

Grade descriptors in the Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies (essays, presentations)
Submission and feedback procedures
(see also policy on the assessment of objective tests and attendance)

The Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies normally awards marks within the range 40-80. These marks are distributed across four equally-sized classes as follows:

III	40-49	Satisfactory
II.2	50-59	Good
II.1	60-69	Very good
I	70-79	Excellent

The mark you receive should be understood in relation to the following aspects of your performance that are being assessed:

Knowledge

The extent and depth of your knowledge and understanding of the primary texts and/or the issue at hand, your grasp of the historical issues relevant to their analysis, and your understanding of the scholarly and critical debates and analyses that bear upon the texts and topic.

Argument and Analysis

What you manage to do with the knowledge you've accumulated – how far you construct a logically clear and coherent argument in response to the question posed, how wide-ranging your claim, and how aware you are of possible counter-arguments that you might need to address.

Language and Expression

How you say what you say – whether your spelling is good and you write in a grammatically correct fashion, certainly, but also the extent to which your writing is clear and your vocabulary and tone appropriate to the task.

Scholarly Apparatus

Have you provided references for all cited work, and is it completely and properly clear when you are speaking in your own words, and when you are paraphrasing or borrowing another's?

A student who demonstrates that they have achieved the module learning outcomes and who shows an informed understanding of and engagement with the topic under discussion could expect to get a mark within the high II.2 to low II.1 range (55-65). The university considers these good marks; most students most of the time obtain marks within this range.

Grades outside the normal range

Outside of the range of marks in these four classes, students who perform outside of the normal spectrum are assigned marks in the F (Fail) category or in a higher I (First class) category.

FAIL GRADES

F1 **a marginal fail:** indicates a performance which is not passable. The student has shown some engagement with the topic, but more work is needed to demonstrate to the

examiner/reader that the material has been understood and assimilated. The work may be entirely narrative or descriptive, rather than analytical or discursive.

F2 **a clear fail:** indicates a performance which is problematic. There is little-no evidence of engagement with the material; there is little-no evidence of understanding of the material; there is little-no evidence of learning. Work which contains little or no information relevant to the question may be assigned this grade.

EXCELLENT GRADES

A First class mark between 70 and 79 rewards the following:

- evidence of independent reading
- evidence of independent thinking
- clear line of argumentation
- clearly developed structure
- ability to analyse issues and texts from a number of points of view and to cope with the complexity of the material under discussion
- well-argued independent conclusion
- lucid expression
- accurate and consistent referencing

Marks above 80 reward the following:

80-84 awareness of related material beyond the confines of the topic
imaginative and authoritative
critically acute and perceptive throughout
work of near publishable quality

85+ ability to incorporate related material beyond the confines of the topic into the discussion
awareness of the wider ramifications of the issues raised
mastery of relevant critical contexts and/or debates through engagement with secondary sources
work of publishable quality