

SECINTEL Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2281445	Charles
Dissertation Title	The Crime-Terror Nexus and Modern European Jihad: A Social Perspective	

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Glasgow Marker <i>Office Use</i>	Charles Marker <i>Office Use</i>	Charles Additional Info <i>Please advise ranking</i>
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JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. Markers should make reference to the Joint Charles University-University of Glasgow Grade Conversion Table

D3 [9] E [Sufficient]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Good
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Poor
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Poor
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Poor
B. Use of Source Material	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• <i>Evidence of reading and review of published literature</i>	Very Good
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Good
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Very Good
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Excellent
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Excellent
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	Not Required
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	Yes

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ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Glasgow Marker

There is undoubtedly research to be explored in relation to better understanding the social crime-terror nexus. There is a degree of originality in exploring and expanding upon existing engagement. The student sets out a series 3 general aims in the introduction, but fails to direct us to a more concrete question or puzzle - this is the first of a series of major problems with the dissertation. Clarity over the institutional, organisation and social dimensions could have been better explained within the introduction, especially as this is where they are first introduced in the context of the dissertation aims and because they are to play a key function in terms of dissertation structure. The engagement with these 3 dimensions does come out a bit more in the literature review and it can be said that the student has engaged with the available literature and sets out a relevant overview of the state of the art with a clear outlining of the themes. Explaining the relevancy of the aim to expand upon how criminality relates to the financing of European jihadi cells could have been better set out - for instance, what do we need to know that the literature does not tell us about? In terms of methods, although case studies were an identified method, the student did not actually present the specific empirical cases to be studied and we have no further reference to cases throughout the rest of the dissertation. The documentary analysis section of the methodology was well established, but greater evidence of how this was actually applied in the main dissertation body was needed. There was a lot of information set out in the theory section, but it was difficult to take on board the specific nature of the theoretical approach. There was perhaps too much going on theoretically with rational choice, strain theory and different social theories (psychology, influence, organisation, identity) all being proposed for use in the dissertation. There is a sense of danger to the reader that as the dissertation progresses much of the important theoretical engagement will get lost, which indeed it does. The three empirical nexus chapters are quite well written and present a satisfactory overview but there needs to be a better connection between the chapters showing how they relate or inform broader discussion. There is an attempt to offer some of this in the conclusion, but it is somewhat more descriptive. I was surprised that simple points of relevance such as political goals/action (terrorist) versus profit gain (criminal) were not readily explored as a means to delineate differences - especially because if this is a social issue then income and wellbeing might be more of a driver of radicalisation than political intention. Overall, the student does seek to present a critical reading of the crime-terror nexus and we can have no doubt that the student is very adept at engaging with literature and presenting this back, but the in-depth specifics of the dissertation areas relating to how the theory was integrated, the failure to properly use case studies, and a lack of quality question all create serious limits in terms of original research. Certainly, the student has identified a lot of relevant reading for this work and that must be recognised and considered by the marker, the all over roundedness of the dissertation in terms of its purpose, how it is structured and what it offers to further the field of study still isn't quite there. So, while there is a lot that augurs well for a project that still has more work to be done on it, and we cannot deny the level of literature engagement, this ultimately comes across as a draft work that require significant further study to refine it and bring it up to a more appropriate standard for Masters.

Charles Marker

The dissertation is a rather disorganised literature review. It lacks a uniting idea; it is flawed when it comes to its self-declaratory method (case study); and it contributes little to the actual identification of the gaps in the literature and the pathways of further research. First, the goals of the dissertation are not clearly defined (a properly defined research question that might have

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guided the author's work is critically missing), which leaves the reviewer wondering about what it seeks to deliver. Second, although the author sees her (rather implicitly articulated) goal to reveal the social (?) aspects of the terrorism-crime nexus, this perspective recurs rather occasionally throughout the text; on the other hand, the social aspects of the nexus have been rather well-known in the literature, and if this is the perspective taken by the author, it should have been deployed in a narrower - and more comprehensive - manner. Third, while the author does engage in the analysis of the concepts and terms, it is done in a rather "mechanical" way. This part of the dissertation is detached from the rest of the text and adds little analytical value to the dissertation. Fourth and similarly, the application of theories is vague and detached; it should have been better integrated into the debate. Fifth, the empirical chapters appear to be only partially linked to the discussed theories on the one hand, and to the whole debate on the other hand, which is caused by the lack of a proper research question that might have guided the author's work. Sixth, while the dissertation contributes little to the ongoing debate on the crime-terrorism nexus and its original contribution is doubtful, it nevertheless presents a respectable engagement with a wide range of scholarly literature on the phenomenon. To the author's credit, she has identified most of the relevant literature; has sought to critically review it; and has made effort to organise it along some analytical lens. To sum up, while the dissertation lacks on the clear objectives and is rather disorganised, it is still an outcome of the author's hard work (state-of-the-art reviews are generally among the most labor-intensive and are difficult to organise analytically) on a complex topic that definitely needs systematisation.

Charles University > University of Glasgow Grade Conversion

CU General Grade	Grade Specification for Conversion	Percentage	UoG equivalent
A - excellent	Excellent upper (1)	100 – 96	22 (A1) Excellent
	Excellent lower (2)	95 - 91	19 (A4) Excellent
B – very good	Very good upper (1)	90 - 86	17 (B1) Very Good
	Very good lower (2)	85 – 81	16 (B2) Very Good
C - good	Good upper (1)	80 – 76	15 (B3) Very Good
	Good lower (2)	75 – 71	14 (C1) Good
D - satisfactory	Satisfactory upper (1)	70 – 66	13 (C2) Good
	Satisfactory lower (2)	65 – 61	12 (C3) Good
E - sufficient	Sufficient upper (1)	60 - 56	11 (D1) Satisfactory
	Sufficient lower (2)	55 – 51	9 (D3) Satisfactory
F - fail		50 – 0	8 (E1) Weak

University of Glasgow > Charles University Grade Conversion

UofG General Grade	Grade Specification for Conversion	Percentage	CU equivalent
A1-A3	Excellent upper (1)	100 – 96	A - Excellent
A4-A5	Excellent lower (2)	95 - 91	A - Excellent
B1	Very good upper (1)	90 - 86	B – Very Good
B2	Very good lower (2)	85 – 81	B – Very Good

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B3	Good upper (1)	80 – 76	C - Good
C1	Good lower (2)	75 – 71	C - Good
C2	Satisfactory upper (1)	70 – 66	D - Satisfactory
C3	Satisfactory lower (2)	65 – 61	D - Satisfactory
D1	Sufficient upper (1)	60 - 56	E - Sufficient
D2-D3	Sufficient lower (2)	55 – 51	E - Sufficient
E1-H		50 – 0	F - Fail

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Notes for Markers: When grading the SECINTEL Dissertation markers are asked to reflect upon the aims and learning outcomes for the dissertation. Each dissertation should also adopt a clear security focus reflecting the relevant programme pathway

Aims: The course aims to provide students with independent research opportunities. It will include engagement with research methods training leading up to a period of independent research and the production of a substantial dissertation that builds upon themes and issues covered within the MSc International Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies. Students will be encouraged to develop their own ideas and demonstrate their capacity for original thought and independent research. The dissertation element aims to enable students to identify and research particular issues or problems, linked to security, intelligence and strategy, at a deeper level than is possible within assessed essays and to develop a critical analysis of the existing body of academic work relating to their topic of choice. Students taking this course will be prepared for further research, study or professional careers through the development of their skills in data collection and analysis, use of original and secondary sources and the conducting and writing up of a detailed research project.

Intended Learning outcomes: By the end of the dissertation, students will be able to:

- > Devise a realistic programme of research on a topic reflecting the main themes of the programme;
- > Collect, select and critically analyse relevant background literature and arguments of a range of scholars;
- > Understand and select the appropriate methodology for dealing with information sources and data;
- > Apply these methods to gather and interrogate data in an open-minded, rigorous and undogmatic manner;
- > Be able to critically evaluate competing theories and apply relevant theoretical frameworks to guide the study
- > Organise the data collected and analyse the findings in a competent manner that allows for a fluid and logical argument to be presented;
- > Be reflexive and self-critical about findings and the limitations of analysis;
- > Work independently, organising and maintaining own programme of study to meet academic deadlines so as to produce work containing a substantial element of originality.

Word Count:

Dissertations should be 20,000 words in length for students undertaking work-placement as part of the independent study portfolio and 22,000 words in length for standard dissertation students. Word counts exclude the title page, abstract, contents, bibliography and appendices). There is a 10% leeway for words above the upper limit, but no leeway for dissertation that fall under the word requirement. All dissertations must display an accurate word-count including the citations, footnotes/endnotes and chapter/section titles. One point (on the Glasgow 22-point scale) will be deducted for each 750 words under the minimum or over the 10% upper limit.

Language:

The dissertation **must** be written in British English. A Czech Language cover page / abstract may be included

Late Submission Penalty:

Dissertations that do not have an extension or are submitted after an extension deadline are subject to a penalty of 2 secondary bands per day (this includes weekends and holidays) on the Glasgow grading Scale.

Plagiarism:

Dissertations which suffer from excessive (e.g. serious and/or deliberate) plagiarism will be subject to a grade of 0/Fail and be referred to the appropriate authorities at both universities. Dissertations that contain some elements of plagiarism, but which are deemed not to be excessive (e.g. minor instances that are not considered deliberate) based on consultation of both internal markers, should be graded accordingly and will be subject to scrutiny from the external examiner and could still result in a mark of 0 as well as referral to appropriate authorities for disciplinary action.

Consultation prior to final grading:

First marking by both institutions should be completed blind with no prior consultation. Once both markers have graded the dissertation and provided written comments, they should consult on the grading and come to a joint final grade, taking into consideration any late submission or excessive word count penalty. It is the responsibility of the Glasgow marker to oversee this. Where markers cannot come to a joint agreement then the dissertation should be referred to the Programme Convenors at Glasgow and Charles (Dr. Eamonn Butler & Dr Vít Střítecký). The external examiner will be used to moderate any dissertation in this position and the comments referred back to the internal markers for confirmation.