Schedule 2: Research dissertation assessment criteria in disciplines with a qualitative emphasis

H1: HD+ (90–100):
An outstanding dissertation, demonstrating:
• Impressively original thought
• Intellectual sophistication
• Excellence in terms of conceptualisation, theoretical framework and/or research design
• Superior skills in the development of a clear, compelling and critical argument
• Outstanding knowledge of relevant literatures
• Outstanding written expression, organisation, format and documentation

H1: HD- (80–89):
As for HD+ but to a lesser degree; for example, the dissertation must still show independent and critical analysis, but need not be strikingly original; must still demonstrate superior skills in conceptualisation and development of theoretical frameworks, but need not be at such a sophisticated level. The dissertation will demonstrate excellent knowledge of relevant literatures, excellent skills in the development of a clear, compelling and critical argument, and excellent written expression, organisation, format and documentation.

H2A: D+ (75–79):
For a dissertation demonstrating very good conceptualisation and research planning; very good skills of critical analysis as well as synthesis; capacity for independent thought; appreciation of methodological issues; good knowledge of relevant literature; ability to marshal a good, coherent and consistent argument; very good written expression; correct format and documentation.

H2A: D- (70–74):
For a dissertation demonstrating sound research planning; sound skills in analysis as well as synthesis; some capacity for independent thought; fair knowledge of relevant literature; ability to marshal a coherent and consistent argument. May show some weaknesses in methodological or theoretical understandings. Good written expression; correct format and documentation.

H2B: CR (60–69):
For a dissertation providing a coherent narrative or descriptive account, with serious attempt at analysis, and a competent synthesis of relevant literature and source material. Coherent written expression and correct format and documentation. The dissertation will display minor weaknesses or limitations, such as insufficiently clarified research design, narrowness of scholarship, failure to properly incorporate critical concepts, or derivative conclusions.

H3: Pass (50–59):
For a dissertation containing major limitations in methodology, and/or research quality and/or argumentation and/or knowledge of relevant literature, and/or written presentation and documentation.

Fail: (<50):
For a dissertation with decisive problems in conceptualisation, execution of research, knowledge of relevant literature, independence of thought, written expression and documentation.