

**A. SPECIALIZATION EXAM GRADING CRITERIA**

An exam response will be given a grade of **PASS** if:

1. The exam response synthesizes and evaluates pertinent information in addition to reviewing and analyzing material. (The student should meet with his or her advisor and dissertation committee prior to the specialization qualifying exam to develop guidelines for pertinent knowledge that may be required on the specialization exam.)

Note: Synthesis is defined as the combining of often varied and diverse ideas, forces, or factors into one coherent or consistent complex; or composition or combination of parts so as to form a whole. Evaluate is defined as judgments concerning the worth, quality, significance, amount, degree of, condition of.

2. The central ideas or arguments in the response are (a) thoroughly explored, (b) supported with appropriate references, and (c) presented clearly and logically.
3. The exam response includes discussion of relevant theoretical frameworks and research findings that are appropriately referenced.
4. The exam response is well organized.
5. The most current APA Publication Manual guidelines are consistently followed in preparation of the typed copy of the exam response.

An exam response will be given a grade of **FAIL** if:

1. The first criterion for a pass has not been met, regardless of whether criteria 2 through 5 have or have not been met.