

**MSc & MRes PROJECT ASSESSMENT: THESIS (OR MID-PROJECT REPORT)
MARKING CRITERIA**

Literal Grade	% Mark	Criteria (Please give leeway if it is a mid-project report and give due consideration to the duration of the project (e.g., 5- vs. 9-month))
A*	100 95 90 85	Exceptional. Work is of a publishable standard**. It is an exceptionally well-presented exposition of the subject, showing: (i) command of the relevant concepts and facts, (ii) a high critical or analytical ability***, (iii) originality in thought, approach and/or experimental or modelling design, and (iv) mastery of the relevant literature.
A	80 76 72	Excellent. Thesis is written to a publishable standard** with minor revision. It is a very well presented exposition of the project, showing most of the above features, but falling short in one of them.
B	68 65 62	Very Good to Good. Thesis contains potentially publishable material**, but needs revision of the text and further research. It is otherwise a well presented exposition of the project, showing: (i) a clear grasp of the relevant concepts and facts, (ii) appropriate, though not highly sophisticated analysis or evaluation, and (iii) a sound knowledge of the relevant literature.
C	58 55 52	Adequate. Thesis is not written to a publishable standard and requires major revision and substantially more research. It is an adequately presented exposition of the project, showing: (i) a grasp of the basic concepts and facts, (ii) an adequate use of statistics in its analyses and/or approaches of evaluation, and (iii) sufficient knowledge of the relevant literature to set its results in a scientific context.
D	48 45 42	Unsatisfactory. Thesis is an incomplete presentation of the project and is marred by major errors or gaps, missing analysis, lack of references, misconceptions, or excessive brevity, at most showing a weak grasp of the basic concepts and facts.
	35 30 25	Thesis as above, but presentation extremely poor and overall impression indicates a very weak grasp of the basic concepts and facts.
	20 15 10	Thesis as above, and in addition no real attempt to analyse data or present results in a scientific manner.
	5	Thesis as above but incomplete and lacking understanding in all areas.
	0	Thesis not produced.

** This publishability assumes that the data or theory is *per se* worth publishing.

*** *Analytical* = assessing a hypothesis or statement by breaking it down into its elements and examining their inter-relationships and contribution to the whole with quantitative methods where possible or necessary; cf. *Critical* = judging a hypothesis or conclusion by examining the validity of the evidence adduced for it.