ASSESSMENT GRADING GUIDELINES FOR DISSERTATION IN MS (COURSEWORK)

FAIL (Below 50%)	PASS (50 – 64)	CREDIT (65 – 74)	DISTINCTION (75 – 84)	HIGH DISTINCTION (85 +)
Work may fail for any or all of the following reasons: • Does not answer the question • Contains significant or numerous errors • Few or no identifiable arguments • Content that is inappropriate or irrelevant • Lack of research or analysis • Difficult or impossible to understand through poor grammar, expression or structure • Overall, does not demonstrate the minimum level of competence in the assignment • Limited or no referencing, or inaccurate references	Work receiving a pass grade will generally exhibit the following characteristics: • Identifies the Aim(s), but does not follow through with a reasoned argument • Contains some significant errors • Displays satisfactory engagement with the key issues • Offers descriptive summary of material relevant to the question • Superficial use of material, and may display a tendency to paraphrase • Demonstrates little evidence of in-depth research or analysis • Adequate expression • Overall, demonstrates the minimum level of competence in the assessment.	Work receiving a credit grade will generally exhibit the following characteristics: • Covers main issues fairly well in answering the question • Contains no significant errors • Demonstrates an attempted critical approach to the issues • Demonstrates reasonably sound research and analysis in addressing the key issues • Has a clear structure and reasonably good, clear expression • Adequate referencing, mostly verifiable	Work receiving a distinction grade will generally exhibit the following characteristics: • Completely answers the question • Achieves a critical and evaluative approach to the issues • Content and structure is well organised in support of the argument • Demonstrates extensive research and analysis to support a well-documented argument • Generally well expressed and free from errors • Has a clear structure and is well articulated • Would achieve publication • Adequate and appropriate references, completely verifiable	Work receiving a high distinction grade will generally exhibit the following characteristics: • Completely answers the question • Contains striking originality of approach or analysis • Demonstrates exhaustive or innovative research (where independent research required) • Exceptionally well written, structured and expressed • Is otherwise exceptional in some way • Acceptable for publication • Propositions well and accurately referenced, completely verifiable