

About the annotated examples:

I have provided two examples of dissertations with feedback: one that achieved a mark of 68 and one that achieved 66 (I personally supervised the 66 paper). I would like to note firstly that both are good papers, competent and well executed, reflecting what is really a very good mark of 66 and 68. Through the annotations, I have tried to show the collected small elements, and some larger, that could have pushed it from a high 2.1 into the first class zone.

In the 66 example, I have shown the typical commentary and summation that a student can expect to get back on their script. It does not contain every thought I had, but instead shows the kind of holistic response you might get back.

In the 68 example, the feedback, notes and comments I have put into this dissertation represent the maximum of changes and level of attainment I could envisage. As such, the comments are frequent, detailed, and nit-picking. I should stress that this is an extreme version of feedback, covering everything I could see, but in real life, markers look at the whole and make judgements on the overall piece. Consequently, there are loads of comments here, which might make you think the mark should be lower: in fact, this piece scored 68%. I wasn't the marker but I moderated and agreed the mark, which is a very good one. This is because the small elements of the writing style, whilst taking a lot of commentary to describe, are small issues subsumed under general presentation, but the bigger mark attractors are the idea, the work, the thought, the analysis - I have commented on these in places but they don't generate as much red pen as pointing out the small niggles. I hope that in showing both sorts of commentary in two similar papers, you can gain an insight into what markers are feeling as they read.

Finally I must thank and praise the students who put their work forward for this detailed commentary. It is a brave thing to do, more so because they won't benefit, others will. I hope they are aware of how impressed I was with them volunteering.

