

## SECINTEL Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	Glasgow 2221698	Charles 75568607
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	A Case Study on British Muslims: Recent European Political Developments and Self-Censorship on Social Media	

### INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

<b>Glasgow Marker</b> <i>Office Use</i>	<b>Charles Marker</b> <i>Office Use</i>	<b>Grade Conversion</b> <i>UoG-CU      CU-UoG</i>	<b>Charles Additional Info</b> <i>Please advise ranking</i>
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### JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

<b>Final Agreed Mark</b> A3 [20]      1 [Excellent]
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### DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
<b>A. Structure and Development of Answer</b>	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Excellent
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Excellent
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Excellent
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Excellent
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Excellent
<b>B. Use of Source Material</b>	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• <i>Evidence of reading and review of published literature</i>	Excellent
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Excellent
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Excellent
<b>C. Academic Style</b>	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Excellent
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Excellent
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	No
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	Yes

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### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

#### **Glasgow Marker**

This is a sophisticated and interesting analysis of the practice of self-censorship among Muslims in the UK, from a case study of social media. Using evidence from semi-structured interviews and an online questionnaire, the dissertation offers fresh insights into how Muslims feel the need to practice self-censorship following the securitisation of cyberspace in the context of terrorist threats. Qualitative and quantitative evidence from the research are used effectively to provide exemplars from interviews and statistics from the questionnaire data to support the existing literature surrounding this subject more generally, while sensibly acknowledging the limitations of the research data for drawing conclusions. The research examines key political events to explain changes in securitisation and how this is impacting on the Muslim community's freedom of expression. Although the scope of the political analysis is quite broad and might have been somewhat more focused, the inductive nature of the research to some extent necessitated this broad treatment and investigates sometimes competing explanations. The dissertation is well-structured and the chapters address the topic through a good variety of approaches to synthesise the data in a novel way. Overall, the discussion is very well-balanced, providing excellent analysis and engagement with the literature. The approval granted by the ethics committee for the research was not submitted with the dissertation in the document, although I can confirm that the research was passed through the ethics committee and approved in February 2017 before data collection began.

#### **Charles Marker**

The author presents a thoughtful, well structured and, in a very appealing way, passionate analysis of a most actual and relevant topic. The thesis focuses on the impact of recent Islamophobia on British Muslims' freedom of expression on social media. Three research questions form a logical complex, starting with a search for the influence of the securitization of Islam in the light of current terrorist attacks, through the key question of possible self-censorship in online discussions, to the issue of gender and its role in this social process. The thesis is not theoretically oriented but it compellingly weaves in a wide range of academic literature on the issues of securitization, freedom of speech, social media and, of course, the position of the Muslim minority in Britain. Its main strength lies in the twofold methodology, combining questionnaires with in-depth interviews to provide a vivid and detailed account of (mostly young) British Muslims and their reflection of the aforementioned issues. The results of the questionnaires and answers from the interviews are expertly combined with relevant academic sources, achieving a highly persuasive analytical outcome. As mentioned above, the thesis builds on a wide array of relevant academic sources, combined with the outputs of the author's own research. The author has thus been able to place her findings and opinions against a solid background of previous academic inquiry. Among other positive features, the thesis is presented in a very engaging manner, demonstrating the author's deeply felt concerns about the social issue in vogue, and yet avoiding the trap of misrepresenting her opinions for scientific 'truths'. The passion for the subject has apparently fuelled the research, but its results are then presented in a proper analytical fashion.

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Please note that this grade is recorded as the provisional final grade for the University of Glasgow degree. All grades remain provisional until confirmed at the joint examination board.

The Czech State Exam/Oral Defense may make a difference to the final grade for the Charles University degree.

## SECINTEL Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

**Notes for Markers:** When grading the SECINTEL Dissertation markers are asked to reflect upon the aims and learning outcomes for the dissertation. Each dissertation should also adopt a clear security focus reflecting the relevant programme pathway

**Aims:** The course aims to provide students with independent research opportunities. It will include engagement with research methods training leading up to a period of independent research and the production of a substantial dissertation that builds upon themes and issues covered within the MSc International Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies. Students will be encouraged to develop their own ideas and demonstrate their capacity for original thought and independent research. The dissertation element aims to enable students to identify and research particular issues or problems, linked to security, intelligence and strategy, at a deeper level than is possible within assessed essays and to develop a critical analysis of the existing body of academic work relating to their topic of choice. Students taking this course will be prepared for further research, study or professional careers through the development of their skills in data collection and analysis, use of original and secondary sources and the conducting and writing up of a detailed research project.

**Intended Learning outcomes:** By the end of the dissertation, students will be able to:

- > Devise a realistic programme of research on a topic reflecting the main themes of the programme;
- > Collect, select and critically analyse relevant background literature and arguments of a range of scholars;
- > Understand and select the appropriate methodology for dealing with information sources and data;
- > Apply these methods to gather and interrogate data in an open-minded, rigorous and undogmatic manner;
- > Be able to critically evaluate competing theories and apply relevant theoretical frameworks to guide the study
- > Organise the data collected and analyse the findings in a competent manner that allows for a fluid and logical argument to be presented;
- > Be reflexive and self-critical about findings and the limitations of analysis;
- > Work independently, organising and maintaining own programme of study to meet academic deadlines so as to produce work containing a substantial element of originality.

**Word Count:**

Dissertations should be 20,000 words in length for students undertaking work-placement as part of the independent study portfolio and 22,000 words in length for standard dissertation students. Word counts exclude the title page, abstract, contents, bibliography and appendices). All dissertations must display an accurate word-count including the citations, footnotes/endnotes and chapter/section titles.

**Language:**

The dissertation **must** be written in British English. A Czech Language cover page / abstract may be included

**Late Submission Penalty:**

Dissertations that do not have an extension or are submitted after an extension deadline are subject to a penalty of 2 secondary bands per day (this includes weekends and holidays) on the Glasgow grading Scale.

**Plagiarism:**

Dissertations which suffer from excessive (e.g. serious and/or deliberate) plagiarism will be subject to a grade of 0/Fail and be referred to the appropriate authorities at both universities. Dissertations that contain some elements of plagiarism, but which are deemed not to be excessive (e.g. minor instances that are not considered deliberate) based on consultation of both internal markers, should be graded accordingly and will be subject to scrutiny from the external examiner and could still result in a mark of 0 as well as referral to appropriate authorities for disciplinary action.

**Consultation prior to final grading:**

First marking by both institutions should be completed blind with no prior consultation. Once both markers have graded the dissertation and provided written comments, they should consult on the grading and come to a joint final grade, taking into consideration any late submission or excessive word count penalty. It is the responsibility of the Glasgow marker to oversee this. Where markers cannot come to a joint agreement then the dissertation should be referred to the Programme Convenors at Glasgow and Charles (Dr. Eamonn Butler & Dr Vít Střítecký). The external examiner will be used to moderate any dissertation in this position and the comments referred back to the internal markers for confirmation.