



Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH

POSTGRADUATE ASSESSMENT – QUICK GUIDE

Passing a module

The standard pass mark is 50%

Where there is more than one component of assessment, students must achieve at least 40% in each component and an overall aggregate mark of 50%.

In some professional modules, eg for clinical skills, a special rule is added to the module descriptor such that students must achieve a higher mark in each component.

The components of assessment must be as set out in the module descriptor. No changes can be made without the approval of the School Academic Board. The descriptor also sets out the weighting of assessments. Eg presentation 20%, 2000 word essay 80%.

A module has two assessments: presentation 40% and case study 60%

Anna scores **45%** and **60%**
overall mark of **54** pass

Bashir scores **35%** and **70%**
overall mark of **56** – but Bashir fails because he scored less than 40 for the presentation

Christos scores **45%** and **55%**
overall mark of **51** pass

Debbie scores **55%** and **45%**
overall mark of **49** fail – because the case study is weighted as more important than the presentation

Please note that you don't have to calculate the overall mark. Provide the School Office with the % mark for each component. The computerised student record system will then calculate the aggregate mark automatically.

Reassessment

Number of attempts:

- 1st attempt = 1st diet. If a student has extenuating circumstances they may be allowed to retake an assessment 'as of the first diet' and score the full mark.
- 2nd attempt = retrieval (also known as resit). Normally students are allowed to resit if they fail the first attempt. Normally they resit only the component or components they failed. In the examples above, Bashir would redo the presentation and Debbie would resubmit the case study.
- 3rd attempt = repeat. If a student doesn't pass a module after two attempts they may be allowed to repeat the entire module. When a student repeats they must complete all the assessments again, even those they passed before. Normally they should attend classes again to give them the best chance to understand the topic.
- 4th attempt = last chance. If a student is repeating a module and fails they are allowed one last chance. As in the 2nd diet, they normally resit only the component or components they failed.

Special rules for calculating marks in reassessment:

- 2nd attempt. No marks carried forward from the first attempt – only the components being reassessed count. Student must get at least 40% in each component being reassessed and an aggregate mark of 50%. Mark capped at 50%.
- 3rd attempt. All components must be sat again. Calculated exactly like first attempt, with compensation allowed. Mark capped at 50%.
- 4th attempt. No marks carried forward from the third attempt – only the components being reassessed count. Student must get at least 40% in each component being reassessed and an aggregate mark of 50%. Mark capped at 50%.

Other rules affecting marks

- Going over the word limit. If a student is more than 10% over the word limit, the maximum mark possible is 50%.
- Handing in late without permission. If an assignment is handed in late but no more than 6 days late, a maximum mark of 50% is allowed. If the assignment is more than 6 days late, a mark of 0 is awarded.
- Fractions. Always round to the nearest whole number. Always round up .5 to the next highest whole number.

Awards

Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits
Masters	180 credits (including the dissertation)

Students with an overall average mark of 70% + will be awarded the degree with Distinction.