

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

<b>Thesis title:</b>	<i>olitical Philosophy and Religion through the minds of Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss</i>
<b>Student's name:</b>	<b>Yelizaveta Frolova</b>
<b>Referee's name:</b>	<b>Jakub Franěk</b>

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	<b>50</b>	30
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	<b>15</b>	10
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	<b>15</b>	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>	47
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources, literature	<b>10</b>	7
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	<b>5</b>	4
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	<b>5</b>	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	15
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	62

**Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score: 13%**

*[NB:] If the plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score is above 15%, the reviewer has to include his/her assessment of the originality of the reviewed thesis in his/her review.*

**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 chosen an interesting and highly relevant but also a very complex topic for her BA Thesis: a comparative study of the understanding of the relationship between political philosophy and religion in the works of Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss.

The author must be commended for choosing such a difficult topic and for spending a lot of time and energy researching and writing her thesis. The resulting text reveals that this as a time well-spent, insofar as it made the author herself reflect about issues related to reason and revelation, thought and faith, or contemplation and action – in other words to problems and dilemmas that play important role in Arendt's and Strauss' work but also, and more importantly, have a crucial place in human life as such. Indeed, the most important accomplishment achieved by the author during the writing of her thesis is the fact that it led her to consider these important questions.

As stated above, the topic of the reviewed thesis is really complex and difficult not least because of the style of writing of both of the studied authors. Strauss, on one hand, is famous for his doctrine of esoteric writing, which he not only theorised about, but also – at least arguably – practised. Arendt’s style of writing, on the other hand, was aptly characterised by Margaret Canovan as “experimental”. In other words, both Ardent and Strauss are difficult to understand, since both of them tend to apparently contradict themselves quite often.

In spite of her best efforts, Yelizaveta was not completely successful in her attempts to interpret and compare these complex texts. Her thesis largely consist of comments on individual works of her selected authors. The attempts at a more synthetic view of their understanding of political philosophy and religion are not very persuasive and suffer from a lack of either philosophical or historical contextualisation.

In spite of the critical points raised above, I am convinced that the present thesis should be recommended to defence.

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

**Suggested questions for the defence are:**

**I (do not) recommend the thesis for final defence.**

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***Referee Signature***

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

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