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 First (1)	**80 – 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. For a mark of 90 or more, analysis is of such originality or insight as to potentially change some aspect of conventional understanding about the topic discussed.
First (1)	**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 anthropological debates1, especially as revealed through the course readings, lectures and class discussions. Such answers often also display independent judgement and originality.
High Upper Second (2:1)	**65 – 69**	Competent answers, presented as a cogent (if not original) argument, showing understanding of all the main ideas and concepts relevant to the question. Address the question directly and relevantly. Good critical evaluation and discussion of the literature presented in a clear, well reasoned, and logical manner. Demonstrate understanding of most of the relevant literature and debates covered in the course readings, lectures and class discussions. Involve close, granular engagement with the details of texts being cited. Factually correct, attentive to nuance, and comprehensive in coverage, although there may be minor slips and omissions.

Low Upper Second (2:1)	**60 – 64**	Competent answers, well argued in parts, showing understanding and/or awareness of many of the main ideas and concepts relevant to the question. Address the question directly and relevantly. Satisfactory critical evaluation and discussion of the literature, presented in a clear, generally well-reasoned and consistent manner. Demonstrate understanding of a selection of the relevant literature and a range of reading, and engage with some of the anthropological debates. Factually correct and comprehensive in coverage, although there may be slips, omissions, and a lack of nuance.
Lower Second (2:2)	**50 – 59**	Answers demonstrate some understanding of the subject matter and evidence of some reading, 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, irrelevance, 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. Some passages may do little more than replicate the content of course materials and readings. A 2:1 answer may be graded 2:2 if it is too short, or unfinished.
Third (3)	**40 – 49**	Basic, below-average answers which nevertheless show evidence that there is some understanding of the subject and the relevant course materials. 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. Arguments are fleeting and frequently simplistic or generic, but the answer should make sense and show some sign of organisation. Evidence of basic familiarity with the facts, but inaccuracies and omissions occur. Answers that are accurate, but that do not engage with the course readings, lectures and class discussions, relying instead on materials from outside the course, should be graded third class.

Fail	**20 – 39**	Very weak answers which lack relevance, direction, accuracy and substance. There may be unattributed or unreferenced quotes. Answers which demonstrate little or no evidence of engagement with the course materials should also be graded in this category.
Bad Fail	**0 – 19**	The material presented is almost totally irrelevant to the question set. This includes answers which have been barely attempted.

[1] In the case of AN3A3 and AN3A4, 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 guide that is relevant to external courses.