

Grading guidelines for home exams and term papers in History of Arts and Visual Studies

A good exam paper, which fulfills the requirements for grade C, meets the following conditions:

- The different sections of the paper respond directly to the portfolio assignments. Each section is coherently composed and includes an introductory section, which presents the sections's main theme(s), and clarifies the task the section sets out to do in a relevant, justified and precise manner.
- The paper demonstrates a good degree of judgement and independent thinking. The candidate shows ability to explain, interpret, analyse and discuss ideas. This can be demonstrated by paraphrasing from original texts, by discussing and analysing quotes, by comparing the ideas of different authors, as well as by coming up with and analysing original examples. Different parts of the discussion follow each in a coherent manner, so as to present an overall analysis and argument.
- The paper directly addresses and contextualizes the relevant assigned readings (pensum) and their key themes. The paper can draw on secondary literature outside the pensum, but it must discuss the relevant pensum literature.
- The paper is presented in a clear language.
- The paper uses an accepted citation style and includes a complete list of works cited.

If the above requirements are not met, the answer will be considered as fulfilling the grades D or E. If most of the above requirements are not met, the answer will be considered a fail (F).

Very good papers (A or B) will, in addition to the above requirements, show independence, reflection and originality. Papers fulfilling the requirements for grade A demonstrate excellent judgement and a high degree of independent thinking, by reviewing existing scholarship and original sources critically with insight and independence of thought, and are able to make arguments drawing on specific examples. Arguments and the presentation of knowledge will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning, and be particularly clear, well focused and cogent.