

Communication Studies Comprehensive Exam Rubric

Question #:	Evaluator:		
Grading Criteria	Exceptional	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Completeness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive knowledge in area of concentration (breadth and depth) 	All aspects of the material under consideration are not only thoroughly addressed, but are addressed with notable attention to detail. There is considerable evidence of depth and breadth of topic understanding and a superior level of topic competency demonstrated. Analysis is very thorough and there is a high level of critical thinking apparent in the answer.	All aspects of the material are addressed, although some aspects may be more thoroughly addressed than others. Depth and breadth of topic understanding are evident and acceptable competency of topic knowledge is demonstrated. Analysis reflects critical thinking and is sufficiently thorough.	All aspects of the material may be addressed, or only some aspects but in either case the writing is sparse. Evidence of depth and breadth of topic understanding is missing or inadequate and does not adequately reflect competency of topic knowledge. Analysis is incomplete and does not reflect adequate critical thinking.
Validity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validity of arguments Quality of evidence Documentation of evidence 	Arguments are clearly and explicitly stated and presented logically through the use of claims, data, and warrants. Student demonstrates awareness of the primary research in the relevant area of concentration by supplying compelling evidence from reputable sources to support arguments.	Overall, arguments are clearly and explicitly stated, however, some may be vague and/or may not be presented logically through the use of claims, data, and warrants. The student demonstrates some awareness of the primary research in the relevant area of concentration, but some gaps or oversights are present. Arguments are inconsistently supported or sometimes unsubstantiated.	Arguments are not clearly or explicitly stated, nor are they presented logically through the use of claims, data, and warrants. Student does not demonstrate awareness of the primary research in the relevant area of concentration. Arguments are unsubstantiated.
Organization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical development of ideas. Effective use of summaries, signposting, and transitions. 	Ideas are developed in a logical manner to support the central purpose or argument. Ideas flow smoothly from one to another and are clearly linked to each other. The line of reasoning is readily apparent and easy to follow.	Overall, ideas are developed logically, however, some of the ideas presented may not make sense together or do not clearly support the central purpose or argument. The line of reasoning is mostly apparent and the reader is able to follow.	Ideas are not developed logically. Ideas frequently fail to make sense together and/or do not clearly support the central purpose or argument. There is no identifiable line of reasoning, and the reader is unable to follow.
Clarity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus Ability to stay on point Presentation of complex ideas 	Insightful and nuanced understanding is demonstrated. Ideas are immediately on point and stay on point. Complex ideas are presented in an understandable way.	Acceptable interpretation is evident. Some difficulty staying on point but overall demonstrates appropriate focus. Complex ideas are discussed adequately or possibly inconsistently.	Poor or inadequate interpretation is demonstrated. Serious lack of focus is evident in the answer. Inability to translate complex ideas into understandable terms.
Mechanics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical aspects of writing (i.e., grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) Documentation of evidence 	Writing is technically clean, with few errors. APA format is used accurately and consistently throughout.	Writing is technically proficient, however, there may be some errors that reflect lack of technical understanding. Errors, however, do not interfere with intelligibility. There are errors in APA format.	Writing is technically inadequate. Errors interfere with the intelligibility of the writing. Errors reflect a lack of technical understanding. Documentation of sources is not recognizable as APA format.
Overall Rating (circle). -If Unacceptable, please list Main Areas that must be improved to be Acceptable. -If Acceptable or Exceptional, please list the Main Areas of good or better achievement.	Exceptional	Acceptable	Unacceptable

