

BACHELOR'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT
PPE – Bachelor's in Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Aristotle's Hylomorphism and the Mind-Body Problem
Student's name:	Nira Arapovic
Referee's name:	Jakub Franěk

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	50	30
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	15	12
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	15	10
<i>Total</i>		80	52
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	8
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	5
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	18
TOTAL		100	70

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score:

Turnitin match score is 17%. Nonetheless, a review of the Turnitin report does not suggest any evidence of plagiarism.

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria (min. 1800 characters including spaces when recommending a passing grade, min. 2500 characters including spaces when recommending a failing grade):

The author has selected an important and interesting topic for her thesis, which aims to investigate the possibility of using Aristotle's hylomorphism, more specifically his understanding of the relation between body and soul, to elucidate the so-called mind-body problem as discussed by contemporary analytical philosophy.

The thesis is clearly structured and very well argued. Apart from demonstrating her analytical and argumentative skills, the author also demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the existing literature related to the mind-body problem as well as relevant interpretations of Aristotle's metaphysics.

The present reviewer's impressions from the thesis are nevertheless mixed. The main problem is that the author appears to rely on frequent citations (whether direct or indirect)

from existing literature to such an extent that it is hard to determine what is her own contribution to the existing debates on the topics discussed. Even her discussion of Aristotle's views is largely (if not exclusively) based on citations from secondary literature rather than her own reading of Aristotle's texts.

In case of bachelor theses, one does not realistically expect emergence of some truly original or novel arguments, let alone theories. On the other hand, we do expect the authors of such theses to at least attempt to express their own ideas and/or views on the subject-matter of their theses. In case of the reviewed thesis, it would be interesting to learn what the author herself thinks about the mind-body problem, why she regards this problem as important, or for that matter, to learn how she reads Aristotle's texts in a way that can help to elucidate the mind-body problem.

Despite this lack of originality and largely formalistic approach to the subject-matter, the reviewed thesis does meet all the formal criteria and deserves to pass the defence.

Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): C

Suggested questions for the defence are:

- You repeatedly argue that mind is a "metaphysical entity". Could you elucidate what exactly you mean by this claim (or, in other words, what you mean by the adjective "metaphysical" in this context)?
- On p. 36 you suggest that what makes human beings individual and unique is their DNA. Is it really that simple? If so, how can you distinguish between two identical twins?
- In this context, you also claim that person's interests, "such as being a musician, are still regarded as the accidental [as opposed to essential] form of someone". Does this apply even in case of great composer's, such as Mozart or Beethoven? What, in your opinion, would Aristotle think of your claim?

I do recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.