

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULES FOR THE PHD AND THD GENERAL EXAMINATIONS

- 1). PhD and ThD students are each enrolled in an area or field with its own intellectual tradition and organization at Harvard University. Students are asked to participate in the activities of those areas and fields, particularly the colloquia, to fulfill their language requirements and to respect, when they exist, the inherent and written rules of that field or area.
- 2). PhD and ThD students are expected to develop their own thinking and to find their own topics of interest. With their advisor's help, each student will test his or her ideas and methods enriched by relevant bibliographies. Interdisciplinary enterprise will be welcome, and the advisor, as well as the doctoral subcommittee, will facilitate its implementation.
- 3). For their General Examinations, PhD and ThD students will each submit a list of the members of their General Examinations Committee (normally three faculty members from the relevant fields). They will also prepare a list of topics for the General Examinations according to their interests, the fields chosen, and the usual requirements when they exist in an explicit way. These topics must be accepted by the General Examinations Committee of the student.
 - a) PhD and ThD students will generate bibliographies of relevant literature for each of their examinations (total 10-15 pages). The bibliography must be international and include titles in languages other than English whenever relevant. Each bibliography must begin with a paragraph explaining the nature of the topics chosen and the rationale for selecting the materials listed. The bibliography is presented to the candidate's General Examinations Committee for acceptance and signature. It is then checked and signed by the PhD or ThD director.
 - b) The student's primary academic advisor chairs the General Examination Committee. It is the advisor's responsibility to confer with each examiner in the writing of examination questions and to insure that topics are covered appropriately and that there is no obvious repetition among questions.
 - c) The General Examinations are taken in four days for PhD students (the first day being the Theory and Method examination) and three days for the ThD (for whom the Theory and Method examination is optional).
 - d) The Theory and Method examinations have their own requirements.
 - e) The last day of the General Examinations is devoted to the special field of interest of the candidate, usually a field in which the dissertation will be written.
 - f) The two other days of the General Examinations are devoted to the general field and area in which the candidate is enrolled.
 - g) Each examination is taken in a three-hour period.
 - h) Each examination or part of an examination offers a choice of 2-3 questions.

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