Department of Anthropology

Exam hall examination grade criteria

The following scheme for grading of marks applies to in-person exams taken in an exam hall. Attributes listed for each class are assumed to include the best attributes from the class below.

Class	Marks (%)	Attributes
Brilliant Distinction	**100**	Answers of exceptional quality, based on comprehensive conceptual knowledge of the topic, and developing a cogent and original argument in response to the question.
Distinction	**70 – 79**	Excellent answers, closely linked to the question set, well presented and argued with sophistication, maturity, and incisiveness and demonstrating a wide familiarity with the subject matter and anthropological1 debates, especially as revealed through the course readings, lectures and class discussions. Such answers often display independent judgement and originality.
Merit	**60 – 69**	Competent answers, well-argued, showing a good grasp of the subject matter. Evidence of familiarity with a wide range of reading, and engagement with some of the anthropological1 debates covered in the course. Factually correct and comprehensive in coverage, although there may be minor slips and omissions. Clear presentation and organisation of answers which address the question directly and relevantly. Answers show an understanding of and familiarity with terms and concepts relevant to the question.

Pass	**50 – 59**	Answers demonstrate some understanding of the subject matter and a grasp of a basic set of readings, but are marred by poor presentation or by lack of sophisticated argument or knowledge. Answers are frequently narrative in style and only indirectly, or inadequately, address the question, or fail to focus. They often include unsupported generalisations, occasional inaccuracies, irrelevances, omissions, and contradictions, and are weak in definition and application of concepts. Although the main issues are understood, they are often presented in a superficial manner and there is little attempt to go beyond the standard reading. In examinations, an answer worthy of a Merit mark may be graded Pass if it is too short, or unfinished.
Fail	**30 – 49**	Basic, below-average answers, which nevertheless show evidence that there is some familiarity with the subject. Answers are often weak narrative/descriptive accounts, which move towards the relevant area required by the question but display only a partial grasp of the topic, the different aspects of debates, the requirements of the question, and the manner in which to construct an answer. Argument is fleeting, frequently simplistic or flawed, or not grounded in the course readings, lectures and class discussions. Concepts are disordered. Several inaccuracies and omissions.
Bad Fail	**0 – 29**	Very weak answers which lack relevance, direction, accuracy and substance. In examinations, this includes answers which have been barely attempted.

[1] In the case of AN447, AN4A3 and AN4A4, please read theoretical/social science debates, rather than anthropological.

Please also be aware that other departments will have their own criteria, against which their courses are assessed. It is your responsibility to consult the marking criteria in other departments.