

UU114 Research Essay Marking Criteria

NAME: _____

ID: _____

Facets	Elements	Academic Excellence - 4	Milestone - 3	Benchmark - 2	Below Benchmark - 1	Not assessable work - 0	Mark
Embark and clarify	Introduction	Establishes the context to the subject and presents the issue and thesis as a clear and effective unit	Establishes the context to the subject and presents the issue and thesis as a developed unit	Establishes the context to the subject and presents the issue and a relevant thesis	Attempts to link the context to the subject and presents the issue and thesis statement but held together ineffectually	Introduction incomplete, flawed or missing	
Find and generate	Research	Wide range of wholly appropriate and relevant references, fully integrated into the text with a sound mix of direct and indirect quotations. Quotations wholly support thesis. Citations wholly accurate; bibliography complete and accurate	A range of appropriate and relevant references, generally well-integrated into the text with a mix of direct and indirect quotations. Quotations support thesis. Most citations correct; bibliography good, only minor errors	An attempt made to apply research to the essay; the balance of direct and indirect quotation is uneven, and relevance is sometimes questionable. Quotations occasionally replace student input. Citations show several errors; bibliography satisfactory	Applications of research to essay is uncertain; heavy reliance on one source; relevance of material is very questionable and/or balance of direct and indirect quotation is poor. Quotations often replace student input. Citations show many errors; bibliography poor	No evidence of research	
Evaluate and reflect	Quality of analysis	Controlling theme soundly maintained; thoughtfully evaluated ideas and research.	Controlling theme reasonably maintained; appropriately analysed ideas and research	Controlling theme maintained; applicable ideas and research	Controlling theme weakly maintained; poor or undifferentiated ideas and research	Analysis weak; unsubstantiated	
	Conclusion	Thoughtful final perspective with mature closing thought	Appropriate final perspective with a logical closing thought	Relevant, modest final perspective; satisfactory closing thought	A final perspective with weak or unsubtle closing thought	New material included in concluding paragraph or no conclusion offered	
Organise and manage	Plan	Clear identification and separation of relevant ideas with details	Clearly showing relevant ideas with details	Limited grasp of or distinction of ideas	Ideas do not reflect the issue. Major elements missing	No plan provided	
	Paragraphing	SEXI pattern effectively developed	SEXI pattern clear	SEXI pattern mostly reflected; some inconsistencies	One or two elements of SEXI pattern missing	No attempt to write coherent paragraphs	
Analyse and synthesise	Logical organisation	Effective sequential pattern that enhances the effect of the analysis	Appropriate sequential pattern that enhances the effect of the analysis	Relevant pattern that supports the analysis	Attempt made to create a reasonable pattern, but the effect is not sustained	Poor organisation of ideas weakens the analysis	
	Development of analysis	Analysis develops effectively; appropriate language; apt cohesion and transitions	Analysis develops logically; appropriate language; sound cohesion and transitions	Analysis inconsistent; some relevant language; limited cohesion and transitions	Analysis does not develop; lack of suitable language; weak cohesion and transitions	No attempt to develop an analysis; not enough cohesion evident.	
Communicate and apply	Grammar	Grammar wholly accurate	Grammar mostly accurate	Errors minor but consistent	Errors impede comprehensibility	Errors seriously compromise comprehensibility	
	Accurate writing conventions	Vocabulary wide and accurate; spelling and punctuation error-free; neutrality of tone sustained	Vocabulary wide; occasional errors in word choice; spelling and punctuation mostly correct; neutrality of tone sustained	Vocabulary adequate with several errors in word choice; spelling and punctuation errors noticeable; neutrality of tone mostly sustained	Vocabulary simplistic or pretentious with frequent word choice errors; errors of spelling impede comprehensibility; neutrality of tone inconsistent	Errors of vocabulary, spelling and punctuation compromise comprehensibility; neutrality of tone uncertain	
	Abstract	Abstract accurate in format, clear and thorough	Abstract accurate in format and clear; some elements may be weak	Abstract unclear, some elements missing	Abstract inaccurate in format	No abstract	
	Presentation*	(+1 mark)					TOTAL (out of 45)

*Assignment must be typed, font 12, double spaced; with cover sheet format shown on Moodle; correct marking schedule; abstract placed before essay

Late Penalty: 20% of total mark for each late day