

Table A: University grade descriptors for undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses

Grade	Description	Designation	% range	Grade points
A +	Work of high to exceptionally high quality showing excellent knowledge and understanding of subject matter and appreciation of issues; well formulated arguments based on strong and sustained evidence; maps and diagrams, graphs and tables, etc included where appropriate; relevant literature referenced; high level of creative ability, originality and critical thinking; excellent communication and presentation skills.	High first	90 – 100	9
A		Clear first	85 – 89	8
A -		Bare first	80 – 84	7
B +	Work showing good to strong grasp of subject matter and understanding of major issues though not necessarily of the finer points; arguments clearly developed and based on convincing evidence; relevant literature referenced; evidence of creative ability, originality and critical thinking; good communication and presentation skills.	High second	75 – 79	6
B		Clear second	70 – 74	5
B -		Bare second	65 - 69	4
C +	Work showing a knowledge of subject matter and appreciation of main issues though possibly with some lapses and inadequacies; arguments developed and supported by some evidence and references; creative ability, originality and critical thinking present but limited; adequate communication and presentation skills.	Sound pass	60 – 64	3
C		Pass	55 – 59	2
C -		Marginal pass	50 - 54	1
D +	Work lacking breadth and depth. Work generally has gaps. Frequently work of this grade takes a simple factual approach and understanding and coverage of material is inadequate; does not attempt to interpret the material; at the lower end, indicates a need for considerable effort to achieve improvement; communication and presentation skills are poor.	Marginal fail	45 – 49	0
D		Clear fail	40 - 44	0
D-	Highly unsatisfactory. Work shows a lack of knowledge about and understanding of the topic. Inadequate in degree of relevance, sometimes completeness, sometimes both. Communication and presentation skills are weak.	Poor fail	0 - 39	0
NA (Not Available)	NA must be entered where a grade is not immediately available, but expected at a later date. The final grade must be submitted within the deadlines for results submission.			
DNS (Did Not Sit)	DNS (Did not Sit) – must be entered if the student did not sit the exam.			
DNC (Did Not Complete)	DNC must be entered in the following circumstances: where a student has gained more than 50 percent in a course but has not completed the approved compulsory coursework and tests; where a student has gained less than 50 percent in an internally assessed course because of the failure to complete coursework and tests but the entry of a final grade would inappropriately represent the reasons for failure or the level of achievement.			