

MA Marking Criteria

Items of coursework and the dissertation are all marked out of 100 points. The minimum pass mark for an individual piece of work for the MA is 50: marks below 50 are fail marks. Students may be awarded a condoned pass for marks in the range of 40-49, but a degree may only be awarded where there is a maximum of 25% of all elements in the range of 40-49. Please check the Scheme of Award for full details on the classification of MA degrees.

Where relevant, examinations, essays and dissertation marks are awarded according to the following criteria. Within each range, the precise mark given will reflect the degree to which the requisite qualities are present or predominant:

70+:

The candidate demonstrates:

- * a critical grasp of and original engagement with relevant historiography
- * an effective understanding and critical assessment of relevant concepts and categories
- * a detailed and critical understanding of the sources available to historians, and their limitations
- * an ability to structure a logical, coherent and compelling essay
- * appropriate referencing skills (such as footnotes/endnotes, bibliography)
- * grammatical and fluent writing
- * in the case of the dissertation, critical and substantial engagement with primary sources and the ability to frame an historical question in a critical manner

Within the 70+ category, work that demonstrates the qualities below should be awarded marks of **75+ (including 80+)**, again reflecting the degree to which the requisite qualities are present:

- an ability to situate their own work within the relevant historiographic context(s)
- an intellectually mature understanding and critical assessment of historians' concepts and categories, and their sources
- a thorough grasp of most or all of the historiography relevant to the topic
- originality
- an intellectually ambitious approach to the essay topic

60-69:

The candidate demonstrates:

- * recognition of and engagement with broad contours of relevant historiography
- * reference to and engagement with relevant categories and concepts
- * recognition of the sources available to historians, and their limitations
- * the ability to construct and defend a logical line of historical analysis
- * appropriate referencing skills (such as footnotes/endnotes, bibliography)

- * grammatical and lucid writing
- * in the case of the dissertation, substantial engagement with primary sources and the ability to frame an historical problem in a critical manner

50-59:

The candidate demonstrates:

- * a grasp of the relevant historiography
- * awareness of the meanings of relevant concepts and categories used by historians
- * recognition of the sources available to historians, and their limitations
- * the construction of a logical line of historical analysis
- * appropriate referencing skills (such as footnotes/endnotes, bibliography)
- * grammatical writing
- * in the case of the dissertation, knowledge of and engagement with primary sources, and the ability to frame and explore a historical question

40-49:

The candidate demonstrates:

- * insufficient historiographical awareness to frame or address a historical problem
- * insufficient conceptual understanding to frame or address a historical problem
- * limited understanding of the sources available to historians
- * inadequate referencing skills
- * insufficient command of grammar to construct a coherent argument
- * in the case of the dissertation, insufficient knowledge or engagement of primary sources to frame and explore an historical problem

0-39:

The candidate is unable to attempt adequate answers to an historical question or problem.