

MA Thesis Grading Criteria - Master in Political Philosophy -

Mark Range	Key features applicable in the assessment of Master thesis	
9-10	<i>Analysis</i>	Excellent research question and argument showing personal insight and originality.
	<i>Understanding</i>	Authoritative; full understanding of relevant material; highly independent and critical judgment; high degree of precision.
	<i>Comprehension</i>	Exceptionally effective use of evidence to support argument.
	<i>Structure</i>	Excellent structure, focus, presentation and writing style, contributing to a highly compelling argument.
8-8,9	<i>Analysis</i>	Very good answer informed by wider reading, showing clarity of thought and insight
	<i>Understanding</i>	Thorough understanding of relevant material; insightful discussion; evidence of independent and critical judgment.
	<i>Comprehension</i>	Extensive range of sources applied insightfully; very effective use of evidence to support argument.
	<i>Structure</i>	Very good structure and focus; clear and fluent writing style; compelling argument.
7-7,9	<i>Analysis</i>	Thoughtful answer informed by wider reading, showing clarity of thought and insight.
	<i>Understanding</i>	Thorough understanding of relevant material; insightful discussion and analysis.
	<i>Comprehension</i>	Extensive range of sources applied insightfully. Effective use of evidence to support argument
	<i>Structure</i>	Well-structured and focused; clear and fluent writing style; persuasive argument.
6-6,9	<i>Analysis</i>	Good understanding of relevant material; coherent and logical argument.
	<i>Understanding</i>	Good understanding of important facts and concepts; substantive analysis of key issues.
	<i>Comprehension</i>	Good use of relevant sources/literature; employment of a range of evidence to support argument.
	<i>Structure</i>	Coherent and logical presentation.
5-5,9	<i>Analysis</i>	Sound understanding; limited analysis.
	<i>Understanding</i>	Generally sound understanding of relevant material but limited range or depth; more descriptive than analytical.
	<i>Comprehension</i>	Appropriate but limited use of sources/literature; attempts to support argument, but these are awkward and/or unconvincing.
	<i>Structure</i>	Generally clear presentation but awkward structure and/or limited development of argument.
4-4,9 (Fail)	<i>Analysis</i>	Basic understanding and analysis.
	<i>Understanding</i>	Some general knowledge but little detail; minimal demonstration of analytical thought.
	<i>Comprehension</i>	Sparse coverage of basic material; generally unsuccessful in using evidence to support argument.
	<i>Structure</i>	Partly adequate structure and presentation, but unclear or disorganized in places.
0-3	<i>Analysis</i>	Unsystematic, very incomplete and/or inaccurate.
	<i>Understanding</i>	Little or no knowledge demonstrated; numerous inaccuracies; meaning unclear; little or no analysis.
	<i>Comprehension</i>	Inappropriate and/or inaccurate use of sources/literature; poor or no use of evidence to support argument.
	<i>Structure</i>	Disorganized and unclear presentation; consistently poor spelling and grammar; incoherent argument or none discernible; unacceptably brief.

Nota bene: There is also the category of “**High Distinction**” (*matricula*) which may be given to 1 or 2 students every year. The high distinction is given to particularly well-argued, sophisticated, and original MA theses. Such theses should display professional qualities: the work, with some revision, could form the basis of a publishable paper in a relevant peer-reviewed journal.