**A. My own personal academic orientation**

**What is ‘academic orientation’?**

Academic orientation is a term that describes **the way that you think about and approach your studies; more specifically, it looks at the relationship between these two factors.**  Thinking about and reviewing your own personal academic orientation is a very useful thing for every student to do as it allows you to do two things:

i) discover the beliefs and assumptions that underpin the way you approach your studies

ii) begin to replace incorrect assumptions with ones that are more accurate

**1. When I am learning/studying, I think about and critically evaluate what I read in textbooks and journals, I don’t just accept things at face value**

1 2 3 4 5

Never, rarely, sometimes, often, always

**2. When I am taught/learn new concepts, I make connections between (and these connections can take the form of questions) this new knowledge and my prior knowledge**

1 2 3 4 5

Never, rarely, sometimes, often, always

**3. It is important for me to see *why* something is, or might, be ‘true’, rather than just accepting it as a ‘fact’**

1 2 3 4 5

Never, rarely, sometimes, often, always

**4. I don’t just want my work to reproduce what other scholars have said or what the lecturer says. I try to produce original work**

1 2 3 4 5

Never, rarely, sometimes, often, always

**5. I critically engage with (i.e. analyse the strengths and weaknesses) of the academic sources that I reference in my own work. I don’t just include them to show what I have read**

1 2 3 4 5

Never, rarely, sometimes, often, always

**My own personal academic orientation: scoring and guidance**

Your score will be **somewhere from 5-25.** As an example, the academic staff member that designed this scale scored **22** in her honest self-assessment of her own academic orientation.

It is important to note that this scale and associated scoring is for **guidance purposes only**. Your score on this scale **does not guarantee the grades that may be associated with this type of academic orientation**- it is for orientation, self-reflection and development purposes only.

The **higher your score on this scale**, the more likely it is that your beliefs and behaviours align with what is seen and understood as **good academic practice at the University of Edinburgh**.

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| --- | --- |
| 25 | **Outstanding** This is a 100% perfect score which would suggest that you not only completely understand what the University of Edinburgh classifies as good academic practice but that you also **always put this understanding into practice**. This is very difficult to achieve 100% of the time. This type of score, in combination with the required level of subject knowledge is likely to see you producing outstanding scholarly work |
| 22- 24 | **Excellent** This score suggests that you have an **in-depth understanding** of what the University of Edinburgh classifies as good academic practice and that you almost always put this understanding into practice. Your academic orientation appears to align very well with the type of academic practice that the University of Edinburgh recognises as **excellent** and, along with the required level of subject knowledge, it has the potential to help you achieve **excellent grades** in your assignments. |
| 19- 21 | **Very good** This score suggests that you **fully understand** what the University of Edinburgh classifies as good academic practice and that you put this understanding into practice most of the time. Your practice appears to align very well with the type of academic practice that the University of Edinburgh recognises as **very good** and, along with the required level of subject knowledge, it has the potential to help you achieve **very good** grades in your assignments. |
| 16- 18 | **Good** This score suggests that you have a **good understanding** of what the University of Edinburgh classifies as good academic practice and that you **often** are able to put this good understanding into practice. Your academic orientation, complete with the required level of subject knowledge, would appear to align with what the University of Edinburgh classes as **‘good’** academic work.  |
| 15 | **Satisfactory** This scores suggests thatyou have a **partial understanding** of what the University of Edinburgh classifies as good academic practice that you are **sometimes** able to put it into practice. Your practice would seem to align with what the University of Edinburgh classes satisfactory academic work which, complete with the requisite amount of subject knowledge, has the potential to help you achieve **satisfactory grades** in your assignments. With this score, it is unlikely that you will (at present) receive A and B grades, even if you do put in a lot of work. Being awarded A and B grades means that you not only work hard, but that you fully understand the expectations of what ‘good work’ is in the field of study that you are operating in. |
| Below 15 | Marks below 15 would suggest that you **need to review your understanding** of what the University of Edinburgh classes as good academic practice and what it values as ‘good work’. If you don’t review your assumptions and understanding then, unfortunately, it is likely that all the hard work that you put into your assignments will not result in the marks that you would expect.  |