

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Contribution to the course from the perspective of comparison of laws

Mid-term exam observations

Dear participants of the course Administrative Law,

I have corrected your answers to my questions nos. 5 and 6 in the mid-term examination. I am not satisfied by the results: While there have been quite a couple of excellent answers, a large part of you has failed in my part of the exam. I have filled out a *correction sheet for every single exam*. Those among you who are interested to see how I have graded and what are the strong and weak points of their answers are *welcome to contact me* and I will send them the correction sheet for their paper.

Please allow me also to present you some general observations:

1. Some of you did not know anything about the subject. Did you really follow the online lectures or did you just connect to the Zoom session, switch your webcam off and then did other things? Moreover, did you really study the course materials? 15 minutes after the start of the exam my web hosting provider sent me a notice that there were so many attempts to access my website at the same time that they thought that it was a DoS attack (hacker attack) and therefore temporarily blocked all access. This indicates that some of you only downloaded the course materials during the exam. This was far too late to study them thoroughly and answer the exam questions correctly in time.
2. Some of you answered the questions with vague comments, like a politician. There may be a misunderstanding: Legal science is not like political science or social sciences. Any remarks about law must be *as accurate, precise and detailed as possible!* This applies in particular in the International Undergraduate Program at Fakultas Hukum UGM, which is an elite study program at the best faculty of law in Indonesia and shall enable you to engage in the demanding cooperation with international lawyers. Since you will meet me again in other courses, we will have the possibility to train that. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to contact me.
3. Some of you answered question 5 thoroughly but only spent a few vague sentences on question 6. Did you run out of time? From the strategic perspective, this was not a good idea, since you could achieve four times as many points with question 6 than with question 5. Even just some correct keywords on question 6, presented systematically, would have brought more points (a way many students chose last year). So better make sure that you chose the right focus, *concentrate on those questions where you can achieve the highest number of points with the least effort* and do not waste too much time on a question which you can answer well but which does not bring enough points.
4. In their answer to question 6, some of you presented the elements of an administrative decision (What is necessary to be an admin. decision?) and not, as was asked for, the elements *of the legality of an admin. decision* (What is necessary for an admin. decision to be legal?). This is not the same! In an academic exam, always study the exam question carefully and answer exactly the exam question - and only the exam question. Besides, you should be aware of the fact that I cannot contribute a question to the exam that does not deal with the subject of my lectures but of those of my colleagues.
5. Based on these experiences, I would like to give the following recommendations for the future:
 - (a) *Prepare the exams in time!* Create a new folder for every course. Download all course materials and study them already before the relevant lectures so that you can ask questions in the lecture and make important personal notes (on the printout or electronically in the pdf file), which will provide for a better understanding. You are also always welcome to contact the lecturer if you still have questions after the lecture.
 - (b) *Keep cool during the exam!* Take some time to *plan your answers* (including how many minutes you want to spend on the answer to each question) and make sure that you focus on the more important questions where

you can achieve more points! Read and analyse every exam question carefully and make sure that you understand correctly and answer exactly - and only - what is asked for! Try to answer the questions concisely so that you can avoid unnecessary time-consuming writing.

Those who are interested can find more tips in my course material "How to answer exam questions" from the course "Legal Writing" (year 3). Good luck with your next exams!

More information on my course contribution at www.thomas-schmitz-yogyakarta.id. For any questions, suggestions and criticism please contact me in my office (Building A, room A.IV.11) or via e-mail at tschmit1@gwdg.de.