**Grades and Assessment Criteria for Written Work**

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At the University of Erfurt, the following grades for individual pieces of assessed work exist, in which 1,0 is the best grade:

1,0; 1,3; 1,7; 2,0; 2,3; 2,7; 3,0; 3,3; 3,7; 4,0 and 5,0.

I use the following assessment criteria when marking work:[[1]](#footnote-1)

1,0-1,3

Work of exceptional quality that shows an excellent command of the subject in

question and originality in thought and extent of knowledge acquired.

A mark in this range is indicative of outstanding work. Marks in this range will be

awarded for work that exhibits all the attributes of excellent work but has very

substantial elements of originality and flair. Marks at the upper end of the range will indicate that the work is of publishable, or near publishable academic standard.

1,7-2,0

Work that shows an excellent, though not necessarily faultless, command of the

subject in question, together with elements of originality in thought and in the extent of the knowledge acquired.

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is of an excellent standard for

the current level of your degree course. The work will exhibit excellent levels of

knowledge and understanding comprising all the qualities of good work stated above, with additional elements of originality and flair. The work will demonstrate a range of critical reading that goes well beyond that provided on reading lists. Answers or essays will be fluently written and include independent argument that demonstrate an awareness of the nuances and assumptions of the question or title. Work will make excellent use of appropriate, fully referenced, detailed examples.

2,3-3,0

Work that shows an above average command of the subject in question,

possessing qualities of thoroughness, conscientiousness, and insight.

A mark in this range is indicative of good to very good work that holds great

promise for future standards. Work of this quality shows a good level of knowledge

and understanding of relevant seminar material. It will show evidence of reading a wide diversity of material and of being able to use ideas gleaned from this reading to support and develop arguments. Essay work will exhibit good writing skills with well organised, accurate footnotes and/or a bibliography that follows the accepted ‘style’ of the subject.

Arguments and issues will be illustrated by reference to well documented, detailed and relevant examples. There should be clear evidence of critical engagement with the objects, issues or topics being analyzed. Any quantitative work will be clearly presented, the results should be correct and any conclusions clearly and accurately

expressed.

3,3 - 3,7

Work that reveals that the student has acquired a basic command of the material covered in the seminar.

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is satisfactory to very satisfactory. Work of this quality will show clear knowledge and understanding of relevant seminar material. It will focus on the essay title or question posed and show evidence that relevant basic works of reference have been read and understood. The work will exhibit sound essay writing and/or analytical skills. It will be reasonably well structured and coherently presented. Essay work should exhibit satisfactory use of footnotes and/or a bibliography and in more quantitative work it should be possible to follow the logical steps leading to the answer obtained and the conclusions reached. Arguments and issues should be discussed and illustrated by reference to examples, but these may not be fully documented or detailed.

4,0

Work that shows some understanding of the material covered in the

seminar, but of a poor quality and with elements of misunderstanding and lack of thoroughness.

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is of an acceptable standard.

Work of this type will show limited knowledge and understanding of relevant seminar material. It will show evidence of some reading and comprehension, but the essay or answer may be weakly structured, cover only a limited range of the relevant material or have a weakly developed or incomplete argument. The work will exhibit weak essay writing or analytical skills. It may be poorly presented without properly laid out footnotes and/or a bibliography, or in the case of quantitative work, it may not be possible to follow the several steps in the logic and reasoning leading to the results obtained and the conclusions reached.

5,0

Work that fails to come up to the standard expected of university students admitted to an honours degree.

A mark in this range is indicative that the work is far below the standard

required.It indicates that the work is extremely weak and well below degree standard. This will be because either the work is far too short, is badly jumbled and incoherent in content, or fails to address the essay title or question asked. It will show very little evidence of knowledge or understanding of the relevant seminar material and may exhibit very weak writing and/or analytical skills.

Essay work will exhibit no clear argument, may have very weak spelling and grammar, very inadequate or absent references and/or bibliography and may contain major factual errors. Quantitative work will contain significant errors and incorrect conclusions.

1. I have borrowed these criteria from the University of Sussex's Politics and International Relations Department. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)