

**QMU Postgraduate Grade Descriptors**

**Approved by the University Senate on 30 June 2021**

**Applicable to all new and existing modules being delivered from September 2021 onwards**

**Grade A\* 80% and above Outstanding performance, exceptionally able – pass**

* Articulates an outstanding critical understanding and interpretation of the relevant information, principal theories, concepts and principles presented by the assessment
* Articulates an outstanding critical understanding that integrates most, if not all, of the main areas of the specialist discipline
* Demonstrates outstanding, extensive, detailed and critical knowledge, informed by current discipline developments
* Displays an outstanding ability to critically appraise scholarship and evidence, and synthesise concepts, knowledge and theory
* Applies a range of specialist and/or professional skills, techniques or practices aligned with the discipline
* Demonstrates an outstanding ability to communicate knowledge (written, verbal, practical, visual)
* Demonstrates an outstanding critical awareness of the scope and application of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship
* Shows an outstanding reflexive awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the subject
* Demonstrates outstanding originality, creativity or innovation in the application of knowledge and / or practice
* Displays outstanding potential to undertake research or be a leading practitioner within a specialist area

**Grade A 70-79.9% Very good performance – pass**

* Articulates a very good critical understanding and interpretation of the relevant information, principal theories, concepts and principles presented by the assessment
* Articulates a very good critical understanding that integrates most of the main areas of the specialist discipline
* Demonstrates very good, extensive, detailed and critical knowledge, informed by current discipline developments
* Displays a very good ability to critically appraise scholarship and evidence, and synthesise concepts, knowledge and theory
* Applies a range of specialist and/or professional skills, techniques or practices aligned with the discipline
* Demonstrates a very good ability to communicate knowledge (written, verbal, practical, visual)
* Demonstrates a very good critical awareness of the scope and application of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship
* Shows a very good reflexive awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the subject
* Demonstrates very good originality, creativity or innovation in the application of knowledge and / or practice
* Displays very good potential to undertake research or be a leading practitioner within a specialist area

**Grade B 60-69.9% Good performance – pass**

* Articulates a good critical understanding and interpretation of the relevant information, principal theories, concepts and principles presented by the assessment
* Articulates a good critical understanding that integrates some of the main areas of the specialist discipline
* Demonstrates good breadth, detailed and critical knowledge, informed by current discipline developments
* Displays good ability to critically appraise scholarship and evidence, and synthesise concepts, knowledge and theory
* Applies a range of specialist and/or professional skills, techniques or practices aligned with the discipline
* Demonstrates a good ability to communicate knowledge (written, verbal, practical, visual)
* Demonstrates a good critical awareness of the scope and application of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship
* Shows a good reflexive awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the subject
* Demonstrates good originality, creativity or innovation in the application of knowledge and / or practice
* Displays good potential to undertake research or be a leading practitioner within a specialist area

**Grade C 50-59.9% - Fair performance – pass**

* Articulates a fair critical understanding and interpretation of the relevant information, principal theories, concepts and principles presented by the assessment
* Articulates a fair, critical understanding that integrates a few of the main areas of the specialist discipline
* Demonstrates a fair breadth, detailed and critical knowledge, informed by current discipline developments
* Displays a fair ability to critically appraise scholarship and evidence, and synthesise concepts, knowledge and theory
* Applies a range of specialist and/or professional skills, techniques or practices aligned with the discipline
* Demonstrates a fair ability to communicate knowledge (written, verbal, practical, visual)
* Demonstrates a fair critical awareness of the scope and application of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship
* Shows a fair reflexive awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the subject
* Demonstrates fair originality, creativity or innovation in the application of knowledge and / or practice
* Displays fair potential to undertake research or be a leading practitioner within a specialist area
* Submission/assessment meets the standards of SCQF Level 11

**Grade D 40-49.9% Unsatisfactory performance – fail**

* Partial knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the relevant information, principal theories, concepts and current discipline developments
* Partial understanding of the breadth and depth of the discipline
* Limited ability to critically appraise scholarship and evidence, and synthesise concepts, knowledge and theory
* Insufficient application of specialist and/or professional skills, techniques or practices aligned with the discipline
* Demonstrates insufficient ability to communicate knowledge (written, verbal, practical, visual)
* Demonstrates a limited critical awareness of the scope and application of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship
* Shows insufficient reflexive awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the subject
* Partial demonstration of originality, creativity or innovation in the application of knowledge and / or practice
* Displays limited potential to undertake research or be a leading practitioner within a specialist area
* Submission/assessment does not meet the standards of SCQF Level 11

**Grade E 0-39.9% Unsatisfactory performance - fail**

* Little or no understanding and interpretation of the relevant information, principal theories, concepts and current discipline developments
* Little or no understanding of the breadth and depth of the discipline
* Inaccurate appraisal of scholarship and evidence, and synthesise concepts, knowledge and theory
* Ineffective application of specialist and/or professional skills, techniques or practices aligned with the discipline
* Ineffective communication of knowledge (written, verbal, practical, visual)
* Demonstrates little or no critical awareness of the scope and application of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship
* Consistent lack of reflexive awareness of value judgements and assumptions embodied in the subject
* Little or no demonstration of originality, creativity or innovation in the application of knowledge and / or practice
* Displays little or no potential to undertake research or be a leading practitioner within a specialist area
* Submission/assessment does not meet the standards of SCQF Level 11