Evaluation of a Treatise/Proposal

The following list shows the criteria that committees and examiners look for in proposals and finished treatises. It would be useful to keep these criteria in mind as you are writing your proposal and your treatise, to focus on the relevant criteria. This is extracted from ‘Writing A Thesis Proposal’ [4], which itself draws upon Mauch, J.E. and Birch, J.W., ‘Guide to the successful thesis and dissertation.’ [5]. Although this is written primarily for a PhD in the social sciences, it applies in general to an undergraduate engineering treatise.

- Title is clear and concise.
- Problem is significant and clearly stated.
- Limitations and delimitations of the study are stated.
- Delimitations are well defined and appropriate to solutions of the problem.
- Assumptions are clearly stated.
- Assumptions are tenable.
- The research projected by the proposal does not violate human rights or confidence.
- Important items are well defined.
- Specific questions to be studied are clearly stated.
- Hypotheses, elements, or research questions are clearly stated.
- Hypotheses, elements, or research questions are testable, discoverable or answerable.
- Hypotheses, elements, or research questions derive from the review of the literature.
- Relationship of study to previous research is clear.
- Review of literature is efficiently summarised.
- Procedures are described in detail.
- Procedures are appropriate for the solution of the problem.
- Population and sample are clearly described.
- Method of sampling is appropriate.
- Variables have been controlled.
- Data gathering methods are described.
- Data gathering methods are appropriate to solution of the problem.
- Validity and reliability of data gathering are explained.
- Appropriate methods are used to analyse data.
- Sentence structure and punctuation are correct.
- Minimum of typographical errors.
- Spelling and grammar are correct.
- Material is clearly written.
- Tone is unbiased and impartial.
• Overall rating of creativity and significance of the problem.

* Tables and figures are used effectively.
* Results of analysis are presented clearly.
* Major findings are discussed clearly and related to previous research.
* Importance of findings is explained.
* The relationship between the research and the findings is demonstrated with tight, logical reasoning.
* Conclusions are clearly stated.
* Conclusions are based on the results.
* Generalisations are confirmed.
* Limitations and weaknesses of study are discussed.
* Implications of findings for the field are discussed.
* Suggestions for further research are cited.
* Overall rating of the conduct of the study and the final document.

* Not considered in proposal but in the finished treatise only.