

Scoring Rubric for Ph.D Comprehensive Exam (College of Marine Science) – (PhD Outcome 1)

Student _____ Date _____ Committee Member _____

Circle the appropriated boxes in each category. Each student’s performance will be scored in five categories: Understanding of Questions, Response to Questions, Support, Organization, and Language. The committee’s ranking will be based upon a five point scale (5 = Exemplary, 4 = Strong, 3 = Competent, 2 = Marginal, 1 = Unacceptable). The minimum successful score will be “Competent” or better from a majority of the Committee, with no score being “Unacceptable”.

	Understanding of Questions	Response to Questions	Support	Organization	Language
5 – Exemplary	Responds incisively and directly to the questions asked.	Responses to questions are specific, defensible, and complex.	Provides substantial, well-chosen evidence (research or textual citations) used strategically.	Responses contain appropriate, clear and adequate transitions between sentences and paragraphs.	Apt and precise diction, syntactic variety, clear command of Standard English.
4 – Strong	Most responses are direct and relevant to the questions asked.	Responses to question are more general, but still accurate; analyses go beyond the obvious.	Provides sufficient and appropriate evidence and, makes effort to contextualize it.	Responses contain distinct units of thought in paragraphs, coherently arranged; occasional weakness in transitions between sentences, paragraphs or thoughts.	Some mechanical difficulties; occasional problematic word choices or awkward syntax errors; occasional grammar errors; some wordiness.
3 – Competent	Responds adequately to the questions asked; occasionally responds with unrelated information.	Responses to questions are overly general and disorganized; may have some factual, interpretive, or conceptual errors.	Provides some evidence but not always relevant, sufficient, or integrated into the response.	Responses are uneven; paragraphs sometimes effective, but others are brief, weakly unified, or undeveloped; some awkward or missing transitions between thoughts.	Occasional major grammar errors (e.g., agreement, tense); frequent minor grammar errors (e.g., prepositions, articles); occasional imprecise diction; awkward syntax; wordiness.
2 – Marginal	Confuses some significant concepts in the questions asked.	Responses to questions are vague or irrelevant.	Evidence usually only narrative or anecdotal; awkwardly or incorrectly incorporated.	Repetitive, wanders.	Frequent major and minor grammar problems; frequent imprecise diction; wordiness; awkward syntax; repetitive sentence patterns; problems impede meaning.
1 – Unacceptable	Does not understand questions and/or concepts.	No discernable response to most questions given.	Little or no evidence cited to support responses.	Responses are arbitrary or not structured, illogical or not coherent.	Numerous grammatical errors and stylistic problems; English overwhelmingly non- Standard; errors in every sentence