

Categorizing student performance levels

GEOL0001 Earth Materials

“Excellent” is the performance expected of students gaining a First class honours (BSc or MSci).

“Typical” is the performance currently expected of students at the Lower/Upper Second class boundary (BSc or MSci). “Threshold” is the minimum performance currently required to gain an honours degree (BSc or MSci).

Definitions	Excellent performance	Typical performance	Threshold performance
Intellectual skills - knowledge and understanding	Knowledge base extending beyond the directly taught programme (e.g. reference to research papers).	Knowledge of the directly taught programme and some evidence of enquiry beyond that (e.g. key texts).	Knowledge based on the directly taught programme.
	Thorough understanding of elementary crystallography and crystal chemistry.	Understanding of elementary crystallography and crystal chemistry.	Basic understanding of elementary crystallography and crystal chemistry.
	Thorough understanding of the way in which light propagates through anisotropic minerals and of the methods used in polarised-light microscopy.	Understanding of the way in which light propagates through anisotropic minerals and of the methods used in polarised-light microscopy.	Basic understanding of the way in which light propagates through anisotropic minerals and of the methods used in polarised-light microscopy.
	Thorough knowledge of the structures and properties of the major rock forming minerals.	Knowledge of the structures and properties of the major rock forming minerals.	Basic knowledge of the structures and properties of the major rock forming minerals.
Practical skills	Outstanding ability to: (i) find the lattice, symmetry and planes and directions in a crystal; (ii) recognise minerals in hand specimen (iii) identify minerals in thin section on the polarising microscope.	Ability to: (i) find the lattice, symmetry and planes and directions in a crystal; (ii) recognise minerals in hand specimen (iii) identify minerals in thin section on the polarising microscope.	Basic ability to: (i) find the lattice, symmetry and planes and directions in a crystal; (ii) recognise minerals in hand specimen (iii) identify minerals in thin section on the polarising microscope.
Communication skills	Ability to write critically, efficiently and effectively.	Ability to write efficiently and effectively.	Ability to write effectively.
Numeracy and C & IT skills	Highly developed ability to calculate e.g. bond distances, radius ratios for packing etc.	Ability to calculate e.g. bond distances, radius ratios for packing etc.	Ability to calculate, with assistance, e.g. bond distances, radius ratios for packing etc.
	Ability to use web browsers to access e.g. mineral databases.	Ability to use web browsers to access e.g. mineral databases.	Ability to use web browsers to access e.g. mineral databases.