

## CRITERIA FOR EXAMINATION OF BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY (HONOURS) THESIS AND THE EXAMINER'S REPORT

It is important that the BTh(Hons) thesis is examined according to an appropriate standard. This includes an appreciation of the place of the thesis in the program, the outcomes of the degree and the criteria for examination.

### **The Thesis Component of the Program**

The thesis comprises a significant part of the BTh(Hons) program. Each student completes three units (27 credit points) of coursework. The thesis is the equivalent of 5 units (45 credit points), the work of approximately a semester and a quarter fulltime. It is to be between 15,000 – 20,000 words in length.

### **The Program Outcomes**

Further, as an examiner it is important to have an understanding of the outcomes of the program as a whole which are as follows:

#### **Knowledge Outcomes**

- deepen their understanding of their area of specialisation
- demonstrate familiarity with the methodologies of their area of specialisation

#### **Skill Outcomes**

- build and sustain an argument with reference to appropriate primary and secondary sources
- acquire and apply appropriate technical competencies; eg. ancient languages, exegesis
- develop capacity for critical analysis and research skills necessary for higher degree research

#### **Value Outcomes**

- appreciate the contribution of research to constructive dialogue with the church and wider communities
- appreciate the value of research as a component of lifelong learning

## **Criteria for Examination of the Thesis**

In light of these outcomes, your examination of the thesis and subsequent report need to address the following criteria:

1. The clarity with which the research question/problem is stated and the scope of the study defined.
2. The appropriateness of the theoretical or conceptual framework to the investigation.
3. The appropriateness of the methodology in relation to the research question/problem.
4. The precision and consistency with which key terminology is used.
5. The careful and accurate presentation of the scholarly apparatus.
6. The depth of the critical assessment of the relevant literature.
7. The capacity to demonstrate a link between the literature review and the research question/problem.
8. The degree of skill in constructing rigorous arguments.
9. The level of competency in considering possible objections to the position advanced in the thesis.
10. The degree of proficiency in sustaining a position throughout the thesis.
11. A clear statement of the conclusions reached.
12. The conclusions are justified by the arguments presented.
13. The level of contribution made to the understanding of the subject.

## **Thesis Examination: Possible Grades**

In their report examiners must place the thesis into one of the following four categories:

- A) The thesis meets the criteria and is accepted
- B) The thesis meets the criteria with minor revisions to be carried out subject to the satisfaction of the Research Committee

- C) The thesis comes close to meeting the criteria but needs to be revised and re-submitted for examination
- D) The thesis falls far short of the criteria for acceptance