DMA Oral Exam Study Guide for Viola

History of the Viola
- Significant performers and their contributions
- Development of the modern viola
  - Include related instruments, e.g. viola pomposa, viola d’amore
- Development of the bow
- Future technology
- Significant makers and schools of instrument making
  - Variations in sizes and shapes – Hutchins, Erdesz, Izuka, for example
- Instrument buying and selling

Performance issues, historical and contemporary
- Instrumental technique
  - Body mechanics and anatomy
  - Instrument size issues
  - Left hand
  - Bow arm
  - Vibrato
  - Extended techniques
  - Violin vs. Viola technique
- Ornamentation
- Interpretation and style
  - Including pre-Baroque, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, etc.
- Health and Wellness issues
  - Feldenkrais/Alexander/Pilates/Yoga/Tai chi
  - Psychology of performance/performance anxiety
  - Motivational issues
- Sources/bibliography

Repertoire
- Unaccompanied
- Development of the Sonata
- Development of the Concerto
- Chamber Music
- Major Orchestral Excerpts
- New Music/Commissioning
- Editions

Pedagogy
- Methods
- Graded repertoire
- Etudes and technical studies
  - Right hand/Left hand focus
- Studio teaching/Classroom teaching
- History
  - Significant pedagogues and their contributions
  - Tertis
  - Primrose – Tuttle, McInnes, Schotten...
  - Historical schools of teaching, including violin schools, and their influence
  - e.g. Leopold Mozart, Geminiani, Quantz, Franco-Belgian school
  - Auer, Ysaye, Flesch, Galamian, etc.