

The Interview Question Bank

Eighteen on-camera questions: six for a scholar, six for a practitioner inside the system, six for someone the system acts on.

Rules for every question:

- Name the concept it tests and the source it came from.
- No question may contain the word "corrupt."
- No question may be answerable with yes or no.
- Write it so it could survive being asked to a real person's face.

EXAMPLE, FOR FORMAT ONLY

"You've studied why people vote the way they do here. If a family has never had a public work reach them until an election year, what do they actually learn about how the system responds to them?" — **Concept:** clientelism / contingency — **Source:** Hicken (2011), "Clientelism," *Annual Review of Political Science*.

Section A · The scholar (6 questions)

#	QUESTION	CONCEPT TESTED	SOURCE
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Section B · The practitioner inside the system

A barangay official, a line producer, a civil servant, or anyone whose job runs on the system this course describes.

#	QUESTION	CONCEPT TESTED	SOURCE
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

Section C · The person the system acts on

An ordinary person on the receiving end of the system: a voter, a moviegoer, a crew member, a family waiting on a public service.

#	QUESTION	CONCEPT TESTED	SOURCE
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			

Rubric reminders

- **Not yet:** fewer than eighteen questions, or questions that lead the witness, or any question that would make a subject feel accused.
- **Passing:** eighteen questions across the three types, each tagged with its concept and citation, each open-ended.
- **Strong:** the above, plus three questions written specifically to elicit a story rather than an opinion, and at least two questions designed to give the subject a fair chance to disagree with the course's own thesis.

The gate: hand someone the bank and have them run six questions at you, without you needing to explain a single term.