

**Scoring Rubric for Ph. D Oral Comprehensive Exam (Department of Geological Sciences)**

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Committee Member \_\_\_\_\_

**Initial the appropriate boxes in each category.** Each student’s performance will be scored in three categories: Understanding of Questions, Response to Questions, and Support from Literature. 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.

	Understanding of Questions	Response to Questions	Support from Literature	Comments
5 – Exemplary	Responds incisively and directly to the questions asked.	Responses to questions are specific, defensible, and complex. Student needs no prompting and demonstrates intellectual independence from advisor and committee.	Provides substantial, well-chosen evidence (research or textual citations) used strategically.	
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. Little/no prompting required.	Provides sufficient and appropriate evidence and, makes effort to contextualize it.	
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. Student answers benefit from prompting by committee.	Provides some evidence but not always relevant, sufficient, or integrated into the response.	
2 – Marginal	Confuses some significant concepts in the questions asked.	Responses to questions are vague or irrelevant. Student requires substantial prompting to develop an answer.	Evidence usually only narrative or anecdotal; awkwardly or incorrectly incorporated.	
1 – Unacceptable	Does not understand questions and/or concepts.	No discernable response to most questions given.	Little or no evidence cited to support responses.	