

Fall 2025 Comps Exam Questions

- Answer one question below. In grading the exam, the faculty look for an understanding of core concepts, adequate knowledge of facts, and the application of principles and problem-solving skills in the library and information science field and the profession.
- Keep in mind that you should refer to the evaluation rubric: <https://lis.catholic.edu/media/grading-rubric-1.pdf>
- Your paper should draw on what you have learned from your courses and the literature of the field.
- Submit your essay through [Assignments](#).

Question 1.

Information professionals operate within complex social, economic, and political contexts that both shape and are shaped by their work. Recent developments such as artificial intelligence, misinformation campaigns, increased surveillance, and growing economic inequality have fundamentally altered the landscape in which libraries, archives, and other information institutions function. Select one of the above, or identify another contemporary societal challenge and discuss the challenge in application to a specific library or information setting. Discuss the role of the information professional in dealing with the challenge.

Question 2.

Listen to this two min of the interview with Salman Rushdie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EW9rPmfrz0Q> (2:02-4:05).

Using his opinion as a jump-off point, discuss the "harm principle" that's foundational to intellectual freedom in libraries and information settings, and how it can be used and misused in collection, personnel, and programming decisions. Discuss examples of both conservative and progressive censorship in libraries and information settings, and how professional values, such as those reflected in the Library Bill of Rights and codes of ethics can help librarians and information professionals develop deeper awareness of censorship and minimize its effect on professional practices.