



NT002-512/712

The Early New Testament Church Evening Class Unit Outline

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **The Early New Testament Church - Evening Class**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

SEMESTER 2 2021

Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at www.acttheology.edu.au

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the ACT's **Academic Misconduct Policy**, as well as ACT **Late Penalties Policy** and **Extensions Policy**, all of which are available on the ACT website. Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the relevant ACT Policies.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Handbook, headed "**Guidelines for Essays in Coursework Units**" (see also the QTC Student Handbook). All essays and assignments should comply with these standards.

Students should be aware that the delivery of this unit and results awarded are moderated by the ACT. See the ACT "Moderation Policy" and "Moderation Procedure" at www.acttheology.edu.au/documents/ for full details.

Information about this unit

Unit description

One writer has said that all Christians have within them something of a "restoration" mentality when it comes to "fixing" the church. i.e., we tend to feel that if we could just restore the church to the way that it used to be in NT days, everything would be all right. Well, I hope this unit helps you to understand that there were lots of problems within the early church and persecutions from without. I trust that you will find it exciting and interesting that despite these challenges the word continued to grow and spread. I pray this will encourage you to trust God as he continues to spread the word today, in the face of problems within the church and pressures from outside the church.

The first section of the unit focuses on the Acts of the Apostles and investigates the history, theology and features of the early church as it grew, expanded, and matured.

In the second section, students will examine in outline several other New Testament Writings (various Epistles and Revelation) not covered elsewhere in the course.

ACT Census Date

20 August 2021

Students must confirm their enrolment in this unit with the QTC Registrar by Friday 20 August 2021. This is the last day on which you may withdraw from the unit without academic penalty (a Fail), or without being liable for the tuition fees. To make a change in your enrolment you must contact the QTC Registrar in writing at: registrar@qtc.edu.au.

Learning Outcomes

NT002-512 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the student should have achieved the following learning outcomes:

Know and understand

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding of the contents, themes and theology of the Book of Acts and of major New Testament Epistles

Be able to:

1. Outline: a) the history, themes and theology presented in the Book of Acts; and b) the contents, themes and theology of selected New Testament Epistles
2. Trace key developments and emerging patterns in the beginnings and expansion of the early church
3. Present organised evidence-based perspectives on the themes and theology of the Book of Acts and of the selected New Testament Epistles

Be in a position to:

1. Relate perspectives from 'The Early New Testament Church' to contemporary Christian living and ministry contexts

NT002-712 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the student should have achieved the following learning outcomes:

Know and understand

1. Demonstrate functional knowledge and understanding of the contents, themes and theology of the Book of Acts and of major New Testament Epistles

Be able to:

1. Discuss: a) the history, themes, theology and narrative presented in the Book of Acts; and b) the contents, themes and theology of selected New Testament Epistles
2. Critically analyse key developments and emerging patterns in the beginnings and expansion of the early church
3. Present critical evidence-based perspectives on the themes and theology of the Book of Acts and of the selected New Testament Epistles

Be in a position to:

1. Apply perspectives from 'The Early New Testament Church' to contemporary Christian living and ministry contexts

How this Unit Contributes to the Course

The unit is a core unit in your degree. It is concerned not so much with critical issues as with enabling students to grasp a firm understanding of the development of the early church and of the contents, themes and theology of the various books of the New Testament.

This unit caters for students studying either of the following accredited units:

- NT002-512 The Early New Testament Church – a core module of the DipTh/DipMin/AssocDegTh/BMin/BTh
- NT002-712 The Early New Testament Church – a core module of the MDiv/GradDipDiv/GradCertDiv/MTS

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

This is a core unit and as such there are no pre-requisites or co-requisites associated with it.

It is not permitted to enrol in this unit concurrently with NT003-512 or NT003-712.

How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

The unit is taught over a 13 week semester. There are three lectures each week, each of 50 minutes duration. **Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6-9pm, commencing on Monday 12 July, 2021. See the Unit Timetable for more information on which dates classes will be held.**

This unit is worth 12 credit points towards your degree. A 12cp unit is considered to require an average time commitment of around 10 hours per week across all of the teaching and assessment weeks. Please speak with the lecturer as a matter of urgency if you are finding that you need to consistently spend more time than this on NT002.

Students are expected to attend all lectures, complete any set pre reading and complete any assessment tasks by the relevant due date. Please do be in touch as soon as you can if you anticipate having any difficulties with your assessments or with meeting the due date, and if you require an extension for one of your assessments, please contact the QTC Registrar as early as possible.

Teaching staff

UNIT COORDINATOR & LECTURER

Wesley Redgen

E wredgen@qtc.edu.au

P 30626939

Please feel free to contact Wesley if you have any problems or concerns about the unit.

LECTURERS

David Evans (for the book of Acts)

E devans@qtc.edu.au

P 0407 699 641

Rev Dave Pitt (for the book of James)

From City Bible Forum

Other Key Contacts

Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

P 07 3062 6939

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Moodle and Turnitin functions and queries

Contact the Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle or Turnitin.

P 07 3062 6939

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding resources for your assessment, finding full-text database articles, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, and for help with how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person. Also contact the library for any queries about audio recordings of your class on Moodle.

P 07 3062 6939

E library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	PRE-READINGS
WEEK 1 12 July DE	Acts 1:1-6:7 Jerusalem under Peter and the 11. 'And the Word of God increased'	Acts 1:1–6:7 Barnett, 13-26,195-217 Carson & Moo on Acts
WEEK 2 19 July DE	Acts 6:8-9:31 Greek speaking Jewish Christians, Samaria, Palestine & Damascus. 'Church built up and multiplied'	Acts 6:8–9:31 Barnett, 217-230
WEEK 3 26 July DE	Acts 9:32-12:24 Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch 'But the Word of God grew and multiplied'	Acts 9:32–12:24 Barnett, 231-246
WEEK 4 2 August DE	Acts 12:25-16:5 From Jerusalem to Antioch, Cyprus and Asia Minor 'So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily'	Acts 12:25–16:5 Barnett 269-271, 276-296, 328-329
WEEK 5 9 August DE	Acts 16:6-19:20 Macedonia, Achaia and parts of Asia Minor 'So the word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily'	Acts 16:6–19:20 Barnett, 329-337
WEEK 6 16 August DE	Acts 19:21-28:31 Paul in Jerusalem, Caesarea and Rome 'Preaching the Lord Jesus Christ openly and not hindered'	Acts 19:21–28:31 Barnett, 337-343
WEEK 7 23 August WR	Romans	Book of Romans Carson & Moo on Romans
WEEK 8 30 August WR	Ephesians and Colossians	Books of Ephesians & Colossians Carson & Moo on Ephesians and Colossians
WEEK 9 6 September WR	Hebrews	Book of Hebrews Carson & Moo on Hebrews
WEEK 10 13 September DP	James	Book of James Carson & Moo on James

MID-SEMESTER BREAK: 18 September – 4 October (Note: there will be no lecture on Monday 4 October due to the Queen's Birthday public holiday.)		
WEEK 11 11 October WR	Pastoral Epistles (2 Timothy)	Pastoral Epistles Carson & Moo on The Pastoral Epistles
WEEK 12 18 October WR	1 Corinthians	Book of 1 Corinthians Carson & Moo on 1 Corinthians
WEEK 13 25 October WR	Revelation	Book of Revelation Carson & Moo on Revelation
ASSESSMENT WEEKS		

DE = David Evans WR = Wesley Redgen DP = Dave Pitt

It is strongly advised that students read the set portions prior to the class, rather than after. The unit timetable above indicates chapters in the textbooks for pre-reading. In addition to the requirement to read Barnett and Carson & Moo, it is recommended that you access Schnabel's commentary on Acts and have it as a reference book to consult for the tricky bits when reading Acts. The lectures are not designed to provide content that can be found in the textbook. The lectures will assume that the student has completed the pre-reading chapter(s). During the lecture, certain aspects will be emphasized and explained, and discussion will be encouraged in order to seek to apply what has been learned to life and understanding.

NT002-512 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle by 11.55pm on the due date (with the exception of timed online quizzes and onsite exams). If you experience difficulty submitting due to internet issues close to 11.55pm, please email registrar@qtc.edu.au explaining the issue. Attach a copy of your assessment and a screen shot of the folder in which your document is saved to show that you have not made changes after the due time.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, in accordance with the ACT **Late Penalties** Policy, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of **3%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 14 days late, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero. Where the assessment is a **Take-Home Exam**, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of **6%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 7 days late, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero.

Your submitted assessment items must also be within **10% of the required word limit**, and failure to meet this requirement shall result in a penalty of **10%** of the total possible mark being deducted. **See the QTC Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count.** Please also note that **footnotes** in their entirety **should not exceed 25% of the prescribed essay length.** A **10%** penalty of the final grade applies if footnotes are more than 25% of the prescribed essay length. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p>2000 word Essay 50% of final grade DUE: Friday 10 September</p>	<p>A 2000 word essay, which will cover the topics of weeks 1-6 of the unit – The Book of Acts.</p> <p>Write a 2000 word essay on ONE of the following topics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did Luke give such prominence to Stephen’s speech? 2. Explore the similarities and differences in the presentation of the gospel to Jewish and Gentile audiences presented in the Book of Acts. 3. “The Word of the Lord grew” (e.g., Acts 19:20). Discuss the message and the importance of Luke’s editorial summaries in Acts. 4. Explain how Luke’s record of Gamaliel’s words in Acts 5:34-39 is intended to serve as a paradigm for interpreting events in the book of Acts far beyond their context in Acts 5.

See over for next assessment item.

<p>Take-Home Exam 2250 words 50% of final grade DUE: Monday 8 November</p>	<p>This take-home exam will assess the contents, context, themes and theology of Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Hebrews, James, 2 Timothy, 1 Corinthians, and Revelation [weeks 7-13 – the letters].</p> <p>Students will answer three compulsory questions, with each answer to be approximately 750 words in length. i.e. 2250 words in total. The questions will be made available via QTC Moodle one week before the due date. See the Guide to Assessments in this unit outline for more details.</p>
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NT002-712 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle by 11.55pm on the due date (with the exception of timed online quizzes and onsite exams). If you experience difficulty submitting due to internet issues close to 11.55pm, please email registrar@qtc.edu.au explaining the issue. Attach a copy of your assessment and a screen shot of the folder in which your document is saved to show that you have not made changes after the due time.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, in accordance with the ACT **Late Penalties** Policy, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of **3%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 14 days late, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero. Where the assessment is a **Take-Home Exam**, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of **6%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 7 days late, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero.

Your submitted assessment items must also be within **10% of the required word limit**, and failure to meet this requirement shall result in a penalty of **10%** of the total possible mark being deducted. **See the QTC Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count.** Please also note that **footnotes** in their entirety **should not exceed 25% of the prescribed essay length.** A **10%** penalty of the final grade applies if footnotes are more than 25% of the prescribed essay length. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p>3000 word Essay 50% of final grade DUE: Friday 10 September</p>	<p>A 3000 word essay, which will assess the historical, political and religious background to the New Testament church and will cover the topics for Weeks 1-6 of the unit – The Book of Acts.</p> <p>Write a 3000 word essay on ONE of the following topics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the importance of the Jerusalem Council in Acts. In your essay include comments on both a) the evidences which help resolve the debate and b) the nature of the apostolic letter which issues from it. 2. Choosing either Peter’s speech in Acts 2 or Paul’s speech in Acts 13 discuss how, in their preaching, the apostles “display from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 18:28) 3. Explain the role of Paul’s speech to the Ephesian elders in the development of the book of Acts. 4. Explain the role of Acts 19:21 for the development of the plot of the book of Acts.

See over for next assessment item.

<p>Take-Home Exam 3200 words 50% of final grade DUE: Monday 8 November</p>	<p>This take-home exam will assess the contents, context, themes and theology of Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Hebrews, James, 2 Timothy, 1 Corinthians, and Revelation [weeks 7-13 – the letters].</p> <p>Students will answer four compulsory questions, with each answer to be approximately 800 words in length. i.e., 3200 words in total. The questions will be made available via QTC Moodle one week before the due date. See the Guide to Assessments in this unit outline for more details.</p>
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Guide to Assessments

What are we looking for?

General remarks

All students are expected to avail themselves of the guidelines for written assignments provided in the ACT Handbook (consult the table of contents) and in the QTC Student Handbook section 'Style Requirements for Written Assignments'.

All written work for this unit should conform to the guidelines of the *SBL Handbook of Style* (with the exception of Australian spelling conventions).

Any Hebrew and Greek cited must be typed in a Unicode font; SBL BibLit is commended as one font covering Hebrew, Greek, and Roman Unicode ranges, but is not required. It is freely available from the SBL website: http://sbl-site.org/educational/BiblicalFonts_SBLBibLit.aspx

For full information on what is included in the total word count, see the QTC Handbook section headed *Length of Assignments*.

Do note carefully the number of words required for each assessment item, depending on whether you are enrolled for NT002-512 or NT002-712. For full information on what is included in the total word count, see the QTC Handbook section headed *Length of Assignments*.

The Learning Resources listed in this outline provide a beginning point for research for assessments for this course; students are expected to engage with the works listed there but are not limited to these resources. The literature on the gospels is massive, and you are encouraged to consult widely.

Assessment 1: Essay

This essay is designed to assess your ability to research an aspect of Acts and in the process weigh up the differing views of the scholars in the light of scripture. Your primary task is answering the question from the scripture. Please ensure the essay answers the question.

The bibliography will include 10-20 entries and will include a variety of viewpoints and recent scholarship where possible. Evidence of your reading should be present in your essay, even if only on the footnotes.

The essay must use the provided QTC coversheet as its first page and be submitted via Moodle.

Assessment 2: Take-Home Exam

The Take-Home Exam is about breadth of knowledge and understanding, rather than depth. You have only a small number of words with which to answer each question, and so you should not waste words going into highly specific details, or into any matters which are only indirectly related to the question.

Your main aim in each of your take-home exam answers should be to summarise briefly the major important points in relation to the question set, in a way that directly answers the question. You should answer the questions from what you have learnt in lectures, from the textbook (Carson and Moo), and a number of other resources. Use of resources beyond the

lectures and the textbook will contribute to your mark – but the main thing you will be marked on will be your ability to clearly and accurately give a short answer to the question. You should demonstrate some reasonable sophistication in synthesising lecture, textbook, and additional resources. Higher grades will be allocated to those students who can demonstrate higher level skills, including analysis, evaluation and possibly some creative application. Your answers should argue a case rather than merely listing or describing relevant facts and details. All direct quotations in your answers from books and articles should be footnoted, but there is no need to footnote the lectures.

You are generally expected to spend 6-10 hours on a 'take-home' exam.

In a Take-Home Exam, all direct quotations in your answers from books and articles should be footnoted, but there is no need to footnote the lectures. As is the case with a formal on-site exam, lecture notes and audio recordings of lectures should not ordinarily be footnoted or included in the bibliography of a Take-Home Exam.

Learning Resources

The unit timetable in this unit outline indicates chapters in the textbooks for reading each week. The lectures are not designed to provide content that can be found in the textbooks. The lectures will assume that the student has completed the reading chapter(s). During the lecture, certain aspects will be emphasised and explained and discussion will be encouraged in order to seek to apply what has been learned to life and understanding.

TEXTBOOK

Students must buy their own copies and can be purchased through QTC – see the QTC Textbook List on Moodle.

Barnett, Paul. *Jesus and the Rise of Early Christianity*. Leicester: IVP, 1999.

Carson, Don and Douglas Moo. *Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

Students need access to a good Bible dictionary that contains articles on each of the New Testament Epistles.

IMPORTANT REFERENCE COMMENTARIES

Students are not required to purchase these, but they are recommended as the best commentaries for consultation. These would be good additions to students' personal libraries.

Peterson, David. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Pillar. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009.

Schnabel, Eckhard. *Acts*. ZECNT. Zondervan Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

If you have extra money to buy another book, it would be best to buy:

Hawthorne, Gerald F. Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and his Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1993.

OR

Marshall, I. H. and David Peterson, eds. *Witness to the Gospel: a Theology of Acts*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

OTHER REFERENCES

* *See especially*

* Bauckham, Richard, ed. *The Book of Acts in its Palestinian Setting*. Vol. 4 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.

Beale, G. K. and Carson, D. A. eds. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.

Beale, G. K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011.

Capes, David, Rodney Reeves and E. Randolph Richards. *Rediscovering Paul*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2011.

Crowe, Brandon. *The Message of the General Epistles in the History of Redemption: Wisdom from James, Peter, John and Jude*. Philadelphia, PA: P&R, 2015.

*Cunningham, S. *Through Many Tribulations': The theology of persecution in Luke Acts*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1997.

Fitzmyer, J. A. *The Acts of the Apostles*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998.

Gill, David W. J. and Conrad H. Gempf, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Graeco-Roman Setting*. Vol. 2 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

*Hengel, M. *Acts and the History of Earliest Christianity*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1979, Repr., Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003.

Jobes, Karen H. *Letters to the Church: A Survey of Hebrews and the General Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

*Keener, C.S. *Acts*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2012-2015.

* Levinskaya, Irene. *The Book of Acts in its Diaspora Setting*. Vol. 5 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Developments*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1997.

Rapske, Brian. *The Book of Acts and Paul in Roman Custody*. Vol. 3 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

*Schnabel, E. J., *Early Christian Mission*. Vol 2: of *Paul and the Early Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004.

*Witherington, B. *The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1998.

Winter, B. W. ed. *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. 6 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans; Carlisle: Paternoster, 1993-1999. (Which include the following)

* Winter, Bruce W. and Andrew D. Clarke, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Ancient Literary Setting*. Vol 1 of *The Book of Acts in Its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

Woods, E. J. *The 'Finger of God' and Pneumatology in Luke-Acts*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 2001.

Classics

Goulder, M. *St Peter Verses St Paul: A Tale of Two Missions*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1995.

*Hemer, C. J. *The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History*. Edited by C.H. Gempf. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Spencer, F. S. *The Portrait of Philip in Acts: A Study of Roles and Relations*. JSOT Sup 67. Sheffield: JSOT, 1992.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

In most of the units you study at QTC, you will be asked to demonstrate your understanding of the subject matter by writing a research paper, essay, take-home exam or the like. Your lecturers and the Moderators of the Australian College of Theology will expect to see that you have consulted current academic research in the form of journal articles.

Q: So how do you find good journal articles?

A: Search the online Journal Databases

QTC makes available the following Journal Databases which will be useful for finding information for your assessments:

- ATLASerials Plus – available via EBSCO

ATLASerials Plus is the full text version of the ATLA Religion Database (ATLA). This database is a collection of major religion and theology journals selected by some of the major religion scholars in the United States. Coverage of this database dates back to 1949.

- Religion and Philosophy Collection

This database provides extensive full-text coverage of such topics as world religions, major denominations, biblical studies, religious history, epistemology, political philosophy, and philosophy of language, moral philosophy and the history of philosophy.

- JSTOR

JSTOR provides full-text access to journal articles as well as eBooks. It includes theological journal titles such as the Harvard Theological Review and other titles not found in ATLASerials Plus or the Religion and Philosophy Collection.

Most journal articles will be available as a PDF which you can read, print or save.

Access the databases via the QTC Library Webpage

<https://www.qtc.edu.au/students/resources/library/databases/>

and login with the username and password provided on Moodle under the QTC Library unit.

ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4