

IMESS DISSERTATION



Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator

(cc Julia Korosteleva j.korosteleva@ucl.ac.uk and Marta Kotwas m.kotwas@ucl.ac.uk)

Please note that IMESS students are not required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Hayley Pallan
Dissertation title:	The Role of Innovation and Competitive Pressure: A Case Study of Czech and Slovak Firms

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor
Knowledge <i>Knowledge of problems involved, e.g. historical and social context, specialist literature on the topic. Evidence of capacity to gather information through a wide and appropriate range of reading, and to digest and process knowledge.</i>	x		
Analysis & Interpretation <i>Demonstrates a clear grasp of concepts. Application of appropriate methodology and understanding; willingness to apply an independent approach or interpretation recognition of alternative interpretations; Use of precise terminology and avoidance of ambiguity; avoidance of excessive generalisations or gross oversimplifications.</i>		x	
Structure & Argument <i>Demonstrates ability to structure work with clarity, relevance and coherence. Ability to argue a case; clear evidence of analysis and logical thought; recognition of an arguments limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</i>		x	
Presentation & Documentation <i>Accurate and consistently presented footnotes and bibliographic references; accuracy of grammar and spelling; correct and clear presentation of charts/graphs/tables or other data. Appropriate and correct referencing throughout. Correct and contextually correct handling of quotations.</i>		x	

ECTS Mark:	B	UCL Mark:	67	Marker:	Karel Svoboda
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	June 12, 2015

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+): Note: marks of over 80 are given rarely and only for truly exceptional pieces of work.

Distinctively sophisticated and focused analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.

B/C (UCL mark 60-69):

A high level of analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Good understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research. 65 or over equates to a B grade.

D/E (UCL mark 50-59):

Demonstration of a critical use of sources and ability to engage in systematic inquiry. An ability to engage in sustained research work, demonstrating methodological awareness. 55 or over equates to a D grade.

F (UCL mark less than 50):

Demonstrates failure to use sources and an inadequate ability to engage in systematic inquiry. Inadequate evidence of ability to engage in sustained research work and poor understanding of appropriate research techniques.

CONTINUES OVERLEAF
**PLEASE PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE AND
 DETAILED FEEDBACK!**

Constructive comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (*at least 300 words*):

The author wrote an interesting study on the relation between innovation and competition. What is one of the strong points of this thesis is the discussion of the economic history topics. However, the author should cite (in the case of Schumpeter, for instance) directly the works of these well-known authors. Nevertheless, the qualitative discussion provides a very good basis for the research. I would suggest adding the example of South Korea, which is perceived as an instance of successful implementation of the model – protection against foreign competition and encouragement of internal one.

Hayley uses a great number of resources, which is unquestionably positive side of the thesis. Also other part of the technical side of the thesis is without any comments. In some cases, misprints occurred, however their number is by no means high.

The author demonstrates sound command of the methods of quantitative research, which makes the conclusions more persuasive. Nevertheless, it must be said that the robustness of the data used in the research might be questioned, as 46 firms might seem as a low number. Nevertheless, it must be noted that the fact is acknowledged by the author as one of possible weaknesses. Furthermore, the size of the firms should be more broadly discussed, as large firms may differ in their perceptions from smaller ones. Additionally, sales can be influenced, especially based on such small number of examples, by personal abilities of the management.

In the conclusion, the author challenges some assumptions of the traditional economic history. Nevertheless, I do not see counterintuitive results of the hypotheses testing and assumptions made on economic history theories as proof of some weakness of economic history, but as a proof of the need for further research. For this purpose, quantitative analysis is an ideal tool.

To sum up, the thesis demonstrates author's ability to conduct a research on a high level, using proper methodologies and develop sound model. As a result, despite some of the reservations to the thesis itself (especially the size of the sample), I regard it as an excellent basis for further research.

Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (*at least 2 questions*):

How did the imminent measures that were adopted during the crisis (cash for clunkers, additional liquidity to the banking system) impact your observations?

In the history, there is an instance of successful promotion of internal competition while restricting the foreign one that lead to high degree of competitiveness and innovations – South Korea. Could you please make comment on the usability of this sample?