

CDB Exam Checklist

Name:

UIN:

Exam: Prelim

Committee Members: _____

Grading Scale

Above Expectations (A)

Meets Expectations (M)

Below Expectations (B)

Overall Assessment on this exam: _____

Oral

Written

A M B

A M B

1. Formulation of specific aims

How clearly are the aims designed and expressed, and do the experiments described in the Research Plan adequately correspond to, and address, those Aims?

Specific comments:

2. Scope of project

Appropriate for PhD project?

Specific comments:

Oral
A M B

Written
A M B

3. Significance/Innovation

(Scientific Justification for the Project)

Has the student identified an important problem, and is the approach likely to yield significant, novel findings?

Specific comments:

4. Background knowledge in field

Does this student understand the overall concepts, literature, and methodologies in the field?

Specific comments:

5. Progress and/or student productivity

How much has this student accomplished so far? Has he or she been adequately focused and motivated?

Specific comments:

6. Experimental Plan

- Methodology

Are the proposed methods the appropriate for the task? Does the student understand the methods and both the experimental and analytical issues he/she is likely to face?

Specific comments:

-Feasibility

Does the student have access to the infrastructure and expertise, either through collaboration or in the lab, needed to carry out the experiments? Are the proposed experiments likely to be completed in a reasonable time and with reasonable effort and cost?

Specific comments:

-Outcomes/pitfalls/interpretations/
alternative approaches

Has the student identified reasonable alternative approaches to be applied if the proposed plan does not work or does not answer the key questions? Has the student outlined what could be learned if the outcome is not as expected?

Specific comments:

7. Presentation and paper

Were the paper and talk organized and presented well?

-Organization/Format

- Clarity

- Grammar/Structure

NA

Specific comments:

8. Do you have any other advice or suggestions to bring to the student's attention?

Specific comments: