

BACHELOR'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT
PPE – Bachelor's in Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Basic Income as a Possible Solution to the Trade-off between Full Employment and Economic Growth in Germany
Student's name:	Samuel BASLER
Referee's name:	Doc. Ing. Vladimír Benáček, CSc.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	48	
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	15	
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	14	
Total		77	
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	5	
Total		20	
TOTAL		97	

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score: The thesis is highly personal and thus original and free of any plagiarism.

[NB:] If the plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score is above 15%, the reviewer has to include his/her assessment of the originality of the reviewed thesis in his/her review.

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria (min. 1800 characters including spaces when recommending a passing grade, min. 2500 characters including spaces when recommending a failing grade):

The thesis of Mr. Basler is highly original and well written vis-à-vis the specific topic that raises high demands on the logical argument. Unfortunately, the topic is open not only to economic controversy but also to the political and ideological deceptions. I cannot say that the author avoided all “booby traps” of claims that were not empirically founded, but he proceeded in his search for a logical argument with an unusual academic honesty.

What I missed in the thesis: *Actually, I missed there my own view on the matter, which says that universal basic income (UBI) is primarily a political agenda and not an economic agenda. It attacks not only the neoclassical economic theory of wage and income setting that is defined as a reward for one's productive contribution, but I is generally an attack on*

capitalism as a system of individual responsibility for one's life. Capitalism is the system of liberal accountability of individuals for their earnings according to the endowments of labour physical skills, capital or human (intellectual) capital and their productive returns to their owners. UBI is a system of income through the REDISTRIBUTION of productive returns irrespective of one's social contribution. It supports the economy of consumption entitlements, which is an agenda of radical communitarians (e.g. religious fundamentalists, the French Revolution fanatics-Montagnards like de Saint-Just, Communist con artists, Chavists, etc). They never brought a society worth living, i.e. with at least some standards of social justice, freedom and safety of one's own life. Such are the hard empirical facts. HOWEVER, MY IDEAS ARE IRRELEVANT FOR MY ASSESSMENT OF THIS THESIS.

Mr Basler used an admirable list of resources, academic and journalistic, underpinned his study by philosophy, devoted a lot of his efforts to the search of economic arguments in both macro and micro economics). In all these his work transcends the usual requirements for a bachelor's thesis. Therefore, I cannot come up with requirements for a PhD dissertation. Anyway, it was a pleasure to read it...

I must admit that Mr Basler is a good axiomatic economist. However, arguments by logical thought experiments are not sufficient "proofs" on one's truth or the vindication of some policy proposals. Empirical evidence is that what matters, plus the sustaining the free democratic voting. Characteristically, all attempts for the introduction of UBI of any sort were always followed by dictatorships.

My cause for not granting the thesis full 100 points is that I missed the conclusion that UBI is not an instrument of higher economic efficiency but an instrument of forced equalisation of humans.

Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): A**

Suggested questions for the defence are:

- 1) Is it the Gleichschaltung that what will bring us Gleichstellung? Especially to Germany with its two historical experiences!
- 2) Could the author try to respond critically to my remarks marked above by italics? I am sorry I will not be able to chip in or just to appreciate some clever answers.
- 3) How will UBI increase the struggle for world dominance between democratic countries and capitalist communist China?

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.