

Honours Dissertation Marking Schedule

Student's name: _____

This marking schedule has been developed to provide guidelines for students and markers about the features of dissertations that are conventionally regarded as desirable. It also aims to increase consistency between markers, enhance validity of the assessment process, and assist with provision of specific feedback to students. The schedule is not intended to be totally prescriptive, particularly when the nature of a student's research, and the way in which it is reported, justifiably depart from the conventions that are reflected here.

Item	Unsatisfactory (0-49)	Satisfactory (50-59)	Good (60-69)	Very good (70-79)	Excellent (80-100)	Percentage
Scope	Scope of the topic is not appropriate (either too great or too small) for an honours research project.	Scope of the topic is limited but acceptable or is overly ambitious but potentially achievable.	Scope of the topic is reasonably ambitious for an undergraduate honours project.	Scope of the topic is ambitious for an honours project but achievable.	Scope of the topic is highly ambitious for an honours project but achievable.	/100
Title and Abstract	<p>The title was absent or not appropriate.</p> <p>The abstract lacks key information and does not enlighten the reader about the project.</p> <p>The abstract is significantly more or less than 200 words.</p>	<p>Continuum:</p> <p>The title is confusing or ambiguous with regard to the project.</p> <p>The abstract is approximately 200 words.</p> <p>The abstract contains key information with some unbalanced presentation of sections of the dissertation.</p> <p>The title and/or abstract contain minor irrelevancies.</p>		<p>Continuum:</p> <p>The title clearly reflects the topic, style, and thrust of the research.</p> <p>The abstract is approximately 200 words long.</p> <p>The abstract contains all of the key information.</p>		/100
Introduction/Literature	<p>The purpose of the project is unclear with poor justification of chosen topic.</p> <p>There is little evidence of relevant and current literature.</p> <p>The review of the literature is fragmented and incoherent.</p> <p>There is little or no critical appraisal of the literature.</p>	<p>The purpose of the project is acceptably justified but not clear.</p> <p>Some justification is provided for the chosen topic.</p> <p>There is evidence of literature having been reviewed, but it is limited or there is over reliance on secondary sources.</p> <p>Critique of existing literature is superficial and not sufficiently related to the chosen topic.</p>	<p>The purpose of the project is clear.</p> <p>Justification for the topic is fully covered but not completely convincing.</p> <p>There is good evidence of literature having been reviewed, but there is some over reliance on standard journals / sources.</p> <p>There is a good attempt to critique existing literature, but the link to this project could be stronger.</p>	<p>The purpose of the project is very clear.</p> <p>There is very clear justification for the chosen topic.</p> <p>The review of the literature is very good and is from a range of sources and journals.</p> <p>There is a developed critique of existing literature and it is clearly linked back to the relevance of the chosen topic.</p>	<p>The purpose of the project is very clear.</p> <p>There is excellent justification of the chosen topic.</p> <p>There is an excellent coverage of relevant literature from a range of sources and journals.</p> <p>There is a highly developed critique of existing literature and it is clearly linked back to the relevance of the chosen topic.</p>	/ 100

	Unsatisfactory (0-49)	Satisfactory (50-59)	Good (60-69)	Very good (70-79)	Excellent (80-100)	Percentage
Method	<p>Choice of method is unclear or not justified.</p> <p>Description of method is unclear and inadequate.</p> <p>Choice of data analysis is inappropriate for the study.</p>	<p>Some justification for choice of method exists but aspects of this may be questioned.</p> <p>Key aspects of method are described, but description may be superficial and/or unclear, or have omissions.</p> <p>Choice of data analysis is justified but some aspects may be questioned.</p>	<p>Method is appropriate, with good justification provided for it.</p> <p>Key aspects of the method are described but with some minor omissions or lack of detail.</p> <p>There is appropriate choice of data analysis with a good justification for that choice.</p>	<p>Method is appropriate, with very clear justification provided.</p> <p>All aspects of method are described well with no obvious omissions.</p> <p>There is appropriate choice of data analysis with a very good justification for that choice.</p>	<p>Method is appropriate, with excellent justification provided.</p> <p>All aspects of the method are described in excellent detail.</p> <p>There is a sophisticated choice of data analysis accompanied by excellent justification for that choice.</p>	/ 100
Results	<p>Presentation of data / results is unclear and inappropriate.</p> <p>Analysis of data is inappropriate or superficial.</p> <p>Analysis contains significant inconsistencies.</p>	<p>Some elements of the data / results are unclear or inappropriate.</p> <p>Analysis of the data is superficial but acceptable.</p> <p>Some of the analysis is inconsistent or inappropriate.</p>	<p>Presentation of the data / results is generally clear.</p> <p>Analysis of the data is appropriate but limited.</p> <p>Analysis contains some minor inconsistencies or inaccuracies.</p>	<p>Presentation of the data / results is very clear.</p> <p>Analysis is appropriate and thorough.</p> <p>Analysis contains no inaccuracies or inconsistencies.</p>	<p>Presentation of the data / results is exceptionally clear.</p> <p>Analysis is appropriate, thorough, and possibly innovative.</p> <p>Analysis contains no inaccuracies or inconsistencies.</p>	/ 100
Discussion/ Conclusions	<p>There is unsubstantiated or invalid interpretation of results.</p> <p>There is little or no linking to theory or literature.</p> <p>There is inappropriate or very limited reflection about the study.</p> <p>There is very limited application of results to professional and personal practice and the community / society etc.</p> <p>Limitations of the research are not discussed or are incorrectly outlined.</p> <p>Considerations for further research are not discussed.</p>	<p>Interpretation of results is valid but superficial or not linked well to the study's aims.</p> <p>There is limited reference to theory and literature.</p> <p>There is superficial reflection on the study and issues raised.</p> <p>There is limited application of results to professional and personal practice and the community / society etc.</p> <p>Limitations of the study are addressed but are superficial.</p> <p>There is appropriate, but limited, discussion of possibilities for future research.</p>	<p>There is good interpretation of results in relation to the study's aims.</p> <p>There are clear references to theory and literature.</p> <p>There is appropriate reflection about the study and the issues raised.</p> <p>There is good application of results to professional and personal practice and the community / society etc.</p> <p>Limitations of the study are addressed appropriately.</p> <p>There is good discussion of possibilities regarding future research.</p>	<p>There is very good interpretation of results in relation to the study's aims.</p> <p>There are very clear references to theory and literature.</p> <p>There is appropriate reflection about the study and a very good discussion of the issues raised.</p> <p>There is very good application of results to professional and personal practice and the community / society etc.</p> <p>Limitations of the study are well addressed.</p> <p>There is very good discussion of possibilities regarding future research.</p>	<p>There is excellent interpretation of results in relation to the study's aims.</p> <p>There are excellent references to theory and literature.</p> <p>There is appropriate reflection about the study and an excellent discussion of the issues raised.</p> <p>There is excellent application of results to professional and personal practice and the community / society etc.</p> <p>Limitations of the study are very well addressed.</p> <p>There is excellent discussion of possibilities regarding future research.</p>	/100

	Unsatisfactory (0-49)	Satisfactory (50-59)	Good (60-69)	Very good (70-79)	Excellent (80-100)	Percentage
Overall organisation and unity	<p>The dissertation significantly lacks coherence and development.</p> <p>There is no clear flow of information and ideas from the introduction to the conclusion.</p>	<p>The dissertation lacks elements of coherence and development.</p> <p>There is a poor linking of ideas throughout the dissertation.</p>	<p>The dissertation is a fairly cohesive piece of writing but with some lack of flow and linking of ideas.</p>	<p>The dissertation is a very good piece of writing with a very high level of coherence and internal consistency.</p>	<p>The dissertation is an exceptional piece of writing that has coherence, originality, and creativity.</p>	/100
Presentation/ Referencing	<p>Formatting is frequently erroneous or inconsistent.</p> <p>Word count is significantly inappropriate (either too long or too short).</p> <p>Necessary appendices are not included.</p> <p>A non-standard or non-approved referencing system was used and/or there are major errors in referencing both in the text and within the reference list.</p>	<p>Continuum: There are some errors and inconsistencies in formatting.</p> <p>Word count is slightly outside of the approved range.</p> <p>Appendices are included but their purpose is not always clear or relevant.</p> <p>A recommended referencing system is used but with a number of errors either in the text or in the reference list.</p>		<p>Continuum: Formatting is consistent, error free, and impressive.</p> <p>Word count is within the approved range.</p> <p>Appendices are relevant, appropriate, and clearly presented.</p> <p>A recommended referencing system is used correctly and consistently throughout the dissertation.</p> <p>All references cited in the text are included in the reference list,</p>		/100
Skills in written English	<p>There are frequent and major errors regarding language, grammar, and spelling.</p>	<p>Continuum: There are some errors regarding language, grammar, and spelling.</p>		<p>Continuum: Language, grammar, and spelling are correct and appropriate throughout the dissertation.</p>		/ 100

Acknowledgements

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