

Examiner's Report for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Name of candidate:

ID:

Title of Thesis:

Faculty:

Name of Examiner:

Institution and Country of Examiner:

Summary assessment of the thesis (please tick the appropriate box)

In the light of my accompanying report, I recommend:

A: Pass (Summa Cum Laude)

The thesis should be classified as PASSED and the candidate awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy without amendment or further examination and **is of outstanding merit** (i.e. in the top 5% of theses you have examined), and the candidate should be awarded the degree **Summa Cum Laude**.

A: Pass

The thesis should be classified as PASSED and the candidate awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy without amendment or further examination.

B: Pass with amendments

The thesis should be classified as PASSED and the candidate awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy without further examination but subject to the amendments detailed in this report being successfully completed.

C: Defer

The thesis should be classified as DEFERRED and the candidate be given up to twelve months (F/T) to revise and re-submit the thesis for examination.

I am willing to be involved in the re-examination process.

I do not wish to be involved in the re-examination process.

D: Fail

The thesis should be classified as FAILED and the candidate should not be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, nor can the thesis be re-submitted for examination.

Other options

Awarded a minor degree

The thesis is not of Doctor of Philosophy standard (as explained on the Proforma), but the lesser degree of the Master of Philosophy may be awarded. My report has indicated the changes necessary for the achievement of a satisfactory Master of Philosophy degree.

I agree to the release of my name to the candidate once the final result has been ratified by the University:

Yes No

Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

University Research Committee
Proforma for PhD Examiner Report

The regulation governing the examination of a doctoral degree thesis prescribes that

- *“The degree of Doctor of Philosophy... will be completed by submission of a thesis which demonstrates that the candidate has made a substantial contribution to learning and appreciates and understands the relationship of the candidate’s own investigations to a wider field of knowledge.*
- *“The thesis should not be unnecessarily long. Although length may vary according to the topic and the discipline, in the case of a Doctor of Philosophy degree the thesis is expected to be no more than 400 pages or 100,000 words, including appendices such as maps and diagrams, but not bibliography or references.*
- *There is no expected length for a PhD by Publication. “There should be an appropriate balance between the different parts of the thesis. In particular, the original contribution to knowledge should be clearly distinguishable from the quality of the journals as well as the introductory material and the survey of the literature.”*

In your report state as explicitly as possible the grounds on which you base the recommendation given, indicating the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis and including, as appropriate, details of any corrections, amendments or further examination which should be required. **Examiners should attempt in their critical comments to distinguish between those points which require amendment of the thesis and those which are made in the spirit of collegial debate.**

Please address the following in your report:

1. **The thesis**
 - a. is an advanced body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in one or more disciplines and demonstrates the candidate’s capacity to critically evaluate, synthesise, and integrate information;
 - b. demonstrates the candidate’s ability to formulate a research question, design an investigation, and draw appropriate conclusions;
 - c. demonstrates the candidate’s ability to present evidence in a manner consistent with the expectations of the discipline, and
 - d. makes an original contribution to the disciplinary field and is at the frontier of the field of work or learning.
2. **Presentation of the thesis**
 - a. Please advise on whether the written presentation of the thesis is satisfactory for a higher degree.
3. **Amendments to the thesis**
 - a. Please specify any changes which should be made to the thesis before the degree is awarded.
 - b. The comments of examiners should be of sufficient detail to substantiate any identified weaknesses as well as to provide a means of informed academic exchange. Corrections and amendments which are deemed necessary should be identified clearly so as to ensure that they can be attended to satisfactorily.

The reports of examiners are written to the University Research Committee (URC). In keeping with University policy there should not be contact, direct or indirect, between examiners and the candidate or supervisor about the examination of the thesis, except through the Candidature Services office at res.cand@acu.edu.au. All reports, or any correspondence or proposals for contact with the candidate or supervisor about the examination, must be negotiated through Candidature Services.

If supervisors wish to seek clarification or further information from an examiner the request should be made to the examiner through Candidature Services.

It is the Committee’s policy to treat all unpublished parts of theses and the examination process as confidential. It is understood that supervisors and examiners will maintain this confidentiality in both respects. After the Committee has considered the examiners’ reports and made its decision on them, each report (or parts thereof) bearing the examiner’s name is made available to the supervisor(s) and the candidate, unless confidentiality has been requested.