

Critical Appraisal Rubric (50% of unit mark)

Criteria	FIRST		2i	2ii	3	FAIL	
	86-100	70-85	60-69	50-59	40-49	21-39	0-20
Ability to identify and critique research design (20% of mark)	Outstanding. The critical appraisal draws on thorough subject-specific knowledge and is supported by evidence of wider reading.	Excellent. The study design is correctly identified and insightfully critiqued, with evidence of wider reading.	Very good. The study design is correctly identified and its appropriateness is thoroughly critiqued.	Good. The study design is correctly identified and its appropriateness is discussed with some elements of critical appraisal.	Satisfactory. The study design may not be correctly identified, but its appropriateness is discussed at a basic level	Failed to critique the design of the study and its appropriateness for the stated research question	Failed to produce a report or did not address this aspect of the assignment.
Assessment of study strengths (30% of mark)	Outstanding. The appraisal thoroughly considers validity and implications for interpretation, with evidence of wider reading and subject-specific knowledge.	Excellent. The critical appraisal thoroughly considers study validity and implications for the interpretation of the study's results.	Very good. The critical appraisal of study strengths references factors that influence validity and attempts to assess how they affect the study's conclusions.	Good. Some strengths are clearly identified and their assessment includes some discussion of factors that influence validity.	Satisfactory. Some study strengths are identified but their assessment is not entirely logical.	Poor. May have identified study strengths but did not assess or discuss them with reference to factors that influence validity.	Failed to produce a report or did not address this aspect of the assignment.
Assessment of study limitations (30% of mark)	Outstanding. The critical appraisal thoroughly considers study validity and implications for interpretation, with evidence of wider reading and subject-specific knowledge.	Excellent. The critical appraisal thoroughly considers study validity and implications for the interpretation of the study's results.	Very good. The critical appraisal of study limitations references factors that influence validity and attempts to assess how they affect the study's conclusions.	Good. Some limitations are clearly identified and their assessment includes some discussion of factors that influence validity.	Satisfactory. Some study limitations are identified but their assessment is not entirely logical.	Poor. May have identified study limitations but did not assess or discuss them with reference to factors that influence validity.	Failed to produce a report or did not address this aspect of the assignment.
Clarity of discussion (including use of correct terminology) (20% of mark)	Outstanding. The writing is polished and study terminology gleaned from wider reading is applied correctly throughout.	Excellent. The writing is polished, with no errors, and terminology has been applied correctly in every instance.	Very good. The writing is of high quality with very few errors and correct terminology has been attempted throughout.	Good. The report is easy to read with minimal errors, though specific terminology may not always be used.	Satisfactory. The quality of the writing is passable but there are numerous grammatical errors and appropriate terminology is not used.	Poor. The quality of the written work fails to communicate the key elements of the assignment in a coherent fashion.	Failed to produce a report.

