

Political Science PhD Qualifying Exam Rubric

Track

Student Name _____

Field

Question Number

Overall Score

Criteria	Score by Criteria	Comments/Feedback
<p><u>Knowledge of field:</u> Essay demonstrates comprehensive PhD-level understanding of the processes, theories, and empirical regularities in the field. Essay identifies areas of consensus/cumulative knowledge, how the discipline generated this knowledge, existing gaps in knowledge, existing debates, and potential paths towards addressing these gaps and resolving debates.</p>		
<p><u>Command of literature:</u> Essay is situated in research relevant to the question prompt. Essay makes clear links between the relevant research and the thesis. Literature is directly cited to appropriately support knowledge claims.</p>		
<p><u>Methods:</u> Essay demonstrates deep understanding of methods used in the literature. Essay identifies strengths and weaknesses of research designs and approaches to hypothesis testing used in the literature. The degree to which the evidence produced by relevant studies supports theoretical claims is discussed in an appropriately critical manner.</p>		
<p><u>Quality of writing:</u> The essay thoughtfully argues a thesis, is clear and concise. The essay uses conventional grammar and syntax. The discussion flows among relevant points. Citations and figures are appropriately used.</p>		

Examiner