Grading Rubric – SPED4303 – Psychosocial Difficulties from a Global Perspective

Grading criteria overview
Each essay is graded on a scale of A to F, following the University of Oslo grading framework (A=Excellent, B=Very good, C=Good, D=Satisfactory, E=Sufficient, F=Fail)
The essay grade is calculated by weighing each criterion as follows:

- Knowledge and understanding (30%)
- Critical analysis (25%)
- Structure and organization (20%)
- Use of evidence (15%)
- Language and clarity (10%)

NOTE!
- The final exam grade is the sum of the combined essay grades.
- Both essays must receive a passing grade in order to pass the exam.

1. Knowledge and understanding (30%)
Grade A: Shows in-depth understanding of the topic, with precise, well-explained concepts and theory. Comprehensive coverage including key terms and definitions.
Grade B: Shows a strong understanding of the topic with some minor gaps or inaccuracies. Concepts are mostly well explained.
Grade C: Demonstrates a general understanding of the topic with some important points missing or not fully explained.
Grade D: Shows a basic understanding, but with several gaps or misunderstandings.
Grade E: Demonstrates minimal understanding of the topic. Major gaps in knowledge are evident.
Grade F: Lacks basic understanding of the topic. Misinterprets key concepts or omits essential information.

2. Critical analysis (25%)
Grade A: Excellent critical analysis with original insights. Arguments are well-supported, balanced, and logically presented.
Grade B: Strong analysis with some original insights. Arguments are generally well-supported but may lack full balance.
Grade C: Adequate analysis with limited critical insight. Arguments are generally clear but lack depth.
Grade D: Limited critical analysis. Arguments are weakly supported or overly descriptive.
Grade E: Minimal critical analysis. Arguments are largely unsupported or poorly developed.
Grade F: No critical analysis. The response is descriptive or irrelevant.

3. Structure and organization (20%)
Grade A: Clear, coherent, and well-organized essay with a logical flow. Effective introduction, body, and conclusion.
Grade B: Generally well-organized, but with minor structural weaknesses.
Grade C: Adequately structured but may lack clarity in organization.
Grade D: Poorly organized, making it difficult to follow the argument.

Grade E: Disorganized, with a confusing structure.
Grade F: No clear structure. The essay is chaotic or incomplete.

4. Use of evidence (15%)
Grade A: Excellent use of relevant and reliable evidence to support arguments. Correctly cited in APA or relevant style.
Grade B: Strong use of evidence with mostly appropriate citations. Minor citation errors may be present.
Grade C: Adequate use of evidence, but with some reliance on generalizations.
Grade D: Limited use of evidence. Overreliance on personal opinion.
Grade E: Minimal use of evidence. Sources may be irrelevant or inappropriate.
Grade F: No use of evidence. Unsupported claims.

5. Language and clarity (10%)
Grade A: Clear, precise, and fluent writing with excellent grammar and style.
Grade B: Generally clear with minor language errors.
Grade C: Adequately clear but with some awkward phrasing or grammatical errors.
Grade D: Language errors affect clarity and understanding.
Grade E: Significant language problems make it difficult to understand.
Grade F: Incoherent or incomprehensible.

The final grade should reflect the combined performance across all criteria, based on the grading scale (A-F).

Examiners' conversion chart for percentage and letter grades

Grade	
A (Excellent): 90-100%	An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgment and a high degree of independent thinking.
B (Very Good): 80-89%	A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates sound judgment and a very good degree of independent thinking.
C (Good): 70-79%	A good performance in most areas. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of judgment and independent thinking in the most important areas.
D (Satisfactory): 60-69%	A satisfactory performance, but with significant shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates a limited degree of judgment and independent thinking.

E (Sufficient): 50-59%	A performance that meets the minimum criteria, but no more. The candidate demonstrates a very limited degree of judgment and independent thinking.
F (Fail): 0-49%	A performance that does not meet the minimum academic criteria. The examinee demonstrates an absence of both judgment and independent thinking.

General UiO grading criteria (for reference)

Symbol	Description	General, non-subject specific description of assessment criteria
A	Excellent	An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgement and a high degree of independent thinking.
B	Very good	A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates sound judgement and a very good degree of independent thinking.
C	Good	A good performance in most areas. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of judgement and independent thinking in the most important areas.
D	Satisfactory	A satisfactory performance, but with significant shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates a limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
E	Sufficient	A performance that meets the minimum criteria, but no more. The candidate demonstrates a very limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
F	Fail	A performance that does not meet the minimum academic criteria. The examinee demonstrates an absence of both judgement and independent thinking.