

Assessment Practice – Good Practice Example

BA (Hons) History

Tariffs

- Over the past few years, the Programme Team have established the following tariffs for modules on undergraduate programmes:
- A 15 credit module:
 - Level 4: total of 2500 words or equivalent
 - Level 5: total of 3000 words or equivalent
 - Level 6: total of 3500 words of equivalent
- For 30 credit modules these weightings are simply doubled
- Where modules have non-written assessments (e.g. presentations or participation marks), the total of written assessment is reduced accordingly. e.g. for a 10% participation mark on a L4, 15 credit module, the total written assessment would be reduced by 250 words.
- Where the weightings result in non-round numbers (e.g. the example below), the Programme Team round down or up so as not to confuse matters (i.e. a preference for a word limit of 2000 than 2100).

Assessment Load

- In line with University criteria, the Programme Team make sure that the following pertains in order to reduce the assessment burden on students and marking burden on staff.
- 15 credit modules: maximum of 2 assessment elements
- 30 credit module: maximum of 3 assessment elements

Learning Outcomes

- At the same time as reducing the number of assessments and standardising their length, the Team go through a process of encouraging colleagues to limit the number of learning outcomes on modules.
- This is so that each module focuses on 3 or 4 main objectives (what they really want the students to get out of the module) rather than looking like it's aiming to produce a professional historian! The Team feel that this greater focus is useful for both students and colleagues as they design, implement and work through modules.

Examples

A: MAKING MILITANTS (L6, 15-CREDIT MODULE)

Method	Weighting (%)	Module Learning Outcome(s) tested	Deadline	Return of work
Research question exercise	15%	LO1, LO2	4pm, 5 th November	26 th November
Essay	70%	LO1, LO2, LO3	4pm, 17 th December	17 th January
Participation marks	15%	a, b, c	Ongoing	

The research question exercise (500 words) will ask students to generate and justify a specific research question (or questions) based on at least one primary source that we have studied and at least two secondary works. The title of the essay (2500 words) will be decided via a process of consultation between the seminar tutor and the student and will be designed to build on the first assessment.

B. SALVATION AND DAMNATION (L5, 30-CREDIT MODULE)

Assessment (for full details and support documentation, consult the Assessment folder on Blackboard)

Method	Length	Weighting	Learning Outcome(s) Tested	Deadline	Return of work
Historiographical report	1000 words	20%	LO1, LO2	4pm, 22 nd October	12 th November
Primary source analysis	1000 words	20%	LO1, LO3	4pm, 19 th November	10 th December
Research project	4000 words	60%	LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4	4pm, 7 th January	28 th January