

	1 st	2.1	2.2	3 rd	Fail
Understands the question	Demonstrates an accurate grasp of the issues raised by the question, and engages with them fully	Demonstrates a solid grasp of some key issues raised by the question	Demonstrates partial recognition of the issues but the issues may not be wholly pertinent and the essay might be limited	Attempts to engage with the question may be partial, tangential or confused	Engagement with the question may be superficial or seriously inaccurate
Use of course materials	Offers a precise and accurate engagement with course materials	Mostly accurate in its discussion of the key course materials	Understanding of course materials shows some inaccuracy or superficiality	Understanding of course materials shows some serious errors	Shows substantial errors of understanding
Secondary reading	Shows a high level of skill in gathering appropriate evidence and engaging critically with a wide range of materials	Shows clear engagement with secondary literature	Evidence of some wider reading but it is limited or superficial	Little evidence of wider reading	Little or no evidence of wider reading
Argument	Argument is sound and persuasive, its concepts set out clearly and rigorously	Makes a coherent argument and the concepts are well-chosen	Although good ideas are present, they may not cohere effectively and concepts may be used inconsistently or inaccurately	Ideas are intermittently of interest but do not cohere into an argument	Ideas are haphazard and/or unconvincing
Structure and style	The essay is written and structured lucidly and clearly	Some occasional lapses but mostly the style and structure are effective in conveying the argument	Argument is partially obscured by weak structure or expression	Significant problems of structure and expression	Problems of organisation and expression seriously impede the essay
Grammar & referencing	All sources are acknowledged and documented correctly and the essay contains almost no errors of punctuation, grammar and spelling	All sources are acknowledged though there may be inconsistencies of referencing style. Any errors of grammar do not substantially impede understanding	There are errors in the presentation of the sources. Mistakes in punctuation, grammar or spelling obstruct the sense and flow of the essay and obscure the meaning	There are serious errors on presenting sources and in punctuation, grammar or spelling that render parts of the essay hard or impossible to understand	There is little effort to document sources, and errors of punctuation, grammar and spelling render much of the essay hard or impossible to understand