

Psychology Marking Criteria and Mark Scheme for Essay-style Questions

Grade	Mark (%)	All Levels			Levels 5 - 6	Level 6
		Evidence of Comprehension	Breadth and Depth of Knowledge	Irrelevant Material and Errors	(Desirable in other years)	
					Synthesis & Balance	Originality & Innovation
A++	100	Outstanding; deep insight, more than expected at this level.	Outstanding: beyond what could be expected.	Contains no inaccuracies, or irrelevant material. APA formatting conventions strictly adhered to in coursework with no grammatical errors.	Outstanding selection. Beyond what would be expected at undergraduate level.	Original ideas and very insightful.
A+	92	Exceptional knowledge and understanding illustrated via logical, detailed and comprehensive presentation of relevant concepts/theories.	Excellent analysis and coherent evaluative interpretations of principal theories and concepts. Balanced and logical arguments presented together with a coherent and innovative summary/conclusion. Clear and extensive evidence of broad based reading.	Contains no inaccuracies, or irrelevant material. APA formatting conventions strictly adhered to in coursework with no grammatical errors.	Astute selection and juxtaposition, presenting widely evidenced and well evaluated arguments.	Strong evidence of creative interpretation.
A	83	Very good, broad-based knowledge and understanding shown of concepts/ theories and their limitations.	Very good analysis, showing sound insight into the main issues around the research presented. Coherent and relevant critical evaluation via logical arguments and good summary/conclusion.	No irrelevant material or errors. APA formatting conventions strictly adhered to in coursework with no grammatical errors.	Appropriate selection and combination. A logical flow of arguments, supporting/refuting research interpretations.	Very good evidence.
A-	74	Very good knowledge and understanding shown of the main concepts and theories and their limitations. Good evidence of broad-based reading.	Good analysis showing a good perception of the main issues presented. Coherent and relevant critical evaluation via logical arguments and valid conclusions reached.	Minimal irrelevant material. APA formatting conventions adhered to in coursework with no or minimal grammatical errors.	Appropriate selection and combination. Arguments flow logically, supporting interpretations of research presented.	Good evidence.
B+	68	Good knowledge and understanding of the main theories in this topic area, and how these have been developed.	Good analysis and perception of the main issues. Tending towards description but with some relevant critical evaluation of the evidence presented.	Minimal irrelevant material. APA formatting conventions strictly adhered to in coursework submissions. Minor errors in presentation. No or minimal grammatical or spelling errors.	Good analysis and perception of the main issues. Lacking in depth but with logical critical evaluation of the evidence presented.	Some.
B	65	A good understanding of the relevant theories presented within lectures, with a balanced essay structure.	Good perception of the main issues. Descriptive but comprehensive, providing additional evidence from core readings not provided in lectures.	Minimal irrelevant material. APA formatting conventions strictly adhered to in coursework submissions. Some minor errors and tangential material.	Well balanced essay but somewhat descriptive. Some attempt at relevant evaluation, with logical flow of arguments.	Limited.

B-	63	Sufficient to marshal an organised, direct response.	Some omissions of key points, but mostly accurate, with supporting evidence provided.	Some errors and tangential material. Minor errors in APA formatting in coursework. Minimal grammatical or spelling errors.	Inappropriate balance; partial synthesis, some attempt at evaluation shown, but overly descriptive in places.	Limited.
C+	58	Sufficient to show an understanding of the material presented in lectures.	A good attempt to focus on the question but with several key points omitted. Some, but limited supporting evidence.	Some errors and misunderstanding shown, with some tangential material.	Imbalanced showing an understanding of only some key points.	Very Limited.
C	55	Sufficient for a logical presentation.	Only basic material included; several key points omitted, poor attempt at providing evidence.	Errors and tangential material included.	Imbalanced, lacking insight.	Minimal.
C-	53	Not a direct response, lacking an overall focus on the question.	Several omissions but some key points, very limited attempt at providing evidence.	Some errors and tangential material.	Minimal.	Minimal.
D+	48	Poorly organised, weak comprehension of fundamental information.	Basic relevant material, lacking in supporting evidence, but with one or two key points.	Some major factual errors and errors of comprehension; tangential material.	Minimal.	Very minimal.
D	45	Poor evidence of comprehension of main issues.	Major omissions; a few relevant points and facts, subjective.	Major factual errors; frequently irrelevant.	None.	None.
E	43	Very poor comprehension shown of the main issues and poor organisation.	Very limited understanding shown of fundamental material.	Major factual errors, frequently irrelevant, containing subjective statements.	None.	None.
F+	37	Very poor comprehension and muddled organisation.	Question very poorly addressed, showing overall lack of understanding.	Major factual errors, mostly irrelevant with very subjective information provided.	None.	None.
F	27	Lacking comprehension of the question, muddled organisation.	One or two minor points correct.	Major errors and largely irrelevant material provided.	None.	None.
F-	17	Extremely poor evidence of understanding the material or the question asked.	No evidence of being better if longer.	Largely anecdotal information provided, and extensively irrelevant or wrong.	None.	None.
0	0	Nothing of relevance written.	Nothing of relevance written.	Nothing of relevance written.	None.	None.

Notes:

- This mark scheme applies to all work (including examinations) completed on or after 29/04/17.
- In order to qualify for an "A-grade" the work must meet most of the indicated criteria.
- Grade to % conversion: A++ = 100; A+ = 92; A = 83; A- = 74; B+ = 68; B = 65; B- = 63; C+ = 58; C = 55; C- = 53; D+ = 48; D = 45; E = 43; F+ = 37; F = 27; F- = 17; 0 = 0