

## COMMON GRADING SCHEME (VetEd)

The Common Grading Scheme (CGS) applies to all courses, except where published Assessment & Award Regulations incorporate the 10-point scheme.

This is the marking scheme for individual pieces of work and not the degree classification scheme. The latter is calculated through the aggregation of marks from the full range of assessments undertaken by a candidate.

Each mark has a short descriptor and a full definition of what is to be expected of an answer that is assigned that mark. For the more commonly used grades, there is a core descriptor of the essential grade (e.g. upper second) and enhancer/detractor points which would place the mark in the 'high' or 'low' range of the 'class'. Only those percentages that appear with descriptors in the marking scheme are to be used; percentages that fall between these **must not** be used.

### *Application of the Scheme*

The descriptors indicate how marks should be allocated according to the standard of a piece of work in three different categories; "selection and coverage of material", "understanding" and "structure, clarity and presentation". Where an answer comprises entirely or almost entirely incorrect information, no credit will be given for Structure, Clarity and Presentation.

Descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Reflective Essay Descriptor	Mark	PGCert / PGDip / MSc Grade
<b>No Answer</b>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Nothing presented or completely incorrect information or containing nothing at all of relevance.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding of Concepts &amp; Critical Ability</b> None evident. No evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity and Presentation</b> None or extremely poor.</p>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Nothing presented or completely incorrect information or containing nothing at all of relevance.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> None evident. No evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, clarity and presentation</b> None or extremely poor.</p>	0	Fail
<b>Extremely Poor Answer</b>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Hardly any information or information that is almost entirely incorrect or irrelevant.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding of Concepts &amp; Critical Ability</b> No or almost no understanding evident. No, or almost no, evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity and Presentation</b> None or very poor.</p>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Hardly any information or information that is almost entirely incorrect or irrelevant.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> No or almost no understanding evident. No, or almost no, evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, clarity and presentation</b> None or very poor.</p>	15	Fail
<b>Very Poor Answer</b>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Very limited amount of information that is correct and relevant.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding of Concepts &amp; Critical Ability</b> If any, extremely limited evidence of understanding. No, or almost no, evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity and Presentation</b> Very poor.</p>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Very limited amount of information that is correct and relevant.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> If any, extremely limited evidence of understanding. No, or almost no, evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, clarity and presentation</b> Very poor.</p>	27	Fail

Descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Reflective Essay Descriptor	Mark	PGCert / PGDip / MSc Grade
<b>Poor Answer</b>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Little information that is correct and relevant.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding of Concepts &amp; Critical Ability</b> If any, very limited evidence of understanding. There may be evidence of very limited wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity and Presentation</b> Poor.</p>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Little information that is correct and relevant.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> If any, very limited evidence of understanding. There may be evidence of very limited wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity &amp; Presentation</b> Poor.</p>	35	Fail
<b>Clearly Deficient Answer</b>	<p><i>As for 45 but with a greater number, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, presentation and/or communication of information. There may be less evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i></p>	<p><i>As for 45 but with a greater number, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, presentation and/or communication of information. There may be less evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i></p>	42	Fail
<b>Deficient Answer</b>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Superficial coverage of topic that is descriptive and flawed by many important omissions and/or significant errors.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding of Concepts &amp; Critical Ability</b> Some evidence of understanding but not of original thought or critical analysis. Where relevant, evidence of limited wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity and Presentation</b> Some disorganisation in structure, lack of organisation, and/or deficiencies in clarity of expression.</p>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> 'Descriptive writing'; primarily non-reflective writing that may report literature as well as events, but there will be no intellectual engagement with either.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> Some evidence of understanding but assertions or observations will be unsupported. Little evidence of critical analysis. Very limited reference to published work from authoritative sources.</p> <p>and / or</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity &amp; Presentation</b> Adequate, although may not be entirely systematic.</p>	45	Fail
<b>Marginally Deficient Answer</b>	<p><i>As for 45 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, presentation and/or communication of information. There may be more evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i></p>	<p><i>As for 45 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding., interpretation, presentation and/or communication of information. There may be more evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature and more support for assertions or observations.</i></p>	48	Fail
<b>Adequate Answer</b>	<p><i>As for 55 but with more numerous, and/or more significant omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, presentation and/or communication of information. If relevant there may be less evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i></p>	<p><i>As for 55 but with more significant/frequent lapses and limitations in skills of analysis and argument and/or flaws in communication/organisation. There may be less evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i></p>	52	Pass

Descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Reflective Essay Descriptor	Mark	PGCert / PGDip / MSc Grade
<b>Sound Answer</b>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Basic coverage of main aspects of topic but with some significant omissions/inaccuracies/errors.</p> <p><b>Understanding of Concepts &amp; Critical Ability</b> Statements supported by facts but limited evidence of critical ability or powers of argument. If relevant, evidence of sufficient wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity and Presentation</b> In general, organised and logical presentation with adequate clarity of expression.</p>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> “Descriptive reflection”; the writer explains an event in relation to their personal belief, or possibly in relation to an identified authority. They might identify more than one point of view although little attempt is made to distinguish a superior approach based on underlying principles.</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> Basic grasp of concepts, with most assertions and observations supported and some evidence of critical analysis. Adequate reference to published work from authoritative sources.</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity &amp; Presentation</b> Reasonably well-organised and logically presented with adequate clarity of expression.</p>	55	Pass
<b>Very Sound Answer</b>	<i>As for 55 but with fewer, and/or less significant omissions/inaccuracies/errors and more evidence of critical ability and/or powers of argument and clarity of expression. If relevant, there may be more evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i>	<i>As for 55 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors and more evidence of critical ability and/or powers of argument and clarity of expression.</i>	58	Pass
<b>Quite Good Answer</b>	<i>As for 65 but with more, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors and less evidence of critical ability. There may be less evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i>	<i>As for 65 but with less evidence of analysis and more, or more important, omissions/ inaccuracies/errors. There is likely to be less evidence of wider reading through reference to published work from authoritative sources.</i>	62	Pass

Descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Reflective Essay Descriptor	Mark	PGCert / PGDip / MSc Grade
<b>Good Answer</b>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Good coverage of relevant material and clear evidence of critical judgement in selection of information. Few or no significant omissions or errors.</p> <p><b>Understanding of Concepts &amp; Critical Ability</b> Thorough grasp of concepts and evidence of synthesis of information and critical ability. If relevant, evidence of sufficient, or some more extensive, wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity and Presentation</b> Logical and organised structure with clarity of expression.</p>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> “Dialogic reflection”; the writer analyses and explains events in relation to their own views of the observations. They place the implications of the event in a wider context and explore these in relation to possible changes in their own practice. There is a discourse with self and the literature, exploring experiences, events and actions using possible alternatives for explaining and hypothesizing.</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> Thorough grasp of concepts with all observations and assertions fully supported. Some evidence of original/innovative thinking. Appropriate reference to published work from authoritative sources.</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity &amp; Presentation</b> Logical and well-organised account with clarity of expression.</p>	65	Merit
<b>Very Good Answer</b>	<i>As for 65 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors. More evidence of critical judgement likely. There may be more evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i>	<i>As for 65 but with more evidence of analysis and fewer and/or less significant omissions/inaccuracies/errors. There is likely to be more evidence of wider reading through reference to published work from authoritative sources.</i>	68	Merit
<b>Extremely Good Answer</b>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Question answered fully and accurately. Few errors and/or omissions and none of significance.</p> <p><b>Understanding of Concepts &amp; Critical Ability</b> Thorough grasp of concepts with evidence of powers of critical analysis, argument and original thinking. If relevant, evidence of extensive wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity and Presentation</b> Logical and organised structure with clarity of expression.</p>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> “Critical reflection”; critical analysis of personal experiences, contextualised and informed by theory. An event is viewed from multiple perspectives, the evidence is analysed critically and either a choice or judgment is made between actions, or, what has been discovered is integrated into a better understanding of the issue. The writer clearly demonstrates the impact of the experience on their personal development and the resulting change in their own practice.</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> Thorough grasp of concepts with some critical and/or comparative comment on all observations. Clear evidence of original/innovative thinking. Published work from authoritative sources used extensively and appropriately.</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity &amp; Presentation</b> Very well-organised.</p>	75	Distinction
<b>Excellent Answer</b>	<i>As for 75 but demonstrating an authoritative grasp of concepts with sustained powers of argument, and frequent insights. Virtually no errors or omissions and none of significance.</i>	<i>As for 75 but demonstrating an authoritative grasp of concepts with sustained powers of argument, frequent insights and much evidence of original/innovative thinking. Virtually no errors or omissions and none of significance.</i>	82	Distinction
<b>Outstanding Answer</b>	<i>As for 82 but with strong evidence of independent thinking throughout and no omissions or factual errors.</i>	<i>As for 82 but with strong evidence of original/innovative thinking throughout and no omissions or factual errors. Would be of publishable standard with only minor modifications to content.</i>	90	Distinction

Descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Reflective Essay Descriptor	Mark	PGCert / PGDip / MSc Grade
<b>Exceptional Answer</b>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Exceptional depth of coverage with no identifiable errors or omissions.</p> <p><b>Understanding of Concepts &amp; Critical Ability</b> Exceptional powers of analysis, argument, synthesis and insight. Considerable evidence of extensive wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity and Presentation</b> Flawless.</p>	<p><b>Selection &amp; Coverage of Material</b> Exceptional analysis of events and concrete evidence of behavioural change and impact on practice.</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> Exceptional powers of analysis, argument, synthesis and insight. Considerable evidence of extensive wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p><b>Structure, Clarity &amp; Presentation</b> Flawless.</p>	100	Distinction