

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Jan Korda

Title: The Life and Legacy of Oliver Cromwell

Length: 32 pages

Text Length: 28 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	The list of references may have its own internal logic but, unfortunately, at first sight it comes across as something of a mess.

Final Comments & Questions

The work is logically structured and presents a coherent defence of Cromwell policies and his treatment of the Irish in particular. The decision to analyse data from online discussion groups risks criticism from those who might claim the demagogic rantings of anonymous contributors lack academic depth; on the other hand, popular prejudices arising from the culture into which a person is born can have a powerful influence on one's intellectual and philosophical development so perhaps their significance should not be completely ignored.

Cromwell's high-standing in the Greatest Britons poll is certainly worthy of note; however, to draw from this the conclusion that *Cromwell is more popular than any British king ever* (p.18) assumes that 'greatness' and 'popularity' are synonymous – which, surely, need not always be the case. Further, when viewed against the background of the recent diamond jubilee celebrations, the notion that *[Britain] needs another Cromwell* (p. 24) could become reality in the foreseeable future does come across rather as wishful thinking.

Supervisor: Andrew Tollet

Date: 20th August 2012

Signature:

