



Rubric Design

Using AI to draft clear, consistent, and well-aligned assessment rubrics

Well-designed rubrics are foundational to fair, transparent assessment — but creating them from scratch is time-consuming and requires careful thought about language, consistency, and alignment with learning outcomes. AI can generate detailed, multi-criteria rubric drafts in seconds based on your specific outcomes and assessment type, giving you a strong starting point to refine, adapt, and contextualise to your own module.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS



VERSATILE RUBRIC GENERATION **ChatGPT**

Highly effective at producing rubrics with multiple performance levels and detailed descriptors across any discipline. Output can be requested as a table for easy copying into a Word or Google Doc.



NUANCED DESCRIPTOR LANGUAGE **Claude**

Particularly strong at producing consistent, precisely-worded rubric language. Can align descriptors to specific frameworks such as QQI level indicators or Bloom's Taxonomy on request.



EDUCATION-SPECIFIC TOOL **MagicSchool.ai**

Includes a dedicated rubric generator with subject and grade level controls, designed specifically for educators. Produces student-friendly language and ready-to-use formats.



GOOGLE WORKSPACE INTEGRATION **Google Gemini**

Useful if you work within Google Workspace — generated rubrics can be transferred directly into Google Docs or Sheets, saving time on formatting and reformatting.

EXAMPLE: AI-GENERATED RUBRIC OUTPUT (CRITICAL ESSAY · LEVEL 8)

Criterion	DISTINCTION	MERIT	PASS	FAIL
Critical Argument	Sustained, original argument with sophisticated engagement with counterarguments	Clear argument with good engagement with alternative perspectives	Argument present but inconsistently developed or supported	No clear argument; largely descriptive or incoherent
Use of Evidence	Extensive, well-integrated sources used critically and independently	Good range of sources used with clear relevance to argument	Limited sources; some relevant but integration is weak	Minimal or irrelevant evidence; poor source use

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD PRACTICE

✓ DO

- ✓ Include your module learning outcomes verbatim in the prompt
- ✓ Specify the number of performance levels you need (e.g., Distinction / Merit / Pass / Fail)
- ✓ Ask AI to align descriptors to QQI level indicators or Bloom's Taxonomy
- ✓ Request both a student-facing and an assessor-facing version of the rubric
- ✓ Have a colleague review the rubric before using it in a live assessment

✗ DON'T

- ✗ Use a generic rubric without contextualising it to your specific assessment task
- ✗ Forget to check alignment with your institution's grading schema and grade descriptors
- ✗ Rely on AI alone for high-stakes assessment criteria without peer review
- ✗ Neglect student-facing language — clarity for students is as important as precision for assessors
- ✗ Apply the same rubric to very different assessment types without adapting it

TRY THIS PROMPT

📋 COPY & PASTE INTO CLAUDE OR CHATGPT

"Act as an experienced higher education academic. Create a rubric for assessing a **2,000-word critical reflective essay** for a **Level 8 Education Studies module**. The learning outcomes are: **[paste your learning outcomes here]**. Include **four performance levels**: Distinction, Merit, Pass, Fail. Align descriptors to QQI Level 8 indicators. Produce two versions: one for assessors and one written in plain, student-friendly language. Format as a table."