

External Assessment: Dissertation

Dissertation specification for Advanced Higher Home Economics — all contexts



National Unit components: **Practical Research and Dissertation (PR&D)**
Resource Management (RM)

Steps	Marking requirements	Outcomes/Performance criteria covered	Distribution of marks
Introduction (Steps 1-3)	The introduction should cover the following areas: Step 1: identification and explanation of the issue, situation or problem. Step 2: selection of suitable and relevant source materials Step 3: construction of a set of objectives for the primary research (minimum of three)		25% of the available marks 25 marks
Step 1 Identify and explain the issue, situation or problem	A review of the literature should be undertaken to identify the issue, situation or problem The issue, situation or problem should: ◆ be clearly stated ◆ be placed in context ◆ be well explained Explain why the issue, situation or problem is considered to be of importance	PR&D Outcome 1 Performance criteria (a) RM Outcome 1 Performance criteria (a), (b) and (c)	

Steps	Marking requirements	Outcomes/Performance criteria covered	Distribution of marks
<p>Step 2</p> <p>Select suitable and relevant source materials</p>	<p>A selection of source materials should be used to give background information to the issue, situation or problem as identified in Step 1.</p> <p>Explanations of different views and interpretations of an issue, situation or problem should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ fair ◆ balanced ◆ supported by evidence <p>A personal stance on an issue, situation or problem must be supported by detailed, referenced justification.</p> <p>Source materials should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ related to the appropriate context being studied ◆ of a scientific, technological or sociological nature ◆ referenced appropriately from secondary sources 	<p>PR&D Outcome 1 Performance criteria (e)</p> <p>RM Outcome 1 Performance criteria (b) and (c))</p> <p>RM Outcome 3 Performance criteria (c)</p> <p>RM Outcome 3 Performance criteria (d)</p> <p>PR&D Outcome 1 Performance criteria (b)</p> <p>RM Outcome 3 Performance criteria (a) and (b)</p>	

Steps	Marking requirements	Outcomes/Performance criteria covered	Distribution of marks
<p>Step 3</p> <p>Construct a set of objectives for the primary research to be undertaken.</p> <p>(Minimum of three)</p>	<p>Objectives should show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ clarity of purpose ◆ what you hope to prove/disprove ◆ logical progression <p>Justify the choice of objectives based on the literature review and indicate how the research may benefit industry, aspects of lifestyle or consumerism or supply new knowledge</p>	<p>PR&D</p> <p>Outcome 1 Performance criteria (c)</p> <p>RM</p> <p>Outcome 3 Performance criteria (b)</p>	

Expectations of performance by grades

Grade A (19 - 25 marks)	Grade B (15 – 18 marks)	Grade C (12 – 14 marks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ clearly identify and explain the issue, situation or problem to be investigated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ identify and provide some explanation of the issue, situation or problem to be investigated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ identify the issue, situation or problem with limited explanation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ provide evidence of extensive reading of relevant source materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ provide evidence of reading a good range of relevant source materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ provide some evidence of reading relevant source materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ discuss the main themes related to the area of study, in detail but concisely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ discuss most of the main themes related to the area of study in detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ discuss one or two of the main themes in detail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ support discussion with appropriate citing of relevant references 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ cite some relevant reference sources to support discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ cite few relevant references to support discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ detail and justify objectives precisely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ detail three objectives with some justification for choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ identify the minimum number of objectives required

Steps	Marking requirements	Outcomes/Performance criteria covered	Distribution of marks
<p>Step 4</p> <p>Methodology, ie the Research Process (Primary research)</p>	<p>The most suitable way of proving/disproving the objectives should be critically appraised.</p> <p>The research methodology should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ use appropriate approaches in order to obtain data applicable to the identified objectives ◆ be informed and justified by citing appropriate references and sources ◆ accurately describe the work/research actually carried out <p>The overall research process should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ logical ◆ appropriately focused ◆ well sequenced ◆ responsive to interim findings 	<p>RM Outcome 1 Performance criteria (d)</p> <p>PR&D Outcome 1 Performance criteria (b) and (e)</p> <p>PR&D Outcome 1 Performance criteria (d)</p>	<p>30% of the available marks</p> <p>30 marks</p>

Expectations of performance by grades

Grade A (22 – 30 marks)	Grade B (18 – 21 marks)	Grade C (15 – 17 marks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ demonstrate exceptional understanding of the research process by presenting a methodology which flows logically, is sequenced and could be replicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ demonstrate a good understanding of the research process by presenting a methodology which has reasonable flow, is sequenced and focused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ demonstrate some understanding of the research process although the approach will not always flow, be sequenced or focused
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ select an appropriate research approach for the area of study chosen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ select an appropriate approach for the area of study chosen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ select an appropriate approach for the area of study chosen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ clearly justify the choice of methodology, with cited reference sources for support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ justify choice of methodology with some support from cited reference sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ provide a limited justification for choice of methodology with few cited references.

Steps	Marking requirements	Outcomes/Performance criteria covered	Distribution of marks
Step 5 Results	<p>The presentation of data/results is brief, concise and in an easy to understand format</p> <p>Key results from graphs, charts and tables should be stated explicitly</p> <p>The results/data are reliable, based on fact and relevant to the aims of the research/dissertation</p>	RM Outcome 1 Performance criteria (e)	<p>15% of the available marks</p> <p>15 marks</p>

Expectations of performance by grades

Grade A (12 – 15 marks)	Grade B (9 - 11 marks)	Grade C (7-8 marks)
◆ results are presented in a brief and concise manner which facilitates understanding	◆ results are presented in a manner which aids understanding	◆ results are presented in a manner which can be interpreted but not easily
◆ a full set of accurate and reliable results is presented	◆ most results are accurate and reliable	◆ some omission of results/data. Some of the results are valid and reliable
◆ key results relevant to the objectives are clearly identified.	◆ most key results relevant to the objectives are identified.	◆ few key results relevant to the objectives are identified.

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<p>Step 6</p> <p>Conclusions</p>	<p>The conclusions should consist of a discussion of the main research findings in the context of the area of study and the objectives</p> <p>The conclusions drawn should be clear and justified, based on the primary and secondary research.</p> <p>The conclusions should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ present valid data ◆ present impartial data ◆ present coherent arguments ◆ present convincing arguments ◆ refer back to the purpose/objectives stated in the introduction ◆ be informed by appropriate references and sources <p>Conclusions should show the limitations of the primary research undertaken and make recommendations for possible areas of further research.</p>	<p>PR&D</p> <p>Outcome 1 Performance criteria (f), (g), (e) and (b)</p>	<p>30% of the available marks</p> <p>30 marks</p>

Expectations of performance by grades

Grade A (22 – 30 marks)	Grade B (18– 21 marks)	Grade C (15 – 17 marks)
◆ demonstrate an exceptional ability to synthesise knowledge or materials from different sources	◆ demonstrate a good knowledge with some ability to synthesise the material from different sources	◆ demonstrate an adequate level of knowledge but with some omissions and deficiencies
◆ critically analyse and evaluate evidence thoroughly	◆ provide evidence of some perceptive analysis and evaluation	◆ attempt to analyse material
◆ develop arguments logically and clearly	◆ be able to present some arguments clearly	◆ provide some evidence of an ability to apply knowledge and make evaluations
◆ present sound justification for conclusions drawn from the research undertaken	◆ draw conclusions from the research undertaken with some justification	◆ draw some conclusions from the research undertaken
◆ demonstrate a clear understanding of the limitations of the research	◆ detail some of the research's limitations	◆ identify some limitations of the research
◆ make reasoned recommendations to further the research undertaken	◆ make recommendations to further the research undertaken with some justification.	◆ make recommendations to further the research undertaken without clear justification.