

Rubric for UCLA AOS Written Examination

Presentation and structure (25% of grade)

Criteria for **exceeding expectations** (at the level appropriate for a first year PhD student): the exam is concisely and logically written. Connections between sentences, paragraphs, and sections are clear, making the main ideas easy to follow for a general scientific audience. Statements of fact are always or almost always supported by relevant citations.

Comments on whether exam is concisely and logically written:				
Comments on whether main ideas are easy to follow for a general scientific audience:				
Comments on whether statements of fact are always or almost always supported by relevant citations:				
Comments on any other aspects of presentation and structure:				
Overall grade for category (circle one):	4: Exceeds expectations	3.5: Meets expectations	3: Partially meets expectations	2: Does not meet expectations

Ability to summarize current knowledge on topic (25% of grade)

Criteria for **exceeding expectations** (at the level appropriate for a first year PhD student): the student wrote an effective literature review on the chosen topic that integrates knowledge from a wide range of appropriately cited peer-reviewed sources. The summary is logical, complete, and demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic.

Comments on whether student wrote an effective literature review that integrated knowledge from a wide range of sources				
Comments on whether the review is logical, complete, and demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic:				
Comments on whether citations were used appropriately:				
Comments on any other aspects of the literature summary:				
Overall grade for category (circle one):	4: Exceeds expectations	3.5: Meets expectations	3: Partially meets expectations	2: Does not meet expectations

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Ability to identify open science question or formulate scientific hypothesis (25% of grade)

Criteria for **exceeding expectations** (at the level appropriate for a first year PhD student): The student's research question or hypothesis is clearly articulated, well-motivated by a clear scientific gap demonstrated by the review of relevant literature, and its relevance to the broader scientific context is clearly articulated.

Comments on whether relevance of scientific question or hypothesis to broader scientific context is clearly articulated:				
Comments on whether scientific question or hypothesis is motivated by a clear scientific gap:				
Comments on whether scientific question or hypothesis is clearly articulated:				
Comments on any other aspects of student's ability to identify an open science question or formulate a scientific hypothesis:				
Overall grade for category (circle one):	4: Exceeds expectations	3.5: Meets expectations	3: Partially meets expectations	2: Does not meet expectations

Ability to propose scientific approach to address science question (25% of grade)

Criteria for **exceeding expectations** (at the level appropriate for a first year PhD student): The student articulated a clear plan to investigate the research question that they showed to be consistent with current scientific knowledge on the topic, and that has potential to answer the research question within a reasonable time period and with reasonable resources.

Comments on whether student's proposed research plan is consistent with current scientific knowledge:				
Comments on whether student's proposed research plan has potential to answer research question within a reasonable time and with reasonable resources:				
Comments on any other aspects of the student's proposed scientific approach:				
Overall grade for category (circle one):	4: Exceeds expectations	3.5: Meets expectations	3: Partially meets expectations	2: Does not meet expectations