

Evaluation Rubric for Ph.D. Examination Paper (Empirical Paper)

The review of the doctoral written examination paper will use the following holistic rubrics as guidelines for evaluation, in addition to the narrative comment sheet.

A. Mechanics: The paper is expected to conform with the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed., 2001).

I. Proper Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

- 2- Accomplished: The paper is essentially error free in grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- 1- Satisfactory: While there may be minor errors, the paper follows normal conventions of spelling and grammar throughout. Errors do not significantly interfere with topic comprehensibility.
- 0- Unsatisfactory: Major errors in spelling, grammar, sentence structures that make reading difficult and interfere with comprehensibility.

II. Writing Style

The writing style helps the reader to follow and comprehend the paper. It includes an orderly presentation of ideas, smoothness of expression, precision and clarity. The paper is expected to conform with Chapter 2 (Expressing Ideas and Reducing Bias in Language) of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed., 2001). Specifically, the paper will display an: Orderly presentation of ideas; Smoothness and Economy of expression; Precision and Clarity.

- 2- Accomplished: The manuscript is ready for submission for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. While there may be minor errors, conventions for style and format are used consistently throughout the paper. Writing flows smoothly from one idea to another. Transitions effectively establish a sound scholarly argument and aid the reader in following the writer's logic. Organizationally, smooth and effective transitions between topics lead the reader through an orderly discussion of the topic being addressed.
- 1- Satisfactory: While there may be minor errors, conventions for style and format are used consistently throughout the paper. Transitions and organizational structures such as subheadings are effectively used to help the reader move from one point to another.
- 0- Unsatisfactory: Major stylist problems and inconsistencies are apparent. The inappropriate style makes reading and comprehension difficult. Weak transitions and apparent logic gaps occur between topics being addressed. The style detracts from the comprehensibility of the manuscript.

III. APA Editorial Style (Chapter 3 to 6 of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association)

- 2- Accomplished: The manuscript is organized and prepared in APA format, e.g., appropriate citations, headings, subordination, references and tables.
- 1- Satisfactory: The manuscript is generally and prepared in APA format. Some minor omissions occur.
- 0- Unsatisfactory. APA Editorial Style is almost neglected or misinterpreted on a large scale

Theoretical Framework:

IV. Comprehensive Literature Review

Sufficient empirical and theoretical research is cited to ground the study in relevant areas of research. The literature review is carefully focused on research directly relevant to the study.

V. Argument Building

Builds an argument for the need and significance of the study rather than just summarizing related research. Identifies gaps in the literature. Presents a clear argument for the current study addressing the gap(s).

Method:

VI. Consistency

Research questions are directly in line with the need and purpose developed in the theoretical framework. Research methods are appropriate for addressing the research questions.

VII. Comprehensiveness

All aspects of the design, procedure, measures, and analysis are fully described.

Results:

VIII. Reliability (or Data Reduction?)

Appropriate checks were used on all measures (e.g., Alpha, Factor Analysis, inter-rater reliability). For qualitative research, a theoretical approach to data reduction, category development, etc. was fully articulated.

IV. Validity

Appropriate statistical analyses were used (quantitative). Assertions are warranted through appropriate thick description, triangulation of data, etc. (qualitative).

V. Clarity

The results are reported in a clear way with sufficient explanation of their meaning.

Discussion and Conclusions:

VI. Warranted

The conclusions and interpretations made are warranted based on the results.

VII. Significance

The significance of the results for both theory and practice is clearly articulated.