

Doctoral Examination
Public Administration and Management
Fall 2009

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

1. Discuss and analyze the concept of “public” in public administration. Discuss several ways in which the concept can be defined, and the public category or domain can be identified. What are the implications of public status for administration? Designate at least three major issues or topics in administration, such as the external accountability and control of organizations, organizational structure, rules, employee motivation and work attitudes, or others. Discuss the ways in which public status influences these issues and topics. In your analysis, cite important research, theoretical concepts, and scholarly contributors that inform discussion of the topics.

2. Designate the six most important topics, individual books, and/or journal articles that you covered in PADP 8710, *Ideas and Issues in Public Administration*. Explain why the topic, book, article, or set of articles is important in the field. Describe and summarize it, and discuss the nature and value of the contribution. Describe insights that you feel you gained from the contribution. Discuss relationships, or lack of relations, between the six you discuss. Can you discern relations among them?

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

3. Designate a research question that you consider important in public administration or public policy. Explain why it is important. Display what you have learned about effectively designating and designing a good research question. Describe in detail a study or research project that you propose as a way of making progress in answering the question. Describe the research method you would use, including any instrumentation such as a survey or other data- or evidence-gathering method. Describe major research design provisions, such as comparison groups or statistical controls variables you will use in a regression analysis. Describe the type of data you would collect, and how you will analyze the data.

4. Describe an empirical study you have read, or a stream of studies with which you are familiar, in public administration or public policy. (Examples: one or more of the Meier-O’Toole studies of Texas School District Administrators; a study using the NASP III data; a study of public service motivation (PSM) or a set of PSM studies; or another study or studies that you choose). Critique the conception and design of the study or set of studies. Explain why you think the basic research question or hypothesis is well developed, or why you think it is not as effectively developed as it should be. Critique the research design and method both positively and negatively, as you see fit. What did

the author(s) do right and/or wrong? Ultimately, assess the strength and value of the study or studies.

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

5. Bureaucratic discretion, and the authority that resides with unelected administrators in the administrative branch, represents one of the fundamental and controversial challenges in public administration. Provide a scholarly essay on this topic, citing major contributions its development, factors and developments that have expanded bureaucratic discretion and authority, and means of controlling and governing it.

6. Discuss the criticisms of the administrative branch of government in the U.S. and other nations that have led to “bureacrat bashing,” and reforms aimed at improving the motivation and performance of government managers and employees in recent decades. Discuss and analyze the arguments mounted by those who defend the performance of the administrative agencies and their personnel, and who defend the legitimacy of those administrators and agencies as participants in governance (for example, Goodsell, the Blacksburg group, Meier/O’Toole, and others). Assess the adequacy of those defenses.