Grading descriptors for essays and coursework 2020/21

| Quality | Generic | Technical question | Essay or non-technical question |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Top grade | Exceeds expectations. Additional relevant information provided. Incisive remarks. Exceptional depth of discussion. | Evidence of clear understanding of underlying theory, together with insight into assumptions implicit in standard analysis. | Use of relevant evidence and examples from wide range of sources to provide new perspectives. |
|  | Meets all expectations of an excellent answer. All required information provided. Material wellorganised and presented clearly. <br> Full and competent discussion of all relevant main issues. <br> Good use of diagrams, sketches. | Calculations correct, right equations used, with appropriate number of significant figures. Appropriate use of diagrams and plots, which are correctly labeled. <br> Evidence of correct understanding of technical aspects. | Arguments follow a logical structure. Good use of examples with reference to source material. |
|  | Minor weaknesses. <br> Minor omissions in information provided. <br> Answer lacks some clarity. <br> Discussion doesn't fully cover all points. | Correct analytical methods but some minor errors in calculations, or in choice of equations. Minor omissions or inaccuracies in diagrams or plots. | Major aspects addressed but answers lack depth. |
|  | Significant gaps in information provided. Discussion unfocused, too wordy or too brief. | Some inaccurate, incomplete or inappropriately chosen diagrams or plots. <br> Some substantial errors in analysis. | Incomplete coverage of topics. Weak supporting evidence and examples. |
|  | Omission of substantial sections of required information. <br> Discussion and conclusions weak, muddled or incorrect. <br> Evidence of lack of knowledge and understanding. | Numerous omissions and technical errors in calculations and supporting graphics. | Incomplete coverage of secondary aspects. <br> Few or inappropriate examples. Inconsistent structures and information flow in answers. |
|  | Major areas missed. <br> Misunderstanding of fundamental aspects. | Incorrect analysis, e.g. wrong equations, inappropriate theory. | Failure to address basic aspects of topic. |

[^0](http://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/content/statement-tripos-transparency)


[^0]:    The rationale behind our grading process is described in the Departmental statement on Tripos transparency

