

5.2 Distinction Between 'Minor Factual Errors' and 'Revise and Re-Present'

There is a substantive difference between 5.1 b) which is a conditional pass and 5.1c) which is essentially a 'fail'.

The award of a conditional pass would normally be appropriate if all that is required is editorial, typographical and grammatical corrections, or the correction of presentational shortcomings not seriously impairing the argument of the thesis. On the other hand, revise and re-present would be appropriate where technical content was deficient or where errors of presentation had fundamentally and comprehensively impaired the argument and substantial re-writing was required, for example, the inclusion of new data, fieldwork or practice, new analysis, or substantial new additions to literature would be major amendments.

A practical test of the distinction between is whether the external examiner wishes to see the thesis again. If he or she does so wish then the recommendation should be not to award the degree but to permit the student to resubmit the thesis and be re-examined as outlined in 5.1c) above. If the examiners believe that the thesis can readily be brought to an acceptable standard and does not need his or her further inspection then the student can be passed subject to minor amendments.

5.3 Distinction Between 'Revise and Re-Present' and 'Fail'

Where the thesis is the sole or major element for examination, it should normally only be 'failed' on first submission if the examiners consider that the work could not form the basis of an acceptable thesis at a second attempt. Otherwise, the decision should be 'revise and re-present'.

6. Statement of Thesis Deficiencies

Where examiners recommend a student should not be awarded the degree sought, but should be afforded the opportunity to revise and re-present the thesis within a specified period, they should provide specific written advice as to the deficiencies or inadequacies of the thesis. Accordingly they should complete the 'Statement of Thesis Deficiencies' and return this to the Graduate School Office, together with the Examiners' Report Form.

7. Statement of Reasons of Failure

7.1 Where the examiners recommend that a student should not be awarded the degree sought and should have no further opportunity of examination, the student has the right to appeal. If the student appeals, he/she must be provided with a statement giving reasons for failure. The statement should be as full as practicable whilst safeguarding the confidentiality of the examining process.

7.2 In order to save time during the appeal process and to avoid troubling examiners further, it is most helpful if the examiners complete the 'Statement of Reasons for