

Degree Classes: Level 3 (Final Year) Course Work/Assessments

First Class: "Outstanding" or "Excellent" [75%, 85%, 95%]

Work that is excellent in both range and command of materials covered and arguments presented. The work should show an excellent understanding and appreciation of the subject and should engage the question closely. The work should show originality, treating evidence critically and incorporating information from a wide range of appropriate sources. In the case of lecture-related material, evidence of wider research would be expected, with the material fully synthesised into the body of the work. The product should be well structured and focussed.

First Class marks must reflect **Excellent** work at the very upper end of undergraduate performance.

Upper Second Class: "Highly competent" or "Very Good" [62%, 65%, 68%]

Work in this class should show a good broad-based knowledge of the topic and lecture material that is presented in a clearly argued, logical and focussed manner. Work at the upper end of the class should show evidence of critical evaluation of material from different sources. Work at the lower end of this class would be a competent reproduction of lecture material but may lack focus or have omitted too much factual knowledge.

Lower Second Class: "Satisfactory" [52%, 55%, 58%]

This class reflects an adequate piece of work that, although broadly relevant and competent, shows lack of focus and organisation, misunderstandings of the lecture material/topic and omits important relevant material.

Third Class: "Poor" [42%, 45%, 48%]

Work that shows some knowledge of the topic but with serious deficiencies in understanding and coverage. This class will include work that misses the point of the question/assessment or is unduly brief.

Fail: "Very Poor" or "Unsatisfactory" [0%, 5%, 15%, 25%, 35%]

Work that is irrelevant, showing a considerable degree of ignorance and/or in which the question is barely attempted.

Undergraduate Assessment Criteria:

Key features of Level 3 (Final Year) Course Work/Assessments

First 70+	<i>Thoughtful answer informed by wider reading showing clarity of thought and personal insight</i>	
	Understanding	Thorough understanding demonstrated with an insightful and creative analysis
	Selection & Coverage	Comprehensive range of relevant evidence used, demonstrating independent study and, in year 3, extensive reading
	Structure	Clear, fluent, integrated and focused
		90+ creative and sophisticated and, in year 3 of publishable quality 80+ striking insight demonstrated 75+ excellent in all areas and displaying originality
Upper Second 60-69	<i>Good understanding of basic principles & relevant evidence, with a coherent & logical argument showing analytical ability</i>	
	Understanding	Good understanding of all key issues and wider implications with a convincing analysis
	Selection & Coverage	Breadth in examples and evidence used without any major omissions, as well as evidence of extended reading
	Structure	Coherent and logical
Lower Second 50-58	General	Excellent in some areas or of high quality in all
	<i>Sound understanding demonstrated with some analysis</i>	
	Understanding	Sound understanding of the basic principles and main issues with some evidence of analysis or synthesis
	Selection & Coverage	Appropriate material but little evidence of extended reading, possibly some omissions
	Structure	Clearly presented and generally logical
Third 40-49	General	Low quality in at least one area
	<i>Basic understanding of the main issues demonstrated</i>	
	Understanding	General knowledge demonstrated but analysis limited in its depth and breadth
	Selection & Coverage	Skeletal coverage of basic material
Fail <40	Structure	Adequately presented and generally logical
	General	Superficial and of low quality in a number of areas
	<i>Unsystematic, incomplete and/or inaccurate</i>	
	Understanding	Key issues not identified poor analysis or none
	Selection & Coverage	Some inaccuracies or omissions in data, inappropriate material
	Structure	Argument sketchy, loose ends, disorganised
	General	30-39 some knowledge but poorly presented 20-29 answered only in part and flawed 10-19 deeply flawed or unacceptably brief <9 irrelevant or unintelligible