

GRADE INFLATION ANSWER KEY

Advanced B Standard Exam

Article 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evaluating the article's reliability (5 points)- Mapping the article (17 points)
Article 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evaluating the article's reliability (5 points)- Mapping the article (13 points)
Synthesis (40 points)
Personal opinion (20 points)

- Evaluating the article's reliability (5 points)
- Mapping the article (17 points)

Article 2

- Evaluating the article's reliability (5 points)
- Mapping the article (13 points)

Synthesis (40 points)

Personal opinion (20 points)

Q1	
5 pts	<p>To receive full points, the answer has to state that the article is reliable and relate to the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The article was published in a (double blind) peer-reviewed journal / in an academic journal. <p>Answers might also relate to the fact that the author is a lecturer at a highly ranked university, or that the article was published in 2018 so it is up-to-date.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think this article is reliable because it is published in a peer-reviewed journal. In my opinion this article is reliable. It was published in 2018. It was written by a lecturer at the important Southeast University in Bangladesh, and it is published in The Journal of Education and Learning which is peer reviewed. The article by Faieza Chowdhury is reliable because it appears in an academic journal.
3 pts	<p>Answers that conclude the article is reliable but don't give sufficient justification.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This article was written in the Journal of Education and Learning so it reliable. (The answer must explain that this is a peer reviewed journal or an academic journal). I think this is a reliable article because it was published in 2018. (This is not enough to determine that the article is reliable). The writer works at a good university so this article is reliable. (Academics also publish articles in newspapers, magazines etc. The answer must explain that this article was published in a peer reviewed journal or an academic journal).
0 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers that don't state that the article is reliable Answers without any justification Answers that contradict themselves or are inaccurate

Q2	
2 pts	<p>An answer relating to both of the following ideas:</p> <p>a) Why educators and academic engage in grade inflation b) The consequences of grade inflation.</p> <p>Accept: causes and consequences of grade inflation.</p>
1 pt	An answer relating to only a) or b)
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Q3	
3 pts	<p>An answer with any of the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the desire for job security and financial benefits may encourage some instructors to practice grade inflation. • instructors may practice grade inflation due to concern for their students' psychology, motivation and life prospects.
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Q4	
3 pts	<p>An answer with any of the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure exists on academic institutions to deliver grades that will satisfy students and parents, regardless of whether or not the standards of excellence are met. • Grades are often used as a tool by the academic institutions to gain a strong foothold in the competitive marketplace. • students expect a greater value for the money that they spent on their education • By awarding high grades to the students, academic institutions often try to give signals to potential employers that their students are comparatively better than others.
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Q5	
3 pts	<p>An answer with any of the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade inflation may mislead students regarding their actual degree of academic performance. • Grade inflation may result in grade compression, which is mainly unfair to the best students in the class. • Grade inflation can deteriorate the work ethic of students • Grade inflation may mean students find it difficult to do well in advanced courses.
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Q6	
3 pts	<p>An answer with any of the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade inflation can have a negative impact on the academic reputation of schools and universities, as their degrees will have less value in the market. • Grade inflation might make some graduates less marketable.
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Q7	
3 pts	<p>An answer with any of the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to understand that an institution's reputation and student abilities and skills are more important than individual grades
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Q8	
5 pts	<p>To receive full points, the answer has to state whether the article is reliable or not, and provide relevant justification.</p> <p>An answer that claims the article is reliable should relate to the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Washington Post</i> is a leading American newspaper and is mostly credible. • The newspaper publishes fact-checked articles. • The author is an academic from a pre-eminent university. <p>Answers might also relate to the fact that the article was published in 2021 so it is up-to-date.</p> <p>An answer that claims the article is unreliable should relate to the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Washington post</i> is not an academic journal / The article was not peer-reviewed. <p>An answer that is uncertain about the reliability is also acceptable. It should be logical.</p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't think this is a reliable article because it was published in a newspaper which is not peer reviewed. • I think the article is reliable because the author is credible – Zachary Bleemer is an academic from very important universities. • It might be a reliable article because the articles are fact checked, and it is up-to-date. On the other hand, the article was published in a newspaper and not in an academic journal so it's hard to tell.
3 pts	<p>Answers that conclude the article is reliable/unreliable but don't give sufficient justification.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think this is a reliable article because it was written by Zachary Bleemer in 2021. (Doesn't explain why this is a reliable author).
0 pts	<p>Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.</p>

Q9	
2 pts	An answer with any of the following ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects of grade inflation. • Whether higher grades improve or hinder learning.
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.




Q10	
3 pts	An answer with any of the following ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade inflation may be providing important benefits to many of today's students. • Inflating grades might narrow the gender gap in STEM fields. • Grade inflation encourages students to persist with their education despite challenges.
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Q11	
3 pts	An answer with any of the following ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is to a student's advantage if they are able to pursue studies in a subject they have chosen. • Grade inflation helps more students stick with their preferred major rather than being discouraged by low grades.
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Q12	
3 pts	An answer with any of the following ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The same arguments about the effects of grade inflation in higher education hold for high schools. • Grade inflation gives students from less-affluent schools the opportunity to benefit from higher education.
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.




Q13	
2 pts	An answer with any of the following ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grade inflation may have caused more good than harm. • There is a lot more to learn about the motivational effects of higher or lower grades.
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Q14	
4 pts	An answer with any of the following ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consequences of grade inflation in higher education
0 pts	Answers that are not logical or are inaccurate.

Synthesis Rubric - Q15			
	Very Good 	Fair 	Poor 
Structure (essay components)	8 Points	4 Points	0 points
	Essay has a clear introduction, supportive evidence from two sources, and a conclusion.	Related to some of the major essay components: introduction, supportive evidence, and conclusion.	Did not relate to any of the major essay components.
Content (accuracy of information)	8 Points	4 Points	0 points
	Accurately and coherently synthesizes the content from both sources dealing with a single issue. Adds citations whenever necessary.	Attempts to synthesize the content from both sources dealing with a single issue but paraphrasing demonstrates limited or partially inaccurate comprehension. Citations might not be given correctly.	Demonstrates minimal or inaccurate synthesis of information. There are no citations.
Cohesion (flow of ideas)	8 Points	4 Points	0 points
	Ideas flow logically	Some of the ideas are not logically connected	Ideas seem randomly ordered or have an unclear progression
Vocabulary (word choice and expressions)	4 Points	2 Point	0 points
	Appropriate vocabulary	Some of the vocabulary is inappropriate	Vocabulary is mostly inappropriate
Grammar (tenses and sentence structure)	4 Points	2 Point	0 points
	Correct grammar	Partially correct grammar	Incorrect grammar
Mechanics (paragraph format, punctuation and capitalization)	4 Points	2 Point	0 points
	Correct use of line spacing and mechanics.	Partially correct use of line spacing and mechanics.	Incorrect use of line spacing and mechanics

Students will receive 0 points if -

- The synthesis is not in English
- The whole synthesis is copied from the text.

Personal Opinion Rubric - Q16			
	Very Good 	Fair 	Poor 
Structure & content	14 Points	7 Points	0 points
	The opening sentence gives the student's opinion clearly. The following sentences give relevant and accurate supporting arguments from either or both articles.	The opening sentence gives the student's opinion, but the supporting arguments are somewhat irrelevant or inaccurate.	There is no clear statement of opinion. There are no supporting arguments from the text.
Language	6 Points	3 Point	0 points
	Uses appropriate vocabulary, correct grammar and mechanics.	Partially correct vocabulary, grammar and mechanics.	Incorrect vocabulary, grammar and mechanics.

Students will receive 0 points if -

- The opinion is not in English
- The whole answer is copied from the text.