### Level 5

In accordance with the FHEQ, at the end of Level 5 students will be expected to have developed sound knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established concepts and principles in their field of study, and will have learned to apply those concepts and principles more widely outside the context in which they were first studied. They will have knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject area, and ability to critically evaluate different approaches to problem solving. They will possess an understanding of the limits of their knowledge, and how this influences their analyses and interpretations. They will be able to effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively.

Percentage	86-100%	70-85%	60-68%	50-58%	40-48%	30-38%	0-28%
Learning outcomes	Met in an outstanding manner	Met in an excellent manner	Met in a very good manner	Met in a good manner	Met in a basic manner	Not met	Clearly not met
Foundation Degree classification	Distinction	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
Bachelors classification	1 <sup>st</sup> class	1 <sup>st</sup> class	2:1 (Second class: Upper division)	2:2 (Second class: Lower division)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Fail	Fail
PRESENTATION AND ST	YLE						
Coherence and organisation of assessment	Strong organisation and coherence clearly enhance the work.	Demonstrates logical organisation and coherence which enhances fulfilment of the assessment objectives.	Demonstrates logical organisation and coherence.	Demonstrates sound, conventional organisation.	Shows limited organisation.	Poorly presented and structured but partially understandable.	Disorganised and/or incoherent.
Clarity of expression (incl. accuracy, spelling, grammar, punctuation	Well-developed writing style, appropriate to assessment, which enhances the argument. Grammar and spelling accurate.	Fluent writing style appropriate to the assessment. Grammar and spelling accurate.	Language fluent. Grammar and spelling mainly accurate.	Meaning clear, but language not always fluent. Grammar and/or spelling contain errors.	Generally understandable, but language contains errors which detract from the argument.	Meaning often unclear and/or frequent errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Meaning unclear. Poor spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Communication and presentation (appropriate to discipline)	Excellent communication which demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the discipline.	Effective communication which demonstrates a clear understanding of the discipline.	Good communication in a format appropriate to the discipline.	Communication is generally effective and in a format appropriate to the discipline.	Generally clear but limited evidence of discipline's academic style.	Communication is unstructured and unfocused and/or in a format inappropriate to the discipline.	Communication is disorganised and/or incoherent and/or shows no understanding of the discipline.
Presentation (visual)	Creative presentation with strong visual impact which enhances the message.	Message is presented clearly and imaginatively with visual impact.	Presentation is clear and has good visual effect.	Presentation has a sound structure and some visual impact.	Visual aspect and/or structure of presentation is adequate but limited.	Presented in a disorganised manner. Lacks appropriate support from visual tools.	Presentation is disorganised and/or incoherent and/or medium is non-visual.
Presentation (oral)	Presentation is well structured,	Presentation is well structured and	Clearly structured and addressed to	Presentation has a sound structure. Pace	Pace, audibility and/or structure of	Delivery is disorganised and/or	Presentation is not understandable and/or

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	imaginative and engaging. Audibility and pace are appropriate to audience and used with good effect to enhance the presentation.	engaging. Audibility and pace are appropriate to audience.	audience. Pace and audibility are good.	and audibility are satisfactory most of the time.	presentation are adequate but limited.	pace and audibility are poor.	inaudible and/or not an oral presentation.
<b>CONFORMING TO INST</b>	RUCTIONS						
Attention to purpose	Addresses the purpose of the assessment comprehensively and with some creativity.	Addresses the full purpose of the assessment effectively.	Addresses the main purpose of the assessment effectively.	Addresses the main purpose of the assessment.	Some of the work is focused on the aims and themes of the assessment.	Mostly fails to address the task set.	Fails to address the task set.
Referencing	Sources used are acknowledged in the text and reference list and used fluently to support discussion. Referencing follows a systematic approach, appropriate to the discipline. All elements of individual references are present.	Sources used are acknowledged in the text and reference list and used effectively to support discussion. Referencing follows a systematic approach, appropriate to the discipline. All elements of individual references are present.	Sources used are acknowledged in the text and reference list and used to support discussion. Referencing follows a systematic approach, appropriate to the discipline. All elements of individual references are present.	Sources used are acknowledged in the text and reference list. Referencing follows a systematic approach, appropriate to the discipline. Most elements of individual references are present.	Sources of information acknowledged but integration between text and reference list is inconsistent. Attempts to follow systematic approach, appropriate to the discipline. Some elements of individual references may be incomplete and/or absent.	Some sources of information acknowledged but links between text and reference list unclear. Referencing does not follow a systematic approach. Elements of individual references are incomplete and/or absent.	Little or no acknowledgement of sources of information in text and/or reference list.
Clarity of objectives and focus of work	Defines appropriate objectives in detail and addresses them fully and with some creativity.	Defines appropriate objectives in detail and addresses them fully.	Defines appropriate objectives and addresses them consistently throughout the work.	Outlines appropriate objectives and addresses them in a manner which gives a focus to the work.	Uses generalised objectives to provide adequate but limited focus to the work.	Objectives are not appropriate and/or clearly identified.	No objectives are identified and lacks focus.
Addressing the question(s)	Addresses the purpose of question(s) fully and with some creativity.	Addresses the purpose of the question(s) in detail.	Addresses the purpose of the question(s) clearly.	Makes a sound attempt at addressing the question(s).	Makes an adequate attempt at addressing the question(s), but with some digression.	Some knowledge displayed but not clearly linked to the question(s).	Does not address the question(s).
CONTENT AND KNOWL	EDGE						
Content and range of knowledge displayed	Demonstrates a comprehensive, detailed and in-depth	Demonstrates a detailed, coherent, indepth, theoretical	Demonstrates a far- ranging, well- organised theoretical	Demonstrates a sound factual and/or conceptual knowledge	Evidence of adequate knowledge of topic	Some relevant and/or required knowledge missing or confused	Little or no relevant knowledge included.

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	knowledge base, the capacity to integrate theoretical and substantive knowledge, and a clear understanding of the limits to knowledge.	and/or substantive knowledge base, with a developing appreciation of the provisional nature of knowledge.	and/or substantive knowledge base, and some appreciation of the limits of knowledge.	base and uses appropriate terminology.	and use of appropriate terminology.	and/or significant misuse of terminology.	
Use of literature / evidence of reading	Demonstrates broad and/or in-depth independent reading from appropriate sources. Choice of sources enhances fulfilment of the assessment objectives. Clear, accurate, systematic application of material with developed and/or integrated critical appraisal.	Evidence of broad and/or in-depth independent reading from appropriate sources. Rationale for choice of sources clear. Clear, accurate, coherent application of material, with developing critical appraisal.	Evidence of independent reading from a wide range of appropriate sources. Clear, accurate application of material. Shows some ability to appraise material critically.	Evidence of independent reading from an appropriate range of sources. Sound application of literature.	Limited evidence of independent reading. Literature is presented in a descriptive way.	Very limited evidence of independent reading and/or inappropriate sources used and/or engagement with the literature very superficial.	Little or no evidence of engagement with relevant literature.
Quality of sources used	Significant use made of primary sources, in conjunction with high quality secondary sources. Draws upon current research and/or advanced scholarship.	Good use made of primary sources in conjunction with high quality secondary sources. Draws upon current research and/or advanced scholarship.	Uses a balanced combination of primary and higher quality secondary sources.	Some sound use of primary sources, but generally reliant on secondary sources.	Mostly relies on secondary sources. Use of primary sources limited.	Some use of secondary sources, but also draws upon unreliable and/or inappropriate sources. Negligible use of primary sources.	Uses unreliable and/or inappropriate sources.
Knowledge and application of theory	Knowledge and understanding of theory are detailed and sophisticated. Appreciation of the limits of theory demonstrated throughout the work. Approach to assessment task is clearly and	Demonstrates a detailed, accurate, theoretical understanding. Appropriately selected theoretical knowledge is applied to the overall assessment task.	Shows a good understanding of key theories, which are appropriately addressed within the context of the assessment task.	Sound descriptive knowledge of key theories with some appropriate application.	Selection of theory is satisfactory but application and/or understanding limited.	Knowledge of theory inaccurate and/or incomplete. Choice of theory inappropriate. Application and/or understanding very limited	Absence of relevant theoretical content and/or use of theory.

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	manner	manner	manner				
	appropriately						
	theoretically informed.						
THINKING / ANALYSIS	/ CONCLUSION						
Conclusions	Conclusions well	Conclusions well	Conclusions show	Sound conclusions are	Adequate conclusions	Limited or ineffective	Lack of conclusions, or
	developed and show	developed and	some development	drawn which are	are drawn which are	attempt to draw	unsubstantiated
	some originality. They	analytical. They are	and critical insight, and	clearly derived from	derived from limited	together arguments.	and/or invalid
	form an integrated	thoroughly grounded	relate clearly and	evidence and/or	understanding of		conclusions drawn.
	part of the overall	in theory and/or	logically to evidence	theory and/or	evidence and/or		
	argument and/or	evidence and/or	and/or theory and/or	literature.	theory and/or		
	discussion, reflecting a	literature and use	literature.		literature.		
	strong grasp of theory	appropriate forms of					
	and/or evidence	conceptualisation,					
	and/or literature and	forming a clear part of					
	appropriate forms of	overall argument					
	conceptualisation.	and/or discussion.					
Analysis	Demonstrates a strong	Makes very good use	Makes good use of	Makes fair and/or	Makes satisfactory but	Attempts at analysis	Lacks any analysis.
	grasp of relevant	of established	established techniques	conventional use of	limited use of	ineffective and/or	
	analytic techniques,	techniques of analysis	of analysis relevant to	established techniques	established techniques	uninformed by the	
	and the ability to apply	relevant to the	the discipline. Shows	of analysis, relevant to	of analysis, relevant to	discipline.	
	these to new and/or	discipline and applies	developing ability to	the discipline.	the discipline.		
	abstract information	these effectively.	compare alternative				
	and situations. Shows	Shows developed	theories and/or				
	a developed	ability to appraise	analytic approaches				
	appreciation of the	alternative theories	(where relevant).				
	limits and/or	and/or analytic					
	appropriate uses of	approaches (where					
	particular analytic	relevant).					
	approaches.						
Critical reasoning	Well-developed,	Developed,	Demonstrates good	Demonstrates	Demonstrates limited	Critical thought and/or	No evidence of critical
	critical evaluation of	theoretically and/or	critical insight and	conventional critical	critical insight.	analysis very limited	thought.
	theories and/or	conceptually informed	ability to contrast	insight and ability to	Recognises alternative	and/or incoherent.	
	concepts and/or	critical thinking is	alternative positions	contrast alternative	positions.		
	assumptions and/or	integrated into the	through the use of	positions.			
	data which informs the	work. Arguments	theory.				
	overall approach taken	demonstrate the					
	to the assessment.	ability to evaluate					
	Arguments are clear,	theories and/or					
	coherent, tenable, and	concepts and/or					
	demonstrate some	assumptions and/or					
	originality.	data.					

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	manner	manner	manner				
METHODOLOGIES							
Selecting research	Tenable, self-	The process and	Methodology selected	Methodology chosen	Methodology used is	Choice of	Issue of methodology
methods (Relationship	determined choice of	rationale for selection	is effective and	is appropriate to the	appropriate to the task	methodology and	not addressed and/or
between method	methodology enables	of one from several	appropriate to the	task and attention	and brief rationale	relationship to	inappropriate
chosen and the nature	the effective collection	methodologies is	aims and objectives of	given to the selection	offered makes	information and/or	methodology used
of the inquiry)	and recording of	explored enabling the	the task and a	of a methodology from	reference to	data being collected is	and/ or little planning
	information and/or	effective collection of	rationale for its	the range of	established guidance.	confused and	used to complete the
	data.	information.	selection is provided.	prescribed ones.		unhelpful.	task.
Applying / theorising	Information and/or	Information and/or	Information and/or	Information and/or	Information and/or	Incomplete attempt to	Information and/or
	data is synthesised to	data is organised using	data is organised using	data is organised using	data is collected and	formulate	data is poorly
	construct emergent	appropriate structures	structures and	structures and	analysed to form valid	conclusion(s) based on	organised and is not
	ideas which seek to	and processes to	processes provided to	processes provided to	conclusion(s).	the information	analysed to develop
	answer appropriately	construct emergent	reorganise existing	answer given		gathered.	conclusion(s) or
	identified gaps in own	knowledge and/or	knowledge in standard	question(s).			generate valid ideas.
	or others' knowledge.	ideas which address	formats to answer				
		existing question(s).	given question(s).				
<b>Evaluation of process</b>	Evaluates information	Evaluates information	Effectively evaluates	Effectively evaluates	Shows basic evaluation	Evaluation of process	Limited or no attempt
and the quality of	and/or data and the	and/or data and the	information and/or	information and/or	of the inquiry	and the information	to evaluate either
information and/or	inquiry process	inquiry process in	data and the inquiry	data and the inquiry	methodology and	and/or data is	process or outcomes.
data developed	comprehensively using	detail using	process, including	process using	information and/or	incomplete.	
	appropriate criteria	appropriate criteria	critique of the	prescribed guidelines.	data generated.		
	that are largely self-	some of which are self-	techniques used.				
	determined.	determined.					
PRACTICAL / INTERPERS	SONAL SKILLS						
Work within a	Develops specific,	Develops specific	Develops objectives	Develops objectives	Uses objectives which	Inadequate attempt to	No attempt to
framework of	achievable objectives	objectives which are	which are consistent	which are consistent	are consistent with	ascertain needs of	ascertain needs of
professional values /	which show some	mainly achievable,	with professional	with professional	professional values /	clientele and develop a	clientele and develop a
code of conduct	creativity. Objectives	consistent with	values / code of	values / code of	code of conduct but	workable brief. Limited	workable brief. Fails to
	are consistent with	professional values /	conduct and	conduct and generally	are set by the	use of professional	work within the
	professional values /	code of conduct and	appropriate to the	appropriate to the	clientele. Limited	values / code of	prescribed
	code of conduct and	appropriate to the	clientele.	clientele.	consideration of	conduct frameworks.	professional values /
	appropriate to the	clientele.			appropriateness and		code of conduct
	clientele.				practicability.		framework.
Information gathering	Uses initiative to seek	Very good selection of	Selects appropriate	Selects mostly	Selects some	Random information	Fails to collect
/ processing	out new sources of	information which is	information and	appropriate	appropriate	gathering.	appropriate data in
	information and	processed effectively.	processes it	information and	information and	Inappropriate use of	any systematic way.
	organises it effectively.	Demonstrates a	effectively.	processes it	processes some of it	processing tools.	
	Demonstrates	developing		adequately.	adequately.		
	developing ability to	understanding of the					

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	manner	manner	manner				
	evaluate the validity of	complexity of the					
	complex information.	information.					
Creative process	Creative work shows	Creative work shows	Creative work shows	Creative works shows	Creative work shows a	Undeveloped ideas	No evidence of
	highly-developed	developed imagination	developing	some imagination and	basic level of	and/or work with little	progression. Skills and
	technique in the	and technique.	imagination and	technique. Processes	imagination and	imagination. Minimal	techniques
	service of a lively	Processes involved are	technique. Processes	involved have creative	technique. Processes	personal style or skill;	undeveloped. No
	imagination. Processes	manipulated to	involved are	application and	involved have little	little insight gained	evidence of creativity
	involved are handled	achieve creative	manipulated to	outcomes. Personal	creative consequence.	into effective working	or innovation.
	with assurance to	results. Builds on	achieve some creative	style is evident at	Personal style is	processes.	
	achieve innovative	models and moulds	results. Builds on	times in work which	lacking in favour of		
	results. Personal style	influences with	models and moulds	shows application and	work which is		
	consistently marked in	originality and	influences with some	adaptation of models.	derivative in origin.		
	work which builds on	distinctive personal	originality and				
	models with	style.	emerging personal				
	originality, flair and		style.				
	style.						
Performance	Compelling,	Highly focused,	Focussed performance	Performance	Performance that	Performance in which	Performance in which
	communicative and	performance	demonstrating	demonstrates	mostly demonstrates	communication and	fluency and focus is
	accurate performance	demonstrating	communication,	communication,	communication,	commitment are	prevented by lack of
	demonstrating a	communication,	commitment and a	commitment and	commitment and	lacking and little	technical control. No
	professional level of	commitment and	good understanding of	understanding of the	understanding of the	consideration paid to	evidence of
	authority, thorough	thorough	the style with careful	genre with reasonable	genre but with little	style. Technical ability	understanding of style
	awareness of style,	understanding of style	attention to detail,	attention to detail,	attention to detail and	weak. Improvised	or conventions of
	mastery of technical	with careful attention	displaying a good level	displaying a moderate	displaying a low level	passages show poor	performance within it.
	and interpretative	to detail, displaying	of technical ability.	level of technical	of technical ability.	understanding and	Under-rehearsed and
	issues. Improvisations	high level of technical	Improvisation is	ability. Improvised	Improvised passages	appropriateness.	lacks confidence which
	are creative and	ability. Improvised	stylistically correct.	passages show a	show little	Performance is	detracts. Presentation
	stylistically assured.	passages are creative	Performance well-	sound understanding	understanding of style.	unconvincing,	has not been
	Well-rehearsed and	and stylistically	prepared / rehearsed	of style. Well-	Lacks confidence and	displaying little	addressed.
	confident	correct. Performance	and focussed. Stage	rehearsed. Stage craft	little attention given to	evidence of	
	performance. Stage	well prepared and	craft presentation of a	presentation of a	presentation.	preparation. Stage	
	craft presentation of a	assured. Stage craft	good standard.	reasonable standard.		conduct barely	
	very high standard.	presentation of a high				addressed,	
		standard.				inappropriate, and /or	
						unacceptable.	
Form and content in a	Demonstrates a	Demonstrates an	Evidence of relating	Some awareness of	Evidence of some	Little or no evidence of	Neglects to address
practical context	developed ability to	ability to critically	theory to practice.	the relationship	knowledge and	an understanding of	the brief in any
	critically engage with	engage with theory	Evidence of developing	between theory and	understanding of the	the relationship	acceptable way.
	theory and practice.	and practice.	creativity.	practice. Work tends	relationship between	between form and	
	Synthesises creative	Integrates creative	Demonstrates	to be conventional but	form and content.		

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	manner	manner	manner				
	strategies and interrelated forms and styles. Clear awareness of and ability to experiment with conventional forms. Work shows clear evidence of intellectual rigour and/or creativity. Technically and professionally competent throughout.	strategies and interrelated forms and styles. Experiments with conventional forms. Work shows evidence of intellectual rigour and/or creativity Technically and professionally competent.	developing ability to analyse and experiment with relationships between form and content. Generally technically and professionally competent.	shows ability to relate form and content. Some aspects of creativity present. Structure and content are relevant and approaching technical and professional competence throughout.	Limited degree of technical and professional competence.	content. Technically poor.	
Reflection (including self-criticism / awareness)	Confidently evaluates actions and situations showing an awareness of own strengths and weaknesses which are clearly articulated, used and acted on. Questions received opinion, prejudices and value sets operating.	Reflects on own strengths and weaknesses and the criteria by which such judgements are made. Prepared to question received opinion, prejudices and value sets operating.	Evaluates own strengths and weaknesses and shows developing understanding of criteria for judgements. Demonstrates some willingness to question received opinion, prejudices and value sets operating.	Is largely dependent on criteria set by others. Recognises own strengths and weaknesses.	Dependent on criteria set by others. Begins to recognise own strengths and weaknesses.	Limited self-awareness leading to poor judgement.	Distorted self-criticism leading to inaccurate view of the situation.
Reflective practice	Analyses practice by critically reflecting on personal contributions and that of others and the rationale behind these. Utilises imaginative thinking about potential alternatives and their implications for further practice in a range of contexts.	Analyses personal contribution and that of others to practice through reflection and considers possibilities and their consequences to develop appropriate actions.	Evaluates personal contribution and that of others to practice and develops plans of action.	Able to evaluate own practice and that of others using a number of frames of reference. Considers future actions	Able to interpret own practice and that of others based on specific frames of reference. Identifies some further actions.	Limited interpretation of own practice and that of others restricting further action.	Incomplete interpretation of practice leading to insufficient action.
Independence /	Critically analyses	Shows considerable	Shows developing	Able to work largely	Able to exercise some	Demonstrates limited	Unable to work
autonomy (including	feedback to identify	ability to identify	ability to identify	independently when	independence when	ability to work	independently.

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	manner	manner	manner				
planning and managing learning)	areas of learning needing improvement. Manages own learning using a full range of resources.	learning needs and to act independently to improve performance. Makes effective use of feedback and available learning resources.	learning needs and to act independently to improve performance. Is generally autonomous in utilising learning resources.	undertaking directed work. Accesses and uses a range of learning resources and support.	undertaking clearly directed work. Uses the standard learning resources.	independently, needing significant guidance on methods and resources.	
Self presentation / interpersonal skills	Creative and confident self presentation and well-developed interpersonal skills allow effective handling of situation(s).	Adopts an effective style of self presentation, employing a range of interpersonal skills consistent with the individual's aims and appropriate to the setting(s).	Demonstrates some flexibility in the style of presentation and interpersonal skills adopted which are appropriate to the setting(s).	Can adopt both a formal and informal style and used basic interpersonal skills appropriately.	Demonstrates some ability to adopt both a formal and informal style and used basic interpersonal skills but not always matching the needs of the situation.	Limited self awareness and/or interpersonal skills.	No obvious self awareness and/or interpersonal skills.
Time management / self management	Meets deadlines. Time management and planning strategies are used effectively to enhance the quality of the work.	Meets deadlines. Plans well ahead. Sets self determined targets and contingency plans allowing sufficient time to receive and act on guidance.	Meets deadlines. Plans and monitors progress to allow sufficient time for development of the work.	Makes plans and implements them in a satisfactory manner to meet deadlines.	Usually meets important deadlines. Exhibits limited evidence of planning.	Little evidence of attention to deadlines and time management.	Rarely meets deadlines. Appears unable to make and implement plans.
Interactive and group skills (including teamwork, negotiation, understanding group dynamics and empathy)	Demonstrates a flexible approach to negotiation and co-operation to develop relationships which are mutually beneficial to achieving group objectives.	Effectively uses a range of networking skills within a learning or professional group. Addresses conflict. Seeks to promote relationships which serve the group needs.	Interacts effectively within a learning group, giving and receiving information and ideas and modifying responses where appropriate.	Meets obligations to others (tutors and/or peers) providing contributions to support shared objectives. Some awareness of alternative options.	Uses basic interactive skills appropriately to contribute to the group aims.	Avoids working with others or does not contribute effectively to the group.	Does not contribute or disrupts the group.
Critical review (to be used in peer assessment)	Demonstrates judgement and discrimination in utilising and providing different sources of feedback. Offers clear strategies for improvement.	Assesses and/or evaluates the work of others using a range of criteria. Provides rationale for judgements and offers specific insights into	Assesses and/or studies the work of others and judges against existing criteria, indicating possibilities for improvement.	Examines work of others and identifies its strengths and weaknesses using existing criteria.	Comments in general terms on the work of others.	Demonstrates limited ability to make reasoned comment on the work of others.	Appears unable to make reasoned comment on the work of others.

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		how work could be developed.					
Initiative (taking action, independence)	Shows a creative approach to achieving goals in a manner appropriate to situation(s), If in a group setting, shows a developed appreciation of the needs and views of others.	Effectively assesses the needs of a situation and takes independent action to achieve goals. If in a group setting, takes account of the needs and views of others.	Assesses the needs of a situation and takes independent action towards achieving goals. If in a group setting, recognises the needs and views of others.	Shows developing ability to assess the needs of a situation and take action towards achieving goals. If in a group setting, shows some awareness of the needs and views of others.	Where goals and methods are defined, will undertake tasks requiring some independence. If in a group setting, shows limited awareness of the needs and views of others.	Demonstrates limited ability to undertake tasks beyond those prescribed. If in a group setting, fails to take account of the needs and views of others.	Appears unable to undertake tasks beyond those prescribed. If in a group setting, fails to take account of the needs and views of others.
Decision making	Uses a range of appropriate information, exercising autonomy and initiative when exploring options. Makes clear decisions which give due weight to alternatives.	Uses a range of appropriate information to evaluate options and applies clear criteria to demonstrate reasons for final decision/ choice/outcome.	Uses appropriate information to evaluate options. Selection of final outcome clearly derived from evaluation.	Uses available information to evaluate possible options. Final decision is clear and linked to the evaluation.	Recognises benefits and disadvantages of some possible options but provides limited clarity on rationale for final decision.	Rationale behind the final outcome or choice is unclear or untenable.	Final outcome or choice is unclear or absent.