

The assessment of M.A. theses in Philosophy

M.A. theses should be written following the [M.A. thesis guidelines](#). To facilitate the assessment, the descriptions of each mark are given below.

- A (“excellent”) The thesis and its defence are outstanding in every respect. The thesis shows originality and creativity. The work contains a well-defined statement that is set out and defended. It is thus more than a survey of the existing literature. At the same time, the thesis statement has scope and ambition appropriate to the M.A. thesis. The structure of the work is in accordance with the main argument and the conclusion of the thesis. Arguments are presented and counter-arguments are considered in a convincing way. The text demonstrates that the author fully understands the issues the thesis is about and that the author has mastered required philosophical skills. The thesis contains all required references and exhibits good academic style. If there are any mistakes, then these are insignificant. The work may be publishable with relatively minor modifications although this is not a precondition for the highest grade.
- B (“very good”) The thesis and its defence are very good. The thesis may be outstanding in some respect, but lack excellency in other areas. In general it shows most of the above-mentioned qualities, but occasional criticisms are justified. There might be some minor inadequacies with references or some language mistakes and typos. In general, the work displays good potential for doctoral studies. No errors are substantial regarding the content of the thesis.
- C (“good”) The thesis and its defence have good overall quality. There is room for improvement in some respects. The inadequacies pertain to the central argument or to the thesis statement, but are not substantial. The author has good grasp of the topic of the thesis and the work is well structured. There might be some inadequacies with references or some language mistakes and typos.
- D
 (“satisfactory”) There is room for improvement in several respects. The inadequacies pertain to the central argument or to the thesis statement and they are substantial. The thesis may remain at the

descriptive level, but still defends a certain position. The committee may have occasional doubts concerning the author's grasp of the topic of the thesis. The structure of the thesis is not optimal. There might be several inadequacies with references or some language mistakes and typos.

E ("sufficient") There are several serious deficiencies concerning the content or style of the thesis. The thesis may remain at the descriptive level without arguing clearly for a certain position. It could exhibit several occasions of insufficient grasp of the presented material or the lack of certain philosophical skills, but the defects are not so substantial to justify the failing of the thesis.

F ("fail") The thesis is clearly deficient or contains intentional or unintentional plagiarism. It may lack some essential parts like the thesis statement or references. There might be serious deficiencies regarding author's understanding or the topic of the thesis. The thesis may be too ambitious and/or fail to deliver the aims set for itself.

Accepted by the Council of the Institute of Philosophy and Semiotics on 6/6/2016.