

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Eliška Petříková
 Title: Social criticism in the novels of Charles Dickens
 Length: 34 pages
 Text Length: 31 pages

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
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	A large section of the Introduction is word-for-word the same as the Abstract, albeit better formatted.
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	
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	The Conclusion is rather short and it seems inappropriate to end with a quotation.
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	There are several instances of contracted verb forms; otherwise, apart from the items in "Questions" overleaf, the language is of high quality and the work reads very fluently throughout.
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	

Final Comments & Questions

The point is made on p. 8 that people have dedicated their professional careers to studying Dickens' novels, so Ms Petříková deserves credit for managing, within a bachelor thesis of this length, to cover adequately the four social issues mentioned in the first paragraph of her Introduction.

Recommended grade: 1

Questions

- ◆ Does *American Notes* fall into the category of 'novel'?
- ◆ On p. 4 we are told that Charles Dickens "experienced the world differently from others". Which 'others'? And where is the evidence for this claim?
- ◆ What is meant by:
 - "[it] had issues to be accepted wildly" (p. 5)
 - "improve society at least on a literal level" (p. 6) ?

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 20th May 2012

Signature:

