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Attached please find the Retake Qualifying Doctoral Exam for Higher Education. The exam is divided into three main parts. Please retake the section(s) that you did not pass previously.

In Parts I – III, you will be given a choice of questions; in each case, you will choose one question to answer. Please indicate on each question answered, the number and title of the question (i.e. Part I—Public Policy Perspectives, etc.)

- Before you begin, create a header for each page with your student ID number (found on the label of this envelope), the name of the exam you are taking (HRED Qualifying Exam) and today’s date.

- When you complete a section, insert a page break before starting the next section.

In developing your responses, be sure to organize them in a logically coherent way and to make optimal use of relevant/current research and literature applicable to each question.

**Part I**
Public Policy Perspectives
(Choose one of eight)

**Part II**
Higher Education as a Field of Study
(Choose one of two)

**Part III**
Research
(Choose one of six)
PART I. PUBLIC POLICY PERSPECTIVES

You must respond to any one of the questions listed below. There is no requirement to select a particular question based upon your program (K-12 or Higher Education).

PUBLIC POLICY PERSPECTIVES QUALIFYING RE-TAKE EXAM QUESTIONS

Directions: Select one (1) of the eight (8) questions presented below and respond to it in a coherent essay. Be sure to draw on your knowledge of policy analysis and the literature to frame your basic position, support the position with the best available evidence and to develop your response in clear and coherent prose.

Question #1: McDonnell and Elmore (1987) identify four (4) mechanisms that translate policy goals into action or facilitate policy implementation.
   A) Identify and define each of these four (4) mechanisms. Additionally, discuss each mechanism's strengths and weaknesses for policy implementation.
   B) For each of the policy issues listed below, decide which mechanism(s) you think would work best and provide a substantive reason as to why.
      i. Teacher professional development
      ii. Student uniform dress code
      iii. Site-based management at the school level
      iv. District wide drug prevention program
Question #2: You have just been appointed superintendent for a large urban public school district (student population - 20,000). Using the "classic stage model" of the policy process, discuss, explain, and describe the steps that you would need to take to formulate a new district wide policy that would adequately respond to the new legislation that was recently adopted concerning "bullying."

Question #3: Recently, the high school policy on semester grades has come under attack. Currently, a system of reporting percentages on students' report cards is employed (e.g., 86%, 73%, 98%, etc.). Consequently, the potential for a HS student to earn a grade of 0% for a semester course grade is quite possible, which would mean that a student would have to earn a minimum grade of 80% each of the remaining three semesters in order to pass the course for the year with a 60%. An increasing number of parents and students are in favor of changing the HS grading policy currently in place and are beginning to make their voices heard at BOE meetings and in the local media. The HS principal and staff are not in favor of changing the current system of grading. The BOE has requested that you examine the current grading policy and make a recommendation on how the district should proceed.

Employing one of the several theories of the policy process, state the steps and explain how you would analyze, review and suggest possible policy changes concerning the school district's HS grading policy.

Question #4: Understanding the legislative structure and process is important for policy analysis. Please prepare a policy paper that answers the following questions: (1) What are the characteristics of the U.S. political system? (2) How does a bill become law in the legislative process at the federal and state level? (3) Based on empirical research, analyze how the U.S. political system can influence education policies? (4) Discuss the implications for policy makers and higher education administrators. Please consider using existing statistics and empirical research papers in your response.
Question #5: Despite the increase in the absolute number of African American and Hispanic students going to college, policy researchers have pointed out that these two groups continue to lag behind their White peers in the chance of attending four-year institutions. Please prepare a policy paper to (1) outline the historical trend of these two racial groups’ access to college, and (2) describe one or two major federal policies and programs that have aimed at reducing these disparities. Finally, (3) synthesize the impact of the policy/program on the equality in higher education across racial/ethnic groups. Please consider using data and research articles/reports in your response. Be certain to address all three required elements above.

Question #6: After a decade of impressive growth, programs and offices devoted to diversity in academe are bearing their share of pain from the recession. Facing the economic challenges, some higher education institutions are cutting budget or even eliminating these programs. You are the director of a multicultural center providing services to minority students in a comprehensive university. Recently you have been informed that the university is proposing drastic cuts to a range of programs and services. If enacted, the budget will eliminate this multicultural center. Please write up a policy report to (1) demonstrate the purpose and benefit of diversity in higher education, and (2) comment on the university's proposal from the perspective of its potential impact on the university. In your response, please consider data, the historical trend of diversity in higher education, and research evidence on the benefits of diverse student body in higher education. Address the two required elements above.
Question #7: Demonstrate your understanding of policy models:

Directions: answer parts A, B and C

A. What is your “working definition” of policy? In preparing your
definition please define and distinguish between “Policy Analysis”
and “Policy Advocacy”.

B. Education leaders should have a good understanding of policy
that affects education in the pre K-12 area, broadly speaking.
Briefly defend this assertion in 3 to 4 paragraphs.

C. Theorists often refer to various models for understanding the
policy process. These models include: Institutionalism,
Rationalism, Group Theory, Elite Theory and Incrementalism.
Identify the characteristics of three of these models and your
assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of those models in
understanding policy development and implementation. In
preparing your response you may find it useful to prepare a table
to structure your response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Analysis Model (prepare response for 3 of these models)</th>
<th>Identify / explain characteristics of model</th>
<th>Identify / explain strengths and weakness of model in helping education leader understand the development and implementation of education policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutionalism</td>
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<td>Rationalism</td>
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<td>Group Theory</td>
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<td>Elite Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incrementalism</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Question #8: Demonstrate your ability to frame a PK-12 policy issue / question:

Based upon your knowledge, identify an important policy issue in the PK-12 education sector:

- Develop, define and explain in clear terms what you see to be one (1) significant policy question.

- Identify and explain one or two policy alternatives to the policy question you identified.

- Identify two or three groups or organizations who would be the principal actors in this policy discussion e.g., parents, principals, politicians, unions, school boards etc. and explain why they would be key actors.

- Describe the evaluative criteria that the key actors you identified in this policy discussion might be inclined to use to assess the effectiveness of the significant policy issue / question you have identified. Because group interests generally influence the means by which they evaluate a policy the criteria will vary by actors.
PART II. HIGHER EDUCATION AS A FIELD OF STUDY

HIGHER EDUCATION AS A FIELD OF STUDY
RE-TAKE QUALIFYING EXAM QUESTIONS
NOVEMBER 4, 2011

Directions: Please choose ONE of the following two questions and craft an analytical essay in response.

**OPTION 1**
Since the early 1980s, we have seen a number of “waves” of national reform focused on the quality, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of American higher education. During the Bush Administration, for example, we saw Secretary Margaret Spellings’ establishment of a Commission on the Future of Higher Education. President Obama initiated a focus on the community college as a key to preparing the workforce of the 21st century. Write an essay on “Recent Reform Movements in American Higher Education” in which you identify one such reform effort and briefly describe its scope and agenda. What was the impetus for this reform effort? How has higher education been changed as a result of this effort? How do you assess the impact of this effort on institutional leaders, faculty, students and their parents?

**OPTION 2**
Despite a weak academic job market, doctoral education in the U.S. has continued to expand over the past 20 years. A good bit of that growth has been in professional doctoral programs in areas such as educational leadership, public administration and, specifically, higher education administration. Higher education as a field of study continues to change, as do universities change, the economic conditions, the character of the professional work, the job market, and the student population. What are the major challenges you see that confront higher education doctoral program in the United States? In the context of higher education doctoral programs, what are some important changes have you observed in recent years? What should be the purpose of doctoral education in the field of higher education? How ought doctorates in higher education be educated and prepared? Please be clear about the rationale for your position. Also, be sure to include any empirical evidence that supports your position.
Part III. RESEARCH

Qualifying Exam Retake Research Question
November 4, 2011

Choose Only One of the Six Topic Choices to Answer
There is no requirement to select a particular question based upon your program (K-12 or Higher Education)

Choose one of the general topic areas listed on the next page and develop a research study that addresses the topic. As you explain the study, be sure to include each of the following:

- A statement of the "problem" you intend to investigate.
  The problem statement should define the scope (magnitude) and the precise nature of the problem (dilemma, phenomenon of interest), as well as the usefulness of framing the problem in this form. You should situate the problem in a specific institutional context and describe how it manifests itself in that context. To the extent possible, you should clarify how the problem as you have formulated it fits more broadly within current trends in American K-12 or higher education.

- Research questions that derive logically from your problem statement.

- A coherent research plan and appropriate methods of data collection.
  Identify the basic approach you will employ to answer your research questions. Will you employ survey techniques? Qualitative approaches? Secondary analyses of existing data? Why is your approach the most appropriate? Within that basic approach, identify what data are required to answer the questions, the sources of those data, and how the data will be obtained. Justify the effectiveness of this design in addressing the research questions.
As you explain the data you intend to collect and the methods for doing so, be sure to clarify your strategy for ensuring reliability and validity.

- **Data Analysis Plan.** Articulate your plan for organizing and analyzing the raw data; specify how your analytical approach will address your research questions.

Remember that a very important element of a research proposal is the problem statement; so please allocate proper attention to that problem statement and how it shapes your research questions.

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**Choose Only One of the Six Research Topic Choices to Answer**

There is no requirement to select a particular question based upon your program (K-12 or Higher Education)

**HRED Research Topic Choices:**

1. The role of adjunct/contingent faculty in university governance.
2. Mathematical literacy of college students.
3. Student persistence in doctoral programs.

**K-12 Research Topic Choices:**

4. The influence of a small-group after school mathematics tutoring program in Grade 4 on Grade 4 student performance on the annual statewide test of skills and knowledge in mathematics.
5. The factors that influence high school students' decisions to participate in co-curricular activities as freshmen.
6. The relationship between Grade 8 student participation in a Title I mathematics basic skills instruction program and final report card grades in mathematics.