
Specialization Examination (*İxtisas İmtahanı*)
Topics and Reading Lists
PhD in Public Administration
School of Public and International Affairs, ADA University
— 2026 Admission Cycle —

A. Examination Topics (10 themes)

1. *The Intellectual History and Identity of Public Administration.* The politics–administration dichotomy (Wilson, Goodnow); the “principles” school and Simon’s critique; Waldo’s normative challenge; Dahl’s three problems for a science of administration; public administration vs. public management.
2. *Organization Theory and Behavior.* Bureaucracy (Weber); decision-making and bounded rationality (Simon); the behavioral and cooperative-systems traditions (Barnard, March & Simon); institutionalism (Selznick); the distinctiveness of public organizations.
3. *Bureaucracy, Democracy, and the Administrative State.* Bureaucratic discretion and responsibility; the Friedrich–Finer debate; representative bureaucracy; street-level bureaucracy (Lipsky); the legitimacy of the administrative state (Rohr); red tape.
4. *Public Management and Reform Paradigms.* Classical public administration; New Public Management (Hood; Osborne & Gaebler); public value (Moore); New Public Governance/networks; the neo-Weberian state; comparative reform (Pollitt & Bouckaert).
5. *The Policy Process.* Agenda-setting and multiple streams (Kingdon); incrementalism (Lindblom); punctuated equilibrium (Baumgartner & Jones); the advocacy coalition framework (Sabatier & Jenkins-Smith); social construction of target populations (Schneider & Ingram).
6. *Policy Analysis, Implementation, and Evaluation.* Policy analysis methods (Weimer & Vining); implementation theory (Pressman & Wildavsky); program evaluation; the use of evidence in decision-making.
7. *Public Budgeting and Financial Management.* The lack of budgetary theory (Key); incrementalism and its critics (Wildavsky); the politics of the budgetary process; contemporary budgeting and financial management (Rubin).
8. *Human Resource Management and Public Service Motivation.* Merit systems and civil service; public service motivation (Perry & Wise); managing and motivating in the public sector (Rainey); personnel reform.
9. *Governance, Networks, and the Tools of Government.* Governance with and without government; collaborative and network governance; the tools/instruments approach (Salamon, Hood); co-production; contracting and third-party government.
10. *Administrative Ethics, Accountability, and Digital Governance.* Ethics for public managers (Cooper, Rohr); accountability frameworks (Behn); transparency; e-government and digital-era governance (Dunleavy & Margetts; Fountain); data and AI in the administrative state.

B. Reading List — Public Administration

I. Intellectual History and Theory

1	Shafritz, Jay M., and Albert C. Hyde (eds.). <i>Classics of Public Administration</i> . 8th ed. Cengage, 2017.
2	Wilson, Woodrow. "The Study of Administration." <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> 2, no. 2 (1887): 197–222.
3	Waldo, Dwight. <i>The Administrative State</i> . (1948; 2nd ed. 1984).
4	Simon, Herbert A. <i>Administrative Behavior</i> . (4th ed., Free Press, 1997; orig. 1947).
5	Frederickson, H. George, Kevin B. Smith, Christopher W. Larimer, and Michael J. Licari. <i>The Public Administration Theory Primer</i> . 4th ed. Routledge, 2018.

II. Organization Theory and Bureaucracy

6	Weber, Max. "Bureaucracy," in <i>From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology</i> (Gerth & Mills, eds.).
7	Wilson, James Q. <i>Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It</i> . Basic Books, 1989.
8	Selznick, Philip. <i>TVA and the Grass Roots</i> . University of California Press, 1949.
9	Lipsky, Michael. <i>Street-Level Bureaucracy</i> . Russell Sage Foundation, 1980 (30th-anniversary expanded ed., 2010).

III. Bureaucracy, Democracy, and Accountability

10	Rohr, John A. <i>To Run a Constitution: The Legitimacy of the Administrative State</i> . University Press of Kansas, 1986.
11	Behn, Robert D. <i>Rethinking Democratic Accountability</i> . Brookings Institution Press, 2001.

IV. Public Management and Reform

12	Hood, Christopher. "A Public Management for All Seasons?" <i>Public Administration</i> 69, no. 1 (1991): 3–19.
13	Osborne, David, and Ted Gaebler. <i>Reinventing Government</i> . Addison-Wesley, 1992.
14	Moore, Mark H. <i>Creating Public Value</i> . Harvard University Press, 1995.
15	Pollitt, Christopher, and Geert Bouckaert. <i>Public Management Reform: A Comparative Analysis</i> . 4th ed., <i>Into the Age of Austerity</i> . Oxford University Press, 2017.

V. The Policy Process and Analysis

16	Kingdon, John W. <i>Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies</i> . Updated 2nd ed. Longman/Pearson, 2011.
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17	Lindblom, Charles E. “The Science of ‘Muddling Through.’” <i>Public Administration Review</i> 19, no. 2 (1959): 79–88.
18	Weible, Christopher M. (ed.). <i>Theories of the Policy Process</i> . 5th ed. Routledge, 2023.
19	Pressman, Jeffrey L., and Aaron Wildavsky. <i>Implementation</i> . (3rd ed., University of California Press, 1984).

VI. Budgeting

20	Wildavsky, Aaron, and Naomi Caiden. <i>The New Politics of the Budgetary Process</i> . 5th ed. Pearson/Longman, 2003.
21	Rubin, Irene S. <i>The Politics of Public Budgeting</i> . 9th ed. CQ Press/SAGE, 2019.

VII. HRM and Motivation

22	Rainey, Hal G. <i>Understanding and Managing Public Organizations</i> . With Sergio Fernandez and Deanna Malatesta. 6th ed. Jossey-Bass/Wiley, 2021. (Pair with Perry & Wise, “The Motivational Bases of Public Service,” <i>PAR</i> 50 (1990): 367–373.)
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VIII. Governance, Networks, and Collective Action

23	Ostrom, Elinor. <i>Governing the Commons</i> . Cambridge University Press, 1990 (Canto Classics reissue, 2015).
24	Salamon, Lester M. (ed.). <i>The Tools of Government: A Guide to the New Governance</i> . Oxford University Press, 2002.