

Developments to Units 2 and 4 (externally-assessed components).

As part of our drive for continuous improvement, we have refined some aspects of the externally-assessed components. We anticipate that these refinements will build on current good practice and further synthesise the understanding of the examination papers between: the paper setters; the paper revisers and scrutineers; the teachers; the candidates; and finally, the examiners.

The candidates' experience of the examination will not markedly change; however, there are some features that you may wish to outline to your candidates to ensure that they are cognisant of these refinements. These have already been explained to the paper-setters, revisers and scrutineers, and will be covered comprehensively with the examiners prior to the 2020 examination session.

The refinements are as follows:

- 1. Provision of command terms and descriptors**
- 2. Refinement of paper layout and tariffs**
- 3. Introduction of mark bands**

Section one: Provision of command terms and descriptors

The following table outlines the command terms and the descriptors that will be utilised in Criminology examination papers from 2020 onwards. The list is not exhaustive as some other terms **may** be deemed necessary for syntactical reasons. However, wherever possible we will endeavour to select from the following:

Term	Descriptor
Analyse	<i>Candidates will break down the set issue to its constituent components, determining its significance in the wider context.</i>
Assess	<i>Candidates will judge how, and how effectively, the set issue or issues achieve their objectives.</i>
Compare	<i>Candidates will give an account of the similarities and differences between two or more issues, referring to both, or all, of them throughout.</i>
Describe	<i>Candidates will give an account that addresses the features of the set issue and considers appropriate supporting material.</i>
Discuss	<i>Candidates will provide a commentary that includes a range of arguments and/or factors.</i>
Evaluate	<i>Candidates will make a substantiated judgement based on the strengths and limitations of the relevant evidence.</i>
Examine	<i>Candidates will review the relevant issue and consider the interplay between several factors.</i>
Explain	<i>Candidates will identify, interpret and outline the key features of the set issue.</i>

Other terms will normally be reserved for points-based responses (see section two) and these may include, but are not restricted to:

- Identify
- List
- Name

Other equivalent synonyms may be used according to the requirements of the question.

Also note that some short-answer questions may use the suffix **Briefly**. Where this is used, candidates are not expected to respond in the same depth as per medium-length and extended-response questions. This question is reserved for issues that can be summarised within a small number of sentences.

Section two: Refinement of paper layout and tariffs

The examination paper will continue to be split into three questions, each worth 25 marks. The weighting of the learning outcomes will also remain unchanged. The small section of text that begins each question will now be indicated more clearly—usually as the “Scenario”, and will be referred to as such where appropriate. However, on some occasions, for example where the material is a diagram, image or other form of stimulus material, we may need to use an alternative word, for example “Context” or “Figure”. This alternative word will be used, where relevant, throughout the question.

Another innovation is the use of fixed-mark tariffs for each part question. The rationale for this adjustment is the introduction of common mark bands (see section three). These fixed-mark tariffs are as follows:

1 mark	Available for point-based questions. For example, identify one feature...
2 marks	Available for point-based questions. For example, identify two features...
3 marks	Available for point-based questions. For example, identify three features...
4 marks	Available for point-based questions. For example, identify four features...
4 marks	Available for short-answer response questions, including those with the Briefly suffix
6 marks	Available for mid-length response questions.
9 marks	Available for extended response questions.

Section three: Refinement of paper layout and tariffs

To ensure that all parties, from paper-setter through the entire process to examiner are cognisant of the requirements of the questions, we are introducing set mark bands for the examination papers. These are as follows:

0 marks	The response does not meet any of the criteria specified below
1 mark	Award 1 mark for a correct point.

0 marks	The response does not meet any of the criteria specified below
Up to 2 marks	Award 1 mark for a correct point.

0 marks	The response does not meet any of the criteria specified below
Up to 3 marks	Award 1 mark for a correct point.

0 marks	The response does not meet any of the criteria specified below
Up to 4 marks	Award 1 mark for a correct point.

Short-answer mark scheme

0 marks	The response does not meet any of the criteria specified below
1–2 marks	There is a limited focus on the question, with vague or no accurate support and little or no use of specialist vocabulary.
3–4 marks	There is a reasonable focus on the question with some accurate support and some use of specialist vocabulary.

Medium-length response mark scheme

0 marks	The response does not meet any of the criteria specified below.
1–2 marks	There is a limited focus on the question, with vague or no accurate support and little or no use of specialist vocabulary.
3–4 marks	There is a reasonable focus on the question with some accurate support and some use of specialist vocabulary. The demands of the question may be only partially addressed.
5–6 marks	There is a clear and detailed focus on the question with mainly accurate support and an effective use of specialist vocabulary. The demands of the question are fully addressed.

Extended response mark scheme (NB as medium-length but with increased tariff)

0 marks	The response does not meet any of the criteria specified below.
1–3 marks	There is a limited focus on the question, with vague or no accurate support and little or no use of specialist vocabulary.
4–6 marks	There is a reasonable focus on the question with some accurate support and some use of specialist vocabulary. The demands of the question may be only partially addressed.
7–9 marks	There is a clear and detailed focus on the question with mainly accurate support and an effective use of specialist vocabulary. The demands of the question are fully addressed.

These mark bands will be followed by a short section of text outlining possible responses to the question and advising examiners to look for any specific detail/avoid unfairly penalising candidates for providing less obvious, but equally valid responses.

To facilitate ease of teaching and clarify any issues that you may have regarding these adjustments, we have revised the May 2019 examination papers and have also provided two candidates' responses to the revised questions. It is hoped that these pieces of candidate work will illustrate that next year's candidates will not be adversely affected by these adjustments.