

HNC/HND Grade Descriptors

Pass Grade

A **pass grade** is achieved by meeting all the requirements defined in the assessment criteria for pass for each unit.

Merit Grade

Merit Descriptors	Indicative Characteristics
In order to achieve a merit the learner must:	The learner's evidence shows:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and apply strategies to find appropriate solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective judgements have been made complex problems with more than one variable have been explored an effective approach to study and research has been applied
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> select/design and apply appropriate methods/ techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relevant theories and techniques have been applied a range of methods and techniques have been applied a range of sources of information has been used the selection of methods and techniques/sources has been justified the design of methods/techniques has been justified complex information/data has been synthesised and processed appropriate learning methods/techniques have been applied
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> present and communicate appropriate findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the appropriate structure and approach has been used coherent, logical development of principles/concepts for the intended audience a range of methods of presentation have been used and technical language has been accurately used communication has taken place in familiar and unfamiliar contexts the communication is appropriate for familiar and unfamiliar audiences and appropriate media have been used.

Distinction grade

Distinction Descriptors	Indicative Characteristics
In order to achieve a distinction the learner must:	The learner's evidence shows:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use critical reflection to evaluate own work and justify valid conclusions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conclusions have been arrived at through synthesis of ideas and have been justified • the validity of results has been evaluated using defined criteria • self-criticism of approach has taken place • realistic improvements have been proposed against defined characteristics for success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take responsibility for managing and organising activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • autonomy/independence has been demonstrated • substantial activities, projects or investigations have been planned, managed and organised • activities have been managed • the unforeseen has been accommodated • the importance of interdependence has been recognised and achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate convergent/lateral/creative thinking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideas have been generated and decisions taken • self-evaluation has taken place • convergent and lateral thinking have been applied • problems have been solved • innovation and creative thought have been applied • receptiveness to new ideas is evident • effective thinking has taken place in unfamiliar contexts.