

Student Name
Advisor: First Last

Month DD – Month DD, 20YY
HESA Doctoral Qualifying Exam
Faculty Evaluations due by Month DD, 20YY

Part 1

This portion of the qualifying process asks you to apply foundational concepts and literature in our field. You should demonstrate that you can engage thoughtfully with important issues or challenges, analyze questions in depth, and express your ideas clearly with appropriate grounding in relevant literature.

Please respond in *no more than 20 double-spaced pages* (excluding tables, figures, and references) in 12-point Times New Roman. Cite your sources carefully and completely using APA style, and make sure that all sources cited in the text appear in your list of references. Allow yourself time to carefully review your work.

There is no right answer to the prompt below. This does not mean that any answer is right, however. Suggested page lengths for each section are just that—suggestions.

A number of important issues have confronted higher education for decades, if not centuries. Please select *one* issue from the list at the end of this section, and prepare a response in four sections as follows:

1. **Introduction.** Introduce the issue, including a working definition (or definition of key elements) as well as an explanation of why the issue is/was important. (1-2 pages)
2. **Historical background.** Identify what you consider to be key historical moments, events, and actors (persons or organizations) whereby the issue has emerged, come into prominence, and (if appropriate) receded from prominence. Justify your choices. (6-8 pages)
3. **Organizational analysis.** Using one or at most two perspectives from organization theory, identify why colleges and universities have or have not adequately responded to the issue, why some have while others have not (if relevant), and why the issue periodically re-emerges (if relevant). (A thorough treatment is more important than the number of perspectives used.) (6-8 pages)
4. **Gaps, limitations, research agenda.** Articulate your sense of where this issue is headed and what types of actions are needed. Are there gaps or limitations in our conceptual or empirical understanding of this issue? Unanswered or insufficiently answered questions? Important avenues for future research? (2-4 pages)

You are not required to devote equal attention to the historical and organizational treatments, but your response must adequately address both. You may introduce other perspectives if you

deem them necessary, but not at the expense of adequately addressing the historical and organizational perspectives.

Issues/Topics – choose one of the following

- Advisor to insert 4-6 Topics of their choice from the current year Part 1 Topic List here as bullet points and change the font color back to black.

Part 2

In no more than 20 pages (excluding cover page, references, tables, and appendices, but including footnotes or endnotes), please address the items below. Support your argumentation with appropriate references in APA style. Be sure that all sources cited in the text appear in your list of references. Submit your response on letter-size paper with one-inch margins using a 12-point, Times-style font. Allow yourself ample time to carefully review your work. Page lengths indicated for each section are only suggestions.

ADVISOR TO INSERT THE PART 2 QUESTION SPECIFICALLY DEVELOPED FOR THIS STUDENT HERE AND CHANGE THE FONT COLOR BACK TO BLACK.

Please make sure to address and answer each point noted above. Some aspects will require more content than others. Page guidelines have been suggested above, but are not a requirement. Feel free to readjust as necessary to strengthen your response.