

EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

MASTER of SCIENCE (Exploration Geology) DEGREE (by MINI-THESIS AND COURSEWORK)

Candidate: _____

MINI-THESIS

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 research product, merits and weaknesses, and 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 mini-thesis as a small-scale study of about 20 - 30 000 words, and “projects” as (at least) 3 items totalling about 20 - 25 000 words, excluding appendices and reference lists. (By contrast, a Master’s degree by full thesis would probably involve a substantive study of about 40 - 50 000 words.)

The following criteria may prove useful in assessing the mini-thesis.

CRITERIA	YES	NO	N/A
1. Has the candidate adequately identified and described the research problem/question and goal within a clearly identified field?			
2. Is the candidate sufficiently acquainted with the relevant literature?			
3. Is the candidate sufficiently skilled at using appropriate research methods and techniques, as revealed in the analysis and interpretation of data and findings?			
4. Has the candidate presented the material in a logical, clear and systematic way?			
5. Has the candidate presented the material in a linguistically and stylistically accepted way?			
6. Has the candidate provided evidence of critical reflection on the research process?			
7. Do you recommend the candidate be awarded the degree?			
CRITERIA	YES	NO	N/A
8. In the event of you recommending that the mini-thesis be passed, do you recommend:			
• No corrections			
• Editorial corrections			
• Revisions (improvements)			
• Extensions (additions)			

If any of these are required, should they be to the satisfaction of the (choose one): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supervisor • The Head of Department • The external examiner 			
9. Are you prepared to be identified to the candidate if the mini-thesis is passed?			
10. Are you prepared to allow the candidate to read your report in whole or part? (Please be aware that it is normally the practice for examiner's reports, and the identity of the examiner, to be made known to the candidate at the end of the examination process. If an external examiner, or the Dean, has reason for not complying with this practice, this must specifically be requested of the Vice-Chancellor to act on behalf of Senate.)			
14. Please indicate a percentage.			
15. Please provide any additional comments.			

Suggested guidelines for mark allocation to be used at the discretion of the examiner in respect of degree *by coursework and thesis* (NOT applicable to degree by full thesis as a mark is not required):

% Mark	These guidelines may be used in all areas of consideration
86-100	This candidate's work is in the top 10% of all Master's mini-theses that you have encountered, and is publishable in its present form.
75-85	This candidate has met all the criteria extremely effectively and shows remarkable potential. There are large sections of the work that would be publishable with additional work.
65-74	This is a highly competent effort. This candidate has a solid understanding of all that is required of him/her in the area under consideration.
55-64	This candidate has met the criteria, but has not progressed much beyond that position.
50-54	This is borderline work.
40-49	This mini thesis requires extensive reworking.
30-39	This candidate has misconstrued the requirements completely, but has made an effort.
Less than 30%	- this mini-thesis is completely below standard.

While not binding, the weighting of marks reflected in the table below may be useful for structuring the evaluation of the mini thesis. This may assist the examiner in justifying the mark allocated for the work.

Areas of consideration	Weighting	Mark given
Contextualization, problem definition, planning	10	
Methodological considerations and procedures	10	
Knowledge of the fields, the discipline and subject being researched (literature study)	20	
Ability to develop and sustain an argument; strategic follow-through: focus etc.	30	
Validity and formulation of conclusions	15	
Style and presentation	15	
TOTAL	100	

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

NAME: (in block capitals) _____