

Doctoral Examination
Public Administration and Management
Fall 2011

PART I. Please answer one of the following two questions:

Question 1:

Discuss the topic of the performance of government agencies and programs, and their administrators. Describe and discuss major concepts of organizational effectiveness from organization theory, and other performance concepts from the public administration and public policy literatures. Discuss methods public administrators and policy makers have used to assess performance (for example, PART, program evaluation, or other methods). Discuss challenges that public administrators face in assessing performance, such as the multiple and conflicting criteria that complicate the concept of performance in public administration (for example, representativeness, equity, accountability, openness and transparency, and/or others).

Question 2

Discuss the topic of accountability of public administrators and their agencies and programs. In what ways and by what methods are public administrators held accountable? Are these methods effective? Discuss the effectiveness of these methods, or the lack thereof. Include discussion of the criteria and priorities that can conflict with accountability. Cite the appropriate scholarly literature.

Part II. Please answer one of the following two questions:

Question 3:

Assess the intellectual and scholarly status of academic public administration. By what criteria can one assess the quality of theories and concepts in the social and administrative sciences, and how well do concepts and theories in public administration hold up when assessed using those criteria? Describe and assess the developments in research and theory that you consider most important or salient in public administration. Include discussion of whether these developments can be considered paradigms or elements of a paradigm. Compare public administration to another discipline in the social sciences and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of public administration in relation to that other field. Include consideration of whether there has been recent progress in research and theory in public administration. Cite the appropriate scholarly literature in your discussion.

Question 4:

Assume you are invited to deliver a lecture to an interdisciplinary group of professors at a large, research-oriented university. They have asked you to describe and explain the field of public administration, with emphasis on the academic field, but including matters pertaining to practice. How would you describe the domain, purpose, and purview of public administration, and the major topics and issues in the field? They have asked that you include discussion of the most important contribution to the field, and the most important ways in which the field contributes to the rest of society and/or to general intellectual progress. You can cover issues of education (such as the nature of MPA programs) and the relationship of education and research in public administration to practice. Include discussion of whether public administration had advanced in recent years, in the quality of research in the field. Cite and describe major theories, concepts, scholarly contributions and contributors, as appropriate.

PART III. Please answer one of the following two questions:

Question 5:

In a recent exchange in which scholars discussed the state of public administration research and scholarship, one well-known professor said that “we must not forget the political environment.” How should we conceive and analyze the political environment of public administration and public management? What elements and processes should be included, and what aspects of these matters need attention? What do we need to analyze about their influences on public administration, public organizations, and/or public management? Describe several theories, concepts, or insights from organization theory, political science, economics, and/or public administration that you consider useful in conceiving and analyzing the political environment. Include consideration of whether there has been recent progress in research on these topics.

Question 6:

Choose four major topics, theories, concepts, or controversies (or any four combinations of these) that you considered particularly important in public administration, when you took your courses in *Public Administration and Democracy* (or the equivalent at another institution), and particularly in the capstone course, *Ideas and Issues in Public Administration*. Explain your choices, and explain why they are important. Assess their intellectual and academic status and value. Cite specific sources, references, and scholars and describe their roles. Include consideration of whether there has been recent progress in research on these topics.