Guidelines for levels

Honours Scale	Marks	Descriptive Criteria
Firstclass	90-100%	Outstanding work; complete, without error, displaying clear thought, a thorough grasp of concepts, attention to detail, critical analysis and, where appropriate, originality.
	80-89.9%	Work generally meeting the above criteria apart from minor omissions.
	70-79.9%	Work generally meeting the above criteria apart from minor omissions and errors.
		The First Class range represents work which is amongst the best that can be reasonably expected under examination or other prevailing conditions at this stage of the candidates' careers. Candidates show themselves capable of tackling entirely new problems which, although within the subject area, have not been specifically addressed during formal classes or in course material. In the First Class range, dissertations and answers to essay questions show clear evidence of relevant reading beyond lecture notes.
Uppersecond class	60-69.9%	Well organised, detailed and logical work displaying a good grasp of concepts, but it may be incomplete and/or contain the occasional error. Where appropriate, there is evidence of reading beyond lecture notes.
Lowersecond class	50-59.9%	Structured work displaying a basic level of understanding. Examination answers to essay questions may reproduce lecture notes and display little evidence of relevant reading. Errors or omissions increase in number towards the bottom end of the second class range.
Third class	40-49.9%	Elements of work are correct but it shows that the candidate has only a partial grasp of concepts, or there are frequent omissions or errors of detail. There is a failure to discuss important points and a tendency to irrelevance.
Fail	less than 40%	The work is basically incorrect or is substantially lacking in detail. There is little evidence of any understanding of the concepts involved. Marks are awarded only for isolated pieces of correct information.

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