

Rules of Assessment

These are the general guidelines and rules used for assessing the research works and term papers (hereafter “research works”) that would be assessed in this course, not least **a research proposal** that you will be assigned at the end of the term. These might also be applicable to weekly assignments in some circumstances (i.e. the exercise of writing a research proposal).

An Overview

The research works, at minimum, needs to cover the following components:

1. For the most general circumstances, a research work needs to include the **title of the study** and **the problem to be studied**, such as problem statements; research questions; your hypothesis; the **rationale to the study**; **methodology**; the **benefits and contribution** of the study.
2. A research work needs to show **an overview and understanding** of the basic issues raised by the problem statements and research questions, as well as the broader issues related to the subject of the research, that are found in broader academic literature that has already been published, such as books, journals, and working papers, at the forefront of research on the area.
3. A research work needs to refer to both **the basic literature** in the area (at the very least, ones directly connected with your research questions) as well as **additional literature** including relevant ancillary texts, articles, and other sources. In addition, the research work also covers, if applicable, an examination of the evidence that literature uses for its arguments and critiques of the empirical and/or theoretical basis of the literature.
4. A research work needs to **define, clarify and conceptualise** a series of key technical terms and notions that are crucial to your research (any ambiguous, less-clarified and illogical arguments are regarded as *no argument*). It is also necessary to show basic analytical and methodological skills, and to properly synthesise materials and evidence to be presented.
5. A research work needs to argue effectively and persuasively to its readers, and to also

critically assess (including defending and/or attacking as you choose) established academic perspectives. Where applicable, it needs to be placed in a theoretical framework that guides the readers throughout the argument being presented.

6. Finally and most importantly, a research work needs to clearly show promise in conducting independent academic research. Please note that any ambiguous arguments, that fail to state main ideas and can be interpreted in numerous ways, should be regarded as **out of assessment**.

Marking Scheme

A (80% and over mark)

This mark is awarded for works consisting of clear research statements that are both comprehensive and incisive, with excellent quality, rigorous arguments and considerable originality in design and approach.

B (70% - 79% mark)

This mark is normally awarded for well-organised works that draws an effective synthesis and analysis of the materials and a convincing treatment of the topic to be proposed (including relevant reading and research that provide an effective treatment of the topic and the subject area).

C (60% - 69% mark)

This mark is awarded for a properly presented works with good coverage of the relevant materials and a fair account and/or reasonable use of the relevant arguments.

Fail (marks below 59%)

Any research works which are marked below 59% might have the following characteristics:

1. No convincing research questions and statements
2. Awkward organisation of the arguments
3. Insufficient coverage of literature
4. Inefficient use of materials to defend central arguments
5. Merely summarizing existing literature
6. No mark will be given to any works with plagiarism