

# Appendix AC. Assessment Criteria for Essays

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Essay type answers are usually directed by a single sentence or short paragraph inviting description, discussion and analysis of a topic. There is a large range of work (including reports, surveys and critiques) and question types which may be considered to be in this class.

**1st: 80-100%.** An outstanding answer which constitutes a comprehensive response and provides a useful addition to the literature in the field. Provides an insightful commentary on the topic and probably provides new insights in the field. Layout on the page which is of publishable quality and follows any instructions precisely, carefully and appropriately. In a professional style and of excellent grammatical quality. Excellent use of technical language where appropriate, and providing citations to all other key work in the field.

**1st: 70-79%.** An excellent answer which constitutes a wide-ranging response and provides a useful addition to the literature in the field. Provides a useful commentary on the topic and may provide new insights in the field. Layout on the page which is of publishable quality and follows any instructions appropriately. In a professional style and of very good grammatical quality. Excellent use of technical language where appropriate, and providing citations to other key work in the field.

**2(i): 60-69%.** A very good answer which covers the field well and probably provides a tutorial level introduction to the field. May have some minor omissions but covers most of the relevant issues and provides significant interpretation. Shows some development from the original material. Probably requiring some minor alterations to produce work of a publishable quality. In an easily read style with very few grammatical errors. Good use of technical language where appropriate, and providing citations to other work in the field.

**2(ii): 50-59%.** A good answer which covers some of the field well but probably suffers from some significant omissions. Shows some interpretation and development of the relevant issues. Probably requiring some very significant alterations to produce work of a publishable quality. In a comprehensible style with some grammatical errors. Use of technical language sometimes marred, and providing insufficient citations to other work in the field.

**3rd: 40-49%.** An answer which significantly lacks coverage of the field. Little original development or interpretation. Often drawn mainly from other sources such as lecture material or reference books. Readable but of a poor standard in terms of structure and may disregard instructions about the format required. May contain many grammatical errors. Well below publishable quality. Often lacking references to sources used.

**Fail:30-39%.** Some of the key areas probably considered but usually no original contribution. Often largely drawn directly from lecture notes and standard reference books. Lacks organisation and omits some areas of fundamental importance. May demonstrate superficial or lack of understanding of significant areas. Probably contains many grammatical errors. Often lacking suitable acknowledgement of the source of the material presented.

**Fail: 20-29%.** A seriously flawed response failing to consider most of the key areas. No useful original content. Sometimes uses other sources in a way which borders on plagiarism due to lack of suitable referencing. Little or no analysis or understanding of the field made evident. Likely to be of a very poor grammatical quality and written in a very poor style. Some redeeming features.

**Fail: 0-19%.** No real attempt at a response due to brevity, major misconceptions, errors or failure to understand what was required.