

Oral Examination Evaluation Rubric (Dissertation)

Outstanding – 4	Demonstrated exceptional mastery when discussing the dissertation’s contributions and significance to historical scholarship and debates. Answers to most questions were exceptionally incisive and thoughtful. Demonstrated a clear vision for moving forward to publication and pursuing further lines of investigation inspired by the dissertation.
Very Good – 3	Demonstrated overall mastery when discussing the dissertation’s contributions and significance to the historical scholarship and debates. Answers to most questions were incisive and thoughtful. Has given some consideration to moving forward to publication and pursuing further lines of investigation inspired by the dissertation.
Acceptable - 2	Demonstrated satisfactory understanding when discussing the dissertation’s contributions and significance to historical scholarship and debates. Answers to several questions were muddled or lacked careful thought. Has given cursory consideration moving forward to publication and pursuing further lines of investigation inspired by the dissertation. A minimally passing oral defense.
Unacceptable - 1	Demonstrated frequent misunderstanding or uncertainty when discussing the dissertation’s contributions and significance to historical scholarship and debates. Answers to many questions were muddled or lacked careful thought. Has given no attention to moving forward to publication and pursuing further lines of investigation inspired by the dissertation. A failing oral defense.