

POL222 Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning I

Essay Assignment 1 Marking Rubric

Evaluation Components	Evaluation Criteria	Points Allocated
1. Theory (70 points)	(1) Substantive significance of research question and theory is explained well and convincing.	0 - 10
	(2) Independent and dependent variables are clearly defined. Theoretical mechanism linking these two variables is elaborated clearly and convincing.	0 - 25
	(3) The hypothesis is appropriate in light of the theory in question, testable based on observables, and well defined.	0 - 10
	(4) Potential of reverse causality (or simultaneous relationship) and confounding variables, and their potential problems to establishing causality between your dependent and independent variables are addressed, and the argument is convincing.	0 - 25
2. Writing (30 points)	<p>The essay is well organized and well written overall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a clear argument easily identified and understood. - Has a concise yet informative introduction and conclusion. - Maintains consistency, coherency, and natural flow throughout. - Has a sophisticated writing style. - Has few typographical or grammatical errors. - Is accurately and fully documented (e.g., footnotes, reference, citations) wherever needed. 	0 - 30

- For each evaluation criterion above, your essay will be marked in the following scale — Excellent, Good, Adequate, Marginal, and Inadequate — and the points proportional to the points allocated to each criterion will be assigned. For example, for the criterion for which 0 - 10 points are allocated, your essay will receive 10 points if your mark is Excellent, 8 points if Good, 6 points if Adequate, 4 if Marginal, and 2 if Inadequate. Similarly, for the criterion for which 0 - 20 points are allocated, your essay will receive 20 points if your mark is Excellent, 16 points if Good, 12 if Adequate, 8 if Marginal, and 4 if Inadequate. If your essay hardly addresses the evaluation criterion, your essay will receive 0 point for that criterion.
- 10 points will be deducted if in violation of any of the requirements, specified in the Essay Assignment Instructions, such as exceeding the word limit, proposing two or more hypotheses, and using a causal theory from our textbook or lectures.