

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 pages
 Text Length: 33 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	
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	
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	

Final Comments & Questions

From the technical perspective, the thesis is logically organised and level of language appropriate for a work of this type. It also represents a competent, albeit somewhat one-sided view of Thatcher's foreign policy: events are viewed primarily from a Thatcherite perspective with relatively little space given to the numerous voices in the 1980s who objected to what they saw as her dogmatism, even warmongering. To what extent Mrs Thatcher herself was instrumental in the fall of communism (as opposed to merely offering moral support to US President Ronald Reagan) is a matter for academic debate. One's own feeling is that the Conservative Party, along with right-wing authors and commentators in Britain, have tended to exaggerate her influence; on the basis of this final work, Mr Ševčík would probably disagree but this is something which can be discussed at the defence.

The primary drawback of the thesis is that essentially it does not seem to offer anything new or insightful which might cause an already partially committed reader to pause for thought and possibly reconsider his/her view of Mrs Thatcher. In other words, there is no great attempt at originality here, a factor which cannot be entirely ignored when determining the final mark.

Recommended grade: **velmi dobře**

Supervisor: Andrew Tollet

Date: 12th May 2014

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AT', written over a faint grid background.