

BIO & BMD Module Marking Criteria for Unseen Examination Essays from 2017/18

	All Levels			Levels 5 - 6 (Desirable in other years)	Unseen Exam Essays
Grade	Evidence of Comprehension	Breadth and Depth of Knowledge	Irrelevant Material and Errors	Synthesis & Balance	Evidence of Independent Study
A++	Outstanding; evidence of deep insight, more than expected at this level	Outstanding; more than expected at this level	Absent or minimal	Outstanding selection and synthesis, more than expected at this level.	Evidence of widespread reading beyond expectations
A+	Exceptional understanding illustrated via logical, detailed and comprehensive presentation of relevant concepts	Extensive; as much as could be expected	Absent or minimal	Astute selection and juxtaposition giving well-balanced synthesis of information	Evidence of widespread reading
A	Excellent understanding shown of relevant concepts expressed clearly and logically	Extensive; almost as much as could be expected	Minimal	Appropriate selection and combination giving balanced synthesis of information	Evidence of independent study beyond lecture material
A-	Very good understanding shown of relevant concepts expressed clearly and logically, with minor lapses	Most key points; comprehensive and accurate but less extensive	Perhaps some minor errors and tangential material	Appropriate selection and combination, some lapses in balance or synthesis	Some evidence of independent study beyond lecture material
B+ B B-	Good understanding illustrated by an organised, direct response to the question	Many (not all) key points; comprehensive and accurate	Some minor errors and tangential material	Tending to description rather than synthesis; balance may be inappropriate	Limited evidence of independent study beyond lecture material
C+ C C-	Sufficient for a logical presentation but may not be a direct response to the question.	Several omissions but some key points	Some errors and tangential material	Imbalanced; lacking synthesis	Minimal evidence of independent study
D+ D	Poor comprehension and/or muddled organisation	Major omissions; no key points; basic facts only	Major factual errors; frequently irrelevant	None	None
E	Very poor comprehension and/or muddled organisation	Major omissions; no key points; a few basic facts – only just sufficient to pass	Major factual errors; frequently irrelevant	None	None

F+	Almost none	A few minor points correct but insufficient to pass	Extensively irrelevant or wrong	None	None
F	None	One or two very minor points correct	Extensively irrelevant or wrong	None	None
F-	None	No evidence of being better if longer	Almost all irrelevant or wrong	None	None
0	Nothing of relevance written	Nothing of relevance written	Nothing of relevance written	None	None

Notes:

- This mark scheme applies to unseen examination essays on modules with BIO and BMD codes from academic year 2017/18
- In order to qualify for an "A-grade" the work must meet most of the indicated criteria
- Mark of 0 may be awarded where a student simply repeats words from the question, or writes something of not even tangential relevance
- Grade to % conversion:
A++ = 100; A+ = 92; A = 83; A- = 74; B+ = 68; B = 65; B- = 63; C+ = 58; C = 55; C- = 53; D+ = 48; D = 45; E = 43; F+ = 37; F = 27; F- = 17; 0 = 0