

Subject Board Summary Guidelines on State Doctoral Examination

The State Doctoral Examination takes place before the Examination Committee. Its proceedings and announcement of outcome are public. The Examination consists of a general part and a special part. Both knowledge of contemporary scholarly literature (including journals) and an originally planned presentation of the subject matter play an important role in each part of the Examination. The plan itself or the presentation of a particular problem as chosen by the committee from the plan may become the subject of debate.

The student registers for the state final exam in SIS, usually a month before the state exam date. The supervisor in ISP confirms that all obligations necessary for taking the state exam have been fulfilled.

The course of study, the state final examination and the defence of the doctoral dissertation are regulated by the [Study and Examination Regulations of the Charles University](#), the [Rules for The Organization of Study on FSS CU](#), the [Dean's provision no. 21/2023 Organization of Doctoral Studies at FSV UK](#) and the framework study plans for individual disciplines.

(1) Registration for State Doctoral Examination

The doctoral student registers for the state doctoral examination in SIS, usually one month before the date of the state examination. The supervisor in the doctoral student's ISP will confirm that all obligations necessary for registration for the state examination have been fulfilled

(2) State Doctoral Examination Committee

The composition and rules of procedure of the State Doctoral Examination Committee and the process of the Examination are governed by Article 10 (2) of the *Code of Study and Examination of Charles University in Prague*.¹

1 The Chair and members of the State Doctoral Examination Committee are appointed by the FSV UK Dean after the appointments have been discussed in the Subject Board. As a rule, the advisor sits in the Committee. At least one of its members must be from outside the FSV UK academic community. Provisions of Article 7, with the exception of Paragraphs 7, 8, 10 and 11, apply to the State Doctoral Examination, but the Examination consists of one part.

2 The student is expected to be capable of discussing the prescribed texts or articles/chapters by at least three authors that he/she chooses from the offer.

(3) General Part

The general part is not a knowledge test. Instead, it shall test overall orientation within the field and ability to understand particular information and theories within the broader contexts of knowledge sociology has to offer. The general part consists of two portions: (a) theoretical sociology and (b) methodology and epistemology.

The general part consists of eleven questions, including five questions on theoretical sociology, three questions on epistemology, and three questions on methodology. The wording of the questions is attached.

The student draws two questions: one on theoretical sociology and one from the methodology & epistemology pack.

Expectations: Overall orientation within the field is understood as (i) orientation in the basic issues of a given subject area and alternative explanatory approaches; and (ii) ability to understand those issues within context and identify their relations with other sociological issues.

The Committee expects that the student first presents a written plan of his/her response and informs the Committee about his/her relationship with the topic: what literature he/she has read,² whether he/she has written any text about the topic, etc. Subsequently, the Committee shall specify its questions. The Examination proceeds to a discussion of the ideas and

approaches as presented by the student. The student is expected to be capable of formulating his/her own approach to the issues falling under the questions drawn, in line with his/her professional profile.

(4) Special Part

The special part serves for the student's presentation as an expert in the field of their Doctoral Dissertation. The student shall speak on one of five prepared topics related to their Dissertation Project. Such topics shall be discussed between the advisor and the student in advance (each topic must list the names of the prominent personalities working on the subject matter and the titles of their most relevant works on the subject matter) and submitted to the Subject Board through its Secretary. The Subject Board shall approve them or, if necessary, recommend revisions. During the presentation, the student should outline and discuss critically any peculiar, unfamiliar, or special issues in their contexts, and in particular, in relation to his/her ongoing doctoral research.

Expectations: The Committee expects that the student first presents a written plan of his/her presentation, informs the Committee about the relations between the topic and his/her Doctoral Dissertation, and introduces relevant issues and knowledge within the topic. A discussion shall take place subsequently. The student is expected to persuade the Committee, which mostly comprises of sociologists of different specializations, of his/her expertise.

(5) Resignation from State Doctoral Examination

The student may resign from the State Doctoral Examination within three working days before the scheduled date of the Examination, at the latest. The student shall address his/her resignation to the Subject Board Chairman, the Subject Board Secretary, and the member the FSV UK Study Department staff responsible. Any later resignation results in the Examination graded "fail (neprospěl/a)". The State Doctoral Examination may be repeated three months after the original date, at the earliest.