

Class	University-wide 20 point marking scale			Old history descriptor up to and including 2022/3	New history descriptor from 2023/4
	Scale	Mark	Descriptor		
First	Excellent 1st	100	Work of original and exceptional quality which in the examiners' judgement merits special recognition by the award of the highest possible mark.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persuasive and direct answer to the question, establishing the wider significance of the issues concerned. ▪ Comprehensive coverage of the relevant material; accuracy in the details. ▪ A direct and coherent argument, well supported by relevant evidence. ▪ Critical analysis of relevant concepts, theoretical or historiographical perspectives or methodological issues. ▪ Fluent and engaging writing style; persuasive presentation and structuring of arguments. ▪ Work which, in addition, displays evidence of creativity, originality, sophistication and freshness of arguments will be awarded marks of 75+. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compelling answer to the question, expertly supported by evidence ▪ Comprehensive and precise knowledge of relevant topics and sources ▪ Original and sophisticated understanding of relevant sources, theories, methods, and/or debates ▪ Superb presentation, including elegant writing style, strong organisation, and flawless referencing ▪ May achieve, or be close to, a publishable standard
		94	Exceptional work of the highest quality, demonstrating excellent knowledge and understanding, analysis, organisation, accuracy, relevance, presentation and appropriate skills. At final-year level: work may achieve or be close to publishable standard.		
	High 1st	88	Very high quality work demonstrating excellent knowledge and understanding, analysis, organisation, accuracy, relevance, presentation and appropriate skills. Work which may extend existing debates or interpretations.		
	Upper Mid 1st	82			
	Lower Mid 1st	78			
	Low 1st	74			
Upper Second (2.1)	High 2.1	68	High quality work demonstrating good knowledge and understanding, analysis, organisation, accuracy, relevance, presentation and appropriate skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct answer to the question, establishing the wider significance of the issues concerned. ▪ Adequate coverage of the relevant material, accuracy in the details. ▪ Skillful mobilisation of evidence in relation to the argument being presented. ▪ Narrative and description taking second place to analysis. ▪ Competent manipulation of relevant concepts, theoretical or historiographical perspectives or methodological issues. ▪ Fluent writing style; effective presentation and structuring of arguments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coherent answer to the question, carefully supported by evidence ▪ Substantial and accurate knowledge of relevant topics and sources ▪ Sound understanding of relevant sources, theories, methods, and/or debates ▪ Good presentation, including fluent writing style, clear organisation, and correct referencing
	Mid 2.1	65			
	Low 2.1	62			

Lower Second (2.2)	High 2.2	58	Competent work, demonstrating reasonable knowledge and understanding, some analysis, organisation, accuracy, relevance, presentation and appropriate skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basically satisfactory answer to the question. ▪ Limited coverage of relevant material; some inaccuracy in the detail. ▪ Some attempt to mobilise evidence in relation to the argument being presented. ▪ Analysis taking second place to narrative and description. ▪ Limited understanding of relevant concepts, theoretical or historiographical perspectives or methodological issues. ▪ Adequate writing style, presentation and structuring of arguments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plausible answer to the question, supported by some evidence, although argument may take second place to narrative and description ▪ Adequate knowledge of relevant topics and sources ▪ Some understanding of relevant sources, theories, methods and/or debates ▪ Adequate presentation, including writing, organisation, and referencing
	Mid 2.2	55			
	Low 2.2	52			
	High 3rd	48	Work of limited quality, demonstrating some relevant knowledge and understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barely satisfactory answer to the question. ▪ Inadequate coverage of relevant material; major inaccuracies in the detail. ▪ No understanding of relevant concepts, theoretical or historiographical perspectives or methodological issues. ▪ Poor presentation and structuring of arguments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partial answer to the question, with evidence that is incomplete, irrelevant, or excessively descriptive ▪ Narrow or erroneous knowledge of relevant topics or sources ▪ Flawed understanding of relevant sources, theories, methods and/or debates ▪ Poor presentation, which may include unclear writing, confused organisation, or careless referencing
	Mid 3rd	45			
	Low 3rd	42			
Fail	High Fail (sub honours)	38	Work does not meet standards required for the appropriate stage of an Honours degree. Evidence of study and demonstrates some knowledge and some basic understanding of relevant concepts and techniques, but subject to significant omissions and errors.	One or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serious misunderstanding of the question. ▪ Failure to provide any answer to the question. ▪ Failure to show knowledge of relevant material. ▪ Seriously muddled presentation and structuring of arguments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No real answer to the question, whether through lack of evidence, misinterpretation of the question, or failure to state an answer ▪ Very little knowledge of topics and sources ▪ Serious misunderstanding of relevant sources, theories, methods and/or debates ▪ Seriously muddled presentation, which may include incoherent writing, an absence of organisation, or little or no referencing
	Fail	32	Work is significantly below the standard required for the appropriate stage of an Honours degree. Some evidence of study and some knowledge and evidence of understanding but subject to very serious omissions and errors.		
		25			
	Low Fail	12	Poor quality work well below the standards required for the appropriate stage of an Honours degree.		
Zero	Zero	0	Work of no merit OR Absent, work not submitted, penalty in some misconduct cases		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work of no merit ▪ Work not submitted ▪ Work penalised for lateness, academic misconduct, or submission of the wrong file, may in some cases receive a mark of zero