

Masters marking criteria: *viva voce* examinations

Classes	%	Criteria
A*	100	The student did an excellent job of communicating a very substantial body of scientific information. The student gave accurate and logical answers , showed command of the relevant concepts and facts , spoke authoritatively , showed abundant evidence of knowledge and understanding beyond that which had been provided in the thesis , provided a mostly analytical*, critical* and/or synthetic* treatment information in their answers (where relevant). The student demonstrated an appreciation of the limitations of his/her work, and showed clear and possibly novel insight into the subject. The student was able to robustly defend criticism of the strategy, ideas or information provided in the thesis.
	95	
	90	
A	85	The student did an excellent job of communicating a very substantial body of scientific information. They met all of the criteria for a mark of 68, as well as meeting most but not all of the criteria for a mark of 90+ .
	80	
	76	The student did an excellent job of communicating a very substantial body of scientific information. They met all the criteria for a mark of 68 as well as meeting one or a few of the qualities of a 90+ viva .
	72	
B	68	The student effectively communicated a significant body of scientific information, enabling the examiners to appreciate the significance of the material presented. Vivas in this range would generally be expected to show the following characteristics: good evidence of knowledge and understanding beyond that which had been provided in the thesis , good critical*, analytical* or synthetic* ability in developing answers to questions, no evidence of significant errors of understanding during answers to questions, sound knowledge of how the study fits in to the relevant literature and some ability to defend criticism of the strategy, ideas or information provided in the thesis.
	65	
	62	
C	58	The student successfully communicated a body of scientific information, showing a mostly accurate understanding of the material presented in the thesis , showing evidence of adequate preparation , but was marred by confused answers, omissions, errors, hesitation or irrelevance. There was little evidence of secure knowledge and understanding beyond that which had been provided in the thesis .
	55	
	52	
D	48	The student achieved only limited communication of scientific information, with a viva performance let down by major errors or omissions. The student demonstrated an understanding of at least a third of the material presented in the thesis , showing evidence of little preparation. There was no evidence of knowledge and understanding beyond that which had been provided in the thesis .
	45	
	42	
	38	The student failed to communicate any significant scientific information. The student demonstrated understanding of less than a third of the material presented in the thesis (either through errors, or by omission).
	35	
	30	
	25	The student failed to communicate scientific information and was on balance misleading. They showed understanding of less than a quarter of the material presented in the thesis , but answers were so inaccurate and/or irrelevant that they succeeded only in misinforming and confusing the examiners.
	20	
	15	The student provided few or no answers that were correct and relevant .
	10	
	5	
	0	Viva not attended.

Footnotes: **Analytical** = breaking a concept down into its parts and examining their inter-relationships, *e.g.* comparing and contrasting two models. **Critical** = judging a hypothesis or conclusion by examining the validity of the evidence presented for it, *e.g.* evaluating two competing models. **Synthetic** = integrating concepts from several sources. *e.g.* discussing relevant background reading, or combining material into a coherent or original whole.