

## PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL EXAMINATION IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

In the second term of graduate study, each student must submit an application for the general examination that identifies the three or four fields for the exam as well as the examiner for each field. Prospective reading lists for each field are due with the application for the general examination.

Two of the fields must adhere to the following definitions:

- 1) the history of a single scientific discipline (e.g., chemistry, mathematics, physics, astronomy, geology, biology, medical sciences and health care, psychology and the neurosciences, or anthropology);
- 2) the history of the science of a particular epoch or the relations of science with, for example, society, technology, philosophy, or religion.

A third and an optional fourth field may be developed in consultation with the advisor and the examiner.

Possible combinations include (but are not limited to):

- Two fields in history of science and two fields in history
- Two fields in history of science and two fields in literature
- Two fields in history of science and two fields in sociology
- Two fields in history of science, one in history, and one in science
- Two fields in history of science, one in history and one in anthropology
- Two fields in history of science, one in government, and one in sociology
- Two fields in history of science, one in Art History and one in VES
- Three fields in history of science, and one in history

Please consult the GSAS Handbook for information about fields in other departments.

The material covered in each field is determined by agreement between the student and the examiner, and the student prepares each field in close consultation with the examiner. Preparation should normally be completed within two years of the beginning of graduate study, with the Examination being taken at the end of the second year or the beginning of the third year. The Department is prepared to relax this rule somewhat for students in fields in which the linguistic requirements are particularly heavy, or in cases in which the student has been enrolled less than full-time.

Fields may be prepared in a variety of ways. In addition to intensive reading, the following types of projects might be undertaken during the process of preparation: formulating reading lists, preparing a lecture; writing papers; presenting a syllabus for a possible course; leading a seminar, etc.

The General Examination is a sesqui-hour—or, in the case of examinations comprising four fields—a two-hour oral examination. Each of the examiners has one half hour to examine the student in his or her respective field, and, at the end of the exam, an additional half an hour is allotted to the examination committee to discuss and evaluate the examination. Ordinarily, the student will be examined on several specific topics in each field, of which two or three normally are proposed by the student and determined in consultation with the examiners. The topics are known, therefore, to both student and examiners in advance of the examination. The specific topics covered by each field examination are, as a matter of course, based upon materials which are understood to have been covered by the student during the period of preparation and should not necessitate additional research or preparation.

*Before the General Examination may be taken, all course requirements must be met. In particular, all 16 half courses required for the Ph.D. degree must be graded (no "incompletes"). The student must have passed the first language examination prior to taking the General Examination.*

The scheduling of the general examination is done by the administrative coordinator for graduate studies