

Rubric Masters Dissertation

Weight	Item	Criteria for scores above 85%	Criteria for scores between 75% and 85%	Criteria for scores between 70% and 74%	Criteria for scores between 60% and 69%	Criteria for scores between 50% and 59%	Criteria for scores below 50%
10	Title/ topic, and objectives (contextualisation and problem statement)	The title/topic, scope and objectives of the dissertation are innovative and original. They are clearly defined, contextualised and scientifically grounded.	The title/topic, scope and objectives of the dissertation are original. They are defined, contextualised and scientifically grounded.	The title/topic, scope and objectives of the dissertation are adequately defined. Most of the objectives are scientifically grounded and there is a high degree of originality.	The title/topic, scope and objectives of the dissertation are defined. Some objectives are scientifically grounded, but lack originality.	Although the title/topic, scope and objectives of the dissertation are defined, they are inadequately contextualised, with limited evidence that they are scientifically grounded. Little or no originality.	The title/topic, scope and objectives of the dissertation are poorly defined and inadequately contextualised. Little evidence exists that they are scientifically grounded. No originality.
10	Literature	Excellent knowledge, coverage, interpretation and application of the relevant literature.	Authoritative knowledge, coverage, interpretation and application of the relevant literature.	Adequate knowledge, interpretation and application of the relevant literature.	Adequate knowledge of the relevant literature. Minor shortcomings in the interpretation and application of the literature.	A basic overview of the literature, with limited interpretation and application.	Inadequate knowledge, interpretation and application of the literature. Use of irrelevant literature.
20	Research methodology	Demonstrates advanced control, understanding, depth and insight in the application of relevant research methodology, techniques and analysis.	Demonstrates good control and understanding in the application of relevant research methodology, techniques and analysis.	Thorough knowledge and understanding of the significance of the research. Demonstrates effective application of relevant research methodology, techniques and analysis.	Adequate knowledge and understanding of the significance of the research. Good organisation and application of research methodology.	Satisfactory understanding of the significance of the research and a reasonably effective interpretation and application of the methodology.	The work displays such a low level of research methodology, interpretation, findings and layout that it can be regarded as unacceptable.
	Structure and progression from objectives to findings	The dissertation is set out in a systematic way, closely argued and well structured, with excellent coherence in terms of argumentation, organisation and style. The logical progression from research objectives to conclusions is very convincing. The chapters as a whole form an interwoven, coherent unit.	The dissertation is closely argued and well structured. The presentation bears evidence of a high level of competence with regard to argumentation, organisation and style. The chapters form a coherent unit.	There is a logical coherence between the objectives and the findings. Text is structured satisfactorily, with clear evidence of insight, depth and understanding.	The greater part of the work is sufficiently covered, and the text is well organised and clearly argued.	There is evidence of organisation and structure, but the inadequate coherence reflects a lack of insight and understanding. Lack of logical coherence between the chapters.	There are almost no logical coherence and progression from the objectives to the findings. The structure and organisation are of a poor quality and need considerable restructuring to ensure a logical flow.

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50	Data representation and graphical layout	The style and quality of tables, illustrations and/or graphical representations are of a high quality and contribute to the formulation of innovative research findings. Adhere to all formal conventions and standards.	The style and quality of tables, illustrations and/or graphical representations are of a good quality and contribute to the formulation of original research findings. Adhere to conventions and standards.	The style and quality of tables, illustrations and/or graphical representations are of a satisfactory quality and contribute to the formulation of original research findings. Adhere to most conventions and standards.	The style and quality of tables, illustrations and/or graphical representations are not of a good quality throughout and cause confusion, which contribute to the formulation of ungrounded research findings. Standards and conventions are not always adhered to.	The style and quality of tables, illustrations and/or graphical representations are of a poor quality and do not contribute to the formulation of research findings. Most conventions are not adhered to.	The style and quality of tables, illustrations and/or graphical representations are of a disappointing quality and contribute to the unsatisfactory formulation of research findings. All conventions are not adhered to.
	Research findings	Demonstrates advanced levels of understanding and originality in the analysis (theoretical and/or empirical) of the research findings. There is striking evidence of deep, personal insights into the field. The research findings make a significant contribution to the knowledge base of the discipline and field of study.	Demonstrates high levels of understanding and originality in the analysis (theoretical and/or empirical) of the research findings. There is evidence of personal insights into the field. The research findings make a significant contribution to the knowledge base of the discipline and field of study.	Demonstrates adequate levels of understanding and originality in the analysis of the research findings. There is limited evidence of personal insights into the field. The research findings make a minor contribution to the knowledge base of the discipline and field of study.	Analysis of the data is adequate enough to make research findings and come to conclusions, but lacks new insights and originality. The research findings make a minor contribution to the knowledge base of the discipline and field of study.	A satisfactory understanding of the significance of the research and a reasonably competent interpretation.	The dissertation does not succeed in demonstrating familiarity with basic academic conventions of presentation and organisation.
	Conclusions	The conclusions are logical and valid and show a strong awareness of the authoritative published literature. The conclusions are clearly communicated and evaluated and, where applicable, they refute the existing beliefs in the field. The final summary is relevant and communicates the purpose and findings of the study in clearly understandable terms.	The conclusions are logical and valid and show an awareness of the published literature. The conclusions are clearly communicated and evaluated and, where applicable, they are linked/related to existing beliefs. The final summary is relevant and communicates the purpose and findings of the study.	The conclusions are logical and valid. The conclusions are communicated clearly and, where applicable, they are linked/related to existing beliefs. The final summary communicates the purpose and findings of the study.	The conclusions are partially logical and/or valid. They are communicated clearly. The final summary only partially communicates the purpose and findings of the study.	The conclusions are not in all respects logical and valid. They are communicated with only partial success. The final summary does not communicate the purpose and findings of the study.	No logical/valid conclusions are reached. The final summary in no way communicates the purpose and findings of the study, and the use of terminology is confusing.

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	Publications	The greater part of the dissertation is publishable in influential peer-reviewed journals, more or less without changes.	A significant part of the dissertation is publishable in influential peer-reviewed journals.	Some parts of the research are publishable.	After being edited, some parts could be submitted for publication in applicable journals.	No publication possibilities without comprehensive editing.	No possibility of publication.
10	Writing style, layout and referencing	The writing style and layout of the dissertation are of very high quality. There are no or extremely few linguistic and typographical errors, and almost no rectifications are required.	The writing style and layout of the dissertation are of good quality. There are few linguistic and typographical errors, and few linguistic and/or typographical rectifications are required.	The writing style and layout of the dissertation are of acceptable quality. There are less important omissions and linguistic and/or typographical errors. Editing would improve the text.	The writing style and layout of the dissertation require attention. There are omissions and linguistic and/or typographical errors. Editing/revision would improve the work and errors should definitely be rectified.	The writing style and layout of the dissertation require serious attention, taking into account the numerous linguistic and typographical mistakes. These errors should definitely be rectified.	There are serious, conspicuous and unacceptable linguistic and typographical errors. The writing style and layout are plagued by serious problems and should be reviewed as a whole.
	References	The referencing has been done in a proper and extensive manner. The format and layout of the bibliography are correct and in line with internationally acceptable conventions. The bibliography contains the most important and most recent sources.	The referencing has been done in a proper manner and the layout of the bibliography is largely in line with internationally acceptable conventions. The bibliography includes the most important sources.	The referencing has been done in a proper manner and the layout of the bibliography is largely in line with internationally acceptable conventions. There are, however, a number of inconsistencies. The bibliography includes most of the important sources.	The referencing has been done, but the layout of the bibliography is neither consistent nor in line with internationally acceptable conventions. Some important and very relevant sources have been omitted.	Referencing is not in line with the standard conventions in terms of format and layout. Numerous important as well as relevant sources have been omitted.	References are of poor quality or have been omitted. The format and layout are inconsistent and not in line with standard referencing techniques. Neither important nor the most recent sources appear in the bibliography.
	General	Deserves a distinction (<i>cum laude</i>) without reserve. A really excellent dissertation. In the top 10% of all master's degree dissertations.	Deserves a distinction (<i>cum laude</i>). In the top 20% of all master's degree dissertations.	The dissertation is a very acceptable piece of work, but needs that extra spark to turn it into an above-average dissertation.	Seen as a whole, the dissertation is of an acceptable academic standard and deserves an average mark. Less serious revision/editing is required.	The academic standard of the dissertation is sufficient to merit a pass mark. The work, however, is in need of serious editing.	The dissertation does not meet the minimum academic requirements, and it is unlikely that even large-scale revision/editing would bring the dissertation up to scratch. Additional research may be required.