

## THE MARKING SCALE AND IN-DEPTH GUIDE REGARDING THE ASSESSMENT OF MASTER'S THESIS

*Regarding the graded marking scale stated in the Act relating to universities and university colleges, the University of Oslo stipulates the following general, qualitative descriptions in Norwegian Bokmål: (§ 6.1 Marking system):*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>General, non-subject specific description of assessment criteria</i>
A	Excellent	An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgement and a high degree of independent thinking.
B	Very good	A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates sound judgement and a very good degree of independent thinking.
C	Good	A good performance in most areas. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of judgement and independent thinking in the most important areas.
D	Satisfactory	A satisfactory performance, but with significant shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates a limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
E	Sufficient	A performance that meets the minimum criteria, but no more. The candidate demonstrates a very limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
F	Fail	A performance that does not meet the minimum academic criteria. The examinee demonstrates an absence of both judgement and independent thinking.



## *Subject-specific descriptions of grades for master's theses*

### **Different types of master's theses**

Master's theses can have different objectives and represent different types of research: Empirical, development work, evaluation, theoretical, historical. The general requirements applicable to master's theses will essentially be the same, but the more specific assessment criteria will be somewhat different depending on the type of thesis and objective. This refers to [the Guidelines and Format Requirements for Master's Theses](#).

The general descriptions provided below are best suited for empirical and – in part – theoretical studies. The most common type of thesis at ISP has been empirical studies; However, students are free to choose other types of theses. Tasks that are based on *development work* and/or involve *evaluation* as a primary objective, must be assessed in accordance with this/these objective/s. This includes, among other things, different requirements regarding the application of theory and empirical data, methodological questions etc.

### **Indicative description of academic level regarding different grades**

**Grade A.** The master's thesis' research question(s) is/are clearly formulated and defined in a very convincing manner. The candidate is able to document a very high level of knowledge and applies relevant theory, previous research, including other relevant frameworks of interpretation, in a convincing manner. However, a master's thesis (equivalent to approximately five months of work) cannot be expected to provide a particularly extensive presentation of relevant theory and empirical data. The choice of research approach, method and selection of data informants/sources is very appropriate and very well justified. The research process is precisely described, and methodological reflections regarding validity and reliability are at a very high level. If relevant to the thesis' thematic structure, the safeguarding of privacy protection and data security considerations is **adequately documented and reflected upon**. Results are presented systematically and clearly, and in a manner that conforms to the nature of the material. The thesis' results are interpreted and discussed in an independent and thought-out manner in light of theoretical perspectives, relevant research and/or another framework of interpretation. There is a very clear and good coherence between all parts of the thesis. The candidate masters the formal aspects very well, and the presentation bears evidence of being thoroughly prepared and dealt with. The language is accurate and easy to understand..

**Grade B.** The master's thesis' research question(s) is/are clearly formulated and defined. The candidate is able to document a high level of knowledge, and presents and applies relevant theory, previous research, including other relevant frameworks of interpretation, in an organized manner. The choice of research approach, method and selection of data informants/sources is appropriate and well justified. The research process is precisely described, and methodological reflections regarding validity and reliability are at a high level. If relevant to the thesis' thematic structure, the safeguarding of privacy protection and data security considerations is **adequately documented**. Results are presented systematically and clearly. The thesis' results are interpreted and discussed in a reasonably independent manner in light of theoretical perspectives, relevant research and/or another framework of interpretation. There is a clear coherence between all parts of



the thesis. The candidate masters the formal aspects well, and the presentation is well prepared and dealt with. The language is mainly accurate and easy to understand.

**Grade C.** The master's thesis' research question(s) is/are satisfactorily formulated and defined. The candidate is able to document knowledge of the relevant theory, previous research, including other relevant frameworks of interpretation, where necessary. The choice of research approach, method and selection of data informants/sources is principally appropriate and satisfactorily justified. The research process is described, and a certain methodological reflection is documented regarding validity and reliability. If relevant to the thesis' thematic structure, the safeguarding of privacy protection and data security considerations is **documented**. Results are presented in a straightforward manner. The thesis' results are interpreted and discussed to a certain degree in light of theoretical perspectives, relevant research and/or other frameworks of interpretation. The thesis shows satisfactory coherence. The candidate generally masters the formal aspects. The language is acceptable, but is somewhat imprecise at times.

**Grade D.** The master's thesis' research question(s) is/are somewhat unclear and rather imprecise. Presentation and use of theory, previous research and/or other frameworks of interpretation are inadequate and partly problematic in relation to the thesis' statement/question and results. The choice of research approach, method and selection of data informants/sources is generally acceptable. The research process is rather inadequately described, and little methodological reflection is documented regarding validity and reliability. If relevant to the thesis' thematic structure, the safeguarding of privacy protection and data security considerations is **mainly documented to a satisfactory degree**. Results are presented somewhat satisfactorily. A basic discussion of the thesis' results has been carried out in light of theoretical perspectives, previous research and/or other frameworks of interpretation. The coherence between the various parts of the thesis is rather unclear. The candidate's mastery of the formal aspects is below average, and the presentation is poorly prepared and dealt with at times. The language is often imprecise and rather poor.

**Grade E.** The master's thesis' research question(s) is/are unclear. Presentation and use of theory and previous research, including other background, is poor. The choice of approach, method and research process is inadequately described, poorly reflected upon and is close to being unacceptable. If relevant to the thesis' thematic structure, the safeguarding of privacy protection and data security considerations is **partly or inadequately documented**.

Results are presented in a rather inappropriate and/or unsystematic manner, and are discussed to a small degree. The coherence between different parts of the thesis is weak. The candidate masters the formal aspects poorly. The language is often imprecise and rather poor.

**Grade F (fail).** The master's thesis lacks a satisfactory research question(s). Knowledge of relevant theory and empirical data is rather arbitrary, and the candidate has not applied theory and method in the proper manner. The candidate masters the formal aspects of academic work very poorly. The language is often imprecise and rather poor. The thesis does not document or establish the safeguarding of privacy protection and data security considerations

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