

Edge Hill University

Masters Level Explained

This brief document seeks to explain the difference between final year undergraduate (level 6) and Masters (level 7). It is a generic, non-subject specific series of explanations; readers should bear in mind that there are subtle differences in each subject discipline. Your tutor is the subject specific expert in academic writing to whom ultimately you should defer. This guide is needed because Level 6 and level 7 are often talked and written about as if they are two very different things. This can be misleading and confusing for students new to level 7 study. It is incorrect to think of level 6 and 7 as being separate: there is no upper limit for level 6. An undergraduate with a first class or upper second degree has written at level 7 as an undergraduate. Level 7 has simply a higher pass mark demanded. Figure 1, below indicates level 6 study in the last year of an undergraduate course.

A Fail: Marks below 40 per cent	A Pass: Marks between 40 and 59 per cent	A Good Pass: 2:1 Marks between 60 and 69 per cent	First: Marks above 70 per cent
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Academic Writing Guide: Master's level Explained

Figure 2, below indicates level 7 study: though individual courses and subjects may vary in the details of how the below is stated. However some courses may use 40 per cent to indicate a pass and below a fail: these do not equate to 40 per cent at level 6.

Fail	Pass	Merit	Distinction
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Figure 3, below indicates how level 7 (the top row) relates to level 6 (the bottom row). Though individual courses and subjects may vary in the details of how the below is stated and below is a simplification, broadly speaking this is the correlation between the two levels.

Fail	Fail	Pass	Merit	Distinction
A Fail: Marks below 40 per cent	A Pass: Marks between 40 and 59 per cent	A Good Pass: 2:1 Marks between 60 and 69 per cent	First: Marks above 70 per cent	