

**Doctoral Comprehensive Examination**  
**Public Administration and Management**  
**Fall 2021**

**DIRECTIONS:** Develop comprehensive, coherent, and well-flowing essays in response to your chosen questions in Parts I, II and III. Please choose one question from each Part. Indicate by Part and number which question you are responding to at the beginning of each essay (i.e. PART I Question 1). Cite appropriately throughout all of your work and provide full references at the end of each essay. Remember the 5,000 word limit for this exam, inclusive of all essays but not including reference pages.

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

Question 1:

Designate the six most important topics, individual books, and/or journal articles that you have read and thought about as part of your coursework as well as other experiences in the PhD program. Explain why each topic, book, article, or set of articles or experiences is important for future teachers, researchers, and practitioners to be knowledgeable about. Describe, summarize, and discuss the nature and value of each contribution, and any interrelationships that may exist among the six. Describe insights you gained from each in building your understanding of public administration and management.

Question 2:

What is a theoretical framework and what is the purpose of discovering and disseminating knowledge about them? Discuss three theoretical frameworks of public administration, explain the supporting research that undergirds each, and their contributory value in terms of understanding public administration. After contemplating and explaining these frameworks, justify in detail where each falls short regarding modern public administration.

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

Question 3:

Carl Friedrich and Herman Finer got into heated debate regarding the actions of public managers vis-à-vis political officials. Explain what this debate was about, articulate the components of each argument, and provide justifications by each scholar for their respective view. Given modern advancements of AI and information technologies, can robotic management be a part of the conversation regarding current government administration? What would Friedrich and Finer claim if they were living in today's world?

Question 4:

Reconcile the constancy of disasters of all sorts with the enduring need for accountability in government and of those administering its programs, services, and projects. Explain traditional theoretical perspectives of government accountability and detail their relevance given disastrous times. Justify your view with appropriate research as well as at least one practical example of a government agency and/or administrator(s) in action.

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

Question 5:

Explain if and how prevailing conceptions of social justice and equity square with traditional ones related to government operations of legal stewardship and efficient management. Defend your reasoning regarding attention to each concept by calling upon appropriate scholarship. How would you counsel those entering public service to navigate effectively regarding all of these values?

Question 6:

Governments operate today in concert with a cornucopia of partners and through networks to get work done. Discuss the characteristics, decision makers, and stakeholders of public networks and if and how government performance is influenced by such collaborations. Explain the ways that government operations conducted in networks conflict—or not—with public management tenets of control, accountability and efficiency, as well as ones regarding diversity, equity and inclusion.