

Guidelines on Article-Style Area Exams

The following is a set of points to attend to in article-style area exams. It should be adapted as needed to the specifics of the student's study:

1. Clarity of abstract and keywords
2. An unambiguous statement of the research question/problem and its importance should appear within the first few pages.
3. The paper should be theoretically grounded.
4. The paper should be well-situated within a current literature.
5. The research design segment of the methods section should thoroughly describe
 - a. Sampling
 - b. Instrumentation
 - c. Data collection
 - d. Any ethical issues that arose
6. The methods section should go on to thoroughly describe the data, the analytic strategy, and justifications for analytic decisions.
7. It should be clear how the analysis answers the research question/problem posed earlier in the paper.
8. There should be an interpretation of results that integrates the findings so as to answer the research question/problem posed earlier in the paper.
9. The discussion section should state the contributions and implications of the work.
10. The discussion section should explain the limitations of the research, including where applicable issues of validity and reliability.
11. The paper should follow journal rules for formatting (e.g., ASA style).