

## REVIEW OF THE BACHELOR'S THESIS EXTERNAL REVIEWER

Student's name: Krystel Camellia Olakou Bankole.....

Thesis title: Factors Influencing the Economic Growth in Benin.....

Name of the thesis external reviewer: Ing. Lukas Augustin Maslo, Ph.D.....

	1	2	3	4
<b>Assessment of the topic itself</b> (irrespectively of the student):				
1.1 To what extent is the topic current and significant?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 How challenging is the topic in respect of theoretical knowledge?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3 How challenging it in respect of practical experience or fieldwork?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4 How difficult is it to get background materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Verbal assessment (several sentences), in particular:**

*Subsection 1.1:*

*Other (as appropriate):*

<b>2. Evaluation of the thesis structure and logical cohesion:</b>				
2.1 To what extent is the thesis structure logical and transparent?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 To what extent does the author use current / suitable sources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 How properly did the author select methods in respect of the topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4 How sufficiently and functionally did the author use in the thesis original charts, tables, data, annexes, etc.?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5 What is the compatibility level for the thesis basic line elements: topic – thesis assignment – objective – structure - conclusions?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Verbal assessment (several sentences), in particular:**

*Subsection 2.2:* The author has got my respect for her knowledge of the secondary sources. She proved her ability to build her thesis into the existing research framework and reflect her results in the light of the results presented in the secondary sources.

*Subsection 2.3:* The author consulted the existing papers dealing with the topic of the factors determining the economic growth rate and presented the expected determination. Then, she confronted her expectation with the conclusions of her own econometric model.

*Subsection 2.5:* The goal of the thesis is clearly identified a consistently presented in the Introduction, Conclusion, Abstract and Assignment. The conclusion is summarized both in the Conclusion and Abstract.

*Other (as appropriate):*

*Instructions for the review: Author of the review must provide verbal assessment for the specified subsections, which are pivotal for the thesis assessment, particularly for the defense; therefore, the assessment must have reasonable explanatory power.*

*Note: Classification method: 1 = exceptional, 2 = very good, 3 = good, 4 = failed.*

### 3. Assessment of the thesis text quality:

- |  |                                     |                          |                          |                          |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3.1 How well – in terms of depth and quality – did the author analyze the topic?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.2 Did the author formulate the thesis objective clearly and with logical structure?                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.3 Did the author fulfill the defined thesis objective and approved assignment of the thesis that contains the objective? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.4 How well – in terms of depth and quality – did the author cover the theoretical part of the thesis?                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.5 How well – in terms of depth and quality – did the author cover the practical / analytical part of the thesis?         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.6 To what extent are the thesis conclusions logically structured and show quality, and what is their added value?        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### **Verbal assessment (several sentences), in particular:**

Subsection 3.2:

Subsection 3.3:

Subsection 3.4: The author has conceived the theoretical part as an exposition of the picked growth-rate determinants at the general level combined with a review of secondary sources dealing with the respective determinants. Her analysis is both meticulous and extensive.

I am just a bit alarmed by the fact that, in the Subchapter 1.10, the author seems to express her acknowledgment to the Chinese one-child policy: *“Such a policy, if introduced in African countries, may be found to have a positive effect on the growth by firstly affecting the way how family invest into the number child they have, secondly leaving the population with the possibility to invest their savings into productive activities, thirdly increasing the quality of child care by parent knowing that they will focus on giving a better education and living standard to the few children they could have. Apart from increasing the total number of people who must be supported on a limited resource base, high fertility has a strong distorting effect on population age structure. High-fertility populations are dominated by large numbers of dependent children, leaving few resources to boost current consumption or to save and invest for the future.”* Did this social experiment not end up with massive infanticides? Does the author believe this is a justifiable price for an economic growth?

Subsection 3.5: I would expect a deeper discussion about the conclusion that population growth is positively correlated to the economic growth rate. In fact, the author dedicated a whole page to expounding conclusions of papers which defend the opposite hypothesis. However, the author is fine to make just a short remark: *“The idea of Prateek Agarwal that Population or labor capita been [sic] a cause of economy growth was found true for Benin.”* (p. 39). The only reference to this “idea of Prateek Agarwal” I found in the thesis is the one made on page 10: *“with a growing population means there is an increase in the availability of workers or employees, which means a higher workforce, and which however may lead to unemployment due to the effect of large population.”* In the end, the author infers a political recommendation to *“motivate a reasonable growth of the population which constitutes the labor force”*. What should I understand by the term “reasonable” as far as the population growth is concerned?

*Instructions for the review: Author of the review must provide verbal assessment for the specified subsections, which are pivotal for the thesis assessment, particularly for the defense; therefore, the assessment must have reasonable explanatory power.*

*Note: Classification method: 1 = exceptional, 2 = very good, 3 = good, 4 = failed.*

Reasonable in terms of the goal of economic growth? This is supposed to be the ultimate goal, then?

In the introduction, the author says the Benin has a “strategic location in West Africa”. Why does the author think the location to be strategic? I mean, is the west coast of Africa more strategic than the east coast or south coast or north coast?

*Subsection 3.6:*

*Other (as appropriate):*

---

#### **4. Assessment of the thesis form and style:**

- |  |                                     |                                     |                          |                          |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4.1 What is the formal layout of the thesis?   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.2 What is the quality of citations and references? Are sources identifiable?                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.3 What is the stylistic level of the thesis, particularly the use of correct economic terminology? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### ***Verbal assessment (several sentences), in particular:***

*Subsection 4.1:* I don’t understand why some figures are presented twice in the thesis - once the Chapter 2 and once again in the Appendix. Moreover, the vast majority of figures are not numbered at all.

*Subsection 4.2:* Where possible, the references in the text should contain a number of the page(s).

*Subsection 4.3:* Why is the author writing in the first person, plural? Is she a co-author of the thesis? I also recommend the author to avoid formulations like: *The results were interpreted according to some of our knowledge acquired on introductory econometrics*. This sounds really awkward and it lowers the level of the thesis.

*Other (as appropriate):*

---

**5. Overall assessment** (*It is necessary to state, whether the thesis meets the requirements of the Methodology of the Faculty of Economics in terms of the quality of contents, scope and formal requirements, whether the thesis is/is not recommended for defense. It may also be nominated for a special award, etc.):*

The author has proven her ability to formulate a scientific hypothesis, to suggest a method of a verification thereof and to infer clear and unambiguous conclusions. The author also proved her ability to build her thesis into the existing research framework and reflect her results in the light of the results presented in the secondary sources, the knowledge thereof is respectable. Except for some objections concerning the form and content and some moral reservations regarding the author’s stance on the population policy, I regard this thesis a good piece of scientific work and I recommend it for the oral defense before a committee.

#### **6. Questions and remarks to the defense:**

1. Could the author react to my objection in Subsection 3.4 regarding the Chinese one-child policy?
2. How can the author explain the positive correlation between the population growth rate and the economic growth rate in Benin? Does she subscribe to Agarwal’s interpretation?

*Instructions for the review: Author of the review must provide verbal assessment for the specified subsections, which are pivotal for the thesis assessment, particularly for the defense; therefore, the assessment must have reasonable explanatory power.*

*Note: Classification method: 1 = exceptional, 2 = very good, 3 = good, 4 = failed.*

3. What makes the location of Benin on the west coast of Africa strategic in the eyes of the author?
4. What should I understand by the term “reasonable” as far as the population growth is concerned? Reasonable in terms of the goal of economic growth? This is supposed to be the ultimate goal, then?

**Proposed grade: Excellent**

Date: June 4, 2018 .....Signature of the Thesis External Reviewer

*Instructions for the review: Author of the review must provide verbal assessment for the specified subsections, which are pivotal for the thesis assessment, particularly for the defense; therefore, the assessment must have reasonable explanatory power.*

*Note: Classification method: 1 = exceptional, 2 = very good, 3 = good, 4 = failed.*