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University of the West Indies
Department of Geography and Geology

GRADE DESCRIPTORS
(MARKING GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATION ESSAYS)

Letter Grade	Mark	Description
A+	86-100	Almost Perfect. Significant originality in ideas or argument. A comprehensive and complete answer that clearly demonstrates a deep understanding of the subject, high intellectual quality, and encyclopaedic knowledge of the facts. Intensive, detailed and critical reading with independent reading beyond reading lists. Incisive and fluent writing with no noticeable grammatical or other errors.
A	70-85	Excellent. Originality in ideas or argument. Deep understanding and detailed knowledge of the facts. In-depth reading: either independent reading beyond reading lists or intensive, detailed and critical reading of suggested material. Well written with no significant grammatical or other errors.
A-	67-69	Very Good. Some evidence of originality in ideas or argument. Clear understanding and wide-ranging knowledge. Perceptive and analytical. Strong evidence of reading beyond the basic texts. Well structured and well written with few grammatical or other errors.
B+	63-66	Good. Methodical and well-structured. Solid understanding and analysis of the material. Evidence of reading beyond basic texts. Few grammatical or other errors.
B	60-62	Quite Good. Methodical but with a lack of real or sustained originality. Familiarity with basic texts, but little evidence of reading beyond these. Minor grammatical or other errors are acceptable.
B-	57-59	Adequate. Competent answer demonstrating a basic understanding and knowledge. Methodically covered but missing subtleties. Evidence of only limited reading, usually of set texts. Some grammatical or other errors.
C+	53-56	Satisfactory. Basic understanding and knowledge, but with some errors or missing facts. Some confusion over concepts, weakly organised. Primarily based on lecture material, with very little evidence of reading. Some grammatical or other errors.
C	50-52	Barely Satisfactory. Basic understanding and knowledge, but with major errors of fact, significant omissions, substantial conceptual confusion, or poor structure or organisation. Little or no evidence of reading. May have significant grammatical or structural problems.
C-	47-49	Weak. Limited general understanding, with major errors of fact or conception. Lack of clear focus on question. Simple style, poorly organised, containing grammatical or other errors.
D+	43-46	Very Weak. Poor understanding with many major errors of fact or conception. Little focus on question. Poorly organised containing many grammatical or other errors.
D	40-42	Extremely Weak. Very limited or basic understanding, with substantial errors of fact or conception. No attempt at argument, no evidence of reading.
F	30-39	Inadequate. Sparse, incomplete, or brief answer. Entirely misconceived or factually very incorrect. No attempt at argument.
	20-29	Very Inadequate. An unacceptable answer. Fails to address the question in any meaningful way. Information largely erroneous or with little relevance to the question.
	0-19	Totally Inadequate. Minimally brief (only one or two paragraphs), flippant, unintelligible or indecipherable.

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GRADE DESCRIPTORS
(MARKING GUIDELINES FOR COURSEWORK AND DISSERTATIONS)

Letter Grade	Mark	Description
A+	86-100	Almost Perfect. A comprehensive and original report that clearly demonstrates a deep understanding of the subject area. Substantial original fieldwork or other independent research with excellent implementation of appropriate techniques and critical commentary on research design and methodology. Intensive, detailed and critical reading; incisive and fluent writing with no noticeable grammatical or other errors; and referencing and bibliography of publishable standard. A dissertation in this category should be publishable as a journal paper with editing and minor revision, whilst other coursework should be worthy of retention for future reference in research or teaching.
A	70-85	Excellent. An excellently written and presented report demonstrating a deep understanding of the subject area. Substantial original fieldwork or other independent research with excellent implementation of appropriate techniques. Wide knowledge of appropriate literature, and excellently written and presented.
A-	67-69	Very Good. Very good understanding of subject area. Clear statement of research aims and questions. Significant original fieldwork or other independent research, very good ability in appropriate techniques, and evidence of in-depth reading. Well-written and presented with almost no errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar; referenced in appropriate style.
B+	63-66	Good. Good understanding of subject area. Clear statement of research aims and questions. Significant original fieldwork or other independent research, good ability in appropriate techniques, and evidence of relatively wide reading. Well-written and presented with few errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar; referenced in appropriate style.
B	60-62	Quite Good. Quite good understanding of subject area. Suitable statement of research aims and questions. Significant original fieldwork or other independent research, effective ability in appropriate techniques, and evidence of reading. Well-written and presented with only minor errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar; referenced in appropriate style.
B-	57-59	Adequate. Adequate understanding of subject area. Adequate statement of research aims and questions. Reasonable original fieldwork or other independent research, with straightforward and accurate use of appropriate techniques and evidence of appropriate reading. Fairly well-written and presented but with some minor grammatical or other errors.
C+	53-56	Satisfactory. Satisfactory understanding of subject area. Satisfactory statement of research aims and questions. Reasonable original fieldwork or other independent research, with straightforward use of appropriate techniques and evidence of appropriate reading. Satisfactorily written and presented but with some grammatical or other errors.
C	50-52	Barely Satisfactory. Basic understanding of subject area. Basic statement of research aims and questions. Barely satisfactory original fieldwork or other independent research, with straightforward but fairly simple use of appropriate techniques and evidence of some appropriate reading. Some grammatical or other errors and some deficiencies in presentation.
C-	47-49	Weak. Limited understanding of subject area. Confused or vague research aims or questions with limited original fieldwork. General familiarity with appropriate techniques but with some errors in their application. Limited further reading. Weak presentation with spelling and grammatical errors.
D+	43-46	Very Weak. Very limited understanding of subject area. Confused or vague research aims or questions with limited original fieldwork. Basic familiarity with appropriate techniques but with errors in their application. Little further reading. Very weak presentation with many spelling and grammatical errors.
D	40-42	Extremely Weak. Extremely limited understanding of subject area. Very confused or vague research aims or questions with limited original fieldwork. Extremely basic familiarity with appropriate techniques but with errors in their application. Limited further reading. Extremely weak presentation with spelling and grammatical errors.
F	30-39	Inadequate. Inadequate understanding of subject area. No clear research aims or questions. Serious confusion over research techniques with little evidence of original fieldwork. Shallow and very poorly presented.
	20-29	Very Inadequate. No understanding of the subject area. No clear research aims or questions. Extreme confusion over research techniques with little or no evidence of original fieldwork. Shallow and very poorly presented.
	0-19	Totally Inadequate. Nominal submission – fragmentary, incoherent or incomplete.

**Department of Geography and Geology
University of the West Indies**

**GRADE DESCRIPTORS
(MARKING GUIDELINES FOR FIELD WORK REPORTS)**

Letter Grade	Mark	Description
A+	86-100	Almost Perfect. A comprehensive report that demonstrates a deep understanding of the field project. Excellent application of field techniques, data analysis and original interpretation of data. All elements of a field report should be present in some form and clearly presented –aims, methods, results, discussion and conclusions. Critical commentary on methods. Maps, diagrams and tables should have appropriate titles, sources, keys, scales, and other notation professionally produced. Photographs should be appropriate and professionally produced with titles and perhaps descriptive notes. Report should be fluent with no noticeable grammatical or other errors. Any referencing and bibliography should be of publishable standard. Should be worthy of retention for future reference in research or teaching.
A	70-85	Excellent. An excellently written and presented report demonstrating a outstanding understanding of the field project. Excellent application of field techniques, data analysis and original interpretation of results. All elements of a field report should be present in some form and clearly presented –aims, methods, results and discussion of results and conclusions. Critical commentary on methods. Maps, diagrams and tables should have appropriate titles, sources, keys, scales and be well presented. Photographs should be appropriate. Should be excellently written; referenced in appropriate style.
A-	67-69	Very Good. Very good understanding of field project. Very good application of field methods, data analysis and very good interpretation of results. All elements of a field report should be present –aims, methods, results and discussion of results and conclusions. Appropriate commentary on methods. Should be useful maps, tables, diagrams and photos, which should be clearly labelled and easy to interpret and well presented. Well-written with few errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar; referenced in appropriate style.
B+	63-66	Good. Good understanding of field project. Good application of field methods and data analysis and good interpretation of results. Almost elements of a field report should be present in some form. Brief comments on field methods. Should be some good maps, tables, diagrams and photos well presented and easy to interpret. Should be well-written with few errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar; referenced in appropriate style.
B	60-62	Quite Good. Quite good understanding of field project. Suitable application of field methods and data analysis and appropriate interpretation of results. Most elements of a field report should be present and identifiable. Should be some maps, diagrams, tables and photos fairly well presented and easy to interpret. Should be well-written with few errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar; referenced in appropriate style.
B-	57-59	Adequate. Adequate understanding of field project. Adequate application of field methods, data analysis and interpretation of results descriptive in style. The main elements a field report should be present, and there will be some maps, diagrams, tables and photos of adequate quality, but they may be not all clearly labelled or easy to interpret. Fairly well-written and presented but with some grammatical or other errors.
C+	53-56	Satisfactory. Satisfactory understanding of field project. Satisfactory application of field methods but not much data analysis. Discussion of results descriptive. Some elements of a field report may be missing. Maps, diagrams, tables and other graphics but not all will be clearly labelled or easy to interpret. Satisfactorily written and presented but with some grammatical or other errors.
C	50-52	Barely Satisfactory. Basic understanding of field project. Basic application of field methods. Little data analysis and discussion of results descriptive. Some elements of a field report may be missing. Maps, diagrams, tables and photos will not be always clearly labelled or easy to interpret. Some grammatical or other errors and some deficiencies in presentation.
C-	47-49	Weak. Limited understanding of field project. General familiarity with field methods. Data analysis weak and description of results cursory. Not structured properly as a field report. Few maps, graphs, labels or photos, not well-presented. Weak presentation with spelling and grammatical errors.
D+	43-46	Very Weak. Very Limited understanding of field project. Confused use of field methods and errors in their application. Weak or little data analysis, cursory description of findings. Not structured properly as a field report. Few maps, graphs, labels or other photos, not well-presented. Very limited understanding of subject area. Very weak presentation with many spelling and grammatical errors.
D	40-42	Extremely Weak. Extremely weak understanding of field project. Basic familiarity or confused use of field methods and errors in their application. Weak or little data analysis. cursory description of findings. Not structured as a field report. Few maps, graphs, labels or photos, not well-presented. Very weak presentation with spelling and grammatical errors.
F	30-39	Inadequate. Inadequate understanding of field project. Serious confusion over field techniques. No interpretation of results. Few maps, tables and diagrams poorly presented. Shallow and baldy written.
	20-29	Very Inadequate. No understanding of the field project. Extreme confusion over field techniques. No interpretation of results. Only a token map, table or diagram, poorly presented. Shallow and badly written.
	0-19	Totally Inadequate. Nominal submission – fragmentary, incoherent or incomplete.

