

**Criminology**  
**Qualifying Examination Rubric**  
**In-House Research Methods and Data Analysis**

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptors address each of the following areas: Formal writing conventions, theoretical knowledge, knowledge of empirical literature, critical appraisal, research methods knowledge, and data analysis knowledge. Use the evaluation scale below for each question, based on each domain descriptor.<sup>1</sup>

0 = Absent: No evidence of knowledge/skill.

1 = *Poor/Unacceptable*: Demonstrates poor/unacceptable knowledge or skill

2 = *Limited/Basic*: Demonstrates limited/basic knowledge or skill

3 = *Adequate*: Demonstrates adequate knowledge or skill

4 = *Advanced*: Demonstrates highly developed knowledge or skill

5 = *Exceptional*: Demonstrates expert or near expert knowledge or skill

**Formal Writing Conventions:** The student is expected to use formal writing conventions, and will be assessed with regard to essay organization, structure and coherence, and grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, spelling, and evidence of proofreading. Students are expected not to overuse direct quotations.

**Empirical Literature Knowledge:** The student is expected to convey comprehensive knowledge of the empirical literature that pertains to the question. Relevant information/sources should be incorporated and cited.

**Critical Appraisal:** The student is expected to go beyond conveying knowledge of subject matter to show advanced, independent thinking and critical analysis of the material. As relevant to the question, the student is expected to provide evidence and other support for his/her claims.

**Research Methods Knowledge:** The student is expected to convey his/her knowledge, as appropriate to the question, of philosophy of science, causality, research design, sampling, measurement reliability and validity, data collection methods, and human subjects protections.

**Data Analysis Knowledge:** The student is expected to convey his/her knowledge of quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques and their appropriate application to particular research questions and data.

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<sup>1</sup> Answers that are non-responsive to the question will be graded accordingly within the respective rubric dimensions. For instance, the non-responsiveness may be to questions about research methods and/or data analysis. The student may neglect to cover the relevant empirical literature and/or to add his/her critical analysis.

*Directions:* Please rate the doctoral student's performance for each question in each area (component) listed below and produce an overall rating of performance on the qualifying exam. In grading the exam, the committee member will take into consideration the nature of the exam (i.e., 10-day take-home with resources versus in-class exam without notes).

	Domain Descriptor	Fail			Pass		
		Absent 0	Poor/Unacceptable 1	Limited/Basic 2	Adequate 3	Advanced 4	Exceptional 5
WR	Formal Writing Conventions	Writing does not employ formal writing conventions.	Writing minimally employs formal writing conventions.	Writing is limited in the employment of formal writing conventions.	Writing exhibits adequate application of formal writing conventions.	Writing exhibits advanced application of formal writing conventions.	Writing exhibits exceptional application of formal writing conventions
EL	Knowledge of Empirical Literature	Demonstrates no knowledge of empirical literature	Demonstrates poor/unacceptable knowledge of empirical literature	Demonstrates limited/basic knowledge of empirical literature	Demonstrates adequate knowledge of empirical literature	Demonstrates advanced knowledge of empirical literature	Demonstrates exceptional knowledge of empirical literature
CA	Critical Appraisal	Demonstrates no analytical abilities and critical thinking	Demonstrates poor analytical abilities and critical thinking.	Demonstrates limited/basic analytical abilities and critical thinking.	Demonstrates adequate analytical abilities and critical thinking.	Demonstrates advanced analytical abilities and critical thinking.	Demonstrates exceptional analytical abilities and critical thinking.
RM	Research Methods Knowledge	Demonstrates no knowledge of research methods	Demonstrates poor knowledge of research methods	Demonstrates limited/basic knowledge of research methods	Demonstrates adequate knowledge of research methods	Demonstrates advanced knowledge of research methods	Demonstrates exceptional knowledge of research methods
DA	Data Analysis Knowledge	Demonstrates no knowledge of data analysis methods and their appropriate application.	Demonstrates poor knowledge of data analysis methods and their appropriate application.	Demonstrates limited/basic knowledge of data analysis methods and their appropriate application.	Demonstrates adequate knowledge of data analysis methods and their appropriate application.	Demonstrates advanced knowledge of data analysis methods and their appropriate application.	Demonstrates exceptional knowledge of data analysis methods and their appropriate application.