UnSW
Arts & Social Sciences

School of Education

EDST5113 Autism Spectrum Disorder: Educational Practices

Term 1, 2019
The School of Education acknowledges the Bedegal people as the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we learn and teach.
1. LOCATION

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
School of Education
EDST 5113 Autism Spectrum Disorder: Educational Practices (6 units of credit)
Term 1 2019

2. STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Joanne Danker
Office Location: John Goodsell Rm. 133
Phone: 9385 1785
Email: j.danker@unsw.edu.au
Availability: by appointment

3. COURSE DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Autism Spectrum Disorder: Educational Practices</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credit Points</td>
<td>6 units of credit (uoc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workload</td>
<td>Includes 150 hours including class contact hours, readings, class preparation, assessment, follow up activities, etc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mon 5-7.40pm (w1-9, 11, Matthews Building 103)</td>
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</table>

SUMMARY OF COURSE

Students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) face immense challenges in educational environments. You will engage with current knowledge about characteristics and effective evidence-based practices used to assist students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) accomplish their educational goals. You will engage with theories, societal attitudes, legislation, and policy to develop your professional judgments and teaching practices. You will learn instructional and curriculum-based strategies that you can use in your teaching practice. You will also learn about challenges faced by families of students with ASD, and learn effective strategies to promote home-school collaboration. You will become acquainted with issues and supports relevant to adults with ASD.

THE MAIN WAYS IN WHICH THE COURSE HAS CHANGED SINCE LAST TIME AS A RESULT OF STUDENT FEEDBACK:

The course content has been updated, and new group activities developed.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Assessment/s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Critically engage with the theories underlying the prevailing attitudes towards people with autism spectrum disorder.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Apply legislation and policy related to the education and life of people with autism spectrum disorder to professional judgments and decisions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Articulate current issues and trends in regards to the field of autism spectrum disorder to relevant stakeholders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Perform curriculum adjustments, which they will be able to perform in order to assist students with autism spectrum disorder to meet educational outcomes.</td>
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AITSL PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE TEACHER STANDARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Assessment/s</th>
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</table>
| 1 | Advanced disciplinary knowledge and practices
Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the field of education as it relates to their specialist area of study, and the ability to synthesize and apply disciplinary principles and practices to new or complex environments. | 1, 2 |
| 2 | Inquiry-based learning
Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of research-based learning and the ability to plan, analyse, present implement and evaluate complex activities that contribute to advanced professional practice and/or intellectual scholarship in education. | 1, 2 |
| 3 | Cognitive skills and critical thinking
Demonstrate advanced critical thinking and problem solving skills | 1, 2 |
| 4 | Communication, adaptive and interactional skills
Communicate effectively to a range of audiences, and be capable of independent and collaborative enquiry and team-based leadership | 2 |
| 5 | Global outlook
Demonstrate an understanding of international perspectives relevant to the educational field | 1 |
| 6 | Ethics
Demonstrate an advanced capacity to recognise and negotiate the complex and often contested values and ethical practices that underlie education | 1, 2 |

4. RATIONALE FOR THE INCLUSION OF CONTENT AND TEACHING APPROACH

Broadened public awareness of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and continuing research means that more students than ever before are being identified with ASD. This course expands on the information, theories, research, and strategies relating to ASD presented in the School of Education's other special education courses. It provides an in-depth look at characteristics and effective evidence-based practices used to assist students with ASD accomplish their educational goals. You will become acquainted with the relevant legislation and learn the instructional and curriculum-based assessment strategies they can use in practice. You will also become familiarised with challenges faced by parents and siblings of people with autism spectrum disorder. Furthermore, issues and supports relevant to adults with ASD will be discussed.
The course is taught through

- Small group cooperative learning to understand the importance of teamwork in an educational context and to demonstrate the use of group structures as appropriate to address teaching and learning goals;
- Explicit teaching including lectures and a range of teaching strategies to foster interest and support learning;
- Structured occasions for reflection on learning to allow students to reflect critically on issues discussed;
- Extensive opportunities for whole group and small group dialogue and discussion, allowing students the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity to communicate
- Use of mobile technology to explore AAC apps that facilitate communication

These activities will occur in a climate that is supportive and inclusive of all learners.

5. COURSE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 18th February</td>
<td>Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Terminology, classification, prevalence and common misconceptions.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Readings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Before lecture 1 - prescribed:</td>
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<td>After lecture 1 - mandatory:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>After lecture 1 - optional:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 25th February</td>
<td>Causes, symptoms and common characteristics of individuals with an ASD.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Before lecture 2 - mandatory:</td>
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</table>
Evidence-based educational practices effective for students with ASD.

This week we will explore the concept of evidence-based practices. PLEASE NOTE THAT you will complete your lecture and assessment online by going through two Iris training modules. [Therefore, there will be NO LECTURE on Monday 4th March from 5-7.40pm.]

The Iris training modules that you will complete are:

Evidence-Based Practices (Part 2): Implementing a Practice or Program with Fidelity
http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/ebp_02/

Evidence-Based Practices (Part 3): Evaluating Learner Outcomes and Fidelity
http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/ebp_03/#content

Your lecture attendance will be counted based on submission of completed assessments from Iris online training modules:

Items 1, and 2: http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/ebp_02/cr_assess/#content

Items 3, 4 and 5:
http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/ebp_03/cr_assess/#content

Please make sure you email the completed assessment to your lecturer PRIOR to the following lecture.

Readings:

Before lecture 3 - mandatory:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th March</td>
<td><strong>Social communication and social interaction. Alternative and augmentative</strong> communication programs and devices: PECS, Makaton, mobile learning and relevant apps.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th March</td>
<td><strong>Social interaction patterns, ritualised, stereotyped, repetitive behaviours.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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</table>
### After lecture 5 - optional:


OR


### Sensory experiences of people with ASD.

**Readings:**

### Before lecture 6 - mandatory:


AND


### After lecture 6 - optional:


OR


OR


### Children with ASD in the early years. Assessment, teaching social and play skills.

**Readings:**

### Before lecture 8 - mandatory:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School-aged students with autism spectrum disorder. Transitions to and from high school.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Before lecture 10 - mandatory:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AND</strong></td>
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<td><strong>AND</strong></td>
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<td><strong>After lecture 10 - optional:</strong></td>
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**EDST5113 Autism Spectrum Disorder: Educational Practices, UNSW 2019**

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**After lecture 8 - optional:**


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**After lecture 10 - mandatory:**


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**OR**


**OR**


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**8th April**

**Insights from research and practice (pp. 57-70). London: Routledge. *Chapter 5.*

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**AND**


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**AND**


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**AND**

Families of people with ASD. Resilience in families, siblings and grandparents

Readings:

Before lecture 11 - mandatory:


AND


OR


After lecture 11 - optional:


OR

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<tr>
<th>10th April</th>
<th>Public holiday</th>
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<tr>
<td>22nd April</td>
<td>Adults with ASD: employment, education, relationships, and independent living.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th April</td>
<td>Readings:</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th April</td>
<td>Before lecture 12 - mandatory:</td>
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<td>AND</td>
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<td></td>
<td>After lecture 12 - optional:</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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</table>

### 6. RESOURCES

*Prescribed Texts: see 5 Course Content and Structure*

*Further/Optional Readings: see 5 Course Content and Structure*

#### Recommended Websites

**ASPECT:** Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia’s largest service provider for people on the autism spectrum.  
[http://www.autismspectrum.org.au/a2i1i1i445l487/welcome.htm](http://www.autismspectrum.org.au/a2i1i1i445l487/welcome.htm)

**Positive Partnerships:** Positive Partnerships is a national project, funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Helping Children with Autism package. We are delivered by Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect), with a goal to improve the educational outcomes of school-aged students on the autism spectrum.  

**I CAN Network:** The I CAN Network is driving a rethink of Autism, from ‘I Can’t’ to ‘I CAN’. We mentor young people on the Autism Spectrum to live life with an ‘I CAN’ attitude. We bring out the ‘awe’ in AWESim through education, advocacy and providing opportunities. We build networks across schools, universities, TAFEs, communities, businesses and governments.  
7. ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>APST</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay/ Review</td>
<td>3,000 words</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 5, 6</td>
<td>1.5.2</td>
<td>Week 5, 22nd March 2019, 5.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information booklet translating theory and policy to educational strategies for teachers / Professional development module for stakeholders working with adults with ASD</td>
<td>15-20 pages (3,000 words max.)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>2, 3, 4</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 6</td>
<td>1.5.2</td>
<td>Week 11, 3rd May 2019, 5.00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Assessment Details

Assessment 1 - Essay

This assessment will help you to:
- Develop familiarity with the area of autism spectrum disorder,
- Develop critical thinking skills,
- Improve research and evaluation skills, and
- Use APA referencing correctly.

The assessment 1 needs to be based on **12 peer-reviewed journal articles, which were published in last 5 - 10 years (i.e., between 2010 and 2019)**. Please note: Encyclopaedia or dictionaries may be consulted to learn background about your topic, but they will not be counted as one of your references.

The assessment 1 should be **double-spaced and written in APA 6th edition style; 12pt font** (e.g., Times New Roman); see the following website for assistance with this: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

You can decide, which of the following two topics you would like to focus on in your essay.

**Topic 1** Challenges encountered by students with ASD in mainstream schools

You will write a **3,000 essay**, in which you describe:
1) What challenges are encountered by students with ASD in mainstream schools, and
2) How these challenges can be met through evidence-based practice.
3) Also, state and describe your position regarding an inclusive approach to education of students with ASD.

This statement by Rita Jordan (2011) can be (but does not have to be) a starting point for you:

“*Given that there is no medical ‘treatment’ for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and that even the idea of ASD as a medical disorder is problematic (Jordan, 2009), education has a special therapeutic role to play. Children and young people with ASD have the same entitlement as anyone else to acquisition of the culturally valued skills, knowledge and understanding that will enable full*”
participation in their society, but, in addition, they need an education that will enable them to acquire the additional skills, knowledge and understanding that others acquire naturally and intuitively, without explicit instruction. In that sense, education has to take on the therapeutic role of compensating for the effects of ASD.” (p.364)

**Topic 2  Evidence-based practice review**

This assessment requires you to write a critical review of a selected evidence-based practice recommended for students with autism spectrum disorder. In order to do so, you are asked to:

1. Select an evidence-base practice relevant to students with autism spectrum disorder,
2. Provide a complete description of the practice, including its strengths and weaknesses, and an indication of when/why it would be used,
3. Provide implementation instructions detailed enough that a beginning teacher could follow the directions and use the evidence-base practice,
4. Discuss the perceived effectiveness of the evidence-based practice, based on the peer-reviewed articles published about this practice in relation to students with ASD
5. Suggest a list of questions for families to consider when deciding whether this evidence-based practice would be effective for their child.

The evidence-based practices you may consider for this topic include:

- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
- TEACCH
- Social Stories
- Functional Communication Training (FCT)
- Discrete trial training (DTT)
- Peer-mediated instruction/ intervention (PMII)
- Self-management
- Video modelling
- VOCA/ Speech Generating Devices (SGD)
- Functional behavior assessment (FBA)
- Pivotal response training (PRT)

**Assessment Task 2**

The assessment 2 needs to be based on **12 peer-reviewed journal articles, which were published in last 5 - 10 years (i.e., between 2010 and 2019)**. Please note: encyclopaedias or dictionaries may be consulted to learn background about your topic, but they will not be counted as one of your references.

The assignment should be double-spaced and written in APA 6th edition style; **12pt font** (e.g., Times New Roman); see the following website for assistance with this: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

**You may choose the focus of your assignment 2 from the following two topics.**

**Topic 1  Information booklet translating theory and policy to educational strategies for teachers**

You will write an information booklet for teachers, communicating the nature of autism spectrum disorder and its implications for schooling.

1. You will identify the readership/audience, i.e., whether the information booklet is written for preschool, primary or high school teachers.
2. The 15-20-page booklet should:
• Be written in user-friendly language for teachers
• Have a clear structure, using headings and subheadings
• Provide advice to teachers based on evidence-based practice to support students’ academic, social and behavioural learning
• Provide useful examples and tips for teachers
• List of references that you would recommend to teachers
• List of resources/references used to create the brochure
• Have a word limit of approximately 3,000 words

Please see the Moodle site for this assessment’s rubric as well as more detailed instruction. This must be your original work!

**Topic 2 Professional development module for stakeholders working with adults with ASD**

You will write a professional development module for professionals working with adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), communicating the nature of ASD and its implications for supporting adults with this disability.

1. You will identify the readership/audience, i.e., whether the module is written for employees of an NGO supporting adults with ASD to find an employment; providers of post-school education for adults with autism; providers of accommodation for adults with autism; etc.

2. The Professional Development Module should:

• Have a clear structure, using headings and subheadings
• Provide advice to professionals based on evidence-based practices
• Provide relevant case studies
• Include 10 questions at the end of the module for the participants to check their understanding. Include the expected answers.
• List of resources that you would recommend to participants of the module
• List of references used in order to create the module
• Have a word limit of approximately 3,000 words

Please see the Moodle site for this assessment’s rubric as well as more detailed instruction. This must be your original work!

The completed assessment must be submitted by uploading it to Turnitin in Moodle in week 11.

**Submission of Assessment Tasks**

Students are required to follow their lecturer’s instructions when submitting their work for assessment. All assessments will be submitted online via Moodle by 5pm. Students are also required to keep all drafts, original data and other evidence of the authenticity of their work for at least one year after examination. If an assessment is mislaid the student is responsible for providing a further copy. Please see the Student Policies and Procedures for information regarding submission, extensions, special consideration, late penalties and hurdle requirements etc.

[https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/](https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/)
## Specific Criteria

### Understanding of the question or issue and the key concepts involved
- understanding of the task and its relationship to relevant areas of theory, research and practice
- clarity and accuracy in use of key terms and concepts in the area of human rights of people with autism spectrum disorder

### Depth of analysis and/or critique in response to the task
- demonstration of knowledge of, and respect for, the diverse social, ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds of people and the effects of these factors on learning

### Familiarity with and relevance of professional and/or research literature used to support response
- range of research and professional literature to support response
- reference specifically to material, research and ideas presented in EDST5113 lectures

### Structure and organisation of response
- appropriateness of overall structure of response
- clarity and coherence of organisation, including use of section headings

### Presentation of response according to appropriate academic and linguistic conventions
- clarity, consistency and appropriateness of conventions for quoting, paraphrasing, attributing sources of information,
- reference list as per APA 6th edition requirements
- clarity and appropriateness of sentence structure, vocabulary use, spelling, punctuation
- word length is no more than 10% over the allowable

## General Comments/Recommendations for Next Time

**Recommended:** /20  (FL PS CR DN HD)

**Weighting:** 50%

*NB: The ticks in the various boxes are designed to provide feedback to students; they are not given equal weight in determining the recommended grade. Depending on the nature of the assessment task, lecturers may also contextualize and/or amend these specific criteria. The recommended grade is tentative only, subject to standardisation processes and approval by the School of Education Learning and Teaching Committee.*
UNSW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
FEEDBACK SHEET
EDST5113 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

Student Name:          Student No.:          
Assessment Task: Booklet for teachers: Teaching students with autism spectrum disorder/
Professional Development Module for Professionals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFIC CRITERIA</th>
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<td>Understanding of the question or issue and the key concepts involved</td>
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<td>• understanding of the task and its relationship to relevant areas of theory,</td>
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<td>research and practice</td>
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<td>• clarity and accuracy in use of key terms and concepts in special education/</td>
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<td>disability studies</td>
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<td>• clear connection between booklet topic and the provided advice and examples</td>
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<td>Depth of analysis and/or critique in response to the task</td>
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<td>• depth of understanding of key principles, concepts and issues explicitly</td>
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<td>raised during the course and in your follow up readings</td>
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<td>• depth of analysis of information provided to teachers</td>
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<td>• includes useful examples and tips for teachers</td>
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<td>Familiarity with and relevance of professional and/or research literature used</td>
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<td>to support response</td>
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<td>• familiarity with the booklet and presentation topic</td>
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<td>• concise yet rigorous list of related and appropriate references/resources</td>
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<td>recommended to teachers for further reading</td>
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<td>Structure and organisation or response</td>
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<td>Presentation of response according to appropriate academic and linguistic</td>
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<td>paraphrasing, attributing sources of information</td>
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<td>• reference list formatted as per APA 6th edition conventions</td>
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<td>• clarity and consistency in presenting the information in the booklet</td>
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<td>• clarity and appropriateness of sentence structure, vocabulary use, spelling,</td>
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<td>punctuation</td>
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<td>• adherence to word length requirements</td>
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GENERAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT TIME

Lecturer:          Date:          
Recommended:  /20  (FL PS CR DN HD)  Weighting: 50%

NB: The ticks in the various boxes are designed to provide feedback to students; they are not given equal weight in determining the recommended grade. Depending on the nature of the assessment task, lecturers may also contextualize and/or amend these specific criteria. The recommended grade is tentative only, subject to standardisation processes and approval by the School of Education Learning and Teaching Committee.