



**EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT FORM FOR A THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

**Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Examiners are required to complete and sign this form and return it, together with a more detailed report, to the Academic Administration Office.

It should be stressed that Rhodes University regards such detailed reports as crucial to the examination process, and it is normal (but not obligatory) practice to supply them to students as good examples of "peer review", from which they can learn and draw benefit as they embark on their research careers. Although it is common that these reports draw attention to typographical errors and other editorial blemishes, examiners are urged not to confine themselves to simply listing these, but should report on the main features of the thesis, its merits and weaknesses, and draw attention to any aspects of particular interest or importance (suggestions of how the thesis or parts of it could be revised in article form for a reputable journal would be welcome). While no stipulation can be made as regards the length of the report, it is suggested that it might run to between three and five pages.

Typically, the PhD is examined in the form of a thesis only. However, in the case that the PhD includes publications or creative outputs, examiners are alerted to the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF 2012) indication that at doctoral level "candidates may also present peer-reviewed academic articles and papers, and, in certain fields, creative work such as artefacts, compositions, public performances and public exhibitions in partial fulfilment of the research requirements." While such contributions may thus be crucial to the fulfilment of the research requirements, the PhD submission is examined on the same basis regardless of its form. That is, the submission should "demonstrate high level research capability and make a significant and original academic contribution at the frontiers of a discipline or field" with at least some portion thereof meriting publication (HEQSF 2012). The creative outputs or publications should thus be part of one coherent contribution and not a collection of pieces submitted in exchange for a PhD.

Criteria			
1. Has the candidate adequately identified and described the research problem / question and goal?	Yes		No
2. Does the thesis show that the candidate is sufficiently acquainted with the appropriate methods and techniques of research for the award of the degree?	Yes		No
3. Does the thesis show that the candidate has sufficient acquaintance with the current and other relevant literature?	Yes		No
4. Is the thesis satisfactory as regards appropriate literary presentation?	Yes		No
5. Does it constitute an original contribution?	Yes		No
6. Is the substance of the thesis worthy of publication?	Yes		No

Please indicate, with a ✓ in the appropriate box, which ONE of the following you recommend	
7.1. The degree should be awarded and no corrections need to be made to the thesis	
7.2. The degree should be awarded subject to corrections made to the satisfaction of the:	Supervisor:
	Head of Department:
7.3. The degree should not be awarded, however, the candidate should be invited to revise and resubmit the thesis for re-examination. (The revised thesis would then be submitted to you for re-examination)	
7.4. The thesis should NOT be passed	

8. Are you prepared to let the candidate read your report?	Yes		No
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9. May the candidate be informed of your identity?	Yes		No
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<b>Name (please print)</b>		<b>Date</b>
<b>Signature</b>		