**ESSAY MARKING RUBRIC** for ACT Level 400 units at Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies

1. Investigate, understand, and analyse primary sources in depth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HD 85%+ Extremely high level of work in terms of understanding and presentation</th>
<th>DN 75–84% A high standard of work in terms of understanding and presentation</th>
<th>CR 65–74% Demonstrates a commendable level of understanding and presentation</th>
<th>P 50–64% Demonstrates an adequate understanding and satisfies minimum requirements</th>
<th>F 0–49% Fails to satisfy minimum requirements (for more details see MST Guide to Essay Writing, p. 26)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading (minimum of 12 sources, mix of book and journal) /20</td>
<td>In your essay you have: investigated, evaluated, and synthesised a broad range of scholarly sources that are pertinent to your topic</td>
<td>In your essay you have: investigated, evaluated, and synthesised a range of scholarly sources pertinent to your topic</td>
<td>In your essay you have: investigated and evaluated a range of scholarly sources pertinent to your topic</td>
<td>In your essay you have: investigated a range of scholarly sources pertinent to your topic</td>
<td>In your essay you have: used data from sources tenuously related to the topic and/or sources that are inadequate, unscholarly, or outdated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding of material /20</td>
<td>demonstrated a confident grasp of foundational principles of the discipline/topic, and an understanding of the setting and historical context of primary sources</td>
<td>demonstrated a sound grasp of foundational principles of the discipline/topic, and an understanding of the setting and historical context of primary sources</td>
<td>demonstrated a grasp of foundational principles and concepts of the discipline/topic, and begun to understand the setting and historical context of primary sources</td>
<td>demonstrated an emerging grasp of foundational principles and concepts of the discipline/topic</td>
<td>demonstrated an insufficient attempt in grasping the foundational principles and concepts of the discipline/topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement of material /20</td>
<td>demonstrated a pronounced ability in the analysis of primary sources and exhibited an ability in critically evaluating and assessing a range of scholarly viewpoints at an early postgrad research level</td>
<td>demonstrated a pronounced ability in engaging primary sources and shown an ability in critically evaluating a range of scholarly viewpoints</td>
<td>demonstrated ability in engaging primary sources and shown emerging skill in critically evaluating a range of scholarly viewpoints</td>
<td>demonstrated an engagement with primary sources and begun to engage with a range of scholarly viewpoints</td>
<td>failed to sufficiently engage with the primary sources and/or made no attempt at engaging with a range of scholarly viewpoints</td>
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</tbody>
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Rubric for Essay Assignments (ACT level 400 units) revised Dec 2015
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2. Communicate and present ideas and information /40

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<td>Extremely high level of work in terms of understanding and presentation</td>
<td>A high standard of work in terms of understanding and presentation</td>
<td>Demonstrates a commendable level of understanding and presentation</td>
<td>Demonstrates an adequate understanding and satisfies minimum requirements</td>
<td>Fails to satisfy minimum requirements (for more details see MST Guide to Essay Writing, p. 26)</td>
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</tbody>
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In your essay you have: In your essay you have: In your essay you have: In your essay you have: In your essay you have:

**Articulation of Argument & Referencing** /20
- 17–20 presented a good argument based on substantial evidence and employed the referencing system with confidence and fluency at a scholarly standard throughout
- 15–16 presented a sound argument based on strong evidence and employed the referencing system skilfully at a scholarly standard with minimal or no errors
- 13–14 presented a well-reasoned argument on relevant evidence and employed the referencing system at a scholarly standard with minimal or no errors
- 10–12 presented a valid argument based on relevant evidence; the referencing meets the requirements with occasional errors in the referencing details/style
- 0–9 presented an unrelated or poorly-reasoned argument and/or have used too few or unscholarly sources in your referencing

**Structure & Layout** /10
- 9–10 used structural complexity and layout that intelligently enhanced and advanced your point(s)
- 8 used good and clear structure and layout that intelligently enhanced your point(s)
- 7 used clear structure and layout that communicated your point(s) effectively
- 5–6 used an adequate structure and layout that communicated your point(s)
- 0–4 used a fragmentary or ill-suited structural arrangement and/or presented a layout which does not follow requirements

**Language** /10
- 9–10 expressed yourself clearly and competently and used a scholarly style skilfully and fluently throughout
- 8 expressed yourself clearly and competently and used a scholarly style throughout
- 7 expressed yourself clearly and effectively and used a scholarly style with minimal or no errors
- 5–6 expressed yourself adequately and generally used a formal writing style with occasional errors in grammar and/or spelling
- 0–4 only partly communicated in academic writing and failed to express yourself concisely or coherently

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