

School of Public Affairs  
American University  
Comprehensive Doctoral Examination in Public Administration  
January 19, 2007

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

1. The 1937 Report of the President's Committee on Administrative Management (also known as the Brownlow Report) is sometimes considered the "high noon" of orthodox (or classical) public administration in the U.S. If you were asked to write a review of the Report in celebration of its seventieth anniversary, what themes (of the Report itself or the orthodox thinking that produced it) would you emphasize and why?

2. As a field of study, U.S. public administration has wrestled with the theme of "bureaucracy versus democracy" in one way or another for well over a century. Why has it been difficult to integrate large scale public administration (sometimes called "the administrative state") into U.S. constitutional government?

3. At an international conference, an American University professor contended that one could "still get more mileage out of Max Weber than out of Donald Kettl." His point was that if one could read only one author on bureaucracy, Weber would be the obvious choice. What was Weber's contribution to the study of bureaucracy? How helpful is that contribution in promoting an understanding of public administration? Do you agree or disagree with the contention that Weber would be the best single choice? Explain.

4. Some public administrative theorists and scholars contend that the New Public Management (NPM) represents a paradigm shift in public administrative theory and practice. What are the main tenets of the NPM and what is new, if anything about them? (For the purposes of this question, you may treat "reinventing government" and the NPM as synonymous.)

5. Place the rise and decline of any one of the following in the context of the development of U.S. public administrative thought:

- A. The politics-administration dichotomy
- B. The case study movement (1950s-1960s)
- C. The New Public Administration
- D. The human relations approach
- E. Scientific Management

6. Write the equivalent of an encyclopedia entry on any **one** of the following:

- A. Representative bureaucracy
- B. Administrative accountability
- C. Organization theory
- D. Network theory
- E. Public choice
- F. Neoinstitutionalism
- G. Bureaucratic Politics
- H. Implementation
- I. Presidential authority in normal times and in emergencies.

7. Who do you consider to be the two major contributors to U.S. administrative thought since the 1880s? Explain. Exclude Max Weber (due to question 3) above and anyone currently affiliated with American University.