

## MARKING GUIDE FOR EX.PHIL. – SEMINAR VARIANT

The exam consists of two parts: a term paper, and two exam questions. In order to pass the exam as a whole, both parts – the essay and the two questions - must achieve a passing grade. The weighting of the **essay** is approximately 60% and the **exam questions** 40%.

### MARKING GUIDE FOR THE TERM PAPER

The term paper is an argumentative text in which the student discusses a specific problem with reference to one or more texts from the syllabus *Knowing, Being, Doing*. The assignment will be evaluated with reference to the candidate's ability to demonstrate **knowledge, independence, and formal academic writing skills**. The candidate is expected to answer the question set by the assignment, namely to give their evaluation of one or more perspectives or arguments in the primary text(s). Independence is demonstrated particularly in the student's ability to show an adequate understanding of the positions being discussed, and to set out their own viewpoint (take a stance on the problem in question). The assignment is evaluated both in terms of the student's argument and discussion, and in terms of their ability to present the relevant materials from the syllabus. These two aspects are weighted equally. Good writing ability is less important in terms of the grade. Appropriate referencing is essential.

If the following formal requirements are not met, this may lead to the assignment not being passed (graded as F), even if the assignment is otherwise satisfactory:

- If the candidate fails to provide appropriate references from the syllabus for direct quotes and paraphrases (descriptions of parts of the text), or fails to give sources when referring to secondary texts or other sources.
- If the candidate fails to include a bibliography/literature list.
- If the assignment does not meet the requirements for word length (ie is shorter than 800 words or longer than 1000 words).

### MARKING GUIDE FOR EXAM QUESTIONS

The exam questions are given in the form of a 2.5 hour digital home exam. The questions may be drawn from any part of the whole syllabus. To pass the exam component of the assessment, the candidate must answer two (of three) questions, both of which must achieve a passing grade. The answers given to the exam questions are evaluated according to two criteria:

- i. comprehension of the relevant parts of the syllabus  
and
- ii. the candidate's ability to process (paraphrase, discuss, explain, etc) the material

The candidate's ability to present the relevant material from the syllabus accurately is weighed equally with their capacity for discussion and reflection. The candidate's writing ability may have an effect on the grade given.

The answers must be the student's own independent work, and the result of their own learning and effort. The candidate must not use 'copy and paste', but should use their own words. Sources must be given by citation and rephrasing of passage in original text. It is important that the student is familiar with the rules for citation and use of sources: <https://www.hf.uio.no/english/studies/sources-referencing/index.html>

Should the candidate make use of others' work in their answers, without referencing it, this can be regarded as cheating, or attempted cheating. In a short digital exam (2.5 hours), there is no requirement for a literature list at the end of the answer

**The following criteria are used for evaluating the exam questions. If most of the criteria for a particular grade are met, the following grades are given:**

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>General description of evaluation criteria for exam questions for Exphil Seminar Variant</i>
A	Outstanding	<p>Outstanding work that clearly excels. The candidate shows excellent critical ability and a high degree of independence.</p> <p>The answer shows excellent knowledge of the relevant syllabus texts, and provides clear evidence of the candidate's ability to work with the material (present, discuss, explain)</p>
B	Very good	<p>Very good work. The candidate shows good critical ability and independence.</p> <p>The answer shows good knowledge of the syllabus and the candidate demonstrates their ability to present, discuss and explain the material.</p>
C	Good	<p>Good work that is satisfactory in most aspects. The candidate shows good critical skills and independence in the most important elements.</p> <p>The answer shows reasonably good knowledge of the syllabus and the candidate demonstrates a satisfactory ability to present, discuss and explain the material.</p>

D	Satisfactory	<p>Acceptable work, with some evident limitations. The candidate shows some degree of critical ability and independence.</p> <p>The answer demonstrates some knowledge of the syllabus texts, and the candidate shows a limited ability to present, explain and discuss the material.</p>
E	Weak	<p>The work only just satisfies the minimum requirements. The candidate shows minimal critical ability and independent thought.</p> <p>The answer demonstrates little knowledge of the syllabus texts, and the candidate shows very limited capacity to present, discuss and explain the material.</p>
F	Fail	<p>The work does not satisfy the minimum requirements. The candidate lacks both critical ability and independence of thought.</p> <p>The answer does not demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the syllabus texts, and the candidate does not succeed in presenting, discussing or explaining the material effectively.</p>

**The following criteria are used for evaluating the term paper. Where most of the criteria relating to a specific grade are met, the following grades are given:**

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>General description of evaluation criteria for the term paper for Exphil, seminar variant</i>
A	Outstanding	The assignment demonstrates very good knowledge, is well-structured and displays a good degree of independence. Well organised and very good discussion of the relevant texts from the syllabus. The

		<p>candidate shows excellent ability to formulate and discuss relevant philosophical problems, demonstrates very good insight and understanding of the issues, and ability to carry through a coherent discussion that does justice to the perspectives being analysed.</p> <p>Outstanding work that clearly excels. The candidate shows very good critical ability and a high degree of independence.</p> <p>Correct, clear and precise language.</p> <p>Correct use of references and bibliography with appropriate use of a recognised reference style.</p>
B	Very good	<p>The assignment shows good knowledge and is well structured, showing good capability for independent thought. Well organised and good grasp of the syllabus. The candidate shows good insight and understanding of the themes and gives a good, balanced discussion.</p> <p>Very good work. The candidate shows good critical ability and independence.</p> <p>Clear and precise language, with few lapses.</p> <p>Correct use of references and bibliography with appropriate use of sources and a recognised referencing style.</p>
C	Good	<p>The assignment shows reasonably good knowledge. It also has a broadly reasonable structure with some independent argument and correct account of the texts from the syllabus that are relevant to the question, with some superficial elements in the discussion.</p> <p>Good work that satisfies most of the requirements. The candidate shows critical ability and independence in the most important areas.</p> <p>Language is for the most part clear and precise.</p>

		Correct use of references and bibliography, with appropriate use of a recognised referencing style.
D	Satisfactory	<p>The work shows some failings in the student's grasp of the relevant material from the syllabus, and demonstrates limited capacity for independent argument. There is some attempt to organise the material, but structure is lacking in places.</p> <p>An acceptable piece of work with some clear weaknesses. The candidate shows a degree of critical ability and independence.</p> <p>Some mistakes in the writing.</p> <p>Largely correct use of references and bibliography and an appropriate referencing style, but with some failings.</p>
E	Weak	<p>Some gaps in the student's grasp of the syllabus, with one or more mistakes, but demonstrates the minimum knowledge required to pass. Poorly organised and structured, and the work shows little ability in independent argument.</p> <p>The work satisfies the minimum requirements, but only just. The candidate shows little critical ability or independence of thought.</p> <p>Largely unclear and imprecise use of language.</p> <p>Imprecise and/or incorrect use of references/bibliography.</p>
F	Fail	Very poor grasp of the material from the syllabus, with several serious mistakes or gaps in the answer to the question. The work does not satisfy the minimum requirements in terms of format and knowledge, and it demonstrates inadequate structure and independent, critical ability.

		<p>Language is unclear and imprecise.</p> <p>Serious inadequacies in the use of references and bibliography.</p>
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