**Psychology Marking Criteria: Coursework Assignments**

**First (1st)**

**An extremely competent piece of work, showing several, but not necessarily all, of the following features:**

* An extremely well organized answer, including a great deal of relevant information.
* The student develops a theme or argument which is directly related to the question.
* There is evidence of reading beyond the lecture material, including books beyond the basic or unit text and possibly periodical articles.
* The answer goes well beyond merely listing theories or particular empirical studies and places them within a framework.
* There are correct and relevant references.
* There is some evidence of a capacity to critically evaluate theories and particular empirical studies.
* There is an understanding of the relationship between theories and appropriate evidence.
* The student shows that they appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of particular approaches to the topic.

**Upper Second (2.1)**

**A very competent piece of work, possessing all the following features:**

* The contents are accurate, well informed and relevant to the question. *Specifically:*
  + The answer has a clear structure
  + There are few major omissions and appropriate references;
  + There are no major errors of fact.
  + The answer goes beyond lecture material showing evidence of independent reading.
  + There is evidence of a capacity to evaluate different viewpoints.

**Lower Second (2.2)**

**A piece of work of reasonable competence, typically possessing the following features:**

* A basically accurate summary of relevant material, typically based on lecture material.
* The information is set out clearly with adequate references.
* There may be some omission of key facts at the lower end of this category.
* There may be some minor errors.
* The answer is easy to follow, but may include some material whose relevance is not wholly clear.
* An attempt is made to evaluate different viewpoints.

**Third (3rd)**

**A piece of work in this category typically has some of the following important flaws:**

* Key points of information are missing.
* The work fails to answer certain aspects of the question.
* It contains inaccurate or irrelevant information and few references.
* The text is hard to follow because the student does not develop a theme in a coherent way.
* Assertions are not supported by appropriate evidence;
* The answer is schematic, brief and shows relatively little evidence of preparatory reading or understanding of lecture material.

**Fail (F)**

**A piece of work in this category is seriously deficient:**

* It fails to demonstrate a fund of knowledge or understanding related to the question.
* It reveals basic misunderstanding.
* It is incoherent.
* All or most of the material presented is irrelevant to the question.