

Doctoral Examination
Public Administration and Management
Fall 2020

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

Question 1:

In an article published in *Public Administration Review* in 1947, Robert Dahl assessed the state of the academic field of public administration, particularly in terms of the prospect of the development of the field as a scientific discipline. He argued that the field then faced "three problems" which would have to be addressed before public administration could merit scientific status. These were: (1) clarifying the place of normative values in the field; (2) developing a better understanding of human nature in administrative settings, thus providing better predictability of behavior; and (3) generating a sophisticated comparative study of public administration. Now more than 70 years later, on the basis of these criteria (and, if appropriate, any others that you care to add), how far has public administration come toward the goal of achieving stature as a field of social science? Clarify and defend your assessment with reference to your knowledge of the research literature of the field.

Question 2:

Identify three lines of theoretical and empirical work currently under active and productive study in public administration. What research questions do they focus on? What do the findings suggest? What issues need to be explored for this work to have significant impact on the field? Cite and use relevant literature.

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

Question 3:

The politics/administration dichotomy, which was dogma for the emerging discipline of public administration in the 1930s, was seen as a fallacy by the late 1940s. What gave rise to the dichotomy? Why is it inaccurate and inappropriate to reference Woodrow Wilson's 1887 essay entitled "The Study of Administration" as the source of the dichotomy? What was it that brought on subsequent challenges to dichotomy's validity? What scholar or scholars would you credit with first pointing out the inaccuracy of the dichotomy? What do you see as the major implications of the intermixture of administration and politics? What can you say about the political dynamics of public administration in a democratic society?

Question 4:

One of the classic issues for public administration and public bureaucracy has concerned how proactive a public administrator should be in orchestrating policy change, as opposed to waiting for guidance from elected officials. Write a scholarly essay on this question. To what extent

should public administrators be proactive, and what does the evidence indicate about whether they actually are proactive? Cite and review theories, and literature concerning these questions. What are the issues for democratic governance that relate to the question of how proactive a public administrator should be.

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

Question 5:

Wallace Sayre once wrote that public and private administration are alike in all unimportant respects. What do you think Sayre meant by that statement? Is the statement accurate? How do you assess the claim that administration is a generic subject that can and should be studied and generalized about in a broad sense rather than sector by sector? What does the research literature say on this issue.

Question 6:

The administration of public programs is undergoing constant change. In recent years there has been a push toward giving private or nonprofit organizations more responsibility for the administration and implementation of traditionally public programs (i.e. through contracting out or even total privatization). Write an essay that discusses how such practices may influence our traditional conceptualizations of accountability for government organizations. Make sure you discuss the relevant literature and use examples as appropriate.