



EXAMINER'S REPORT FORM FOR A MASTER'S THESIS
(Excluding Exploration Geology, MBA, MACW and MFA, which have different forms)

Candidate: _____ Student Number: _____

Degree: _____

Title: _____

Full thesis	Half thesis
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Examiners are required to complete and sign this form and return it, together with a more detailed report, to the Academic Administration Office. The examiner should report on the main features of the thesis, its merits and weaknesses, and to draw attention to any particular areas of interest or importance.

While length is not itself a criterion, examiners may find it useful to think of a *full thesis* as a substantive study of about 40 - 50 000 words and a *half thesis* as a smaller study of about 20 - 30 000 words, excluding appendices and reference lists.

When the award of the degree with distinction is under consideration, examiners are asked to look for evidence of exceptional methodological and conceptual skills, clarity of exposition and argument, sound judgement, originality of approach, and some contribution to knowledge.

Guidance for the award of percentages	
0-39%	The thesis exhibits such a level of disorganisation and incoherence as to be termed incompetent and is so weak that is not passable even after revisions.
40-49%	The thesis may be disorganised and incoherent but may be <i>passworthy</i> if it was reworked and resubmitted for re-examination.
50-59%	No originality, but an acceptable review of the literature, adequate clarification of a problem, and adequate methodology (or barely adequate). There are problems of organisation, and expression, but the thesis exhibits the main features of organisation sufficiently so in order to pass. May or may not require major revisions.
60-69%	Solidly executed, adequate organisation, competent methodology, and conclusions adequately drawn. Very little originality, if any, but an adequate body of work from conception to conclusion. May or may not require revisions. <i>Note: A percentage of 65% or higher is a criterion for consideration for NRF funding for further studies.</i>
70-74%	There is evidence of some originality, but there are omissions, or areas where revisions would clearly improve the thesis. The substantive area of work is competently covered, well organised and well-argued.
75-79%	Merits a distinction: excellent presentation with good organisation and sound critical arguments. Evidence of originality/clear insight/solid depth of understanding but consistent with possible minor omissions and/or corrections required.
80-84%	A strong distinction without any reservations: authoritative coverage of relevant material as well as background literature and/or related issues; outstanding presentation in terms of argument, organisation, originality and style. Demonstrates full understanding of subject matter with no more than minor typographical corrections required.
85-100%	A truly outstanding distinction: masterly coverage demonstrating advanced levels of understanding, originality and analysis of research (theoretically and/or empirically) over and above that required for previous categories.

Please indicate, with a ✓ in the appropriate box, which ONE of the following you recommend after careful consideration of the categories of award percentages below			
1. The thesis should be passed with distinction	No corrections		Recommended %:
	Editorial corrections		
2. The thesis should be passed	No corrections		Recommended %:
	Editorial corrections		
	Specified corrections		
3. The degree should not be awarded, however, the candidate should be invited to revise and resubmit the thesis for re-examination. (The revised thesis will be submitted to you for re-examination)			Recommended %:
4. The thesis should NOT be passed			Recommended %:

5. Are you prepared to let the candidate read your report?	Yes		No	
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6. May the candidate be informed of your identity?	Yes		No	
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Name (please print):		Date
Signature		