**APPENDIX: Research Paper Assessment Form**

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| **RESEARCH PAPER ASSESSMENT FORM** | |
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| **Student's name**: | **Supervisor's name**: |
| Department □ Political Sciences □ Communication Sciences □ Sociology | |
| Research paper title: |  |
| Assessor: | □ Supervisor □ Commissioner |
| Academic year: 2022/2023 | Exam period: □ 1 □ 2 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent | Good | Sufficient | Major remarks | Insufficient |
| 1. Abstract | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 1. Literature overview | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 1. Problem definition and research question | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 1. Research design | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 1. Exploratory empirical research | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 1. Conclusions | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 1. Bibliography and references | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 1. Composition and structure | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 1. Design | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 1. Language | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |

Insufficient = The level is unacceptable. There are a number of fundamental shortcomings and a thorough revision is required.

Major remarks = The level is very moderate. A number of serious shortcomings may undermine the overall value of the thesis.

Sufficient = The level meets the basic requirements. A number of minor shortcomings can be noted.

Good = The level more than meets the assessment criteria. There are no significant shortcomings.

Excellent = The level is considerably above expectations and can be called "professional". There are hardly any shortcomings.

Comments

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**Guidelines**

1. **Abstract**
   1. The abstract clarifies the theme of the research paper, to which literature a contribution has been made and how the research was conducted.
   2. The abstract has to sufficiently elaborate on the 'bottom line' findings of the paper and the conclusions derived from it.
   3. The abstract is written in an attractive manner and sparks the reader to read the complete paper.
2. **Literature overview**
   1. Being able to identify and present the most important scientific concepts and theories regarding a scientific problem statement in a clear manner on the basis of a thorough literature overview.
   2. To be able to prepare a synthesis of the most important existing empirical findings and to be able to explain their relevance to the theory
   3. Being able to develop one or more specific research questions on the basis of a literature review.
   4. Processing:
      * Are the borrowed propositions and arguments correctly synthesised and processed in the text?
      * Has the selected literature been concisely processed?
      * Has the literature been critically processed (identification of relationships, contradictions, gaps or inconsistencies in the literature)?
   5. General academic skills:
      * Critically handling literature
      * Being able to draw up own syntheses and interpretations
      * Being able to report in writing in a scientifically justified and clear manner (language, style and structure)
3. **Problem definition and research question**
   1. Being able to formulate a scientific problem statement in a clear manner
   2. Being able to explain the scientific relevance of this problem in general and its scientific relevance in particular
   3. Being able to formulate a concrete research question (and possibly subquestions) that can be answered through political science research.
   4. Being able to explain the possible social relevance of this problem and research question
4. **Research design**
   1. Being able to identify the most suitable research methods for one or more specific research questions and to estimate their strengths and weaknesses.
   2. Being able to work out a suitable but feasible research design. This includes:

* being able to develop clear theoretical and conceptual models and possible hypotheses;
* being able to evaluate the suitability of the data in existing data files and, where necessary, the needs and possibilities regarding own data collection;
* being able to work out a practical sample design in the case of own data collection;
* being able to identify suitable analysis methods and to anticipate the necessary operationalisation of the concepts;

1. **Exploratory empirical research**
   1. The data and method used are clearly presented
   2. The method and data used offer adequate exploration for the later implementation of the planned research design
   3. The method for analysing the data has been applied correctly
   4. The findings are reported in a clear manner and provide an answer to the previously formulated problem
2. **Conclusions** 
   1. The findings from empirical research are given a more abstract meaning than merely providing an answer to one's own specific research question. Among other things, the findings are fed back to the literature overview.
   2. There is a fair reflection on the choices made, the benefits and shortcomings
   3. The conclusions point to opportunities for further research into the theme of the research paper and how that research can be tackled
3. **Bibliography and references**
   1. Bibliography and references
   2. Relevance, level and current events:
      * Is the selected literature sufficiently relevant to the problem definition?
      * Is the selected literature sufficiently representative?
      * Is the scientific level of the selected literature high enough?
      * Is the selected literature current?
4. **Composition and structure** 
   1. Does the research paper have a clear and logic composition?
   2. Is there a clear coherence between the various components?
   3. Is each component balanced and clearly structured?
   4. Does the table of contents give a good representation of the content of the paper?
5. **Design**
   1. The research paper has been prepared in a professional and attractive manner
6. **Language**
   1. The research paper is written correctly
   2. The research paper is written in a professional but easily readable manner

***Final grade:***

1. DATE:
2. Signature

DATE:

Signature