

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Jakub Ševčík

Title: The Role of Margaret Thatcher in the Downfall of the USSR

Length: 38

Text Length: 33

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Like many thesis works with the subject of history or politics it is sometimes hard for the author to make arguments rather than fall back on description.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Perhaps the sentiments of the last paragraph should be in the first paragraph.
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
8. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	There are some problems with capitalization in the Bibliography.

Final Comments & Questions

The author is to be congratulated on his fine work. The depth of his knowledge and research is impressive. I was struck by the rather unkind descriptions Thatcher got from her teachers and I think these deserved more commentary from the author. Do you think Thatcher was really such an unimpressive student, or is it more likely that members of the academy wanted to paint her in a bad light due to on-going ideological differences? Why did/do intellectuals in the UK find her so distasteful in general? On a larger front, I wish there had been more of a discussion/argument of the other economic and historical forces at work which ultimately led to the fall of the USSR? To what extent does the author believe in a "great man" or this case "great woman" theory of history? Or what is the relationship of notable leaders to world events? How much longer could the USSR have existed under alternative circumstances?

Suggested grade 1 or 2.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice,

Date: 12.05.2014

Signature: