

Categorizing student performance levels

GEOL0009 Vertebrate Palaeontology and Evolution

Excellent is the performance expected of students gaining a First class honours (MSci) or Distinction (MSc). Typical is the performance currently expected of students at the Lower/Upper Second class boundary (MSci) or 60% (MSc). Threshold is the minimum performance currently required to gain an honours degree (MSci) or master's degree (MSc).

Definitions	Excellent performance	Typical performance	Threshold performance
Intellectual skills -knowledge and understanding	Knowledge base extending well beyond the directly taught programme. Reference to key research papers.	Knowledge based on the directly taught programme and some evidence of enquiry beyond that (e.g., key texts).	Knowledge based on the directly taught programme.
	Highly developed ability to integrate lines of evidence from the morphology of fossil and extant vertebrates (and some embryological and molecular data).	Ability to integrate lines of evidence from the morphology of fossil and extant vertebrates (and some embryological and molecular data).	Basic ability to integrate lines of evidence from the morphology of fossil and extant vertebrates (and some embryological and molecular data).
	Thorough understanding of vertebrate evolutionary history, including major diversification and extinction events.	Understanding of vertebrate evolutionary history, including major diversification and extinction events.	Basic understanding of vertebrate evolutionary history, including major diversification and extinction events.
	Detailed understanding of key analytical methods and principles, especially phylogenetic analysis and diversity reconstruction.	Understanding of key analytical methods and principles, especially phylogenetic analysis and diversity reconstruction.	Basic understanding of key analytical methods and principles, especially phylogenetic analysis and diversity reconstruction.
Practical skills	Strong ability to identify major vertebrate groups and interpret palaeoecological- and biomechanically-relevant features, based on observations of skeletal material	Ability to identify major vertebrate groups and interpret palaeoecological- and biomechanically-relevant features, based on observations of skeletal material	Basic ability to identify major vertebrate groups and interpret palaeoecological- and biomechanically-relevant features, based on observations of skeletal material
Communication skills	Ability to write critically, efficiently and effectively.	Ability to write efficiently and effectively.	Ability to write effectively.