

School of Public Affairs  
American University  
Comprehensive Doctoral Exam in Public Administration  
September 17, 2007

Answer THREE questions in no more than 4.5 hours. Try to minimize overlap in your answers.

1. The "reinventing government" movement is now more than a decade old. Write an essay explaining its origins, objectives, achievements, and shortcomings. For the purposes of the essay you may treat "reinvention" and the New Public Management synonymously.
2. The U.S. constitutional separation of powers is generally thought to have major impacts on U.S. national (federal) level administration. What are some of those impacts and why are they important to the field of public administration?
3. The politics-administration dichotomy is sometimes said to "confound the study of public administration." What is the dichotomy? How did it develop? In what sense can it be said to "confound the study of public administration"?
4. Master of Public Administration programs tend to have courses on ethics, but not on administrative corruption. Do you think courses or components of courses should be devoted to administrative corruption? Why or why not? *Outline* what a course or component of a course on administrative corruption might include.
5. Write an essay comparing and contrasting any *three* of the following:  
Max Weber    Frederick Taylor    Woodrow Wilson    Herbert Simon    Dwight  
Waldo    Donald Kettl    Luther Gulick    Paul Light    any author  
currently on the faculty of the American University School of Public Affairs.
6. Management reform efforts may be devised to meet a range of objectives (or agendas). Discuss two such objectives (or agendas) and provide examples of reform initiatives that were developed to address those objectives (or agendas). Assess the results of those initiatives, commenting on both their limitations and strengths.
7. Several writers have commented on the difficulty of creating effective methods of assuring public administrative accountability in a democracy. Chose any two such authors (excluding anyone discussed in response to question 5 above) and discuss how they deal with administrative discretion, hierarchical control, political oversight, and operational cost-effectiveness. Treat the coauthors of articles and books as a single author for the purposes of this question. If one or both of the authors you choose to discuss does not address each of the concerns above (that is, discretion, control, oversight, cost-effectiveness) explain why it might be missing from his/her discussion.