

Honors Sophomore English Grading Standards

Much of the work that is done at the Honors level can not be graded "mathematically"—rather, the evaluation comes from a more subjective judgement by the instructor, based on some sort of rubric or other criteria. Below are the broad guidelines I use when evaluating student work. These will, in most cases be supplemented by further instructions and qualifications, but, lacking any other refinements, this is what separates the A's from the F's.

Outstanding (A):

An assignment receiving an A grade is outstanding—it demonstrates an attention to detail and level of understanding that is exceptional. A-level assignments are done in strict accordance to instructions, are completed on time, and are neat and organized. Responses on an A-level assignment are almost entirely correct, in areas where factual correctness is called for. They demonstrate a deep level of thought and understanding, are carefully composed and well-written, and almost completely free of errors in grammar and spelling.

Good (B):

An assignment receiving a B grade is well-done, but lacks the extra polish, conscientiousness, or correctness needed to be truly excellent. Similar to an A-level assignment, a B assignment is done in accordance to the instructions, and is relatively neat and organized. Responses are mostly correct, and show a good attempt at thoughtfulness and completeness. In general, a B assignment is grammatically sound, although it may contain a few errors in usage and spelling.

Acceptable (C):

A C on an assignment indicates that it is acceptable, but not remarkable in any way. It does not show any particular effort at neatness or organization, and may deviate from the assignment's instructions or guidelines in small ways. It may contain multiple spelling and grammar errors, and in general is not particularly fluid or well-written, but merely functional. There may be minor factual errors, lapses in logic and reasoning, or minor parts that are incomplete.

Marginal (D):

A D-level assignment is seriously flawed in several areas. It shows little thought, planning, or organization, and may fail to meet several standards or guidelines given in the instructions. It may be incomplete or partially complete in several areas. Responses are generally awkwardly phrased and poorly written, with several serious grammar and spelling errors. D-level assignments have serious factual errors, and show a lack of understanding or comprehension of the material.

Unacceptable (F):

An assignment that receives an F is seriously flawed, and unacceptable. It may be inexcusably sloppy, disorganized, or otherwise incomprehensible or unreadable. It shows little or no thought and effort, and may be more incomplete than not. An F assignment often fails completely to follow given instructions and guidelines, and contains a predominance of incorrect responses.