the assignment brief accurately. Arguments are developing with good use of supporting evidence although they may not always be particularly complex or consistent. Adequate referencing and good use of English.	Average
45-49	Good evidence of factual knowledge but some difficulty in applying this to the question. Still tending to be overly descriptive but some elements of analysis present. Limited but mostly accurate use of referencing and English.	Pass
40-45	Satisfactory but only just. Shows some understanding of the topic but does not explicitly link this to the question. Limited evidence of analysis or evaluation of ideas presented. Referencing and literary style require development	Bare Pass
30-39	Demonstrates limited understanding of the assignment topic. Work is rambling and lacks structure. Work mostly descriptive and has a tendency to generalise. Very limited referencing and poor use of English.	Marginal Fail
0-29	Purpose of assignment misunderstood, content largely irrelevant. Serious factual errors. No recognisable introduction or conclusion. Totally descriptive with no meaningful interpretation of the literature. Little or no referencing, poor use of English.	Fail