

Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam in Public Administration
Fall 2015

*Answer **three** of the following questions in **4.5 hours**, avoiding duplication between answers where possible. Remember to demonstrate a comprehensive command of the literature by discussing the scholars and/or movements that are relevant to each response.*

Good luck!

1. Leading contributors to academic public administration have referred to the politics-administration dichotomy as everything from the "cornerstone" of the field to a "perdurable, confounding" concept that hinders its progress in terms of developing theory, valid research, and practical applications. Write a brief essay entitled, "The Status of the Politics-Administration Dichotomy in Contemporary Public Administration."
2. Brian Fry and Jos Raadschelders' book, *Mastering Public Administration* contains biographical and intellectual profiles of Max Weber, Frederick Taylor, Mary Parker Follett, Chester Barnard, Herbert Simon, Charles Lindblom, and Dwight Waldo, among others. Choose any **one** of these profiled contributors and explain whether, on balance, you agree or disagree that his or her contributions to public administrative knowledge merit inclusion in a book on "mastering" the contemporary field of public administration.
3. Various authors and strands of thought in public administration have used the metaphor of "pillar" to denote basic clusters of theory, concepts, research, concerns, and normative values on which the field rests. Prominent among such pillars are economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and social equity. Some contend that these pillars are "hollow" in the sense that their content is poorly defined, they are theoretically and conceptually incoherent, or are merely normative preferences lacking clear democratic-constitutional, philosophical, or other legitimation. Evaluate the utility of any **one** of the abovementioned putative pillars in terms of contributions to public administration theory and research.
4. The "performance movement" in public administration and management is alive and well. Explain why that is the case. Explain its origins and its role in contemporary governance. What are its benefits? Its costs? Will this question be appropriate for a doctoral comprehensive exam in 20 years? Why/why not?
5. Is New Public Management fundamentally different from prior reforms in Public Administration? Why or why not? What does your answer imply for the future of the profession and the discipline?