



**2008 Modern Studies**

**Advanced Higher – Dissertation**

**Finalised Marking Instructions**

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## ASSESSMENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The marking scheme should be interpreted in the light of the particular topic chosen for the dissertation. The following guidelines are intended to help to assess candidate work to a consistent standard. Ultimately, however, assessment involves the exercise of professional judgement, and so it is impossible to be completely prescriptive in the guidance, given the range of candidate answers.

Therefore, discretion should be exercised in the use and interpretation of the marking scheme. It is important to also take a holistic approach to the assessment of dissertations.

(1) For a Grade A, the candidate will be able to:  
plan and research **in depth** a dissertation that:

- identifies appropriate aims and methods
- gathers relevant and **accurate** information

For a Grade C, the candidate will be able to:  
plan and research a dissertation that:

- identifies appropriate aims and methods
- gathers relevant information

*Look for a wide variety of sources that have been clearly documented, and information that relates directly to the aims.*

(2) For a Grade A, the candidate will be able to:  
analyse **in depth** the information/data:

- accurately

For a Grade C, the candidate will be able to:  
analyse the information/data:

- accurately

*Look also for:*

- *content that relates to the aims*
- *arguments that are structured, logical and fully developed*
- *supporting evidence from primary and secondary sources, which have been critically appraised and attributed*

(3) For a Grade A, the candidate will be able to:  
draw developed conclusions that are:

- valid
- relevant
- supported by evidence
- **detailed**

For a Grade C, the candidate will be able to:  
draw developed conclusions that are:

- valid
- relevant
- supported by evidence

*Conclusions should address the hypothesis.*

The dissertation should be between 4000 and 5000 words in length, excluding footnotes and bibliography. A flat rate penalty of 10% of the marks available will be deducted once the stated word limit has been exceeded ie 4 marks should be deducted from final mark.

Grades

A	-	32 – 45
B	-	27 – 31
C	-	23 – 26
Fail		0 – 22

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]