

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR ESSAYS AND WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS*

%	Knowledge	Comprehension	Structure of Answer	Relevance	Language and Expression
70+	An extensive knowledge of the subject along with evidence of reading and independent research.	A mature comprehension of the subject, developed analytical ability, and the ability to discuss relevant concepts penetratingly and with some originality.	Ability to introduce a sophisticated argument supported by relevant references, and presented in a coherent, clear and logical manner.	An ability to concentrate fully on the task in hand and show an awareness of what is relevant and significant.	Shows a strong grasp of English/Welsh, along with sophisticated style.
60-69	A substantial knowledge of the subject along with some evidence of reading and independent research.	A good comprehension of the subject, substantial analytical ability, and the ability to discuss relevant concepts.	Ability to introduce a clear argument, supported to some extent by relevant references, and presented fairly coherently, clearly and logically.	The ability to concentrate on the task in hand and show awareness of what is relevant and significant.	Shows a good grasp of English/Welsh, with an appropriate vocabulary and style.
50-59	A competent knowledge of the subject but without much evidence of reading and independent research.	A fairly good comprehension of the subject, some analytical ability, and a limited ability to discuss relevant concepts.	The ability to present an argument but with some difficulty regarding coherence, clarity and logic.	Some ability to concentrate on the task in hand with a tendency to digress and include irrelevant elements.	A fair grasp of English/Welsh. Obvious infelicities which may impede meaning and detract from style. Sufficient but undeveloped vocabulary.
40-49	Rudimentary knowledge of the subject.	Elementary comprehension, and failure to show much analytical ability.	Some ability to present arguments, but unable to develop argument clearly, coherently and logically.	Some ability to concentrate on the task in hand with a marked tendency to digress and include irrelevant elements.	An elementary grasp of written English/Welsh. Frequent mistakes which impede meaning and style. Poor vocabulary.
0-39	Lack of knowledge of the subject.	Lack of comprehension.	Obvious inability to present an argument.	Obvious inability to concentrate on the task in hand.	Inability to write coherent English/Welsh.

* These assessment criteria are intended only as general guidelines for examiners and students.