

## Academic Feedback

When you get your essay back, don't just take note of the mark, read your marker's comments carefully. If you want further clarification on anything relating to the essay, arrange to see your marker; take the essay with you.

The mark that you receive for an essay has of necessity to be a composite judgement, taking into account both the content of the essay and its structure and presentation. Thus, a mark of 55 might be given for a neatly structured essay based on rather little information, or for a well-researched essay that was badly put together or written unclearly. The reasons for the mark/grade should be clear from the marker's comments, but if you are in any doubt ask directly. Don't be afraid to ask your supervisor 'How well structured did you find my essay?' or 'How clearly was it written?' as well as 'Did you agree with what I said?'

When marking essays your supervisor will be looking for the following things in particular:

- Good knowledge and understanding of the topic;
- The ability to pursue and develop a coherent argument that is relevant to the question;
- The ability to use evidence in an effective manner, sometimes from a wide range of sources;
- Evidence of analysis and critical thought;
- Logical control and organisation of your material;
- The ability to discriminate between the significant and the trivial;
- A clear structure to your essay;
- The ability to write clearly, fluently and concisely.

Categorical marking scale: Essays and dissertations are marked out of 100 with a pass mark of 50%.

BSIS staff uses the categorical marking scale as set out in the Credit Framework Annex 6:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfoannex6.html>

<b>Numerical Scale</b>	<b>Classification</b>
100 95 85 78 75 72	Distinction
68 65 62	Merit
58 55 52	Pass
48 45 42 38 35 32 25	Fail

20	
10	
0	

Please note that marks above 78 tend to be exceptional. Students who would like more feedback on any aspect of their coursework are encouraged to see the marker in his/her office hours.