Research Proposal Expectations and Marking Scheme

a. Question and Background (20 pts)

The research question is unique, interesting, and appropriate for the scope of the class. The background presented is sufficient to understand the proposed question and is well organized and appropriately cited.

b. Importance and Motivation (15 pts)

The motivation driving the proposal is clearly presented, including the importance of the question as well as a full description of and justification for the study system.

c. Appropriate Methodology (20 pts)

The experimental design fully addresses the proposed question. The design is developed in sufficient detail for its practical implementation, including appropriate controls, experimental design, application of treatments, and analysis of data when relevant. Methodological details are well organized and appropriately cited.

d. Predicted Results and Significance (20 pts)

The predicted results are sensible and follow clearly from the background material and experimental design. The significance of the predicted results is described in full, logically following from the described importance of the study and the experimental design.

e. Presentation (20 pts)

The research proposal is free of errors in spelling or grammar, with clear, coherent sentences. The proposal is organized into the sections described above and formatted as required, and uses a consistent citation format.

f. Pre-proposal (5 pts)