



University of St Mark & St John Generic Grade Descriptors

Undergraduate Provision

LEVELS 4, 5 and 6 (C, D and H)	
Pass 90–100% Outstanding work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates analytical and critical acumen • demonstrates the ability to develop and sustain a personal judgement which is well grounded in leading current research • demonstrates the ability to present a clear, structured, articulate and persuasive argument
Pass 80–89% Exceptional work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates thorough, critical understanding of current knowledge • demonstrates a critical awareness of the principles and practices of the discipline
Pass 70–79% Excellent work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the discipline • shows evidence of extensive, relevant reading which includes up-to-date research • reveals originality and insight • demonstrates ability to critically evaluate complex ideas
Pass 60–69% Very good work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates a sound understanding of the discipline • shows effective and competent use of literature • demonstrates a clear understanding of complex ideas • demonstrates the ability to analyse, interpret and organise information effectively • demonstrates a wide reading base • is a clear, concise and well-structured presentation
Pass 50–59% Good work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates a generally sound understanding of the discipline • makes good use of relevant literature • demonstrates ability to synthesis information into a clear, well-structured account / argument
Pass 40–49% Fair work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates an understanding of the discipline • shows evidence of relevant reading • demonstrates ability to work towards tasks set, but more descriptive than analytical • demonstrates the ability to organise work appropriately

Borderline fail 35-39% Weak work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a basic understanding of the discipline demonstrates some evidence of reading demonstrates evidence of broadly working towards the task(s) set <i>Weaknesses may be identified in one or more of the following: - fragmentary coverage; errors and omissions; organisation and presentation; misconceptions; inclusion of irrelevant information; misinterpretation of instructions.</i>
Fail 30-34% Inadequate work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a basic and partial understanding of the discipline some evidence of reading limited focus on task(s) set <i>Inadequacies may be identified in one or more of the following: - assessment guidelines not followed; little engagement with the discipline; errors / omissions; poorly presented work.</i>
Fail 20-29% Poor work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates little understanding of the discipline <i>Poor work may be evidenced by one or more of the following: - basic misunderstanding or misinterpretations; inability to meet the requirements of the assessment; poor organisation and presentation; inclusion of inappropriate material.</i>

Postgraduate Provision

LEVEL 7 (M)	
Pass with Distinction 90-100% Work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outstanding work which is thought provoking, presenting challenging evidence-based insights and proposals work which is of publishable quality
Pass with Distinction 80-89% Work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contributes to the knowledge base of the discipline effectively challenges theoretical frameworks displays methodological rigor demonstrates qualities consistent with publishable material
Pass with Distinction 70-79% Work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates confident, detailed and informed knowledge of the discipline demonstrates qualities of self-critical, independent learning displays a confident / competent grasp of complex issues displays evidence of originality and innovation
Pass with Merit 60-69% Work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates secure and relevant knowledge base is analytical in style and critical in interpretation demonstrates a fluent style and use of appropriate language
Pass 50-59% Work which: -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a competent understanding of the discipline reveals knowledge and understanding of key issues addresses issues within a structured framework demonstrates analytical and critical acumen is well organized and presented

<i>Condonable Fail</i> 40-49 <i>Work which: -</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • displays relevant knowledge of the discipline • reveals some evidence of a systematic, coherent and analytical engagement with the discipline • is generally competent but may be conceptually weak • contains irrelevant materials
<i>Fail</i> 30-39% <i>Work which: -</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates limited understanding of the discipline • reveals weaknesses / flaws in argument • uses an insufficient range of sources • has a poor style / structure • is partially incomplete
<i>Fail</i> 20-29% <i>Work which: -</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • displays insufficient engagement with or lack of understanding of the discipline • shows limitations in the ability to formulate / sustain a clear argument • does not meet the expectations of the task set
<i>Fail</i> 10-19% <i>Work which: -</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has serious errors and / or major omissions • is poorly communicated / presented • is incomplete / does not focus on the task set
<i>Fail</i> 1-9% <i>Work which: -</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unacceptable work which lacks evidence of understanding the discipline • includes inappropriate / irrelevant information • lacks any evidence of an appropriate reading base • marginal or no engagement with the task
<i>Fail</i> 0% <i>Non-submission</i>	