

Example Assessment and Examinations Strategies

1. Criteria for assessing Examination Work

First Class

First class answers demonstrate depth of knowledge or problem solving skills which is beyond that expected from a careful and conscientious understanding of the lecture material.

Answers will show that the student

- Has a comprehensive knowledge of a topic (often beyond that covered directly in the programme) with an absence of misunderstandings,
- Is able to apply critical analysis and evaluation,
- Can solve unfamiliar problems not drawn directly from lecture material and can adjust problem solving procedures as appropriate to the problem,
- Can set out reasoning and explanation in a logical , incisive and literate style.

Upper Second

Upper second class answers provide a clear impression of competence and show that the student

- Has a good knowledge base and understanding of all the principal subject matter in the programme.
- Can solve familiar problems with ease and can make progress towards the solution of unfamiliar problems,
- Can set out reasoning and explanation in a clear and coherent manner.

Lower Second

Lower second class answers will address a reasonable part of the question with reasonable competence but may be partially incomplete or incorrect. The answer will provide evidence that the student:

- Has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the principal subject matter of the programme but limited to lecture material and with some errors and omissions,
- Can solve familiar problems through application of standard procedures,
- Can set out reasoning and explanation which, whilst lacking in directness and clarity of presentation can nevertheless be followed and readily understood

Third Class

Third class answers will demonstrate some relevant knowledge but may fail to answer the question directly and/or contain significant omissions or incorrect material. Nevertheless, the answer will provide evidence that the student:

- has some basic knowledge and a limited understanding of the key aspects of the lecture material,
- can attempt to solve familiar problems albeit inefficiently and with limited success.

Pass

Answers in the pass category represent the very minimum acceptable standard. Such answers will contain very little appropriate material, major omissions and will be poorly presented lacking in any coherent argument or understanding. However the answer will suggest that the student.

- has some familiarity with the general subject area,
- whilst unable to solve problems can at least formulate a problem from information given in a sensible manner.