

| | | (A) Lower to Good 1 st (70-85) | (B) Upper 2 nd Class (60-69) | (C) Lower 2 nd Class (50-59) | (D) Third Class (40-49) | |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Demonstration of reading, research, and critical (historical, analytical, ethnographic etc.) context | Outstanding 1st (86-100) – See Handbook for guidance | Strong in awareness of and accounting for divergences in scholarly literature. Displays a good understanding of broader critical and/or theoretical context. | Good account of the basic state of scholarly knowledge and differing interpretations. Shows a reasonable degree of broader critical and/or theoretical context. | Shows awareness of scholarly literature but tends to use it uncritically for 'information' rather than evaluating. Key facts/ideas generally present. Limited awareness of broader context. | Shows some knowledge of the basic material but lacks understanding of key problems, questions, contexts. | guidance |
| Engagement with musical material and practices | | Depth in engagement. Draws meaningful, integrated connections and/ or analytical conclusions. Illuminating and, at the higher level, original in insights and/or approach. | Shows insight and awareness of varied interpretation and/or analytical issues. Good command of detail. Critical frameworks have been understood and applied. | Shows a thoughtful degree of historical/analytical/ethnographic/other critical understanding. A basic knowledge of material and practices is shown. | Partial: discussion and understanding of musical material and practices are limited. | |
| Argument and content | | Perceptive, fluently presented argument, articulated with rigour, accuracy, and clarity. Points are well backed up. Awareness of alternatives and a broader theoretical context are present. | Well argued; progress may readily be followed. There are few or no surprising omissions and no serious misunderstandings. Points tend to be well backed up, although there may be exceptions to that. | Content and substance of an argument are present but, connecting steps may not always quite convince and/or cohere. Some expected points may be missing or confusingly presented. There is, however, a general clarity of meaning | Explores the topic but the line of argument is tenous or missing. Accuracy, relevance, and command of detail are sometimes or often lacking. | Fail (1-39) – See Handbook for guidance |
| Organisation and structure | | Convincing and coherent, resting on a sustained, developed argument (see above). Introduction and conclusion do more than repeat. | Structure is broken down into clear logical steps. There is reasonable continuity between and within sections. | Makes an orderly series of points, which falls some way short of a cumulative argument developing into more than the sum of its parts. There may be some misunderstandings, errors, and/or omissions | Fragmented and difficult to follow. Meaning may sometimes be difficult to discern. | |
| Writing: style, grammar, and spelling. Presentation, referencing | | Incisive and fluent style. Well referenced and presented. No significant errors. | A good standard of writing, reference, and presentation, with few errors or inconsistencies. | Straightforward and clear. There will be some errors and/or inconsistences in writing, presentation, and referencing | Several significant errors and/or inconsistencies in these categories. | |