

Criteria	Grade of 7	Grade of 6	Grade of 5	Grade of 4	Grade of 3	Grade of 2:
Key concepts	Demonstrates excellent understanding of relevant concepts and how to apply them	Demonstrates very good understanding of relevant concepts and how to apply them	Demonstrates good understanding of relevant concepts and how to apply them	Demonstrates sound understanding of relevant concepts and how to apply them	Struggles to identify or apply relevant concepts correctly	Fails to identify or apply relevant concepts correctly
Case-study analysis	Provides a highly insightful, original, comprehensive, and thoughtful analysis	Provides a very good, fairly comprehensive analysis	Provides a good analysis	Provides an adequate analysis	Struggles to provide an adequate analysis	Fails to provide an adequate analysis
Theoretical evidence – use of scholarly sources ie books or journal articles	Excellent, in-depth engagement with appropriate theoretical evidence	Very good use of appropriate theoretical evidence.	Good use of appropriate theoretical evidence.	Sound use of appropriate theoretical evidence.	Limited use of appropriate theoretical evidence.	Little or no use of appropriate theoretical evidence.
Argument	Builds a logical, sophisticated, and original argument that demonstrates considerable insight into the issues	Builds a logical and insightful argument that demonstrates very good insight into the issues	Builds a logical argument that demonstrates good insight into the issues	Builds a generally sound argument demonstrating some insight into the issues	Struggles to build an argument or demonstrate much insight into the issues	Fails to build an argument or demonstrate much insight into the issues
Coherence – overall essay structure and written expression (paragraph & sentence construction)	Sophisticated and thoughtful essay structure that does an excellent job of integrating theory, analysis, and argument; clear, elegant, and concise written expression	Coherent essay structure with very good integration of theory, analysis, and argument; consistently clear and concise written expression	Coherent essay structure with good integration of theory, analysis, and argument; mostly clear and concise written expression	Mostly coherent essay structure with sound integration of theory, analysis, and argument; generally clear written expression	Struggles to integrate theory, analysis, and argument in to a clearly structured essay; poor/unclear written expression	Incoherent essay structure with little integration of theory, analysis, and argument; very poor/unclear written expression
Accuracy – grammar, spelling, & APA referencing	1 or 2 minor errors; very well-presented	2 – 4 minor errors; well-presented	1 – 3 significant errors but well-presented overall	Some errors but generally well-presented	Frequent errors and poorly presented	Errors throughout and very poorly presented