

## INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ESSAY OF 2,000 WORDS – MARKING CRITERIA

### 82–100 Upper First categories

- An outstanding research essay in every respect. Work exhibits superb critical and theoretical understanding, insightful and original analysis, intelligent engagement with relevant and well-chosen wider critical materials.
- A comprehensive grasp of the issues discussed on the module, and the ability to construct a nuanced and persuasive argument.
- Effectively structured and referenced and communicated in a lucid and engaging register throughout.

### 74-78 Low/Lower-Mid First

- An excellent research essay in all respects. Work demonstrates a very good grasp of the critical issues relevant to the course topics, very strong engagement with relevant and well-chosen wider critical materials.
- A perceptive analysis that goes some way to an original essay, and the ability to construct a convincing argument.
- Effectively structured and referenced and clearly expressed in an appropriate register throughout.

### 62-68 Upper Second

- A very good research essay. Work displays sound knowledge of the relevant course topics and the issues they raise more widely, strong engagement with wider critical materials
- Offers some convincing analysis and some attempt at the construction of an argument. Goes some way towards the originality and/or insight of a first-class answer.
- Generally articulate and well-structured using appropriate referencing and clarity of expression.

### 52-58 Lower Second

- A good or adequate research essay. Responses exhibit sufficient knowledge of course topics and/or surrounding issues. Some engagement with wider critical materials, although not necessarily as relevant.
- There may be some evidence of the construction of an argument.
- There are some problems with clarity of expression and referencing.

### 42-48 Third

- A basic, pass-level research essay. A limited response to the tasks set which, whilst exhibiting limited knowledge of course topics and/or surrounding issues, lacks substance and engagement with wider critical materials.
- Significant errors in clarity of expression and omissions in referencing.

### 12 - 38 Fail

- A poor essay but with some redeeming evidence of effort and/or engagement with course topics and/or surrounding issues/critical materials.
- There may be serious errors and omissions and it is likely also to be poorly written and/or poorly organised.

### 0 Zero

- Work of no merit OR Absent, work not submitted, penalty in some misconduct cases.