

## Avital Sternin Comprehensive Exam

### Final Draft Evaluation

Please complete this form along with feedback to the student by **April 3, 2017**.

Evaluation completed by:

#### OVERALL EVALUATION OF FINAL DRAFT:

☐ Pass ☐ Conditional Pass ☐ Fail

A **pass** indicates:

- (1) the paper makes a *substantive and original contribution to knowledge* in the content area covered; and
- (2) the overall quality of the paper is at a level that the paper would be seriously considered for publication; that is, revise and resubmit.

A **conditional pass** meets one, but not both, of the requirements stated above necessary for a "Pass".

A **fail** reflects a paper that would receive an outright rejection, if it were submitted to a journal for publication.

#### COMPONENTS: Please provide comments on the paper with respect to the following:

Presentation issues

- Organization of paper
- Clarity of writing
- Length of paper

Content issues

- Clear and balanced coverage of relevant literature(s)
- Well-articulated and persuasive presentation
- Demonstration of critical and scientific thinking throughout the paper

Overall theoretical and scientific contribution of paper

Presentation: The paper is well-organized. The introduction concisely identifies what is known about the effect of music on cognition, and what issues remain unresolved. The division into three main sections addresses each relevant body of literature. The clarity of the writing is the best that I have seen in a student text. It follows APA conventions; although note that in citations, ampersands are used in parentheses, and "and" is written out in the body of the text. The length of the paper reflects the concise approach to the topic. If it is submitted for publication as a review article, I would suggest expanding it.

Content: The text covers the relevant literature. Avital identifies consistent patterns of findings in the literature, as well as inconsistent results. She proposes cognitive interpretations that accommodate both the consistent and inconsistent results. She continually relates her conclusions to the evidence. The cognitive interpretations that she proposes are plausible. One issue to consider is the extent to which there are enough experiments on any one question to form a conclusion. Avital writes a conclusion at the end of each section that integrates and clearly summarizes the results.

Overall theoretical and scientific contribution of the paper. The paper provides an update on the effect of music on cognition, which incorporates studies published since the last major literature review. If this paper were expanded, I think it may be publishable in a journal such as Educational Psychology Review or Mind, Brain and Education. Also, I think that this topic will be of interest to educators, parents, and people who work with seniors, so the content could also be published or presented in a professional or general forum.