

PURBANCHAL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT

**DISSERTATION AND VIVA VOCE EXAMINATION EVALUATION
CRITERIA - 2083**

BIRATNAGAR

JESTHA - 2083

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2023-02-26



Dissertation and Viva Voce Examination Evaluation Criteria

1. Concept and Nature of Dissertation

1.1 Meaning of Dissertation

A dissertation is a formal academic research work at the Master's level in which students independently examine a defined research problem using systematic and appropriate research methods.

1.2 Academic Purpose of Dissertation

It demonstrates a student's ability to conduct scholarly inquiry by reviewing literature, developing a conceptual framework, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing evidence-based conclusions.

1.3 Global Recognition of Dissertation

Internationally, the dissertation is a core requirement of postgraduate study that develops research skills, critical thinking, and academic writing competence.

2. Structure and Process of Dissertation

2.1 Systematic Nature

A dissertation is a structured academic study that follows a logical and systematic research process.

2.2 Key Steps in the Process

It integrates theory with empirical evidence through the following steps:

- Identification of the research problem
- Formulation of objectives
- Literature review
- Selection of research design and methods
- Data analysis and interpretation

2.3 Outcome

The process produces scholarly findings that contribute to knowledge and practical understanding.



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3. Dissertation Evaluation System

3.1 International Practice

Globally, dissertation evaluation is based on written assessment and oral defense (viva voce).

3.2 Practice at Purbanchal University

Purbanchal University follows the same dual assessment system to evaluate research competence, analytical ability, and subject knowledge at the Master's level.

3.3 Evaluation Criteria

The Dissertation Evaluation Committee assesses the following areas with a total of 60 marks on the basis of Topic relevance and significance; Clarity of objectives; Theoretical foundation; Research design; Data analysis, and Academic presentation

3.4 Viva Voce Examination

The viva voce carries 40 marks and involves oral defense of the research before the evaluation committee, including the external examiner.

4. Institutional Authority and Quality Assurance

4.1 Role of the Dean

The dissertation and viva voce process is administered under the authority of the Dean, Faculty of Management, Purbanchal University.

4.2 Responsibilities

The Dean's office is responsible for:

- Supervising the dissertation process
- Ensuring compliance with university regulations
- Appointing external examiners
- Maintaining fair and independent evaluation

4.3 Quality Assurance

This system ensures standardized evaluation, transparency, and quality assurance throughout the postgraduate assessment process.

5. Rationale for the Evaluation Criteria and Weightage of Dissertation

The evaluation is based on seven distinct criteria, each designed to assess a specific dimension of the dissertation in a comprehensive and balanced manner, including relevance

of the research topic, clarity of problem statement, literature review, research methodology, data analysis and interpretation, conclusions and recommendations, and academic writing and presentation.

5.1 Relevance and Significance of the Research Topic (5 Marks)

The selection of a relevant and significant research topic demonstrates the student's ability to identify contemporary issues, knowledge gaps, or practical problems worthy of investigation. The moderate weight reflects its importance as the foundation of the study.

5.2 Clarity of Problem Statement and Research Objectives (5 Marks)

A well-defined problem statement and clearly articulated objectives provide direction to the entire research process. This criterion assesses the student's ability to establish a focused and coherent research framework.

5.3 Literature Review and Theoretical/Conceptual Foundations (10 Marks)

A comprehensive review of relevant literature demonstrates understanding of existing knowledge, theoretical perspectives, and research gaps. Greater weight is assigned because it forms the intellectual basis of the study and supports the development of a sound research framework.

5.4 Research Design and Methodology (10 Marks)

The quality of research depends heavily on the appropriateness and rigor of the research design, sampling, data collection, and analytical methods. This criterion evaluates the scientific validity and reliability of the research process.

5.5 Data Presentation, Analysis, and Interpretation (20 Marks)

This component receives the highest weight because it represents the core scholarly contribution of the dissertation. It assesses the student's ability to organize data, apply appropriate analytical techniques, interpret findings logically, and generate meaningful insights.

5.6 Conclusion, Recommendations, Implications, and Limitations (5 Marks)

This criterion evaluates the student's ability to synthesize findings, draw evidence-based conclusions, provide practical or theoretical recommendations, acknowledge study limitations, and identify future research directions.



5.7 Academic Writing, Organization, Referencing, and Presentation (5 Marks)

Effective academic communication is essential for disseminating research findings. This criterion assesses clarity of writing, logical organization, adherence to academic conventions, accuracy of referencing, and overall presentation quality.

6. Basis of Weight Distribution

The distribution of marks places greater emphasis on the substantive academic components of research—namely literature review, methodology, and especially data analysis and interpretation—while also recognizing the importance of topic selection, research focus, conclusions, and scholarly presentation. This balance ensures a comprehensive evaluation of both the research process and the quality of the final dissertation.

7. Performance Classification Basis (Out of 60 Marks)

The classification of dissertation performance into four categories—Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, and Average—is designed to ensure a transparent, objective, and standardized evaluation of students' research output. The categorization is based on cumulative performance across all assessment criteria, reflecting the overall quality, rigor, and scholarly contribution of the dissertation.

7.1 Excellent (54–60 marks)

This category represents outstanding performance, where the dissertation demonstrates exceptional research quality, strong theoretical grounding, rigorous methodology, high-level analytical ability, and well-substantiated findings. Students in this range exhibit originality, critical thinking, and near-complete mastery of academic research standards.

7.2 Good (48–53 marks)

This category indicates a strong and competent level of performance. The dissertation is well-structured, methodologically sound, and analytically clear, with only minor limitations. The research demonstrates good understanding of concepts, adequate originality, and effective presentation of findings.

7.3 Satisfactory (42–47 marks)

This category reflects an acceptable level of performance that meets minimum academic requirements. The dissertation shows adequate understanding of the research topic and basic methodological application, but may have noticeable limitations in depth of analysis, literature integration, or presentation quality.

7.4 Average (Below 42 marks)

This category indicates performance below the expected standard for Master's level research. The dissertation may have significant deficiencies in research design, analysis, conceptual clarity, or academic writing, and does not adequately demonstrate mastery of research competencies.

8. Rationale of Viva Voce Examination Criteria by the External Expert (Out of 40 Marks)

The Viva Voce examination is designed to assess the student's depth of understanding, communication ability, and critical engagement with the dissertation. It complements the written dissertation by evaluating the student's ability to orally defend and articulate their research work in an academic setting.

8.1 Presentation Skills and Clarity of Communication (10 Marks)

This criterion evaluates the student's ability to present their research in a structured, confident, and coherent manner. It reflects the effectiveness of oral communication, use of academic language, clarity of expression, and ability to engage the evaluators. A significant weight is assigned as effective communication is essential for scholarly dissemination.

8.2 Knowledge and Understanding of the Research Study (10 Marks)

This component assesses the student's depth of knowledge regarding their research topic, including theoretical foundations, methodology, findings, and overall scope of the study. Equal weight is given as it reflects the student's conceptual clarity and ownership of the research work.

8.3 Critical Analysis, Defense Capacity, and Response to Questions (10 Marks)

This criterion examines the student's ability to critically analyze their own work, justify methodological and analytical choices, and respond effectively to questions raised by the evaluators. It is a core component of the viva process, demonstrating academic maturity and intellectual rigor.

8.4 Ability to Articulate Research Contributions and Implications (10 Marks)

This assesses the student's capacity to explain the significance of their research, including its theoretical, practical, and policy implications. It also evaluates their understanding of how their work contributes to existing knowledge and potential future research directions.

9. Overall Rationale

The equal distribution of marks across all four criteria reflects the holistic nature of the viva voce examination. Each component is considered equally important in evaluating the



student's academic competence—ranging from communication skills and conceptual understanding to critical thinking and the ability to justify research contributions. This ensures a balanced and comprehensive assessment of the candidate's overall research capability.

10. Basis of Performance Classification for External Expert Evaluation (Out of 40 Marks)

The evaluation conducted by the External Expert is classified into four performance categories—Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, and Average—based on the total score obtained out of 40 marks. This classification ensures a standardized, transparent, and fair assessment of the student's dissertation quality and defense performance.

10.1 Excellent (36–40 marks)

This category represents outstanding performance, where the student demonstrates exceptional understanding of the research work, strong analytical ability, excellent presentation skills, and a highly effective defense of the dissertation. It reflects a superior level of academic competence and minimal weaknesses.

10.2 Good (32–35 marks)

This category indicates strong performance with a clear understanding of the research study and effective communication during the viva voce. The student is able to defend the research convincingly, with only minor gaps or limitations in analysis or presentation.

10.3 Satisfactory (28–31 marks)

This category reflects an acceptable level of performance, meeting minimum academic expectations. The student demonstrates basic understanding and adequate defense of the dissertation, but with noticeable limitations in depth of knowledge, critical analysis, or communication.

10.4 Average (Below 28 marks)

This category indicates performance below the expected standard for postgraduate research evaluation. It reflects significant weaknesses in understanding, presentation, or defense of the dissertation, requiring substantial improvement.

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2083.02.26



Date:

To,
The Dean,
Faculty of Management,
Purbanchal University,
Biratnagar, Nepal

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find below the marks awarded to the student named hereunder by the duly constituted Dissertation Evaluation Committee and the External Evaluator based on the dissertation evaluation and viva voce examination conducted on

Student Information

Student Name	
Title of the Dissertation	
Registration No.	
College /Campus Name	
Program / Batch	

Part I : Evaluation of the Dissertation (60 Marks)

Components	Full Marks	Marks Awarded
Relevance and significance of the research topic	05	
Clarity of problem statement, and research objectives	05	
Literature review and theoretical/conceptual foundations	10	
Research design and methodology	10	
Data presentation, analysis, and interpretation	20	
Conclusion, recommendations, implications, and limitations	05	
Academic writing, organization, referencing, and presentation	05	
Total	60	

Marks in Words:

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Comments of the Dissertation Evaluation Committee:

The Committee is of the opinion that the dissertation is an original piece of work submitted by the student and has been prepared in accordance with the prescribed format of the University. The Committee therefore recommends the dissertation for acceptance in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of

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Dissertation Evaluation Committee

S.N.	Name	Designation	Signature
1		Chairperson, MRC	
2		External Expert	
3		Internal Supervisor	
4		Principal/Director	

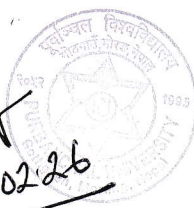
Note:

1. For the evaluation by the Dissertation Evaluation Committee, the overall performance shall be classified as follows out of 60 marks

Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Average
54-60 marks	48 - 53 marks	42 - 47 marks	Below 42 marks

2. The Dissertation Evaluation Committee is formed in accordance with the decision of the Executive Council of constituent colleges.

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Part II : Viva Voce Evaluation (40 Marks)**Student Information**

Student Name	
Title of the Dissertation	
Registration No.	
College/Campus Name	
Program / Batch	

Components	Full Marks	Marks Awarded
Presentation skills and clarity of communication	10	
Knowledge and understanding of the research study	10	
Critical analysis, defense capacity, and response to questions	10	
Ability to articulate research contributions, and implications	10	
Total	40	

Marks in Words:**Comments of the External Expert:**

The candidate successfully completed the viva voce examination and secured marks out of 40. The overall performance of the candidate was assessed as (Excellent/Good/Satisfactory/Average).

Name	Designation	Signature
.....	External Expert	

Viva Date: (B.S.) / (A.D.)

Grand Total Marks Obtained (Dissertation and Viva Voce)

In Figure	
In Words	

Verification:

Name	Designation	Signature
.....	Principal/Director	

College Stamp

Note:(For the evaluation by the External Expert, the overall performance shall be classified as follows out of 40 marks)

Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Average
36-40 marks	32-35 marks	28-31 marks	Below 28 marks

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