

PhD Specialty Exam Evaluation Rubric

Level of Achievement	Conceptual Understanding (10 points possible)	Argument Structure (10 points possible)	General Presentation (10 points possible)	Use of literature and pertinent resources (5 points possible)
Exemplary (equivalent to letter-grade A)	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(10 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a clear understanding of the question. • Uses a broad range of information to build and support the answer. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(10 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents the answer in the form of a well-structured, logical argument. • Provides relevant evidence to support the argument and conclusions. • Provides reasons for the legitimacy of the evidence (i.e. warrants) that enable conclusions. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(10 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information flows logically from the start to the end of the answer • Provides a clear and thorough introduction and background • Uses good style and grammar (0 errors) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(5 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a significant amount/number of data and/or information relevant to the proposed research
Highly Proficient (equivalent to letter-grade B+)	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(9 pts.)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(9 pts.)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(9 pts.)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(4 pts.)</i></p>
Proficient (equivalent to letter-grade B)	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(8 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a fairly good understanding of the question. • Uses an adequate range of information to build and support the answer. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(8 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents the answer in the form of an adequately-structured, logical argument. • Presents the answer in the form of an adequately-structured, logical argument. • Provides weak reasons for the legitimacy of the evidence (i.e. warrants) that enable conclusions. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(8 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information flows somewhat logically from the start to the end of the answer • Provides an acceptable introduction and background • Uses acceptable style and grammar (1-2 errors) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(3 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses limited number of sources of data and/or information relevant to the question.

Moderately Proficient (equivalent to letter-grade C)	<i>(7 pts.)</i>	<i>(7 pts.)</i>	<i>(7 pts.)</i>	<i>(2 pts.)</i>
Needs Improvement (equivalent to letter-grade D or below)	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(6 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not demonstrate an understanding of the question. • Uses a limited range of information to build and support the answer. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(6 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents the answer in the form of a poorly-structured, logical argument. • Provides none or irrelevant evidence to support the argument and conclusions. • Provides none or wrong reasons for the legitimacy of the evidence (i.e. warrants) that enable conclusions. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(6 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information flows illogically from the start to the end of the answer • Provides an unacceptable introduction and background • Uses poor style and grammar (>2 errors) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(1 pts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no data or information relevant to the question in the answer.