

	70–80	60–69	50–59	40–49	0–39
Use of reading	Extensive reading.	Evidence of wider reading. Relevant use of illustrative material.	Relevant but limited reading and use of examples. Little evidence of wider reading.	Little evidence of detailed reading. Contains serious mistakes or misunderstandings.	Shows no more than a very general acquaintance with the field.
Argumentation	Clear & rigorous argument. Exceptional insight or critical ability.	Evidence of good analytical skills and critical thinking. Effective grasp of concepts	Competently reproduces ideas & concepts from lectures or textbooks. Little evidence of independent, critical appraisal.	Unsupported assertion. Wholly uncritical approach.	Contains errors or incoherence showing a failure to grasp basic course-material.
Quality of writing	Extremely well organized. Extremely clear. Proceeds lucidly from one paragraph to the next throughout the essay	Well organized. Clearly expressed	Competent organization. Moderately clearly expressed.	Poorly organized. Opaque.	Absence (or near absence) of organization. Consists only of notes making isolated points
Engagement with the question	Addresses the question directly. Shows an ability to formulate responses to questions in novel and relevant ways.	Direct, relevant response to the question	Shows a general understanding of the question, but makes insufficient reference to it. Contains material which is generally relevant but not well integrated.	Shows an understanding of the question and the broader subject area. Fails to cover many key aspects of the topic. Irrelevant material.	Fails to answer the question. Complete (or almost complete) lack of relevance.
Further overall characteristics	Need not be "perfect"! Though not flawless, may: exhibit exceptional intellectual qualities (e.g. sophistication, originality, judiciousness); or notable clarity and excellent composition. 75+ is reserved for work with an obviously superior understanding of the complexities of the issues involved and which is distinctive in its excellence.	Shows a good command of the subject; uses this knowledge to construct a soundly structured and argued piece of work. May display some faults, e.g.: misses certain aspects of the question; contains patches of weaker material; holds back from giving voice to the writer's own views.	Shows a sound knowledge of basic facts & arguments. Present facts outside an analytical framework. Fails to cover some key aspects of the topic.	Some grasp of the topic. Some evidence of basic knowledge (of taking notes and reading basic textbooks) but little more.	