London Metropolitan University

School of Art, Architecture and Design

Design

**MA grade descriptions, with percentages, for all written coursework. Comments on assessment feedback forms should reflect the descriptions below.**

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| **Grade** | **%** | **Coursework submitted for assessment will show some or all of the following:** |
| **distinction** | **85+** | deep, near comprehensive understanding of the subject area;  significant originality in the construction of its main research aims and questions;  critical commentary on research methods;  coherent structure (may show innovation in organisational form);  intensive, detailed and critical reading beyond reading lists;  high ability in interpretation or analysis of research and information;  significant use of primary research;  excellent use and critical understanding of images;  professional presentation;  perfect bibliography and referencing;  incisive and fluent writing style;  no or very minor errors of spelling, punctuation, grammar;  qualities worthy of retention as sample work. |
| **70-84** | deep, detailed understanding of the subject area;  some originality in the construction of its main research aims and questions;  critical commentary on research methods;  coherent structure;  in-depth reading beyond suggested list or detailed, critical reading of suggested material;  high ability in interpretation or analysis of research and information;  excellent use of primary research  excellent use and critical understanding of images;  professional presentation;  excellent bibliography and referencing;  incisive and fluent writing style;  no significant errors of spelling, punctuation, grammar. |
| **merit** | **60-69** | clear understanding and wide-ranging knowledge of subject area;  clear and persuasive statement of research aims and questions;  good commentary on research methods;  good structure with direct focus on question;  in-depth reading;  effective ability in interpretation or analysis of research and information;  good use and critical understanding of images;  good presentation;  properly formatted bibliography and acceptable referencing;  fluent writing style;  few errors of spelling, punctuation, grammar. |
| **pass** | **50-59** | sound understanding and knowledge of the subject area;  clear statement of its main research aims and questions;  basic account of research methods;  adequate structure with clear focus on the question;  good reading, but mainly from reading lists;  basic but sound ability in interpretation and analysis of research and information (may be errors in application);  adequate attempt to use and critically understand images;  good presentation;  short bibliography and limited referencing;  straightforward writing style;  some errors of spelling, punctuation, grammar. |
| **PASS MARK: 50% BELOW THIS ARE NON-PASSING MARKS** | | |

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| **FAIL** | **40-49** | limited understanding of the subject area, sketchy knowledge, errors in factual details;  confused or vague statement of its main research aims and questions;  vague or confused account of research methods;  weak structure, lack of focus on question;  very limited further reading;  bare familiarity with need for interpretation and analysis of research/information (substantial errors in application)  poor attempt to use and critically understand images;  poor presentation;  inadequate bibliography and little or inadequate referencing;  lack of fluency in writing style;  significant errors of spelling, punctuation, grammar. |
| **25-39** | very little understanding of the subject area, significant information erroneous, with little or no relevance to the question;  no statement of its main research aims and questions;  no account of research methods;  inadequate structure, with no sense of logical argument;  failure to address the question in a meaningful way;  no further reading;  significant confusion over need for interpretation and analysis of research and information (substantial errors in application)  poor or no use of images;  poor presentation;  absent or inadequate bibliography and no referencing;  inadequate writing style leading to reader confusion;  significant errors of spelling, punctuation, grammar. |
| **1-24** | no meaningful understanding of the subject area, information erroneous, with little relevance to the question;  no statement of its main research aims and questions;  no account of research methods;  incomplete, fragmentary or chaotic structure;  failure to address the question in a meaningful way;  no evidence of any further reading;  substantial errors in interpretation and analysis of research/information (complete inability to analyse information);  no or pointless use of images;  very poor presentation;  absent or inadequate bibliography and little or no referencing;  inadequate writing style leading to reader confusion;  significant errors of spelling, punctuation, grammar. |
| **0** | no submission;  incorrect submission;  late work, where mitigating circumstances are not accepted;  work has not answered the given brief. |
| HM |  | academic misconduct: clear, substantiated evidence of plagiarism. |
| HQ |  | other query. |