

Trinity Western University

M.A. in Biblical Studies and Christian Thought THESIS EVALUATION

Student Name:

Date:

Examination Committee Members:

THE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

- ___ 1) The thesis merits the award of the degree and is acceptable as is.
- ___ 2) The thesis merits the award of the degree subject to minor corrections made to the satisfaction of the Thesis Advisor.
- ___ 3) The thesis merits the award of the degree subject to substantial minor corrections made to the satisfaction of the Thesis Advisor and the Second Reader.
- ___ 4) The thesis merits the award of the degree, subject to major revisions, made to the satisfaction of the Examination Committee.
- ___ 5) The thesis, in its present form, does not merit award of the degree and further research is required. The revised thesis should be resubmitted to the Examination Committee and another Thesis Defense Meeting will be scheduled.
- ___ 6) The thesis does not merit the award of the degree and is not of sufficient merit to warrant re-submission after further work.

THE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE ASSIGNS THE FOLLOWING OVERALL THESIS GRADE

- “ A+ (90-100%) Exceptional – Recommended for doctoral studies
- “ A (85-89%) Very Good/Excellent – Recommended for doctoral studies
- “ A- (80-84%) Good – minimum required to be recommended for doctoral studies
- “ B+ (77-79%) Satisfactory – typically not recommended for doctoral studies
- “ B (73-76%) Passing – not recommended for doctoral studies
- “ Defer (i.e., Category 5)
- “ Fail (i.e., Category 6)

GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION OF M.A. IN BIBLICAL STUDIES THESES	Comments/ Notes
<p>1. Primary Literature: The student demonstrates appropriate and commendable engagement with the pertinent primary texts and original languages.</p>	
<p>2. Secondary Literature: The student demonstrates appropriate and commendable engagement with pertinent secondary literature.</p>	
<p>3. Methodology: The student indicates familiarity with a range of methods, provides suitable reasons for adopting the particular method(s) used in the thesis, and employs the method(s) in a consistent and commendable manner throughout the thesis.</p>	
<p>4. Argument: The student offers a coherent, consistent and generally persuasive argument throughout the thesis, with a breadth and depth appropriate to the subject matter under consideration.</p>	
<p>5. Originality/contribution: In its conceptualization and execution, the thesis demonstrates a commendable degree of originality and makes a contribution to biblical studies – for example, in its aims, approaches, insights, outcome, and implications.</p>	
<p>6. Standard of writing: The thesis is written in a clear, coherent and cogent manner, at a standard expected of a graduate (masters) student. It is appropriately formatted and substantially free from stylistic errors, following the <i>SBL Handbook of Style</i> and the <i>Little, Brown Compact Handbook</i>. Format, especially as to the layout of the various parts, headings, and quotations, should conform unless otherwise agreed to the guidelines of K. Turabian, <i>A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations</i> (6th ed.) The submitted document has addressed all changes required by the Thesis Advisor and Second Reader.</p>	
<p>7. Oral exam performance: The oral summary of the thesis is concise, clear and cogent. The same should be true concerning the responses to questions from the examiners, which also demonstrate mastery of the thesis material and a commendable understanding of pertinent broader areas of Biblical Studies.</p>	
<p>8. Independence of work: The student has been the primary contributor to all stages of the thesis process: its conceptualization, research, and writing. This standard must be met in order for an A or an A+ to be awarded to the thesis.</p>	
<p>Optional Elements: certain considerations may factor in elevating a borderline grade: for example, timely completion, identification of further research suggested by the thesis, use of appropriate secondary literature in languages other than English, and papers read at conferences.</p>	
<p>OVERALL THESIS GRADE</p>	

Note. This is not a calculation sheet, but a set of guidelines, and its elements may be weighed somewhat differently depending upon the thesis, at the discretion of the examination committee members.

Revised October 2, 2019.