ASSESSMENT CRITERIA - POLITICS

Class	Mark Range	Guidelines
Distinction	72, 75,78,82,85, 88, 92, 95, 98, 100%	A Distinction level script or essay is a piece of work of exceptional quality, requiring a high level of conceptual ability and an extremely thorough and conscientious approach to study. It is distinguished by some or all of the following attributes: a clear and compelling argument, which provides a coherent framework within which to answer the question, a thorough, advanced and critical familiarity with the relevant literature and empirical data, a strong conceptual framework and ability to relate empirical data to this framework, very good expression and excellent bibliographical and referencing support. The marks in the distinction level vary to the extent that all of these attributes are accomplished and with the power and originality of the argument. An outstanding answer that could hardly be bettered. Showing an original capacity to develop arguments beyond those available in the literature, an exceptional level of understanding, a deep and sophisticated argument, and aptitude in research skills. Of publishable quality. An excellent answer showing a thorough understanding of the field, a mastery of the relevant literature and an ability to argue beyond it. Likely to be of publishable quality; an outstanding piece of work. A distinguished piece of work marked by a clear argument, an advanced understanding of the course material, a strong and critical grasp of the literature and some or all of the following qualities: independent critical thought, wide-ranging reading or research, original thinking, a strong argument and excellent use of evidence.
Merit	68, 65 or 62%	A Merit level script or essay shows an advanced level of knowledge or understanding. It demonstrates acute judgement, clear thought and expression, and an ability to marshal arguments; it demonstrates evidence of conscientious study and good research. It should exhibit good bibliographic and referencing skills, the ability to organize the evidence in such a way as to provide a clear answer, avoidance of irrelevant or extraneous material, and familiarity with the relevant literature. , care, thought, and hard work. It shows an assured fulfillment of the intended learning outcomes. Marks within the Merit class vary to the degree these attributes are attained. A strong answer with a coherent framework and a very good argument, based on wide reading, showing a thorough approach and very good understanding. It will be well-organized and wellpresented.

		A clear and cogent answer which answers the question, with evidence of reading or research beyond the minimum required. The answer will be reasonably well-organized and clear presented and will show a reasonably good familiarity with the relevant literature and data.
Pass	52, 55, 58%	Work in the Pass category meets the learning outcomes of advanced knowledge and understanding. It is characterised by a level of empirical knowledge, which demonstrates a conscientious attempt to tackle the question, but is nevertheless less comprehensive than a Merit level answer. It may involve less application of theories, some weaknesses in organization and in the coherence of the argument, intrusion of some extraneous material, or show some flaws or lack of coherence in the argument or the analysis or some weaknesses in the bibliography and referencing. Marks in the category vary to the extent that these weaknesses manifest themselves.
Fail	48, 45, 42%	Work in this category fails to meet the minimum requirements of Master's level work. It indicates inadequate level of knowledge and understanding of the intended learning outcomes, an inability to develop more than a flimsy answer to the question that has been set, weak preparation, failures of bibliography and referencing, or plagiarism. Marks in this category vary with the egregiousness of these flaws
	38, 35, 32, 28, 25, 22%	Some knowledge and understanding demonstrated, but it may be incomplete. There will usually be poor organization, errors and irrelevant material, and the answer will show evidence of limited reading. Although some relevant material may be present, the answer shows a poor understanding and very weak reading or research on the topic. It is likely to contain errors and irrelevant material and to be poorly referenced The answer is inadequate, based on little relevant material and poor understanding. There may be fundamental errors and poor structure and the essay shows inability to tackle the question.
	10 or 0%	The answer shows a failure to answer or even understand the assignment, showing virtually no evidence of reading, and poor structure and expression. A mark of 0 is awarded where the work contains a component of plagiarized or duplicated material which casts doubt on whether the student has satisfied the requirements to Pass