##### Assessment criteria in the style of grade descriptors

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80-100 An outstanding essay showing extensive knowledge and understanding and an exceptional ability to analyse, synthesize, and evaluate. Evidence of extensive reading and study beyond the course content and independent thought. Writing is fluent, clear, and grammatical. An answer that is relevant to the title, comprehensive, accurate, and presented in a very well structured and organised manner.

70-<80 An excellent essay showing extensive knowledge and understanding and good analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Evidence of substantial reading and study beyond the course content and independent thought. Writing is fluent, clear, and grammatical. An answer that is relevant to the title, comprehensive, accurate, and presented in a well structured and organised manner.

60-<70 A good essay showing wide knowledge and understanding and some analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Reference made to relevant course material with evidence of some reading and study beyond the course content and some independent thought. Writing is clear and has few grammatical errors. An answer that is relevant to the title though less than completely comprehensive, mostly accurate and well presented.

50-<60 An adequate essay showing reasonable knowledge and understanding derived from the course content but with little or no evidence of reading and study beyond the course content and little or no independent thought. Little or no analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Writing is less than clear and has some grammatical errors. An answer that is mostly relevant to the title and reasonably accurate but not very comprehensive and with some errors and shortcomings of presentation, structure and organisation.

40-<50 A weak essay showing only limited knowledge and understanding of course content with substantial errors or omissions and no independent thought. Writing is not clear and has frequent grammatical errors. Much of it not relevant to the title. Weak presentation, poorly structured and organised.

30-<40 A poor essay with extensive errors and omissions, badly written and ungrammatical. A little relevant material but poorly presented with little evidence of understanding.

20-<30 A very poor essay lacking in understanding and with serious errors and omissions but with evidence of some knowledge vaguely relevant to the question.

0-<20 Little or no evidence of any relevant knowledge and understanding. Any relevant knowledge marred by serious errors.