

GRADUATE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION  
COMPARATIVE AND HISTORICAL SOCIOLOGY

August 25-26, 2003

In this examination, you are required to answer a total of three (3) questions. You have 24 hours from the time you pick up this examination to the time you must return the completed answers. Your answers should not exceed twenty (20) double-spaced, typed pages for the entire examination, excluding the references. You should follow a journal format (e.g., *American Sociological Review*) for references and citations.

You may consult your notes and readings, but you can not discuss any aspect of the examination with anyone until after you have returned your completed examination.

Please sign below at the time you pick up this examination and again when you return it.

Date and time started: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time returned: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Approaches (choose one question):

1. What is the role of historical narratives in sociological explanations?
2. Outline the major approaches to small N comparative historical studies and their relative advantages and disadvantages. Use several empirical examples to substantiate your arguments.

Research Design:

3. Methodologically speaking, what are the strengths and weaknesses for both quantitative cross-national comparison and qualitative comparative-historical case studies? Discuss these strengths and weaknesses and design a research project to test competing theories on a major issue in one of your substance fields.

Substance Areas (choose one question):

4. Explain the rise and expansion of mass education cross nationally and critique the competing theories.
5. Recent acceleration of the shift of service industry jobs from the advanced industrialized countries to developing countries (for example, IT related jobs from the U.S. to India) presents a new challenge to comparative analysis of stratification. Discuss the implications of this trend in relation to the poverty and stratification issues from both the perspectives of industrialized countries and that of developing countries.