

**University at Buffalo**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**Grading Rubric for Essay and Short Answer Exam Questions, Quizzes, and Homework Assignments**

<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>Competent</b>	<b>Exemplary</b>
Fails to address the question or demonstrates an inadequate or partial grasp of the question	Demonstrates an adequate understanding of the question	Demonstrates an accurate and complete understanding of the question
Answer lacks clarity, may be confused, omit significant facts or is otherwise incomplete	Answer displays basic knowledge of the issue	Answer displays clarity of thought, depth of reflection, and insight
Does not incorporate pertinent information from lectures or assigned readings	Incorporates some information from lectures and assigned readings but not in an overly thorough manner	Incorporates pertinent details from lectures and assigned readings, providing evidence for key claims when needed
Substantially digresses from the central issue	Usually maintains focus but may occasionally digress from the central issue	Maintains focus, avoids being sidetracked
Significant problems with clarity, concision, and organization, making the information presented difficult to comprehend	Presents information fairly clearly and concisely, may have minor organization problems	Presents answer clearly and concisely, in an organized manner
May merely restate the question and offer an irrelevant or undeveloped response	Does more than merely restate the question and offer a brief response	Does much more than merely restate the question and offer a brief response
May contain enough distracting grammar, spelling, etc. errors to make it substantially incomprehensible	Uses acceptable style and grammar (contains one or a few errors)	Uses elements of style and grammar well