

Grade Descriptors
(applicable from the academic year of 2016/17 and onwards)

First Class GPA = 3.6 – 4.30

A+	Outstanding (90-100)	GPA = 4.3
A	Excellent (85-89)	GPA = 4.0

Demonstrates qualities of **originality** in approach and argument, effective **analytical** and **critical** abilities, and a **thorough understanding** of the relevant law and legal issues;

OR

though not especially original, nevertheless demonstrates a **very thorough understanding** of the law, **fluently expressed**, founded on **careful** and **critical** reading of relevant materials, and demonstrating **independent judgment**.

Demonstrates **highly effective organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills**.

Work reaching this standard should be awarded an **A+**. Where work satisfies most of these standards, but falls slightly short in one or two respects, then an **A** should be awarded.

A-	Borderline Excellent (80-84)	GPA = 3.7
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Demonstrates some of the qualities required for an excellent grade, but overall falls short of excellence (eg is less comprehensive, or perhaps incompletely states the law on a minor issue, or misapplies it in relation to the facts, or perhaps incompletely deals with or even omits a minor issue, etc), or otherwise contains some minor errors.

Consistently demonstrates effective organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills.

In this case, an **A-** should be awarded.

Upper Second GPA = 3.0 – 3.59

B+	Very Good (76-79)	GPA = 3.3
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Demonstrates very good skill and ability in **identifying, analyzing and dealing with** the main issues, and displays an ability to present **persuasive** arguments backed up by authority where necessary,

but falls short of excellence (eg less analytical, critical, or thorough, AND incompletely states the law, misapplies the law and/or incompletely deals with or omits some issues etc) or contains some errors.

Normally, demonstrates sound organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills.

Work reaching this standard should be awarded a **B+**.

B Good (Average Competent Answer) (73-75)

GPA = 3.0

Demonstrates good skill and ability in identifying, analyzing, and dealing with the main issues, and displays an ability to present coherent and structured arguments backed up by authority where necessary,

but falls short of very good in some material aspects (e.g., arguments less fully developed and persuasive, coverage of issues less comprehensive or complete, structure of answers less logical or coherent, omission to cite some **minor** authorities where necessary, or application of law to facts less developed).

Demonstrates good organizational, rhetorical, and presentational skills.

Work reaching this standard should be award a B.

Lower Second GPA = 2.4 – 2.99

B- Borderline Good (70-72)

GPA = 2.7

Broadly identifies the major issues and displays a broad understanding of the relevant law,

but contains errors or
is vague or
confused on an issue or
in applying the law to the facts, or
omits some major issues, etc.

Demonstrates fair organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills but structure of answers less organized.

Where work generally satisfies these standards, it should be awarded a B-.

Third Class GPA = 1.7 – 2.39

C+	Very Satisfactory (66-69)	GPA = 2.3
C	Satisfactory (63-65)	GPA = 2.0
C-	Borderline Satisfactory (60-62)	GPA = 1.7

Identifies and broadly deals with some of the major issues,

but displays a more limited understanding of the relevant law largely derived from course materials, or
contains errors or
is confused in stating or applying the law to the facts.

Demonstrates adequate organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills.

Where work generally satisfies these standards, it should be awarded a C+.
Where work broadly reaches this standard but falls short in one or more respects, it should be awarded a C or C-.

Pass GPA = 1.0 – 1.69

D+	Pass (55-59)	GPA = 1.3
D	Borderline Pass (50-54)	GPA = 1.0

Demonstrates
a bare minimum of knowledge and
some recognition of issues,

but issues are generally incompletely or unclearly perceived and treated,
understanding is incomplete and
demonstrates poor digestion of course or other relevant materials, or
there are a number of positive mistakes.

Demonstrates poor organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills, but sufficient to pass. Where work falls within this range, it may be awarded a **D+** or **D**, according to the extent of weakness evidenced.

Fail GPA = 0.0

F Fail (0-49)

GPA = 0.0

Fails to identify major issues, serious mistakes of law are apparent, irrelevant material is included, handling of the question generally, including organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills, is below par.

Fails to reach degree level.