SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Advanced Higher Home Economics — all contexts

Dissertation: Grade Descriptors

Grade A (Upper) **85 – 100 marks** **Excellent**

A dissertation at this level:

- provides evidence of extensive research, using a wide range of relevant secondary source materials
- demonstrates an excellent understanding of relevant knowledge and information
- demonstrates an excellent understanding of the research process by selecting and applying appropriate methodologies to prove/disprove a set of clearly identified objectives
- shows an ability to effectively synthesise knowledge or material from different sources
- develops arguments logically and clearly
- presents valid, justified conclusions, demonstrating good analytical and evaluative skills

Overall a dissertation at this level will be an excellent piece of work which is well structured and planned. It will be well written with few/no typographical or grammatical errors and with consistent appropriate referencing.

Grade A (Lower) **70 – 84 marks** **Very Good**

A dissertation at this level:

- provides evidence of reading a very good range of relevant secondary source materials
- demonstrates a very good knowledge of key issues relevant to the area of study
- demonstrates a very good understanding of the research process by selecting and applying methodologies to prove/disprove a set of clearly identified objectives
- demonstrates a fairly thorough analysis, evaluation and synthesis of appropriate evidence
- develops most arguments logically and clearly
- presents valid conclusions with some good justifications.

Overall a dissertation at this level will be a commendable piece of work with good structure and effective sequencing of ideas. It will be consistent in style of presentation and referencing. This dissertation will provide similar evidence to the Grade A (Upper) dissertation but will be less strong in one or two of the above categories.

Grade B **60 – 69 marks** **Good**

A dissertation at this level:

- provides evidence of researching a good range of secondary source materials
- demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of appropriate knowledge and its application
- demonstrates a good understanding of the research process by selecting and applying appropriate methodologies which have reasonable flow, are sequenced and focused on a set of objectives
- shows some analysis, evaluation and synthesis of knowledge and source materials
- shows some ability to evaluate evidence and present argument
- presents valid conclusions with limited justifications

Overall a dissertation at this level will be a good piece of work which is organised coherently with effective use of materials and acknowledgement of sources. Generally it will be clearly written but with a few typographical and grammatical errors.

Grade C **50 – 59 marks** **Adequate/satisfactory**

A dissertation at this level:

- provides some evidence of research, using appropriate secondary source materials
- cites few references
- demonstrates an adequate level of knowledge of the area of study but with some omissions and deficiencies
- demonstrates some understanding of the research process although the methodologies will not always flow, be sequenced or focused on the identified objectives
- provides some evidence of an ability to apply knowledge and make evaluations
- attempts to analyse material and draw some conclusions from research undertaken.

Overall a dissertation at this level will be satisfactory although it will lack depth, due mainly to the limited skills of evaluation and analysis, and contain some inaccuracies. There will be some evidence of planning and structure but the dissertation will contain some typographical and grammatical errors.

Fail **49 or less** **Below satisfactory standard**

A dissertation at this level:

- provides minimal evidence of research, where source material is not always relevant or appropriate and is not acknowledged
- demonstrates an inadequate knowledge of area of study with much of the content being inaccurate and/or irrelevant
- demonstrates limited understanding of the research process with inappropriate choice of methodologies and poor application.
- contains material which is reproduced and lacks discussion, analysis, evaluation or synthesis of knowledge and available evidence
- fails to draw valid conclusions.

Overall a dissertation at this level will be weak with a number of typographical and grammatical errors, and little evidence of planning or structure.