

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

Thesis Author: **Matěj Živčák**

Title: *English Identity in Football*

Length: 61 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

Even a cursory glance at the sports section of any national daily newspaper will show the enormous amount of attention devoted to football in England and thus, by implication, its importance to a substantial section of the general population. This thesis focuses on the cultural significance of football to English people with specific reference to the English Premier League (EPL).

The author begins by offering a brief historical overview of football in England, from its working class roots back in the 19th century, through most of the 20th century, during which football clubs still maintained relatively close links to the communities in which they were based and players would frequently travel to home matches on the same municipal buses as their fans, through to the modern era of the EPL and the wholesale transformation of the game into a multi-million pound industry dominated to a large – some would say unhealthy – extent by professional business interests rather than local allegiances and pride.

Yet still the fans' passion remains, amply reflected in the response to Mr Živčák's online questionnaire. At this juncture, one should beware of lapsing into the occasionally hyperbolic language of English TV football pundits, so let us just say that, for the supervisor of the thesis, a total of 666 responses in less than 24 hours was a pleasant surprise and somewhat surpassed expectations. True, after filtering out the non-English participants, that number was reduced to 426 but even then it is a considerably higher total than would normally be found in a bachelor thesis survey. The author subsequently makes an excellent job of analysing the acquired data and selecting relevant quotations to enrich his main text.

The work as a whole is logically organised and excellently written in a style which holds the reader's interest throughout. It covers a wide range of topical issues, any of which would be worthy of deeper analysis. One with which the writer of this report can associate is preferring club over country, which, in a sense, raises the issue of whether there is any such thing as a genuine English identity at all. Another interesting point is that while a majority of supporters agree that a cap on the number of overseas players eligible to start an EPL game might benefit the national team, not all of them would favour such a move because it would most likely have a detrimental effect on the performance of their favourite club. From this it would appear that the oft-described animosity displayed by the English towards foreigners, especially since the ill-fated decision to leave the EU, does not extend to superstar footballers. It would be interesting to know how many of the diehard fans who regularly attend their chosen EPL team's games voted for Brexit; that, however, is a thesis topic for another day.

Recommended grade: **v ý b o r n ě**

Supervisor: Andrew Tollet

Date: 3rd June 2021

Signature: