

10.7 ASSESSMENT OF WORK

Marking Scales and Criteria

When marking design work marks will be awarded according to the extent to which the work demonstrates achievement against the following general criteria:

- accurate grasp of the requirements of the brief;
- knowledge and understanding, and appropriate application, of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project;
- use of relevant, appropriate and well researched supporting information, including design precedents, to support design development;
- ability to develop design solutions which are appropriate to the task, in that they resolve the challenges inherent in the brief, demonstrate an ability to manipulate landscape elements through design, and are responsive to people, place and nature;
- ability to resolve design issues at an appropriate level of detail and to use appropriate organic and inorganic materials to achieve design objectives;
- evidence of originality, innovation and creativity in overall approach and/or in particular aspects of the work;
- high standards of presentation, in appropriate visual, verbal and written media, including both digital and/or non-digital communication methods;
- overall impression created by the submitted work.

When marking written project work (essays, reports, dissertations) marks will be awarded according to the extent to which the work demonstrates achievement against the following general criteria:

- accurate grasp of the requirements of the brief;
- knowledge and understanding and appropriate application of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the assignment;
- use of relevant, appropriate and well researched supporting information, which is accurately presented;
- ability to develop a good structure and clear arguments which are appropriate to the task;
- originality in going beyond simple reliance on material provided in lectures/workshops/ or briefing sessions, and creativity in bringing novel approaches and ideas to the work. Originality and creativity may be demonstrated in content and/or in presentation;
- high standards of presentation, in terms of written expression, and/or graphic work, if required by the brief, and in the combination of the two.
- overall impression created by the submitted work.

These general criteria will be supplemented by more detailed and specific criteria, specific to each module and each piece of assessed work, which will be described in individual project briefs. TABLES A and B show how marks relate to the level of achievement against these general criteria, for design work and written work respectively. Marks may be returned on a 100-point scale: however, most markers will use fixed points on this range as a way of avoiding 'false accuracy', especially where the overall mark arises from an average of individual component.

TABLE A : POSTGRADUATE MARKING SCALE FOR DESIGN PROJECTS

MARK	GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK AGAINST KEY CRITERIA	LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT
85+	<p>Excellent/Very Good Work Work in these categories achieves very high standards. It shows excellent grasp of the requirements of the brief and very good understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project. It is very well supported by appropriate, relevant, well researched information which is accurately presented. Design solutions are highly appropriate, well resolved and very clearly articulated. Work demonstrates good levels of originality and goes beyond reliance on the material provided in lectures and workshops. It demonstrates a level of creativity in both content and presentation. It achieves the highest standards in visual presentation and the overall impression created is of a very high standard of work.</p>	Exceptional work showing the highest level of achievement against all criteria, with strong evidence of originality and creativity and no significant weaknesses. Could not be expected to do more
78-84		Very good achievement against the majority of the criteria and showing very good evidence of originality and creativity. Minor inconsistencies in the overall high standard prevent the work from reaching the highest level of achievement.
70-77		Generally very good or good level of achievement against most of the criteria. Some evidence of originality and creativity. Some inconsistencies in the overall high standard means that the work does not quite reach the higher standards.
66-69	<p>Very Good/Good Work Work in these categories achieves a good, all round standard and is very good in some aspects. It addresses most aspects of the brief fully, and shows generally good understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project. It is generally well supported by relevant, well researched information which is accurately presented. Design solutions are appropriate, generally well resolved and clearly articulated. The work provides only limited evidence of originality or creativity, in either content or in visual presentation, but the overall impression created is good.</p>	Achieves a very good standard against some criteria and a good standard against all the others. Occasional evidence of originality and creativity. Some minor weaknesses but not sufficient to detract from the good overall standard of work.
63-65		Achieves a good standard against the majority of the criteria and a satisfactory standard against all the others. Little evidence of originality and creativity. Some significant areas of weakness but not sufficient to detract from the good overall standard of the work.
60-62		Achieves a good standard against some of the criteria and a satisfactory standard against the majority of the others. No evidence of originality or creativity. Several significant weaknesses lower the overall standard of the work.

56-59	<p>Satisfactory/Acceptable Work</p> <p>Work in these categories achieves a satisfactory standard. It shows a reasonable understanding of the brief and has gone some way towards meeting the requirements. It is supported in part by relevant, reasonably well researched information which is quite well presented. Design solutions are reasonably appropriate, partially resolved and reasonably clearly articulated. The work, however, shows significant weaknesses in a number of areas. These may be in understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project, in the accuracy of the supporting information, or in the structure and the development of ideas. The overall level of visual presentation does not reach the highest standards and the overall impression, while satisfactory, could have been much better.</p>	Achieves a satisfactory standard against the majority of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in a few areas. No evidence of originality or creativity. Satisfactory overall standard.
53-55		Achieves a satisfactory standard against most of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in some areas. No evidence of originality or creativity. Reasonably satisfactory overall standard.
50-52		Achieves a satisfactory standard against some of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in most other areas. No evidence of originality or creativity. Satisfactory overall standard, sufficient to pass, but with significant weaknesses.
MA2/MLA PASS MARK IS 50		
46-49	<p>Marginal Work</p> <p>Work in these categories does not achieve a satisfactory standard of scholarship for postgraduate level. However, it may demonstrate a basic capacity for professional competence and therefore be marginally acceptable at undergraduate level. There are significant weaknesses in a number of areas. The work may show limited understanding of the brief and go a modest way towards meeting the requirements. The supporting information may be of limited relevance or poorly researched, and may be weakly presented. Understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project is weak, and there may be deficiencies in the structure and the development of ideas, and/or in the appropriateness, resolution or articulation of design solutions. The overall impression is unsatisfactory at postgraduate level.</p>	Achieves a satisfactory standard against some of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in some other areas. Marginal overall standard, insufficient to pass at postgraduate level.
43-45		Achieves a satisfactory standard against a few of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in most other areas. Marginal overall standard, insufficient to pass at postgraduate level.
40-42		Achieves a satisfactory standard against very few of the criteria and shows important weaknesses in all other areas. Highly marginal overall standard at undergraduate level, insufficient to pass at postgraduate level.
30-39	<p>Unsatisfactory/Unacceptable Work</p> <p>Work in these categories is highly unsatisfactory and so fails. There are major flaws or weaknesses against most of the criteria and the work may also be incomplete. The work shows poor understanding of the brief and goes only a little way towards meeting the requirements. The supporting information, if present, is often not relevant or well researched and is likely to be inaccurately presented. Understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project is very weak, and there are major deficiencies in the structure and the development of ideas and/or in the appropriateness, resolution or articulation of design solutions. The overall level of visual presentation is generally very poor and the overall impression is completely unsatisfactory.</p>	Unsatisfactory work with serious weaknesses against the majority of the criteria. Very unsatisfactory overall standard.
16-29		Totally unsatisfactory work showing serious weaknesses and omissions against all the criteria. Very unsatisfactory overall standard.
1-15		Incomplete work and the work submitted has major weaknesses against all the criteria. Totally unsatisfactory standard.

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TABLE B : POSTGRADUATE MARKING SCALE FOR WRITTEN PROJECTS

MARK	GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK AGAINST KEY CRITERIA	LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT
85+	<p>Excellent/Very Good Work Work in these categories achieves very high standards. It shows excellent grasp of the requirements of the brief and very good understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project. It is very well supported by appropriate, relevant, well researched information which is accurately presented. It is well structured and very clearly argued. Work demonstrates good levels of originality and goes beyond reliance on the material provided in lectures and workshops. It demonstrates a level of creativity in both content and, where required, presentation. It achieves the highest standards in written expression, graphic work if required, and appropriate combination of the two. The overall impression created is of a very high standard of work.</p>	Exceptional work showing the highest level of achievement against all criteria, with strong evidence of originality and creativity and no significant weaknesses. Could not be expected to do more
78-84		Very good achievement against the majority of the criteria and showing very good evidence of originality and creativity. Minor inconsistencies in the overall high standard prevent the work from reaching the highest level of achievement.
70-77		Generally very good or good level of achievement against most of the criteria. Some evidence of originality and creativity. Some inconsistencies in the overall high standard means that the work does not quite reach the higher standards.
66-69		Achieves a very good standard against some criteria and a good standard against all the others. Occasional evidence of originality and creativity. Some minor weaknesses but not sufficient to detract from the good overall standard of work.
63-65	<p>Very Good/Good Work Work in these categories achieves a good all round standard and is very good in some aspects. It addresses most aspects of the brief fully, and shows generally good understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project. It is generally well supported by relevant, well researched information which is accurately presented. Text is generally well structured and clearly argued. The work provides only limited evidence of originality or creativity in either content or, where required, presentation. It achieves good standards in written expression, and/or in graphic work where this is required. The overall impression created is good.</p>	Achieves a good standard against the majority of the criteria and a satisfactory standard against all the others. Little evidence of originality and creativity. Some significant areas of weakness but not sufficient to detract from the good overall standard of the work.
60-62		Achieves a good standard against some of the criteria and satisfactory standard against the majority of the others. No evidence of originality or creativity. Several significant weaknesses lower the overall standard of the work..
56-59		Achieves a satisfactory standard against the majority of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in a few areas. No evidence of originality or creativity. Satisfactory overall standard.
53-55	<p>Satisfactory/Acceptable Work Work in these categories achieves a satisfactory standard. It shows a reasonable understanding of the brief and has gone some way towards meeting the requirements. It is supported in part by relevant, reasonably well researched information which is quite well presented. The work, however, shows significant weaknesses in a number of areas. These may be in understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project, in the accuracy of the supporting information, in the structure and the development of arguments, in the written and</p>	Achieves a satisfactory standard against most of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in some areas. No evidence of originality or creativity. Reasonably satisfactory overall standard.

50-52	graphic presentation or in some combination of these. The overall level of presentation, either written, or graphic, or both, does not reach the highest standards and the overall impression, while satisfactory, could have been much better.	Achieves a satisfactory standard against some of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in most other areas. No evidence of originality or creativity. Satisfactory overall standard, sufficient to pass, but with significant weaknesses.
MA2/MLA PASS MARK IS 50		
46-49	<p>Marginal Work Work in these categories does not achieve a satisfactory standard of scholarship for postgraduate level. However, it may demonstrate a basic capacity for professional competence and therefore be marginally acceptable at undergraduate level. There are significant weaknesses in a number of areas. The work may show limited understanding of the brief and go only a modest way towards meeting the requirements. The supporting information is not always relevant or well researched and may not be well presented. Understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical principles underlying the project is weak, and there may be deficiencies in the structure and the development of arguments, in the written and graphic presentation, or in some combination of these. The overall level of presentation, either written, or graphic, or both is generally poor and the overall impression is unsatisfactory at postgraduate level.</p>	Achieves a satisfactory standard against some of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in some other areas. Marginal overall standard, insufficient to pass at postgraduate level.
43-45		Achieves a satisfactory standard against a few of the criteria but shows important weaknesses in most other areas. Marginal overall standard, insufficient to pass at postgraduate level.
40-42		Achieves a satisfactory standard against very few of the criteria and shows important weaknesses in all other areas. Highly marginal overall standard at undergraduate level, insufficient to pass at postgraduate level.

Important to note

Any student who achieves a pass mark for a group work component of a module and fails the individual components must re-sit the individual components of the module as a pass cannot be awarded on group work alone.