The University of Auckland
Examiner's Report on Masters Thesis / Research Portfolio

Candidate Name:	**Student ID:**	**Degree:**
Thesis title:		
	Information in this section to be entered by Faculty staff	

EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION

Thank you for agreeing to examine the attached masters thesis/research portfolio. Please use this form to report the outcome of your examination.

At The University of Auckland, the work required for a masters thesis/research portfolio is normally expected to be completed in 9-12 months (full-time). In a thesis/research portfolio at masters level, a student is expected to:

- Show evidence of advanced knowledge about a specialist field of enquiry
- Demonstrate mastery of sophisticated theoretical subject matter
- Evaluate critically the findings and discussion in the literature
- Research, analyse and argue from evidence
- Engage in rigorous intellectual analysis, criticism and problem-solving
- Demonstrate a high order of skill in the planning, execution and completion of an original, independent research project
- Apply research skills appropriately

Although all expectations of a thesis are important, the relative weighting of each expectation may vary by thesis size and research discipline. The content, presentation and structure may also vary by discipline or approach (e.g. scientific, creative, philosophical, practice-based). Examiners should take thesis size/scope and disciplinary expectations into account in their assessment.

Please examine this work and recommend a grade and % mark - University guidelines for masters examinations are attached. Please provide brief confidential comments explaining the reasons for your recommended grade and complete Part 2 of this form (Note: Part 2 will be provided to the student after the examination is completed).

Part 1 – Grading and confidential comments

Recommended grade:

Please indicate % mark in the relevant box below. Grade level descriptors are provided at the end of this document to assist you in determining an appropriate grade.

Class of Honours	1st			2nd div I	2nd div II		None			Fail
Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D
GPA	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
% mark range	100-90	89-85	84-80	79-75	74-70	69-65	64-60	59-55	54-50	<50
Recommended % mark										

Confidential comments and reasons for recommended grade

Expand box as required

Please note that your report will initially be released to those involved in the examination process, other than the candidate. Part 2 of the report (comments for the student) will be released to the student once the examination process has been completed.

Your name will <u>not</u> be released to the candidate

Signed ……………………………….………. Date ……………………

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Candidate Name:	**Student ID:**	**Degree:**
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Part 2 – Comments for student

This section will be released to the candidate at the completion of the examination process

The examiner is requested to provide feedback for the student and also to list any minor editorial changes that they consider should be made before the thesis is lodged in the Library. Please note that in order to accommodate your detailed and comprehensive comments, the boxes below are expandable.

Summary of the contribution made by the thesis/research portfolio and the key strengths and weaknesses of the work

Expand box as required

Criteria	Examiner's comment
Show evidence of advanced knowledge about a specialist field of enquiry	
Demonstrate mastery of sophisticated theoretical subject matter	
Evaluate critically the findings and discussion in the literature	
Research, analyse and argue from evidence	
Engage in rigorous intellectual analysis, criticism and problem-solving	
Demonstrate a high order of skill in the planning, execution and completion of an original, independent research project	
Apply research skills appropriately	

Recommended minor editorial corrections to thesis, if any
(not applicable to research portfolios)

Minor corrections include inconsistency in terminology, referencing problems, and typographical errors.
Lists of typographical errors, while welcome, are not expected.
Annotated electronic or hard copies may be sent to the Faculty Student Centre if preferred.
Please note that students are not allowed to make more extensive revisions to their theses.

Expand box as required

MASTERS THESIS / RESEARCH PORTFOLIO GRADING SYSTEM

Grade		Description
A+	Exceptionally high level of performance	A thesis/portfolio in the A range is a *sustained, coherent* contribution that: • demonstrates broad understanding of the subject, including current debates • demonstrates clear evidence of a scholarly stance, including a high level of independent and critical thinking • demonstrates evidence of effective synthesis of ideas
A	Clear high level of performance	• demonstrates coherence between theoretical position, methodology and questions • demonstrates thorough investigative research, high level problem-solving and/or high level creative performance • demonstrates the student's ability to critically evaluate their own research in the context of the existing body of literature • may demonstrate originality in topic, method, theoretical development, creative practice or findings and conclusions (this would be expected at A+ level)
A-	First class	• may include material of publishable quality (this criterion differs by discipline) • may include work that is exceptional or highly original in one area, but not fully realised or consistent in other sections/elements. Such work may reach A- standard • is presented to a consistently high standard • demonstrates that the student has the capacity for doctoral research and would be a viable scholarship candidate.
B+	Very good	B grade theses/portfolios are sound and compelling, and demonstrate evidence of critical thinking and an understanding of a significant body of knowledge. Work at this level also: • provides a logical overall argument • selects and applies suitable methods • gathers original data (where applicable) and analyses it in a careful and coherent manner
B	Good	• provides evidence which clearly supports its findings and arguments • may in parts be more descriptive than evaluative or synthesised • may not fully realise the possibilities of the research data/findings • includes discussions and/or conclusions which show some appreciation of the significance of the findings • may make fewer or weaker links to existing research, theoretical concepts or creative practice than would be expected in A level work
B-	Competent	• is presented to a generally high standard but may contain noticeable errors in referencing, punctuation, grammar and/or spelling • at the B+ level, demonstrates that the student could be expected to be successful in doctoral research with strong supervisor support and further skill development in some areas. • at the B or B- level, does not demonstrate that the student has capacity for doctoral level research.

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Grade		Description
C+	Clear pass	A thesis/portfolio in the C range: • demonstrates understanding and analytical ability at a level that is clearly beyond undergraduate level
C	Pass	• presents an overall argument, but may not be fully developed or consistent in its application • outlines a research plan and applies appropriate methods • demonstrates competence in the formulation, conduct and analysis of an independent piece of research
C-	Marginal pass	• is generally sound but may be uneven or limited in some respect • may demonstrate limited evidence of synthesis and critical engagement with literature • is likely to focus more on description than analysis of findings • has appropriate, but limited, evidence in the support of its findings and arguments • does not demonstrate that the student has capacity for doctoral level research • is competent in its presentation, but may have numerous, obvious errors of referencing, punctuation, spelling and/or grammar.
D	Fail	A thesis/portfolio in the D range demonstrates serious deficiencies in one or more expected elements: • may present research literature, theory or methods ineffectively, inaccurately or in an unreflective way • may lack an overall argument • lacks breadth and depth • lacks cohesion across the thesis/portfolio • contains limited or inappropriate evidence • interpretation may be minimal or flawed • presentation is poor with numerous errors of referencing, punctuation, spelling and/or grammar.