CONTENT OF THE PhD ORAL CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

The purpose of the oral candidacy exam is to determine whether the provisional candidate is capable of completing a PhD thesis which would form an original piece of research at an advanced level. In doing this, the candidacy exam would usually attempt to answer the following questions:

1. What is the precise topic of the thesis? If the thesis is to comprise a set of essays, what is the precise topic of each essay?

2. What is the detailed outline (including methodology) of the thesis?

3. What data (if any) are required in order to complete the thesis and where are these data to be obtained? (The student should also provide information on any special hardware required or surveys to be undertaken.)

4. How does the existing literature relate to the subject area(s) of the thesis? (The student should be prepared to provide a comprehensive discussion of the literature.)

5. How will the thesis significantly add to the literature in the subject area(s)?

The student will provide written answers to these questions in a paper normally of 20 to 40 pages no later than one week prior to the candidacy exam.

In cases where the candidate plans a thesis made up of a set of separate, perhaps unrelated, essays, it is expected that the candidate will be able to answer the above questions for each of the essays, although less detail on one of them may be acceptable.

The examining committee will examine the candidate on topics relating to the five questions given above in order to determine whether the candidate will be able to complete the proposed research program as well as to confirm that this program will yield an original piece of research at an advanced level. The committee will **not** ask questions which require the candidate to have finished substantive segments of the proposed research program.

During their questioning and deliberations, the candidacy examination committee should recognize that the candidate's general knowledge of economics has already been tested by theory comprehensive examinations. As a result, questions should concentrate on the broad topic area of the thesis.

(comp&cand/oral candidacy instructions)