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RESPONSE TO EXAMINER’S COMMENTS

The writer is extremely grateful to each of the examiners; for taken the time to read such a lengthy document, for their positive comments and insights, for their suggested corrections, and finally for recommending the award of the degree.

Corrections

Professor S Mindess (University of British Columbia, Canada) did not compile a list of corrections, and concluded that it ‘is worthy of the award of a PhD as it now stands’.

Professor J R Mackechnie (University of Cantebury, New Zealand) stated that ‘the thesis satisfies all the requirements for a PhD thesis, with the only qualification being minor editorial corrections’. He lists 12 in all, eleven of which are typos or incorrect spelling. The corrections have all been made.

Professor M G Alexander (University of Cape Town) stated that ‘I believe that the candidate is worthy of the award of the doctoral degree’. He does not make his comprehensive list of Specific Corrections (typos and spelling errors) and General Corrections and Queries a requirement, but the writer has incorporated/addressed almost every point, as clearly they add correctness and clarity.

Only two queries were not incorporated. The first relates to the examiner’s note on the ‘average compressive strength’ – the writer concurs with his point of view, but considers that his use of this term as a measure of the average quality of concrete pavers is sufficiently justified in 7.2.1. The rationale for the use of the second term queried by the examiner, ‘visible wear’, is explained in 8.2.3.

Finally, the writer is most appreciative for the careful appraisal made of this work by Prof. Alexander, and was very relieved and gratified when he read his opening statement, ‘Reading this doctoral thesis was an enjoyable and enlightening experience …’. 