

Categorizing student performance levels

GEOL0072 Independent MSci Project

“First Class” is the performance expected of students gaining a First class honours mark (> 70%). The Upper Second class boundaries are (69%-60%) The bottom of the Lower Second mark band (59%-50%) is the minimum performance currently required to pass a 4th-year MSci (“M-level”) module.

Definitions	First Class	Upper 2 nd Class	Lower 2 nd Class
Intellectual skills - knowledge and understanding	The student should show evidence of considerable independence and initiative, beyond the instructions provided by the supervisor(s). However, since the aims and methodology of projects are often specified in advance, it may not be possible for the student to exhibit these qualities in all areas. As appropriate for the particular project, therefore, these qualities can be exhibited in the planning, <i>and/or</i> the execution, <i>and/or</i> the writing up of the work.	As appropriate (see comments for Excellent Performance) the student should show evidence of some independence and initiative in the planning, <i>and/or</i> the execution, <i>and/or</i> the writing up of the work.	The student has been largely prompted and led by supervisor.
Practical skills	(As required) - Evidence of considerable independence and initiative, beyond the instructions provided by the supervisor(s) in the execution of the work.	(As required) - Evidence of some independence and initiative in the execution of the work.	(As required) – the student has been largely prompted and led by the supervisor(s)
Communication skills	In the Project Report (and Poster): Aims are clearly stated. Background is thoroughly researched. All data are presented and analysed in a clear and concise manner. Discussion provides a cogent interpretation. Conclusions are perceptive and place the project in a broader context. Presentation is excellent in	In the Project Report (and Poster): Aims are clearly stated. Background is thoroughly researched. All data are presented and analysed in a clear and concise manner. Discussion and interpretation are thorough, but less incisive than in a 1 st class project. Conclusions are clearly stated and show evidence of placing the project in a	In the Project Report (and Poster): Background is adequate but shows only basic knowledge of research field. Data presentation is adequate but interpretation is incomplete. Conclusions are poorly stated and show limited evidence of placing the project in a broader context. Presentation is

	terms both of English and of layout (e.g., appropriate headings, consistent reference style and reference list, sizing and clarity of figures, etc.).	broader context. Presentation is very good.	satisfactory.
Numeracy and C & IT skills	(As required) - Evidence of considerable independence and initiative, beyond the instructions provided by the supervisor(s) in the numerical/computing techniques employed.	(As required) - Evidence of some independence and initiative, beyond the instructions provided by the supervisor(s) in the numerical/computing techniques employed.	(As required) – Ability to follow procedures as directed by supervisor(s)