

COMPETENCY GUIDE FOR FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

One broad question will be completed for this portion of the exam. Students will have two questions from which to choose. The answer will require synthesis of the material used to answer the following questions and definitions of key concepts given below:

- ❑ What is the nature of public administration, and how has it developed as a field? What are the tensions between the big and little questions of public administration?
- ❑ What are the issues in the relationship between the public, politicians, and administrators? To whom are administrators accountable?
- ❑ What are the tensions between democracy and "bureaucracy," and how can they be reconciled?
- ❑ What are the tensions between promoting administrative self-interest and the public interest, and how can they be reconciled?
- ❑ What is the normative base of public administration, i.e., values that guide practice? How does one reconcile "neutrality" and commitment to values in public administration? Is ethics essential to public administration?
- ❑ What does the "public" in public administration really mean? What is the impact of the modalities of implementing public administration on this concept?
- ❑ How does public administration legitimize its activities?
- ❑ What are the alternative bases of administrative ethics?

Key Concepts

Accountability

Bureaucracy

Citizen participation; how administrators relate to citizens

Complementarity - Political-administrative relations

Democracy

[Dichotomy] Political-administrative relations

Ethics

Internalized / External control: complexities of accountability [e.g., Principal-Agent and/or principled agent]

Governance, new

History

Implementation, Networks, and Nonprofits in Public Administration

Intellectual issues: PA as field of study

Leadership

Legitimacy

Models of PA Evolution, overlap, and coexistence of models

Classical model – Differentiation of functions

Orthodox model – bureaucracy/principles of administration/scientific management

Political and institutional models

Normative model

- Waldo
- New PA
- Refounding/efforts to establish legitimacy of public administration

Public Choice/NPM

- Principal-Agent

Neutrality: active/expansive definition versus passive/narrow definition

Public interest vs. self-interest

Public vs. Private Administration

The Public

Roles and responsibilities

State agent/citizen agent