

**Санкт-Петербургский филиал  
Федеральное государственное автономное образовательное учреждение высшего  
образования  
"Национальный исследовательский университет  
"Высшая школа экономики"**

Факультет  
Санкт-Петербургская школа социальных наук и востоковедения

**Правила подготовки выпускной квалификационной работы  
студентов, обучающихся на образовательной программе магистратуры  
по направлению 58.04.01 «Востоковедение и африканистика»**

Согласована менеджером ОП «Бизнес и политика в современной Азии»  
октября 2020 г.

Д.Э. Ахмеджанова \_\_\_\_\_ [подпись]

Академический руководитель ОП «Бизнес и политика в современной Азии»

Л.С. Веселова \_\_\_\_\_ [подпись]

Утверждены советом факультета Санкт-Петербургская школа социальных наук и востоковедения НИУ ВШЭ, протокол 15 от 25 августа 2022 года

# **Guidelines for Preparation and Defense of MA thesis written by the students of the MA programme in Business and Politics in Modern Asia at St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies HSE in St. Petersburg**

Approved by Master Program's Academic Council on August 25, 2022

## **1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. These Guidelines for Preparation and Defense of Term Papers and Theses (hereinafter, the Guidelines) have been prepared in line with the Regulations on Term Papers and Theses written by BA, Specialist and MA Students of the National Research University Higher School of Economics (hereinafter, the Regulations), approved by the HSE Academic Council (Minutes No. 08 dated November 28, 2014). As per the Regulations, these Guidelines shall be observed by the faculty and students of the 'Business and Politics in Modern Asia' programme (hereinafter, the Programme), as well as all persons involved in preparation and defense of the theses (including the Programme's Study Office staff, advisors, reviewers, etc.).

## **2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THESES**

- 2.1. The MA dissertation, or thesis, is a compulsory part of the curriculum of Master Program Business and Politics in Modern Asia and is the most important component of a research degree. In the MA program Business and Politics in Modern Asia students have to prepare MA Thesis in the form of research paper of publishable quality.
- 2.2. According to the Program's curriculum thesis submission falls on Module 4 during the 2nd year of study. The submission and defense of the thesis have a combined value of 24 ECTS.
- 2.3. The research area of each MA dissertation must be relevant to the corresponding degree program.
- 2.4. A MA dissertation is an independent work performed and written by the students of the Programme individually.
- 2.5. MA thesis should be a work of independent research reflecting one's ability:
  - identify a problem and research question,
  - design and successfully complete independent research project,
  - demonstrate knowledge of the relevant literature and ability to identify a conceptual framework for the research,
  - adequately apply research methods and techniques relevant to the research question and empirical data,
  - produce an academic English language text with appropriate structure,
  - present and discuss the research outcomes, their relevance for the advancement in the scholarship, and possible implications for non-academic spheres (where applicable).

## **3. STAGES OF MA thesis PREPARATION**

3.1. Deadlines for completing the main stages of the topic selection and approval, as well as the preparation and defense of the MA thesis, are specified in Annex 1.

#### **4. SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF MA thesis TOPICS**

4.1. The faculty of the Department of Political Science and International Affairs and Department Asian and African Studies may develop a provisional list of term paper topics or research areas to be subsequently finalized by Academic Council of the Master Program.

4.2. HSE academic staff members (including those outside the Department of Department of Political Science and International Affairs and Department of Asian and African Studies) and potential employers may also propose topics and research areas to be added to the list

4.3. Proposals must be structured as follows:

- Topic or research area of the MA thesis;
- MA thesis supervisor (full name, position, academic degree, place of employment);
- Year of study for which the given topic or research area is intended.

4.4. The Program Office collects proposals (if any) for MA thesis topics or research areas and publishes the information along with the Guidelines for preparation and processing the MA thesis on the program website.

4.5. Students may propose a topic of their own or choose one of the topics from the list.

4.6. The supervisor of student's MA thesis may be either an HSE staff member (from any department and campus) or an academic from outside of HSE (for example, from the organization where student had the internship). In case student has an external supervisor HSE should appoint a curator from the HSE staff. One supervisor may supervise up to 5 MA thesis per academic year.

4.7. MA thesis topics must be downloaded by student in the LMS and be approved by the future supervisor. After it, the Program Academic Supervisor should also confirm the topic through LMS.

4.8. Confirmation from the supervisors must be submitted to the Program Office no later than November 8 of the current academic year.

4.9. The list of MA thesis topics and supervisors must be finalized by the Academic Council by November 15. Some MA thesis topics may be declined by the Academic Council if they are not suited to the field of study, purpose of a MA thesis or the level of complexity. In this case, the Academic Council must also provide a justification for its decision and recommendations on how to adjust the topic.

4.10. The Program Office must notify students and their supervisors if the MA thesis topic was declined within one business day from such decision.

4.11. Students may submit a new request for the MA thesis topic to the Programme Office. The Academic Council must approve the final list of MA thesis topics and supervisors no later than November 25.

4.12. Upon the approval of the chosen topic by the Academic Council of the Master's program, the program manager issues an order on the topic and supervisor for each student. The order is prepared no later than December 14 of the current academic year.

4.13. If students fail to choose a MA thesis topic by the deadline, or if their topic is declined by the Academic Council, they are facing academic failure. Such students may select their MA thesis topic during the extension period – from the start of the Module 3 to the end of the retake period for Modules 1 and 2. If the new topic is selected on time and approved by the Academic Council, academic failure is waived.

4.14. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the thesis meets the standards described in Clause 1.3, and the duty of the supervisor and department to ensure that the student takes the necessary steps to meet these requirements. In case a thesis fails to meet the requirements, it may be returned to the author for revision and resubmission, or a failing grade can be awarded.

## **5. MA THESIS SUPERVISION**

5.1. The academic supervisor appointed by the Campus Director shall oversee the preparation of the student's MA thesis.

5.2. MA thesis paper supervisors have the following duties:

- Advise students on shaping the final topic of their MA thesis, drafting MA thesis outline and preparation schedule, and selecting scholarly literature and data;
- Help students choose appropriate research methodology;
- Monitor the progress of MA thesis preparation against the established outline and schedule;
- Notify the Program Academic Supervisor and Program Office if students are behind the schedule;
- Provide students with informed recommendations on the content of their MA thesis;

5.3. Thesis supervisors are entitled to

- Select a mode of interaction with students, in particular, agree on the MA thesis preparation schedule and the frequency of face-to-face meetings or other communications;
- Request that students prepare and present a brief summary of the received recommendations and further steps in MA thesis preparation after each face-to-face meeting;
- Request that students pay close attention to the received recommendations and come to meetings well-prepared;
- Take into account compliance with the preparation schedule when grading student MA thesis.

5.4. Supervisors assess quality of MA thesis against fixed requirements. They must fill in a special form (see Annex 5) where they put their review and grade for the MA thesis.

5.5. MA thesis supervisors must draw up an official memorandum to notify the Program Academic Supervisor and the Dean of plagiarism and any other violations of academic code of ethics committed by students.

## **6. CHANGING MA thesis TOPIC AND SUPERVISOR**

6.1. Requests to change the MA thesis topic (Annex 2) signed by the supervisor and requests to change the MA thesis supervisor (Annex 3) signed by both supervisors and addressed to the Program Academic Supervisor may be submitted to the Program Office no later than 60 days before the date of submission of the final draft of thesis. If the Master thesis topic needs just small correction, the student can make it with the confirmation of the supervisor no later than 30 dates before the date of submission.

6.2. Changing MA thesis topics or supervisors must be authorized by the Program Academic Supervisor and Academic Council within the terms mentioned in Clause 6.1.

## **7. MA thesis PREPARATION RESTRICTIONS**

7.1. Students must prepare MA thesis as prescribed by the Guidelines on MA thesis Writing for Students of MA Programme in "Business and Politics in Modern Asia" (approved by the Master Program's Academic Council on August 2, 2021).

7.2. Students must comply with the MA thesis preparation schedule developed and finalized together with their supervisors.

7.3. Failure to complete a MA thesis by the fixed deadline constitutes academic failure that can be remedied following the procedures established at HSE.

## **8. MA thesis CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

8.1. MA thesis must be a structured, 80,000 up to 120,000 characters with spaces (including all MA thesis elements, mentioned above, except annexes).

8.2. Formal requirements and reference style for footnotes and bibliography for this work are the same as for the MA Thesis.

8.3. The text must be of the highest scientific standards of ethics and research (adequately and accurately citing all relevant sources).

8.4. The structure of the MA Thesis includes the front page, abstract in English, the table of contents, the introduction, the main body, the conclusion, bibliography and related annexes (if any). The structure of the MA Thesis must include the following main sections:

- title page with student name, title of the research project, and name of research supervisor
- abstract of the research project (between 300 and 500 words)
- table of contents
- aims of the proposed research
- methodology
- literature review and theoretical discussion
- data collection and analysis
- research findings
- conclusion
- bibliography
- related annexes (if any)

8.5. Title Page should have the full title of the MA Thesis, the student's name, the department and name of the university, the supervisor's name, the place of submission, and the year of submission.

8.6. Abstract of the research project is a short introduction which reflects the overall scope and importance of the project and specifies its main goals and findings.

8.7. The table of contents shall be automatically generated in Microsoft Word or any other word processor of student's choice.

8.8. The introduction shall define the main idea and the research design of the study.

8.9. The results of the theoretical analysis and empirical research, as well as the above-mentioned elements of a research project, shall be presented in the main body of the paper. Each chapter and paragraph shall include fundamental ideas, followed by a description of findings and a summary. Key theoretical statements, underlying each conclusion, shall be substantiated with references to the scholarly works and experts' opinions, as well as statistical data and findings of sociological polls, following the applicable standards. Students can refer to their own practical experience.

8.10. Aims of the proposed research must reflect:

- broader aims of the project and the research problem,
- research question/hypothesis or research objective.

8.11. The section “Methodology” describes research techniques a student plans to employ in his/her work and what data he/she will need to collect to substantiate the research results? This section should include:

- detailed description of the data on which the paper is to be based
- detailed description of the research methods and techniques to be employed

8.12. The section “Literature review and theoretical discussion” reviews the relevant literature, identifies research problem and suggests conceptual framework for the research. It is to explain how does the research build on existing scholarship in Political Science and, if applicable, related interdisciplinary fields? How does the project extend beyond what has already been done? How does this theoretical discussion lead to identify goals of the research? How it helps to shape research question(s) and hypotheses? This section should be not less than half of the length of the whole document.

8.13. The section “Data collection and analysis” describes the research database and presents results of preliminary data analysis.

8.14. The section “Research findings” explains the research findings and elaborates on how they fit the conceptual framework and research hypotheses.

8.15. Research findings shall be summarized in the conclusion of the MA thesis. It is of utmost importance that such research findings shall correspond to the paper’s objectives, provide solutions to the key research problem(s) and thereby achieve the stated research goal. The conclusion can also include proposals as to how the topic of the MA thesis can be developed further on.

8.16. If a student opts to continue the work that he/she did in the previous years, the text of the MA thesis and the thesis can include references to the previous student’s MA thesis. However, word-for-word borrowing of entire paragraphs or chapters from the previous MA thesis are considered unacceptable and shall be qualified as resubmitting the same paper, as defined by the HSE Regulations on Checking Student Papers for Plagiarism. In exceptional cases, students are entitled to ask for the academic supervisor’s permission to use small excerpts from their previous term papers, but such excerpts cannot reproduce a whole paragraph or a chapter. Upon approval of the academic supervisor, small excerpts borrowed from a previously submitted term paper and properly formatted as quotations (with quotation marks and followed by a reference), shall not be regarded as self-plagiarism.

8.17. If a student fails to comply with the above-mentioned requirements for the MA thesis word count, one point (based on a 10-point grading scale) will be deducted from their final grade for every 5,000 characters (spaces included) missing or in excess<sup>1</sup>.

8.18. The bibliography includes all legislative acts, research papers, specialized publications and other sources used while preparing and writing MA theses and referenced in the text. The bibliography shall consist of at least 50 academic items. It is recommended to refrain from including textbooks and teaching aids in the bibliography.

8.19. Annexes shall be used if the author uses a large body of materials which can support the contents of the main body of the paper. Source information, the author’s tables and calculations, diagrams, figures and other materials can be presented in annexes.

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<sup>1</sup> One point is deducted for 1 – 5000 characters, two points for 5001 – 10 000 characters, three points for 10 001 – 15 000 characters, four points for 15 001 – 20 000 characters, five points for 20 001 – 25 000 characters, six points for 25 001 – 30 000 characters, seven points for 30 001 – 35 000 characters, eight points for 35 001 – 40 000 characters, nine points for 40 001 – 45 000 characters, ten points for 45 001 – 50 000 characters.

## **9. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FORMATTING OF MA Thesis**

9.1. The MA Thesis shall be prepared electronically and typewritten using Times New Roman 12 font size (footnotes shall be provided using 10 font size), 1.5 spacing. Margins: left – 2.5 cm, right – 1 cm, upper and bottom – 2 cm. The front page shall be prepared using the template form provided in these Guidelines (Annex 4).

9.2. New chapters begin on a new page; the same rule applies to other main parts of the paper (i.e. the introduction, the conclusion, the bibliography and annexes). Furthermore, chapters shall be subdivided into sections which are numbered as follows – 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, ..., 2.1, 2.2 etc. The word “Chapter” shall not be inserted before the title, and a full stop sign shall not be used. Arabic numbers shall be used for chapter numbering; a dot shall be placed after the figure with a space before the chapter title. Titles of all main parts of the paper and page numbering in the text shall be reflected in the table of contents. Headings shall be highlighted in semi-bold.

9.3. All pages shall be consecutively numbered in the page header in the centre of the page, starting from the second page (the front page is left unnumbered). Page numbers shall be provided for all elements of the Table of Contents (chapters, sections, etc.). The consecutive numbering shall be used for all tables and figures. Tables and figures shall be titled.

9.4. If there is a reference to personal names (of scholars, researchers, experts), their initials shall precede the last name (i.e. V.M. Petrov, rather than Petrov V.M., as is customary for the bibliography).

9.5. Each annex shall start from a new page with the word “Annex” given in the upper right corner, above the title. The main body of the text shall correlate with annexes via links. Annexes shall retain continuous numbering of pages, originating from the main text.

9.6. The bibliographic citations are provided in the footnotes, supplemented by a final bibliography. The final bibliography must include all works cited in the footnotes throughout the text. The quotation style is one and the same for the footnotes and the final bibliography and should be made according to Chicago style [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

## **10. MA THESIS SUBMISSION**

10.1. Thesis topics must be downloaded by student in the LMS on 1st November and be approved by the future supervisor not later than 8 th November 2022.

10.2. Students must upload a .doc, .docx or .pdf file with the final text of their thesis through their personal profiles in the LMS no later than 23:59 of May 15.

10.3. Submission deadlines for thesis that are subject to defense cannot be extended. Failure to complete a MA thesis by the fixed deadline constitutes academic failure that can be remedied in autumn of the subsequent academic year, following the procedures established at HSE.

## **11. MA THESIS REVIEW AND DEFENSE**

11.1. MA thesis defense takes place 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

11.2. Defense dates and Board composition are stipulated by the Dean’s directive. Defense is held in the presence of the Dissertation Board of at least three faculty members, research fellows or doctoral students of HSE, including one supervisor of the given MA thesis. Faculty members from other HSE faculties and subdivisions who wish to participate may be appointed to the Board.

11.3. The Program Office and IT Assistant must provide the Board with at least one paper copy of each student's MA thesis and of the review written by the MA thesis supervisor. The Board is provided with the version that had been uploaded through the student account in the LMS.

11.4. Each MA thesis defense is a public event. The Program Office must publish defense dates on the program website at least one week in advance.

11.5. Results of a MA thesis defense are reflected in the Board minutes. Chair of the Board is responsible for the Board's operation and minutes preparation. The Chair is appointed by the Program Academic Supervisor jointly with the members of the Academic Council of the Program.

11.6. If students miss their MA thesis defense for a valid reason supported by documentary evidence, they will be allowed to defend their MA thesis on a different date within the specially designated period.

11.7. Missing MA thesis defense without a valid reason supported by documentary evidence is counted as academic failure.

11.8. Students whose supervisor gave their MA thesis a fail grade shall not be allowed to proceed to the defense. If a fail grade is received at the defense, no repeat defense shall be held during the current academic year.

11.9. Each MA thesis must go through the TurnItIn system pursuant to the *Procedures for Using AntiPlagiat System for Collection and Checks of Academic Papers at HSE*. MA thesis supervisors will be notified of the outcome of such checks and must take them into account when grading the MA thesis. MA thesis supervisors grade the version that was uploaded through the student account in the LMS.

11.10. If plagiarism is discovered in a MA thesis, it is handled in accordance with the *Procedures for Applying Disciplinary Measures for the Violation of Academic Standards for Student Papers at HSE*.

## **12. GRADING, RE-EXAMINATION AND APPEAL**

12.1. The grade for MA thesis prepared by the third-year students shall be based on the grade by academic supervisor (the grade will follow from his/her detailed feedback), the grade by the reviewer (substantiated in the reviewer's review) (Annex 6), and the grade by the defense committee. The grade will be calculated as an average of the three grades as follows:

$$\mathbf{G \text{ supervisor (20\%)} + G \text{ reviewer (20\%)} + G \text{ committee (60\%)}$$

If the supervisor's and the reviewer's grades differ by four points or more (e.g., 10 and 6, 9 and 5, etc.), the grade is entirely determined by the defense committee.

12.2. The scientific supervisor's feedback (Annex 5) shall be submitted to the Study Office after the submission of the MA thesis by the student, no later than the date set by the Academic Director of the Programme.

12.3 The MA thesis supervisor assesses the coursework on a ten-point scale. To receive credits for the coursework, students should be awarded a grade of at least 4 on a ten-point scale.

12.4. Students are considered to have failed their MA thesis if they receive a failure grade after the defense or after a review by their supervisor.

12.5. Final grades for MA thesis are entered into student performance records by respective supervisors in the end of June.

12.6. Students may access the grades and reviews of their MA thesis through the account in the LMS or at the Program Office.

12.7. In the case where the coursework is graded less than 4 on a ten-point scale the student will not get ECTS's awarded. The student is expected to resubmit the coursework in the next module. The coursework topic can be modified upon consultation of the coursework supervisor and program academic supervisor. In order to change the topic student must submit a new request signed by their MA thesis supervisor and addressed to the Program Academic Supervisor before the end of the current academic year. The student may resubmit the coursework only once.

12.8. The student may contest the grades for the coursework following the general appeal procedures. The student may file an appeal to the academic supervisor of the program within 3 working days upon receiving the grades with detailed grounds for appeal. The appeal committee will make a decision within 3 working days.

### **13. MA THESIS STORAGE**

The Study Office of the Master's program stores copies of coursework for 2 years (either in the form of hard copies or electronic files)

Guidelines for Preparation and Defence of MA thesis  
written by the students of the MA Programme in Business and Politics in modern Asia

**STAGES OF THE MA THESIS TOPIC SELECTION, APPROVAL, AND PREPARATION  
AND DEFENCE OF THE MA THESIS**

Module	Deadline	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Module	1 November	Deadline for the uploading of the negotiated topics of MA thesis by LMS to the scientific advisor
	8 November	Supervisors agree to the students' topics via the LMS
	15 November	The deadline for the Academic Council to confirm the MA thesis topics
	12 December	Submitting the first draft of the thesis to the supervisor
4 <sup>th</sup> Module	3 April, 18.00	Deadline for the providing information about the external reviewer
	9 April, 23.59	Providing the first version of the full MA thesis for the pre-defence
	12 and 14 April	Pre-defence of the MA thesis (not compulsory)
	21 April, 18:00	Deadline for the changes in MA thesis topic
	15 May, 23:59	Uploading the final version of the thesis to the LMS (via the dedicated LMS module).
	22 May	The deadline for the academic supervisors to write their feedbacks.

	26 May	The deadline for the external reviewer to write their feedbacks.
	31 May	Deadline for the providing of the printed version of the MA thesis to the Study Office
	5 and 7 June	Thesis defence

**Template Request for Change of MA thesis Topic**

TO:

Academic Supervisor of the Master Program in  
Business and Politics in Modern Asia

**Liudmila S. Veselova**

FROM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(full name)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year \_\_\_\_ student, group No. \_\_\_\_

Request

I hereby request to change the topic of my MA thesis for Year \_\_\_\_ from

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

to

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Student's signature)*

“ \_\_\_\_ ” \_\_\_\_\_ 202

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Supervisor's signature)*

“ \_\_\_\_ ” \_\_\_\_\_ 202

**Template Request for Change of MA thesis Supervisor**

TO:

Academic Supervisor of the Master Program in  
Business and Politics in Modern Asia

**Liudmila S. Veselova**

FROM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(full name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year \_\_\_\_ student, group No. \_\_\_\_

Request

I hereby request to change the supervisor of my MA thesis for Year \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(title in English)

from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(full name, academic degree, position, subdivision of the current supervisor)

\_\_\_\_\_

to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(full name, academic degree, position, subdivision of the new supervisor)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's signature)

“ \_\_\_\_ ” \_\_\_\_\_ 202

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Supervisor's signature)

“ \_\_\_\_ ” \_\_\_\_\_ 202

\_\_\_\_\_  
(New supervisor's signature)

“ \_\_\_\_ ” \_\_\_\_\_ 202

Guidelines for Preparation and Defence of MA thesis  
written by the students of the MA Programme in Business and Politics in Modern Asia

NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies

Programme Business and Politics in Modern Asia

The author's full name

**THESIS TITLE**

Thesis

in the field of study 58.03.01 'Asian and African Studies'

Reviewer  
Doctor of .... Sciences, Professor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials and Last name

Academic supervisor  
Doctor of .... Sciences, Professor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials and Last name  
Adviser  
Doctor of .... Sciences, Professor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials and Last name

Saint Petersburg 202\_

Guidelines for Preparation and Defence of MA thesis  
written by the students of the MA Programme in Business and Politics in Modern Asia

**National Research University Higher School of Economics**

**St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies**

MA Programme in Business and Politics in Modern Asia

**Academic supervisor's feedback**

**1-st year** student of the MA Programme in Business and Politics in Modern Asia of the St. Petersburg

School of Social Sciences and Area Studies

Full name:

Topic:

No.	Evaluation criteria	Academic supervisor's comments (on a 10-point scale)
1.	Explanation and substantiation of the research puzzle by the student	
2.	Justification of the puzzle's relevance to the state of the art in the field, and its connection to the academic debate;	
3.	Correspondence between the topic (title), research goal, objectives, content and empirical findings (conclusions) of the paper: Does the paper answer the research question?	
4.	Breadth and coverage of the literature review and its analytic depth: the number of papers reviewed; quality of conclusions; explication of the logic underlying the selection of the sources	
5.	Ability to use theoretical concepts for building theoretical and methodological research framework, as well as formulating the research expectations and/or hypotheses (if a research question requires them)	
6.	Effective use of methods for data collection and analysis	
7.	Structure of the paper, logical reasoning in building connections within the argument and between different parts of the paper; reliability and accuracy of the findings	
8.	Conformity with requirements for the formatting, citation rules, as well as bibliographical references and lists	

<b>9.</b>	Conformity with the formal requirements with regard to the number of academic sources (no fewer than 50 academic items) and the word count (no fewer than 80,000 characters with spaces for the whole piece)	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Recommended grade for the thesis</b>	

Comments:

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MA thesis Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(signature) (full name, academic degree, position , subdivision)*

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ” 202

**National Research University Higher School of Economics**

**St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies**

MA Programme in Business and Politics in Modern Asia

**Review**

**2nd year** student of the MA Programme in Business and Politics in Modern Asia of the St. Petersburg

School of Social Sciences and Area Studies

Full name:

Topic:

No.	Evaluation criteria	Academic supervisor's comments (on a 10-point scale)
<b>1.</b>	Explanation and substantiation of the research puzzle by the student	
<b>2.</b>	Justification of the puzzle's relevance to the state of the art in the field, and its connection to the academic debate;	
<b>3.</b>	Correspondence between the topic (title), research goal, objectives, content and empirical findings (conclusions) of the paper: Does the paper answer the research question?	
<b>4.</b>	Breadth and coverage of the literature review and its analytic depth: the number of papers reviewed; quality of conclusions; explication of the logic underlying the selection of the sources	
<b>5.</b>	Ability to use theoretical concepts for building theoretical and methodological research framework, as well as formulating the research expectations and/or hypotheses (if a research question requires them)	
<b>6.</b>	Effective use of methods for data collection and analysis	
<b>7.</b>	Structure of the paper, logical reasoning in building connections within the argument and between different parts of the paper;	

	reliability and accuracy of the findings	
<b>8.</b>	Conformity with requirements for the formatting, citation rules, as well as bibliographical references and lists	
<b>9.</b>	Conformity with the formal requirements with regard to the number of academic sources (no fewer than 50 academic items) and the word count (no fewer than <b>80,000</b> characters with spaces for the whole piece)	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Recommended grade for the thesis</b>	

Comments:

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Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
*(signature) (full name, academic degree, position , subdivision)*

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ” \_\_\_\_\_ 202