

Assessment Criteria – Law

Distinction (High) Marks: 100, 95 or 85%

1. Research: The submission shows evidence of outstanding research that goes far beyond the suggested reading for the module.
2. Knowledge: The work shows an impressive knowledge of the subject area and an exceptional ability to identify peculiar or novel aspects for consideration.
3. Critical Thought: The discussion shows extremely incisive analysis and reasoning demonstrating an exceptional perception and capacity for independent critical evaluation of the subject area, perhaps by suggesting novel or alternative ways of addressing the issues
4. Presentation: The essay is extremely well structured and lucidly presented, with no serious typographical or grammatical errors. Comment: With only very minor amendments, the submission is of a standard suitable for publication in a relevant academic journal.

Distinction Marks: 78, 75 or 72%

1. Research: The submission demonstrates a considerable research effort in effectively using sources that go significantly beyond the suggested reading for the module.
2. Knowledge: The work shows a well-informed and insightful knowledge of the subject area, and the ability to identify and clearly explain the issues for consideration.
3. Critical Thought: The discussion shows the ability to offer thoughtful critical evaluation of the topic and to present a substantiated and well-reasoned line of argument towards a clear conclusion.
4. Presentation: The essay is well-organised and well presented, with relatively few typographical or grammatical errors Comment: With not too many changes, the submission might be acceptable for publication in a student law journal.

Merit Marks: 68, 65 or 62%.

1. Research: The submission shows a very capable research effort with a good use of the suggested reading materials for the module, perhaps with some use of additional sources.
2. Knowledge: The work shows an informed knowledge of the subject area and awareness of key issues and their gravity.
3. Critical Thought: There is some evidence of perceptive and evaluative thinking, and the ability to construct a reasoned and substantiated argument towards a clear conclusion.
4. Presentation: The work is reasonably well organised with relatively few typographical or grammatical errors

Pass Marks: 58, 55 or 52%

1. Research: The submission shows at least a general familiarity with the research sources suggested in the module and an ability to use these reasonably effectively.
2. Knowledge: The work demonstrates a sound basic knowledge of the subject area and presents a clearly organised account of this.
3. Critical Thought: The discussion shows relatively little capacity for critical evaluation

4. Presentation: The work is reasonably well organised, with some typographical or grammatical errors. Comment: Typically, an answer in this category may fall short of a merit classification because of over-dependency on secondary sources, shortcomings in coverage, misunderstandings of critical issues, or because the presentation, organisation or writing style are deficient. A bare pass mark might be awarded where the work involves a purely descriptive treatment of the subject area with little attempt to offer any evaluative discussion.

Fail Marks: 48, 45 or 42%

1. Research: The submission makes some reference to suggested reading material for the module, but reproduces this with little discussion or evaluation in a way that shows a limited grasp the subject matter.

2. Knowledge: The work shows a significant lack of understanding of the issues, perhaps due to misunderstandings or shortcomings in research.

3. Critical Thought: There is a lack of coherence in the overall argument

4. Presentation: The work shows serious weakness in presentation, because of a lack of structuring and/or serious grammatical or typographical errors,

Fail (Serious) Marks: 38, 35, 32, 25, 20, 10, or 0%

1. Research: The submission shows an almost total lack of relevant research and citation.

2. Knowledge: The work shows a lack of basic knowledge of the subject area.

3. Critical Thought: The discussion shows an inability to grasp central issues and to present a coherent assessment.

4. Presentation: The presentation is so seriously flawed that coherence is impaired.

Students who are not native English speakers will find valuable support at the Centre for English & World Languages, by way of their key 'In-sessional English Skills course. Extending over two terms, the programme offers training in five areas: essay writing, grammar, listening/note-taking, seminar discussion and presentation skills, and individual writing tutorials.