

## **Grade descriptors for honours thesis assessment**

When applying these grade descriptors, examiners should take into account the level of difficulty of the thesis topic.

### **First Class (80-100)**

#### **Band i (90-100)**

Outstanding potential for research at the doctoral level. Definitely warrants scholarship support.

The thesis has strengths in all of the following areas.

- Excellent command of expression and logical argument of a standard for publication in a skilfully structured manuscript.
- Outstanding evaluation and integration of existing literature. Superior exposition of the place of the thesis in the context of the field.
- Clear evidence of creative thought and critical evaluation throughout.
- Sophisticated understanding of research methods. Insightful and appropriate data analysis (if applicable). Mathematical reasoning is elegant and rigorous (if applicable).
- Correct grammar and spelling, language and typesetting of high quality.

#### **Band ii (85-89)**

Very good potential for research at the doctoral level. Strongly warrants scholarship support.

The thesis displays many of the above strengths, but is not as well balanced in overall quality.

#### **Band iii (80-84)**

Good potential for research at the doctoral level. Warrants scholarship support.

The thesis displays some of the above strengths and is less well balanced in overall quality.

### **Second Class, Division A (70-79)**

#### **Band i (75-79)**

Capable of research at the doctoral level with close supervision.

The thesis displays most of the following qualities.

- The manuscript is well written, logically argued, and generally well structured.
- Adequate evaluation and integration of existing literature. Satisfactory understanding of the place of the thesis in the context of the field.
- Some evidence of creative thought and critical evaluation.
- Solid understanding of research methods. Data analysis is competently performed (if applicable). Mathematical reasoning is mostly rigorous and without gaps (if applicable).
- Language, grammar and spelling, and typesetting are of good quality.

### **Band ii (70-74)**

May be capable of research at the doctoral level with close supervision.

The thesis displays some of the above qualities.

### **Second Class, Division B (60-69)**

Showed difficulty mastering the advanced skills required at the honours level. Does not have the preparation to undertake doctoral research.

The thesis displays most of the following characteristics.

- Adequate evidence of logical argument and appropriate expression. Errors are mostly of a minor nature.
- Superficial coverage of existing literature. Limited understanding of the place of the thesis in the context of the field.
- Little evidence of creative thought and critical evaluation.
- Limited understanding of research methods. Data analysis is acceptable, although other approaches might have been more appropriate (if applicable). Mathematical reasoning is reasonably rigorous but not without flaws (if applicable).
- Language, grammar and spelling, and typesetting are mostly of acceptable quality.

### **Third Class (50-59)**

Was only able to master the basic skills required at the honours level. Does not have the preparation to undertake doctoral research.