

Survey

European qualifying examination 2015

Examination Secretariat

EQE Survey 2015

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Introduction

Shortly after the examination candidates were invited to participate in a survey concerning the European qualifying examination. 1024 answers were received.

Please note that a number of candidates have not answered all the questions, so that the totals are not always the same.

.....

We wish to thank all candidates who participated in the survey. We appreciate that you have taken the time to complete the questionnaire.

The Examination Secretariat

EQE Survey 2015

Seite 1

Please give your EQEReg number *

* This information will not be used to correlate your name with your answers but is for authorisation purpose only.

Q1) Did you participate in the EQE for the first time?

yes

no

Q2) In which centre did you sit the EQE 2015?

please select

Berlin

Berne

Birmingham

Helsinki

Madrid

Munich DPMA

Munich M,O,C

Paris

Rome

Stockholm

Taastrup

The Hague

Q3) Examination centres - rating

	Very good	Good	Adequate	Bad	Very bad
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs	<input type="radio"/>				
Identification check	<input type="radio"/>				
Lighting conditions	<input type="radio"/>				
Space for candidates	<input type="radio"/>				
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators	<input type="radio"/>				
Restroom facilities	<input type="radio"/>				
Suitability of the examination hall	<input type="radio"/>				

Q4) Examination centres - rating

	Very easy	Easy	Indifferent	Difficult	I could not find my seat
Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?	<input type="radio"/>				

Q5) Examination centres - rating

	Too warm	Ideal	Too cold
Hall temperature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q6) Additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions

Please add your comments

Seite 2

Q7) Which examination papers did you sit?

- Pre-examination
- Paper A (Ch)
- Paper A (E/M)
- Paper B (Ch)
- Paper B (E/M)
- Paper C
- Paper D

Q8) Examiners' report in the Compendium - rating

	Enough	Indifferent	Not enough
Does the examiners' report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how an answer should be composed?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the examiners' report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how the papers are marked?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q9) Elements of your personal preparation

Please indicate if you made use of the following and rate it

	I didn't make use of it	Very important	Important	Indifferent	Not important	Useless
Compendium	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General external courses regarding intellectual property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialised courses for EQE papers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-house training organised by your company	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedicated training given by your supervisor as defined by Art. 11(2)(a) REE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Study in small group with other candidates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mock pre-examination on EQE website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q10) What other books and/or study aids did you use?

Q11) Which course(s) did you follow?

- The full eight months' training with the German authorities
- The "Diplôme d'études internationales de la propriété industrielle", obtained after completing the one-year period of study with CEIPI in Strasbourg
- The "Master of Advanced Studies in Intellectual Property" at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
- CEIPI/epi basic training course (2 years)
- CEIPI preparatory course(s)
- CEIPI seminars preparing the EQE
- CEIPI special course on paper C (re-sitters)
- CEIPI cramming course paper C
- epi-tutorials
- Other (please specify)

Q12) Which other elements did you consider important for your personal preparation for the EQE?

Please add comments

Q13) How long before sitting the EQE did you start intensive focused study?

Please select

- More than two years in advance
- Between one and two years in advance
- Between six and twelve months in advance
- Between three and six months in advance
- Less than three months in advance

Q14) What was your greatest weakness when assessing your preparation for the EQE and your performance, and how, in retrospect, could you have overcome it?

Please describe your experiences

Q15) Do you have any comments or suggestions for other candidates preparing for the EQE?

Q16) In which EPC member state did you complete most of your training according to Art. 11(2)(a)REE?

Please select

- AL Albania
- AT Austria
- BE Belgium
- BG Bulgaria
- CH Switzerland
- CY Cyprus
- CZ Czech Republic
- DE Germany
- DK Denmark
- EE Estonia
- ES Spain
- FI Finland
- FR France
- GB United Kingdom
- GR Greece
- HR Croatia
- HU Hungary
- IE Ireland
- IS Iceland
- IT Italy
- LI Liechtenstein
- LT Lithuania
- LU Luxembourg
- LV Latvia
- MC Monaco
- MK Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- MT Malta
- NL Netherlands
- NO Norway
- PL Poland
- PT Portugal
- RO Romania
- RS Serbia
- SE Sweden
- SI Slovenia
- SK Slovakia
- SM San Marino
- TR Turkey

Q17) I completed most of the training (Art. 11(2)(a) REE) in

Private practice

Industry

Q18) How would you rate the support of your employer in view of your preparation for the EQE?

Please rate

Very good

Good

Adequate

Bad

Very bad

Support of your employer

Q19) How much time did your employer allow for attending courses for your preparation for the EQE?

Please indicate the number of working days: days

Q20) How would you rate the amount of time allowed by your employer for attending courses?

Please rate

More than sufficient

Sufficient

Borderline

Too little

Inadequate

Amount of study leave
allowed by your employer

Q21a) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art.11(2)(a) REE (i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)?

Please indicate the number of working days: days

Q21b) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the first year of training?

Please indicate the percentage: %

Q21c) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the second year of training?

Please indicate the percentage: %

Q21d) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the third year of training?

Please indicate the percentage: %

Q22) What would you suggest to supervisors in order to improve candidates' preparation for the EQE?

Please add comments, suggestions...

Q23) In how many opposition cases were you involved during your 3-year training period?

Please indicate the number of cases:

Q24) How did your supervisor as defined by Art.11(2)(a) REE train you for paper C?

Several answers are possible

Using opposition cases from my company

Using other opposition cases

Compendium

No help from my supervisor

Q25) How did you prepare for paper C apart from the training you received from your supervisor?

Several answers are possible

Using opposition cases from my company

Using other opposition cases

Compendium

I have followed a course/courses

Q26) EQE papers

Please rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2015

	Too easy	Easy	Adequate	Difficult	Too difficult
Pre-examination as a whole	<input type="radio"/>				
Pre-examination (legal questions)	<input type="radio"/>				
Pre-examination (claim analysis)	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper A (Ch)	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper A (E/M)	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper B (Ch)	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper B (E/M)	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper C	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper D	<input type="radio"/>				

Q27) If you sat the pre-examination:

Q27a) Which of the following best describes the technical area you are working in?

Biochemistry

Chemistry

Electronics

Mechanics

Physics

Other

Q27b) What reference book was the most useful for the PREPARATION of the pre-examination?

Several answers are possible

EPC

Guidelines for Examination in the EPO

A commentary on the EPC

Other (please specify)

Q27c) What reference book was the most useful WHILE SITTING the pre-examination?

Several answers are possible

EPC

Guidelines for Examination in the EPO

A commentary on the EPC

Other (please specify)

Q27d) How did you allocate the available time during the pre-examination?

30% or less of the time for the claim analysis section

40% of the time for the claim analysis section

50% of the time for the claim analysis section

60% of the time for the claim analysis section

70% or more of the time for the claim analysis section

Q27e) Any comment on the pre-examination?

Q28) Did you feel time pressure during the examination?

yes

no

Q29) Comments concerning the difficulty of the EQE papers

Please add any comments concerning the difficulty of the EQE papers

Q30) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2015?

	Too much	Enough	Borderline	Not enough	By far not enough
Pre-examination	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper A (Ch)	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper A (E/M)	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper B (Ch)	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper B (E/M)	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper C	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper D	<input type="radio"/>				

Q31) Do you think that more time during the examination would have improved your performance in the examination papers you sat?

	Yes	Indifferent	No
Please choose	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q32) Do you have comments concerning the time available for the examination papers?

Please add your comments

Use of data

The usefulness of the answers given would be greatly increased if we were to know whether or not you passed the EQE papers. We therefore kindly ask for your permission to correlate at a later stage your answers with your examination results. Please note that the use of this information will be restricted to a statistical evaluation only. Your name will not be tracked and your anonymity is guaranteed.

- I agree
- I do not agree

Training from the European Patent Academy**Q33) EQE Forum (www.eqe-online.org) of the European Patent Academy and online services**

- I used the EQE Forum
- I did not use the EQE Forum

Q34) How actively did you use the following services?

Please rate on a scale

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Discussion of general topics	<input type="radio"/>				
Discussion of Examination Papers	<input type="radio"/>				
Commented answer papers	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper D questions	<input type="radio"/>				

Q35) Please rate the following sections of the EQE Forum on a scale

	Very high	High	Intermediate	Low	Very low
Discussion of general topics: General usefulness	<input type="radio"/>				
Discussion of general topics: Quality of material	<input type="radio"/>				
Discussion of general topics: Quality of responses to questions	<input type="radio"/>				
Discussion of general topics: Timeliness of responses	<input type="radio"/>				
Discussion of Examination Papers: General usefulness	<input type="radio"/>				
Discussion of Examination Papers: Quality of responses	<input type="radio"/>				
Discussion of Examination Papers: Timeliness of responses	<input type="radio"/>				
Paper D questions: General usefulness	<input type="radio"/>				
EQE Commented Answer Papers: General usefulness	<input type="radio"/>				

Q36) Are you aware of the programme "Praktika Intern - internships for patent professionals" directed at present and future professional representatives?

- yes
- no

Q37) Please rate the eqe-online.org website on a scale

	Very high	High	Intermediate	Low	Very low
General usefulness	<input type="radio"/>				
Relevance of covered topics	<input type="radio"/>				
Ease of use of the tool	<input type="radio"/>				
Level of difficulty	<input type="radio"/>				
Quality of the model answers and comments	<input type="radio"/>				

Q38) Did you discuss any of the EQE online exercises with your supervisor/tutor?

- yes
- no

Q39) How could the EQE online service be best integrated into your preparation for the EQE?

Please rate on a scale

	Very useful	Useful	Indifferent	Less necessary	Unnecessary
Providing last minute help on a broad range of topics	<input type="radio"/>				
Providing tutorial-like exercises with model answers and an opportunity to discuss	<input type="radio"/>				
Serving as a basis for discussion with your supervisor/tutor	<input type="radio"/>				
Time schedule of the exercise	<input type="radio"/>				
Quality of the model answers and comments	<input type="radio"/>				

Other, please specify:

Q40) Do you have any suggestions for how the EQE Forum or the other online exercises might be improved or name things you liked?

Please specify

End of survey

You have finished the survey now. Please submit the form by clicking on the blue arrow below.

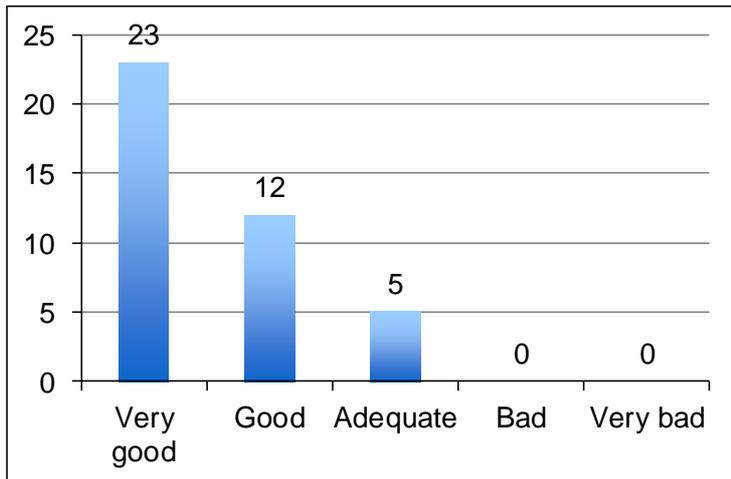
Thank you for participating in the survey.

Chapter 1 - Examination Centres

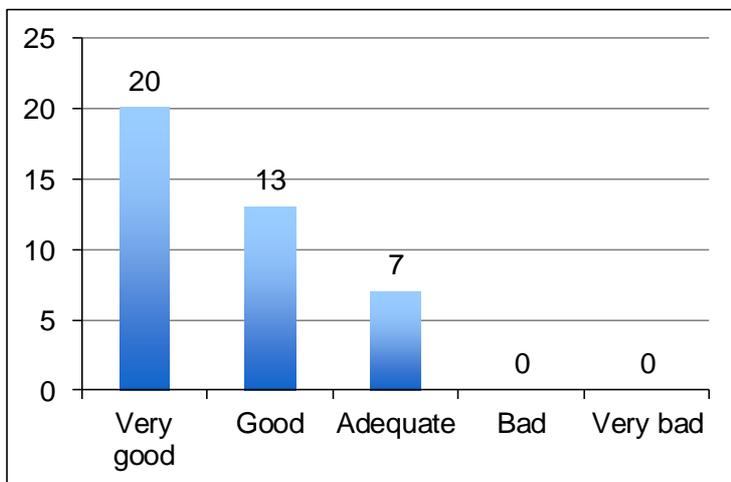
1.1 Berlin (40 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

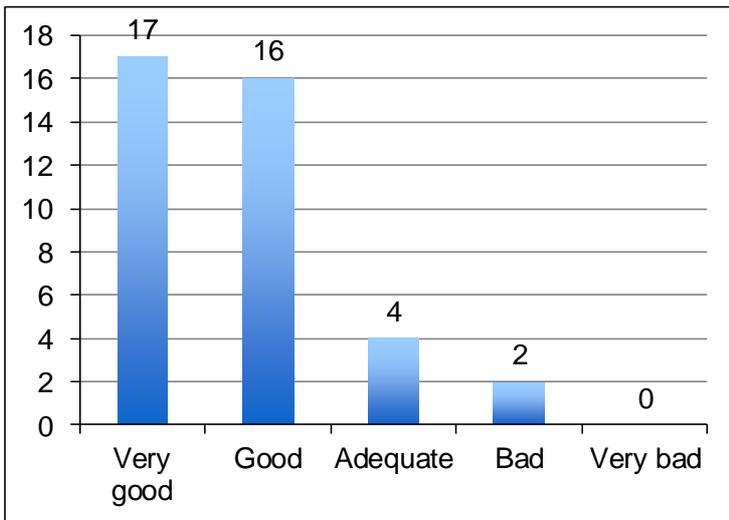
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



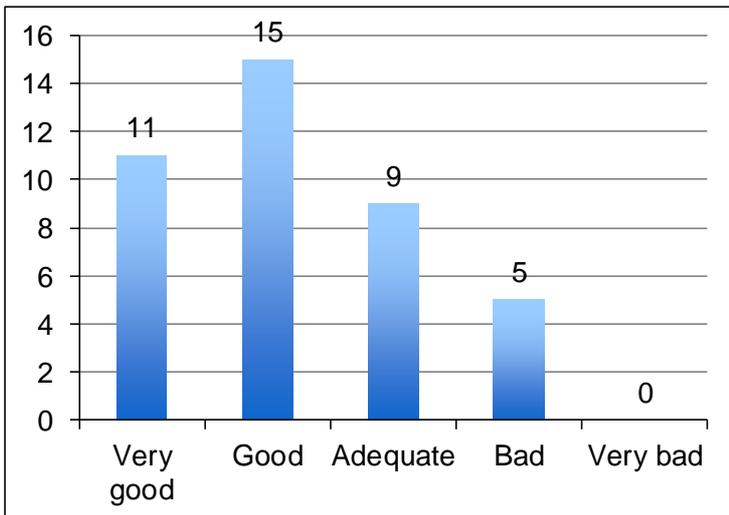
Identification check



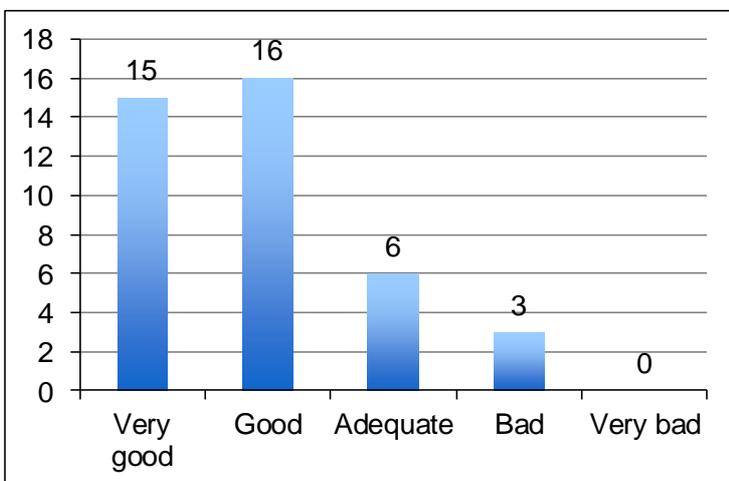
Lighting conditions



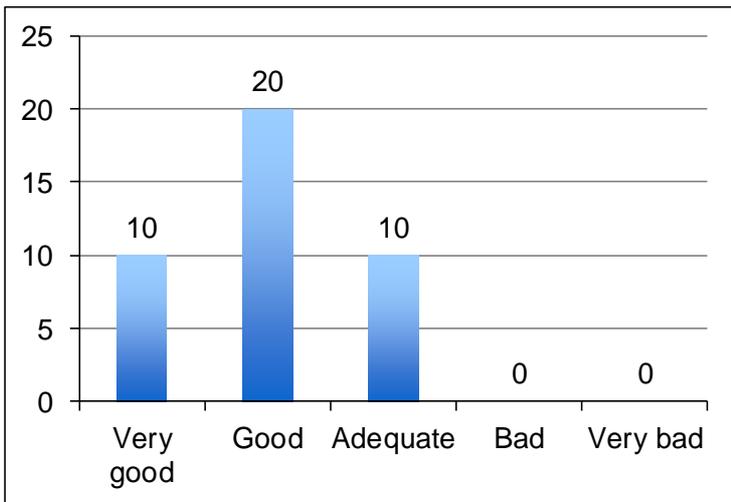
Space for candidates



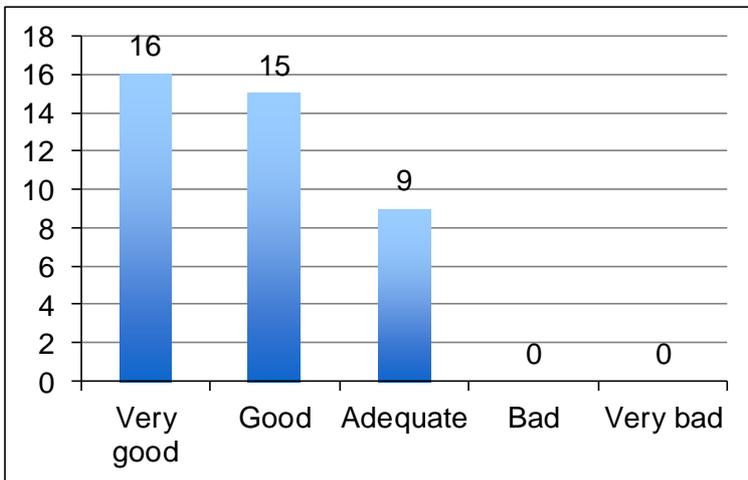
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



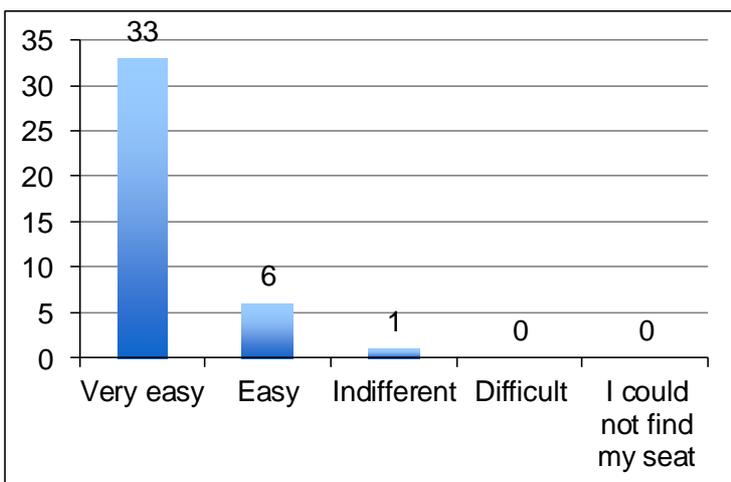
Restroom facilities



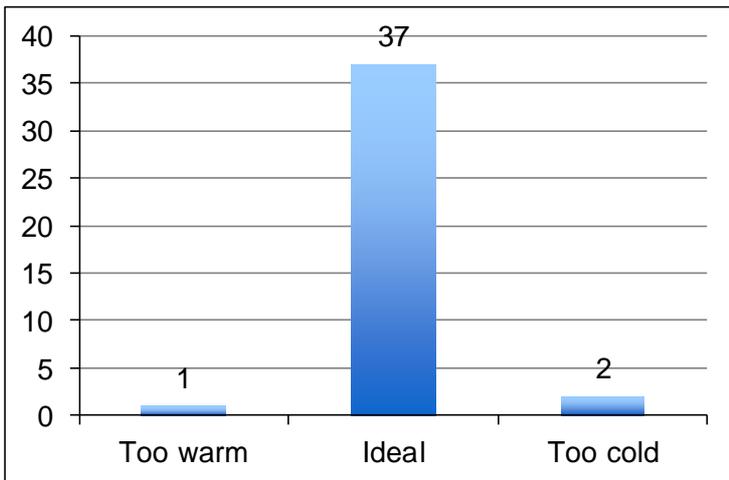
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



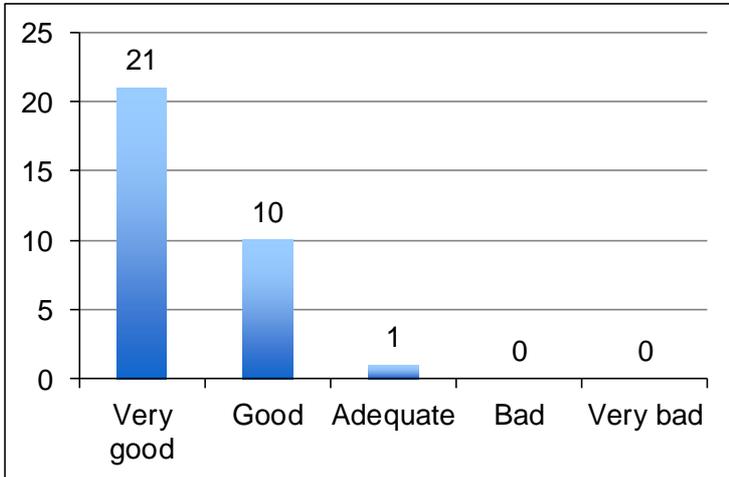
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Local lightning went out last 10 minutes of my B-exam, annoying.
- There are no windows in the hall, which is after a while (3 days) sort of depressing.
- One regular table is hardly enough to spread out materials. In particular for C-paper where lots of annexes are to be dealt with, it is rather disturbing to constantly being forced to "re-shuffle" all the papers on a small table (In Pre-EQE we all had two table for ourselves and that was better.), let alone the constant noise level it creates when about 30-40 candidates do this ...
- The hall temperature was a bit to cold at the beginning of the exam (part D) but later good.
- In one exam (as far as I remeber part B) the light went off in a part of the hall aprox. 15 minutes before the end of the exam. Thus, it was a bit to dark in a part of the hall.
- the supervising persons were talking sometimes. This was disturbing for persons in the front rows.
- As long as the air conditioning was running it was too noisy.
- The tables for the canidates were way too small.

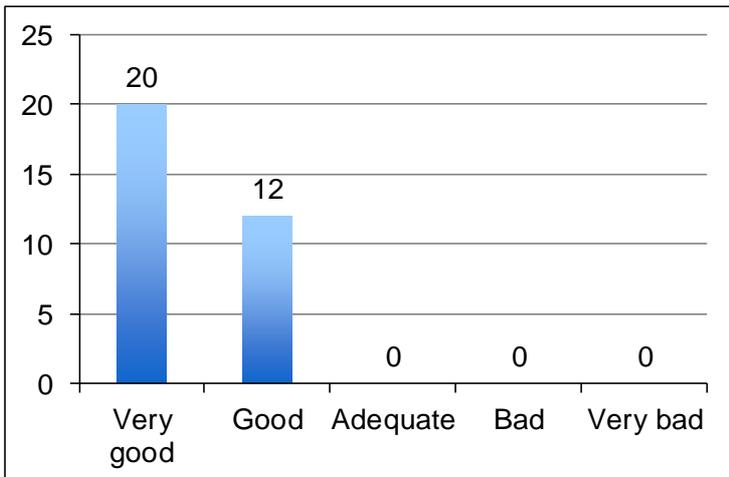
1.2 Berne (32 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

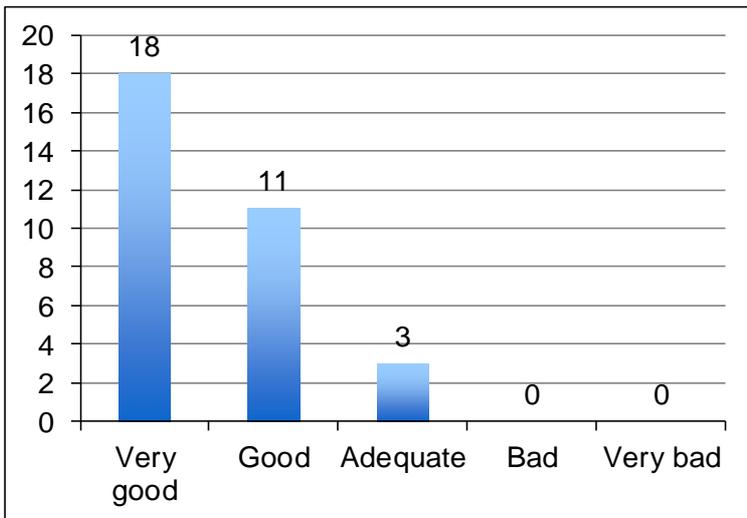
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



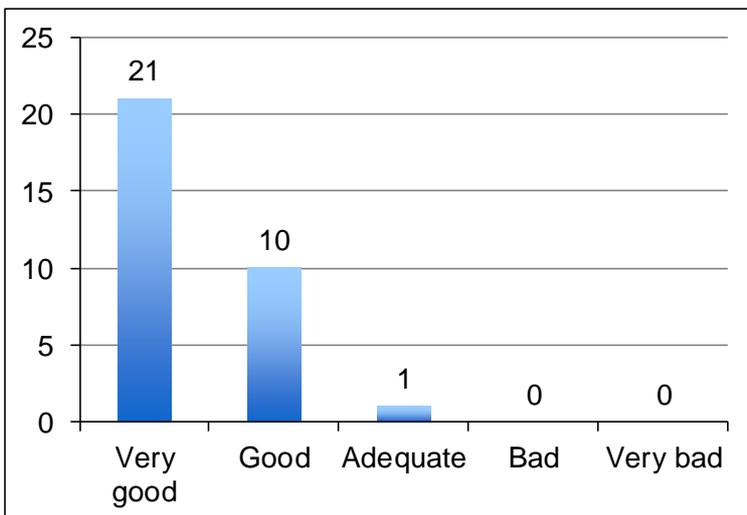
Identification check



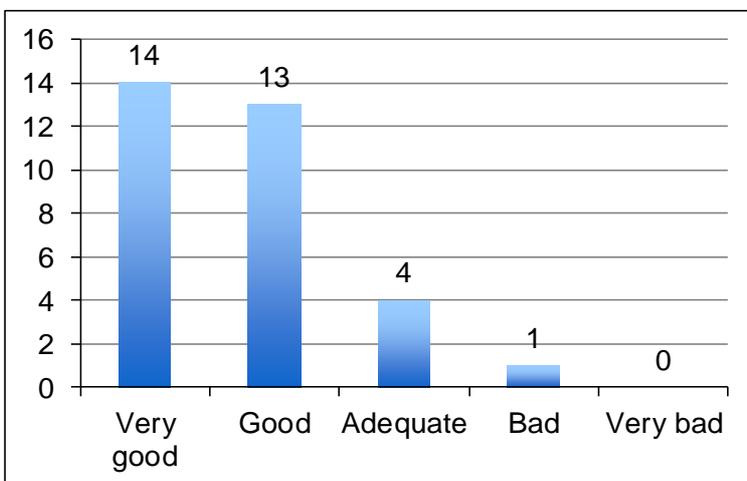
Lighting conditions



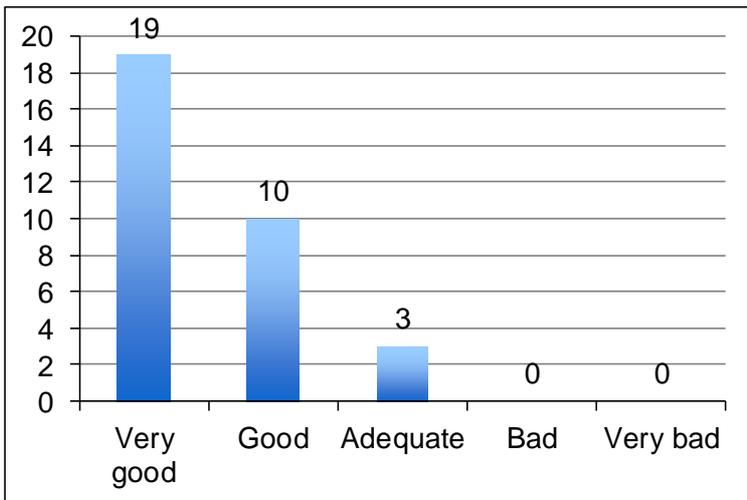
Space for candidates



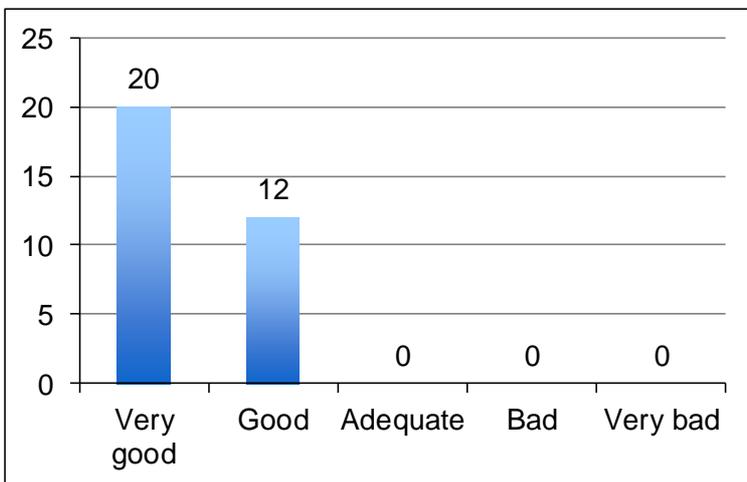
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



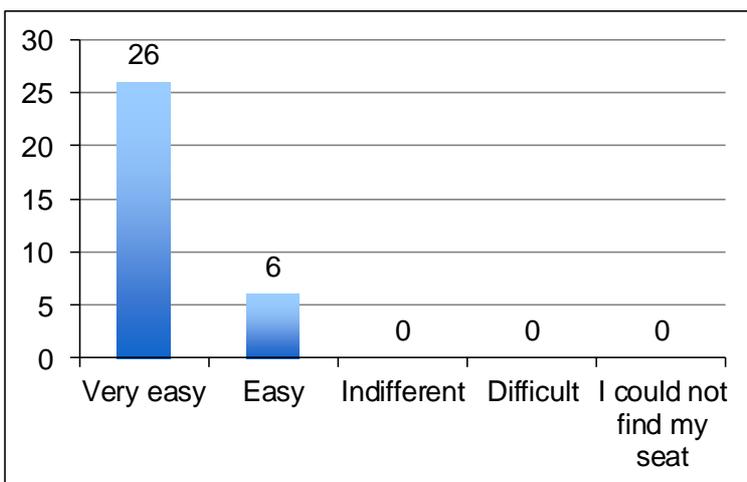
Restroom facilities



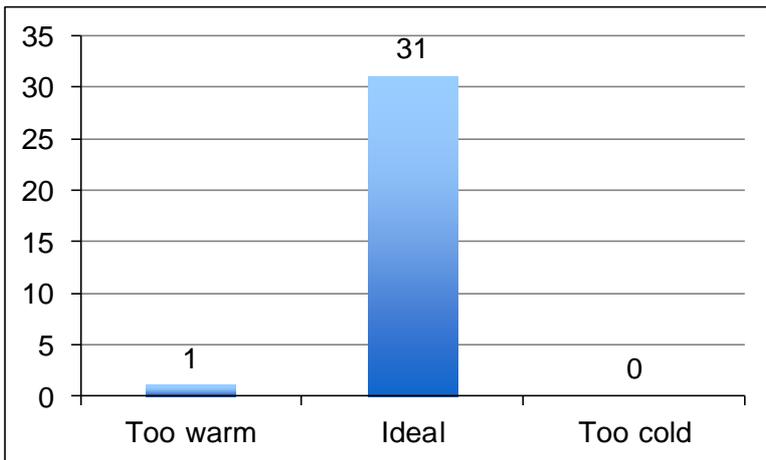
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



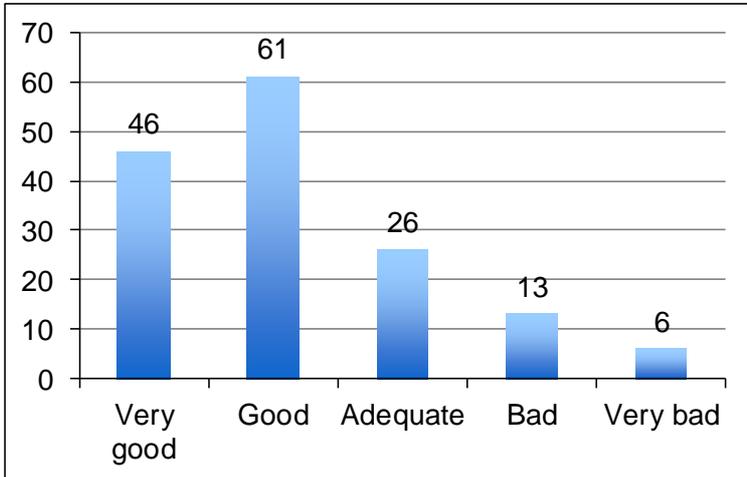
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- It would have been ideal if the examination would have been located closer to Berne main station for people arriving by public transport
- Do not change the place for EQE examination at Berne, Sternen Muri is the best place ever
- very easy to reach from the train station using public transports
- Sitting the exam in Bern is very comfortable if you sit all four papers.
- Other people in "Landgasthof Sternen" frequently passing in front of examination hall did disturb.
- Examination committee itself forgot to switch off their mobile phones which did ring during B paper session! Very disturbing!
- No Comments
- It would have been nice if the invigilators had not talked (whispered) to each other during the examination as this is very distracting to candidates. Also, given that candidates had to hand in their mobile phones during the exams, it would have been only adequate for one of the invigilators to turn off his, which went off during one of the exams.

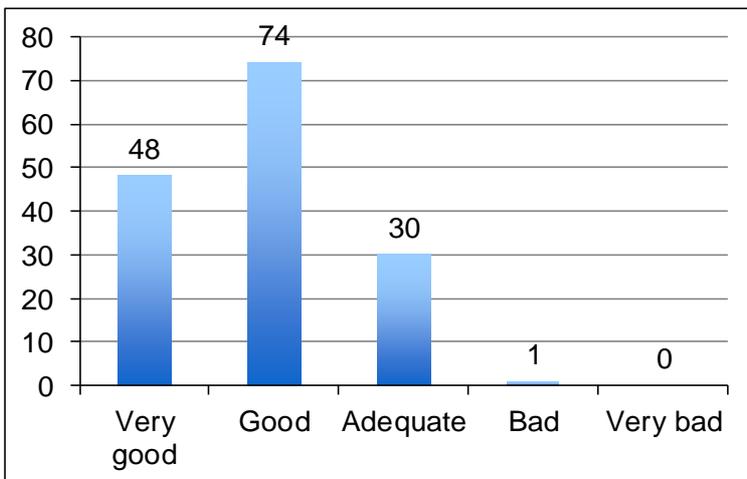
1.3 Birmingham (153 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

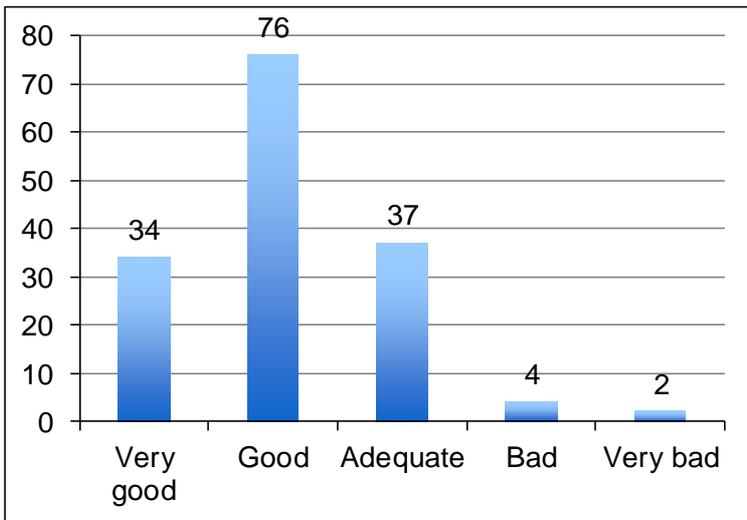
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



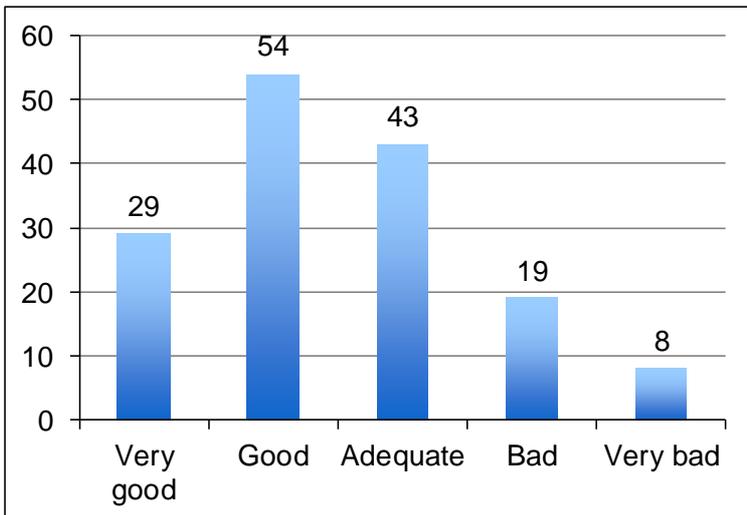
Identification check



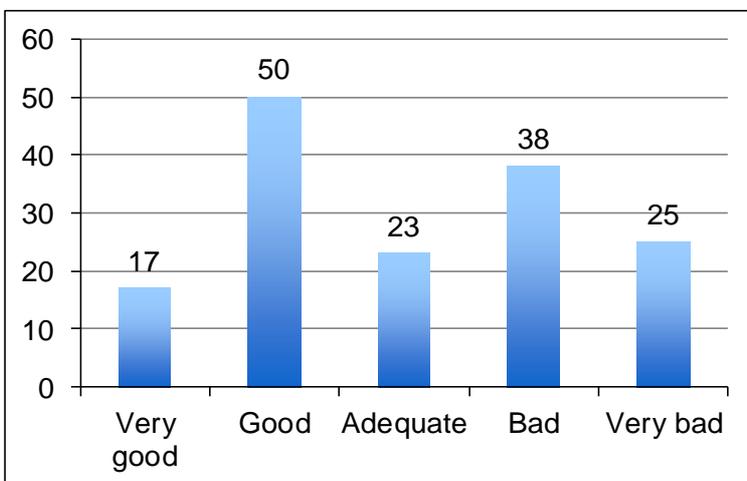
Lighting conditions



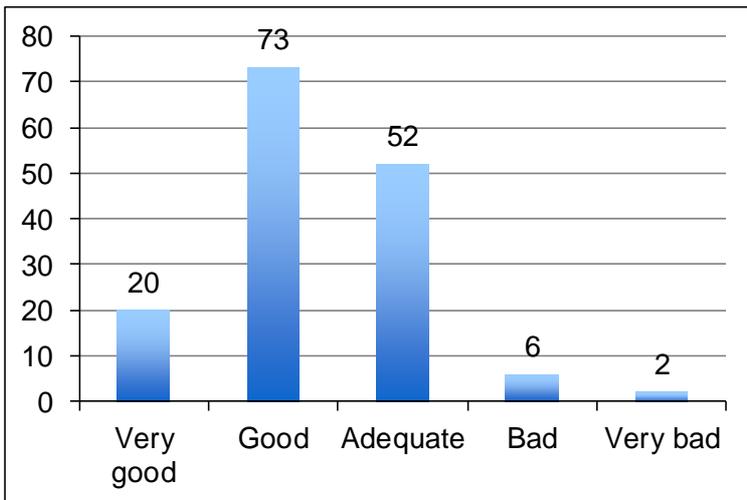
Space for candidates



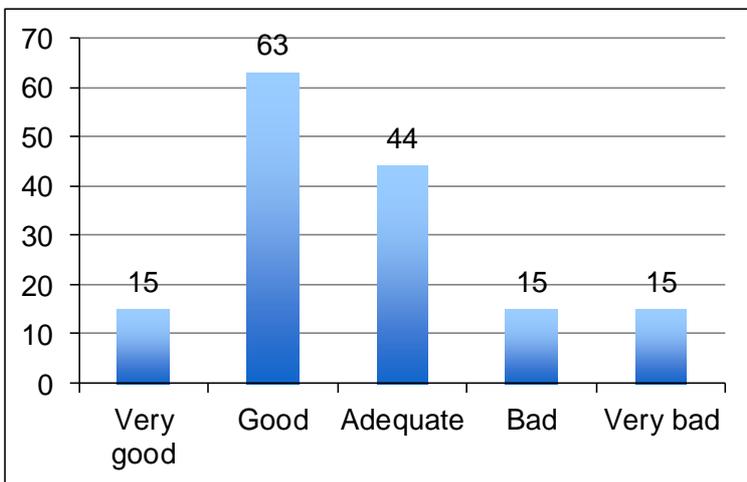
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



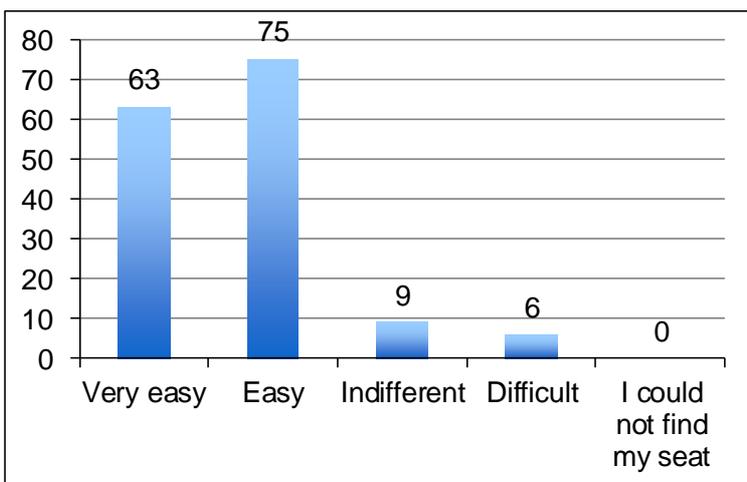
Restroom facilities



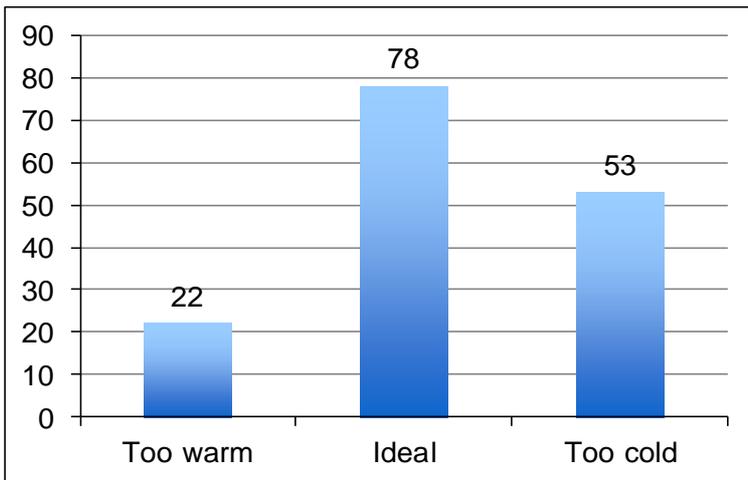
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Far too cold - air con on for too long.
- The portion of the hall where I sat was extremely cold, to the point that producing handwriting was more difficult than it should have been. However, the front of the hall was relatively warm, and would have provided a suitable environment for sitting the exam.
- Noise generated by air conditioning units above made it almost impossible to hear announcements by the invigilators. We were required to wait outside the stadium in the cold for approx. 15 minutes (could only enter the venue 30 minutes before the exam started).
- Air conditioning was extremely noisy.
- Incredibly cold and we were not allowed to wait inside the venue prior to the exam. Most candidates arrived one hour early and it was approximately 4 degrees outside.
- Something was beeping at least every minute for the whole 4 hour exam. I complained to an invigilator but they said they had no idea what it was and it could not be turned off. I found it extremely distracting.
It was so cold that I had to stop and warm my hands.
There was nowhere to wait before we were let into the exam hall except outside, which was very cold.
The reasons I have said adequate rather than bad is that there was a very good amount of space per candidate, invigilation was good and the toilet facilities were usefully placed. If the beep was turned off I could tolerate everything else.
- The examination hall is too far from hotels etc., and required getting a taxi to and from the venue in rush-hour traffic.
- The desks were VERY small and, certainly in my case, negatively affected my performance in the EQE.
- The exam hall had a very large loud fan at the back of the room which made it extremely difficult for anyone near the back of the room to hear the invigilators. The exam hall was also incredibly cold - I spent the majority of the exam with my winter coat on.
- The Air conditioning was very noisy. It was like being in an aeroplane. My seat was close to a large shutter which was seemingly for allowing access to the room for lorry sized vehicles and which did little to keep the cold out.
- The seating arrangement should allow for a central aisle so that it is easier for candidates to get to the toilet or to get drinking water. The way the desks were arranged meant that you had to squeeze between two candidates, which potentially disturbs the candidates either side.
- No waiting area was provided and candidates were forced to wait outside if they had arrived early by public transport; the hall itself was draughty, and there was a large amount of background noise, both in the form of a very loud air conditioning system which hummed

constantly and went 'beep' from time to time, and in the form of banging noises which sounded like they were caused by workmen clumsily moving about large metal objects outside the hall. Probably the most unsuitable examination venue I have ever sat in. Very poor.

- Warmer than the Bristol exam centre (which I attended for the pre-EQE), but with smaller desk. Not really a problem, but a bigger desk is sometimes nice when wrestling with the various reference materials and the sometimes lengthy papers. Bit noisy in the hall, due to the fans of the air conditioning, but not a problem for concentration - white noise is not distracting to me. Temperature was about right for me, but it varied with position in the hall quite a lot (depending on whether you were under a vent). Good parking, and convenient for me (as someone who works in Birmingham!).
- It would be preferable to have an exam venue located near accommodation, such as hotels, and shops selling food.
- The air conditioning was very loud, in particular where I was sat at the back of the hall. We couldn't hear the invigilators at the back, and even struggled to hear them when they moved forward to talk. The room was cold, I had to repeatedly try and warm my hands up. The individual desks could have been a bit bigger, i.e. width wise it was ok but more space at the front would have been useful to put your books. The exams being held in Birmingham were very good though; the exam hall was very easy to get to.
- Having to wait outside the *building* until 30 minutes before was definitely not ideal in mid-February! The place was large enough that we could have easily been 2 or 3 rooms away from the exam hall and still stood in the warm. It also seems odd that there were a large number of empty desks when I know that many UK resident candidates had been given seats in Munich or other venues.
- Very good overall, but not any hotels nearby so had to stay quite far away.
- Better than the venue in Bristol 2014.
- The air conditioning or heating system was particularly noisy, however it was a much better venue than the previous one in Bristol.
- Centre itself was good (if a little too warm on Thursday), but location was awkward, as nowhere to stay nearby.
- It was quite noisy (the air conditioning was loud and also beeped every minute) and the desks were relatively small. There was also no natural light which would have been nice.
- Toilets and seating at the venue
There were plenty of toilets that we could use once we had entered the exam room. However, there were no toilets that we could use before we were allowed into the exam room. There was also nowhere to sit and wait before we were allowed into the exam room. This led to most candidates standing outside or sitting in the cars of those who had driven to the venue.
Temperature of the exam room
The area of the room I sat in was extremely cold. Many of the people at neighboring desks resorted to wearing their outdoor coats. Other areas of the room, I am told, were far too warm. I appreciate that such things are not within the Exam Secretariat's control. However, I would say the room was not suitable for conducting examinations for at least this reason.
- The room was very badly arranged, with little distance between desks to each side, meaning that anyone wanting to pass through rows had to disturb other candidates. This was a problem since the restrooms required all but the first row of people to pass other rows of desks. The large projected clock was to the side and behind most candidates, with the clocks at the front difficult to see, due to being low down or behind pillars out of the line of sight. The distance of some of the desks to the restroom was very large. The fans in the room were very noisy and disruptive. There was an intermittent 'beep' that was disruptive. The male restroom lacked toilet paper before the D exam had started in at least one of the cubicles. The invigilators appeared to have poor vantage points since one kept walking in a loop around my row, first in front, then behind, which was very distracting throughout the exams.
- Would have preferred a larger table and a more comfortable chair.

- The overhead heating/air conditioning system was very loud
- There was quite a draft from the big sliding garage style doors
- Very good. Easy to get to. Plenty of accomodation nearby. Very good parking. Only problem was small desks. Next year more invigilaotrs may be needed as it took a frustatingly long time to get more paper which was always needed. Alternatively, just provide more paper in the exam envelope.
- Very noisy air conditioning was quite off putting. Invigilators randomly wandering aimlessly in the same loop trying to squeeze between narrow desk spaces was very irritating.
- The lighting was poor at the front left of the room (I wasn't sat there, but my colleague was) because all the lights were behind him, so he cast a shadow over his desk. My eyes would have struggled with such conditions.
Separately the men and women for easy access to the restrooms was a brilliant idea!
- This was a very bad venue. The air conditioning system was extremely noisy. The hot and cold air generation seemed to fight itself and thus I experienced moments of hot air blasts followed by cool air blasts. My papers were blown off the table, (I am not exaggerating). On the final day, it was especially hot within the venue, uncomfortably so.
The desks were arranged without any clear gangway towards the restrooms (or exits), thus candidates had to pick a random path, squeezing between other candidates desks. This must have been annoying for those close to the restrooms.
The projection of the large digital clock was arranged to face one wall, the desk arranged to face another wall! The effect being I had to look over, and behind, my left shoulder to read the clock.
The room itself is constructed below the stadium seating, and is used as a bar for spectators to the cricket. I honestly do not think it was a suitable for holding examinations. I understand that a large number of candidates must be catered for, and this presents a limited choice of venues. I wonder if a large hotel, that is used to holding conferences and the like, might be better suited to catering for the examinations?
- Noisy air conditioning system. Couldn't hear invigilators who didn't have a microphone
- 1) On arrival at Edgbaston Stadium, the security informed us that the venue would not open until 12:00, the scheduled time for the exam, and recommended going to a nearby cafe to avoid standing out in the cold. However, on arriving back at the venue at 11:50, we found that most candidates had taken their seats.
- 2) The hall was distractingly noisy with fan noises. The invigilators had to repeat announcements from different parts of the room to ensure that candidates heard their messages.
- 3) The hall was distractingly cold, many candidates had to put their coats on during the exam to fend off the cold. Usually, I am one of the last to consider my office cold.
- 4) The Stadium was not easily accessible by public transport, and parking was also relatively expensive.
Overall, I also consider that points 2 and 3 above caused an unfair disadvantage to candidates sitting the EQEs in Birmingham.
- The venue in Birmingham is extremely difficult to commute, the town itself is already very busy and traffic jam is everywhere. These exams are already stressful enough, finding the way to the venue in busy traffic becomes even more stressful.
The hall was in general cold, very noisy with fans and ventilation systems.
The desks were badly positioned, layout in the hall was not good.
- The examination hall was located in a part of Birmingham that was bereft of facilities and local amenities with only one choice of hotel within 10 minutes taxi ride of the examination and only one supermarket. This makes taking the examinations very expensive on top of the expense of entering the exams.
- Very little space between desks made getting to the rest rooms a little difficult.
The hall temperature was variable. Although generally warm from waist height up, the floor area was often very cold. My feet and legs were draughty.
- The audibility of the invigilators was actually perfect. The poor score for acoustic conditions is due to the excessively loud and distracting air conditioning. As well as the constant roar of

the AC, there was something that seemed to beep every few minutes -infuriating! There were candidates who had earplugs in - whether this was their standard practice or in response to the previous days' exam I am not sure.

- Could not see the clocks from all seats.
- We were made to wait outside in the cold for an hour before we were allowed into the hall. In addition, most candidates are based in London. The examination should therefore take place in London, where there is the required infrastructure.
- Uncomfortable, very cold and very noisy (a fan).
- In my opinion the hall was noisy, there was a constant noise of some extractor or fan. The temperature was too high at the beginning, but afterwards it was quite good.
- Too little space. Identification on way into hall took much too long so only got to seat with a little time to prepare. Adminsitrators were terrible making people move suitcases, which is what everyon relies on to store all of the books necessary for the exam. I had to move my resources as the exam started so could not even start on time. Table space was very poor no room for books. I lost my exam questions repeatedly under a pile of books and papers. The whole thing made the exam extermely stressful and difficult~! Previous locations were much better.
- Very noisy vents and the room was far too cold.
- The fire alarm beeped every minute, which I found incredibly distracting. The toilets were quite dirty. It was difficult to hear the instructions at the beginning of the exam.
- Tables too small and too close to other candidates, which was distracting. Also, the only viewable clock was a projected clock that was behind and to the side. Last year's examination tables in Bristol were much better and the frequent digital clocks were very useful last year.
- Whilst the desks were nice and wide, they were not particularly deep.
- The examination hall was very spacious, and I was sat right at the back, meaning that I found it very hard to hear the instructions, even when the invigilator repeated the instructions halfway down the exam hall. This was compounded by the fact that the air conditioning was running very loudly in the background - also a distraction for the first ten minutes of the exam or so.
- Candidates arriving early for the examination were provided with no area in which to wait, and were left with a choice between waiting outside the building (which was not desirable due to cold weather conditions) or walking to a nearby theatre where we were told there was a restaurant area which had seating.
The air conditioning within the room was consistently noisy (including an intermittent flow of running water), and hence rather distracting for the entirety of the examination.
- Desks too close together - two back rows completely unused!
- We were not allowed to enter the venue until 11.30am, even though we had been told the venue would open 1 hour beforehand. We were made to wait outside in the cold for 25 minutes, even though there was a suitable reception area. It would have been helpful to have either been told to arrive later, or to have been allowed to wait inside in the warmth before the exam started.
- Exam hall was good, easy to get to plenty of accommodation in town, good parking and plenty of space and light inside. The sole issue was that the heating was turned up too high, that being said it was better than being too cold.
- It was fine, could have done with some wider gaps between the tables in at least one place to let people with big suitcases get to the back.
- The exam hall was very cold. I had to wear my coat, hat, and scarf in the exam. The exam hall was also quite noisy, with a distracting background hum (possibly air conditioning or similar). Luckily, I had earplugs to wear during the exam, but if I hadn't had these, it would have been irritating.
- Room was ok but Birmingham was inconvenient to get to.
- The heating/cooling fan system was noisy.
- Too cold on first day. (Paper D) Overly warm on the last day (paper C).
- The way the desks were arranged made it quite difficult to navigate through to the restroom

during an examination without disturbing or distracting other candidates. Also, during the break between two exams in the same day there weren't enough seating provided for all the candidates and a lot of us had to sit on the floor for more than an hour to eat our lunches.

- Requirement that only one person allowed in the toilet at any one time was not mentioned at the start of the exam. Room was far too cold.
- The desks had been set up in such a way that they were right next to each other so that you could barely squeeze between them, could not get a small wheeled suitcase through them (and some people's suitcases are very large!), did not have space next to your desk to place your suitcase and could not get to front of the hall to access the toilets once everyone was in situ. The hall appeared to be large enough to have arranged it more sensibly so I do not know why it was laid out as it was.
- By far the worst exam hall I have ever been to. The more serious issues were:
 - (a) There was a loud, electronic beep every 2-3 minutes. This is unacceptable.
 - (b) There was a continuous loud drone from the ventilation system.
 - (c) It was much too cold. Despite the noise, the heating was entirely ineffectual.
 - (d) The announcements by the invigilator were inaudible.I would have raised a formal complaint about point (a) but had not studied the examination rules in enough detail to be aware of the 30 minute deadline.
- Starting a row with the third seat instead of the first is a little bit silly (meaning my "seat 7" was actually the 5th seat in the row).

The desk was too small given what you're asking us to do.
The sticky envelopes have a habit of sticking to the hundreds of bits of paper littering the desk and surrounding area. Also, we aren't told at the beginning of paper D that we would need to reuse the envelope.
Most importantly, the 5 minutes for putting papers in order should be AFTER the exam has finished, not before it has finished (like in the UK exams, where 15 minutes are provided for numbering pages after official pens-down). One achieves no marks for numbering pages and wrestling with an awkward envelope, so why should it form part of the exam?
- The facilities were generally good, however the air conditioning was too loud.
- I found it very helpful that the women were seated near to the ladies' facilities. The desks and the space around the desks were a bit small considering the amount of papers and books involved.
- Two particular Examiner's kept talking and refused to stop when asked. Very annoying. Room slightly cold too.
- Way too noisy due to very large exhaustion/ventilation system constantly running.
- Room temperature during paper D exam fluctuated during the entire exam between being really old and really warm, which was not ideal. Room temperature was more consistent during the paper C exam, but was far too warm.
- Air conditioning was quite noisy, but on the whole, the exam venue was good.
- easy to get to, with plenty of (free) parking
- The Hall had no natural lighting. It was dark. The overhead heaters were very loud blowing out hot air (although temp was fine). The noise of the blowers was very loud. There was only one clock in room which was to the left had side - not in front were it should be.
- There was quite a lot of noise from water pipes and air conditioning.
- Tables too close together and too small for paper C and D.
- Beeping noise throughout papers C and D.
- Although there were a number of smaller clocks, increasing the visibility/size of the clocks would be useful since the largest clock was not directly visible to most candidates.
- The room was very cold and I was shivering throughout my exam and struggling to concentrate. Not a conducive setting for such a long and complex exam.
- Air conditioning unit very noisy. Desks were arranged evenly (and closely) spaced so that it was difficult to get between desks when trying to go to the toilet.
- More space for candidates would be good. Please allow extra time for numbering the answering paper!!!
- Larger desks would have been useful. Air-conditioning was very loud, although under exam

conditions I managed to tune this noise out and ignore it.

- Temperature was fine for most of the time but was occasionally suddenly cold and drafty. Overall it was very good.
The desks are still too small to fit all papers on though, especially during Paper C.
I found it very odd that there was a gigantic electronic clock on the wall at Birmingham, but all the desks were oriented away from it. This meant that every time that anybody wanted to check the time they had to look over their shoulder. Why not orient the desks towards the giant clock? It surely makes sense.
- The desks in Birmingham were far too close together. I was seated at the back right so was fine but those poor people seated nearest the restroom facilities would have had other candidates squeeze past them continuously and disrupt their writing.
- heating variable throughout the exam. Do not want to waste time in pressured exams putting jumpers/coats on or taking them off. Constant temperature would be appreciated.
- We were made to wait outside the building in the cold until half an hour before the Exam. This was not acceptable.
- It would be great if we could be in an examination centre which was actually near some hotels. It is a bit tiresome having to get taxis every morning and evening. Both the Birmingham and Bristol examination centres really have been on the outskirts of town.
- Previously the Examination Hall was the Old Train Shed next to Bristol Temple Meads Station. This location allowed candidates to either travel on the day, with no issues of locating the exam hall or being delayed in rush hour traffic. Further to this, the exam hall was next to a hotel, which was excellent for those candidates sitting several exams. Following this, the location was changed to the Bristol City Football Ground. Although the venue had comfortable surroundings, it was located away from public transport, nowhere near hotels nor very close to cafe facilities. This meant that candidates were stressed about getting to the venue because they either travelled from Bristol Temple Meads station or a hotel via a taxi during rush hour. Also they would need to walk quite far to get lunch etc. This year the exam hall was moved to Birmingham. Although Birmingham is a good location because it is central for all UK candidates, the location was outside of the centre and access could only be achieved using a taxi. I did not manage to find a hotel near by so I was required to book a taxi early on in the morning to ensure I missed the rush hour. It would be more convenient to have an exam venue, that was close to a train station, hotels and places to eat. This saves a lot of unnecessary stress on candidates.
- Examination hall cold during one exam (Paper D) but much warmer during other (Paper C). Venue was not easy to find.
- My seat was close to the air con unit which was very noisy and rather cold
- My seat was right in front of the entrance to the toilet, which was quite distracting throughout the examinations
- on average, the hall temperature was ok, but from time to time it was getting too cold for my liking. This is probably because the heating system worked in cycles and it switched off for some periods
- I have sent the below comments to the Examination Secretariat as a separate complaint:

During the pre-EQE examination in Birmingham on Monday 23 February 2015, my colleagues and I were disturbed and distracted by invigilators talking amongst themselves.

Around 15 minutes into the exam, two female invigilators proceeded to have a conversation at the front of the examination hall. They must have been no more than a few feet from the nearest candidates' desks. I was seated about 10 desks away from them, and I could still hear them clearly, which leads to the conclusion that they must have distracted and disturbed quite a number of candidates in the hall.

I called another (male) invigilator over and alerted him to the actions of these two female invigilators. He replied that if I had a complaint to make that I should write to the EQE exam authorities after the exam (implying that nothing could be done about it at the present time).

I suggested that in the alternative he should approach the women and politely ask them to respect the universal rule of silence during examinations. He agreed somewhat reluctantly. It was only a few minutes later that the talking stopped.

Whilst the conversation had stopped at my side of the exam hall, it seems that the women took their conversation to the other side of the hall, nearest the main entrance. My colleague has reported that she was also distracted by a conversation between two female invigilators at the southern end of the hall. This was not merely a whispered conversation: my colleague could even pick out individual words that the women were saying.

Yet another colleague of mine was distracted by invigilators talking at the back of the hall towards the end of the exam.

It goes without saying that this sort of conduct by invigilators is completely unacceptable. In total, I was distracted by this whole series of events for at least 10 minutes – which is valuable time in an exam. I would estimate that my colleagues were distracted for a similar amount of time.

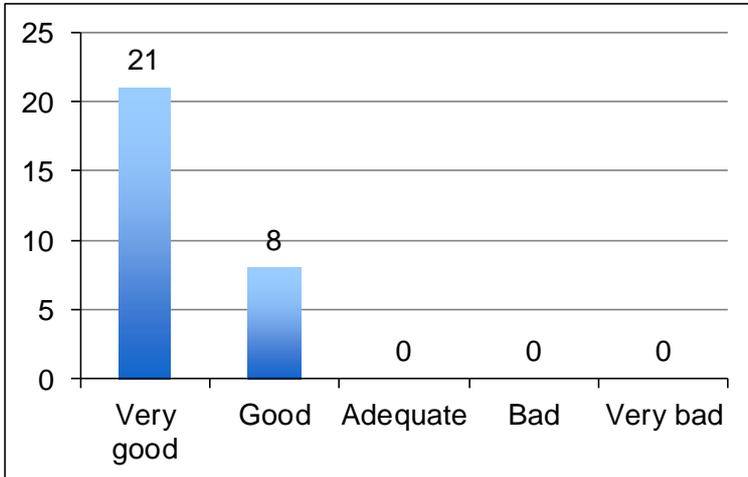
I wish to make it clear that I am not looking for any of the above to be taken into account when issuing the results of the pre-EQE exam, nor am I looking to appeal any decision made with regard to my results. I am simply raising the complaint on behalf of those sitting the examinations, and request that this sort of unacceptable behaviour by invigilators does not occur in years to come.

- Myself as well as several other candidates found the exam hall very cold. In fact, jackets had to be worn to keep ourselves warm. It's not the most ideal position to be in when sitting a 4 hour exam.
- The hall temperature was quite cold on the Tuesday (when I sat Paper D), but much warmer the following day. Temperature seemed to vary depending on where you were positioned in the hall. Overall, the temperature was much better than the Bristol Temple Meads venue.
- The temperature of the hall was just right at the start, but then got progressively colder throughout so candidates were putting coats on as it was too cold. The air conditioning was also very noisy and so it was very difficult to hear the invigilators.
- Before being allowed into the Examination Hall it would have been preferable to be able to wait inside the building rather than outside of it in the cold.
- Extremely loud air conditioning system.
Large temperature fluctuations from too hot to too cold throughout week.
Poor table layout - narrower spaces were left between desks, such that getting to back rows required squeezing between desks with suitcases etc. often blocking the way. Trying to use restroom facilities during an exam meant weaving through many small gaps. It would seem sensible to have one or more channels from front to back to allow easy circulation.
- There was a constant background noise in the examination hall, which I found very distracting. Also, the temperature in the examination hall was too low.
- The hall was noisy and quite cold. We weren't allowed access to the toilets or anywhere to wait until very close to the exam start time.
- The examination desks appeared a bit smaller than usual which made it harder to set out the various documents I needed on my desk.
This is the second year running I have had to take a taxi to the exam hall because there was no accommodation within suitable walking distance. This adds to the expense and stress of the exam and it would be preferable to have a venue to which I can walk from my accommodation.

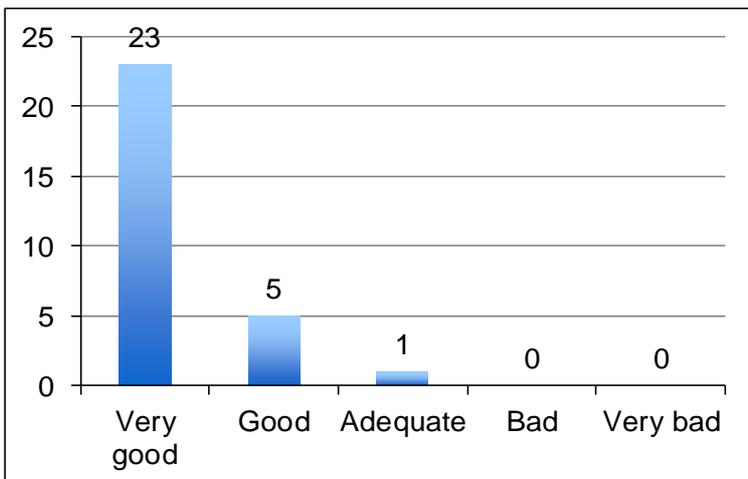
1.4 Helsinki (29 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

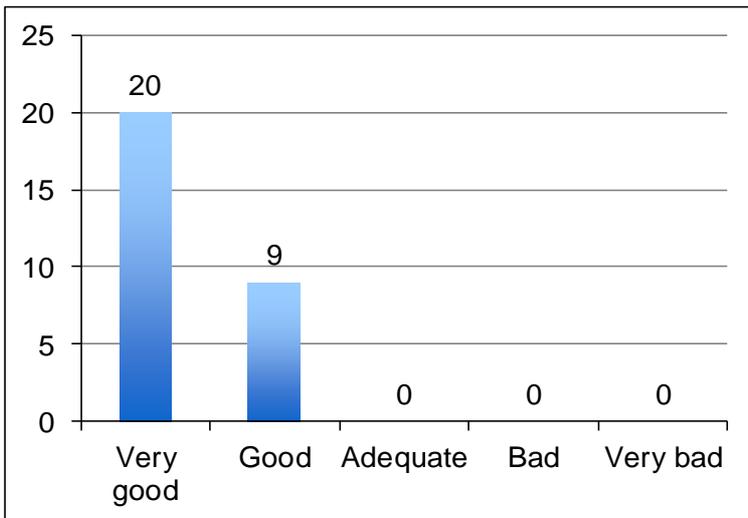
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



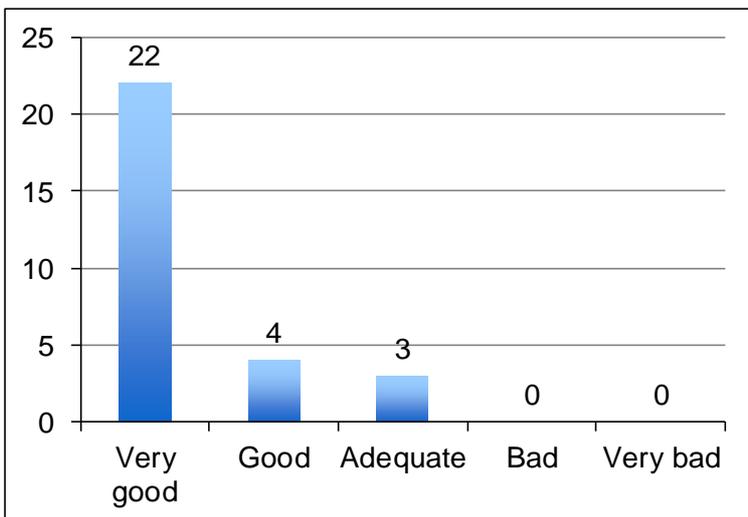
Identification check



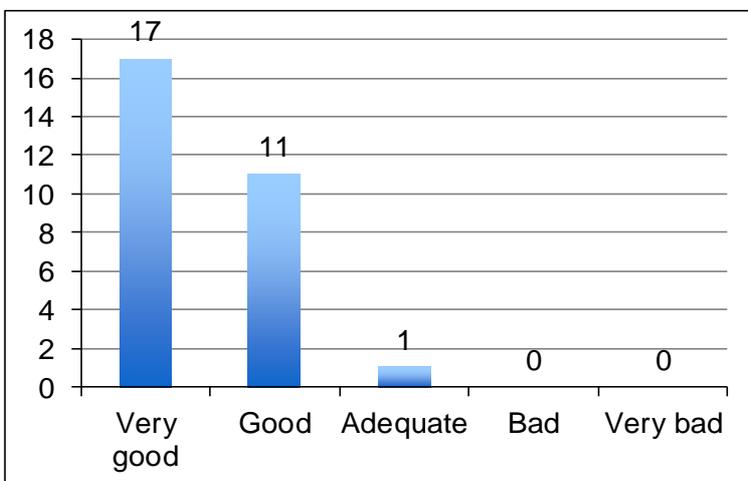
Lighting conditions



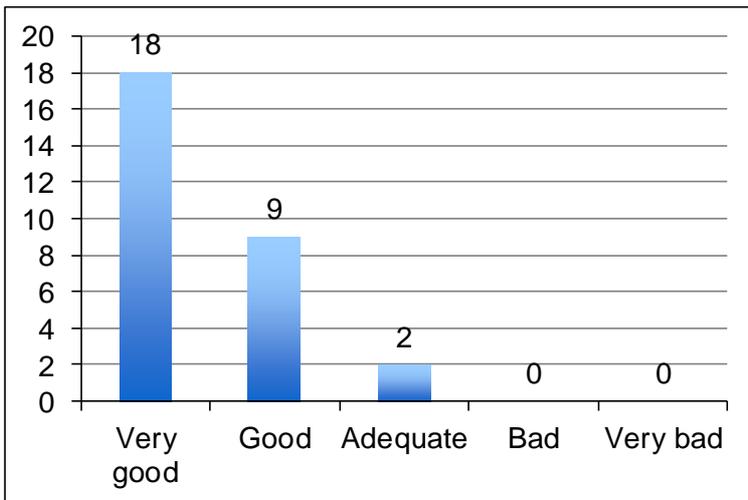
Space for candidates



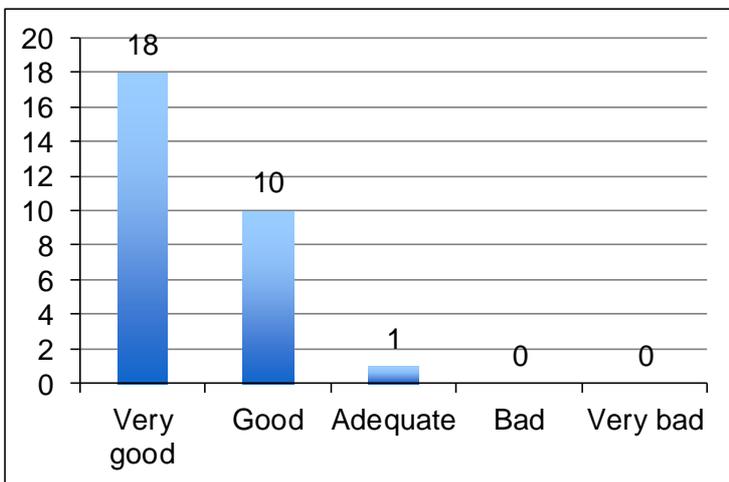
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



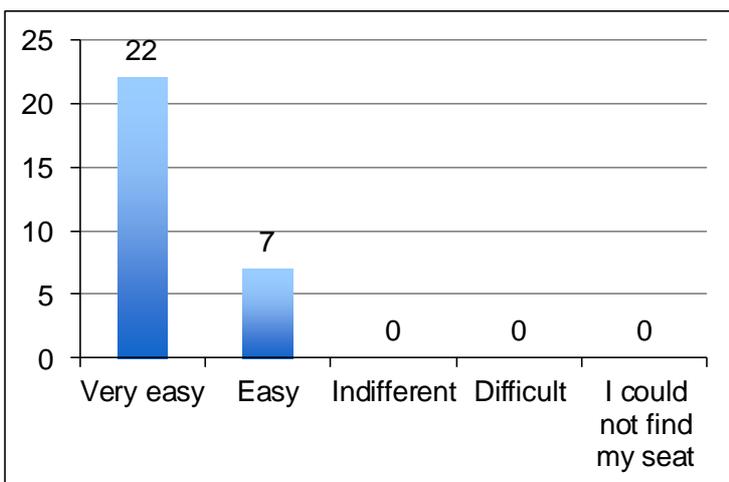
Restroom facilities



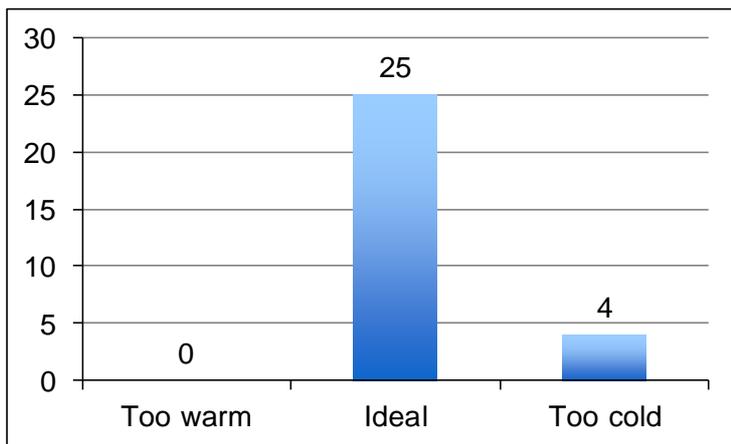
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



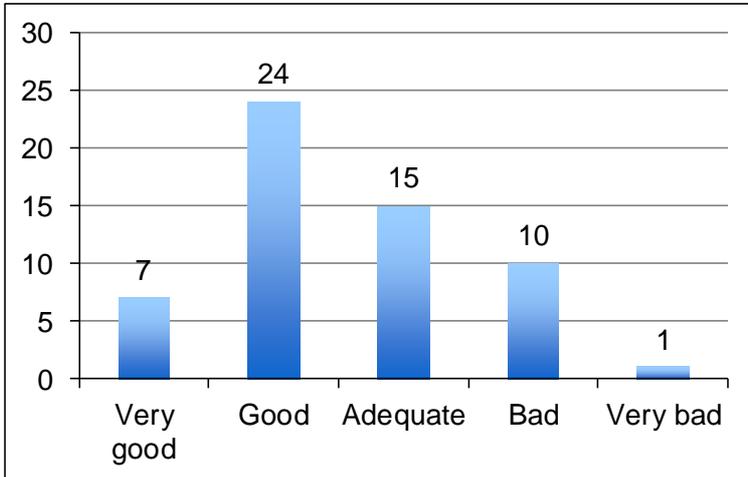
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- The supervisors were kind enough to take into account candidates special needs - I would like to thank them for that.
- Helsinki was very good both this year and last year.
- The requests of candidates were well received and the staff tried their best to comply with the wishes of the candidates.
- -
- The facilities in Helsinki are fine. Noise is difficult to keep to a minimum with the number of candidates - this year it did not bother me. More table space would always be useful, as there is a lot of material to be kept available.
- Nice and calm place to sit exam.
- The conditions in the examination hall were good to begin with. Air conditioning was very powerful and the air become cold and dry.

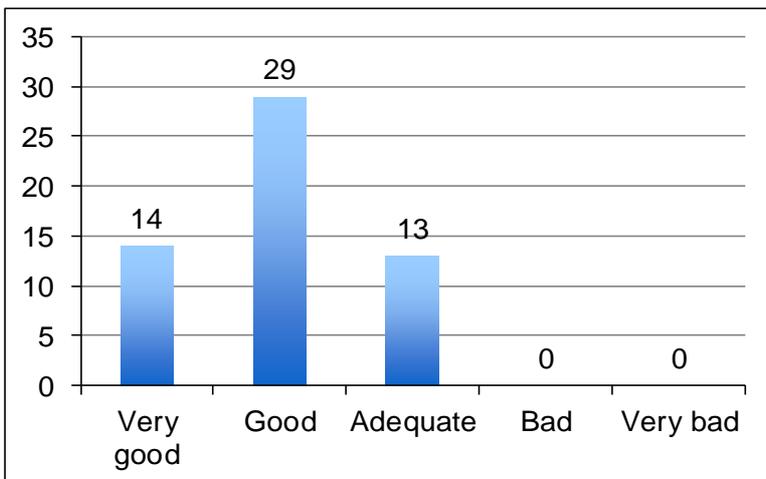
1.5 Madrid (58 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

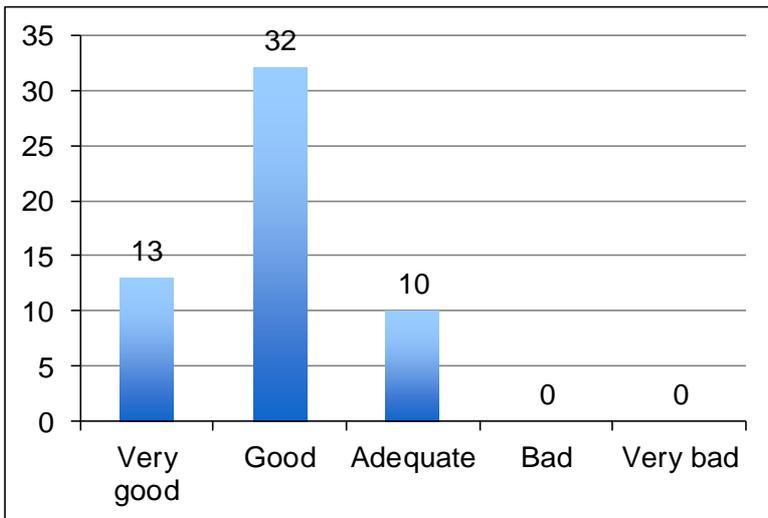
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



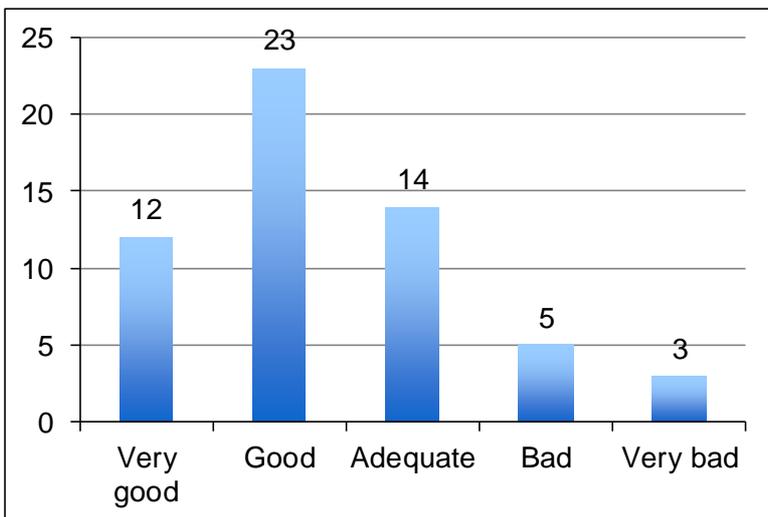
Identification check



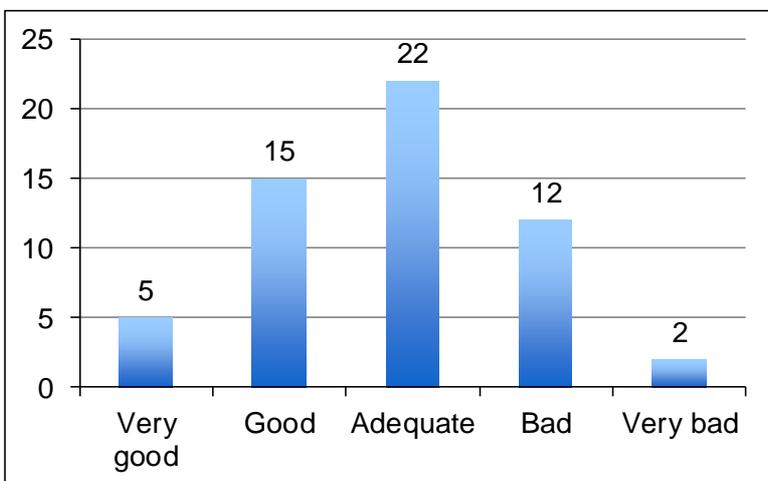
Lighting conditions



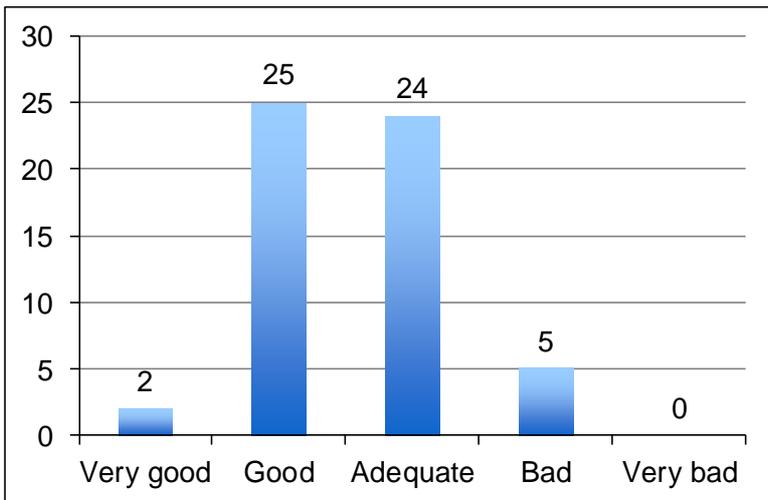
Space for candidates



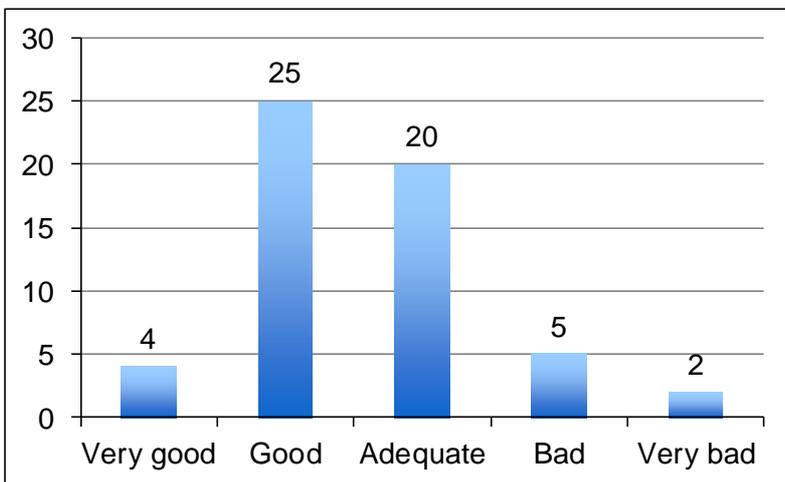
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



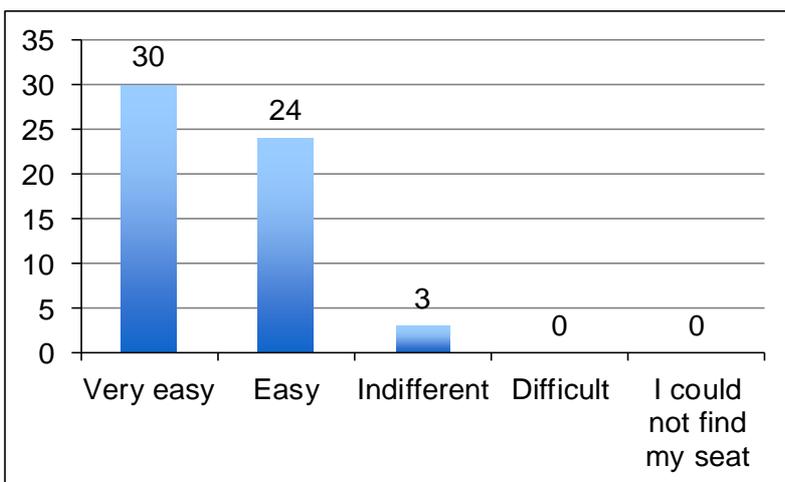
Restroom facilities



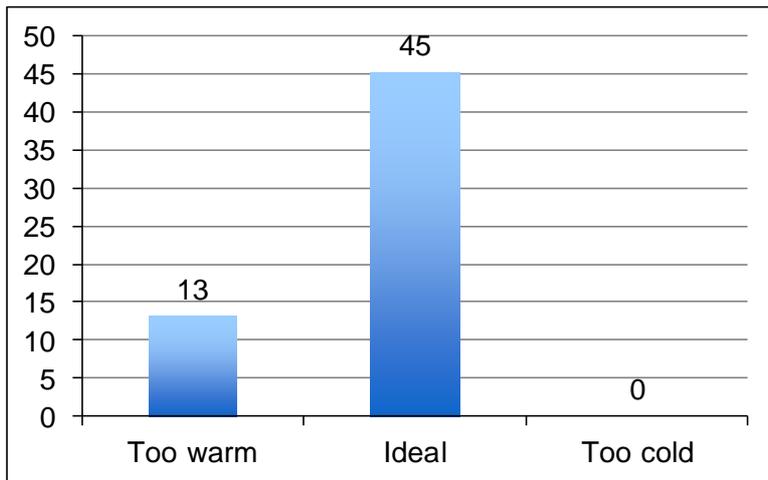
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- It should have been helpful having an elevator to the same floor of the examination hall.
 - No lift to the floor where the examination took place so we had to carry our heavy suitcases up the stairs
 - There are no stairs to reach the examination hall, which is quite uncomfortable when carrying books
 - An additional chair should be provided per table in order to assist the candidates to place bags and material which are not in prompt use and may bother the candidates when placed on the tables.
 - Again, we couldn't use the lifts (elevators). So, the equivalent of two floors with books, folders,...
- It seems that in the Hotel to drill the walls is a sport. Last year there was the same problem. Also you could hear the rubbish lorries, and other different vehicles. Chairs were made of wood. It was like a déjà-vu of the seats in the old buses.
- There were construction works by the hall during paper C.
 - There was a person sitting right in front of me with a very disgusting nervous tic. He spent the whole exam making strange noises with his throat. I did not want to waste my time calling one of the responsables in the room, but concentration was really difficult. At the end of the exam I told my complaint to one of the responsible persons and she said they had noticed the situation, but nobody had complaint. This is a kind of no experience on how to manage this kind of situations. I think it should have been the tribunal who should have done something about it, as nobody would lose time in complaining and explaining the situation.
 - Tables are very wide but extremely; proportions of the tables can be improved
 - Too narrow the table
 - The tables were small (long but narrow), my table swung and it was really uncomfortable for writing.
 - The room is on a first floor without lift and for the D paper I found it was very difficult to get to the room carrying the suitcase with all the documentation upstairs. Moreover, whilst doing the exam one could hear music coming from the corridor. Also the building has some sort of blinds on the outside that make the wind howl.
 - The tables were large enough but not wide enough. There was not enough space.
 - Due it is located next to train station it was continuously noisy, including the noise of drilling machines. The chairs were so hard that it was quite difficult to sit down for 5 hours. The table was big enough, but covered with a too much soft cloth, not a quite comfortable to write on one sheet of paper.
 - The covers for the tables were so long that they covered the legs too and making a very

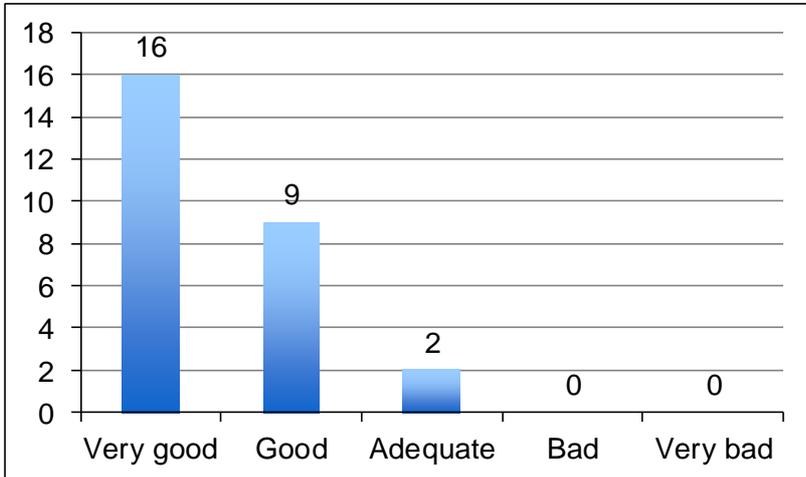
warm feeling, not comfortable at all.

- The desks in the sitting centre in Madrid are not flat and smooth, since they are covered with a sort of tablecloth, which does not make it precisely easy to write.
- There are no lifts to go to the examination room and this is an important thing when you do Paper D since you take lots of reference books.
- The covering of the exam table made the table a little uncomfortable and difficult to write on it.
- We were hearing the digging works from the road outside.
- The door did not open and lock correctly, thus it was very noisy when people came in and out (from the toilet).
- The door of the examination hall did not close properly (if closed, it was difficult to open from outside) and was left open during the exam to avoid candidates to be locked out when going to the toilet. This also occurred in 2014 and really needs to be fixed for 2016.
- Because of the door problem, the background music (sometimes dance or disco, so not really a kind of relaxing background sound) of the hotel's reception/lounge could be heard from the examination hall. And if this was not enough to distract candidates, there were re-development works at the hotel (which went on for half of the duration of the exam) and also at the train station next to the hotel. Please take this into account for next year's examination, as the engineering works at the station are programmed to last for several years.
- For the second year in a row, I would like to point out that the tables used in the examination center of Madrid are not suited for an examination where the candidate is required to manage several documents with a lot of sheets. the width of the table does not allow for having two A4 sized sheets one above the other. Temperature in the room was too high. While a change of venue is not totally necessary, a change in the tables is very very necessary.
- Tables too narrow for so many documents.
- Crystal bottle of water open, dangerous for our papers.
- Some noise from the hotel.

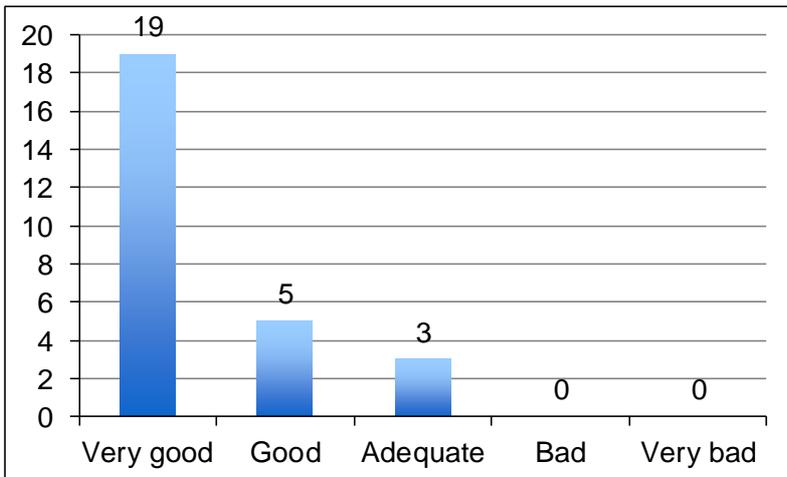
1.6 Munich DPMA (28 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

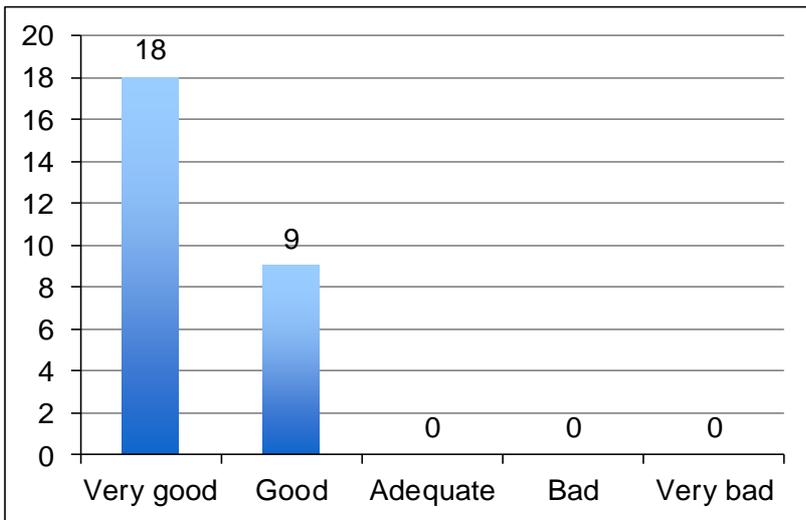
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



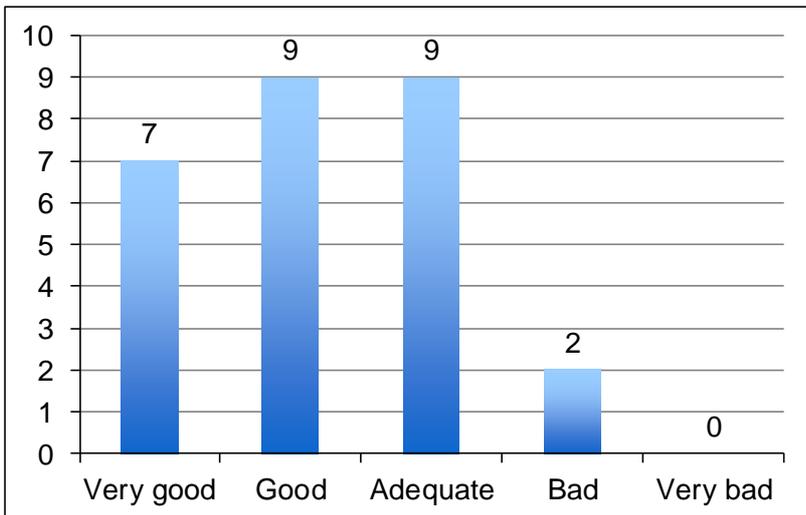
Identification check



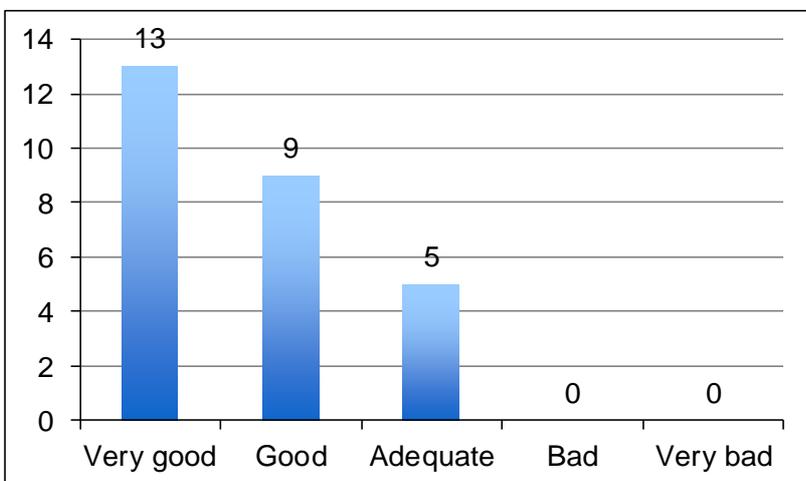
Lighting conditions



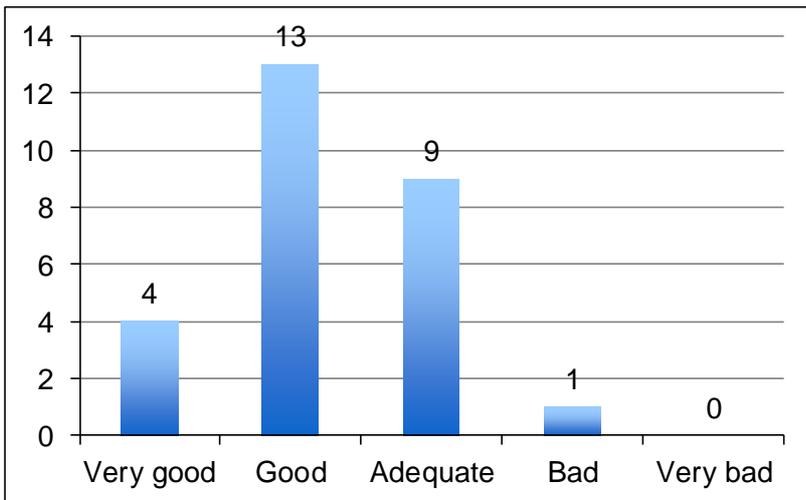
Space for candidates



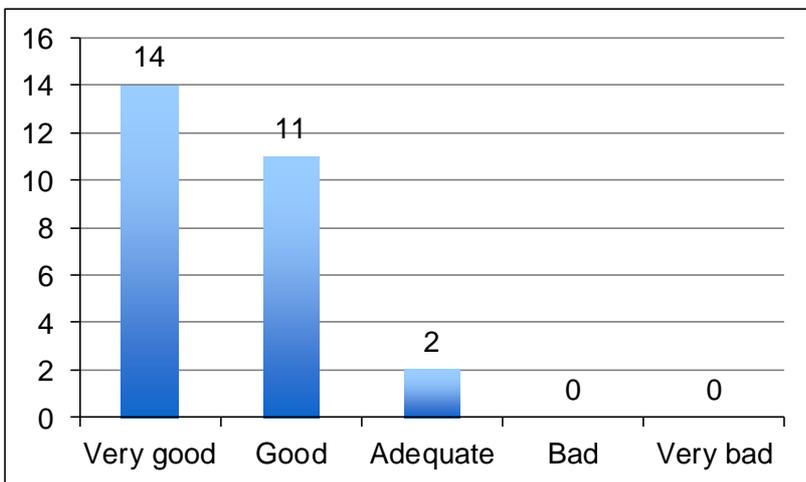
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



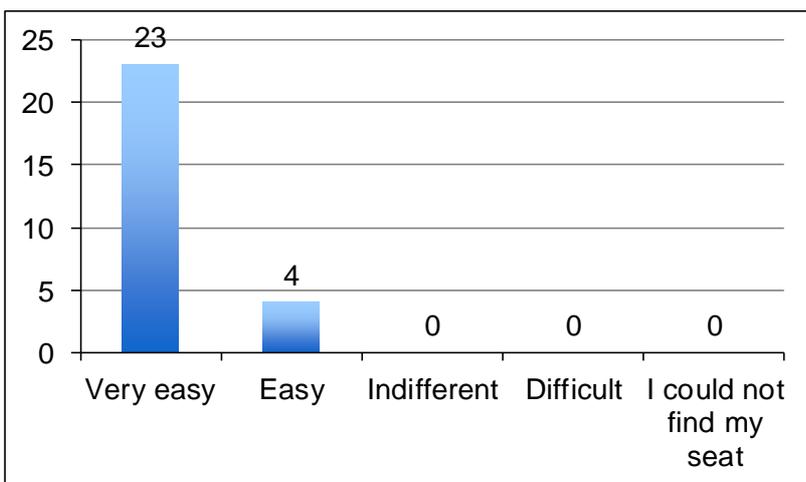
Restroom facilities



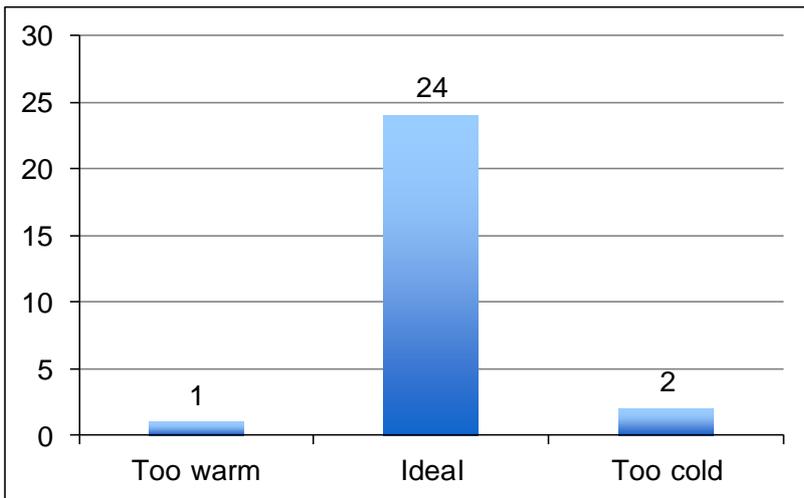
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



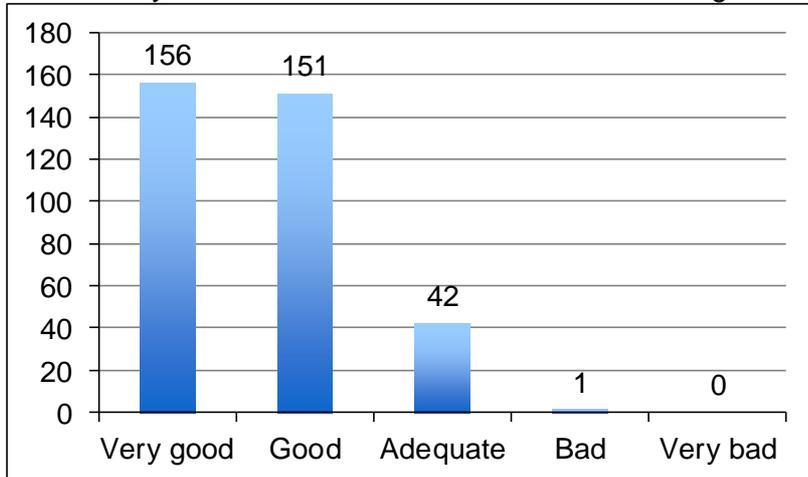
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Bitte sicherstellen, dass das Lüftungssystem angeschaltet ist und Luftaustausch herstellt. Mittwochs war die Luft sehr abgestanden und stickig.
- The second day we were enabled to enter the examination hall just 10 min. before "start signal" at 9:30 am (most of us was waiting outside at 9:05 am). It would be nice to establish a fix time before the "start signal" to allow the candidates to put their books and pre-prepared material on the table.
- I took the pre Exam at the MOC. And I really prefer the DPMA.
- Everything was good.
- I like the DPMA in Munich.
- I was sitting directly beneath one of the ac outlets, In a cold and steady breeze
- On the other hand, the ac was necessary due to the missing possibility to open the windows...

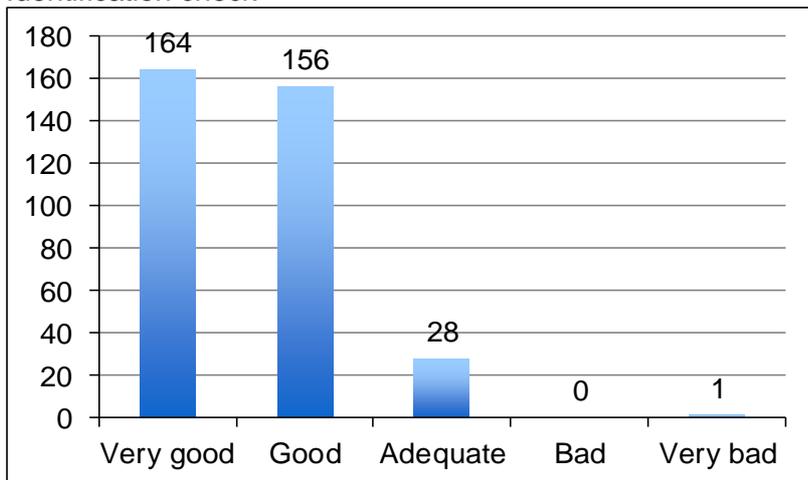
1.7 Munich M,O,C (353 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

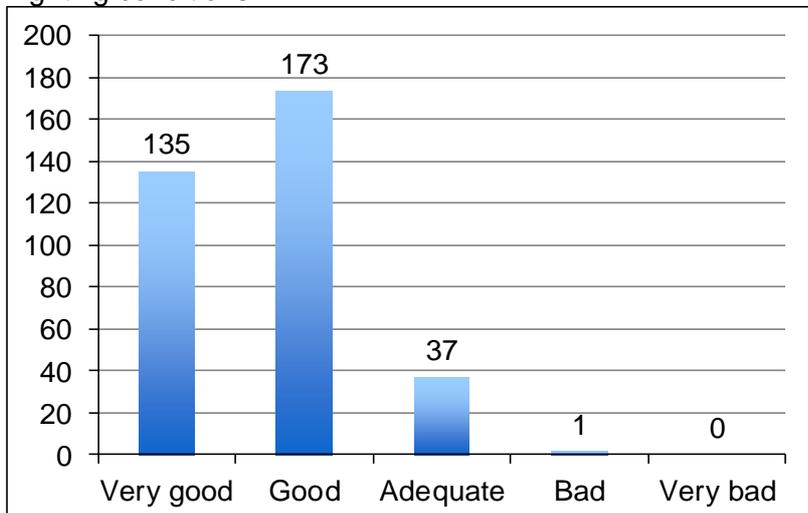
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



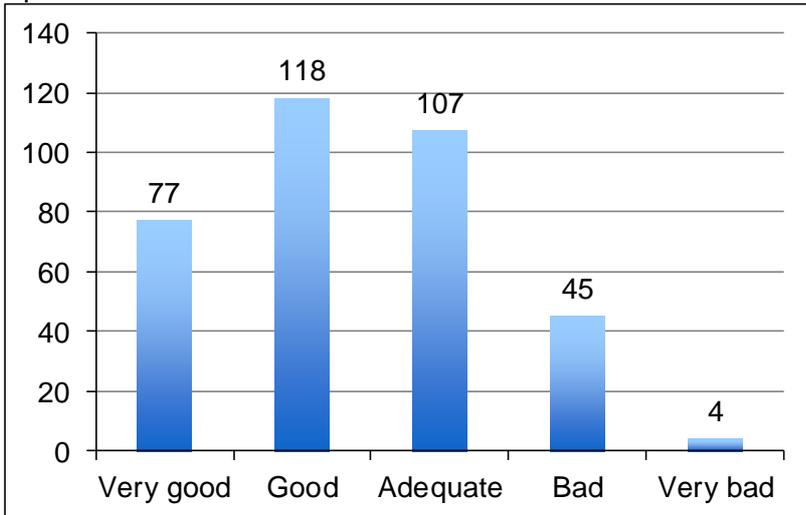
Identification check



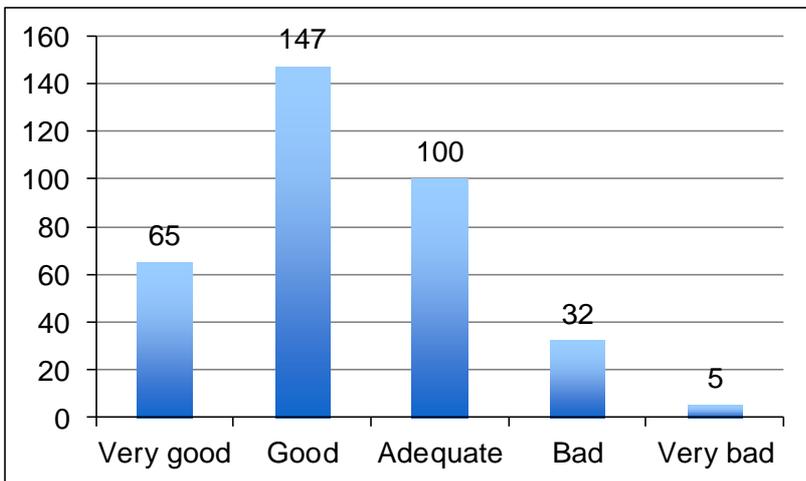
Lighting conditions



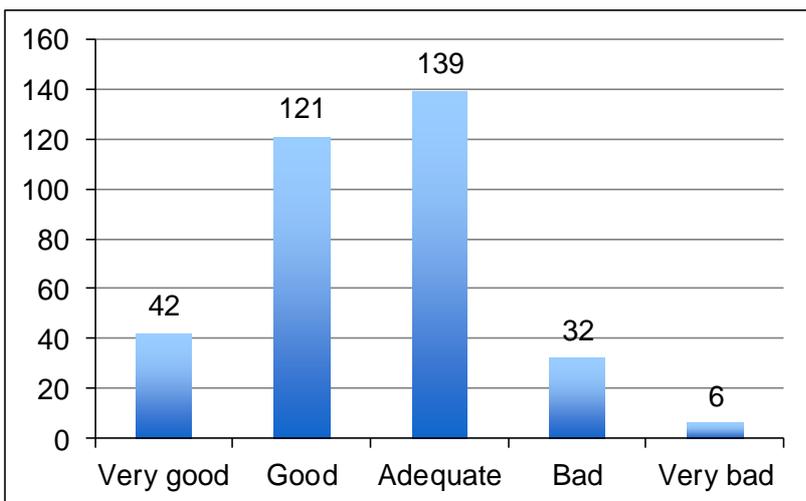
Space for candidates



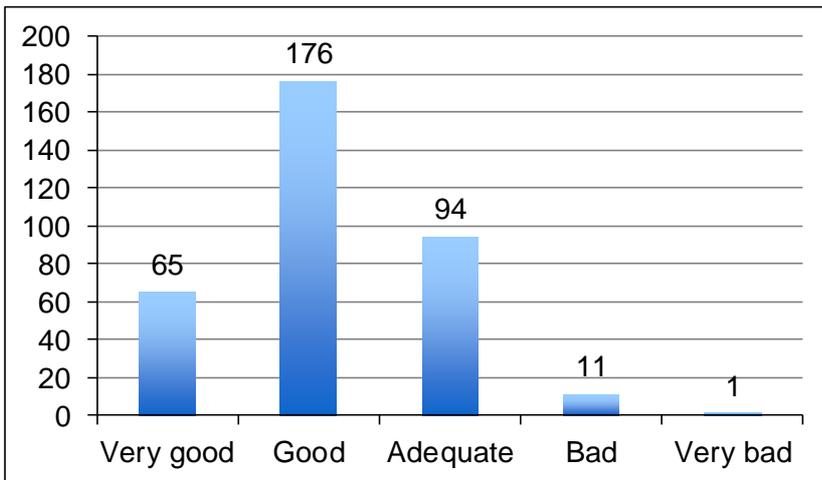
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



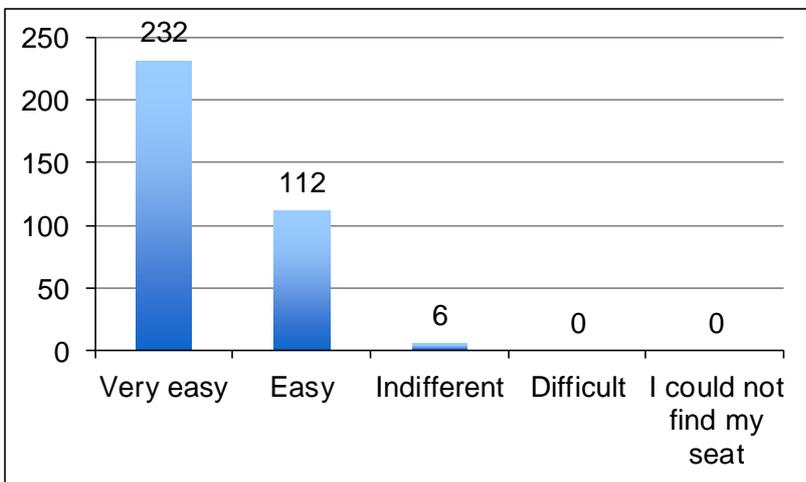
Restroom facilities



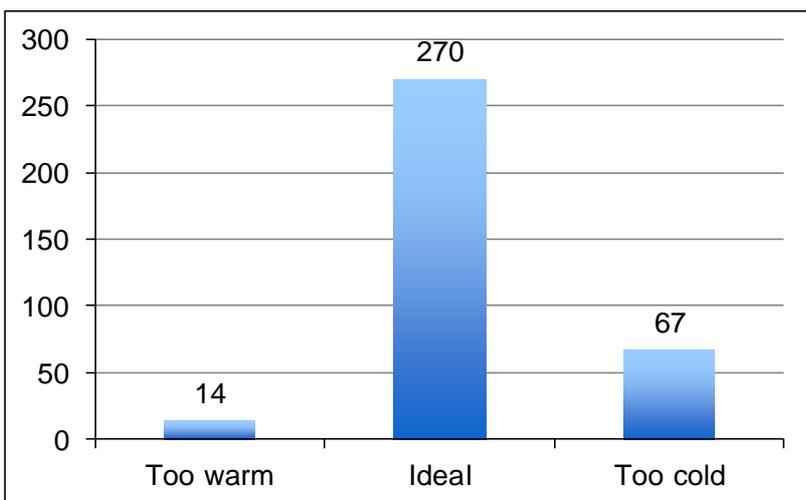
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- The examination hall where too cold. It was that cold, I felt very uncomfortable.
- In particular for paper C the tables were way too small.

- It is very annoying and costs valuable time if the desk isn't large enough to lay down all annexes side by side on the table.
- This year we had a client letter and 6(!) annexes. You further need place for your opposition writ and for your feature table etc.
Solution for this problem: larger tables or less annexes.
Since the volume of annexes and informations to be analysed was way too much this year, paper C should be reduced to less amount of information, i.e. less annexes.
- Not visible clock on the wall
- The air conditioning was blowing too strong. I had a constant pulling on the neck and partly my leaves were blown away on the table.
- Jedem Kandidaten sollte das Datum der Rückgabe der Prüfungsergebnisse mitgeteilt werden.
- I wondered why the distances between the tables and the table rows are not bigger as there was plenty of space left in the hall. The temperature in the hall was much better than a few years before. Would it be possible to put some tables in the floor with blank examination papers so the candidates can serve themselves?
- Tables are just too small for Paper C (many annexes) or D (usually a candidate has a lot of literature).
- The toilets were too small for the number of candidates. There were not enough paper towels long before half time.
- Drafty
- Hall temperature was very cold and I had cold too much. I could not get warm although I wear my coat or jacket.
- The table was small and I used the guidelines on my suitcase very below the level of the table.
- I tried to keep my answer sheet because the tables were very close to each other and I thought that someone can see my answers easily.
- The only problem I see with the examination hall was the acoustic conditions - it was sometimes very difficult to hear the invigilator if one has a place near the back.
- on Tuesday it was bit too cold (especially for a five-hour paper) but Wed and Thu it was fine; the toilets were quite far from where I was seated, which caused a loss of time
- The examination hall has the appearance of a warehouse. Rather uncomfortable conditions for an examination.
- Hall 4 at MOC was roughly only 2/3 full. the Hall 4 at the MOC was big enough to provide for more space between tables. This would have been necessary to be able to have less hustle and noise around candidates.
- From certain places in the MOC Examination centre in Munich, it was impossible to see the clocks on the walls. I think that next time you have to put bigger clocks.
- I sat paper C. Found the room cold, and echoing. The first and last half hours of the paper were quite noisy (people flicking through papers).
- An Email went out to candidates prior to the exam stating that no digital wrist watches would be permitted in the exam hall. The number of clocks in the exam hall was appalling. In the MOC centre in Munich I could only see 2 in the entire arena. As I'm sure you are aware timing is a very important part of any exam but due to the insufficient number of clocks in the exam arena I and a number of other candidates had to guess the time. It is farcical to think that in this day and age a simple digital wrist watch is not permitted in an exam.
- only part of the hall was used. It would be better to distribute the candidates more evenly through the entire hall
- After three hours, it was too restless. I had no opportunity for concentrated work..
- Am surprised that there was no clock visible. Had I forgotten my watch, I would have been in a real pickle.
- The lights glare a little
- the clock was difficult to see from my seat
- I just have one suggestion: last year and two years ago, the invigilators informed the candidates more about the time consuming. It was mentioned on the speaker that it left 30

minutes before the end of the exam and another alert 5 minutes before the end. This year for the two modules where I was, it was mentioned only that it left 5 minutes before the end of the exam. Personally, I prefer two alerts rather than only one.

- The desks are far too small
- Wednesday, temperature was Ideal, Thursday I found it too warm
- No catering nearby, MOC is in the middle of nowhere, no time to grab food in the 1,5hour lunchbreak. Restaurant in the neighboring hall was occupied by students of an IHK test, which ran parallel to our test.
- Table size too small
- Not enough toilets; bring a temporary toilet into the large MOC centre; there's enough space
- The hall was very cold.
- The lamps were mirroring in the clock, so that I could not see the wall clock very good. The announcements over the PA system were way too quiet.
- Negative:
Visibility of the clock very bad; not enough restrooms which are too far from esp. Block A and B; noise level for the last 10min was too high, invigilators might have asked for silence
Positive:
Sufficient space for parking; sufficient space to next sitter; friendly and helpful invigilators; quick re-supply with additional writing paper
- Not enough restrooms available
- The air quality was not the best. Dense.
- I was expecting there to be a visible clock in the examination hall, but none were visible from where I was sitting.
- I found it unfortunate that there was just one toilet - which, for me, happened to be on the other side of the (very large) room. During an exam where time is always too short, I did not like wasting my time walking long distances to the toilet.
Warm water at the restrooms would have been nice.
- Tables too small
- The hall is very large and the distribution of candidates within the hall was not ideal. While there were some parts of the hall - although with prepared tables and chairs - almost or totally empty, in the other parts of the hall, the candidates were sitting next to each other in 10 rows, each table being busy. It would be much more convenient for the candidates if the distribution was more even, less people in each compartment, with some empty tables in between. The noise level and the disturbance by the neighbours would be much less like that.
- The floor was way too cold, thus I (m) had constantly "frozen" feet.
- All in all it was good - sufficient parking was available and the MOC centre could be found easily. A little more space between the tables would be ideal
- The CLOCK was too far away to see.
The rules were announced while some persons still in the restroom were.
Some bottle of water should be distributed with cakes.
- The air inside the hall was really bad; no fresh air in the morning.
- Due to the size of the fair hall and the background noise, it was almost not possible to understand the announcements. It would be better, if the tables would be a bit larger (maybe +20%). Also, I believe that it would be better to have a plurality of smaller halls.
- Since basically any additional watch/clock is forbidden (I could not use my analog Alarm clock ?!) there should be additional clocks in the room, which can be seen from any seat. I could not see a single clock without "leaving" my seat, because they were all hidden behind the Support Posts of the building.
- The clock can not be seen and the toilet too difficult to access.
- It was a bit hard for me, who was in the back, to hear all the information that was read on the speakers
- Chairs with adjustable height would be optimal, had a backache after only 4 h... Wonder how this turns out after 3 days of EQE.
- A bigger table would have been better.

- Although the EQE Secretariat said that they will place me near the toilets (because of my medical situation), my seat was far away from the toilets. This was a problem for me. The examination hall was too cold.
- A cloakroom for larger suitcases/laptops etc. would be nice for people travelling directly to the airport after the exam.
- The sanitary facilities were not sufficient. It was simply too small too few "places" and cabinets.
The table at my workplace was not stable. It was wiggling all the time I was writing.
- The restrooms in the examination hall at the MoC center left a lot to be desired, otherwise this was a good location although a bit off center from the rest of the city.
- the acoustic condition was not so good. you could hear the activities of your neighbors. tight place for go out through the lines.
- Die Einsammlung der Prüfungsunterlagen durch das Aufsichtspersonal wurde nicht konsequent durchgeführt. Mehrere Teilnehmer schrieben noch, nachdem die Aufforderung zur Abgabe über Lautsprecher erfolgt war und die Dame, welche die Unterlagen einsammeln sollte, noch geduldig wartete bis der Kandidat sich bequemte fertig zu werden. Es ist nicht hinnehmbar, dass ein solch asoziales Verhalten einiger Teilnehmer auch noch belohnt wird. Wenn schon Regeln von dem Komitee aufgestellt werden, dann sollten diese auch durchgesetzt und auch das Aufsichtspersonal entsprechend ausgesucht bzw. instruiert werden.
Genau genommen müsste die Prüfung wiederholt werden, da die Chancen bzw. die Bearbeitungszeit effektiv nicht für alle gleich war.
- The examination hall itself was quite good.
- very good organisation of storage of electronic devices, thank you
- Would be nice to be able to get a last coffee outside the hall before starting.
- The tables are relatively small. It would help the candidates if somewhat larger tables could be provided in the future.
The invigilators behaved very friendly, I'd like to thank them for doing such a great job!!
- As a lot of candidates arrive early, it would be nice if they could already enter the hall earlier to accommodate themselves.
- Temperature near the floor was quite cool.
- The air was not good.
- Too few toilets for women.
- Examination centre a bit remote from the city centre; neighbouring seats too close to each other.
- Very well organized - not much need to change.
- ad hall temperature: especially at the beginning it was a little bit too cold for me, later on it became better (warmer)
- It would be great if there could be access to a coffee vending machine. E.g. some kind of mobile coffee vending machine? The coffee price in the restaurant seems to be a little usury (3,30 Euro for a small coffee).
- I was highly disturbed by the 3 language announcing the end.
The time used for this announcement should not be part of the exam time.
The exam time should be extended for the amount of time spent for the announcement.
e.g. exam time Ends exactly 5 minutes after the last word of the announcement.
- Mobile phones are forbidden, but nevertheless a check about them has not happened. I think it would be easier to put a plastic bag in front of the table, in which you are able to insert your phone, e.g. everyone would notice if you take it during the exam. I suggest a device for jamming the mobile frequencies in the hall, especially the toilets for preventing use of the phones on the toilet. I am sorry, but that would be the right way to do.
Furthermore I suggest that the surveillance is a little harder. Of course it would be a problem to walk through the lines of tables, but nevertheless, would the tables be more separated, it would be easier to go through. it is very disturbing for the one going onto the toilet and the one sitting, if you shove some items of a concentrated writing guy/woman, which has build up a little castle around him with no space to go through.....Please think over, as except

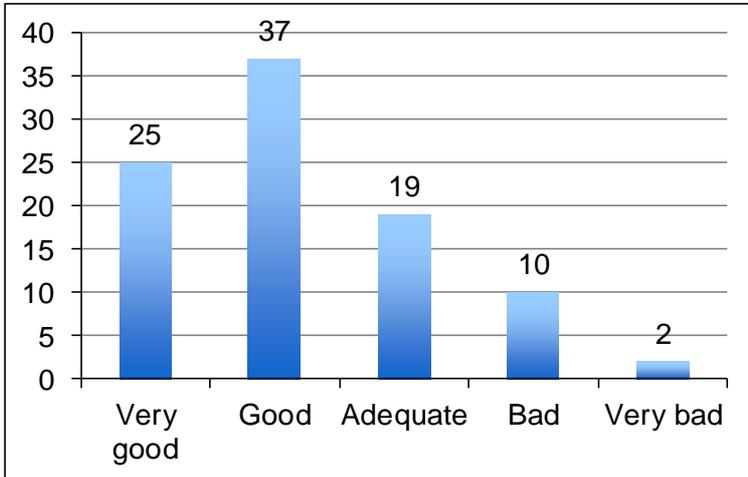
for the one handing out further papers, the other two surveillance guys are reading books all the time, so in fact, you can send them home to work, as they are of no use. Further example for toilet users, everyone has to give his entrance papers to the guy before the toilet, so it can be controlled who is how long on the toilet during the exam. Would prevent further use of a second mobile phone on the toilet for asking questions at third parties, which would take at least several minutes. Further I would amend the running way of the toilet users to the back, as the running in the middle of the room is not good for concentration for the first rows. It would be nice, if you would present more watches at the surveillance tables. Therefore no discussions about analog or digital or clocks on the desk are necessary, if there is a good viewable watch for the examinees at the surveillance table or on a stick like the loudspeakers.

- A better guidance to the Examination centre from the nearest subway stations (e.g. by signs) would be appreciated.
- This year, chairs outside the exam room were almost completely removed. I found the tables closer to each other than last year. In my row, I could just get around other candidate's tables without tearing their documents down to the floor. Other parts of the hall were almost deserted.
- Regarding spacing - the hall was big but the tables for us candidates was positioned so that there were only space to move between the rows of tables, as there was ample space left I felt the tables was positioned unnecessary tightly
Audibility of the invigilators, the microphone system was ok but could definitely have been better.
- not just a little, but really too cold
the installed carpets - basically a good idea to reduce the noise of people walking to the restrooms - were above some cable channels - and when walking on the carpet, the covers slamed really noisy
- Restrooms far away, it takes long to reach them and going back, while time is critical for most of the exams.
- Some invigilators were whispering but this was still audible from where I was. Not ideal.
- not the examination hall is important - however the result is important
- The announcement of the EPO-Assistant at the beginning of the exam was totally not clear in terms of acoustic, means I haven't understood him at all. Next time please talk clearer.
- Every year the feedback from Munich MOC is "more clocks please". If more clocks are impossible, simply inform the candidates in advance that there are no clocks at MOC. Feedback from a previous year says that the plates on the floor under the carpet which make a noise when you walk on them have been silenced. Well for 2015 the noisy plates are back.
From row 8, I could not hear the messages said on the PA system very well.
Apart from that, lighting was good and the organizers did well.

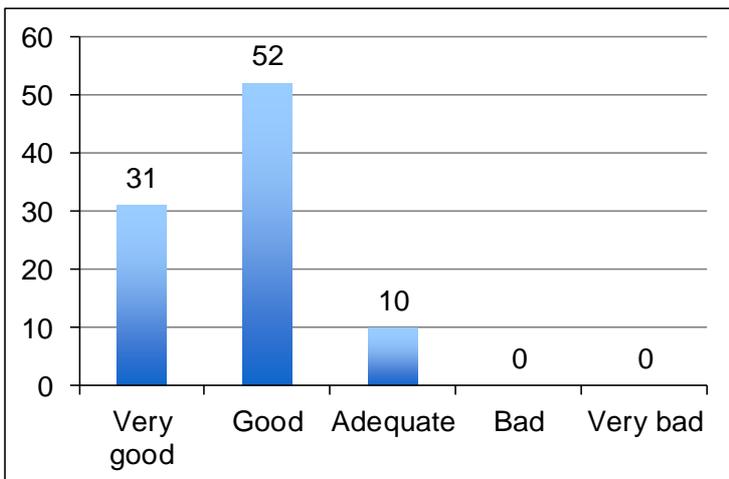
1.8 Paris (93 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

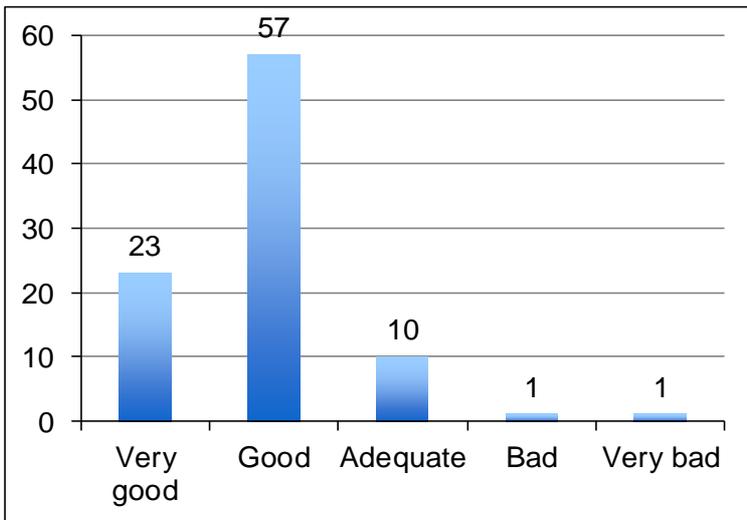
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



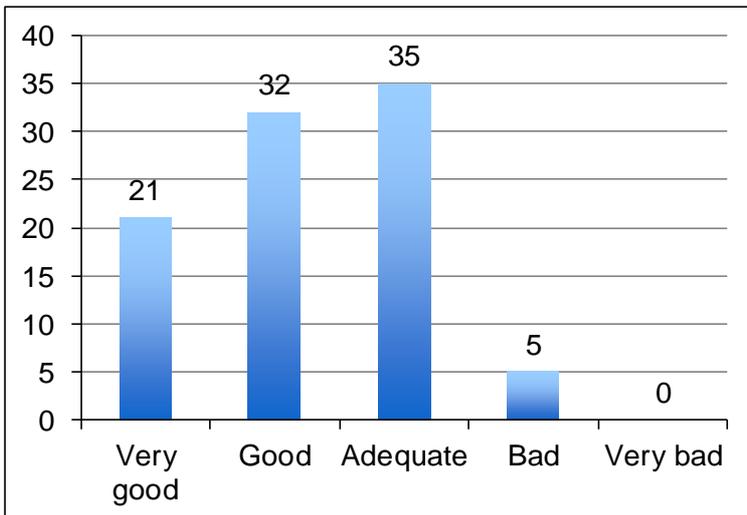
Identification check



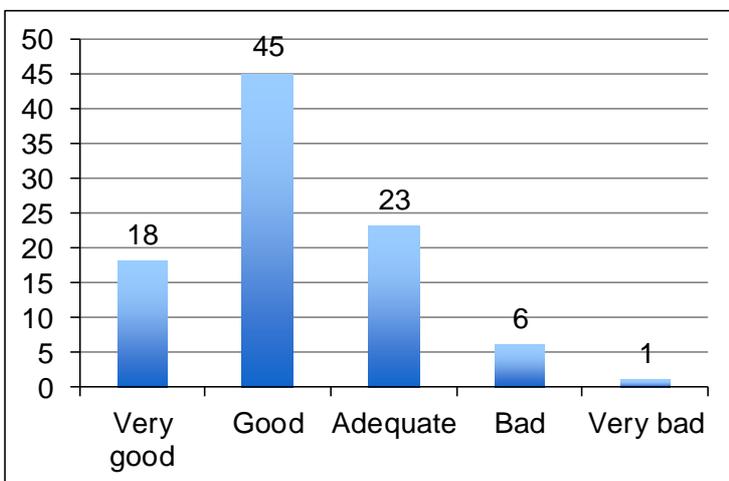
Lighting conditions



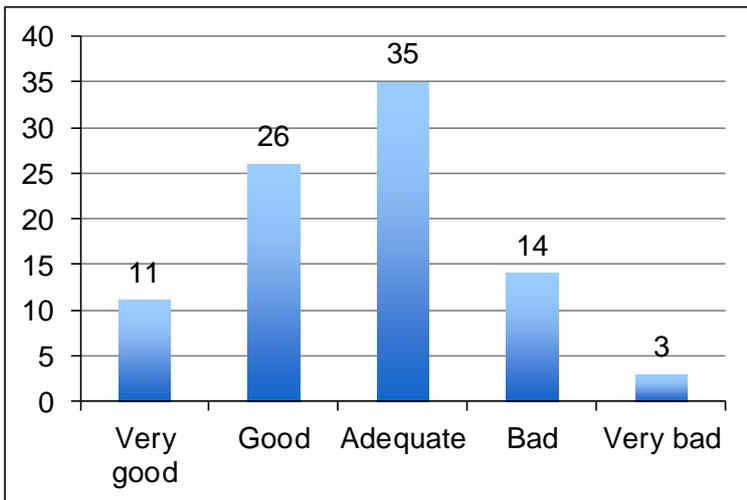
Space for candidates



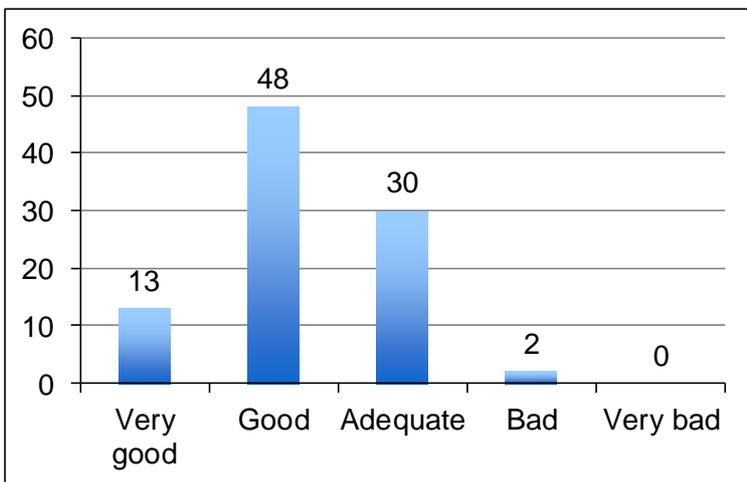
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



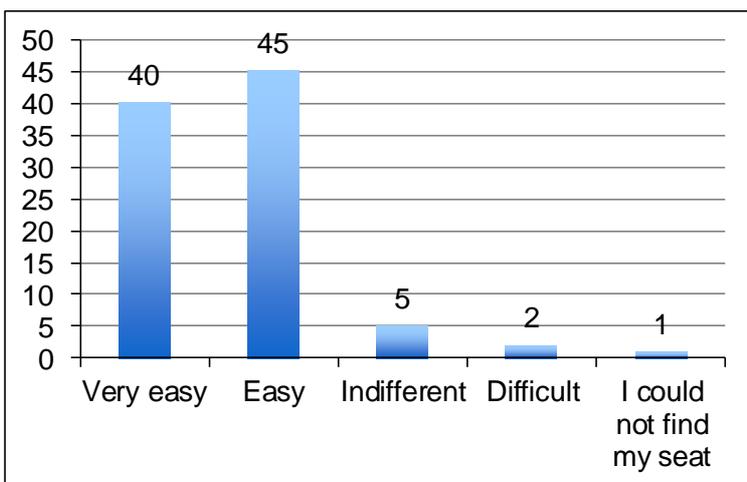
Restroom facilities



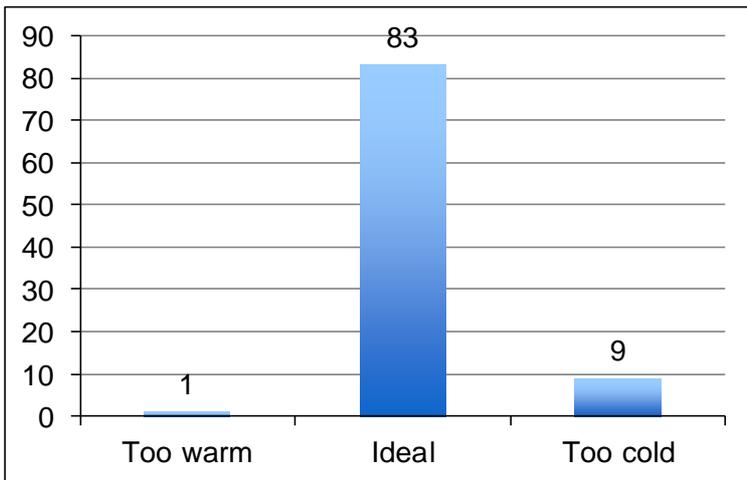
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- During the last hour of the exam, I heard the yelling of kids next to the examination hall (it looked like that we were near by a school or a park). The sound disturbed me.
- Too far from the center of Paris, bad suburb, terrible metro line to go there.
- very good!
- The access to the exam center is not ideal (bus, metro)
- Some of the tables were VERY squeaky and made rattling sounds when writing. This became overwhelming at times, especially during the D paper.
- Few hotels for those who didn't live in Paris!
- The EPO would do a great service to the French-based community of patent practitioners by avoiding this location. This is my third time in this exam center in St-Ouen (pre-EQE, EQE last year and this year), and I feel I am being punished every time. I really don't understand why we are submitted to the ordeal of having to carry 20 kilos of books to one of the most inaccessible place I can think of around Paris.
Metro line 13 is the worst of the network. Not only candidates like me coming from other parts of France, but even Paris-based candidates prefer to find a hotel within a 30 minute walking distance (and there are not many!) rather than taking the risk of being stuck indefinitely somewhere along metro line 13 every morning. Besides, even when traffic is normal on that line, have you tried boarding a subway car with a suitcase during rush hours ?
Apart from that, the restroom facilities at the exam center are completely inadequate, with only one tiny toilet being available.
Room temperature was 2 or 3 degrees short of the comfort zone this year (savings?), but that's a minor nuisance to me.
- My table and my neighbor table was making noise when writing
- It would be preferable for the examination center to be inside Paris rather than in the suburbs (St Ouen)
- My personal table was creaking all the time I moved my pen fast or erased something on my paper. This was annoying for me and candidates next to me. The tables of candidates next to me didn't produce such noise.
- Some tables were too close to the doors that people may use (invigilators' room, exit, restrooms...)
- I really insist on the absolutely poor audibility conditions.
- The location of the examination hall is quite unfortunate. The hall is far away from the centre of Paris and is poorly served by public transportation. Access from the major airports and

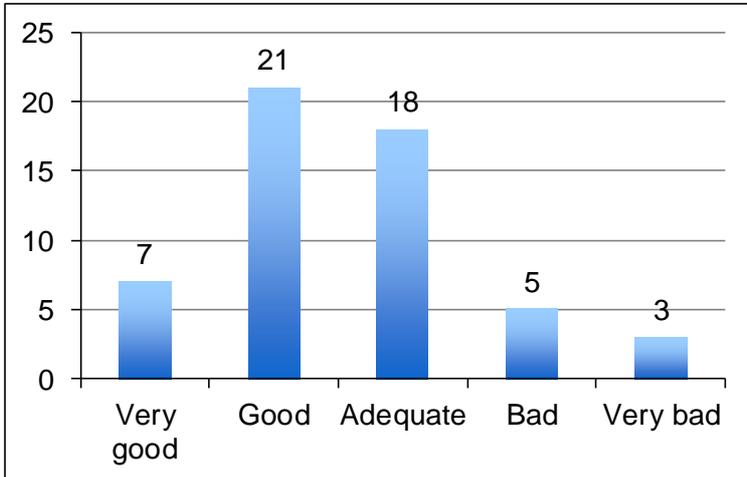
railway stations is quite difficult. There is little decent accommodation in the area. This is a problem for candidates who do not live in Paris and who come from elsewhere.

- L'Eurosite de St-Ouen se trouve assez loin des transports en commun et des hébergements, ce qui n'est pas très pratique lorsque l'on doit transporter de lourdes valises pour transporter les documents nécessaires à l'examen, plus particulièrement l'épreuve D.
- Trop éloigné de Paris.
- Accessible seulement par une ligne de métro surchargée et facilement en panne ce qui augmente les risques d'arriver en retard aux épreuves même en prévoyant d'autres chemins
- The area of the examination hall is difficult to access- only one underground line. The examination hall is far from the station and, since we are Very loaded, it quite tiring.
- It can get pretty loud when cars honk outside or else.
The location is situated in a unsafe part of paris. Examination should take place somewhere in the centre of Paris.
- Between A and B, for lunch time, there was no room were to sit and relax.
- It takes a long time to reach the examination center from Paris. The subway is not reliable and the I did not feel safe during the 10 min walk from the station to the examination center. The examination should take place in Paris instead of Saint-Ouen.
- The number of toilets was very limited for so many people.
- St Ouen is not the best place in Paris, even if access to the examination hall via Métro was OK.
- L'horloge la plus proche n'est pas souvent lisible facilement.
Il serait intéressant d'indiquer clairement qu'une consigne est à disposition pour les personnes ayant un téléphone portable (ou tout autre appareil électronique); En effet, des personnes ont interprété qu'il était impossible de venir sur le lieu de l'examen avec un quelconque téléphone.
- table are maybe too small and making noise (squeak and rattle when writting) which annoyed my neighbors.
- I was sat only 1 meter from a desk where people took back their mobile phone after finishing the exam.....not so good for being in quite condition
- Examination hall far away from Paris and from the underground.
- I was unaware of the rules for going to the toilet. Having to wait your turn to go out is very stressful as time is of the essence. It is also very difficult for the invigilators to control.

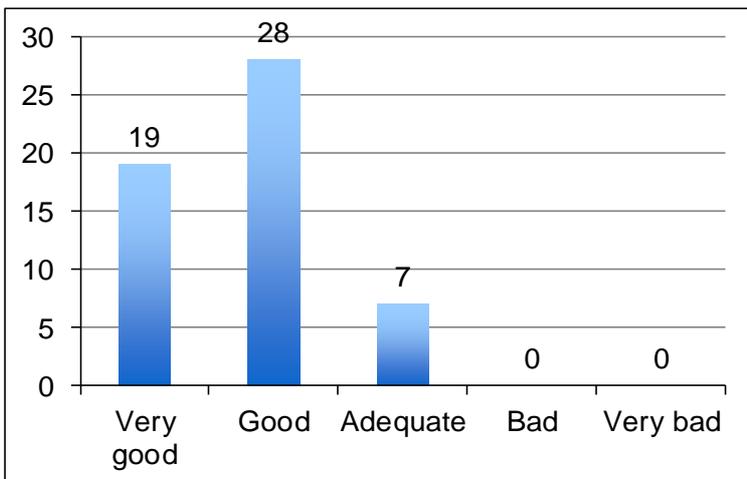
1.9 Rome (54 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

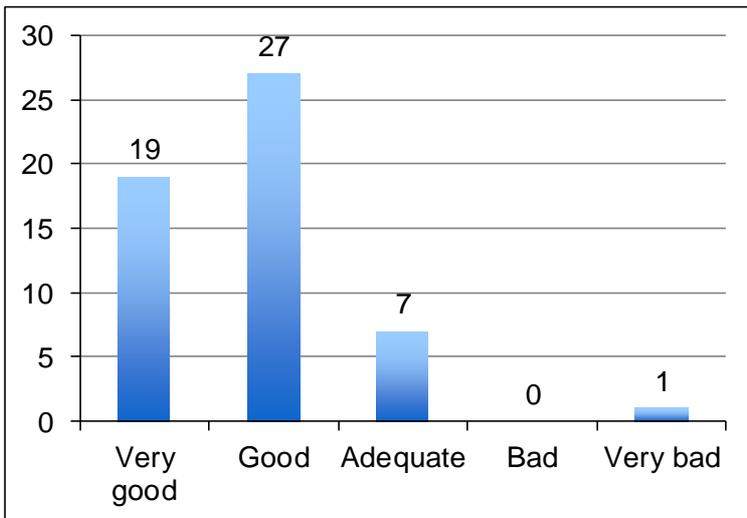
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



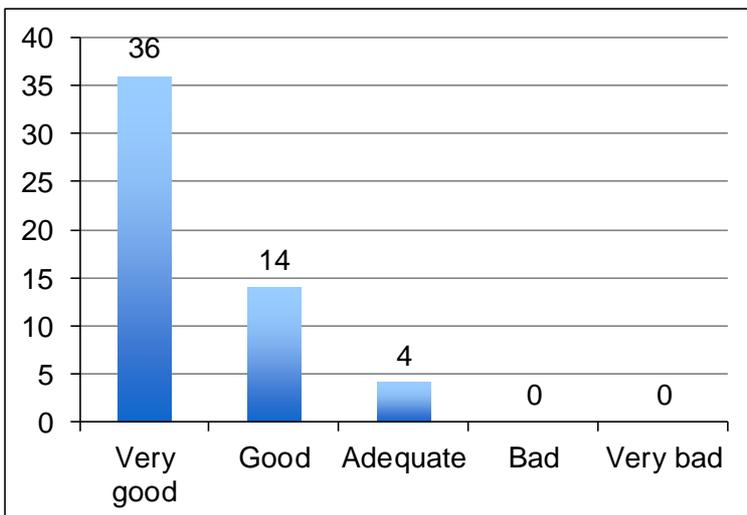
Identification check



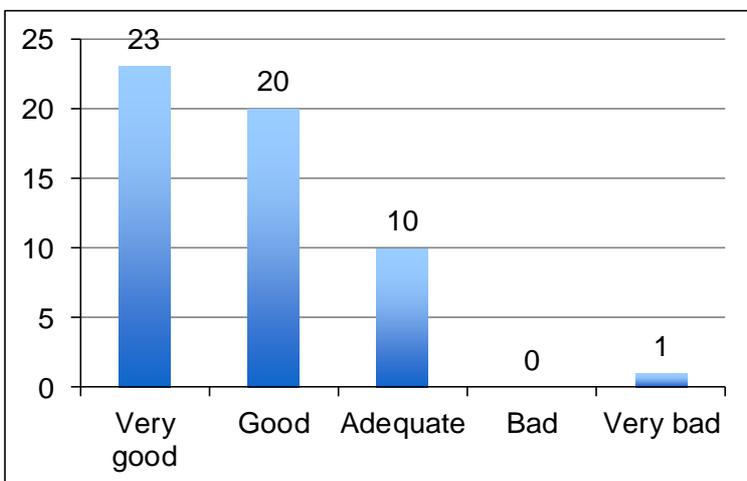
Lighting conditions



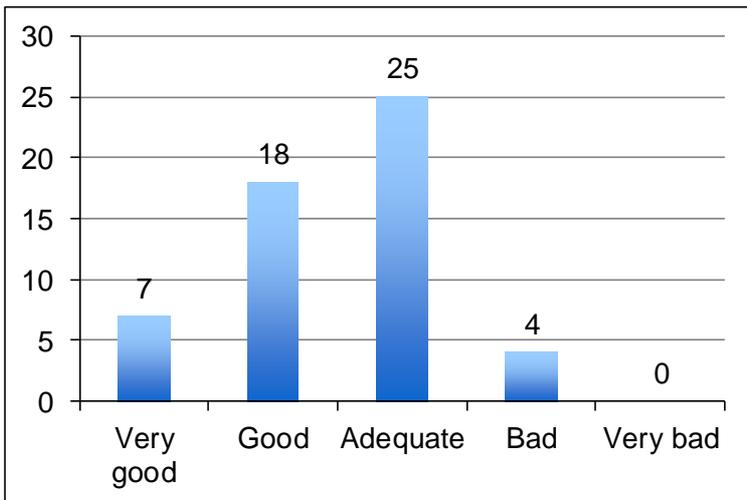
Space for candidates



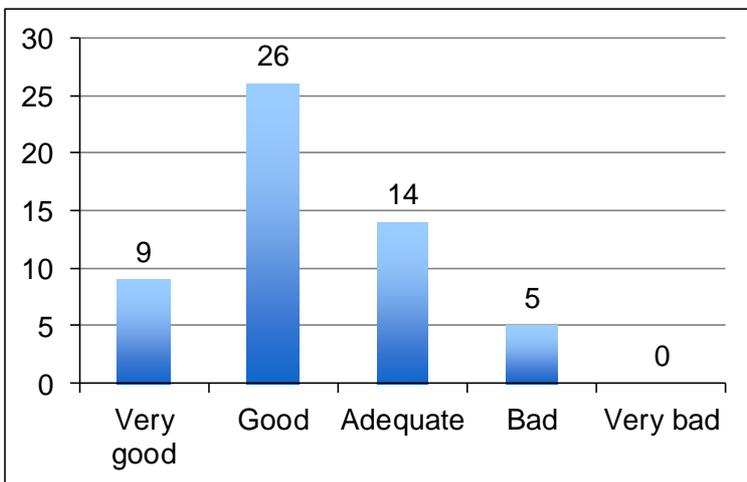
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



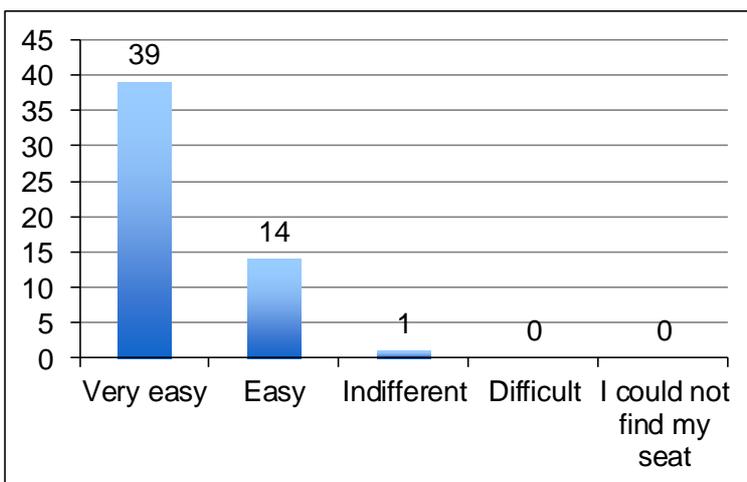
Restroom facilities



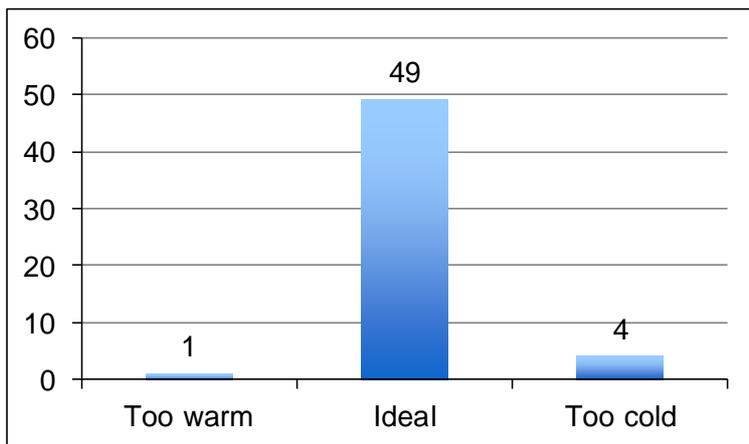
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



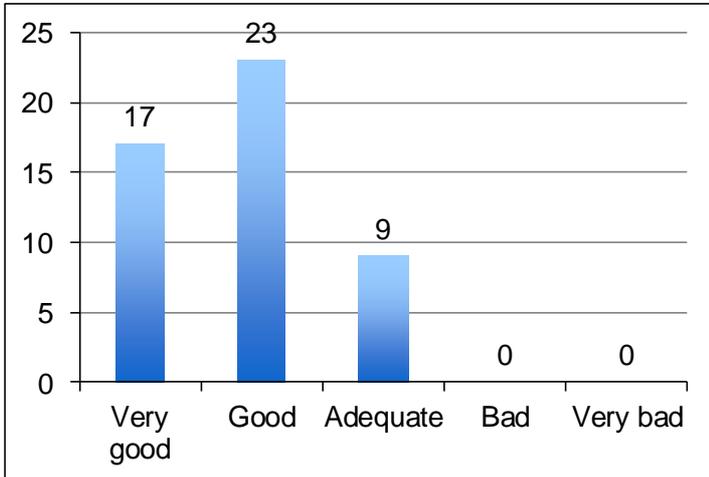
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- One lamp was flickering, the old lamps were noisy
- difficult to reach with an heavy bag
- Many steps to do with heavy bag.
No accessibility without steps.
- It was very noisy due to the airation system
- Uncomfortable hall, without natural light (curtains were closed) and with some neon lights that were buzzing and flashing.
- everything was fine
- As for pre-exam, being the same examination hall, accessibility of the examination hall is very bad.
Examination hall is not located inside Ergife hotel, so that to reach the hall one have to exit the hotel, reach an external structure wich is quite far. Moreover the worst thing is that to reach the hall a lot of stairs are present which results in a very hard way to reach examination hall due to need of taking a lot of books (expecially for parer D) in a very heavy bag.
- 4 floor without lift
- there is no elevator and there are a lot of stairs to do (pregnants need help and also for others it is not so comfortable to do those stairs with books).
- The general problem is that the hall can only be reached by staircases. No elevator, which is particularly problematic if you have to carry with you all the books you think to bring with
- There were a lot of stairs and no lift. Very unsuitable with trolleys.
- No lift was available and too many steps of the stairs with heavy luggage needed for paper D.
- One of the neon lights was flickering

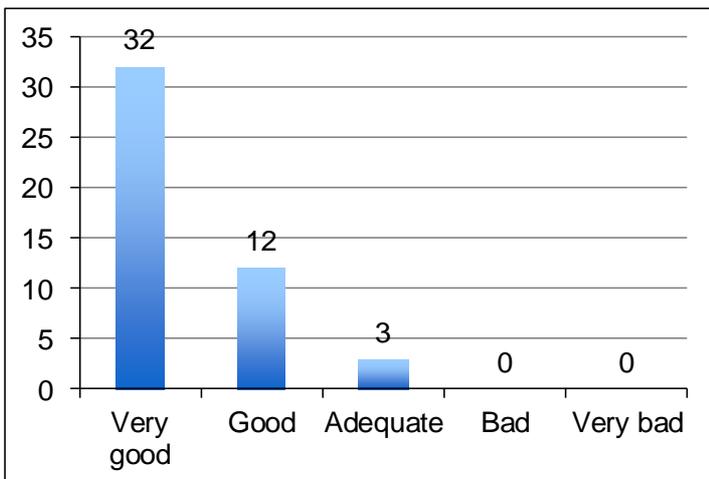
1.10 Stockholm (49 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

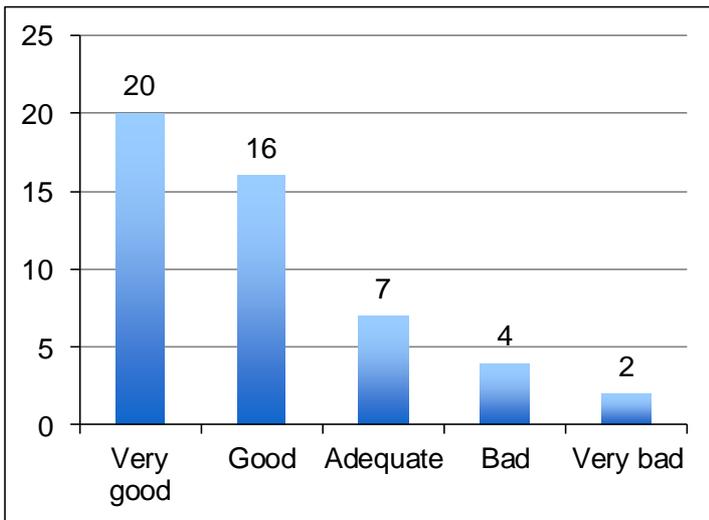
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



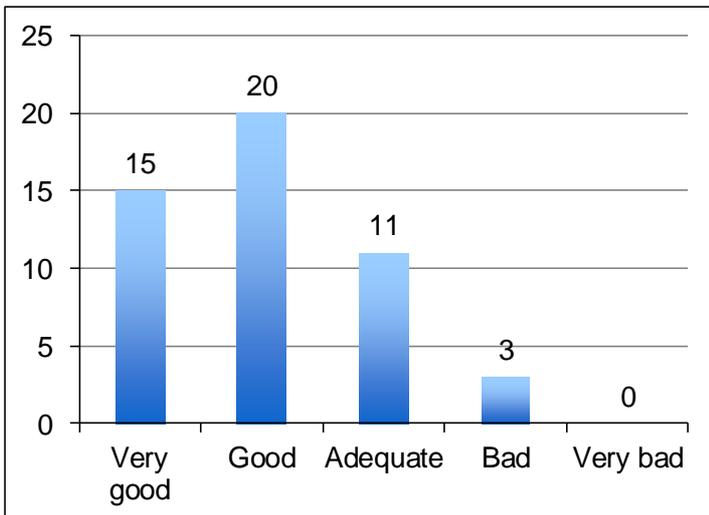
Identification check



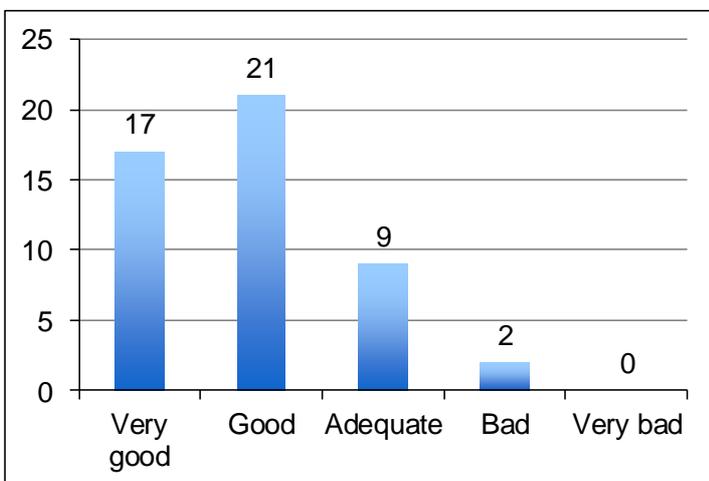
Lighting conditions



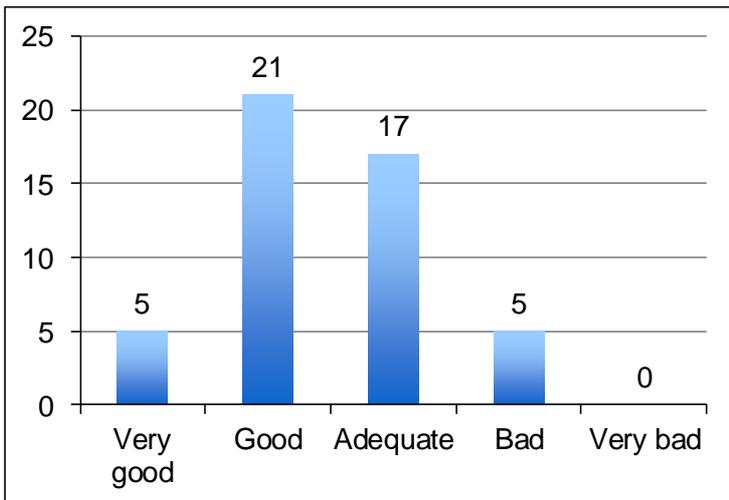
Space for candidates



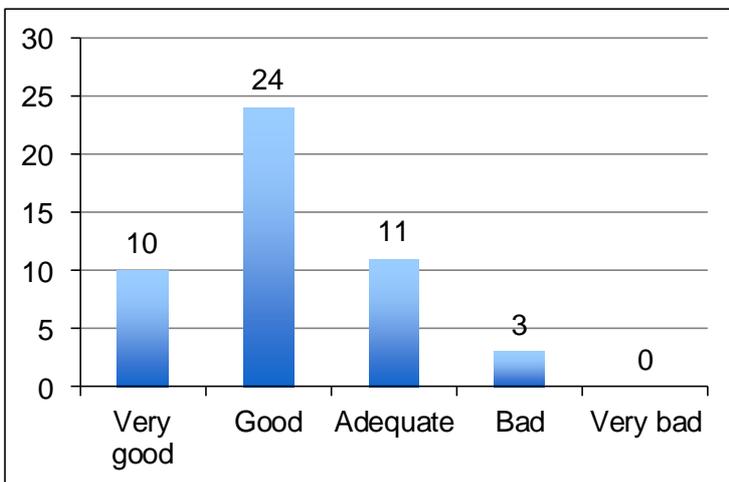
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



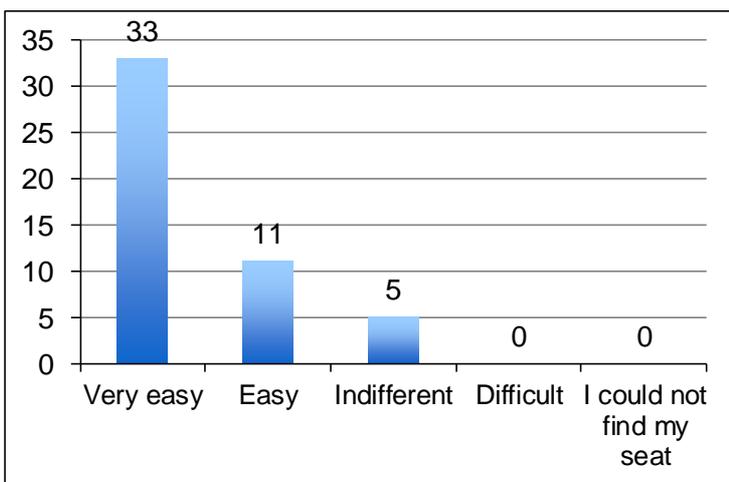
Restroom facilities



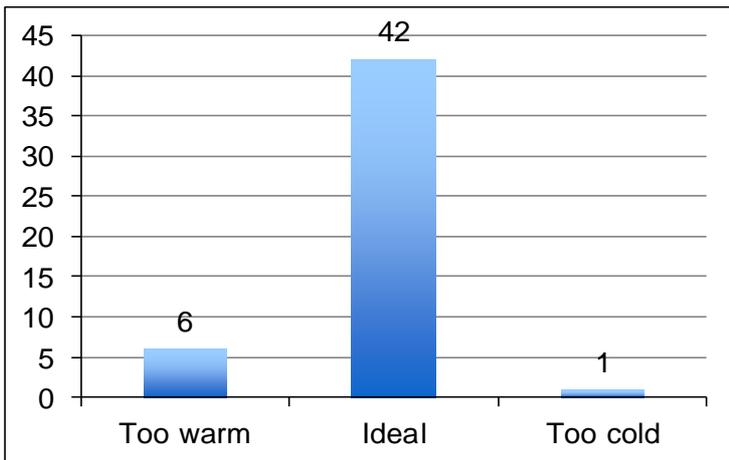
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



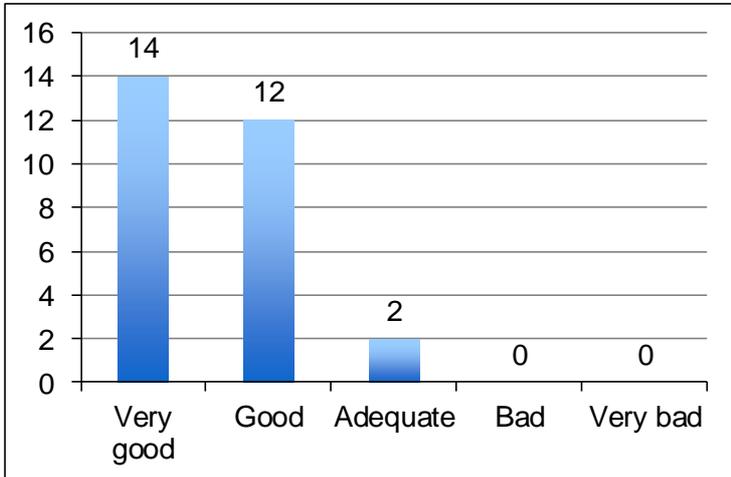
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Very poor access to toilets.
- The examination hall was fine apart from the light, it was "sombre" to say the least!
- Hall was said to be on seventh floor but signs in elevator said third floor, and it did not run any higher, somewhat confusing.
It turned out that third floor was identical to seventh. But to reach hall another flight of stairs was to be climbed, no big problem, but a little tricky with heavy bag with books...
- Water and coffee machines in the room were disfunctioning/not functioning
- For the B exam the hall could have needed some new fresh air after the A exam.
- I had worked at PRV for 5 years as an examiner so I had no issues with Q1-Q6.
- I liked that it was at the Swedish patent office this year. Last time I attended it was in Kista. It is much more convenient to come to the Swedish patent office than to go to Kista.
- No wall clocks
- The other room at PRV got cookies and coffee, we didn't.
- Larger tables (or too tables) would be good
- Very bad air quality and too warm

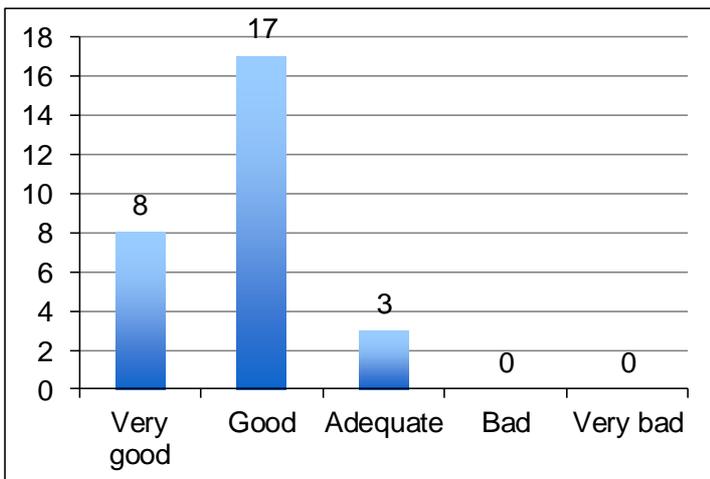
1.11 Taastrup (28 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

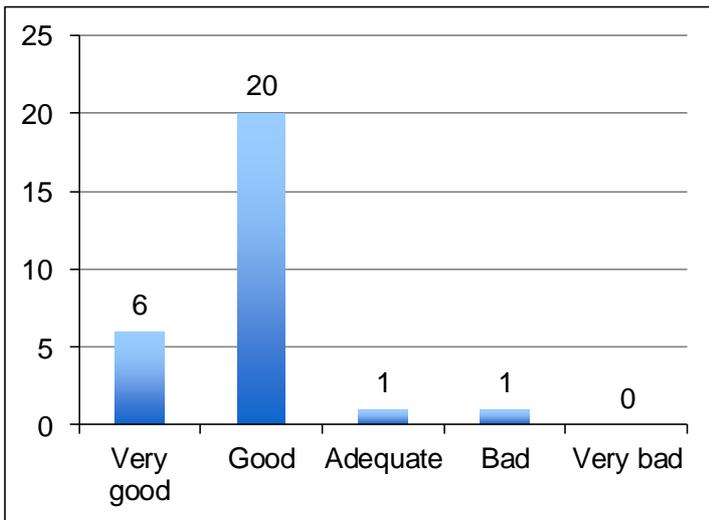
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



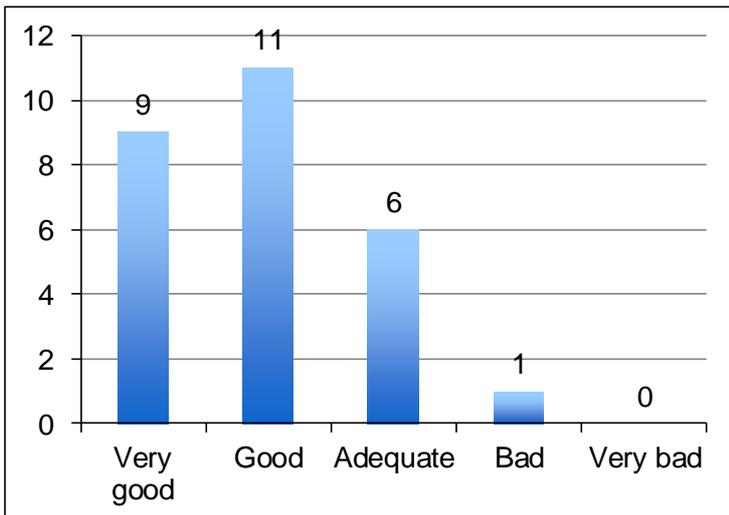
Identification check



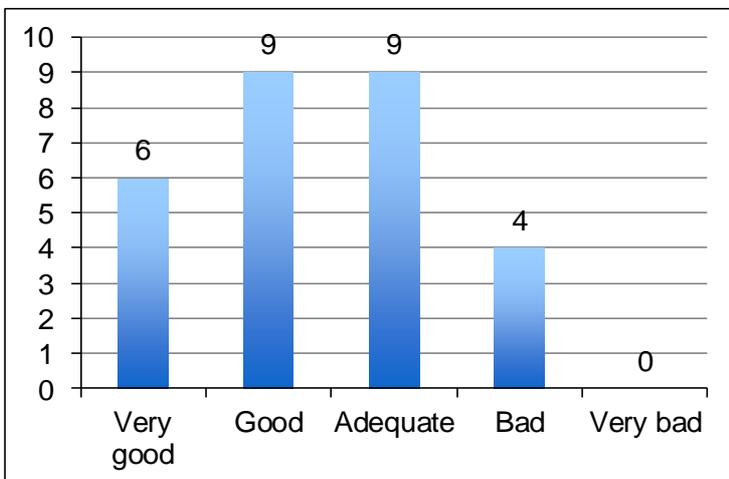
Lighting conditions



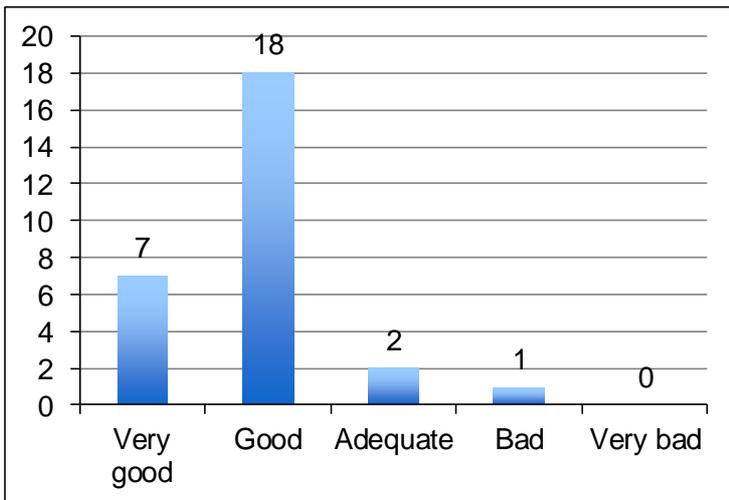
Space for candidates



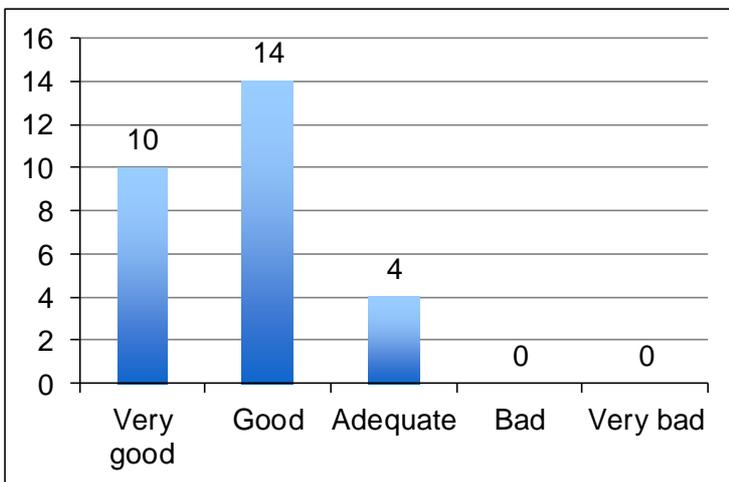
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



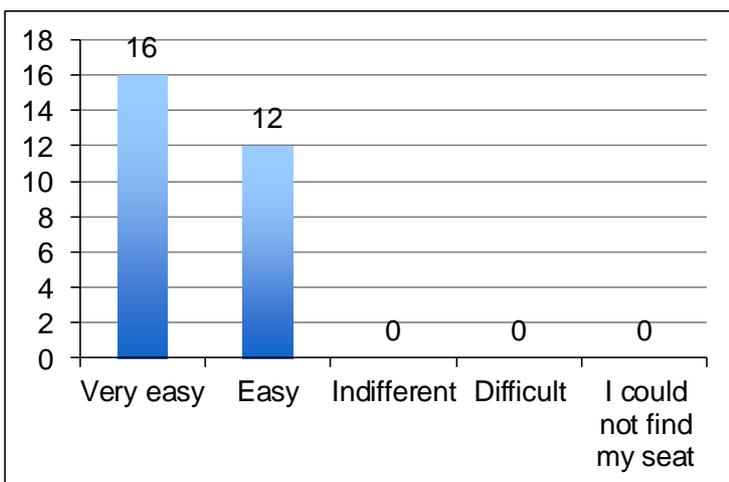
Restroom facilities



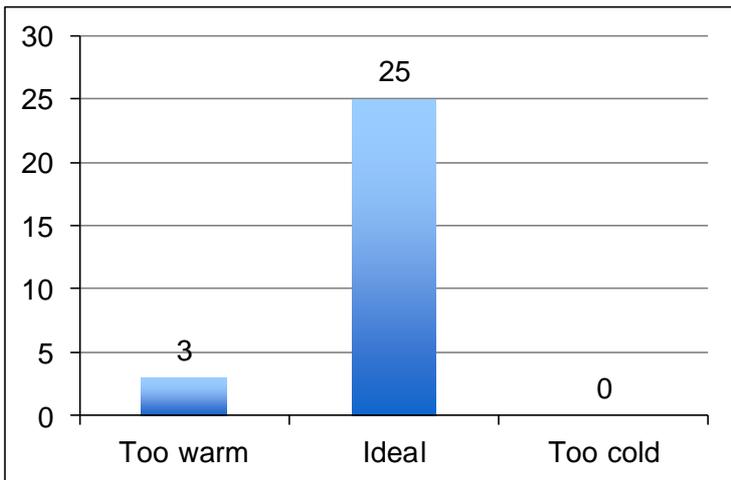
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



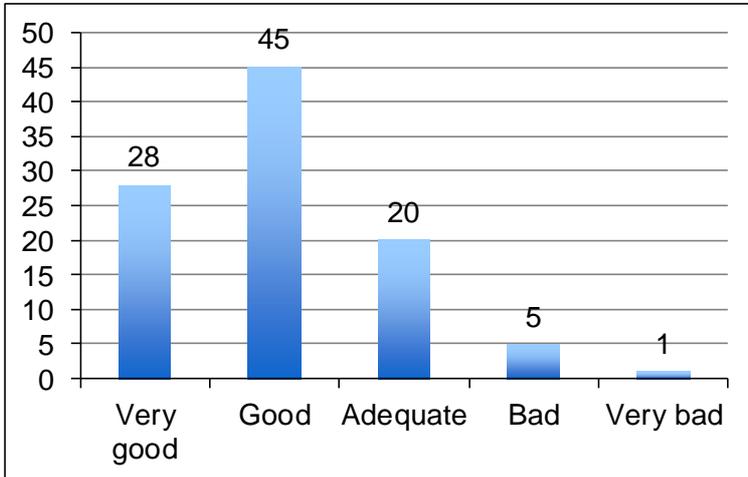
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- A bit larger table could have been nice.
- I was sitting paper D with the flu after a very long and thorough preparation. Obviously, my performance was much lower than normal. I know it is considered as bad luck, but must say that it would be very good if there was a kind of chance of an alternative examn in case of illness if providing proof from a doctor and you did not attend the original examn for that reason. One may say that the amount of work needed for preparation for this particular examn should trigger a remedy possibility in case of illness.
- In the end I lost precious minutes because I was so worried I would not notice the te had passed and I would be disqualified if I was still writing. One of the invigilators stood right next to me and the last 2-3 minutes were basically lost being nervous and stressing with the seconds.
- Very good facilities
- Very noisy air conditioning
- Noise (rattling) from ventilation system
- There was an annoying noise from the ventilation system.

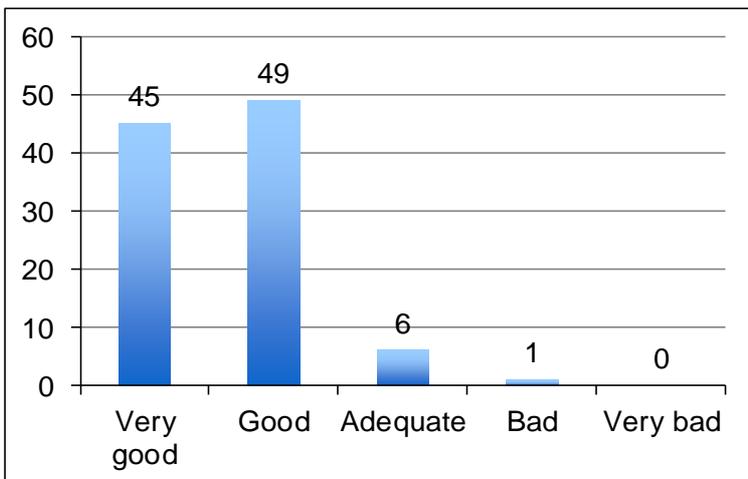
1.12 The Hague (101 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

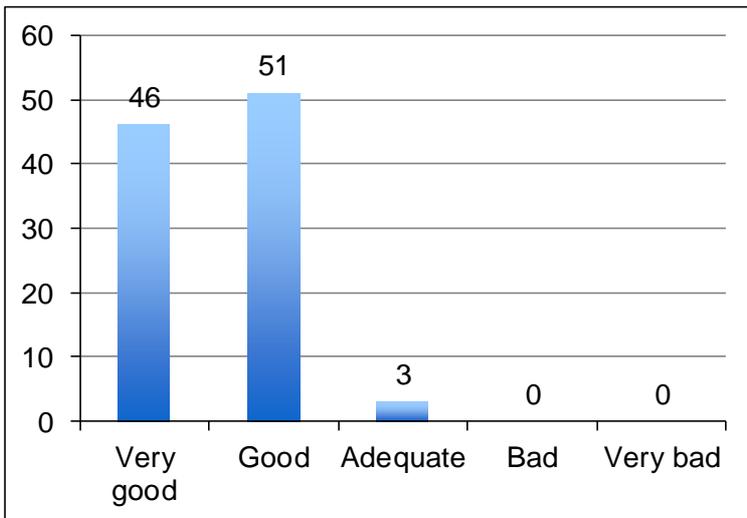
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



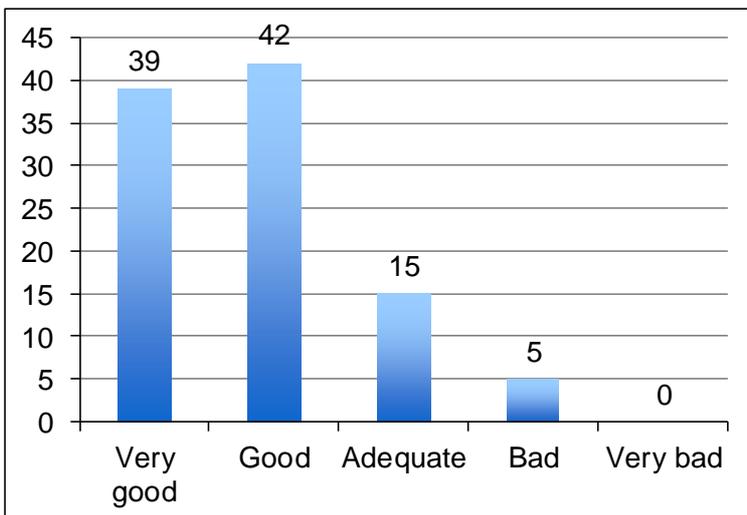
Identification check



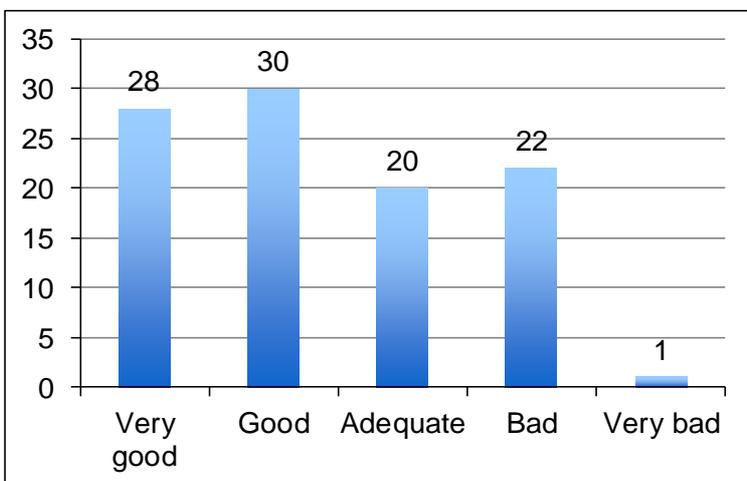
Lighting conditions



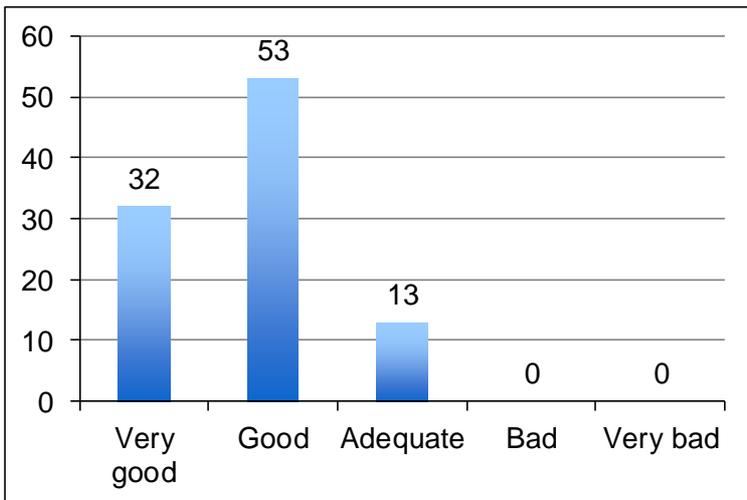
Space for candidates



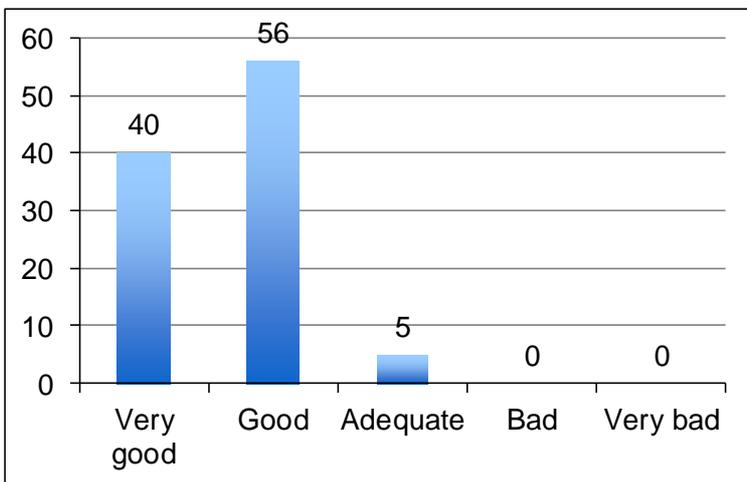
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



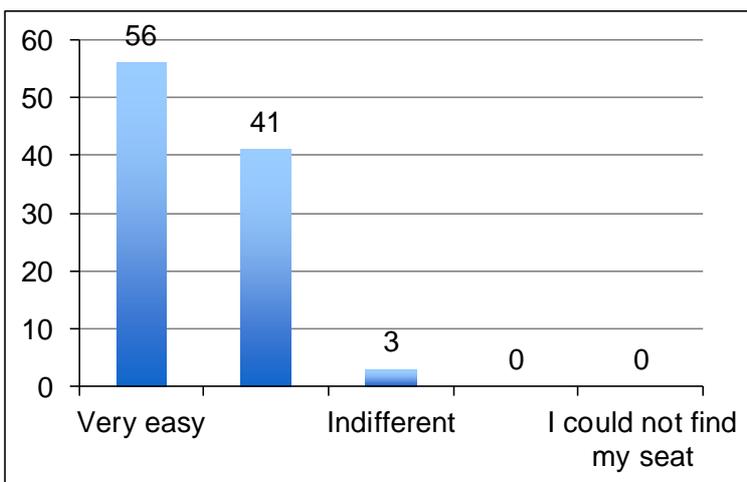
Restroom facilities



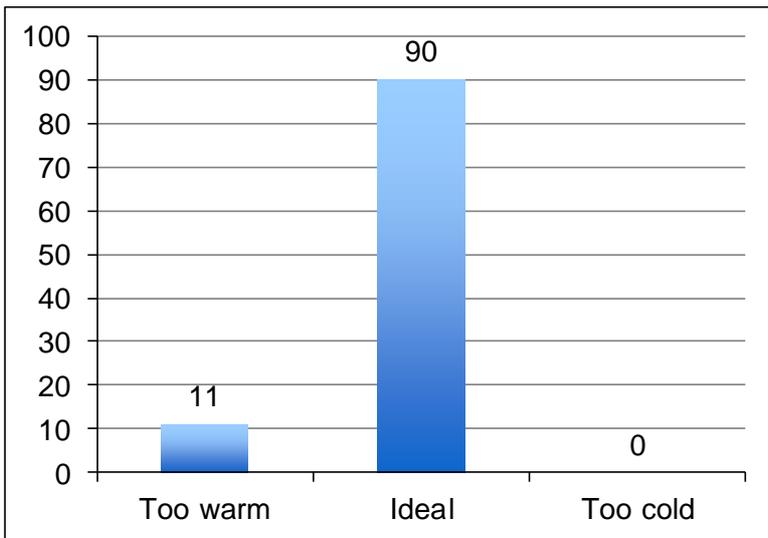
Suitability of the examination hall



Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?



Q5) Hall temperature



Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

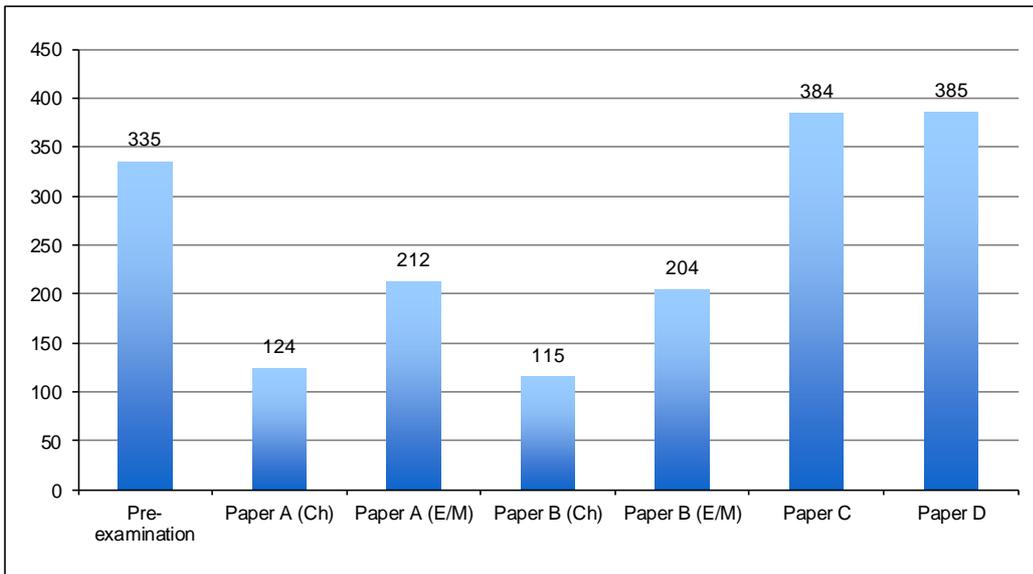
- I suppose that the accessibility will be improved following the construction work. It would be suitable if the examination hall was equipped with facilities to store electronic devices in a secure way.
- The air in the room was quite damp and heavy to breath in. Did not seem like the room was refreshed for a visit of so many people.
- Very nice hall, I did not feel stressed.
- I had more space than expected and the acoustic conditions were very good
- I had read comments about small tables for last years, but I found the tables in section A to be big enough, quite reasonable.
- A bit more space maybe, but it was ok.
- Space on the desks was small if there was someone seated beside you.
- The guest parking space was empty, even though the information sent before hand stated that candidates were not allowed to use the guest parking.
- The access to the examination center was difficult because of the work on the new EPO building. Inside the hall, the conditions were very goo, and having some coffee at the outside of the hall was a very good idea. I really enjoyed passing the exam in this place.
- Very bad air, hardly any oxygen.
- The desk was a bit too small to put comfortably all the materials.
- entrance more complicated because of road works , a clearer indication outside of the right door would have been arppreciated, but anyway, communication of the change and access issues had been well communicated ahead of time, and that was really appreciated! i just hesitated a bit in front of the door, because there was no confirmation, but the staff inside was very kind and ready to assist.
thanks!
- Some candidates had a lot of room, others surely not enough. I was lucky enough to have a good space. For D you need quite some space !!! Please be sure to give candidates enough space to put all their materials on.
- Space is not always ideal, especially the ones in the middle of the hall. For people who sit several papers it should be possible to leave their books on the desks from one day to another.
- Given my experience with other standardized tests that I have taken in the past, the space to spread out my materials was much appreciated. However, the dearth of instructions was surprising. My past experience was that everything was mentioned in terms of where to hand in the papers, what needs to be signed, etc. Here, the test was basically just given out

and we were told to start. For example, the answer sheet required a signature, but this was never mentioned. I wouldn't be surprised if someone forgot to sign, but whether the signature was required was not mentioned either. The speaker was a bit too quiet in the Hague. It may have been difficult for other candidates seated in the back of the room to hear him. It was stated that no one could leave within the last 30 minutes but someone still got up to use the restroom.

- For the paper D, the tables in the center of the room were rather small.

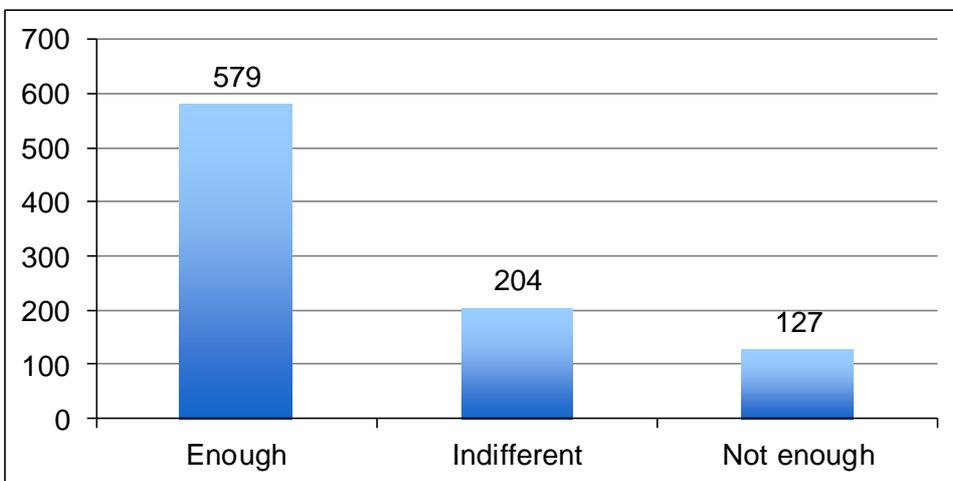
Chapter 2 - Preparation for the EQE

Q7) Which examination papers did you sit?

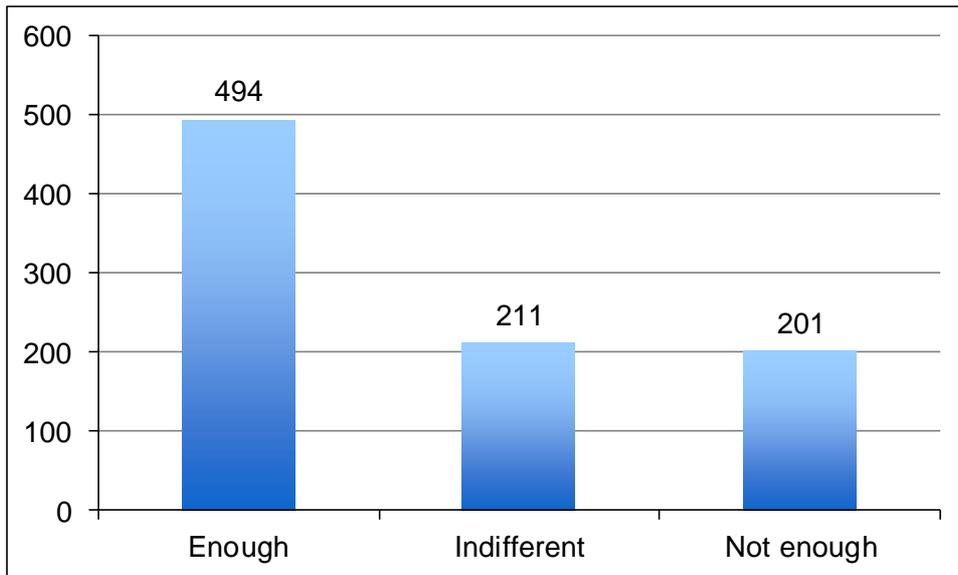


Q8) Examiners' report in the Compendium – rating

Does the examiners' report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how an answer should be composed?



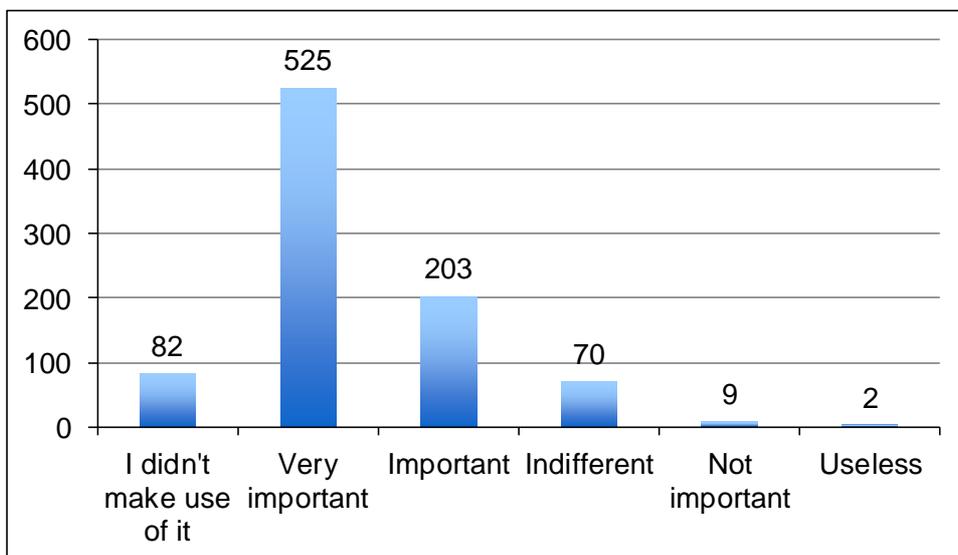
Does the examiners' report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how the papers are marked?



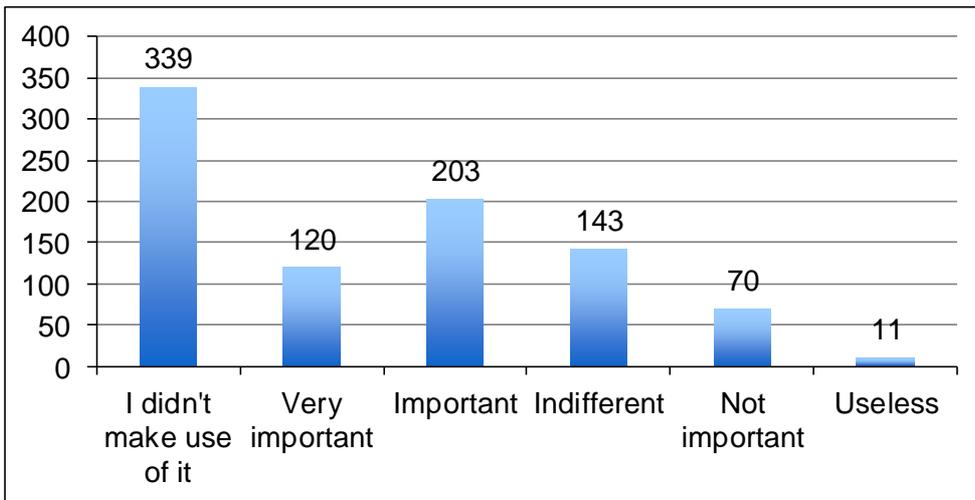
Q9) Elements of your personal preparation

Please indicate if you made use of the following and rate it

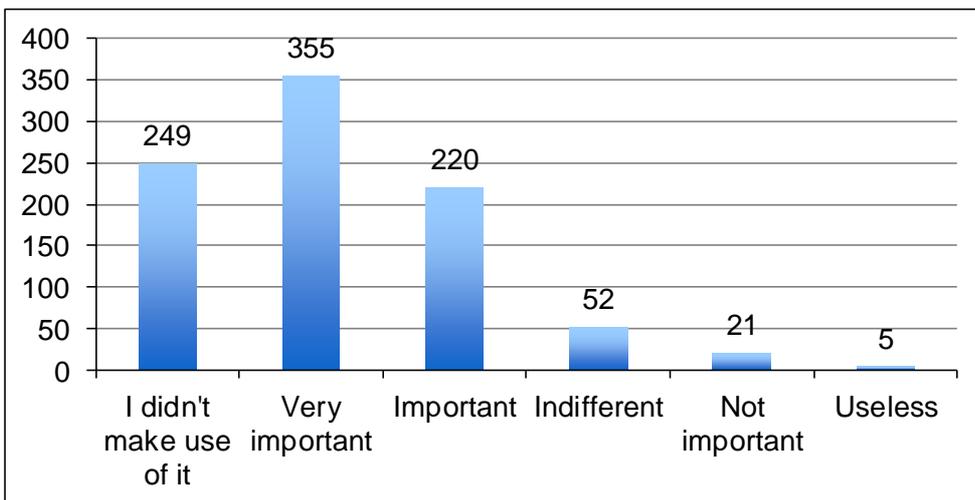
Compendium



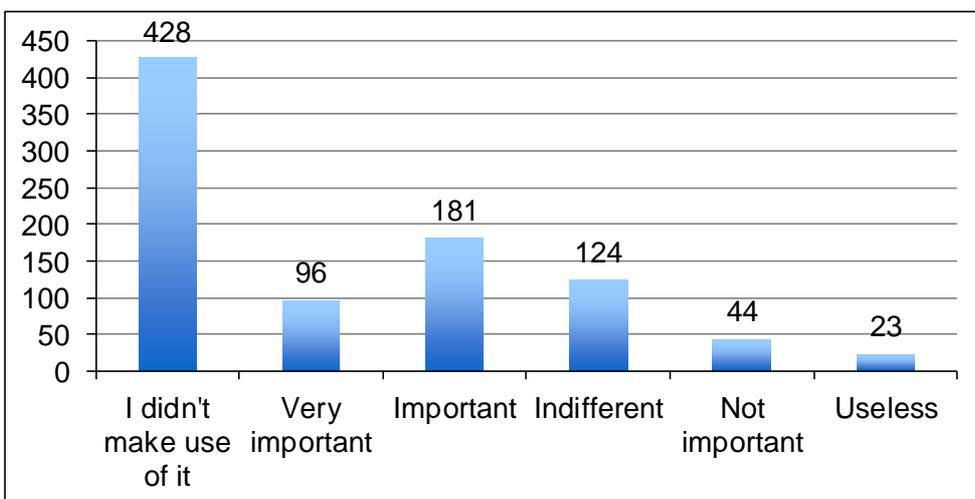
General external courses regarding intellectual property



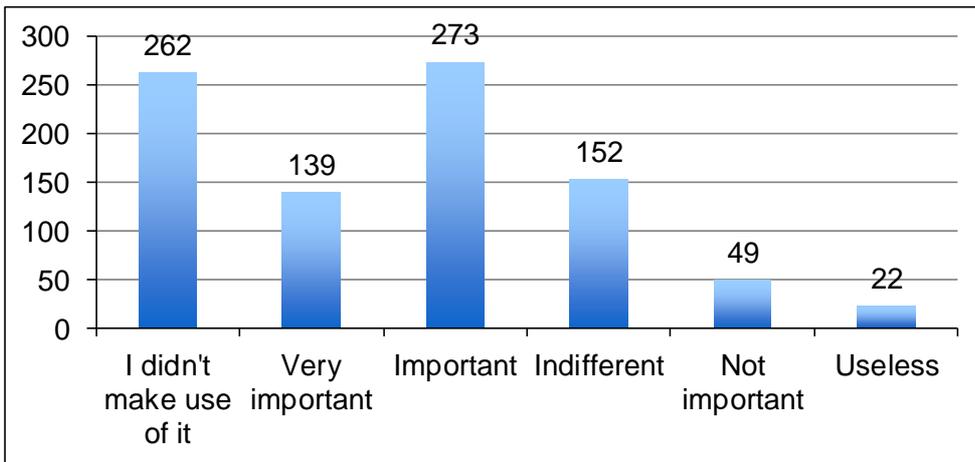
Specialised courses for EQE papers



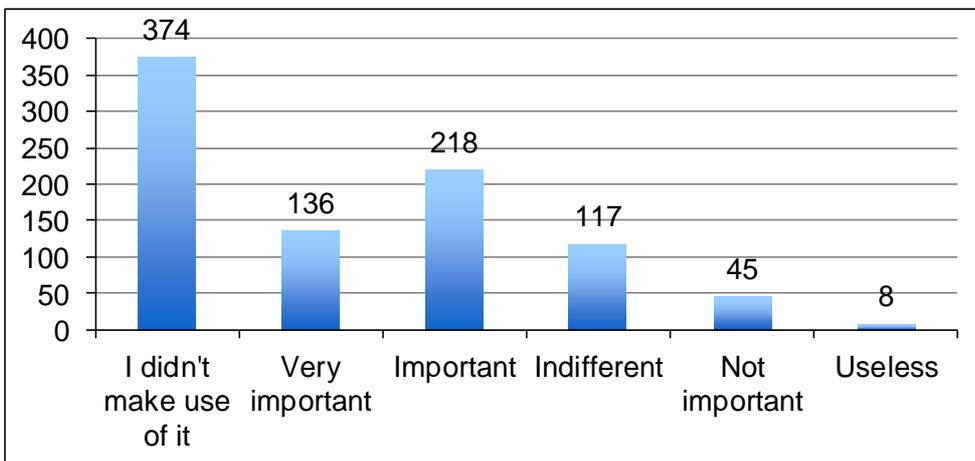
In-house training organised by your company



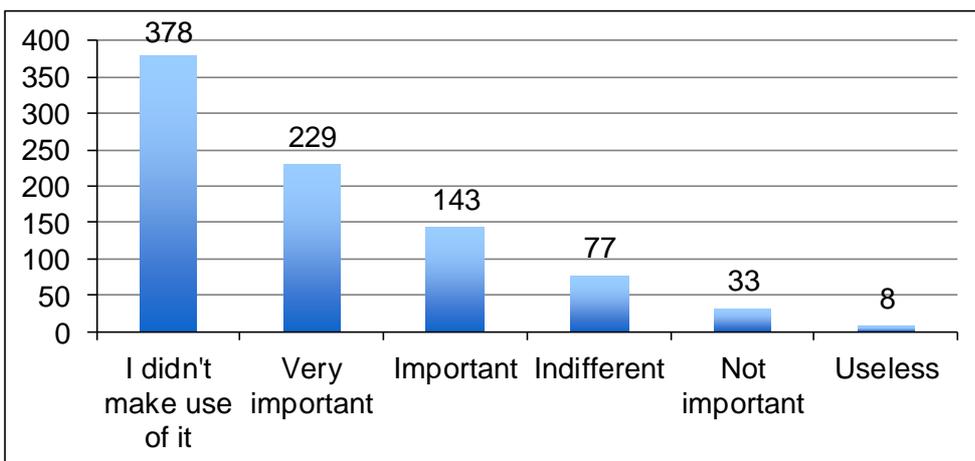
Dedicated training given by your supervisor as mentioned in the Art. 11(2)(a) REE



Study in small group with other candidates



Mock pre-examination on EQE website



Q10) What other books and/or study aids did you use?

- Visser
- Visser
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- Guidelines, Commentary by Singer and Stauder

- visser
- Visser
- Baque
- Baque
- Procedural law under the EPC by Veronese and Watchorn
- Bacque, Directives, PCT, ancillary regulations
- Visser
- Baque
- Annotated European Patent Convention
- The annotated EPC (Visser), EPO Guidelines
- Baque, Hoekstra, online course (EPO)
- Visser
- Visser; Coffee break
- Delta Patents preExam book
- Visser and Jelle Hoekstra
- "C-book" Chandler/Meinders
- Hoekstra, Delta Patents, Case Law, Helze
- Baque
- Visser, EPO Guidelines
- Hoekstra
- Visser, guidelines, PCT Applicants Guide
- Baque
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellen, Richtlinien
- Kley, Bozic, Richtlinien, Rechtsprechung
- delta patents
- Gregory Baques' book "CBE-PCT"
- Visser, guidelines
- Heokstra (EPC) and Mulder (PCT)
- guidelines, jelle hoekstra
- Kley & Gundlach, Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000
- Visser
- DeltaPatents - Basic Legal Questions
- Delta Patents Basic Law book
- Baque
- Deltapatent- Basic questions / Baque
- Baques
- Examination guideline, Guide to EPC 2000 by Nicholas Fox
- Visser
- Hoekstra, the "C-book", Delta Patents legal questions book
- D-book, C-book, Annotated EPC (Visser)
- Visser, Mulder, Delta (D questions), Fox, EPO Guidelines
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen; Kley; PCT-Handbuch
- Visser; Guidelines; Deltapatents D book; the C-Book (CEIPI)
- C-book, delta patent main exam D
- D-book
- Delta Patents material
- delta patents, ceipi
- Visser, Delta Methodology book C, Delta Exam-related questions for DI
- Delta Patents books
- References to the European Patent Convention by Jelle Hoekstra, Guidelines for examination in the European Patent Office, PCT part II, III, Euro-PCT Guide, National law relating to the EPC
- Visser, Hoekstra

- Delta patents books for papers A, B, C and questions for D
- Delta Patents L; EPÜ PCT Tabellen; EPI Online Kurs
- Delta patents
- Paper D Questions by Deltapatent
- Rilies
- Guidelines, Appl. Guide PCT
- DELTAPATENT - main exam questions for paper D
- Kley,
- Kley
- CEIPI C Book, Delta Patents D questions, CIPA tutorials
- Guidelines, EPÜ Tabellen Book
- EP Guidelines for paper A
- Visser and PCT applicants guide
- CBE - PCT by G.BAQUE
- EPC: Kley; PCT: Trink, Köllner
- delta patents; and epi pre-exe course; pretty much the perfect combo
- Visser; Guidelines for Examination; PCT-AG
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam Book, Guidelines, Delta Patents Basic Questions
- Visser, Delta Patents questions, Cross-referenced PCT
- Baque, D-Book
- EPO Guidelines of Examination, PCT Applicant's Guide, Visser
- Visser, EPI notes, Cross referenced PCT, EPO reference materials (guidelines, case law, national law relating to the EPC etc., PCT applicant's guide)
- Hoekstra
- Delta patents C methodology and D main exam questions
- kley, singer
- Hoekstra
- Kley, Visser
- Hoekstra, Visser and Delta Patents D book.
- Rudge, kley, Gruber, Hoekstra
- Delta Patents
- Visser/D-Book/Delta Patents Books
- Delta Patents, Internet Blogs
- Delta Patents Basic Legal Pre-Exam Text Book
- delta patents
- Visser, Hoekstra
- Visser; Köllner: PCT-Handbook; Bozic: EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- The C Book
- Visser
- Mulder annotated PCT, Hoekstra, Deltapatents questions for main exam Paper D
- Singer&Stauder, EPC-and PCT-Tables
- Visser
- Visser, Delta Patents books, Guidelines for Examination, ...
- forum
- derk visser
- C-Book, D-Book
- Visser
- EPC and PCT Applicant's Guide, EPO Guidelines
- Vieser
- Deltapatents Methodology books
- 'The Annotated European Patent Convention' by Visser
- Derk Visser's Annotated EPC
- Derk Visser

- C Book Ceipi
- visser
- Hoekstra, Helze
- Hoekstra, Guidelines, Mulder
- Veronesse and Visser
- Baque
- Visser
- Delta Patents guides for A and B
- "Visser", "The Cross-Referenced Patent Cooperation Treaty", "Delta Patents: Main-Exam Questions for Paper D"
- Visser Annotated EPC, Coffee Break Questions, PCT Applicants Guide National and International Phase, How to get European Patent Parts 1 and 2, Delta Patents Pre Exam Book and L Book
- Visser, Delta-Patents D-Paper, PCT from Malte Köllner, AG-IP/NP, Guidelines, Book from Bozics et al.
- Visser
- deltapatent
- EP/PCT table book
- DeltaPatents
- Kley
- DeltaPatents books, Bozic, Kley
- The Annotated EPC (Visser)
- Visser, Cross-referenced PCT, D-book (Rudge)
- CIPA lectures
- Visser and Deltapatent book for paper D (main-exam questions for D1)
- Visser, Guidelines, Hoekstra, online course
- Delta Patents B-book
- Derk Visser Book
- Visser, Guidelines for Examination
- Hoekstra for EPC, Cees Mulder's book for PCT
- C book
- Visser
- C-Book, D-Book
- Delta Patent Book, Visser
- Baque
- Visser, Rudge D Book, Mulder (PCT)
- Hoekstra, Deltapatents books.
- Delta patents books
- Delta patents
- Visser
- C-book and D-book, Veronese & Watchorn
- Visser
- Visser; pre-examin inline course material
- Wisser
- Annotated EPC, Cross-referenced PCT, Deltapatents main exam questions for paper D, C Book, White book
- EPO online course, EPO guidelines
- Guide to the EPC - Nicholas Fox
- Visser
- Visser
- my notes, dictionary
- None
- Baque

- Delta Patents Pre-Exam book. Visser.
- Visser, Hoekstra, own prepared material
- Delta patents
- the annotated european patent convention, the guidelines for examination [EPO], PCT guidelines.
- EPÜ-/PCT-Tabellen, Kley
- Deltapatents
- For paper C, no books apart from the case law of the BoA.
- Visser
- Delta Patents Questions D
- Delta Patents preparation booklets
- Visser, Hoekstra
- Delta Patents / Meinder's C-Book
- Delta patents C-book
- The annotated European patent convention, Derek Visser, epo examination guidelines
- Visser, Nicholas Fox
- Visser
- Baque, C-book, Visser
- Deltapatents Main exam questions paper D, Visser, GL, AG, The cross-referenced PCT Guidelines, Case Law Videos, Delta Patents
- Guidelines
- Deltapatents' Book A & B
- Delta Patents book + Visser
- Visser. Annotated EPC
- visser
- Visser, delta patents
- Deltapatents Basic legal Questions
- CEIPI C book
- Singer/Stauder, EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- deltapatent
- Visser
- Annotated EQE, C-book
- Guidelines for examination, Visser, National Law
- Gregory Baque / Delta Patents
- Delta Patents book, Visser, Guidelines, OJ
- Deltapatents Methodology for Paper C
- Visser
- Visser, the annotated EPC
- Visser
- Deltapatents material for c and d
- Kley
- delta patent
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen; D-Book; PCT-Handbuch
- Baque
- Visser
- Hoekstra
- DeltaPatents Questions and Study Guide
- Two additional books: Visser and Hoekstra
- Guidelines, Visser, C-Book
- eqe pre-exam online training course
- bacque
- EPA: Richtlinien für die Prüfung; Kley: Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000; Köllner: PCT-Handbuch
- Use of Past papers - Delta Patents D book

- Kley, Methodology Books of DeltaPatents
- References to the EPC
- Paper D questions of Delta Patents
- RiLi, Abl., LfA, EPÜ/PCT-Tabellenbuch, Gall, PCT in Praxis, PCT Handbuch, AG
- Visser
- Delta patents, C-Book Chandler/Meinders and Roberts and Rudge
- Visser
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- A Book DeltaPatents; C Book Ceipi
- Visser, Hoekstra, Rudge D-Book, Mulder, Deltapatents question book and mock new format exams
- just learning by myself
- L Book from Delta Patent
- Visser, Mulder, DeltaPatents methodology
- EPC annotated, D. Visser
- internet websites and blogs
- Baque, deltapatent D, C book
- Visser
- Visser
- delta patens, video corse
- c-book,visser
- Deltapatent books
- Guidelines for Examination / PCT Applicants guide / Kley
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam Book
- Baque
- Visser, delta patents book with D1 questions and study guide
- Delta Patents for A and D, C-Book, Kley Kommentar
- VISSER
- D-paper questions (deltapatents); Visser; Veronese (PCT); Hoekstra (EPC); HTG-II
- Visser commentary, Guidelines, PCT material
- C Book
- Deltapatents Methodology Books
- Deltapatents, EPC/PCT Tables
- Kley, PCT Compendium from Delta
- Delta Patents
- Visser,
- Delta Patents Pre-exam books
- delta patent c book
- "Annotated EPC" D.Visser; Guidelines for EPC; "Cross-Referenced PCT" C. Mulder; PCT AG
- DeltaPatent, visser
- Fox, Visser, Guidelines
- Visser, DeltaPatents
- Delta pct applicants guide. Ege coffee break
- C-paper book DeltaPatents
- Deltapatents paper D question book; Visser
- Guidelines for Examiners/Applicants, PCT Guidelines
- C-Book Chandler/Meinders, C-Book Deltapatent
- Deltapatents Model answer booklet Paper D
- DeltaPatents books and Maastricht University study material
- Visser, Hoesktra
- cross-reference PCT, Delta Patent L and D books

- Kley, D-Book
- kley, visser
- Gregory Bacque
- Delta patents study guides and self study using Jelle Hoekstra book
- Hoekstra, Visser, examiner guidelines
- C Book
- Delta Patents Books
- Gregory BAQUE
- Annotated EPC by D. Visser
- Visser, CEIPI C-Book
- Deltapatents
- Chandler/meanders, c-book; kley, Kommentar zum epü
- Visser
- Reference to the epc, Hoekstra. Guidelines
- Delta Patents
- Kley; Köllner
- Nicholas Fox, Visser, Delta Patents Paper D Questions
- DeltaPatents books
- Kley, PCT-Tabellen
- Kley; C-Book
- Visser, Guidelines for Examination, PCT-X-reference, HTG-II, AG-IP, AG-N
- reference to EPC Hoekstra
- EQE Pre-Examination Delta Patents
- Deltapatent Basic D Questions; Deltapatent C Model solution; Visser
- Derk Visser annotated EPC
- Hoekstra. DeltaPatents basic legal questions book. PCT Applicant's guide. Guidelines.
- baque
- C Book
- Visser
- The Annotated EPC, Derk Visser & C-Book William E. Chandler / Hugo Meinders
- Baque
- Visser, Applicants' Guide, Guidelines, National Law boo, OJs.
- Delta Patents; Gall; EPC
- The annotated EPC, Hoekstra
- Baque
- Delta Patents literature
- delta patents
- Visser, EPC guidelines, how to get part II, PCT la book, PCT applicants guide, national law
- kley
- Delta Patent Methodology Books
- C-Book
- Examinatorium Europaeum
- Gall: EPÜ & PCT in Frage & Antwort
- Deltapatents
- Guidelines, Coffee Break questions
- Deltapatents "Paper D"
- Delta Patents D-Book; Ceipi C-Book
- c-book
- GUIDLINES, VISSER
- EPO Guidelines - DeltaPatents Paper B (ch)
- Visser
- C-Book, Delta Patents
- Hoekstra, Delta Patents questions, C book

- Deltapatent D questions, C-book, D-book of Rudge
- D. Visser
- Visser
- Paper C Book
- Delta patent
- Annotated EPC, Visser
- Delta Patents course
- Delta Patent Pre-Ex
- Hoekstra; deltapatents question bank books
- Malte Köllner: PCT-Handbuch; Chandler/Meinders:C-Book
- C book
- Main Questions from Delta Patents, References to the EPC by Hoekstra
- D book from delta patents
- Guidelines, Gruber, C-Book, Bozic
- Visser
- Delta basic legal questions book
- Guidelines, Visser
- Delta patents books
- epi online course, delta patents books
- Hoekstra: References to the European Patent Convention
- Deltapatents exam related questions
- Delta Patents question book
- delta patents; OA; decisions
- Visser
- Paper D Questions Delta Patents
- Material from Delta Patents along with Vissers Annotated EPC.
- Annotated EPC
- Visser
- Visser / Muelder
- The anotated EPC, D.Visser
- Deltapatent's book with legal questions and their preexam book.
- EPC
- Delta patent A-book
- D-book, Delta patents
- c-book
- C-Book by Meinders
- CSP, CEIPI-epi Basic Training Course, EPO pre-exam online training
- Stephane Speich
- Visser
- Delta Patent
- C-Book, D-Book, Stauder/Singer, daily questions DI, DI questions from deltapatents, Case Law
- Visser's annotated EPC
- Delta patents and Ceipi exercise books, Visser
- Hoekstra's Ref. to the EU Patent convention.
- DeltaPatents B Methodology
- Visser
- Kley, Visser, Tabellenbuch, Case Law Book
- Delta Patents Course Materials; Visser; Klei; Mulder; Hoeckstra
- Deltapatents C-book
- DeltaPatent Basic Legal questions Pre-exam paper; Hoekstra
- Delta patents material
- Kley, pre-eqe online course

- Visser, Delta Patents training material
- Visser
- visser
- Visser, Trinks
- Kley Deltapatents
- on-going real cases (drafting)
- Visser - Annotated EPC
- Deltapatents main exam question book
- Chandler/Meinders - C-book, Deltapatents C Methodology book
- Visser, Guidelines, Paper C Chandler/Meinders
- A personalized EPC book compiled by Oana Boncea - CSP project coach
- Delta main exam questions,
- Visser, Ceipi, Mulder (PCT), Delta Patents book
- Visser, Deltapatents L and P
- Visser, study material from the pre-exam course issued by the epo
- Visser
- C-book
- C-Book
- the earlier exams and marking provided online
- Visser, case law book, the C book, deltapatents books for paper D
- none
- Guidelines & Visser
- All available inc. Visser
- Visser, guidelines, AG-IP, HTG-EP2, Natlaw etc...
- Delta Patents Annotated EPC, C-Exam book, D-Exam book, Cross-referenced PCT
- Deltapatents books
- Delta Patents, annotated EPC
- Visser
- Annotated EPC, by D.Visser; Guidelines for Examination;
- DeltaPatents D-questions book
- Jelle Hoekstra's References on the EPC, Guidelines for Examination at the EPO
- DeltaPatents
- Kley, Köllner, Guidelines, AG-IP
- Pre-Exam Book, Deltapatents
- Visser
- Visser, Cross-referenced PCT
- Hoekstra, Delta Patents
- Visser, Guidelines, Cross-referenced PCT, PCT Applicant's Guide
- Hoekstra, Mulder
- Delta Patents
- Visser
- Visser, Hoekstra, old papers
- CEIPI C-Book
- CSP program
- Delta Patents
- Home work with EPC and GL and PCT
- Baque
- EPÜ Kompakt, EPÜ _PCT flow orientierte Tabellen
- Hoekstra, Mulder
- Visser, Mulder, AG-IP/NP, GL, OJ, PCT NL
- C-book Meinders
- Visser, Delta Patents
- Visser, Delta Patents

- Delta patent books
- Delta Patents
- Visser/Guidelines/Cross-Referenced PCT by Mulder
- Carl Heymanns Verlag, EPÜ compact
- Visser's annotated EPC
- Hoekstra
- Visser, Delta patent of D, C book
- Delta Patents - Main Exam Questions 2014
- Deltapatent
- Visser, C-book, Delta patent books
- Kley
- Derk Visser - The annotated European Patent Convention
- Deltapatents c book, the C book
- DELTAPATENTS Methodology
- Visser
- Annotated EPC Visser
- D book
- Deltapatent methodology book
- Visser, Hoekstra
- Visser, Delta Patents
- Bozic et al.: EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- The Annotated European patent convention, Derk Visser
- delta patent C and D book
- Delta Patent Methodology
- Delta Patents Books (for Pre-xam) as well as Visser's EPC Book
- CEIPI materials
- Ceipi D-book
- Pre Exam Online course (European Patent Academy)
- DeltaPatents mock pre-examination book
- Delta patents books
- Delta Patents Book, Applicants guide
- Visser
- EPC
- Materials of online pre-eqe course, Annotated EPC (Visser, Hoekstra), Guidelines for Examination
- guidelines
- Deltapatents
- Hoekstra; Cross-referenced PCT (Mulder); PCT Applicant's Guide; Exam-style questions and discussion on EQE Forum
- Guidelines for Examination of the EPO, Kley's "Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000", C-Book by Deltapatents, Compendium EQE by EPO,
- EPC by EPO, PCT book, Guidelines, National law relating to the EPC, PCT articles and rules
- Guideline for Examination of the EPO; Kley's Comment on EPC 2000; C-Book by DeltaPatents
- EPÜ & PCT in Tabellen, Kley
- Visser, Delta Patent books, Kley
- Visser
- Delta Patents Basic Questions
- EPÜ und PCT-Tabellen
- Delta Patents
- Visser and C-Book
- Delta patents D questions and trial exams

- Hoekstra, PCT applicants guide, Mulder, National Law relating to EPC states
- EPC, PCT, GL, AG-IP, AG-NP, Visser, Malte Köllner, Hoekstra
- Delta patents basic legal questions and mock exams
- References to the EPC by J. Hoekstra
- Delta Patents D-Book
- Visser, Delta Patent questions, PCT Veronese-Watchorn, EQE forum
- C-book, DeltaPatents model answers
- Baque
- Visser, Hoekstra
- Deltapatents methodology and corrected 2009 paper A
- BAQUE - C-Book
- BAQUE
- Delta patents
- Visser
- Delta patents book
- baque - deltapatent
- Visser + Guidelines
- Pre-Exam Book, Deltapatents; The Annotated European Patent Convention, Derk Visser
- Kley-Kommentar zum EPÜ; Richtlinien zur Prüfung beim EPA
- Kley
- Visser, Guidelines PCT
- paper c Methodology delta patents, paper d methodology delta patents, guidelines epo, visser
- visser
- DeltaPatents
- Delta Patents Questions, C- and D-book
- Kley, Köllner (for PCT), Guidelines, AG-IP/NP
- Delta Patent D questions
- C-Book, Delta Patents
- D-book deltapatent
- Guidelines, EPC2000(S. Speich), Lbook Deltapatents
- DeltaPatents C course & methodology material
- EPC, guidelines, case law
- epü- und pct-tabellen
- baque
- daily work
- Visser, Helze PCT, Guidelines, Applicant's Guide, Nat Law, Delta Patents Paper D Questions
- Annotated epc Visser
- Visser
- Deltapatents basic question
- Hoekstra
- Visser; DeltaPatents Methodology books ABCD; C-paper book (blue book)
- Annotated EPC - Visser
- Annotated EPC
- visser; delta patents d questions
- DELTAPATENT METHODOLOGY B C
- DeltaPatents
- EPC Visser; PCT Mulder; PCT-AG
- "C-book", Guidelines, DI online questions (OEB) and "CBE-PCT" (G. Baque)
- DeltaPatents L and P books; Visser; Guidelines; PCT Applicant's Guide (Int and Nat phase); "How to get..." books
- Delta Patents C/A Books

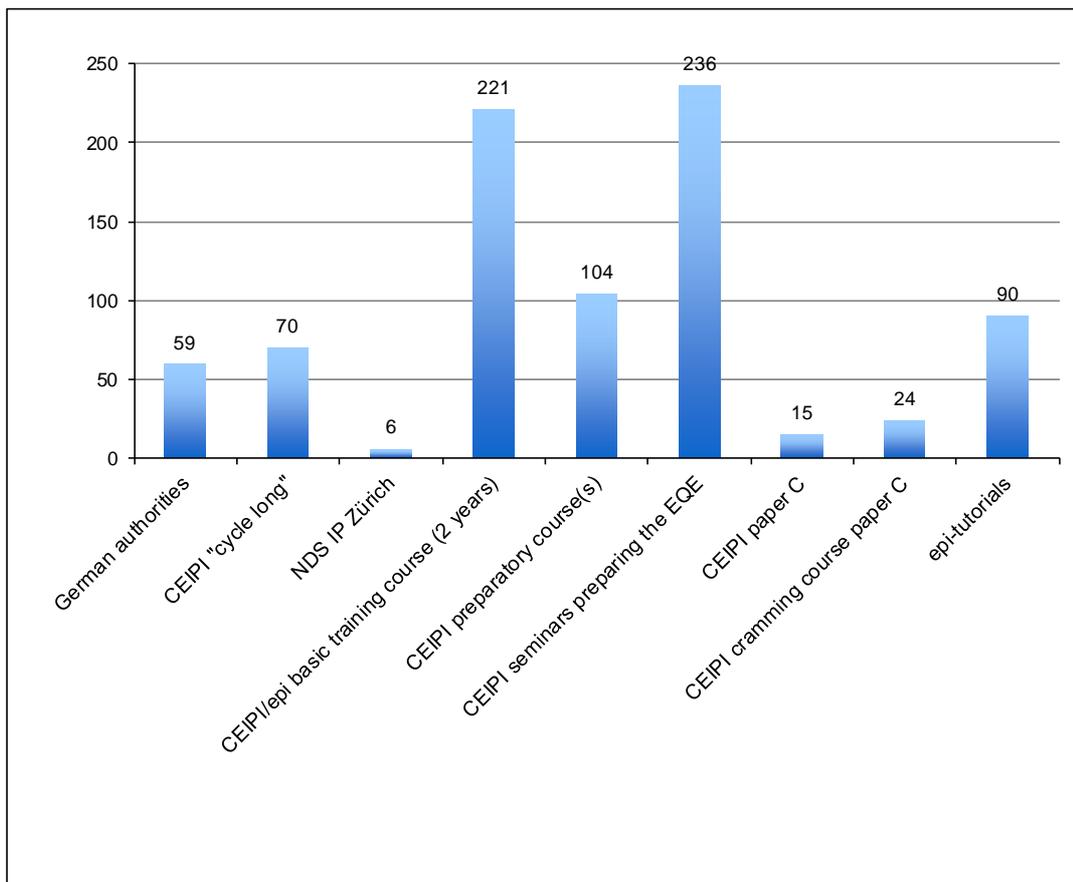
- CBE/PCT gregory baque; ceipi; aspi;
- Hoekstra; Vissier
- Visser, GL, PCT Applicant's Guide, NatLaw
- Hoekstra
- "How to get...", "The annotated patent convention" by Derk Visser; "Procedural Law under the EPC2000"; "Main Exam Questions for Paper D" from Deltapatents
- Visser
- Delta Patents, CEIPI training, Baque
- baque - deltapatent
- Visser
- C book
- Many
- Visser and D-book, Delta Patents EPC reference book, PCT reference book, Examination guidelines
- Meinders C-Book
- Mulder, Visser, Guidelines...
- Paper C book
- delta patent -wiki
- The annotated... By Derk Visser
- EPC2000, Visser, Hoekstra, Guidelines, D-Book, C-Book, Methodology for PaperA/B, Köllner PCT-Handbuch
- D-Book, C-Book
- model answers of Delta Patents for old exams
- Kley
- Delta patents
- Visser, Hoekstra, GL, Pct guide
- EPO EQE Pre-examination On-line course
- Book C+D, Heymanns
- Baque, Guidelines
- Visser
- Viser
- Delta and C-Book
- Visser, Delta patents practice exam questions
- Visser
- The C-Book
- Visser, EPO guidelines, PCT guidelines
- Baque/ Visser
- Delta patents books
- none
- C Book
- Visser
- Delta patent questions
- Visser, Hoekstra
- Cbook
- "Delta patents" courses and material
- Kley; DeltaPatents "D" Book, Benkhard, Trinks (PCT)
- Deltapatents DI-Book, C-Book
- C-Book and D-Book, CEIPI-Seminars in Strasbourg
- Annotated European patent convention/Visser
- Pre-EQE online course; Kley
- Baque, C-book
- Visser, EPC Guidelines
- Visser, Guidelines for Examination in EPA, DeltaPatents Questions for Main Exam D, PCT,

Köllner

- Hoekstra
- Papers from courses, T/G decisions
- C-Book CEIPI and Paper C Book Delta Patents, EQE forum
- Visser
- Deltapatents Pre-exam book and Visser
- Annotated EPC by Hoekstra
- Visser, GL, PCT AG, Euro-PCT AG
- DeltaPatents Methodology for Paper C
- Visser, Bozic
- Visser, Guidelines to EPC, PCT AG
- C-book Chandler/Meinders, GL for Ex in the EPO
- Chandler C-Book, DeltaPatents C & D preparation guide, Guidelines
- Delta Patents
- -
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam Book
- Bookmarks from Delta Patents
- Pre-exam online course of the epa
- Bozic: EPÜ- und PCT- Tabellen; Kley: Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000
- Visser, DeltaPatents
- Guidelines for Examination in the European Patent Office; Euro-PCT Guide
- Visser, Deltapatent's Basic Questions and previous exams
- C Book and Delta Patents Methodology for paper C
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- Modules from EPI, Delta patents main exam questions
- Visser
- Visser: Annotated Guide to EPC; EPO Guidelines for Examination; The EPC (2013 edition); PCT handbook; PCT Rules (latest from WIPO website); Delta Patents abridged PCT Applicant's Guide; Delta Patents questions "L" book.
- C book from CEIPE & Methodology C book from Deltapatent
- Visser / PCT cross reference C. Mulder / PCT -AG / PCT annual overview -800pages / Guidelines for examination / Delta patents Handouts / Delta patents Q&A book basic legal training
- Hoekstra
- Delta Patents Basic Questions
- Hoekstra / Cees-Mulder / PCT Applicants Guide / Examination Guidelines / National Law Relating to EPC
- G. Baque
- CBE-PCT (Grégory Baque); C-Book (William E. Chandler / Hugo Meinders); EPO Examination Guidelines
- Delta Patents books
- Kley
- The annotated EPC by Visser
- Baque, Delta Patent
- Relevant legal texts (EPC, PCT), Guidelines, Hoekstra EPC reference, Deltapatent's L-book (Basic Legal Question)
- Visser / Gradolph
- Hoekstra's Reference to EPC, Mulder (PCT)
- Guidelines, Kley, Delta Patents
- Hoekstra
- Visser and Speich
- Delta Patents Paper C

- Delta patents books
- PCT GUIDE, VISSER
- Delta Patent C Book; Chandler Meinders C-Book
- epi seminar on the Pre-examination
- C-Book Chandler/Meinders
- Visser, Deltapatents
- Visser
- Trinks, Köllner, EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- online course for preexam
- EPÜ-/PCT-Tabellen
- Delta patents, and C-book
- C-book, D-book, CEIPI, Visser, Hoekstra, practice questions
- Deltapatents
- Guidelines, "EPC2000" by Nicholas Fox
- C-Book
- EPC reference book (Hoekstra)
- Visser and Nicholas Fox
- Visser "The Annotated European Patent Convention"
- DeltaPatents Study Guide
- Kley
- Hoekstra
- Ceipi C-Book, Delta Patents D Main exam questions
- Kley, PCT AG, Deltapatents PreEx Book
- C book
- Pre-EQE DeltaPatents
- Deltapatent's books
- Deltapatents questions
- Hoekstra
- EPC, guidelines
- Delta patent pre-exam book
- Visser
- The annotated EPC by Visser
- EQE Forum
- C-book
- Coaching from EPI Tutor, examination of dedicated papers via the Tutor, Study of EPC and Rules, PCT and Rules, Guidelines, Caselaw
- Kommentar Kley
- "References to the EPC" (Hoekstra); "The Cross-Referenced PCT" (Mulder); "Main Exam Questions for Paper D" (Delta Patents)
- Deltapatents basic legal questions, Cases and Mock Exams (Preexam)
- deltapatent books
- Gall / C-Book / Exner / Delta-Patents Main Examination Questions

Q11) Which course(s) did you follow?



German authorities:

The full eight months' training with the German authorities

CEIPI "cycle long":

The "Diplôme d'études internationales de la propriété industrielle", obtained after completing the one-year period of study with CEIPI in Strasbourg

NDS IP Zürich:

The "Master of Advanced Studies in Intellectual Property " at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich

CEIPI/epi basic training course (2 years)

CEIPI preparatory course(s)

CEIPI seminars preparing the EQE

CEIPI paper C:

CEIPI special course on paper C (re-sitters)

CEIPI cramming course paper C

epi-tutorials

Candidates were asked to specify other training courses which they had followed. These courses are listed below.

- pre exam online training
- Delta Patents Methodology C and D
- Pre-examEPO online training
- EQE online training
- pre-EQE online course
- Dutch patent attorney course which also covers EP-topics
- Delta Patents 8 months course
- CEIPI pre-examination cramming course
- Delta Patent paper D course
- JDD Consultants
- delta patents
- JDD pre-examination revision course
- CEIPI seminar Pre-Exam + Cramming
- UK qualified patent attorney
- EPO Online Course
- JDD course for C and D
- Delta A-D
- Online course of EPO / I'm part of the CSP programm
- DeltaPatent training for pre-exam
- CEIPI/epi basic training course (just 1 year)
- Online pre-EQE course provided by the EPO
- Michalski&Hüttermann, Düsseldorf
- epi/EPO pre-examination online training course
- IP Akademin EPC Advanced
- JDD training courses
- JDD (UK)
- Delta D courses
- Queen Mary University
- Queen Mary University training programme in preparation for the EQEs
- deltapatents
- JDD Pre-EQE training day
- JDD for paper D and C
- EPO Academy / EPI preparation course (online)
- delta patents C/D
- Deltapatents training
- Deltapatent Course in Milan
- Paper C Maastrich University
- Hagen
- Deltapatents methodology for Paper C
- epi EQE pre-examination online course
- DeltaPatents
- C D Kurs Michalski Hütterman Düsseldorf
- EQE pre-examination online course
- private JDD course in the UK
- EPO online course
- CEIPI cramming course(2 days)
- online pre-exam course
- C-D Prep@Univ.Maastricht ; Deltapatents A-B Methodology
- Delta patents methodology for D1 and D2
- CSP-EQE

- Deltapatents
- pre EQE course
- EQE Pre-examination online course
- Delta Patents Paper D
- Delta patents methodology; EPO pre-examination online course
- CSP
- Deltapatents
- EPO online course
- DeltaPatents
- Delta Patents
- EQE pre-examination online course by European Patent Academy, Delta Patent pre-exam course
- DELTA PATENT
- JDD pre-examination course
- Delta patents courses
- Examinatorium Europaeum (Hagen)
- Patent Academy pre-exam prep course
- Deltapatents courses
- European Patent Academy
- on-line pre-exam course
- Course of preparation to national qualifying examination
- ΕΠΟ ον λινε φοθρσε
- Deltapatents c and d courses
- Delta patent legal course
- DeltaPatents
- late-evening to midnight workout course
- eqe pre-exam online training course
- Examinatorium Europaeum
- DeltaPatents D-Course
- Delta Patents Courses
- Course paper D in Spain, Centre de Patents Univ. Barcelona and OEPM
- DeltaPatents Training
- JDD courses
- Delta patents
- Praktika Intern 2012
- DeltaPatents Methodology Course
- Pre eqe, on line course, European Patent Academy
- DeltaPatents
- Deltapatents methodology courses for papers C and D
- Deltapatents 3 day paper D course
- None
- PARTICIPATION IN CSP
- Delta patents
- deltapatents
- Non
- Pre-EQE online course by EPO
- delta patent c
- DeltaPatents: "3-Days Methodology"; "Guided Trial Run"
- none
- DeltaPatents Methodology Paper D
- DeltaPatents
- Deltapatents D course
- CSP-programme

- delta patents methodology d
- EQE Pre-examination online training course (epi)
- DeltaPatents, SBO Dutch patent attorney course
- Delta Patents C-course, D-course
- IP-akademin, 16 days course:"EPC advanced"
- DI daily questions
- Michalski Hüttermann
- EPO/WIPO online courses
- DeltaPatents C and D
- 3 day Paper D Deltapatents
- DeltaPatents
- European Patent Law, CEIPI. Organized by EOI and OEPM in Madrid.
- DeltaPatents pre-EQE course
- Delta patents courses
- Delta Patents
- ASPI
- Delta Patents
- DeltaPatents
- Delta Patent Paper C course
- Delta Patent for Paper B
- Delta
- Examinatorium Europaeum
- Delta Patents C & D
- DELTAPATENTS pre-exam legal
- None
- none do not have time except those internally by my supervisor
- Delta Patents
- EQE pre-examination online course
- Pre-EQE online course
- Deltapatents courses for C and D
- Deltapatents
- Delta Patent's training course methodology and mock exam
- Deltapatents
- Paper D Methodology Maastricht University
- EPO pre-exam course
- Online EQE Pre-Examination Course
- DeltaPatents
- EPA, EQE pre-examination online course
- Delta Patents C and D
- D methodology, Delta patents
- CSP
- DeltaPatent's methodology and guided exams courses
- Delta patents
- DeltaPatents courses
- Deltapatents Methodology C/D
- EQE Online-Courses
- Deltapatents methodology course
- Delta Patents; Forum Institute
- Deltapatents
- EPO online course for pre-exam
- Deltapatent 8-day legal; deltapatent Legal and claim analysis training
- Delta patents Legal
- pre-eqe online course

- Delta Patents
- eqe pre-exam online course
- Delta Patents methodology, company in-house resources (small group discussions)
- An Italian IP course to prepare for italian qualification exam
- Delta Patents A/B Books
- Deltapatents
- Online training for the pre-examination paper
- Delta
- EQE pre-examination online course
- DELTA patents course
- Delta Patents A+B, paper correction program
- Queen Mary revision course
- pre-examination course
- deltapatents methodology for D course,
- Delta patents correction papers
- EPO on-line EQE pre-exam course
- DeltaPatents D-Methodology course
- delta patents
- Delta Patents A/B, C and D Methodology Courses, Delta patents Guided Exam for C and D
- Deltapatents
- Queen Mary Course in London
- CEIPI cramming course 2 days , on-line course for PRE
- Deltapatents course
- Delta Patents C and D
- deltapatents
- ASPI mock exam
- JDD
- no course this time
- DELTA Patent Methodology Course
- DELTAPATENTS
- Delta patents course paper C
- Delta Patents NL
- Deltapatent C
- Deltapatent and internal courses
- Delta patent: legal Basic and methodology for legal part
- Deltapatents course General Legal and exam preparation courses for A, B and D
- Delta Patents
- EPI/EPO PRE-EXAM DISTANCE COURSE
- EQE pre-examination online course | PP24-2014
- EQE training OEPM and UB
- Delta patents D Methodology
- EQE pre-examination online course
- JDD
- online pre-eqe training course (European Patent Academy)
- Deltapatents
- JDD Revision Course (GB)
- DeltaPatents Course Paper C + Guided Exam
- DeltaPatents Course for Paper C and Guided Exam
- Deltapatents C and D
- European Patent Academy EQE pre-exam online course (PP24-2014)
- JDD
- VIPS/VESPA
- JDD consultants course

- Delta patents D-methodology course
- Delta patents methodology courses
- Delta Patents Guided Trial Run
- DeltaPatents resitter
- C-paper training by DeltaPatents
- Delta patent courses
- CEIPI cramming two days (pre EQE)
- DeltaPatents Pre-examination course
- Queen Mary, UK "Training Programme on European Patent Law and Practice (EQE)"
- Deltapatents
- Delta Patents D paper course
- delta patents training paper c and d
- EQE online course, DELTA Patent legal course for Pre-exam
- EPI correction papers
- CEIPI basic training course, but only 2nd year
- DeltaPatents
- JDD C/D Courses
- In house tutorials, and QM course
- DeltaPatents preparatory course
- Delta Patents
- DeltaPatents Paper D course
- University Maastrich (C and D); DeltaPatents (A and B)
- Deltapatents C course
- DELTAPATENTS
- Course by Cees Mulder at Maastricht University
- DELTAPATENTS
- Delta patents methodology for paper C
- ASPI training exams
- Delta patents
- Self studies
- EQE-Forum
- Pre-EQE online course 2014
- Delta
- EPO's EQE Pre-examination On-line course
- none
- Delta Patents
- Delta
- Delta Patentd methodology for paper C
- Bardehle IP Akademie
- epo online training course pre-examination
- DeltaPatents program
- Delta patent on methodology
- Delta Patent
- In house training
- none
- Deltapatents C-course
- Delta patents 3-day paper C methodology course and Delta patents 2-day paper C guided exam + Epi Mock Eqe paper C
- EPOEQE Pre-examination course
- CIPA tutorials; Queen Mary University training for Paper D
- Delta
- CEIPI Mock Examination
- Deltapatent A&B course

- EPC advanced with IP akademin (Rut Herbjörnsen) in Stockholm
- EQE pre-examination online course (PP24-2014)
- Examinatorium Europaeum (FernUniversität Hagen)
- praktika internship by EPO
- Delta Patents
- IPKM Maastricht
- EQE-preexamination online course PP24-2014
- EQE PreExam Online course
- JDD Pre-EQE course / Coffee Break Questions
- Materials published by Delta Patents
- EPI pre-examination online training course
- EPO PreEQE course
- Delta Patents C Methodology + Guided Exam
- online course
- Hüttermann
- in-house training for DABC
- DeltaPatents
- DeltaPatents Pre-EQE course
- DeltaPatents
- Delta Patent's 3-day Methodology Paper D
- Focussing Bootcamp Paul Rosenich for Part C
- Deltapatents AB EM Methodology Course
- JDD
- EQE pre-examination online course
- deltapatents course
- Delta Patents Course
- Queen Mary University EQE Course
- CEIPI Cramming Course Pre-examination
- Examinatorium Europaeum der PAK in Deutschland, Teil C und D, Kurs der Kanzlei Preu in München zur EQE
- Examination Europaeum
- JDD courses for Papers A, B and C
- EQE pre-examination online course, PP24-2014
- Delta Patents

Q12) Which other elements did you consider important for your personal preparation for the EQE?

- Books by Delta patents
- EPA Online Course Pre-Exam
- Practicing with last papers.
- -
- My daily work as an EPO examiner.
- UK JDD course on papers A-D.
- Study
- Delta patents pre-exam book.
- Completed many past exam papers
- CEIPI seminars
- Answering legal questions from Deltapatents legal questions compendium
- Doing old exams
- Questions from the Delta Patents book;
- Past paper questions.

- UK patent exams are great preparation for EQEs. I have passed those, and I believe the EQEs are less daunting (P6, Infringement and Validity, in particular can be very difficult indeed).
- The D seminar by CEIPI and the C-cramming course were the two most important courses in my opinion.
- I was part of the CSP Program, that it was crucial for my preparation, all the support and training.
- Work experience
- Paper D book of Delta patents
- Reading the guidelines.
- Printing out all the notes, and making sure they were well tabbed!
- A printed version of the notes for the pre-exam course available to order would save a lot of time and ink/paper
- self made tables and matrixes for organizing information
- The D books from delta patents.
- EPO web page, Official Journal, Case Law, PCT practical advice...
- Working with patent applications for the EPO in my Company.
- Private Study
- training at home with the compendiums
- Work/life balance.
- Time management
- Quick information extraction, e.g. training the use of mindmaps
- real life experience since april 2010 and being a qualified US patent attorney
- Most important is doing old exams and test questions.
- Having failed once A and D
- man muss die deltapatent-Methodik verstehen
- Past papers
- to exercise in writing the response/management of time
- Other candidates were far more useful than tutorials and courses. Many tutors are not up to date since the exams changed for 2012. For example, no-one knows if the level of detail needed in the answers for the C paper since 2013. Therefore everyone giving tutorials teaches how to write answers to the C-paper that require 6 hours and not 5 hours, which encourages candidates to run out of time. Such information cannot be obtained from the Examiners comments. Hence talking with previous candidates is essential.
- Extensive personal study. Practicing past papers.
- Doing a lot of study of Guidelines and Visser book
- Practicing past papers.
- self preparation
- discipline
- Dealing with time management
- Dealing with a 3-day exam, specially being able to write something legible
- Solo preparation with past exam papers
- Doing past EQE papers, and studying the Delta Patents book "Main-Exam Questions for Paper D"
- Familiarisation with EPC and Guidelines, completing past examination papers and mock papers, working through Delta Patents Questions.
- Having free time (a couple of weeks) the last 5 months before the EQE
- Taking days of to make old papers from the Compendium under real exam conditions in a library - no phone, no internet, real time. Making almost all questions for paper D in the DeltaPatents "Main exam" book.
- See above Q10
- old papers, Delta Patents books
- Taking enough time for study and applying the information to your daily work are the most important parts.

- Reading Visser
- A study-buddy at my side!
- EQE Forum.
- Simulations
- EPO EQE Pre-Examination On-line Course, PCT applicants Guide, Delta Patent L Book
- Experience from my own work
- Time management
- Mock exams and question-answers paper D1
- answering quesitons
- reading Visser page by page, slowly, thinking about every word, and really going through at least some of the case law cited in that book; doing lots of D I-type questions; having someone to help with prep for C paper (both explaining what is expected at the beginning and giving feedback on papers later); attending the BTC and asking millions of questions there
- Delta Patents
- N/A
- Very important for paper C: Guidelines, case law of BoA and past papers. Many past papers. (I have done all since 2000 in order to prepare). And, of course, my everyday work.
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- Meinder's C-Book; compendia
- systematic work every weekend at least 3 months earlier, at least 8-9 earlier papers solved among which at least two in exam conditions
- Try to understand what is expected, spend time on basic points, the importance of which may not be emphasized enough in preparatory courses, and exercise a lot.
- Mock exam with personal face to face feedback
- Visser, Deltapatents
- practice at law firm
- Skype sessions with the coach.
- Personal preparations between six and twelve months are well to keep the most things in mind.
- Perparing own material, practice on past papers
- Training
- 15 years of working as an examiner.
- Deltapatents d question book was really important
- Past Papers - Analyzing a technique that worked for me
- Practice paper completion and study of materials relevant to the exam e.g. the EPC and Guidelines.
- Compendium, Compendium, Compendium
- Doing past papers.
- TIME
- Personal time to read all the legal texts and to practice legal questions
- General reading and study, preparation for UK exams, CIPA lectures, practice of past papers.
- Train on old papers, use the books a lot and make your own template paper summary to use in i.e D and C paper
- Personal preparation
- learning by myself on how to use Visser and similar books in an efficient way
- Self preparation and learning
- Preparing source materials by myself
- reading the guidelines
- Training adn experiencia in intelectual próspera matters
- sport activities / running
- Getting an overview not only mosaic-bricks of the compedium

- Lots of time for reading EPC and doing questions
- Writing old papers
- - answer many DI questions covering all topics
- - practice many DII papers
- Completing old exams, creating own system of indexing and how to find required matters from books/guidelines.
- Many old C Part for preparation
- Daily work
- none
- "Daily D1 Questions"; "Coffee-Brake Questions";
- Tutors
- Making the previous exams under exam conditions and let it marked by experienced tutors. Learn from your mistakes. Study the theory and again...
- Practice of past questions with review in light of examiner's comments
- I am of the opinion that free time is very important - if not the most important element of the preparations
- Past paper practicing under examination conditions
- daily short questions Paper DI
- My coach through the CSP-programme.
- Baque was a really important document to work.
- do a lot of exercises
- applicants guide PCT
- Using the delta patents study guide and doing the past pre-EQE papers, as well as study and tabbing the cross-reference book to the EQE by Jelle Hoekstra.
- Doing previous exams from the compendium
- Practising old papers
- EPO's free study material on the web
- Delta Patents
- Past Papers
- Experience was useful for some areas (e.g. deadline calculations, general prosecution procedure, EP regional phase entry, renewal fees). Preparing for / sitting the UK national exams was helpful: P2 covers the PCT, priority, and there's some coverage of entitlement proceedings for EP cases.
- Faire le maximum d'épreuves des années passées en temps réel pour se préparer
- Practise of old exams. Read examiners report.
- - Doing as many previous pre-exams as possible and understanding all answers.
- - Being aware of changes in the EPC in the last year
- - Preparing and commenting my own legal texts
- trying the Papers of previous years under exam conditions
- Mental training
- RealTime exams
- Caselaw Book, C-Book, Giudelines
- Past EQE papers for practice.
- Apply the law
- The EPO Courses for EPO Examiners have been cancelled. This is a pity!
- Have the time when you are in a company with the workload it is a nightmare to have the time to revise
- Quesiton bank bokos
- Guidelines
- enough time for preparing examination situation
- Past pre-examination papers.
- Online course questions
- Completion of past papers

- Preparation by having sufficient knowledge and also have sufficient speed to be able to complete the Exam with the time limit.
- Preparation for the Pre-Exam helped for D-I, just the focus changed (finding vs. applying the law)
- Previous exam papers
- Past papers and the examiner's reports
- Candidate Support Project
- specific commented documents from colleagues
- Annotated EPC - D. Visser
- Cross-referenced PCT
- Discussing with colleagues. Doing the previous pre-exam papers. Questions and answers in the material used for my studies.
- Guides for applicants: How to get a European patent (Euro-PCT)
- In-job practices.
- DeltaPatents books, EPC, Visser, Guidelines, Applicants Guide of PCT
- My tutors, my time
- Training with our coach.
- practice, practice, practice
- It is really difficult to prepare the claim analysis part. Specially, when the level is increased and the text is so ambiguous. There should be a better course to prepare the claim analysis part.
- Anotate your own copy of the EPC, read the Guidelines for Examination.
- Do lots of past papers.
- Diversity of daily work - patent drafting / Office Actions / Oppositions
- Very important to make at least 4 exams of previous years and at least 2 of them under time pressure - as this is always a worry during the exam
- Actions to improve physical and mental health by excersing sport (Fitness, Martial Art).
- Studying papers from previous years and theri examiner's reports
- Writing old exam papers and doing old DI questions.
- model solutions by Deltapatent
- time at home dedicated to learning
- most important is to personalize your own commented epc and know how to find answers in a very short time
- None, I think
- EQE examinations from previous years.
- Sufficient time period for the information to be understood and "digested" - i.e. learning from errors, such that the proper way of doing things would be understood. If a chance plays a role in an answer, it probably will not happen a second time the same way.
- Delta patents exercices books for paper D which proposes a lot of questions covering the whole EPC and also PCT articles, rules, paper D questions
- Possibility of training during workingt hours and paid days off work to be able do some exams in real time
- Past papers/ personal study
- Advice from colleagues who already had passed the exam
- Guidelines for Examination
- Paper C Book by Chandler/Meinders
- Own Study Guide and own Strategy
- Allowing at least four hours per day to study for the EQE at least six months before the examination.
- Visser
- Enough time to study is the most important feature! And courses/forums with tips and orientation about how to success in the exam
- find the right pen; practise hand writing
- even though, the EQE paper was different and did not work with my favorite pen

- Internal courses given by my supervisors
- Self study.
- Mainly approaching the EQEs with the right methodology
- EQE-forum
- My own notes and summaries with key issues on the different topics
- Delta patents EQE-D course and correction papers
- as in-house training is mostly focused on the specific of the work wrt company and not sufficiently focused on the patent law aspect, I highly recommend to start early enough with a self-study preparation. Also, dedicated training with your supervisor is important though for me personally was more useful for understanding the legal aspects than the claim analysis.
- Delta Patents methodology courses were very valuable
- Three weeks dedicated exam preparation before the exam with enough time to practice and get to speed with D and C.
- Self study. Learning by heart the Articles, Rules of the EPC and the headnotes of the G-decisions.
- Practising past papers
- In House tutorials were of greatest importance
- old papers and model solutions of Examination Committee and CEIPI as well as Delta Patents. On-line course and questions
- time for studying.
- Timing/planning, doing previous exams incl. objective marking by a third person.
- Solving the old papers and making them marked by a tutor. Then studying your mistakes and trying another paper.
- Your daily work will give you a lot of experience. Do old exams and go through them to find out what you are missing and why you did not see that information in the text when you wrote the exam.
- keep on study during daily time.
- self-made material regarding special topics, e.g. fees, divisional applications, amended rules, etc.
- most important: one week of holidays before the EQE - without any books and other material
- Adequate time allowed for preparation
- EQE Wiki
- Familiarity with the guidelines, PCT, etc. were important so that issues that I did not know could be looked up in a timely fashion. However, some questions were so obscure (1.3 and 1.4) that I had to make a best guess after finding nothing directly on point in the materials I brought with.
- Personal training
- practicing old papers and all DI questions of Deltapatents (book with 480 questions)
- Vlsser and previous exams
- Doing all earlier pre-exams
- CSP Project Coach
- Personal study time, preparation of material/books to take to the exam and sitting mock-exams with that material appear to be of utmost importance.
- CEIPI course
- - Delta Patents books
- - working through the EPA applicants guide ("EPA-Richtlinien")
- - self-commented EPC
- Time spent practising old exam papers under examination-like conditions
- Exchanged experience with colleagues after having practised the previous C-Papers as taken from the EPO-Compendium; studying the Examiner's Report for older Papers;
- Practice previous C-Papers from the compendium, consult Examiner's reports, Exchange experience with colleagues,
- Learning to write faster

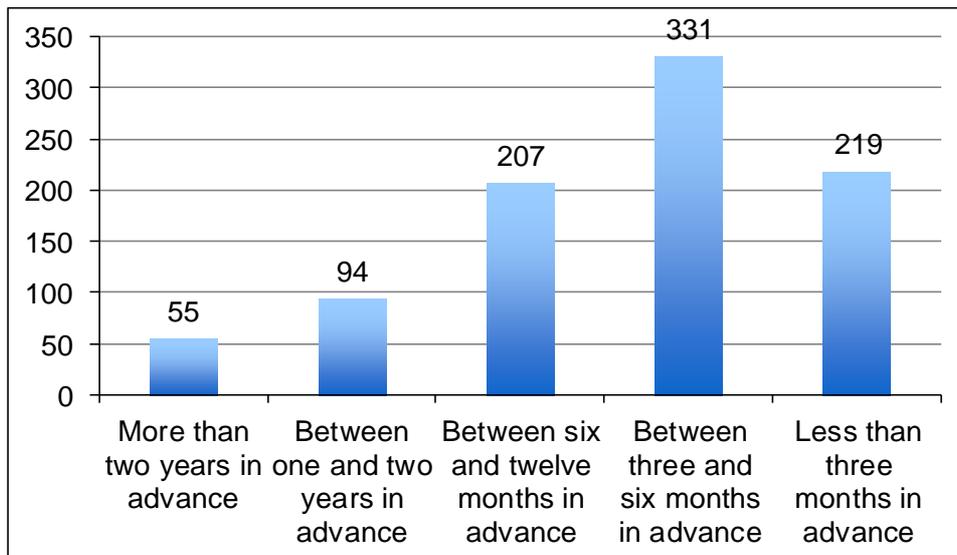
- On-line courses in preparation for the pre-examination paper
- time management
- It is important to do the past exams under time pressure.
- I prepared "cheat sheets" on important issues (i.e. compiling all info relevant to me from EPC, PCT, GL, AG, case law etc...).
- About 2-8 sheets per topic.
- It took a hell of a time to dig so thoroughly through the materials but I learned while doing these and it helped me get the important bits related without having to consult 3 different books during the exam.
- And I prepared "method sheets" for each paper, where I noted the steps necessary and in which order I preferred to do them, which points I should consider in particular (e.g. because I missed them in old exams I practised), etc.pp. There's no ONE method which suits all.
- - Read the guidelines.
- - Practise doing many exams and questions D1 type.
- Gathering and analyzing several papers from colleagues that have and have not succeeded in past C-papers. This in order to compare different styles and their success reflected by the points gained.
- Reading through Visser book, GL and PCT Guide
- Methodology books
- Managing time outside work hours to revise.
- To do a lot of pre-exams and send to my epi-tutorials for review. Training on keeping the time, even though it is a lot of stress in the real exam situation that you do not feel at home.
- self-study
- Reading Visser. Doing many practice papers.
- self-study
- preparing personal notes
- Trying past papers
- guidelines
- case law
- Writing papers of the previous years under Exam conditions
- to have prepared check-lists, templates e.g. for the description (paper A) or the letter to the EPO (paper B) plus a strategy for how to solve the papers in the given time in the most efficient and structured way.
- I thought it would be enough to really master drafting of applications and applying the prob-sol. for responding to office actions but... I was wrong.
- real-life replies to written opinion
- Preparing notes on answer structure for A,B and C. Preparing timelines and tables for C and D.
- Past papers, Visser, the Guidelines and Delta patent questions
- Work through DeltaPatents Paper D short questions
- Giving up social life.
- everyday practice
- DeltaPatent books
- Work at home, doing papers from the compendium
- Practising papers. I did attend courses for the first time I sat the EQE, but not the re-sits.
- reading the JO OEB, europeancaselaw blog; Guide du déposant PCT
- English language (legal) training and trying to learn what gives you marks.
- time for self-studying
- Practice exams under real exam-time-conditions.
- Schreiben der C-Teile vergangender Jahre unter "Prüfungsbedingungen", d.h. zusammenhängend in der vorgegebenen Zeit.
- Studying and doing exams from the compendium
- Seminars, C-book, compendium
- I found that the pre-exam course by the epi and the EQE Forum were a tremendous help in

getting a quick-start and for building a basis of knowledge. Brian Cronin's Youtube series is also highly recommended.

- Continuous repetition of old exam papers
- Reading through Visser, GL, PCT guide, Compendium
- My participation in the EPO's Candidate Support Project
- I found important to find time to prepare mock exam under real conditions.
- One of the main challenge of the EQE is to find enough time to prepare all the papers.
- Sanofi internal tutorials
- Epi tutorials were very useful in providing personal feedback on past papers.
- Information and advice by candidates who recently passed the EQE.
- Understanding from the compendium what the committee expects to be the answer to the paper
- I'm under CEIPI training since septembre
- Practice of past papers
- personal preparation using compendium
- All have been mentioned
- EPO - EQE-training: time-limit-questions, DI-daily questions, latest version of "Guidelines for examination at EPO", compendium.
- - seminars organized by patent attorneys
- Discussing with other candidates
- regular studying with focus on EQE (each day at least 1 h starting 6 Mo in advance), answering DeltaPatents Questions
- Practice of past papers
- Studying in a group with other people to actually get the studying done. Deltapatents pre-exam and basic questions for the D exam in order to piece-by-piece walk through the articles and implementing regulations of the EPC.
- Training of hand writing
- Self-studies, solving questions from Delta Patents and making old exams, including the mock-exams.
- Practicing past papers
- Online sources
- Guidelines
- To read the last version of the Guidelines for Examination
- Determination, constancy and dedication
- - Courses Delta patents Basic legal Training
- - Courses DP pre-exam methodology
- - Practising questions Delta patents Basic legal Training
- - Practising the previous pre-exams 2011-2014
- Delta Patents Study Guide
- Delta Patents Basic Questions
- Own summaries
- Internal course at my company
- my daily work
- Working through past papers.
- Lots of personal reading.
- CIPA also ran webinar tutorials for the EQE which were helpful.
- personal work on past papers
- Brian Cronin's YouTube video tutorial.
- Past Papers
- Self-study using Delta patents books.
- EQE COFFEE BREAK QUESTIONS
- Practicing past papers
- Training on papers

- Personal study.
- Delta Patents D Questions
- study group
- In-house training is by far the most important element
- Also followed a 2-year Post-Academic course, which is intended as preparation for the Dutch Patent Attorney Exams. This course mainly focusses on the substantive aspects of the EPC, as the Dutch Patent Law is quite similar.
- EQE blog
- Correction paper by DeltaPatents and reading their model solution
- Delta Patent's Main Exam Questions book
- Online course provided
- EPO website, Annotated EPC
- My personal experience at work.
- Training Zeitmanagement, Training der Strategie die D-Teile anzugehen, Schreiben von D-Klausuren unter Echtzeit-Konditionen,
- für D 2015 Email-Abo der Coffeebreak Questions, und die computergenerierten Fragen zu Fristen auf der EPO Webseite.
- Spend personall time is very important!
- Delta Patents Main Questions
- Alte Prüfungsaufgaben seit 2007

Q13) How long before sitting the EQE did you start intensive focused study?



Q14) What was your greatest weakness when assessing your preparation for the EQE and your performance, and how, in retrospect, could you have overcome it?

- Being slow, could (maybe) have been overcome by more targeted training
- I was not well enough prepared for the claim analysis part => should have studied some older A and B papers, but from the past Pre-Exams I expected to see an easier Claim-Analysis part in 2015. I believe, that the degree of difficulty was higher than the previous years.
- Huge lack of time
- I DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE PRE-EXAM WILL BE THAT MORE DIFFERENT AND HARDER COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEARS...
- Paper C: I should have done more blank exams with the time limit of 5 hours, since the speed is apparently the main element of selection for this paper...

- May be the new SIS procedure under the PCT was my greatest weakness. I could have read the chapter in the PCT book written by Veronese and Watchorn.
- Use of the problem solution approach when assessing inventive step, and the only way of improving is by practicing (preferably from previous papers)
- I should still have taken more time to study the differences between PCT and EPC and its connections.
- This year had the toughest exam questions!!!
It was a very unexpected and unpleasant change. Legal questions were on the level of D1 exam, which is not supposed to be the case a pre-Exam level.
Moreover, a very unexpected change of the format of the claim part. It was much more reading, less concise questions and long claim sets, wherein claims with amendments that had to be combined in our head.
My weakness point was not being trained for these type of claims... I could have prepared better by having more examples to practice on. However, EPO does not provide more examples and all available examples were much simpler than the discussed pre-Exam. While training on EPO website i could pass all pre-Exams within 3h. This pre-Exam took me 4h with quite some rush at the end.
I think the candidates were put into an unfair position compared to previous years.
- Should have practiced hand writing more.
- Incomplete coverage of the syllabus. Should have started earlier.
- Sometime I am superficial in reading the paper. I do not pay attention since I am more distracted with time pressure, so I miss important information from the documents I am reading
- Time
- more training exams
- the time missing was my main problem
- Not doing enough past papers under exam conditions.
- I did not have enough time to combine study/work
- I felt very well prepared. I was completely familiar with the format of the previous examination papers and also the Mock papers.
My greatest weakness was expecting the 2015 pre-examination paper to be similar in style and content to the past papers and mock papers. The questions turned out to be significantly different in style and much more demanding in terms of the level of understanding of the EPC and surrounding case law required to answer the legal questions and the depth of analysis required to answer the claim analysis questions.
I do not see how I, or any other candidate, could have prepared for this unforeseen and decided shift in the style of questioning and the level of detailed understanding and analysis required to answer them.
- Ask me again when I have the marks! I feel/hope they went OK (but I could be wrong).
- Should have spent more time reading the office journal and the ancilliary regulations
- Lack of adequate study time over the long term. I do not know how this could be remedied without taking a leave of absence from work.
- As the examination was not very similar to the examinations 2012-14 using these papers as a preparation gave me the wrong feeling of being well prepared.
Maybe a more specialized course in D-questions would have been helpful.
- Efficacy: to read the exam papers/annexes quickly, and in the meantime to find and sort out relevant data to understand what the invention is about (paper C/D) and to set aside info that possibly is not needed for the solution (paper C). This depends on the nature of the invention, e.g. this year's chattering snowboard with special structure and the solution how to dampen chatter required more time to understand compared to past years' situations like e.g. razor cartridge, cosmetic patches or exit finding system; these latter are used/applied almost everyday. I personally run out of time in paper C which did not really occur when having practised full test papers.
- Many unexpected questions on topics not covered during the training or superficially covered during the training.

Not sufficient time to review all the questions on which I was not sure.

It could have been overcome only with a better/longer training.

The training Started in April 2014 maybe it would have been better to start earlier.

- not enough time due to heavy work load
- PCT was by far my weakest point. I should have started preparing PCT questions earlier
- -
- Not realising the EQE pre-exam was going to be much harder than in previous years. Expecting that being able to do the past papers very well meant I was in a good position to sit the 2015 pre-exam.
- Forgetting the actual text of the PCT in the exam... I needed to double check that the resources I had actually included all the resources I wanted.
- not writing fast enough, maybe use more abbreviations, if possible. + General EQE is more sport than knowledge, therefore better physics would have been helpful.
- "Discovered" the D function too late.
- time management
- My "old" problem is apparently still insufficient speed in answering the questions.... another hour for each of the parts seems enough to reach sufficient points ... :-)
- I have learnt a little too little for the topics which I thought that would be not so important.
- Not being aware of different methods for Paper C.
- none
- Assessing amount of information required to go through and collation of such information.
- The main problem with the EQE is time: thus I would recommend speed exercises for feature extraction, look-up legal questions, handwriting
- none; easily passed
- It is difficult to understand the partially unclear formulation of the questions. It is difficult to apply a true/false scheme to an argumentative question. There is no way to overcome this.
- Lack of time due to heavy workload.
- Relying on the pre-EQE past papers alone. In retrospect, I wish I had attempted some previous papers A-D as well, since this year's pre-EQE seemed to be somewhat different from others years' pre-EQE exams.
- Not knowing how to properly prepare for papers A and B other than sitting past papers and reading guidelines.
- in der Prüfung war keine Zeit mehr irgendetwas nachzuschlagen, man muss alles wissen, um in der Zeit zu bleiben und viel Methodik beherrschen
- Time pressure in paper C is my only problem.

I do not see any strategy to overcome this problem.

I passed papers A and B straight away, and paper D this year for sure.

But I was again not able to finish writing in paper C again and likely will fail again only on grounds of time pressure, despite I worked out all attacks more or less in compliance with the proposed solution of Delta Patent's tutors (which are already online today) and do have sufficient detailed arguments prepared (like definitions of terms and hints in other documents etc.), and despite the fact that I elaborated several successful opposition writs (and also appeal writs) in real life during the last five years.

This means that I already have proved my fitness to practice as regards elaborating opposition writs (and also successfully arguing in oral proceedings before the EPO) in real life, but repeatedly failed paper C only on grounds of time pressure.

So I ask you: Is that appropriate?

Is it a real life situation that you abort writing an opposition writ after exactly five hours since receiving a client's letter and let some claims unattacked, if you have prepared all information for attacking all claims?

Since you cannot skip any analysing steps before writing the first A.110(a) attack in paper C, you have no chance to take a short cut or to concentrate on putatively more important parts of your writ promising more marks.

You first have to completely analyse all the annexes before starting writing down the first

A.100(a) attack.

If you miss 20% time (1h) at the end of the exam for completing writing, you miss about 50% of your well prepared A.100(a) attacks and have no chance to pass paper C.

Thus, in paper C, time pressure has an exponential effect, much more than in paper D, for example, where you are writing down answers more or less continuously during the 5 hours. In short: Extreme time pressure is extremely unfair in paper C, in particular in paper C.

- the missing time because of daily work; a very good simulation of the paper B as per the new form done in my language : Italian
- The EQE past exam scripts never have the date or duration of the exam on them. This is VERY frustrating for preparation, in particular for calculating deadlines for paper D. For paper C there is no information as to how specifically marks are awarded to the answer. Which means I didnt know what attracted marks and what didnt. For example, did i have to include guideline references to get the mark? This lack of information meant i had to write answers with full detail meaning it is very hard to complete on time.
- Having the discipline to learn over a long period of time
- Judging the amendment in B. No idea.
- Timing - need to learn to write more quickly!
Do not feel additional study time was necessary.
- Not perfectly familiar with the exact wording in the Guideline for Examination. Should learn closer to that than from other books
- digest all the informations
use methods for memorizing many informations
- lack of time, more practice of previous papers
- The past exam sets were misleading. The focus this year was quite different, in particular the format of the claim analysis part was completely new. Many claims, questions about problem-solution approach where no prior art was given... And everyone (I mean, all the tutors) always said we would be given more starting statements for the problem-solution. Also very easy to look at the wrong claims when there were so many.
The legal questions were not easy, but they were still fair.
I find it interesting that Deltapatents is uncertain about quite a lot of answers...
- Writing speed was my greatest weakness, especially in view of the fact, that I am using only a keyboard in my firm. However, when working on papers I improved.
- Writing in English.
- Greatest weakness was trying to let personal knowledge not influence the interpretation of the answers in the claim analysis part. Should have taken more time to practice claim analysis "mock" studies, e.g. the ones that Delta Patents provides.
- Time management: a lot of arguments remained in my pen (paper C); focusing on activities providing marks, less attention to formal writing
- Case studying is the most difficult part for me, as it takes too much time. I decided to focus only on very important cases.
- Lack of study material for the relatively new pre-exam.
- answering papers in time, I tried to work on past papers and tried to finish according to exam duration for each paper
- I could not have studied more
- How to manage so many useful information (effects, problems, constraints...) to provide in the answers.
Good question... I have to be more systematic, a better overview-table with all facts
- Doing the practice papers away from home & to time, ie under exam conditions.
- Finding time to study being working is very difficult.
- Finding time to study in evenings and weekends. Not much that can be done other than slog through - you either be a little miserable for a long time or very miserable for a short time.
- More training for Paper-C (not theory).
- More time spent studying, but this was difficult to achieve in light of UK higher examination undertaken in late 2014.
- I noticed during the preparations that I had not understood certain subjects very well.

However I started too late (6 weeks before the exam, only D) to study those subjects any further. A minimum of 4 to 5 month of intensive study is probably necessary to have enough time in order to study also subjects not well-understood in depth.

- long questions, too much reading under time pressure caused a lot of mess in my mind. The level of PRE this year and in 2014, in comparison with PRE in 2012 and 2013 was surprisingly extremely higher. Before the exam I have a feeling that I'm well prepared, old papers was more clear and check the BASIC knowledge. Last year and this year, the formulation of the questions was very complicated (especially for non- native speakers), so it takes long time to understand the whole subject of the question.
In fact I feel disappointed, I spent long time for preparations, unfortunately I'm not satisfied about my answers, mainly because long questions in the claim analysis part. In the legal part soem questions related to representation or priority was too much complicated, and it was not just easy check if you know the basis about- more advence lever of knowledge was needed- definitely not for PRE level.
If the format of the questions will be adapted to the level as it was in 2012 and 2013 I think it is possible to check if the candidate is orientated in EPC-this is the idea of PRE, which should be continued. My personal view is that the level of question and their formulation limit the passing rate for non-native speaker candidates.
- I could not find enough time to prepare for the exam.
- time-management ; balance study-work-family
- Time was limiting, but I think it's because the paper was too long and with too many documents.
- Time management
- Inventive Step. Revising the answers
- Nothing
- Although knowledge for the legal part can be achieved reading/studying by the books, the claim analysis part should have taken me more time. I have done all the previous pre-exams and mocks but this is not enough...
- My greatest weakness was taking too long to make decisions and then taking too long to write down by hand a clear and concise answer.
- Although I did all Mock pre-examination on EQE website, I wished to have more than those
- Not enough time, but I don't see how I could have managed more.
- Intensifying the studies too late
- lack of confidence in answers leading to too much checking in the books
more exercise with legal and claim analysis questions
- total lack of practice and experience in oral proceedings, oppositions and appeals - this probably couldn't have been overcome (I do not live in Munich to go and have a look, and my company just didn't let me work on that stuff);
total indifference of my supervisor and his being unwilling to answer my questions and spend more time with me than absolutely necessary - but this is not really 'my' weakness, and it's impossible to overcome
- More time
- I am an inhouse lawyer so do not have the time to study. This means that I have to just sit the exam and try and answer the questions the best I can with my experience and the relevant books. Not really possible in the time. To overcome this issue, if I take the exam again, I will have to take time off work, but I really think that I would need more time than is available given the nature of Paper D. Papers A-C can use real life experience to answer questions. Paper D is not about real life!
- I didn't know much about the PCT and claim analysis
- You should not be too confident based on successful training. Stay calm and read the questions carefully.
- Time, time, time, because I am the owner of my own bureau as patent attorney in Germany.
- I didn't expect the exam to be as ambiguous and difficult as it was, based on the previous exams. I don't think I could have overcome this on my own - I think the EPO should have given some advance warning that they were planning on increasing the difficulty of the

- exam, preferably with a mock exam with questions of a similar standard to the real exam.
- My greyness weakness what to expect that the Pre-EQE 2015 was going to be similar to the pre-EQEs in previous years. It wasn't it was much more difficult.
 - time management
 - Papers B,C were terribly time consuming. It is very UNFAIR and I regret that people of examination committee have forgotten that they passed the eqe while it was much easier. PAPERS B, C = UNFAIR !!!!!!!
 - This is a second sitting. Last year I sat all papers and, although I was well prepared, I failed paper C - I think because I was too tired and couldn't think straight anymore. This year I just needed to correct my assessment of closest prior art. Practised a lot of old papers, and had my own pre-prepared answer structure and check point list. It helped me to not forget to go through my answer at the end of the paper - I would have forgotten to file the notice of opposition without it! I had also prepared a quick guide with the guidelines reference for certain points of law which was most useful.
 - unpredictability of Papers A and B. No idea how to overcome.
 - The pre-examination in previous years was significantly easier than the pre-examination of 2015, meaning that an assessment of what preparation was needed was not concordant with what preparation was actually necessary for this exam. Luckily, I felt sufficiently prepared in the exam as I have been encouraged by my firm to have a good grounding in the EPC and specifics of European patent law.
 - --
 - Too little time. Plan time away from family
 - Pré exam 2015 was much harder than the previous years....was not enough to do the previous exams when studying
 - it was not possible to have all solved papers checked and discussed with somebody who could give some valuable indications
there is no better way to prepare than doing last papers (A,B)
I had to resit A paper because my weakness last year was my own interpretation on how the invention works - I was not aware that we must trust the information given in the exam A and that there is always a passage which me must put as a core in the characterising part of the independent claim.
it is not possible to pass C without 'a quick system of processing and arranging information' - if do not pass this year, next year I will try to have a technique without doing a lot of notes.
 - Panik, lack of distance with respect to the subject, lack of precision in the knowledge of particular points of the EPC.
Solution : practicing, aid regarding a "method"
 - I am resitter for fifth time eqe D, time have always been a problem, I seem to always have too little of it.
In retrospect This may have been overcome by knowing more by heart, or almost by heart, maybe doing more than the "selection" in Deltapatents main exam questions paper D. I also had some personal problems, my mother became ill and passed away in fall 2014, she was my first priority so if I fail this year, maybe I will have more time next time...
 - Practice a few more papers under real conditions
 - My greatest weakness are my children and my bad time management. I took the children to their grandmother and I was able to get several hours a day
 - I based my study on the level of the previous exams. This was very misleading - the level of this years exam was much higher.
 - Claim analysis.
I could overcome this making more claim analysis beginning with easier cases and finishing with complex cases. I always face complex cases from the beginning.
 - Not enough time and having to work full time
 - Performance : not enough time!
 - rushed through the questions and missed some important hints; The exam was designed so that candidates fail, rather than to test candidate's knowledge. Level was much higher than all previous papers in 2012, 2013 and 2014; too many ambiguities in the claim analysis part

and too particular situations in the legal part. It is indeed very unfortunate that EPO raised the level so much.

- As many candidates will point out, paper C was very unfair, it was as extensive or more than any 6 hour paper, and the elimination of legal questions does not justify a one hour reduction.

For those taking the exam in a foreign language, the amount of information is unbearable in such short time. The Examining Committee should design exams that test the knowledge of the candidate about the application of the P&S approach and the ability to give good argumentation, being as demanding as they consider in these points, but such a time trial does not make sense. It does not bear any resemblance with any situation an attorney will have to face.

In retrospect, I do not know how I could have made for finishing the paper in time... Perhaps, training to do 6h exams in 5h.

- Apart from looking at the old papers I didn't really know what to learn for papers A to C.
- I cancelled twice to the module D because I thought that my personal preparations were not enough.
- Improve own material (predefined answers), more closely analyse how Paper B is marked
- Normatives and regulations.
- I changed the paradigm of my preparation in the middle of my study. I started just studying the material, and then I changed in studying the previous papers and the mock exams and practising the targeted navigation in the documentation for finding the info needed.
- PRE-EQE: Concerning the Claims Analysis Part, my greatest weakness was that I did not prepare for answering ambiguous questions based on contradictory statements in the application and/or prior art documents! There had been too many expressions which had been open to various interpretations.
- Too much reading and too little writing old papers
- The level of the pre-exam was really different compared to previous years and it was much more difficult and also much more unambiguity of the questions. Very much a surprise! And the time was also an issue since the amount of information in the claim analysis part was so much increased!
- Processing huge amounts of information under time pressure - Do more past papers
- Not enough practice under exam conditions with hard questions. In view of the difficulty of this year's exam compared with the past papers I am not sure I could have prepared any better - I did all the advanced questions in the Delta Patents Legal Question Textbook.
- Additional practice for claims analysis questions would have provided a better preparation.
- I cannot write more quickly in a legible way.
- I started too late with intensive preparation based on the guidelines and making annotations to them. Instead I used the legislation of the boards of appeal book at first, as it contains much more detailed information on legislation and is very helpful for practical use. But the EQE focuses almost only on the guidelines content, so the extra knowledge did not bring a gain in EQE 2014. This year, part D preparation was more successful.
- I had problems with time management. Doing old papers under examination conditions helped.
- Time for preparation, no acceptable way to overcome it
Slow handwriting
- I should have made more mock- examinations in real time conditions, including handwritten answers
- time devaluation: work, family vs EQ preparation
- Time to study - by this stage work is very busy and balancing a family, a job and study is tricky. Also the interval between national exams and the European exams means that I had to be in study mode for 8 out of the last 12 months.
- The claims analysis was my greatest weakness. On one side I am a chemist, so my experience in the analysis of such "apparatus" claims is limited to the mock-preexaminations and former pre-examination exams. On the other side, there were too many unclaritys and ambiguities for an exam where the evaluation is based on a TRUE/FALSE answer. Hence, it

would be great that such situations are not repeated in the future, since candidates like me, not having DE, EN or FR as a mother tongue can incur a lot of difficulties. Without additional extra courses, which are particularly expensive, I could not overcome such weakness. This is extremely frustrating since on a daily basis, I can manage very well the tasks I am entrusted with regardless of the used language (DE, FR, or EN).

- Time management.
- Not enough time cause I was preparing by myself. In next exams I will take part in some internships.
- Providing proper legal basis. Actually read (nearly) every piece of legal basis.
- weakness = to practice overcome by "regularly" working on past exams
- Studying thoroughly the EPO guidelines on patentability and apply the knowledge on day to day job.
- No specific weakness, just a very long preparation
- I was pregnant and because of that tired. Later I had a new born child. so i did not have a lot of time to study.
- Time management. I would overcome synthesizing much more
- How to get my first orientation and navigation through the articles/rules/and decisions
- only two mock pre-examinations on the website
Pre-examinations of the years 2012 -2014 had lower degree of difficulty compared to pre-examination of 2015
- D2/c
- Complete lack of interest in the subject was the main weakness.
- A flu vaccine! I was sitting about 15-20 hours each week from November and the last 14 days before exam full time, however four last of these was taken by the flu
- Claim Analysis
- ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, MY PERSONAL ENGLISH PROFICIENCY SHOULD BE AT LEVEL C2, IT IS POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME IT BY LIVING AND WORKING IN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRY FOR AT LEAST 4-5 YEARS
- Time management. I think the 5 hour format is very hard to manage.
- I thought I was well prepared as I covered all topics during my preparation and I practiced many past exams. However, time pressure is a big issue and I still do not know how time can be optimized so to deal with DII in only 3 hours.
- Balancing daily work and time to study (more discussion with employer could help in balancing although own time is needed a lot).
- Too Slow; accelerating by doing many c parts. Preparing wording for Various questions state of the Art types and inventive step arguments.
- No weakness, I was well prepared
- It's hard to find the time to learn.
- not enough Training
- Too much work at the working place and almost no possibility to study at home because of large family; I would have credited of more dedicated study time at my working place - all along the year and not only shortly before the examination.
- I started with reading the Guidelines from the Chapter A while I should have read the Chapters corresponding to the field of exercise I Spent too many hours just reading e.g. the Guidelines instead I should have read them in parallel while doing D1 Questions (either from past papers or Daily D1).
- my company does not provide training courses or tutors
- I got two weeks ill just 4 weeks before the exam.
- I don't know. Results will tell.
- Misreading questions and answers (e.g. dates). Unfortunately happened also during the exam at least in two cases.
- Time management and "mechanical" English (since I am bio/chem) are my weakness, however, since i am just after exam i do not know how to improve it.

- Maintaining constant preparation without long complete breaks during holiday periods. It will be hard to overcome because family has priority too.
- I see no way I could have done more than I did in my preparations. My mistakes during exam was due to overwhelming stress. So maybe I could have done more relaxation and mental training during my preparations.
- Not having the self-discipline to complete past papers under examination conditions. I could have managed my time better to allow myself ample time to practice the past papers.
- Very difficult to assess performance in DII when doing earlier exams because examiner reports has no detailed indication of the marking
- The preparation for A paper was vert hard because I do not really understand what is expected to achieve this papaper. I do not know how to overcome this problem.
- My greatest weakness was PCT, I could have povercome it doing a lot of exercises
- I was not familiar with all parts of the EPC, especially parts that are usually not part of the pre-exam - start ealier with the preparation of the pre-exam
- I had difficulties writing fast enough since I don't practice handwriting anymore. I started training myself 2 weeks before but it was not enough.
- Having time whilst working normal hours at my firm. Started studying earlier. However, feel this wouldn't have been necessary if exam was at level of previous years.
- I Shouf have studies the examination guidelines and the how-to-get guides more thoroughly
- Speed is my greatest weakness. Despite practicing on part papers, time pressure during the exam is always difficult to handle.
- could not take as much time as needed for the preparation due to normal work
- No feedback
- Finding free time to study
- I should have put more time into studying, as for example had the time to read the whole Guidelines.
- Should have had someone provide feedback / critically review some of my answers for mock exams.
- I ran out of time writing up the C-paper answers. Somehow need to save more time there.
- lack of concentration, especially in the B paper. Two Examinations at the same day ist too much
- Not enough time available for study. I have three young children so there is nothing much that I could have done about that!
- slow and poor hand writing.... leading too time pressure. Possible solution: Simplify and compactify answers more to save time.
- I wish a had had more chances to share with other candidates my results when trying exams from other years. I think it is a good way of learning from other people's questions and doubts.
- I sat the pre-exam. My preparation for the legal questions was good enough. My copy of Hoekstra was tabbed up / highlighted / annotated well enough that I could find answers to all of the questions quickly.
As for claim interpretation: I did all of the available past paper questions and there's very little else I could have done. The multiple choice format does not work well. Some questions are 'Mickey Mouse': in the past papers the examiners were fond of questions amounting to "do you the difference between "comprising" and "consisting of"?" / "do you know what "for" means?" - fine. Other questions feel like a coin toss: for several sub-questions there were sensible arguments for both true and false, but since I could not give any reasoning the only option was to try to guess at what the examiner wanted. There were rather too many of the latter type of question in the latest pre-exam; previously there had been only a handful per paper.
If things go horribly wrong, I suppose I could overcome this by hoping for less ambiguous questions and/or better luck next time around, or through good advocacy in an appeal.
- I take too much time to answer and often miss to cite enough Articles and Rule.
Shorter answers.
- With there being so much to learn for D, the others were neglected.

Not being able to sleep ruined the whole exam week.

- As for me, there is only Little time left for eqe preparation, as my job does consume a lot of time.
- I should have started preparation sooner in view of the volume of material to be covered
- I should have spent less time on preparing the answers, i.e. studying and marking documents and preparing matrix sheets or overviews.
Retrospectively, I regard writing down parts of an answer as quickly as possible is most important to prevent running out of time.
- I could have studied/discussed more with other candidates but there were no to my knowledge in my city.
- -too little time for preparation since the pre-EQE was placed between the written and oral examinations for the final tests for german patent attorneys.
- The real Exams require to be relaxed and rested and during the second day I was very tired since I didn't sleep the day before
- Time management, stress management. 5 hours for Paper C is too short as the Comittee did not shorten the claim set or the number of pages for the Paper.
- Actually I do not know.
- Time, my age. It id difficult to reduce my age by I try.
- I was not aware how decisive the time pressure was in the real EQE. It is absolutely necessary to do all the old exams from Compendium under the time pressure of the exam.
- Time preasure, the 5 hours examination turns to an amount that can never be done in that time
- I completely overlooked the last page of part A clients letter containing very important information.
Next time: Explicitly check, if I read all pages.
- Studying after a long day at the office.
Studying after taking care of my baby.
How to overcome it?
...maybe not having a job, and not having a child would make it easier to study...
- The level of difficulty of the prexam 2105 was much higher than either 2014 or 2013. This was unexpected and thus could not be prepared for. Otherwise more claim analysis examples
- preparation: starting far too late, poor planning, poor concentration during studying
perfomance: time planning, too slow, panicking
retrospect: obvious; although for the time planning during exams there is not much to do, I am simply too slow, that would still be the case to some extent even with perfect preparation
- handwriting, time management,
- Started preparation for Paper D later than I would have liked because the books became available so late. I don't know how this could be overcome if the exam is based on the law up to 31 Dec 2014 and the books become available only in November (due for example to the Guidelines only becoming available so late).
- The stress, the time to prepare myself,
- Time management, more practice in mock exams would have made a difference
- My experience in Opposition Proceedings was my weakness for Paper C: we can combine in a variety of ways documents, while providing a very good argumentation. This is not really what is expected.
My experience as a patent examiner was my weakness for Paper A: a claim should contain essential technical features and be clear. Paper A answers are neither always complete with the essential technical features nor clear.
- It is not weakness, i think that most of the student have the level due to the fact that they work in the field since more than 4 years.
This is the examination that is a run faster than a 100m that is a weakness of the system and should be corrected
- Time restriction (profession/family/learning)
Start learning regularly about one year before the examination for 1-3h/ week

- handwriting is really difficult for me, and even if time managing is not any more a problem I cannot reduce to much the analysis time in favor of my slow writing!
If terminals would be available for the candidates with only EPC PCT and guidelines + the annexes and text of the paper (without any internet connection ofcourse) the performance of the candidate would be dramatically improved and a somewhat anacronistic testing of andwriting speed would be removed!
- I bought the book Main Questions from Delta Patents too late.
- studying, studying, studying. And really taking time to understand the answers.
- Greatest weakness identified in preparation was "solving the puzzle" for paper A. This impression was fully verified when sitting the EQE. No idea yet how to overcome it.
- getting time for exam-focused preparation, balancing workload, private life with exam preparation requirements
- Interpretation of questions. Difficult to improve as it depends on the clarity of the questions of the paper.
- N/A
- Practice EQE papers to be able to better determine which answer is expected (there were some cases where it was difficult to just say true or false and knowing what might be useful to interpret the question might have helped maybe)
- > Preparation <
Former B-papers which already include the client claims-draft are scarce (only 2 available). Thus preparation for paper B was difficult. Apart from that, preparation went smoothly.
- > Performance <
PAPER B-(E/M): Time-management in part B was not ideal. It took too long to clarify admissability of the proposed claim-amendments. In order to at least half-way finish the paper, many decisions were made under hurry. How to overcome this "weakness": no solution from the candidates position. A less complex paper or an extension to 3,5h would help.
PAPER C: Personally, performance in C was as good as it can get. Despite never wasting time with any advance analysis (just started to write attacks), and never back-tracking because an attack did not work, I had no chance at all to finish the paper (and I consider myself a fast writer). To overcome this "weakness"? Perhaps writing separate attacks simultaneously with left and right hand. Or do the attacks more sloppy... (not the intention of the commitee, perhaps).
So, as a summary, my greatest weakness my performance, I could not write fast enough to finish the papers.
- There is only very few training material for the new 3 hour B exam. Fortunately the CEIPI tutors provided us with additional training material.
- Underestimating time required for studying. Difficulty to combine studying with fulltime work, family, kids.
- The actual exam situation. How to handle the answer papers, how many pencils to take with you and how to manage the time.
Should have asked in-house training for that matter. Or Delta's mock exam could have been a similar reproduction of the actual exam.
- problem: Getting the links to the informations "hidden" in OA, guidlines, G-,T-, decisions organized to find them, when asked for (e.g. knowledge of Person skilled in the art")
solution: More detailed study of the "additional" documentation besides the EPC and linking them to articles/rules.
- Didn't have enough information in how to prepare in the beginning. Should have try to find out more from persons already in the process. Not enough support from mentor and manager, not much to do there.
- Language
- Finding enough time besides my job
- Difficult to find enough time to study. Do the main exam in a year when I have more time to study.
- I often find myself fail to consider all aspect of a question. Accumulating experience should

help.

- Writing should be faster. Handwriting exercises should be made more.
- When writing many pages by hand under a lot of time pressure it is hard to keep up a legible handwriting. This was not overcome in spite of a lot of practice.
- Claim analysis exercises. These need more practice but it is difficult to find examples of these. Only few from pre-exams and from preparation seminars. It is easy to study EPC and theory but difficult to fully understand claim analysis exercises without practising enough.
- linguistic traps in the statements and double negation
- Language was one of my weaknesses.
- Claim analysis - determining of the closest prior art and problem solution approach
- closeness, and, stick to it
- I was really nervous since it was the second time I went to the pre-exam. I had many pressure since I cannot fail again.

After doing to exam, I think it's not enough to practise with the mock exams and the past paper since this year the exam was much more difficult and much more ambiguous (specially the claim analysis part). Hence, the greatest weakness was that we couldn't practice with such a long and ambiguous exam.

- I think even more practice would have been useful.
- I should have practiced more D questions and done more old B exams to time. I also should have been more familiar with the Annotated EPC book that I brought to the exam. Changing from Visser to Hoekstra just after Christmas was too late.
- Timing is a problem. Training to get routines in analysing Papers.
- Some issues are very rare in real daily life - i.e. unity issues
- at the beginning not really understanding what kind of information the exam committee wants to "hear"

later on - and always - the enormous time pressure and the amount of info which is throughed on you during the exam

It is crucial that one is able to organize this information as quick as possible in order to have enough time to formulate a good answer

- time management -> do a trial run at a special course, which will be rated
- Starting early with preparation.
- To get your full time job, your family and the preparation into a nutshell. Time Management and focus is key.
- time management is an issue. Only 5 hours is not enough to do a full C-exam on time.
- I trusted that I had studied enough when I could easily pass all of the old exams but this exam was so much harder. I should have studied more but on the other hand, I did not expect this exam to be so much harder.
- not enough skills in claim analysis; could have been improved by dedicating more time on this part and by drafting more patent applications
- I was too focused on details, such as articles and rules instead of firsts trying to see the big Picture - how articles and rules are connected and so on.
- claim analysis part - it would be helpful if there were more case studies on the same level as actually tested in this years pre-eqe.
- Doing exams against the clock. It seems that the C papers have gotten more and more difficult and/or time-consuming every year, so doing the older papers does not tell you so much about your chances in the exam. Even if you manage to finish an older 6-hour paper in 5 hours, you don't seem to be able to finish the new papers. This was my second time in the paper C exam and I have run out of time both times, even though I have had no difficulties when practicing with the older papers. Since the papers seem to get more challenging, I honestly don't have any idea how to overcome this problem. Except practicing more and more and hoping that one year the amount of things to read, analyze and write would be reasonable for a non-native speaker as well, of course.
- Claim analysis was my weakest point, however don't think I could better prepare for it
- Time management and sticking to a general plan are essential, in retrospect.

Finding a system, which works for me and answering in such a way, that all written words are "returnable" and accumulate points.

I needed a great time in sorting the features and embodiments in A-paper, such that I could find the essential features and connect them into a main claim with functional language. I drafted 5 pages which I did not return, which perhaps structured my answer, but does not show up as points or merit to the examiner grading my paper.

In the B-paper there simply was a massive amount of work to do in a limited time, so focusing on the parts giving the best chances of passing the exam were essential. There was not enough time to have the "best mode" or "largest scope" for the claim set, I had to compromise in having an independent claim(s) which I could defend and argue instead of trying to get the best response for my "client's" business.

- Main problem for all papers is time. To answer paper DII, paper A, paper B, paper C a preliminary analysis is required and balancing the time for analysis and answering is not easy. This I don't think is easy to overcome because it is highly depending on the difficulty of the specific paper itself and on how the paper text is prepared.
- Study time during the working days
- Greatest weakness was a lack of methodology/ books for European style drafting and amendment, particularly amendment.
- Study at my own speed, i.e. reflect on what the books say and don't stress with doing to many old exams
- My greatest weakness was that my hand writing is not fast enough, that I need too much time to understand the questions, the invention and the wording of the papers
- My greatest weakness was the lack of experience. Maybe I could have overcome it if I would have delayed my participation in the EQE with at least two years.
- Too short time for preparation. Could have been overcome but longer training time
Lack of in house training (EPO). EPO stopped courses for EQE candidates. They should start again.
Lack of clear schemes/drawings with an overview of the procedure.
- Speed in formulation of answers - more training to overcome.
Collection of information - preparation of more overview (C-part)
- Claim drafting part is too different from the past ones.
Questions are questionable because they are unclear and subjected to different interpretations of the description... it is important... but it must... so? which is the choice?
I waste too much time for claim drafting part and not too much for legal part.
- Lack of experience and I should have studied more, but I have not time to study due to the high amount of work during the last months.
- time pressure is hard. not getting nervous is key
- When doing old papers it was hard to evaluate the weakest points of own answers and the way how to improve finding and defining the invention in paper A. Perhaps more tutoring (individual and in small groups) is needed.
- --
- Not understanding the paper was my biggest issue this year. I just felt there was too much to read and understand in the time available. I did not finish the paper.
- Living in a small country with very few or no other candidates makes for a very hard study, as you miss out a lot of study groups etc... and even just intelligent conversations about the exam and technique. Although online discussion could help some in the same situation, I find them not very helpful as you miss out a lot in the interaction.
This is very difficult to overcome without relocating
- Part B, didn't get the essence of the exam, would have done a couple more old B exams.
- by doing more focused exercises answering common questions so as to find out the more critical legal aspects that otherwise can not be so easily found out only by studying.
- I have faced most difficulties with the claim analysis part. This is partially due to not enough of training on the specifics of the patentability and the problem solution approach. Overcoming this would be possible with more focused training to deepen the understanding.
Compendium of past papers is very useful material, however I find the mock pre-exam

questions not very useful as there is not answer provided. The compendium material used in combination with Q&A discussion with your tutor and with other candidates (my personal preferred choice) sitting the paper is very important.

- I did not know the DI questions to the level that I wanted. I started preparing for DI ca. 5 months before EQE main exam. I should have started preparing shortly after sitting the Pre-exam (So, ca. 11 months before EQE main Exam)
- Unsure about how to balance Communication vs. Client in Paper B, i.e. practicing a few more B-papers may have helped (although there are not so many in the new format).
- Didn't spend enough time preparing for the C-Part. I focussed on the D-Part, which I think went well.
- Being tempted to give up studying and do something else. I cannot overcome this, EQE is extremely hard work and one wonders every now and then if it is all worth it. Maybe that is even a healthy attitude towards life.
- In the legal part- the construction of the questions, for non-native speakers it takes quite long time to understand correctly the idea of the question.
In the claim analysis part- too much reading, in 2015 PRE- unusual long 2 pages of claims, and the questions, wherein you have to combine the claims- according to my personal view it is too complex to answer, if you must consider few minutes for each question only. If you compare the PRE papers each year it becomes more difficult. The style of questions should be simpler, as it was in 2012 or 2013 papers.
- The time pressure during the exam. I practised all papers within the limit limits and did not struggle too much. however, during the exam it was very different. I don't think you can really prepare for this.
- External family constraints
- My greatest weakness was uncertainty of some questions... namely in claim analysis part. More claim analysis study is needed from compendium
- Lack of time because of work in my firm which led to tiredness
- My greatest weakness was that is no tutor at my working place for explaining some critical problems.
- -
- Time management and allowing enough time to not only write answers to past papers but also to look at the Examiner's report in detail.
- Time - plan better (hard with small kids and the next one coming within 3 weeks).
- The time management.
- Handwriting, time management.
- No supervision, no other colleagues to comment with, no course tutors.
- hand writing
- knowledge of case law - start earlier with preparation
little preparation for Paper A - start earlier with preparation, write more old exams
- Being short of time. Not sure how to overcome this as I did lots of papers to time before hand
- Language. Although I am not a native speaker I am by and large fluent in English. However at these exams I find that the level of linguistic details, such as definitions of terms and small variations in these definitions, requires much of my attention, because this is where the solution to a given paper very often lies. I therefore spend too much time reading and re-reading passages in the papers. I am unsure how to overcome this, but one option could be to practice very old papers and disregard the fact that the overall form of these is outdated. Another option would be to keep the linguistic subtleties in papers at a minimum.
- Handwriting
- I am glad that only spent <50 hours studying and seem to have passed by a large margin. The things that are truly important for everyday practice on the legal part (date calculations) require little time during the test if one knows what he/she is doing, whereas there were numerous questions that I would have never known even if I had studied more (1.3 and 1.4 especially). Consequently, studying more would have been useless. For the claims part, doing the practice exams and job experience were key.
- time managing was improved by doing past exams

- Time was the greatest weakness. I will try to speed up my analysis part.
- Difficult to say, there were many ambiguous questions in the claim analysis part of the pre-exam this year so don't know how I could overcome that problem.
- A paper was difficult. Used to draft broad claims for the interest of my clients.
- If you do not have one, try to build up a network with other sitters of the EQE, because critical feedback is a key for improvements
- Well prepared
- I should have answered all of the questions, not only True/False questions, in the Delta Patent's Pre-Exam books.
- Speed. It is not easy to overcome it for someone who has to sit paper on language other than mother tongue language.
emyaminers report in the compendium should be more detailed and informative.
I should have solved more previous papers.
- Started to study late, should have started earlier.
- lacked sufficient knowledge and experience
to dedicate one additional year to study before start EQE examination
- There would be little or no effective means of preparing for the Claim Analysis part of the 2015 pre-EQE, it was far more difficult than previous years, with a different style and emphasis, and with a focus on areas not previously examined that you could not have anticipated. The hugely subjective nature of the Claim Analysis part of the paper is completely inappropriate to be examined in multiple choice format; there are many questions where there is no one true and definite answer, yet the mark scheme only allows for one of 'True' or 'False', making some questions a mere lottery. This is extremely inequitable given the punitive mark scheme.
- I have spent two years of really hard work in preparing this pre-exam (CEIPI courses, all Delta Patents questions of Basic Legal Questions L, more than one full month for preparation of self-commented EPC, and much more).
Although I would have passed all five available (on EPO Website compendium) pre-exams (including the pre-exams of 2012-2014) with between 80-94 percent, I know that I failed with my real pre-exam 2015.
Probably this was due to the fact, that I apparently had a very, very bad day.
One day after the pre-examination, I could not understand why I made so many stupid mistakes, although I knew better.
For example, question 1.3 regarding the power of attorney: Despite of all the comments in the CEIPI weblog, that this was a difficult question, it took me only a few seconds to find the relevant link in my self-commented EPC in rule 152 to find the respective Official Journal with all relevant information about conditions for filing a power of attorney (which I already had in my mind), but then I simply did not read the last part of the sentence noting in question 1.3, that "the applicant informs the EPO of the Change of the representative".
Many other mistakes I did are of a similar type.
I am very disappointed (by me) and horribly frustrated.
My conclusion: My preparation was quite good, but nevertheless I failed.
Lessons learnt? I do not know yet
- Language! Being a non-native speaker it is in my view harder than for the Germans, French or English to absorb all the relevant facts in the papers, because of the new technical expressions, which have to be understood and memorized as well (like damper etc). I propose for the non-native speakers a fair compensation of time; meaning non-natives should have more time for the completion of the papers.
- time
- Difficulty of papers fluctuates wildly from one year to the next, particularly Paper A and Paper C. This makes it difficult to know what to expect and to develop a strategy.
Examiners' Reports in the Compendium can be frustratingly lacking in detail (particular older reports). Often there is contradiction from one year to the next (e.g. how heavily the Examiners will penalise lack of unity/multiple independent claims in the same category in paper A - some years this is harshly penalised, some years it is hardly penalised at all,

making it difficult to know how to approach the paper).

Pressure of workload was also a big problem - finding time to study was difficult.

Little can be done about either of these problems.

- The preparation performing all available and previous exams would have been adequate for the previous year pre-EQE exams.

For this year it would have been necessary to prepare more intensively and to use a commented EPC-book, such as Visser.

- To study efficiently.
- It seems, I am a slow writer. Even, if for e.g. Paper C, I knew all the right answers, there is hardly time to write them down in a decent way...I guess, that I did better than last year, however, still much too slow (Paper B)
- the interpretation of the questions, understand properly what is asked, assess the meaning of technical wordings and their scope when I am not expert in the field. I don't know how I could have overcome it, because there were no precedance in the last exams. Maybe by attending a training course at Delta Patent which are more familiar with the language used by the EPO and know what should be understood in the questions.
- It would have been better to write the answers completely when doing the past papers.
- PCT - allocate more study time, but this was not possible, given other obligations.
- We do not have any results, so I cannot judge my performance.

Overall I'd say that my weakness was that I started too late with the INTENSIVE part ... I had to cut short a bit on my "cheat sheets" in order to still have some time for doing old exams.

My tipp would be start as early as possible preparing "cheat sheets" and use the last weeks mainly for old exams and "completing" your materials with the experiences and tecahings you get from those old exams.

- The time is always what you missed more.
I should started before or invested more hours per week.
- Sometimes I didn't fully understand some answers or examiners comments on past papers. It might have been useful to study with other candidates to share opinions (I studied only on my own).
- The amount of information to digest rises and rises along with the average number of words required for gaining a sufficient number of points. To me and many others it looks more and more like the exam committee strives for controlling the pass rate of paper C.
- The claims analysis part, I have no idea how to overcome it, questions can be answered by true and false....
- Stress, leading to narrow/wrong interpretation of question.
- Making exams in real conditions
- Having enough time and dedicated training by a trainer. The lack of other trainees to discuss questions with.
- I feel that I really prepared myself, did training with a tutor etc and did a lot (11) pre-exams and half on them on 3.5h, but in the exam situation I get very nrevous when time is ticking and can't really think straight. So for next time I need to working on how to manage the exam situation better.
- PCT and claims were treated lightly during course and preparation as most time was spent on legal EPC matters.
- at start missing sufficient motivation for preparation, probably to be overcome by less reading and more exams right away
- time management; training for fast searching of the materials
- Too much focus on one single paper session.
- Panic For time pressure
Trying not to panic
- For paper D: Training on answering the questions directly and thoroughly rather than thinking that I will be able to manage nerves, time and good answers during the exam.
- Time management
More practice of paper writing

- Time management for learning (EPC, Guidelines, Case Law, PCT, Compendium, Delta Questions, Learning Group etc.) besides normal (full time) job. Solution: Use weekends, holidays and other recreation time.
- Preparing for the mental pressure of taking four exams in three days. More focused periods of taking past papers would maybe have prepared me for this a bit more
- 1. Legal questions: differences between PCT and EPC. To be overcome by making overviews which highlight the similarities and differences of PCT & EPC.
2. Memorising articles, laws and procedures before the EPO. To be overcome by performing procedural acts yourself during daily work.
3. Claim analysis: problems - solution approach is different from solution approach proposed by examiner. To be overcome by making more exercises. Therefore, more exercises should be made available.
- I think I couldn't have prepared better this year. I had problems with the C paper, but these had to do with the fact that there was a lot to do given the time allocated, and the time pressure & trying too hard to finish quickly probably caused at least one error which I hope is not considered serious.
- preparation was good, greatest weakness was nervousness due to time pressure
- To be prepared for the situation as such. Personally I was completely unprepared for the extreme stress taking the exams.
- Not enough time between UK final exams and EQEs. Not possible to overcome this.
I really struggled with the amount of writing with a pen I had to do, because nobody writes anything by hand anymore, and hasn't for years. This affected my performance in the last exam, Paper C, because writing became very painful. I used Ibuprofen. The proper way to overcome this would be to use a word processor for the exams so that they are a proper test of ability, independent of the ability to write by hand for long periods, which is totally irrelevant for a modern patent attorney.
- Time issue.
Read G/T/J decisions.
- Making enough time to study and ignoring the demands of work.
Of course it would have been better to prepare better, longer and to practise more. But my preparation was good and I don't have the feeling that I would have solved the exams better if I had prepared longer.
In part C I ran out of time, so better and faster handwriting and an improved time management are on the improvement list.
- Didn't start early enough with the preparations, so that not all material was fully covered.
This led to longer times for searching the answers.
- The only weakness is that it is extremely difficult for a person whose mother tongue is not an official EPO language to write all the attacks in C exam. As always, I was able to gather information for the correct attacks (Deltapatents opinion), but I did not have time to write down all the attacks. It is not possible to accelerate your writing.
- Analysis of multiple document in paper C if features are mostly mechanical/related to engineering
- I should have done more simulations of the examination.
- I work in the industry and do not write patent applications (by lack of time) so paper A is quite difficult. I tried to overcome it by doing a large number (8) of past papers.
I also have no qualified supervisor so it's sometimes hard to discuss legal questions. I tried to overcome this by writing emails to and discussing with persons also preparing for the EQE.
- Not enough materials for Pre-EQE to adequately prepare for the claim analysis section.
- It would have been good to sit down and work with other candidates more.
- UNDER EXAM CONDITIONS TIMING IS EXTREMELY RELEVANT, WHEREAS AT HOME WHEN PRACTISING PAST EXAMS, USUALLY TIMING IS NOT CONTROLLED
- Read Guidelines more in-depth
- Paper D requires such a huge amount of studying - it is very difficult to find enough time for preparation after a day's work or during the week-end (considering family, small children,

- etc)
- Better preparation to answer the questions (amount of information to be included). Solution: make a course
- Practising more C-exams to become quicker.
- Methodology (CEIPI trainings are more than useful)
- Familiarity with mechanical field claim interpretation. I am a life sciences specialist and so am not exposed to mechanical patent applications on a regular basis.
- stress - quick - would have taken more time for reading questions properly
- Lack of time during exams. I should have lead me to write more.
- Time problems by practising under exam conditions -> keep on practising.
- language
- Zeit Management
Fokussierung auf die für die Bewertung wichtigen Punkte.
Schwierig den Mittelweg zwischen zu knapp und zu ausschweifender Begründung zu finden.
- Time management and learning what is expected to be included in the response. Next time I should focus more on practising doing exams from the compendium and answering questions from preparation books such as the Delta patents.
- not only write a draft of the claim 1 but the real claim ,paying more attention to every detail (clarity focus)
- Extremely high workload from daily business in company; I wanted to take a course by epi/CEIPI but due to high workload of company was not able to do that. Preparation solely based on self-study is extremely difficult. I wished I would have had more time to do mock exams in real-time, but as said company workload was extremely high.
- No comment
- Début de ma préparation trop tardive.
Pas de méthode de préparation avant de faire les seminaires du CEIPI
- Time management
- Speed to write all the text by hand
- I was prepared well enough from my coach from the EPO's CSP but the paper was very hard, there were elements which we have seen for the first time in Claim analysis papers.
- To slow in work, more practise would be helpful
- No time besides the normal work
- It took me much more time than I expected to read all the documents to prepare D (the guidelines took me very long).
I felt that I was not enough prepared and that is the reason why I lacked self confidence.
- I did not spend enough time on the paper's correction.
- I think I should have started preparing earlier to prevent the intensive cramming at the end.
- Setting aside enough time to prepare, given work demands
- I suffered from the limited time, particularly for the C paper.
I should have practiced under real examination conditions more often, especially by composing a full-text solution under time limit and I should have started intensive preparation earlier.
- For a second year in a row, I think I arrive to the exam exhausted from the preparation and my job. This makes me underperform and require more time than available. I would take the previous day off from job and just relax.
- Not enough knowhow on case law
- Work on argumentation was needed.
Work on use of information needed.
- Balancing work with study and no internal or external training. Start study as early as possible and produce sample answers.
- it was not possible to finish in time paper C; improving time effectiveness
- too few study leave days
- Excessive workload in my agency. Difficult to overcome...

I was very ambitious at the beginning.

- Balance between everyday work and preparation
- Although I did many past papers under examination conditions, real examination pressure was underestimated.
- time management, there is too little time to answer paper C/too much material/too many attacks to be made
- I could not write fast enough.
- Based on previous papers, I expected the Exam to be easier and that the questions were less ambiguous. I honestly do not know how I could have prepared myself for this in any way. However, the mock exams and past papers were very useful, especially when you try to do them under examination conditions.

I think it may be very important to prepare well for the claim analysis. However, this is not that easy since the amount of case studies is limited.

- I am an in house IP manager so do not have any peers with which to study
- Lack of time for intensive preparation and time management for Paper C. I have no idea how can I speed up analysis in paper C. The only solution is just blind search for features without trying to understand (technically) what is this paper about. The present format of Paper C forces to do so.
- Speed of performing the task at hand in the exam, time restraint and getting a true exam setting in the preparation.
- As my technical field is biotech and biochemistry, my only difficulty while sitting Paper C is to interpret the information of the annexes since last year it related to a shaving device and this year, even worse, to an electronic device for a sports article. All the vocabulary is not familiar and in particular having to match functional features of the invention with the ones of the prior art takes longer than at least a part of the vocabulary is known or familiar. In addition, last 2 years Papers were extremely long and in consequence I had no time to attack all claims at least once.

In "normal" conditions I take around 1h to read the patent and collect the respective information into the Table, and to determine the effective dates of the claims. Last year and this year I took 2h, i.e. twice the time.

Having this into consideration, I cannot see what I can do more to improve my performance even because when making the previous Papers of the Compendium, the technical vocabulary problems do not exist anymore: I can remember what is the invention about. I feel that this is unfair, in particular because Paper C does not concern to biochemistry and biotechnology and therefore, thinking that other Candidates may have to face the same problem as I, well trained Candidates, who are good professionals and suitable for the EPA practice are being impaired to be successful in the EQE.

- Paper was very long, many questions and required a high level of attention. Physical condition was therefore important. Silly mistakes began creeping at some point due to fatigue. Solution: Physical preparation, making more exams (but very few available for the preexam) I think EPO should warn about that, especially if EPO is planning to make the preexam more difficult, as it seems. Questions were very obscure and prone to interpretation. Obviously those with the right mindset had advantage, but this is not necessarily the right mindset for a representative. With the information available there is nothing I could have done.
- Das die Methoden zur Bearbeitung von C, die man durch CEIPI-Seminare, Compendien und andere Übungen lernt nicht funktionieren, wenn man eine Aufgabe gestellt bekommt wie in diesem Jahr, bei der die Zeit nie und nimmer ausreicht, um sie nach den Vorgaben gemäß Examiner Reports auszuführen. Selbst wenn man alle Probleme der Aufgabe erkannt hat und dann auch anfängt, diese gemäß den Vorgaben aus den Examiner Reports schriftlich zu diskutieren, hat man in diesem Jahr viel zu wenig Zeit gehabt, die Angriffe auch entsprechend auszuführen. Es geht an dem Anspruch dieser Prüfung vorbei, wenn man nur auf Schnelligkeit anstelle von Wissen und Qualität abzielt.
- More studies regarding the PCT.
- Paper A is extremely unpredictable in terms of claim broadness and it is thus hard to have a

learning from the past papers.

- Time Management. Handwriting capabilities. Great number of claims and annexes in a time which is definitely too short.
- The claims analysis was my greatest weakness. On one side I am a chemist, so my experience in the analysis of such "apparatus" claims is limited to the mock-pre-examinations and former pre-examination exams. On the other side, there were too many unclarities and ambiguities for an exam where the evaluation is based on a TRUE/FALSE answer. Hence, it would be great that such situations are not repeated in the future, since candidates like me, not having DE, EN or FR as a mother tongue can incur a lot of difficulties. Without additional extra courses, which are particularly expensive, I could not overcome such weakness. This is extremely frustrating since on a daily basis, I can manage very well the tasks I am entrusted with regardless of the used language (DE, FR, or EN).
- Time management of the 5 hours exam.
I could have practiced a few more past papers.
- Euro-PCTs. Studied this more.
- Time. I am not the fastest writer or reader. Making the best use of the time available was my greatest weakness.
- Short of time
- I should have taken more time preparing for Paper D
- I was too slow in the exam and couldn't finish all questions with the necessary concentration. Maybe, I should have learned more.
- - To obtain strategies on how to deal with a lack of time (how to pick the low-hanging fruits)
- Mistake in retrospect: doing two exams on one day (and thus: in one year.) My kids woke me up at 5.00 a.m. that morning. I was drained after A in the morning. The lack of energy in the afternoon is what cost me for B, I think.
- Not knowing the number of articles and rules "by hart". Used an indexed list a lot, which took some time.
- 1PB: Comprehension of some "lessical" tricks used in the papers in order to avoid overlooking possible attacks.
1SOL: Improve language skills and make as many past papers as possible.
2PB: The ability to read long documents in few time (I'm not mothertongue of any of the EPO official languages)
2SOL: Training in reading.
3PB: The ability to manage the information disclosed in the documents
4SOL: learn several methods in order to use the proper one during the examination (Goal Oriented search, Matrix claims-attacks method, Matrix features-documents method)
- There are parts of the European Patent law or the PCT which are seldom faced during the everyday work. Thus, one should consider this and quantify the amount of time necessary for the preparation well in advance.
- Accurance on novelty attacks of paper C.
- being able to answer questions quickly. I sometimes struggle in the time given. I am not sure how to overcome this.
- more handwriting
- All my preparation for EQE (incl. all papers) was done on myself alone. The majority part of preparation is done by doing the compendium and comparing my draft with the Examiners' report and the chosen candidate's solution. No guidance and tutoring from the supervisors and no study group formed at my work place. Therefore, my whole self-study preparation process was very tough.
Apart from the above, balancing among the workload at job, the delicated timeslot for EQE study and private family life is also quite challenging.
- I focussed more on the legal questions then on the Claim Interpretation for the pre-exam. In retrosept i would have spent more time on the Claims Analysis part. However there is - to my knowledge- less material available for the pre-exam to practise for the claims analysis part in the true/false Format.
- Time. Lack of time. Full time employment and studying are a difficult and challenging

combination.

- The difficulty of previous exams bore little resemblance to the difficulty of the 2015 exam. This was difficult to predict.
- Being more familiar with G decisions - in particular decision that would not occur in everyday practice and would make ideal exam questions!
- Considering only compendium past papers was a big mistake as this year's pre-exam was by far more difficult than previous papers, with a lot more of ambiguous questions. Based on comments from other candidates, I guess this is a general comment from the majority of candidates who sat the pre-exam this year.
- I had too little time for preparation. Hopefully, I will have in future better possibility to organize other activities more flexible. Additionally, the pre-exam 2015 had huge difference to the previous exams focusing much more on PCT-applications and PCT-continuations.
- I spend most of my time preparing for the legal part of the pre-exam. I could have used some more preparations for the claim analysis part, in particular specific exam technique for the pre-exam (how to interpret the questions, what is expected etc.). In order to do this I would have needed more past exam papers and model solutions to practise on, or a focused course on this particular topic.
- Possibly didn't start early enough - but the UK exams were at the end of September so that makes it difficult to balance the study between the UK Finals and the EQEs.
- I spent a lot of time in studying, but maybe I should have spend more time in claim analysis. The pre-exams and questions in DeltaPatents were apparently not sufficient :(
- Trying to fit revision/study around workload is very difficult. Supervisors do not appreciate how much time is required for EQE preparation.
- speed in analysing the material in foreign language.
I can't
improve it if amount of materials and documents to be analysed is comparable to this year C exam.
- Major weakness: Presenting arguments.
I have tried to overcome this weakness by presenting arguments in "EQE format" during everyday practice.
- Lack of time for studying the legal part
- My greatest weakness is the lack of time enough to prepare it before enough. I should have started the intensive focused study one month before.
- Preparing the EQE in the free time after work
- Last year I focused mostly on D and didn't practice a lot of A-B-C papers. This was enough to pass A-B-D, but not for C. This year I could focus on C, did a lot more papers to prepare myself, and I feel this has helped a lot.
- I have a family - they need time
I have a job - a lot of time is required
I need sleep - each day about seven hours
and I study the rest of the time for the EQE
- Although it is clear from examiner's reports on past exams what the correct answer is and why, it is fully unclear where the rest of the marks are to be taken, and how to determine that. This leaves an element of randomness to the exam, and one that cannot be prepared for.
- Struggled to make judgement calls under pressure during the pre-examination due to contrast with the past papers that I had attempted. The questions on claim construction were more arguable than in previous years, so unsure how I could have been better prepared to overcome this problem.
- Time management during the exam, as I had not enough time to attack claim 6. This, however, was not an issue when practising with past exams (2007-2013) under exam conditions and I am fairly happy with the way I tackled them. According to the EQE forum and the Deltapatents blog, both the 2014 and 2015 papers have been extremely long and hence I am clueless about the way to improve my time management - if I fail, I will practice at writing even faster.

- Difficult to prepare for claim interpretation questions beyond the past papers
- The required skill needed for the previous Pre-EQE's was lower compared to what was required for the Pre-EQE 2015. My weakness was that I underestimated the difficulty of the Pre-Exam.
- Starting earlier on, preparing more papers
- Time management. Could not be overcome due to lack of time during exam.
- I was sick (influenza) during three weeks just before the exam, when my ability to study was very limited. Like last year I was sick during the sitting of the exam as well. I participated but my brain was not very fast. I have heard of others being sick during the exam as well. In Scandinavia and maybe in other parts of Europe, February is a bad month regarding influenza. For that reason March or April would be a better time for the exam.
- Did not expect the EPO to raise the level of the Pre-EQE. Compared to Pre-EQE 2012-2014 I found 2015 more difficult but previous PreExams and MockPreExams did not fully prepare for what was coming in 2015.
CEIPI PreExam Course was mainly based on the exam level of 2012-2014 and Mock PreExams 2011.
- Argumentation. Knowing more about what is expected to include in the reply. The information available for paper C in the examiner's reports is not enough
- Not having enough time and energy to study efficiently.
- Lack of free time to prepare
- Interpretation of claims requires lots of practice. I focused too much on the legal part; I would probably dedicate more time on preparing for the claim analysis section.
- For personal reasons I could only prepare the examination for 10 days. Had I had a full month and the possibility of attending a course would have almost assured my ability to pass the exam.
- Time pressure to properly execute Claims analysis part. This year the number of claims to analyse was considerably larger.
This could be trained by having more (mock) exams for Claims Analysis, which reflect the desired level of analysis speed.
- I relied heavily on the compendium. However, the 2015 Paper C was considerably longer and had significantly more information to assimilate than the past papers of the last few years such that I found using the compendium to gauge my preparedness for the exam misleading. I do not see how I can overcome this myself. The EQE needs to become more consistent in scope and difficulty to allow candidates to understand more clearly what is required of them.
- Not able to attend to a course due to economical reasons.
Not having any supervisor to learn from them and to ask doubts.
Not having support from my company.
- Das größte Problem für mich war es herauszufinden wofür es in Teil D II eigentlich Punkte gibt. In der deutschen Patentanwaltsprüfung sind Klausuren mit anderen Schwerpunkten aufgebaut als in der EQE, auch wird eine andere Art der Antwort erwartet.
Ich habe Teil D 2014 zum fünften Mal geschrieben, und dachte meine Vorbereitung würde nunmehr zum Bestehen der Prüfung führen.
In 2014 habe ich in D jedoch weniger als 30 Punkte total erreicht, was vor Allem durch sehr wenige Punkte in DII begründet war. Ich habe das nicht verstanden, da ich davon ausging, wesentliche Probleme in DII adressiert zu haben.
Es scheint wie eine Kommunikation mit einem Orakel, man schreibt seine Klausur und weiß nicht nach welchen Kriterien die Klausur eigentlich bewertet wird, da es im Falle des Nichtbestehens ja keine Kommentare von den Korrektoren der Klausur gibt, in denen dann erklärt wird, wo denn die Schwächen des Kandidaten gelegen haben, und an welchen Punkten er noch arbeiten muss.
Nachdem ich in 2014 in einigen DI-Fragen fast die volle Punktzahl erhalten habe, in DII jedoch vergleichsweise wenig Punkte erreicht habe, galt meine Vorbereitung für 2015 dem Training der Strategie für DII, und in DII ausreichend Training durch Klausurenschreiben zu erreichen. Ich habe alle DII Teile seit EPC 2000 in Echtzeitkonditionen geschrieben, und

anhand der Musterlösung versucht herauszufinden, ob alle Probleme auch adressiert wurden.

Für 2015 habe ich auch noch einen Kurs einer Düsseldorfer Kanzlei besucht, in dem herausgestellt wurde, wie und nach welchen Kriterien in Teil D wahrscheinlich Punkte vergeben werden. Ich meinte dort verstanden zu haben, wieviele scheinbar einfach zu erzielende Punkte ich in meinen früheren DII- Klausuren nicht mitgenommen habe.

Eine in Echtzeit geschriebene DII Klausur hat mein EPI Tutor nochmals durchgesehen, und meinen Trainingsstand für 2015 dahingehend beurteilt, dass ich für diesen Teil wahrscheinlich mehr als 30 Punkte erhalten hätte, und diesen DII Teil somit bestanden hätte.

Nun hoffe ich dass es dieses Mal endlich geklappt hat. Ich bin zumindest in DII 2015 mit der Zeit gut zurecht gekommen, und hatte noch etwas Zeit übrig, um noch das eine oder andere Problem zu adressieren. Die übrigen Teile A, B und C der EQE habe ich bereits erfolgreich bestanden, jeweils mit mehr als 60 Punkten.

- Understanding the essence of the questions in a short period of time.
Working in groups of candidates, supported by colleagues which have successfully passed the EQE.
- Started too late. More time for recapitulation useful.
- I need to do more exercises of claim analysis.... and have classes of technical english... it is very important to understand the wording of the Exams
- Ansprüche für Teil A (Teile 2006-2014 gemacht): es erscheint mir schwierig, den Musteranspruch zu treffen. Bei Abweichungen vom Musteranspruch sind sofort sehr viele Punkte verloren. Eine bessere Strategie, wie man Teil A angehen könnte habe ich in der gesamten Vorbereitung nicht gefunden.
Für die zeitlich verkürzten Teile B, C und D gibt es viel zu wenig Übungsmaterial, da die neuen Klausuren erst seit 2013 geschrieben werden :(

Q15) Do you have comments or suggestions for other candidates preparing for the EQE?

- Train your ability of finishing the papers on time...
- I will suggest my colleagues preparing the Pre-Exam 2016 to expect an even more difficult exam, and to start learning far earlier than it was possible for the year 2012-2014 Pre-Exam.
- DO NOT REALLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFICULTY OF THE EXAMS OF '12 -'14...
- When considering the claim analysis section of the pre-eqe, it is important to understand what the claim analysis questions mean, which is not necessarily what the wording of the questions may suggest on a literal reading of the text. For example, where a question asks 'is this statement a valid argument for inventive step' it does not appear to mean that the argument would be valid in the sense that it would persuade the EPO that there was an inventive step. Such questions appear to mean 'is the statement a relevant argument for inventive step'. Valid, in the sense of relevant, means that such an argument would have some bearing on the presence of inventive step even if the EPO might not necessarily be persuaded by the argument. It would perhaps be more appropriate if a question asked 'the following statements are NOT relevant to the determination of inventive step' - true or false.
- The Guideline is important.
- Practice a lot of claim analysis, not just from the pre-exam, but also from the A and B exams. It's very important!
- Do not forget PCT.
- Work as examiner at EPO. Practice hand writing.
- Read the entire syllabus and then focus on developing an efficient question answering style.
- Train at least 5 times with real time pressure
- time is of the essence
- study hard
- Do as many past papers as possible under exam conditions

- Be prepared for questions presented in a style which distinct from the style used in any previous exam and which require a much more in depth understanding of the EPC and surrounding case law than questions in previous papers.
- CEIPI seminars
- It is much harder than it used to be
- If you have national qualifying exams in the 6 months before the EQE, take a break after these. Otherwise, you may find you just don't have the energy or enthusiasm to make a start on EQE revision.
- The Delta patents book for paper D is well worth using. I found it invaluable, because the suggested questions mean that you will cover, in a methodical way, lots of fairly obscure points of law (that rarely, if ever, come up in practice).
Do as many past papers as you can fit in, and read all the examiner's comments and sample solutions.
I have a young family, so doing a whole paper to time is very difficult to fit in, but I did not find this to be a shortcoming my preparation for the actual exams. Time management was not such a problem as for the UK exams which require more writing, and generally also involve more procrastination, because there tend to be more issues to be decided and more need for creativity. There are more "breadcrumbs" in EQE papers than you will find in UK exams.
- Start early!
- Compendium, compendium, compendium. Practice tests were so very important.
- use CEIPI courses and Delta patent main exam D questions
- In my opinion the pre-exam of this year (2015) was much more difficult compared to the previous pre-exam.
Therefore I would suggest to future candidates to study much more and to not test their preparation based on the Mock pre-exam 2011 and pre-exam papers of 2012, 2013 and 2014 because the level of preparation requested is much higher then in the past.
- start in time but do not stress too much
- -
- Take every book/guidelines/peice of law you might need. Then add some more. Some references are better for certain questions than others, e.g. one organised by topic is quicker to look through in many cases than one organised by article, even though the total information contained within is the same.
Also, make sure you have the actual law, not just descriptions of it (e.g. the PCT guide doesn't actually include the PCT, and in some places it just references articles and rules without telling you what the rules actually say)
- learn, where you can find the answers in guidelines and appl. guide, dont learn the answers. And dont trust your knowledge, check everything again during eqe.
- Get yourself in good physical shape too!!
- start improving your writing skills several months in advance
- Practice lots. Especially C. Don't underestimate A and B. Don't over-prepare for D, as it can easily take up all of your time meaning that preparation for A, B and C suffer.
- Buy the EPÜ Tabellen Book!
- Increase awareness of different methods for Paper C.
- none
- Collate your information early and keep it up to date such that the most valid sources are being used.
- It is important to understand that the EQE does not test knowledge of the EPC or PCT. It tests extraction and processing of a large amount of information under time stress and do a lot of handwriting. I would recommend therefore NOT to invent time in studying the law, but rather use the compendium to develop strategies for each paper to optimise time management. Find out which tools to use for which paper (e.g. feature trees, matrices, mind maps, use of colours, etc). Practise transforming the information into handwriting.
- take epi's pre-eqe course and USE for next year (of course look for changes in the law); that coupled with delta patents question books is a streamline way to study and pass.

- Focus very much on the given text, try to not overread any word, hope that the questions are clear enough so that ambiguities do not arise.
- Hard to answer this question when you don't know how successful your own preparation was.
- Do as many past papers as possible
- ja, Delta-Patent-Methodik, die neuen Aufgabe unterscheiden sich von den alten erheblich, DI und II sind ohne Methodik nicht durchführbar
- For papers A, B and D, there is sufficient guidance how to pass.
For paper C, I do not see any suggestion for overcoming the unduly dominating and unfair time pressure. (see comment Q14)
- Do not focus only on previous exams and mocs. Current exam was completely different.
- Be careful who which tutorials you attend. Many people give out incorrect or even unhelpful and occasionally harmful advice.

Detailed information on how exactly the scripts are awarded marks is needed to counteract this.

Last years successful candidates are the most useful resource for this reason. Subtract 5 minutes of the allocated time when practicing past papers, because for some reason you have to use it to number your pages, rather than numbering them afterwards. Brace yourself for wave of annoyance during the exam, when you hold your hand up for more paper, it takes three minutes to come, and you only get given about three sheets. This annoyance is compounded by the fact it will happen in all of the exams, multiple times, to many of the candidates.

Finally, if you write the C-paper in the style previous candidates (and tutors) used for exams up to 2012 you will run out of time. But there is no information out there that explains how the marks scheme has changed. So no-one knows which parts of an answer can be reduced - except those who have access to those who mark the scripts.

- Learn to write quickly, you'll need it...
- Do not trust the last year's exams at all!
- It is important not to spread efforts in many (similar) materials and books. The candidate must know the chosen materials in detail to make searches easy and fast.
- Study, study, study
- Prepare as if for paper D...
- Exercise previous EQE papers available from the compendium.
- Take more time in preparing for claim analysis questions, especially focus on the facts given in the questions and answers and not letting personal knowledge interfere too much.
- simulate the exam under real timing conditions; time pressure is the biggest difficulty.
- Start earlier and discuss more with other candidates.
- develop your own technique whichever method suits for these exams
- Try for yourself each of the ABCD papers of the last 10 years "as warm up". It will be not enough to pass.

Try to summarize each typical topic (how to check a valid priority claim, whether a doc is a prior art A54(3)...) even the simple ones per one-sheet and clearly define the steps. Due to the stress, you'll forget even the most simple things...

- - Read the Guidelines
- - Don't think too much. Just try to imagine, which knowledge the examiner wants to test
- Strongly advise sitting 2 papers at a time rather than all four in one go. Did not fancy the stress of sitting 4 exams in 3 days.
- Do lots of questions to prepare for Paper D, and make sure you know the recent changes in the EPC and PCT.
- Start early with legal basics (D-Paper, always a bit, not all at ones)
practice a lot for C-Paper the last 6 months
- Make at each paper at least three times under real mock exam conditions: real time (e.g. exactly 09.30-14.30), the real pens, markers, paperclips, books you intend to use. Try and test each tool you intend to use under exam conditions.

Preparing and printing a work flow and checklist for each exam, testing it during mock

exams, refining the work flow. Thinking about how to structure your answers, how about really writing out the answers in full in English (not just shorthand as for practice questions). Having a model PSA with 10 default paragraphs, each with standard phrases.

- no
- be positive, try to find someone for support, but if not, you can also do it by yourself as long as you believe it.
- Making simulations
- Read Visser's book carefully and make as much exercises as possible (L book from Delta Patents as well as all known pre-exams and mocks). If possible, get engaged in any specialized preparation course. CEIPI is great and, I believe, Delta Patents too.
- Do a lot of exams.
- Pre-eqe course, mock examns, and studying/training with other candidates is essential
- Start preparing well in advance.
- more exercise with legal and claim analysis questions
- better start early and have not much to do in Feb than start late and be freaking out a week before exams;
it's essential to actually write down the answers to the papers (especially applies for C which is a lot of writing and unless one tries many times, one doesn't have any idea how long it really takes and how to shorten writing as much as possible);
do not use old A papers for training, they are worse than useless, it can spoil your good habits;
try to do some old D papers because it's a nice way to learn old but still somewhat relevant law (stuff from EPC '73 in particular);
you must not let the courses demotivate you - the tutors in the courses are trying to make you work hard by scaring the hell out of you, but this doesn't work for everyone, so if you get the feeling that it's actually impossible to pass and that it's not even worth trying, stop listening to them and don't let this overcome you
- Yes, develop lists of actions that need to be taken to accomplish something. If you simply answer the explicit question without listing everything you do, even the most obvious detail, and or that has soem relevance you cannot get many marks.
- Don't forget the PCT!
- Do not underestimate the time needed for preparing the relevant documents (up-to-date EPC, OJ, lists of Contracting States of the EPC and PCT, etc.)
- None.
- For paper C: practice, practice, practice old papers. Novelty and inventive step haven't changed (much). Read the guidelines, make your own notes for quick access during the exam, check the examiner's answers and think about how and why the answers are presented the way they are. And read the case law book from cover to cover. It really helps. Regarding time management, plan carefully. Painting documents may help you think, but won't get you points. Same goes for feature tables. Remember the key issues that are always present: at least one novelty attack, probably one 123(2) issue, there will be loss of priority for one reason or another, and, when it comes to selecting the cpa, use the document that addresses the same type of thing (object, method, whatever). Look at the difference, find the effect in A1, look for the same thing in the annexes, the one that solves the same problem is you combination document.
Follow the answer structure given in the examiner's answers from previous years.
- Prepare much earlier for the Pre-EQE, including practice of EQE D-paper questions in anticipation of another marked step-up in difficulty.
- Solve previous papers and identify your weaknesses
Then train these issues
- for A, B and C - doing 8-9 earlier papers, having a feedback after every solved paper from a person who already passed or from examiner's report
for D studying EPC and PCT for at least 3-4 months - doing DeltaPatent questions and 'daily questions'
for not native speakers writinig in English it is worth having templates or favorite candidate's

answer from previous years

- Not minimizing the challenge
- If the format of the pre-EQE exam will follow that of the 2015 paper from now on - then future candidates should not rely on the amount of time it takes to complete, and the difficulty level, of the previous pre-EQE exam papers since these were considerably easier and took less time to complete than the 2015 paper.
I do not feel that the previous pre-EQE exams were on the same level of difficulty as the 2015 paper, and considering that the pass mark has now increased to 70, candidates should be aware of this increase in difficulty.
- Find a way to learn subject matter, do many questions if this help you study. Make mock exam to identify your weaknesses. Find way to speed up your drafting of answers like shortlists "lathundar" in Swedish. Try to understand what is expected by reading compendium model solution, or other good composed answers. Make shortlist of most likely case law to cite on exam, just with short phrase of key teaching - you do not have time to read anything longer than one line if you are searching a list. Learn how to use index and contents lists. Learn and work with the books/material you bring to exam, do not bring anything you are not familiar with, you do not have time to familiarise during exam!
- I don't think it's worth spending lots of money on extra books and courses, the guidelines and examiners' reports are great.
- to study hard, at least one year prior examination
- Take time off
- Study hard and hope that the one preparing the exam is not out of his mind as it was the case in 2015
- Not yet. If necessary, may try to join a course next time round.
- Courses from institute may be fine but don't forget that the candidate is alone in front of a blank paper and only the personal preparations are essential. Paying courses is not a guarantee of success...
- In depth understanding of how papers are marked is key
- Good luck, it is like a game!
- Do as many past papers as possible, then read the Examiners Comments and the Candidates Answers and type out a model answer and create a matrix of topics, themes, issues etc.
- Get to grips with a good study guide early e.g. Visser. Make sure you try to read it completely and in depth so you have come across the main issues and know where to find them in the exam.
- Do ALL previous papers under exam conditions, do not just analyze them.
- Start early enough with preparation
- Stop working and start intensive direct preparation for papers before Christmas. For every paper, do at least 4-5 prior years papers under real examination conditions, in particular with A and B paper within the same day for one or two times.
- I recommend to start with time enough to read all the legal basis that apply to the paper you are going to take and also practice several past papers in real time, which is very important to get experience with the specific form of the exam and to manage the time you will have in it
- When making a mock exam, write the answers down in detail by hand.
- start early enough, > 2 years
- Learn to write fast, paper C appears to be cramming more and more information and claims to attack into a shorter time.
- Study a lot.
- Practise a lot.
- It is more important to learn how to find information in a fast and efficient way than knowing the information itself by heart.
- A lot of work, not only in internship but also by yourself.
- Prepare by making many different questions more than by reading annotated law books.

- start working on A, B and C sufficiently in advance, six months before is perfect and to work following the order of the exams
that gives automatisms which are key of success specially for C paper
and to finish with D that is time consuming
It is difficult to organise its preparation when starting with D that never end really
- To begin soon enough the preparation and concentrate the intensive work in the last 3 months
- Do early exams, do not Forget to study the PCT and the viedo online course ist pretty good.
- Practise and more practise
- First work on
1st Basics using common specific literature
2sd Applicant Guidelines
3rd Guidelines for Examination / Note open questions -> they will be answered by the other parts
During doing that - create your personal mindmap
If you just have an stranger mindmap try to reflect every note of it
If you feel ready try your first compendium to check your speed
- do not trust the the degree of difficulty of previous pre-examinations
- Trouver le temps pour faire et refaire les différentes épreuves.
- Learn the concepts required to pass d1; apply them in d2; and as it seems for c2015
- Just learn the techniques for passing the exams, knowledge is less important than knowing how to structure the answer
- Get a flu vaccine in advance. It is extremely bitte to prepare so much and go down because of a "simple" flu
- Start early and train speed in anawering
- see Q12)
- No
- Do as many of the earlier exams under examining conditions as possible.
- Try to be ready for the Exam by January
- Take your time for preparing
- start well in advance!
- Exercise, excercise, excercise. Be prepared to the max as the exam is extremely tough to pass under the given exam conditions.
- Prepare early. Prepare strategically, especially for Paper C
- Try to find as much free time as possible and learn.
- Practice as many papers as possible under examination conditions -practice speed reading & writing (in a legible manner). Make sure to go through the correct model answers in the compendium.
Lack of time and exhaustion settling in already after the first day of the examination are the toughest aspects.
Rest well the last few days before the examination - I stopped training the Friday before the exam and spent the weekend organising everything and making sure all the material for paper D was well organised. On Monday I started getting nervous not practicing any exam, but I found it useful to simply read and revise some aspects of the EPC and PCT which I felt I had doubts on my understanding.
- If you decide to go for it, then go for it 100%. And start early enough.
- no
- use all the mock exams and especially the compendium to get a feeling how long you need for each part
- Practicing on past exams in real conditions is essential.
- Exam has got harder so start preparing earlier.
- Study the guides an guidelines, know what can be found where, and know that all answers are in there
Use a reference book like Visser or Hoekstra

- Practice all available pre-examinations from previous years
- Time management is key. During examination time goes by very quickly. Speed should be practiced.
- start at least 6 months with intensive preparation with previous exams
- Practise
- It takes more time to prepare than you are prepared for.
- Do as many past papers under time control as possible.
- I think it is very useful to study with other candidates, to focus on preparing the exams from other years, and see the comments on the solutions from the past exams.
- Avoid Birmingham.
- It is important to sleep well the days before the exam. The exam requires full attention and focus!
- Do lots of past papers. Don't rely on Visser.
- Start preparation at least four months in advance and leave time for four or five past papers
- See Q14
- Start early, but the last weeks are the most important. Make sure you know the methodology. Make own methodology schemes.
- Suggestion for the Organization: split the four Papers on 4 days instead of three.
- Start early.
- For parts A and B: Just do some old papers and discuss them together with other candidates.
- RealTime exams.
Stick to the plan.
Try to "think" like the EPO wants you to think...
- An appropriate claim 1 for paper A could be shorter than in this year.
- Take time to prepare, try to sleep well one week before the exam.
- Sitting examination when having less experience as an examiner.
Redoing Compendium Past Papers.
- Work and work
- reduce effort - read a good book to learn how to interpret unclear questions
- Critical study of the examiner reports and solutions (now available on the EPO website) are really helpful and of course CEIPI courses when you start for the first time to try EQEs.
- see Q14
- Prepare for the Pre-exam on an EQE D level. This will make preparing for the "real" EQE considerably easier.
- Start in time
- Study hard. Speed up your answering and be aware of what gives points and what does not.
- Take the pre-exam serious. It is getting more and more difficult.
- > Start early (with pre-exam), potentially in early autumn before the exam. Preparation focus: D: 80%, C: 15%, A+B: each 5%.
 - > Spend a lot of time to do D1-questions using model-solutions, and update your references along the way. This way you'll get to know your reference materials.
 - > Attend a course to learn how to obtain marks in D-II, since the compendium only gives you a possible example without indicating marking distribution
 - > Start writing your first papers by beginning of November, to get an idea of whats coming. Always make the papers under time-pressure (you should get used to it). Compare your results with the compendium, and try to learn your lessons from any mistake. Try to find your personal time-management for each paper.
 - > Sometime in January/February, make a mock-exam by doing all 4 papers in three days, just as in the exam. Thus you'll get an idea of whats expected.
 - > Come to the exam relaxed. Stop learning several days before, and have a relaxing weekend just before the exam.
 - >
- I feel it is preferable to sit only two Exams and not the full four Exams at once. It is very hard

to prepare all the topics in your free time if your company does not give you extra free time for preparation.

- Use Delta's training
- Besides knowledge of EPC and other documentation it is important to learn how to find the answers using the documentation one chose. Therefore it is important Train using the documetation and adapting the way of searching for the asked Information.
- Find your own way and make a plan for how you should study.
- Be calm
- especially C-course: Don't use CEIPI-method - too much wasted time; concentrate on getting fast in analysis, the difficulty in C is time pressure, more than ever
- Lack of time must be taken into account. It affects how detailed answers you can made in practice.
- To understand EPC, keep up with changes, don't over think, manage your time and DO claim analysis exercises
- Take enough time for the preparation.
- Keep in mind that the pre-exam is getting more demanding year by year and that there can be unexpected differences compared to previous examination papers, e.g. Claim Analysis was structured differently claim set for 4 questions instead of one claim per question.
- Yes is more harder as it seams. And one can have some surprises in the exam, even with hard work
- It is a good idea to make it in two parts, since this three days are really mentally and physically challenging.
- I would also practise doing D exams since the level of the pre-exam is increasing year by year.
- For D paper: Read through the guidelines and anotate your own copy of the EPC.
For A paper: Practice old papers and revise concepts like unity of invention, ranges and clarity.
- Make sure to do enough D questions. A few weeks before the D exam: Look up things you know are your weaknesses and read and mark them in your Annotated EPC.
- Use Hoekstra's book for Paper D.
- for A, B: try to get as diverse work experience as possible
- Start early :)
Do at least 4 previous exams for each paper
Try to write down as much as possible, also and even more "easy" things, like the priority is claimed validly due to same applicant, same invention, within 12 m (A. 87) or the meeting between person A and B was no problem as a NDA was signed...
It is easy to focus on the difficult issues too much and miss all those "easy marks"
- Start early, look for training partners that are at least of your level preperably above your level.
- Start early. It take a lot of time to get your book prepared with your additional marks, updates, and to make index keys a the site to have quick access.
- See to that you practice the exams under real conditions within 5 hours.
- Don't trust that the level of the exam will be the same as last year.
- Time: do not under-estimate the preparation for the claim analysis part and do not focus only on the legal part
- start early enough preparing your own commented epc
- Be prepared for the exams being more challenging than the previous ones in the compendium. Even if you do well with the older exams that doesn't prove anything. Practice as much as you can.
- small study group is important as well as old exams
- Understanding the invention and the principles which make it novel and inventive are very important (problem-solution).
These help in finding the essential features and features needed to make the invention functional (in order to work).

However, this alone is not enough, since the exam is done under a time limit - therefore awareness of time allocated for each part of the answer should be well controlled. Don't strive for perfection; instead make the best out within the time you have. This depends on the paper and your grasping of the invention/idea in the paper.

- Study Visser, integrate it with references to exercises having specific answers to some recurrent questions in order to get immediately a trace of the answer: this is useful to save time.
Try to answer at least 6-8 papers for each type (A/B/C/D) simulating an exam session.
- Try to get work free days with pay for real time practising of earlier exams
- Prepare a good study guide and a good strategy to minimize time for thinking during the exam.
- Start your preparation with at least one year in advance and be very organized and serious about your preparation. It's a very hard exam and you have to be well prepared.
- Study by themes and related exam questions or similar questions.
Do several old examinations in real time.
Learn with someone, doing the same questions and discussing answers and errors.
Have up to date materials
- Prepare legal part as for passing D. Do not waste time in claim drafting because too many questions are unclear and subjected to different interpretations... fiber... paper and wood... are similar or not? It is important... but it muse... True or False is too reductive. Questionable questions. It is absurd. It is useless to prepare yourself in advance: it is a waste of time.
Prepare only the legal part.
- Take your time. don't push it to the last day.
- Train with real exams
- Knowledge without methodology has very limited use
EQE examination scores the papers in a very modular fashion, a normal candidate may not find some things important or even find them inherently disclosed but not mentioning them will cost a lot of marks...
- Don't believe all the people trying to make you panic, telling you how difficult everything is.
- To prepare more than anticipated for the pre-exam as the difficulty of the questions is (constantly) raising.
- Start continuous preparation of DI questions shortly after Pre-exam by use of Delta Patent's DI question book, or by answering Daily DI questions from the European Patent Academy
- If I were to start anew, I would begin with the EPO Guidelines (albeit, skip the boring parts of Part A before you fall asleep) and try to insert references to Art./R./Decisions in the margin, i.e. look up "why?" for each information in the Guidelines. The "ancient" method, working/commenting from the plain EPC itself is outdated and leads to hopelessly incomplete results nowadays IMO ;-)
And then there is still the PCT ... basically read it a few times to get to terms what is and what is not in there (especially the Implementing Regulations)
- For paper D: Learning by heart the Articles, Rules of the EPC and the headnotes of the G-decisions. By this I mean not to memorize word for word but to know what each Article, Rule and G-decision stands for. Also useful is to peruse or to read the guidelines of examination and to note down next to each Article, Rule and G-decision the relevant part in the Guidelines where this Article, Rule and G-decision is discussed (this should be done after having learnt what each A, R and G-decision stands for).
When answering each question of the D-paper always state the obvious. This is hard to do, especially when you are well prepared, because one automatically just assumes that the answer is obvious. Also, when a question requires a yes/no or maybe answer, well, write it down and always provide the legal basis. Last but not least practice a lot of D-questions. The Delta patents D-question book is particularly useful. Also, the legal basis for each question should be in the order of importance: Article, Rule, Decision by the president and the administrative council (see official journals), G-decisions (and other jurisprudence) and, on the last place, guidelines of examination. There are quite a number of good books out there for this exam (by Delta patents, by Visser (annotated EPC) and by other authors from

CEIPI). Buy at least one of them.

- Do not give up, sweat and hard work are important factors. Eat healthy, try to go outside every day and keep your body fit as well.
- Time management is important, the style of papers are more complicated each year.
- The earlier the better
- Don't look at the clock in C-exam. It is of no use and just confusing. Go as far as you can.
- Manage time.
- Follow your own best practice, but start earlier than you think you have to.
- Start your preparations in good time, use your colleagues to look at old exams that you do.
- keep on study during daily time.
- make a good plan for writing old exams and stick to this plan, you will need several weekends for this;
start early - at least one year before, you will need that time;
discuss questions with colleagues as early as possible
- Practice writing with had. Do all previous 5 years' question papers in recommended time under simulated examination conditions.
- Know novelty, inventive step, and date calculations extremely well. Look up the rest since you have adequate time if you know these three items.
- doing more than just 3 past papers for B and more than 100 questions for training for D1 paper
- Start early. Talk to experienced people concerning claim analysis.
- Start early enough. Keep few days at the end of preparation for DI questions which require memorizing a lot of things
- Start well ahead, which has two advantages:
 - 1) You have enough time to dedicate to specific topics, to understand them into depth
 - 2) you do not risk to end up spending all your time for work and study and not having time for your family
- Start studying really early.
- Use enough time to prepare yourself
- Plan plenty of time for Personal study time, preparation of material/books to take to the exam and sitting mock-exams with that material. Talk to your fellow students(organize in small group), and talk to your supervisor on a regular basis.
- Don't disperse on too many books/references. Start to study early, it's a lot to study.
- to exercise with as many as previous papers of the compendium as they can
- Perform a ritual sacrifice the night before the exam.
- Sell your soul to Mephistopheles in exchange for foresight as to the Examiner's intentions. Hope that Paper C is not insane!
- The preparation performing all available and previous exams would have been adequate for the previous year pre-EQE exams (until 2014).
For this year it would have been necessary to prepare more intensively and to use a commented EPC-book, such as Visser.
- structure the reading of the questions for facilitating the understanding. We are clever enough and mostly enough prepared for the pre-exam for knowing the solution. The problem lies in what is asked and in the way it is formulated, which is often not the way we are used to and we are confronted to at work. This leads to misunderstanding of the question.
My suggestion to the EPO is to set an exam which doesn't leave any space for double interpretation of a word/formulation of a phrase/notions, especially when it deals with an exam which doesn't give the opportunity to the candidate to give comments on his understanding and way of reflecting. True/False exams must be clear enough that it leaves no doubts about the interpretation of a question and its scope. Not doing so is putting the candidate in a unfair situation and making him face traps because he, as non expert in the field but only of an average knowledge of it, needs to take a decision about the meaning of a wording. It would be very helpful if the EPO could keep in mind that we are not experts in all possible fields of technology and then give definitions of the features, especially when they

are of high relevance for determining the answer to a question.

- Do the past papers under time pressure and write complete answers.
- Start in time, practice as many DI questions as you can and do as many trial exams under exam conditions as you can.
- Start rather early with practising old exams. A) it teaches you where you do not quite know the legal details in depth and B) it shows you best which method works for YOU!
- As many different cases you see much better. Do many exams and questions.
- Most important suggestion is start early and finish studying at least one month before the exam.
Train on a lot of past papers.
Use always the same book and constantly update it.
- Fast processing of data and fast writing became key to successful passing paper C after years 2012 and 2013.
- Read and methodology book in addition to making previous papers
- Be wary that the examination hall might be very cold and noisy. Take extra layers and even consider using ear plugs to block out the loud noise of the air conditioning.
- epi-reports in december of each year AND good luck
- start preparing early to have enough time for learning and practising
- Leave any specific knowledge at home. Learn how to read the paper without any own technical interpretation and what you are expected to answer and what not.
- Fine method to stay within strict times of the exams
- start practising as soon as you can
- Don't panic!
- Never underestimate the extent of study matter.
- The above, try to take an A-exam and a B-exam in the same day, do a D-exam followed by another D-exam, etc.
- 1. Prepare yourself for a pre-EQE which is more difficult or requires more time than for the exams of previous years.
2. Excercise under time pressure, even if you think there is sufficient time.
3. Make preparation sheets to reduce loss of time during the exam
- Follow the tutors advice, do not study to learn the profession, study to pass the exam. I think that is completley wrong, but that is the way to pass the exams.
- train to complete paper B within the time limit of 3 hours
- Take pre-prepared templates for timelines and tables into Papers C and D. This really helped to organise the information given.
Read the Examiner's Reports thoroughly since they tell you how to get the marks.
- Do exams from previous years in real time conditions.
And do write the full answers as if you were in the exam to get practice on how you want to explain your way of thinking.
- Start your preparation early (> 12 months) and tackle EPC/PCT topics in small amounts but often (daily). In other words, 25 minutes of daily EPC revision is much easier than 2 hrs on the weekend. Always try relate these learnings to your day job to make them more memorable.
- Start early and follow a dedicated course.
- Start early.
- study!
- See Q14
- Work hard. I also think that personnal preparation is very important... and specialised courses are very usefull because the teach you how to make this personal preparation efficient.
- Read the Examiner's comments CAREFULLY in the mark schemes, and apply what they tell you to your answer.
- The preparation books I used were very useful. I would recommend all of them
- D: Study English! It's not firstly a knowledge test but how to express yourself quickly in

English. It can also differ 20-30 points depending on which marker you get...so you need luck.

For D 2014 I studied with a colleague, we experienced that we had the same knowledge level....and we had the "same" answers on all questions but 2 (1 in favour of him and one in favour of me).... 27 points in difference chocked me. His answers is though clearer but stil.....we could only map one question (on DI) were we had identical answers and it differed 2 points. I did not complain about the 42p result but focused on the language aspects despite being rather bitter. Hopefully it was better this year.

C: A lot of practise so you quick can realize which document/s to use.

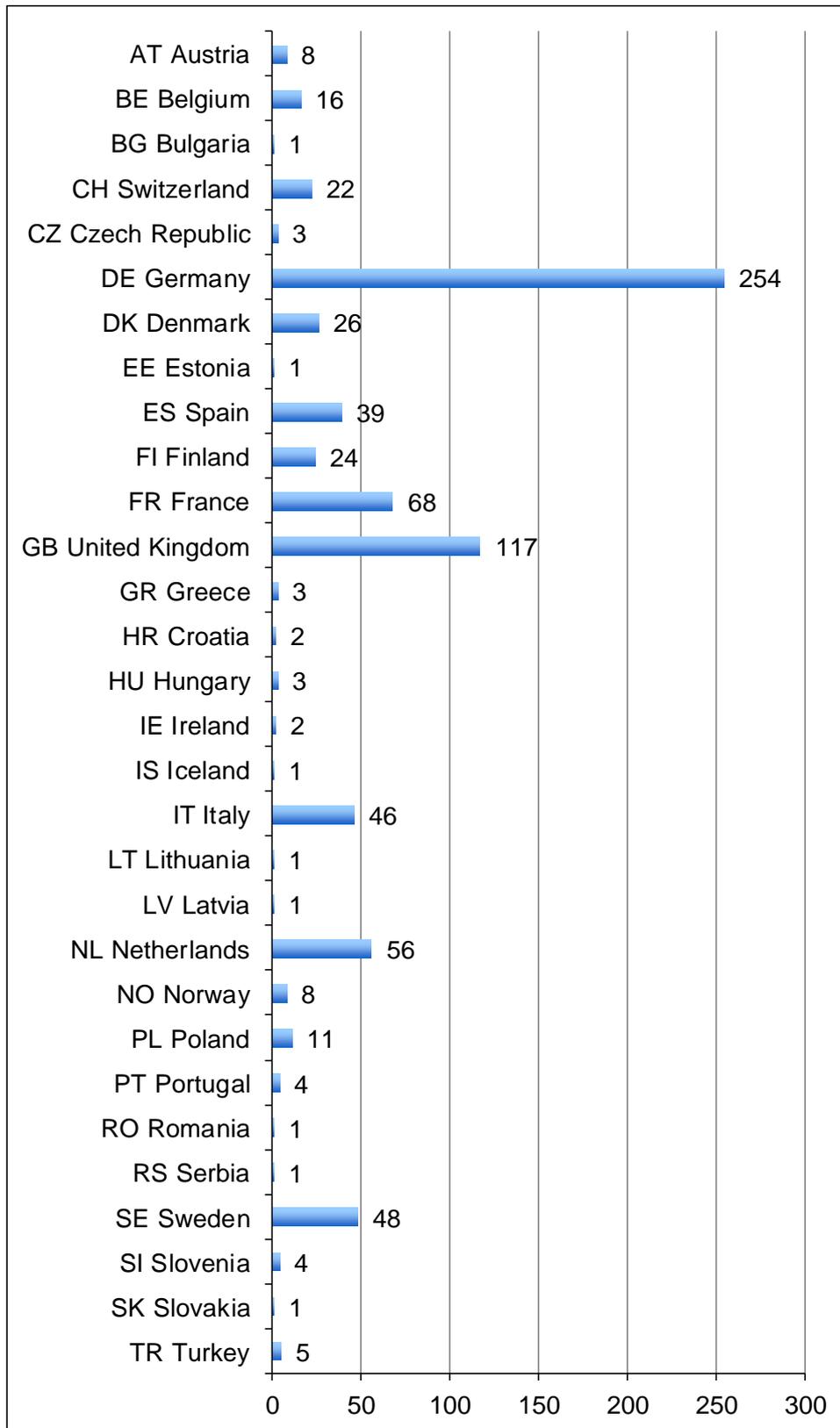
- It is difficult to know how to count the points when we do mock exams.
It is difficult to prepare us to do the papers in real time for B and C particularly because we do not have so much paper in new form
- The Pre-Exam is evolving. I would look at Paper D questions as well as the past papers for guidance.
- Study compendium and ask for advice from previous EQE passers.
- C-Teile unter "Prüfungsbedingungen" üben.
- Learn and practise at the same time and look carefully the replies in the compendium
- Start early, try to find a study group. Become extremely familiar with your references and books and try to annotate your EPC2000 in addition to the commented EPC books. Try to use as many different ways of learning as possible, for exampl use available internet online courses or video tutorials (wish there would be more possibilities like that for example from epi / CEIPI or others).
Try to calm down before the exam and try to filter out all stressful distractions during the exam. Relax after exam and try not to learn on the day when you already wrote one paper.
- Study old papers as much as possible under time pressure.
- Rencontrer des candidats ayant passer l'EQE très récemment afin d'obtenir des méthodes de préparation et les méthodes à utiliser pour les épreuves de l'EQE
- focus on time management and ways how to work faster during the C exam paper
- Start studying early
- To expect anything from the EQE Secretariat even elements which candidates were not suppose to know
- Take Delta Patents courses
- If you feel that you do not have enough time to prepare (because of family or because of the work), postpone D which requires the most preparation.
If you feel that you may be lucky, try all the four paper at once.
The preparation courses are of a great help. Being out of the office just to prepare the exam is also a good point.
- Do plenty of practice papers from the Compendium on the EPO website
- Be realistic about how much time you can set aside for exam preparation and then choose the number of papers you sit accordingly.
- Make a time plan for the preparation and leave yourself enough days for "Mock EQEs" under real examination conditions.
Let another candidate try to mark your solution using the examiners' report in the compendium.
- Take the day prior to the first exam off.
- Don't focus only on mock-up exam, but be aware of the entire PCT en EPC content
- You need time and courage
- Practice Paper C in proper timed conditions as it is difficult to manage time effectively.
- Being fresh and rest these days is as essential as spending 6 months studying.
Study teams may be very beneficialous.
Do not be afraid nor obsessed! Is just an exam!
Pay attention to the compendium.
- - don't have young children and build a house - EQE is not allowing excuses/ exceptions
- - be fit E/Feb. inspite of influenza wave
- Practise writing by hand a lot.

- Make sure you practice the mock exams under timed conditions with the written documents / books rather than looking up on computer.
- The time is running faster under Exam conditions compared to the time when making the same paper at home.
- Start reading the material early. Make drawings of timelines. Solve questions/problems, e.g. from Delta Patents. Repeat.
- Learn a lot and start early!
- Do the mockups with realistic surroundings - a small table, only the papers / book with you plan to bring to the EQE
- Spread A and B over two subsequent years.
- Learn more than one method.
- The use of an annotated EPC is really helpful, not only because of the references to the guidelines or the Case Law, but also because the law is explained clearly. I suggest to start reading one annotated EPC from the beginning of the supervised training.
- Learn hard. Do lots of past papers. Study the texts. Try and maintain a life.
- improve your handwriting; time management
- Start with EQE preparation earlier. Practise, Practise and Practise!
- -Practising questions, many questions
 - Invest in a course - it is worth the Money taking into account the time you will spent in practising the questions
- Think how early you would like to start studying and then start 6 months earlier.
- Start in good time
 - Look at previous exams early to understand the type and level of the exam
- Bring earplugs
- Start preparing early enough!
- Keep practicing and target 100 to have a chance to reach 70 !
- Practice past papers to time.
- Do not rely on the pre-exams in the years 2012-2014. The degree of difficulty was greatly increased in the year 2015!!!
- Train old exams from the compendium in full under time pressure.
- maybe it is a suicide Mission (especially for the C part)
- Practice under exam conditions.
- The Pre-Exam's are still in development, because they are only recently introduced. Don't focus too much on the previous exams, as they are not a good indication yet for what you can expect.
- Start early, at least 6 M in advance. Difficulty of the questions PreExam 2012-2014 should not be the benchmark for preparation.
- Training in real exam conditions
- not really, just stay calm and try to use logic to make an educated guess if you can't find the answer. Don't go overboard on the supports you bring. Better to be calm and thoughtful than well equipped but stressed out.
- Prepare well in advance get in touch with other students
- Paper C has changed so much over the last few years that, in hindsight, I think the compendium has become less useful because past papers did not prepare me for the 2015 Paper C. Techniques and strategies which had worked for past papers did not work for the 2015 Paper C and I ran out of time.
- In paper C it seems that no matter how hard you study or if you practice a lot of exams, if you have an unfair exam.... it is really bad luck.
- Für den Teil D könnte ich nur Rat geben, wenn ich Teil D bestanden habe und auch weiß warum ich bestanden habe. Für Teil C habe ich eine neue Methode zum Management des Prüfungsteils C entwickelt, so dass ich in 2012 mit 68 Punkten als fünftbester des Jahrgangs 2012 bestanden habe.
- get-together
- Find something to motivate yourself for the time of studying.

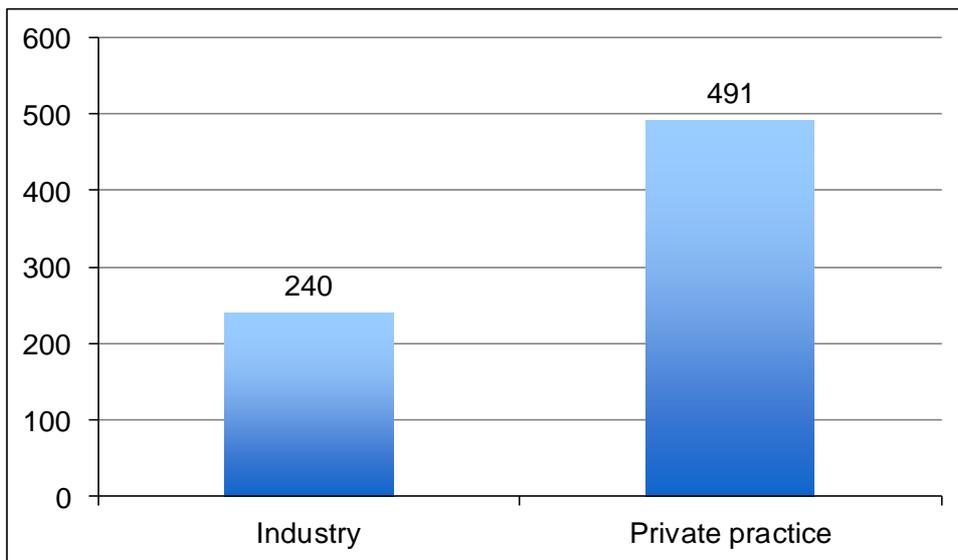
- Rechtzeitig beginnen, Fokus auf Teil D (ca. 75-85% der Lernzeit). Unter realen Zeitbedingungen die Aufgaben schreiben.

Chapter 3 - Training/Employment under Article 11(2)(a) REE

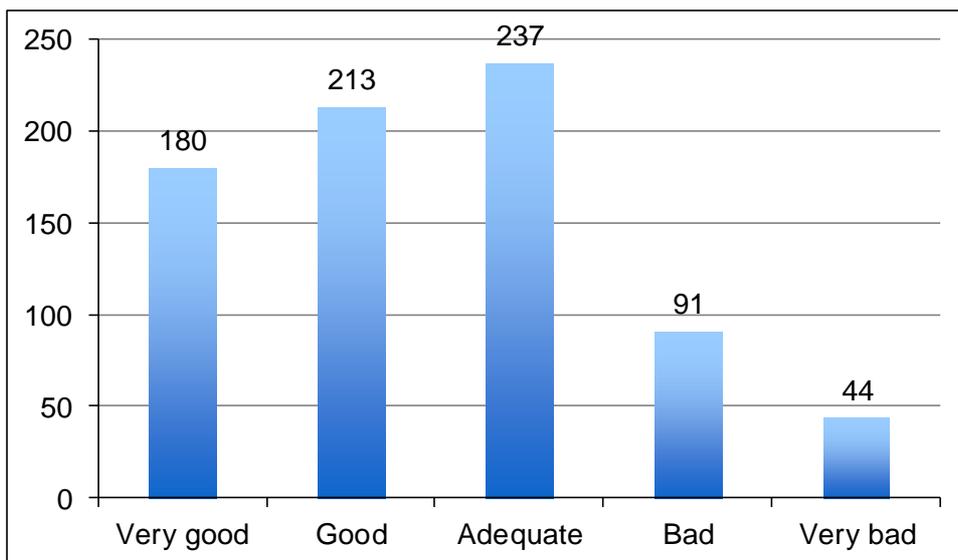
Q16) In which EPC member state did you complete most of your training according to Art. 11(2)(a) REE?



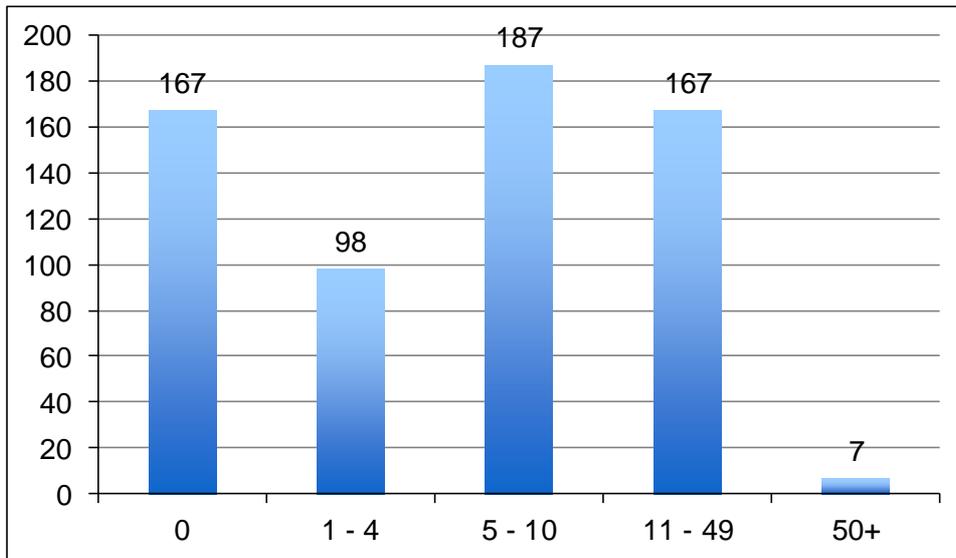
Q17) I completed most of the training (Art 11(2)(a) REE) in private practice / industry



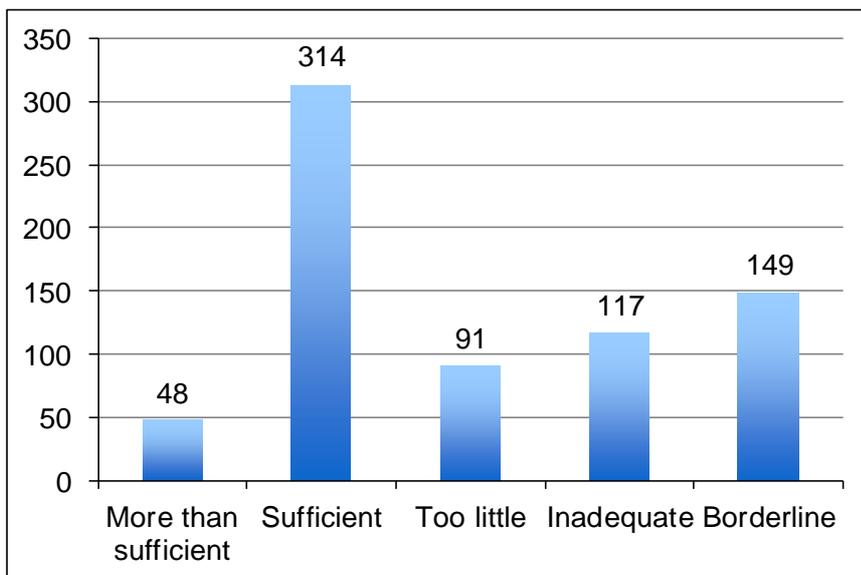
Q18) How would you rate the support of your employer in view of your preparation for the EQE?



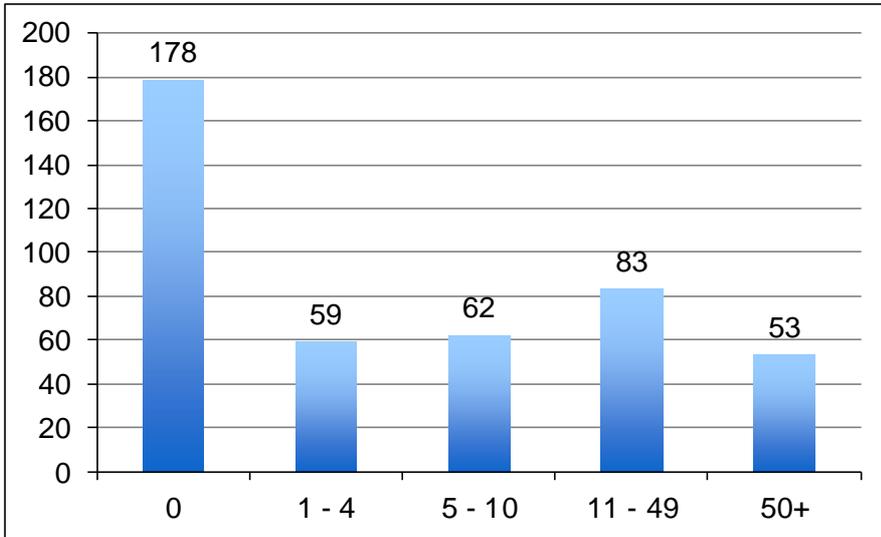
Q19) How much time did your employer allow for attending courses for your preparation for the EQE?



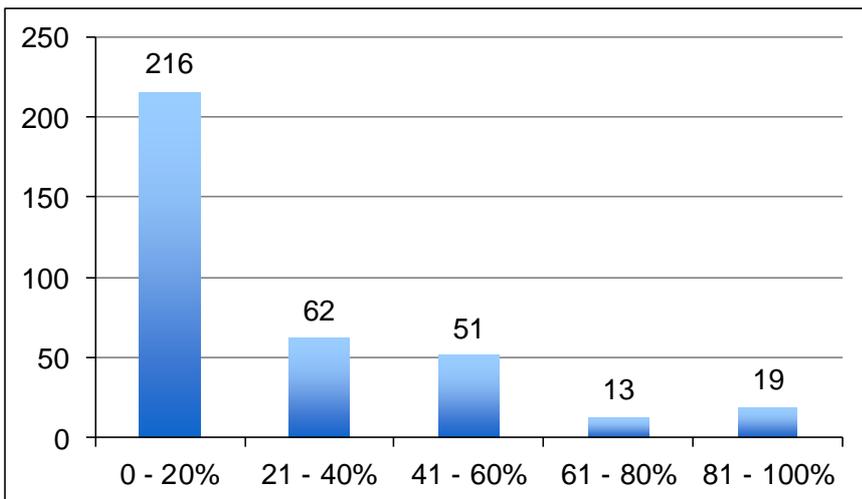
Q20) How would you rate the amount of time allowed by your employer for participation in courses?



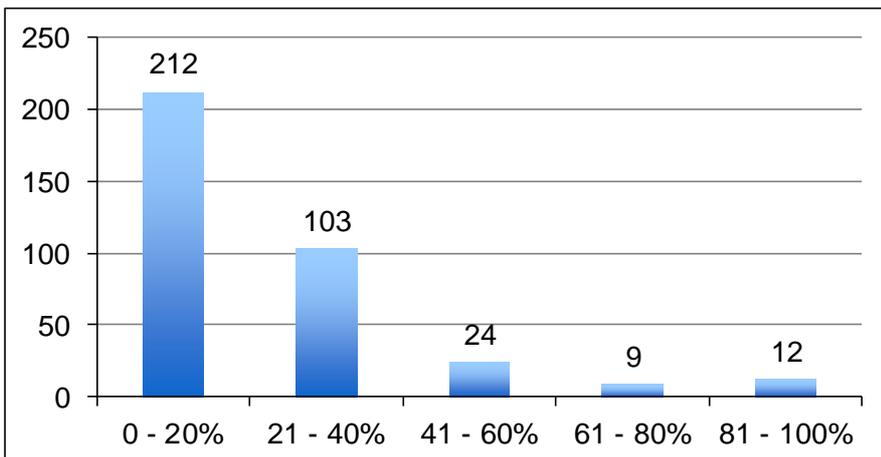
Q21a) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 11(2)(a) REE (i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)?



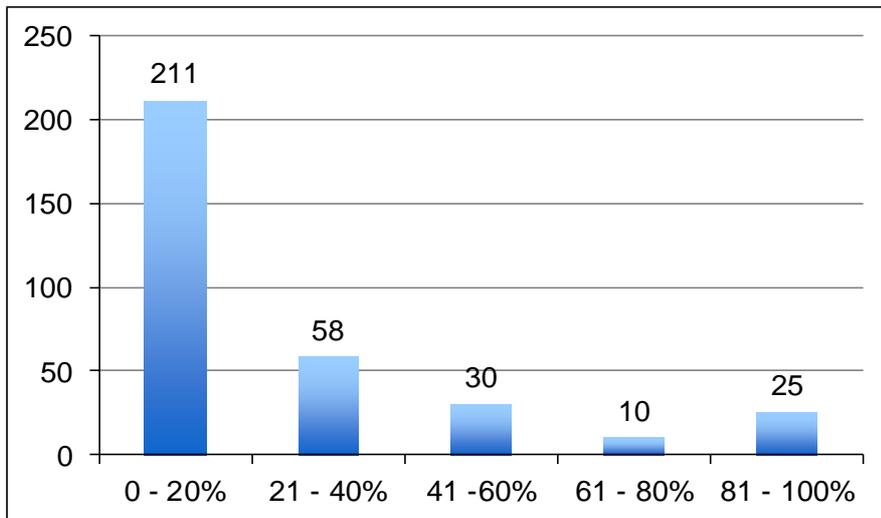
Q21b) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the first year of training?



Q21c) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the second year of training?



Q21d) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the third year of training?



Q22) What would you suggest to supervisors in order to improve candidates' preparation for the EQE?

- -
- Should be informed of responsibilities by EQE/EPO authority.
- allow to attend more real cases (oppositions, oral proceedings....)
- As I have only sat the pre-examination I have little to add here.
- Don't be too worried about paper C if you haven't done much opposition work. Once you have your head around arguing against inventive step rather than for it, the rest of paper C is about exam technique.
- Allow time for studying during office hours
- I honestly have no idea about the number of working days.
- allow more time
- A supervisor could consider to suggest to a trainee to use few of the working hours reading the guidelines and working together with the formality officers.
- -
- (this is coming from a large company, where the training is centralised) leave it to the other fee earners who are better at teaching!
- mention earlier the importance of guidelines and appl. guide. Force to read them and use them as legal basis.
- ... daily work should provide enough possibilities for discussion and study
- Perhaps more emphasis on the formulaic approach to problem-solution.
- More learning without any relation to cases in order to prepare for any topic even when it may be a not so important topic in everyday practice.
- Show how to do the work of an attorney in practice.
- Discuss practice papers
- There is not much to do for supervisors. One has to learn the topics by oneself
- Ganzjahreskurse, Aufgabentraining unter Prüfungsbedingungen, Prüfungsschemata, mehr Methodik
- Act on the EQE committee to reduce absurd time pressure in paper C.
- to select better the courses at the right time period
- Under the UK system much of the training above was for the UK exams, much of which is relevant for EQEs. I received minimal EQE training for the exams themselves, but lots of training regarding general patent practice.

- Participate actively with epi
- small learning Group is better than one to one discussion.
- Reduce their workload and give them more study leave.
- Give trainees time to study and let them prioritise studying for the EQEs over doing more billable hours at work.
- More free time, offer some training
- Allow contact with different cases, different situations so that the candidate can gather varied experience.
- discuss with people and answer their questions even if the topic seems irrelevant for the exams (too deep, too national-law-related, too background etc.) - getting the bigger picture always helps;
stop telling people that EQE is easy, especially if you've taken the exams 10+ years ago, because 1/ you have forgotten everything and 2/ it has changed a lot anyway;
be prepared that it will take your time and that you will have to explain stuff to the people, and then really do it, without using excuses that you have no time
- Provide free time to study
- I'm not sure how much dedicated training is needed. I got plenty of training on day-to-day tasks which I found very helpful for the exam. e.g. training on preparing responses and considering novelty, inventive step, clarity etc. was very useful for the claim analysis part of the pre-exam.
- Regular meetings doing questions and old exams together.
- there is no knowledge in our country among employers how much work is needed to prepare for the EQE - it is not possible to work as much as normally at the office and to study after work.
- Be interested, be generous with your own experience, ask pertinent questions about the preparations
- Specific national courses.
- some of the above or following questions do not apply as I am an EPO employee. i didn't have any supervisor at all.
- To give more courses or preparatory seminars within the company
- In private practice you tend to learn by doing the job or attending courses. Supervisors tend to focus on business needs...
- My supervisor provided me with instructions and explanations ONLY related to the cases I was entrusted with. I would suggest to the supervisors to take less candidates, to provide feedback on the work performed by the candidates, to challenge the candidates with questions and tasks, and to stay up-dated with the changes implemented to the EPC and PCT.
- My training period was already some years ago. I answered these questions (Q 18-22) in a previous survey but don't know the exact answers now.
- to start working on A, B and C sufficiently in advance, six months before is perfect and to work following the order of the exams
that gives automatisms which are key of success specially for C paper
and to finish with D that is time consuming
It is difficult to organise its preparation when starting with D that never end really
- Marks indication
- Time off; less case load to understand the law
- Try not to overload your employee with work, like my employer did. One needs to have physical and mental "space" to study.
- Helpful
- grant a fully paid educational leave
- Allow more time off for private book study. Taking holiday leave in order to study can be demotivating.
- Not only allow studying for the exam during own time, i.e. provide extra holiday at least the week before the exam and for the exam it self.

- Provide trainees with a wide variety of work that covers all aspects of the EQE
- I cannot say anything about working days for the EQE since I did not note any of those. Further, I have no longer been employed at my supervisor during the Pre-Exam, since I have been at the 8-month training with the German Patent and Trademark Office. They did not even offer a day off for EQE candidates. Instead I had to take my vacation for the exam.
- Let them more create time during working days before the exam to work for EQE
- training on a regular basis
- If an external dedicated EQE course is possible, that is to be preferred. On the job training can then focus on practical skills in drafting and prosecution, not on EQE specifically
- encourage them for doing mock exams
- Being interested in educating the candidate. During my education I was nothing than cheap labor.
- I would rather recommend to support candidates in their study, for example by really assessing their degree of preparation, help them with their doubts, pay for them an specialized course for preparing the EQE, leave them some free working days so as they can prepare the Exam properly, etc.
- Take an active interest in the preparation of your trainees
- - allow for additional unpaid vacation to do intensive preparation at least several weeks/ one Month before the main exams in addition to previous preparation
- Pay more money.
- Most of these questions are no relevant, as I am Examiner at the EPO.
- motivating the studying
- Enable to work at least one day per week on the EQE, 1 year before the exam
Enable to receive time during work to increase the level, 3 months before the exam
- Spend more time with them
- Tackling past papers together. Discussing guidelines.
- Provide day-to-day examples which require application of the EPC.
- More dedication
- Allow enough time for studying
- It is hard to prepare the papers only in my free time. It would be helpful if my company would at least allow the CEIPI prep and preparatory courses as working time.
- Training from supervisor was excellent, no improvements seen.
- How to deal with language ambiguity
- Ask more specific questions on which candidates may not think themselves.
- When receiving a notification go through the Articles and Rules that triggered such communication, consequences of non compliance and remedies available.
Comment on infringement when drafting.
- It is crucial for supervisors to stay informed about the expectation of the current examination committee. Especially for those supervisors who sat their EQE many years ago, this is very important.
- make sure that coaching is not only about the daily work, but dedicate some time to support the understanding of the past exams
- Always ask "why are allowed to do that" or "Why may you not do that" or "What would the consequence be for doing this or that" in our Daily practice.
- I think that it is most important to give enough time for self study and to involve the candidate in real cases.
- No idea.
- To train in a proper mind set in regard of the requirements needed for drafting an acceptable claim that complies with the EPC.
To focus on understanding the claimed scope in view of the effect achieved, such that prior art is easier to put into context with the invention.
Expressing the output in "claim language" or in "argumentation" (legal basis, problem-solution)
- Give them work free time to study

- do old papers together
- Study Visser.
- Let the candidates some time (1 hour/day?) during working time to dedicate exclusively to the preparation for the EQE
- More paper related discussions and hints for improving answering tactic especially how to catch the most important things and not to mess up with irrelevant aspects. There is no time for analyzing all material given.
- allow more time
- Provide the candidate with cases related to the different stages of the patent procedure, i. e., application drafting, Response to different communications, Opposition, Appeal. Reduce the workload 3 months before the exam. Answer and discuss about questions the candidate might have with respect to the exam and the EPO practice/formalities.
- Provide sufficient time for dedicated training. Most of my training was following courses and self-studying.
- I only studied/attempted C this year - what's most needed to me is time to explain the logical sequence of an argument, D prepares well for the legal aspects, but then extracting information and using it is of most relevance for C. train using past exams rather than real life - it is not the same target: life is get through as best as possible, while exam is score and pass!
- Be open for questions any time. Get them to read the law at every occasion. Have them look at interesting cases (even if you have to do them yourself anyway ...)
- a regular training curriculum to discuss cases in view of legal aspects or case law, e.g. 2 weeks rhythm, 4 hrs
- Candidates from countries like Poland or other, wherein there are only few Qualified EP attorneys have a big problem with tutors. Most of them are grandfathers, so they know almost nothing and can not help the candidate. In fact the candidate has to prepare by himself. We do not have enough real cases, that can be a base for real life learning. The EP applications are mostly the EURO-PCT, and we can not face many problems with them, so in fact you do not have the possibility to check in practice how EPC works (from your practice, not from the books only).
- I believe that candidate should do most of work in himself. Supervisor should just give him enough time and all possible support - time for study, courses, etc.
- -
- reduce workload at least one month before the exam
- Make a study plan and follow it...
- It appears as if questions Q21-Q22 is not applicable for the pre-exam.
- My Supervisor worked through nearly all deltapatents questions of book L with us (Great thanks to him!).
Also we were allowed to visit the 2 years CEIPI course as well as a one week CEIPI pre-exam preparation course.
This was great preparation.
- Q 21a-d) are not appropriate - I work in private practice. The job *is* training. There is no specialised allocation of time or tasks in accordance with Art.11(2)(a) REE. Our work *is* preparation for the EQE. Thus *all* hours (or almost all hours) at work count for Q21.
To improve:
Don't overload candidates with work in the 2-3 months prior to the EQE!
Ensure candidates have exposure to all relevant subject areas - I have almost no real-life experience of opposition or appeal proceedings.
- At least 2 weeks free time
- to organise seminars or discussions about one specific topic on a regular basis
- I am an examiner at the EPO, so these questions do not really apply to me.
- We had to use our private holiday time for attending any courses other than the basic 2-year CEIPI-course. We accepted this since we are a very small company, but it is tough nonetheless to be left with hardly any days off left after the EQE...

I'd have liked if our supervisor would have shared more of his own working materials from the time when he prepared himself a few years ago. While most of the things would have needed updating and some "restructuring" for our own liking, we may nonetheless have saved some valuable time starting with his materials.

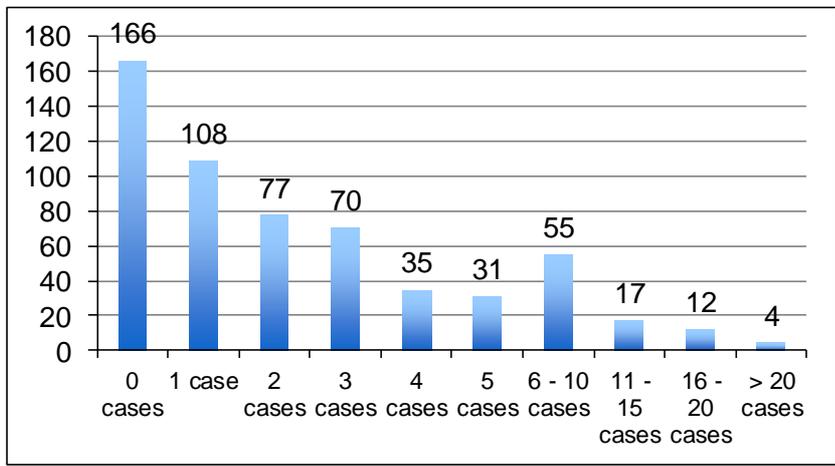
I would further suggest to actually allow for some work time to do old exams and "force" the candidates early after the Pre-EQE to start doing them. (Since in our case nobody checked or asked us for it or otherwise made sure we did this, we kept pushing this further and further to the end of the year... no wonder given the daily workload..)

- Need to appreciate that trainees have exams to take at the same time as completing billable work.
- provide good up-to-date training materials
- To correct papers with examiners personally
- Provide time for attending courses and dedicated training with the supervisor.
- 1. Foresee at the beginning of a training period sufficient time and priority within the daily work, to supervise candidates
- 2. Keep track of the changes of rules and guidelines during the training period
- 3. Plan sessions wherein the candidate can address questions he has and wherein candidates can discuss exercises they made.
- Unfortunately, study to pass the exam, not to learn the profession.
- Be open and upfront with your EQE candidates if you are not going to be able to train them regularly. Provide the opportunity to attend external courses.
- I used external tutors and courses as preparation.
- N/A
- Do some :)
- Do dedicated training! I had lots of supervision and therefore training on day to day work and cases, but no "dedicated training for the EQE" as I understand the question
- organise exam like question-answer dynamic to be performed within the company (kind of 1 weekly hour seminar to present a question and correct the answer from previous week and comment on the case, answer case-derived doubts, etc)
- -
- Take enough time to explain the system of the EPC
- Set aside time and fix it in your calendar
- An adequate financial support during the training and during the preparation phase for the EQE would be helpful. For example, an employment during the 8 months at the German authorities and the possibility to extend this employment until the first participation in the EQE. 3
- More focussed on mock up exam
- External course, support from your employer and manager.
- Take it seriously and do not put much pressure on the candidate, either on the exam or by workload.
- To teach a relationship between everyday-work and examination
- - get access to odd cases which virtually never happen in real life
- It is difficult to quantify in number of working days the dedicated training with my supervisor. The training is done everyday with real cases.
I suggest to supervisors to reduce the workload, even if slightly. Also, I suggest some days of study leave.
- To take the EQE preparation more seriously.
In my case, I had no help or assistance from the Supervisor, at all.
This resulted in a greater effort from my side and taking longer than necessary.
Thus my training period extends already since 2009!!!
- My supervisor provided me with instructions and explanations ONLY related to the cases I was entrusted with. I would suggest to the supervisors to take less candidates, to provide feedback on the work performed by the candidates, to challenge the candidates with questions and tasks, and to stay up-dated with the changes implemented to the EPC and PCT. Furthermore, I would suggest that some regulations are implemented so that each

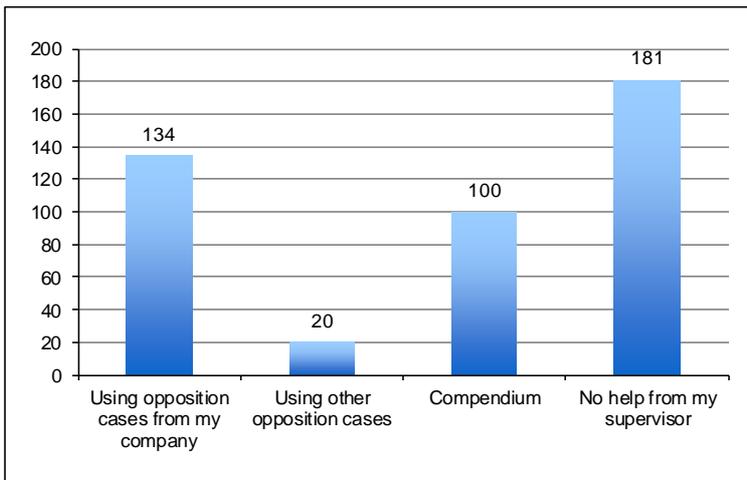
supervisor has a limited number of candidates (for e.g. 2 candidates per supervisor should be adequate).

- Mark their past papers more harshly than you believe they would be marked by EQE examiners.
- Provide dedicated study time / in-house tutorials etc.
- In industry it is difficult to find People having time - you must insist (but maybe this is the same in private practise>)
- As EQE preparation is slightly different from daily IP activity, some specific time should be spent on EQE papers, although tutors didn't necessary take the EQE in the current format.
- Go through past papers with candidates. Offer to discuss topics. Ask the candidate to sit a paper under exam conditions and thne mark it.
- We have a good system of internal training. My supervisor is not active in this system, but helps me in the practical issues of the work.
- Any encouragement, discussion, advice, as can be afforded will be extremely beneficial. All employees whether temporary or permanent should be given equal support and encouragement.
- Send them to courses.
- Spend more time with candidates and run dedicated tutorials
- Meine Vorbereitung für die EQE betrug bis zur ersten Teilnahme drei Monate, für alle Teilnahmen zusammen bestimmt ein Jahr oder mehr.
Zwei bis drei Monate vor der EQE lernte ich fast ausschließlich dafür, und habe nicht gearbeitet. Dazu kommt die Zeit für die o.g. Trainingskurse, zusammen etwa einen Monat nur für die Teilnahme ohne Nachbereitung der Kursinhalte.

Q23) In how many opposition cases were you involved during your 3-year training period?



Q24) How did your supervisor as defined by Art. 11(2)(a) REE train you for paper C?

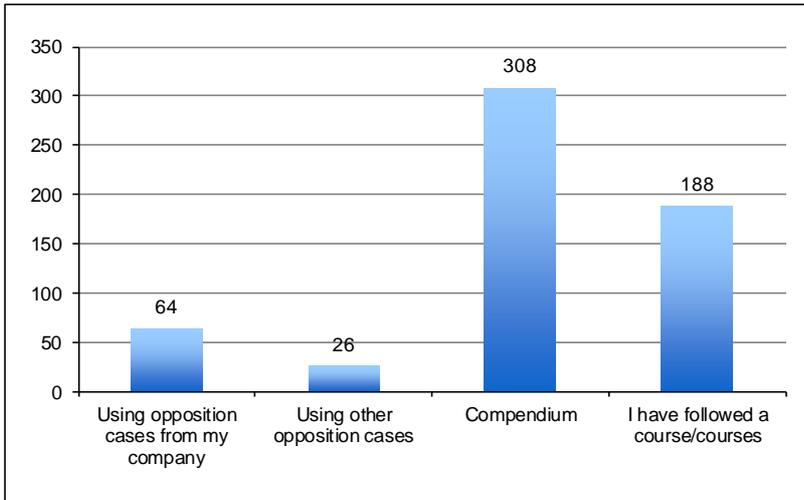


Candidates were asked to make comments concerning Q24. The comments are listed below.

- n.a.
- n/a (took only pre-EQE)
- na
- i did the pre-exam
- I still did not sit in C
- I have not sat paper C
- Did not take paper C this time
- Preparation of ongoing opposition cases under supervision of my supervisor
- Not yet taken
- I didn't sit part C now
- Explaining methodology of paper C
- Real oppositions are irrelevant to paper C, for which the crux is little more than time comprehension and time pressured writing.
- did not train for paper C yet
- N/A
- n/a
- I didn't sit the C paper.
- N/A
- did not prepare for paper C yet
- Haven't done paper C yet
- I have not prepared paper C yet
- I did the Pre-EQE
- Bought "C-book"
- Course on opposition
- N/a
- Worked through actual Opposition together
- I didn't ask for help
- Discussing questions
- I did not sit paper C
- not sat yet
- Custom made situations
- doing opposition and appeal work
- Not relevant - sat pre-EQE
- asking questions

- I made a lot of compadium and follows the course of Mister Meinders who helped me a lot
- N/A
- I did the pre-exam
- I did not take paper C.
- Have not studied for paper C yet
- Haven't taken C paper
- support during the drafting. Still have not started with focused training on paper C.
- Did not train for C yet
- I did not take paper C
- NA (pre-eqe)
- not applicable
- Not preparation for paper C
- did not take C
- did only pre-examination
- I havent written paper C yet
- no dedicated preparation for paper C as I have been preparing for pre-exam
- I have not written paper C
- going through past papers
- The only one opportunity it was Praktika Intern
- Ceipi course
- Not at all as I took the pre-exam
- No specialised training. I was exposed to involvement in some ongoing oppositions during the course of my normal working duties.
- N/A
- Did not study for C.
- Not applicable
- DeltaPatents Paper C course
- N.A.
- No supervisor
- Did not sit C, so did not train
- n/a
- not yet started
- I haven't prepared for paper C
- I have not sit paper C
- N/A
- Discussions
- not yet
- n/a
- N/A
- Did not take paper C
- not yet considered for taking pre-exam
- did not sit paper C yet
- Marked a past paper
- I have not yet sat paper C
- I only attended pre-exam
- Not preparing for C yet
- N/a
- I have not sit paper C yet.
- have not yet taken the main EQE
- not relevant for Pre-EQE
- No paper C

Q25) How did you prepare for paper C apart from the training you received from your supervisor?



Candidates were asked if they prepared in other ways for paper C. Their answers are listed below:

- not yet taken
- EQE last papers
- n/a (took only pre-EQE)
- na
- i did the pre-exam
- C-Book
- I still did not sit in C
- I have not sat paper C
- Did not take paper C this time
- C-book
- not prepared yet
- Not yet taken
- I didn't sit part C now
- Nothing at the moment.
- colleagues' EQE experience
- Not yet written paper C
- books (Delta patens etc.)
- Talking to other candidates was the most useful
- In-house tutorials
- did not train for paper C yet
- N/A
- n/a
- I didn't sit the C paper.
- N/A
- did not prepare for paper C yet
- C Book and explanations + feedback from a friend (outside our company)
- Haven't done paper C yet
- I have not prepared paper C yet
- I did the Pre-EQE
- help of friends who gave feedback on papers

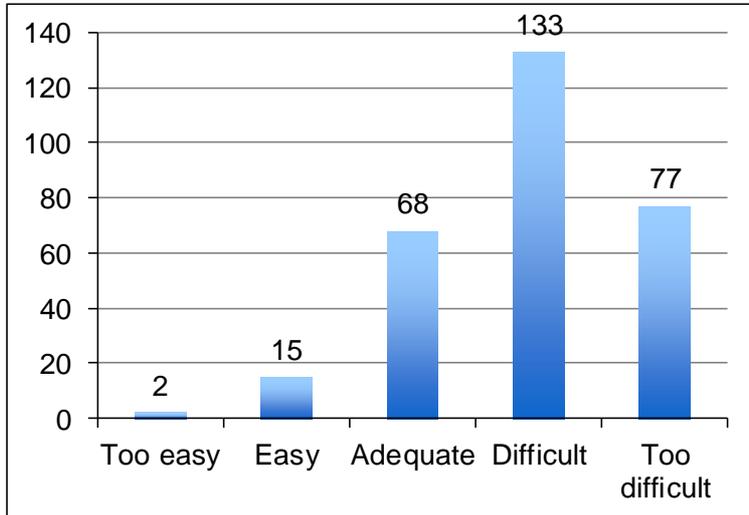
- N/a
- Performing previous Papers
- DelaPatents Methodology Book C
- on line material
- I did not sit paper C
- previous exam
- not sat yet
- Opposition work with other attorneys; in-house tutorials
- EPI tutor
- Using the "C book"
- Not relevant sat pre-EQE
- DeltaPatents C methodology book
- Not applicable
- Paper C course Strassbourg etc => 60p
- épi/ceipi
- I have not started training for paper C
- Past papers and internal training
- c-Book and course of Mister Meinders
- C-Book, Chandler/Meinders
- CEIPI seminar (Strasbourg)
- N/A
- I did the pre-exam
- I did not take paper C.
- Have not studied for paper C yet
- Haven't taken C paper
- I have not started preparation as I am taking this paper on 2016.
- I did not take paper C
- Previous exams
- NA (pre-eqe)
- NA
- Delta patents books
- Course & books regarding the topic
- Previous EPO in-house training
- Visser book
- Not preparation for paper C
- The C Book
- did not take C
- did only pre-examination
- Old Exams
- I havent written paper C yet
- no dedicated study for paper C as I have been preparing for pre-exam
- I have not written paper C
- Self study
- Ceipi Strasbourg, past papers, reading Guidelines, C Book
- past papers
- no serious preparations for C paper
- Delta Patents Seminar
- DELTAPATENTS courses
- will sit it next year
- Not at all as I took the pre-exam
- I didn't take the C exam
- Deltapatent's methodology course
- N/A

- DeltaPatent
- pre-prep course CEIPI
- Training and advice received from other attorneys who have earlier passed EQE
- Did not study for C.
- JDD
- Not applicable
- N.A.
- DeltaPatents
- Did not sit C, so did not prepare
- n/a
- not yet started
- c book
- C-Book, past exams
- model solutions of Delta Patents
- I haven't prepared for paper C
- I have not sit paper C
- I will follow a course
- Epi tutorial
- The C-Book
- N/A
- C-Book
- Discussing w other professionals some cases
- C-Book
- not yet started
- Delta patent papaer C
- n/a
- N/A
- Did not take paper C
- ceipi cases
- not yet considered (pre-exam)
- did not sit paper C yet
- I have not yet sat paper C
- study group
- Compendium
- where do you get the idea that passing poaper C has anything to do with a real opposition?
- I only attended pre-exam
- Not preparing for C yet
- N/a
- I have not sit paper C yet.
- not relevant for Pre-EQE
- No paper C
- siehe Box vorige Seite
- Case Law of the Boards of Appeal

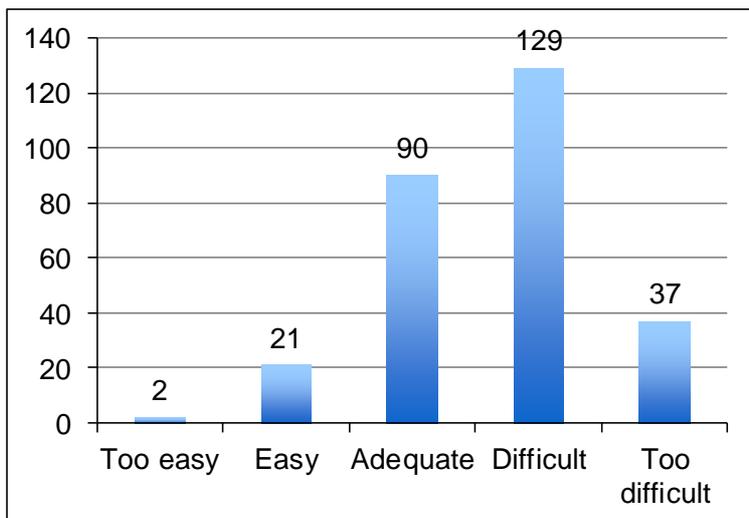
Chapter 4 - EQE papers

Q26) EQE papers - Please rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2015

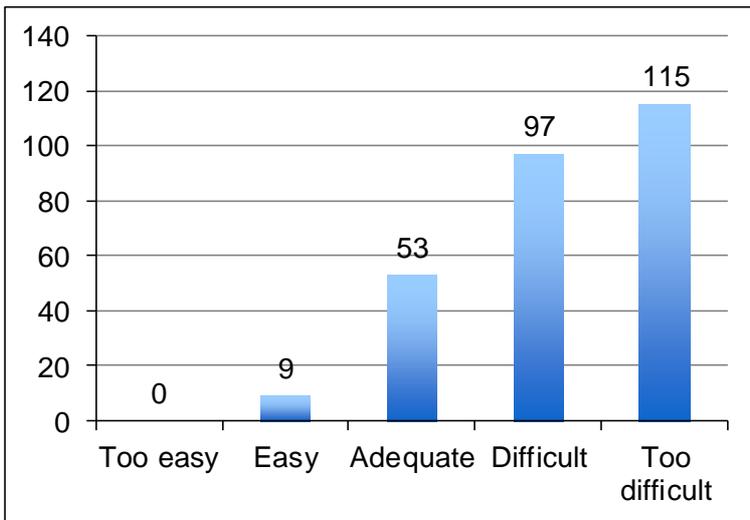
Pre-examination as a whole



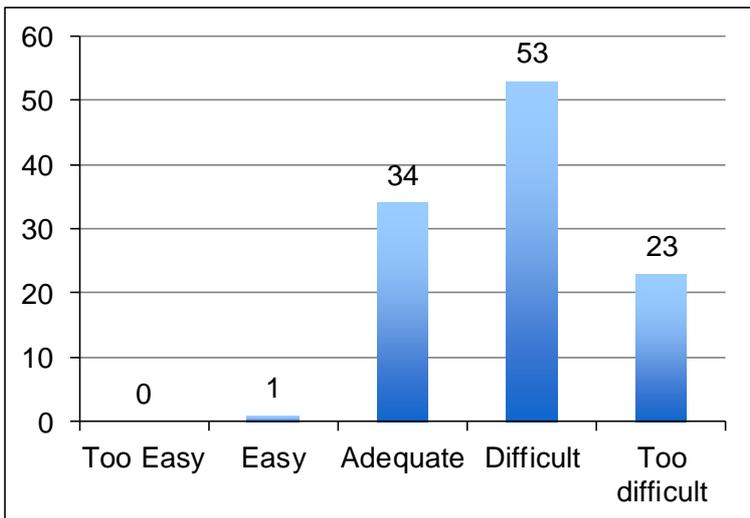
Pre-examination (legal questions)



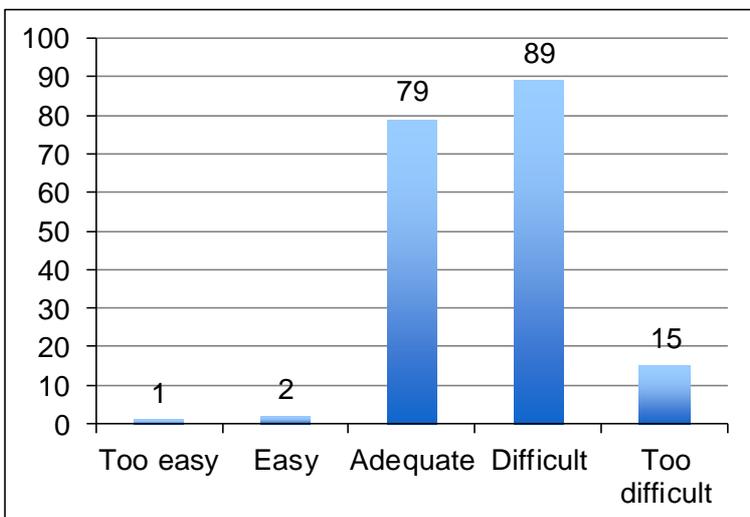
Pre-examination (claim analysis)



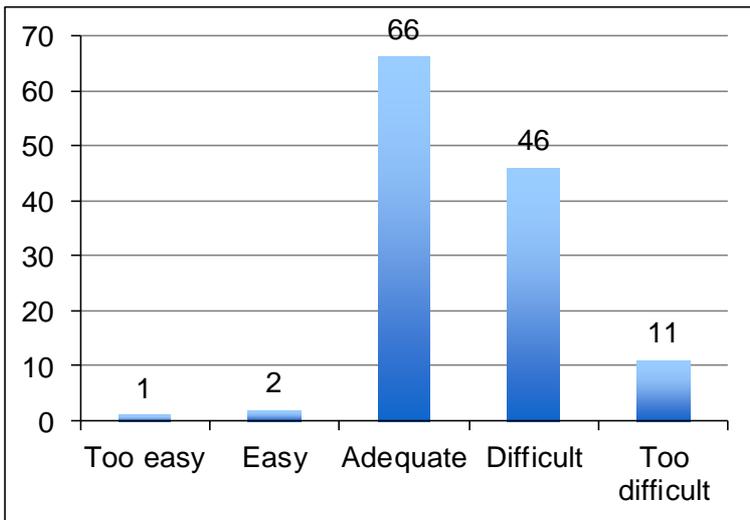
Paper A (Ch)



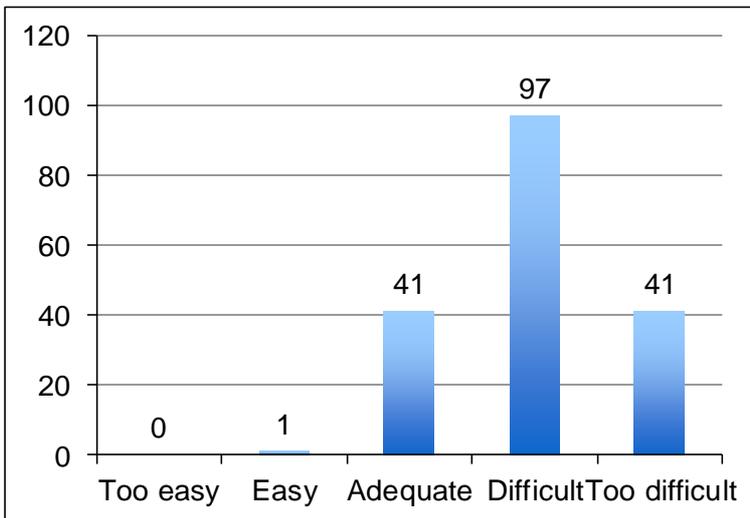
Paper A (E/M)



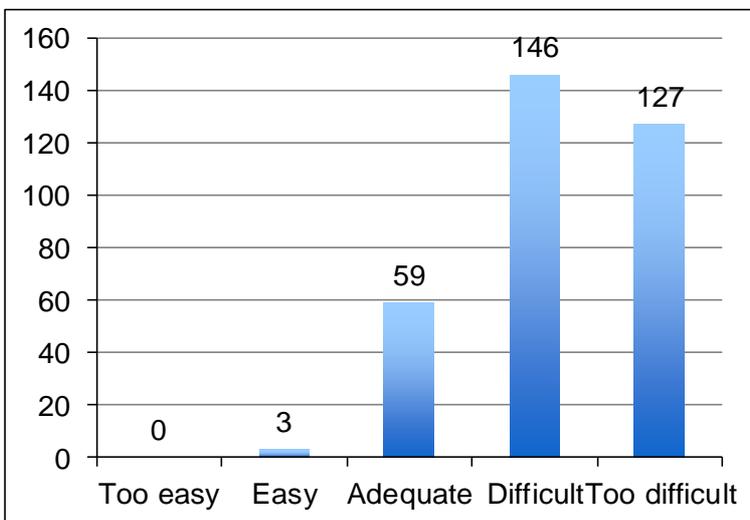
Paper B (Ch)



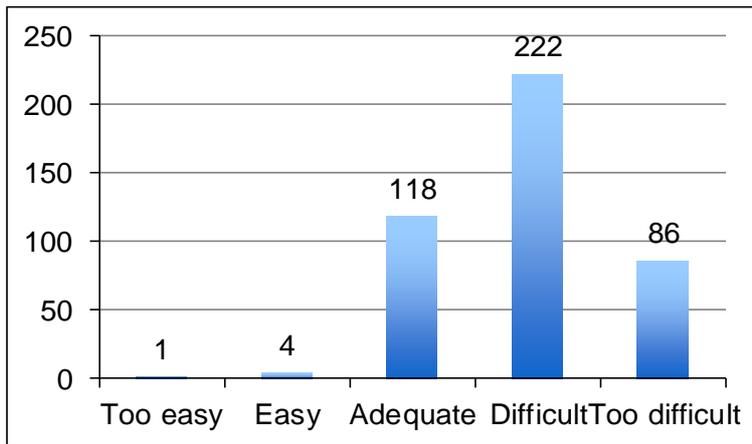
Paper B (E/M)



Paper C

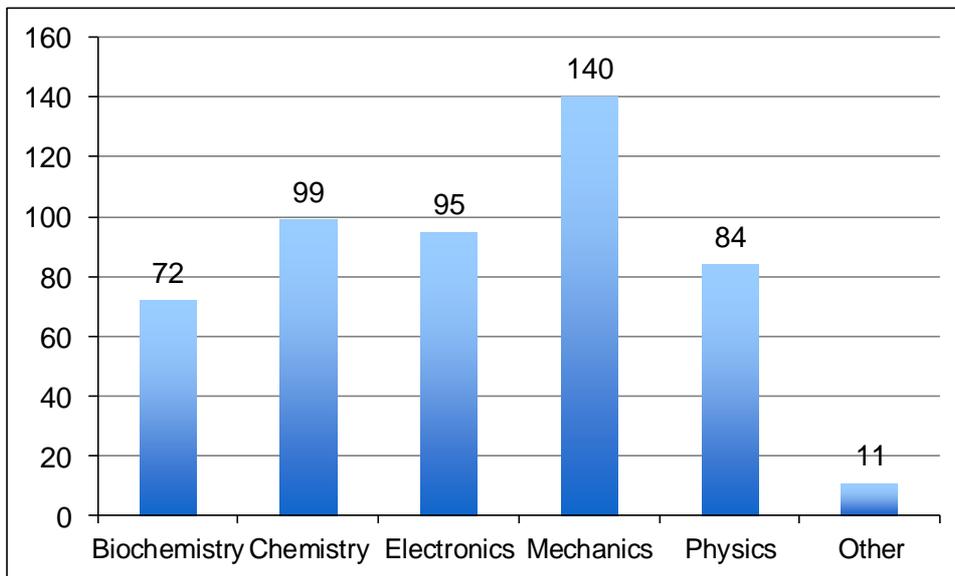


Paper D

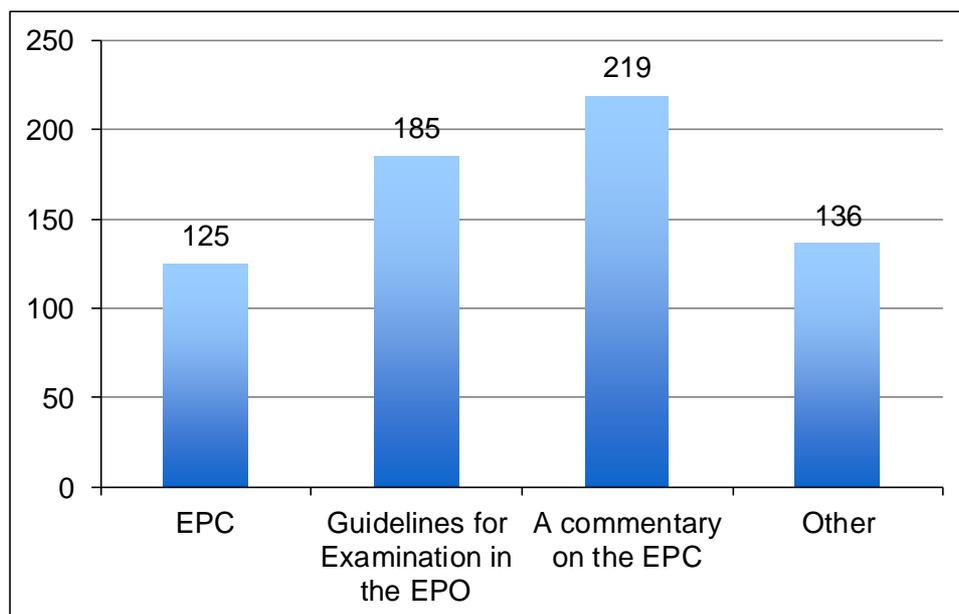


Q27) If you sat the pre-examination:

Q27a) Which of the following best describes the technical area you are working in?



Q27b) What reference book was the most useful for the PREPARATION of the pre-examination?



**Candidates were asked to make comments concerning Q27b
The comments are listed below.**

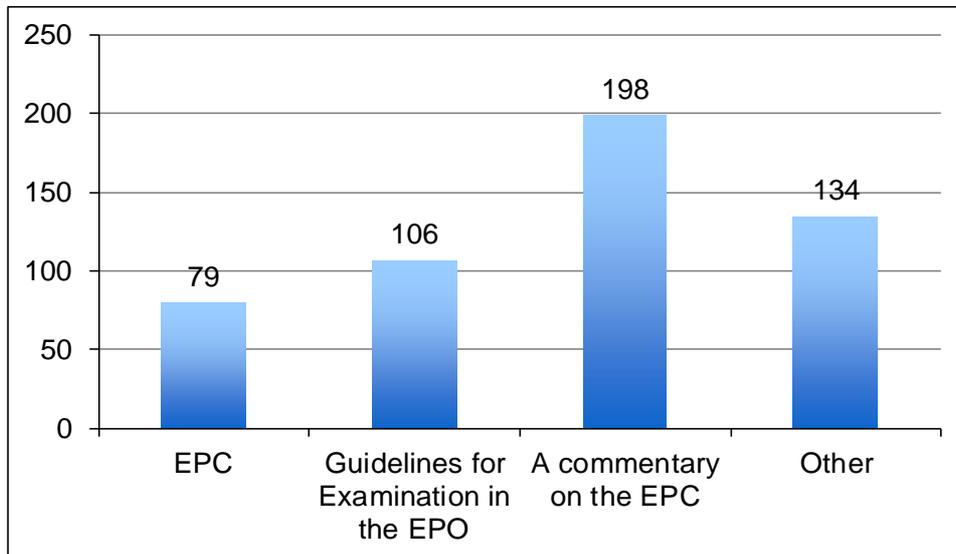
- Visser
- Visser
- C-Book
- Baque
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- case law
- delta patents
- PCT cross reference, the annotated european patent convention (Visser), Applicants Guide of PCT, National Law of EPO
- Reference to the European Patent Convention by Jelle Hoekstra
- EPÜ PCT Tabellen; Delta patents
- EPÜ Tabellen
- Delta Patents books
- Kley
- The Annotated European Patent Convention - Visser
- on-line course papers
- Cross-referenced EPC by Hoekstra
- PCT Applicants' Guide
- c book ceipi
- visser
- Visser Annotated EPC and PCT Applicant's guide
- Kley
- The Annotated EPC (Visser)
- Derk Visser
- Visser
- Annotated EPC (Visser)
- Visser
- Notes from Epi course - Delta Patents
- PCT applicant's guide
- own materials

- compendium
- Visser
- Online course given by the EPO/EPI
- on line course material
- Kley
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- Hoekstra
- office journal
- Visser
- Ceipi C-book
- Visser Annotated EPC
- EPC annotated, D. Visser
- Hoekstra reference EPC
- clboa
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam Book
- VISSER
- Hoekstra epc reference
- Epü -Pct- Tabellen
- Visser
- Visser
- Gall
- Visser
- baque
- Visser, epo course material
- Cross-reference to the EPC Jelle Hoekstra
- EPO online training course for pre-examination
- Kley
- Delta Patents EQE Pre Examination
- DeltaPatents course material
- Hoekstra
- c-book, delta patents-c
- A Guide to the EPC 2000, Nicholas Fox
- Annotated EPC, Visser
- Visser
- C-Book (Chandler, Meinders); PCT-Handbuch (Köllner)
- KleyGundlach
- Jelle Hoekstra's Reference to EPC
- online-training course
- online course documentation
- Visser
- Delta Patents
- Visser
- Visser
- Nationa Law relating to EPC; PCT book
- visser
- Delta Patents A/B
- My EPC by Oana Boncea (CSP project coach)
- The annotated European patent convention (Visser)
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam book
- Visser
- Pre-Exam Book (DEltapatents); Visser commentary on EPC; EPC
- Annotated EPC by Visser
- Hoekstra

- Hoekstra, Mulder
- on-line course
- Visser
- Visser
- Visser
- Delta Patent's Pre-Exam books (as well as Visser's EPC commentary book)
- EPI pre-exam book
- self-commented EPC
- Materials from online training course
- Visser
- Baque
- Applicant guide pct
- CEIPI course for the pre EQE
- Delta Patents
- Deltapatents
- EPC2000 from S. Speich/ Applicants Guide PCT
- DeltaPatents training material
- deltapatent course
- DeltaPatents L and P books; Visser; Guidelines; PCT Applicant's Guide (Int and Nat phase); "How to get..." books
- VISSIER
- baque
- Visser, Delta patents EPC reference book
- C-Book Meinders
- Paper C book
- Visser, Hoekstra
- Kley
- EQE pre-examination on-line course, PCT
- Visser
- EPI course notes
- Visser
- Visser
- Visser
- WIPO Applicants Guide
- Bozic: EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- visser
- Visser / Hand Outs Delta Patents
- notes from above-mentioned course
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- Hoekstra
- compendium
- Hoekstra
- Watchorn Veronese
- Reference to EPC (Hoekstra)
- Visser
- Visser "The Annotated EPC"
- Case law of the boards of appeal
- References to the European Patent convention Jelle Hoekstra
- Past papers, and comments thereon, deltapatents
- Chapters of the Online course
- Delta patent pre-exam book

- EPO Pre-exam training course material
- Visser

Q27c) What reference book was the most useful WHILE SITTING the pre-examination?



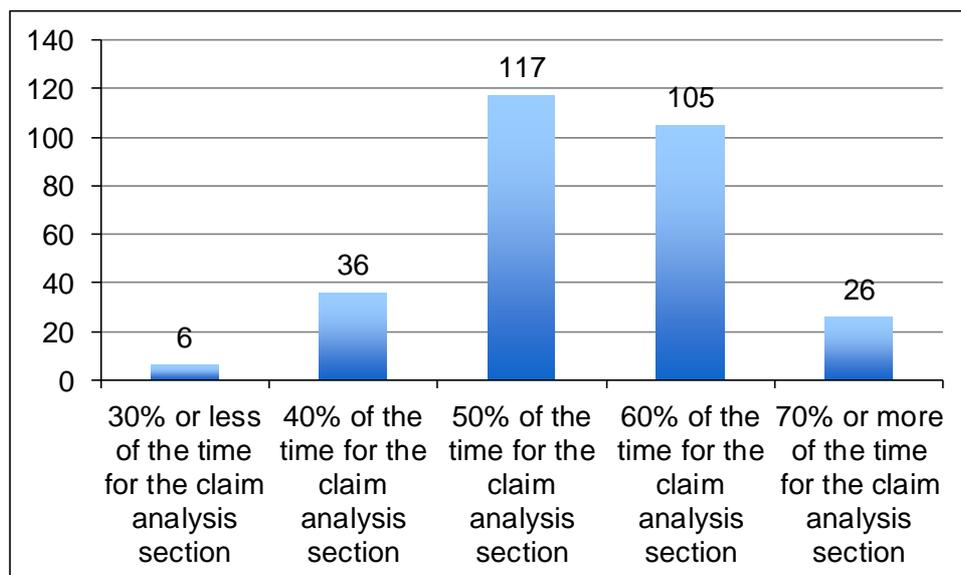
**Candidates were asked to make comments concerning Q27c
The comments are listed below.**

- VISSER
- My own notes
- Visser
- own summary and tables
- Visser
- Visser
- Baque
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- Kley
- the annotated european patent convention (Visser)
- Reference to the European Patent Convention by Jelle Hoekstra
- EPÜ PCT Tabellen
- Visser
- Notes from the pre-exam course
- PCT applicants guide
- EPÜ Tabellenbuch
- Kley, Vissers
- The Annotated European Patent Convention - Visser
- Cross-referenced EPC by Hoekstra
- c book ceipi
- visser
- Veronesse
- Visser Annotated EPC and PCT Applicant's guide
- EP / PCT table book
- Kley
- Kley
- The Annotated EPC (Visser)
- Derk Visser

- Visser, PCT
- Annotated EPC (Visser)
- Visser
- Notes from Epi course - delta patents
- PCT applicant's guide
- Pct applicant guides
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- Ceipi C-book
- Visser
- Visser Annotated EPC
- EPC annotated, D. Visser
- Hoekstra reference EPC
- VISSER
- Hoekstra
- EPC-PCT -Tabellen
- Visser
- Visser
- Visser
- Visser
- baque
- cross-referenced PCT
- Visser
- Cross-reference to the EPC Jelle Hoekstra
- Hoekstra
- EPO online training course for pre-examination
- Hoekstra (once labelled and annotated)
- Kley
- c-book, delta patents
- C Book
- A Guide to the EPC 2000, Nicholas Fox
- deltapatent
- Annotated EPC, Visser
- Visser
- C-Book (Chandler, Meinders)
- Jelle Hoekstra's Reference to EPC
- Visser
- My own notes
- Visser
- Visser
- PCT book
- My EPC by Oana Boncea (CSP project coach)
- The annotated European patent convention (Visser)
- EPC- and PCT-Tables
- my own notes
- Visser
- Visser commentary on EPC; EPÜ Kompakt, Guideline; PCT applicants guide
- Hoekstra
- Hoekstra, Mulder
- Visser
- Carl Heymanns Verlag
- Delta patents c book

- Visser
- Visser
- Visser
- Bozic et al.: EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- Delta Patent's Pre-Exam books (as well as Visser's EPC commentary book)
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen, Bozic et al., Carl Heymanns Verlag
- EPI pre-exam book
- self-commented EPC
- A commentary on the PCT
- EPÜ und PCT-Tabellen
- Visser
- Baque
- Delta patents
- EPC2000 from S. Speich/ Applicants Guide PCT
- DeltaPatents training material
- HOEKSTRA
- baque
- own prepared sheets
- Paper C book
- Hoekstra
- Kley
- PCT
- Visser
- PCT applicants guide; Euro-PCT guide
- EPI course notes
- Visser
- Visser
- Visser
- WIPO Applicants Guide
- materials of the pre-exe course of the epa
- Bozic: EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- References to the EPC by Hoekstra
- visser
- Visser: Annotated Guide to EPC
- Visser / Hand Outs delta Patents
- notes from above-mentioned course
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- Hoekstra
- my own preparation notes and comments
- Hoekstra
- Watchorn Veronese
- PCT
- EPÜ-/PCT-Tabellen
- Reference to EPC (Hoekstra)
- Visser
- Visser "The Annotated EPC"
- References to the European Patent convention Jelle Hoekstra
- Bacque
- Chapters of the Online course
- Cees Mulder's Cross-referenced PCT
- Visser

Q27d) How did you allocate the available time during the pre-examination?



Q27e) Any comment on the pre-examination?

- Far more difficult than the 2012, 2013 and 2014 papers.
- I believe that the level of difficulty was much higher than the previous years 2012-2014. I also believe, that the Pre-Exam should encourage you to start early with preparation, but this year I believe, that it was demotivating for many candidates to see such a jump in the level of difficulty, it did not feel warned by EPA before.
- There were too many ambiguous questions in the Claim analysis part and too much room for interpretation, whereas you can only say true or false without argumenting. I found the other pre-exam more straightforward.
- A true/false choice system without providing with any arguments is not adapted for the claim analysis part.
- The technical background for the claim analysis section should be alternating between chemistry and engineering. I find it unfair that it is always drawings with reference signs, which is completely unknown in the chemistry/biochemistry field.
- Considering that each question although being usually for the same topic, the subquestions do not have a lot of relationship between them, thus the four subquestions are not four answers for one question, the quotation method is not fair as when an incorrect answer is given 2, 4 or 5 points would be lost. If you answer correctly 4 subquestions you get 5 points, but if you answer correctly 2 questions, you get only 1 point (unfair for asking a score of 70 for passing the exam).
Claim analysis although very easy to understand a lot of ambiguous terms.
I did not have time for reviewing the answers.
- Quite different from previous years - it seems that the bar has been seriously raised
- There were several very ambiguous questions
- less time than for previous examination for over checking answers
claim analysis part with much more reading time compared to previous examinations
new structure of the claim analysis part quite surprising on first sight
Some questions looked a bit ambiguous to me (had to check in the three languages quite often....) and didn't always feel confident about the expected answer.
- Rather difficult, some questions had an ambiguous meaning which made it hard to interpret (e.g. does "a multitude of further processing fees" fall under the scope of "at least one further processing fee")
- The pre-Exam was much longer and much more difficult than previous exams. Some questions in the Claim Analysis section let too much freedom for interpretation, so that it is

not possible to answer by true or false.

- I found a number of questions from the pre-examination paper completely inadequate. For the sake of exploring some of the more subtle aspects of legal / claim analysis questions, the questions often ended up having an ambiguous wording. This is quite silly : 1/ the examination is not meant to test for subtleties, as far as I understand it is meant to test for thorough understanding of straightforward questions and 2/ the ambiguity in wording was immediately obvious to a great number of people (including candidates AND e.g. delta patents examiner), so how come no reviewing of the questions beforehand could detect and avoid it...
Stick to straightforward application of the EPC provisions. It still helps candidates prepare the main exam, and since this is multiple choice any subtlety is ruled out in the answer... so don't ask subtle questions!
- The exam did not seem consistent in difficulty with previous years. As preparation can only be based on previous years this seems unfair. In addition, there were several ambiguous questions which did not fit the true or falso format. for these questions a candidates knowledge is not being tested, rather their luck in getting the "correct" answer. With a 70% threshold I expect many good candidates will fail for this reason, rather than lack of knowledge.
- Significantly harder than in previous years. There seemed to be more ambiguous questions than in previous years.
- I think some pre-examination questions were very difficult to understand. For example, in question 2.2, the two-months extension, is it a legal remedy? In question 5.4, what does mean "validly entering"? We can always pay the taxes after entering in the European phase.
- The pre-exam appeared to be significantly more difficult than in the three previous years
- It was a significant leap in terms of increased difficulty and time constraints relative to the past papers and mocks.
- a lot of question was subject to interpretation (cf DeltaPatent blog on preliminary answers)
- I thought that some of the questions this year were a little too arguable for multiple choice. That was my view also of the mock paper. I thought that the 2013 and 2014 papers were clearer and more carefully devised in that respect.
- Quite difficult compared to the previous ones, but ok.
What was absolutely not ok was the fact that some information in the claims analysis section was completely unclear.
- As I indicated earlier. In my opinion the pre-examination paper of this year (legal part and claim analysis) was much more difficult compared to the one of the previous year and I felt not sufficiently prepared.
The first question of the legal part was unexpected and I lost a lot of time on it. This made me feeling nervous and as consequence I made mistakes on other questions because I was trying to answer quickly and I did not pay sufficient attention to the wording of some questions.
Regarding the claim analysis, the application was quite long and with many features to be considered.
Questions were more difficult comperad to the one of previous papers on which we prepared.
I liked the new setting of the claim analysis questions.
- Thought it was much harder than in previous years, in particular the format of the claim analysis was different and the answers didnt always appear to be true or false, some i though were arguable either way. Also thought that in the legal section you needed to look for specific points in the commentry of reference books or the guidelines whereas in previous exams you could answer all the questions directly from the articles and rules.
- Several overly ambiguous questions in the claims section (see the massive debate on the deltapatents blog as to whether a disclosure of "cardboard" is a disclosure of "a material containing wood fibres", and which side of the debate is bringing in specialist knowledge. This fact was relevant for several questions).

Also, the first legal question was by far the hardest... Warm ups are useful things!

- I was really shocked about the questions in the pre-exam this year as it was way more difficult than the exams in the previous years. Furthermore, I think that questions regarding the inventive step are not useful in a multiple choice test as although the EPO has a very formalistic approach (problem-solution) it is not always possible to really determine the closest prior art without adding comments why one has chosen the specific T or F in their answer. To summarize, I think the pre-exam was really unfair this year maybe only in order to reduce the rate of candidates passing the exam. You should overthink the general concept of this exam!
- The questions were partially very unclear. There were some questions were either True or False could be validly argued for.
For a pre-examination it should not be necessary to know topics, which are not explicitly mentioned in the Guidelines.
The True/False approach does not seem to fit the claims analysis part, where much depends on the actual argumentation. Some questions had a too broad range implying that by suitable arguments both conclusions could be correct.
- Questions and Information provided for Claim-Analysis not suitable for "true" and "false" answers
- Prepare pre-exam more correlating with previous ones
- The level of difficulty was totally unexpected for me as the 2015's pre-exam was much more difficult than all of the previous exams, including the mock-up ones. On Sunday (i.e. the day before the exam) I took the 2014's exam under exam conditions to test my preparations. I scored 90 point within 1 hour 55 min, so it seemed that I was well prepared (needless to say, I scored 85+ points in all the previous/mock-up exams as well within 2h).
In summary, I must say that I felt deceived by the lack of information given about the level of difficulty of this years exams, as one had to assume that easily passing all available previous/mockup exams was a strong indication of a profound and sufficient preparation. Besides from that, quite a few questions (at least in German language) were precise or even differed in the meaning from the other languages.
- See previous question. The different format for the claim analysis part took many by surprise.
- It felt that the pre-examination this year was a bit harder than the past ones. Not only that some of the legal questions were quite tricky to answer but also the claim analysis part differed a lot from the previous papers. The texts to read were longer and the claim sets appeared to be more extensive. There were a couple of ambiguous questions at least in the claim analysis part. I think it is pretty hard for the Exam Comitee to come up with claim analysis questions that can be answered by TRUE or FALSE except for questions relating to novelty, as most of the other questions are accessible to interpretation. The Exam Comitee should think about changing the claim analysis part in a way that the candidates must answer freely giving their reasoning behind their answer. This would really allow to objectively classify whether a candidate is able to analyze claims correctly and in case the candidate chooses a different reasoning than the one of the Exam Comitee this reasoning might not necessarily be qualified to be wrong if taken into account. Not allowing the candidates to give their reasoning behind the "TRUE" or "FALSE" answers deprives them to show that they have fully considered certain facts and circumstances and decided to give their answer based on the interpretation of certain information.
- The pre-examination in 2015 deviates from the key Points of previous years.
- This year's pre-exam was noticeably more difficult than any previous year. Many questions required interpretation, which for a true or false quiz, seemed a bit strange. I know that the law isn't always black or white, but in the pre-exam true or false are the only answers that can be given!
- Questions werde not precise enough! Some Questions were worded in a way that it was not possible to answer even when taking all infomations given into account! I found this very unfair!
- 1) Dear EPA, what is the answer to Q1.3? It is more than controverse, whether or not the

termination of representative A is notified to the EPA by information of the change by representative A.

2) Dear EPA, is it general knowledge, that "The cardboard" contains wood-fibers? The respective statement in D1 is - according to any comments I heard so far - too ambiguous for an exam.

3) Dear EPA, why was Q20 worded so awkwardly? It leads to ambiguous interpretation of the sub-questions.

- The legal questions were not necessarily more difficult than previous years, but they took a lot longer to complete. I found that when completing past papers I could usually complete the legal part of the paper in around 1-1 1/2 hours and did not need to rely on my reference books to answer the majority of the questions. However, in the pre-examination, I spent a lot of time searching through my reference material and only just completed the legal part of the paper within the 2 hours I had set aside to do it.
I thought the claim analysis part of the paper was much more difficult than the past papers, largely due to the amount of material to read and analyse, including two full sets of 10 claims. I also found a number of the questions to be ambiguous and for many questions I spent a lot of time formulating arguments to support the statement being both "true" and "false". For a true/false question, the answer should be black or white. However, for a number of questions in the pre-exam, I felt that there were justified arguments for both answers, leaving the decision to be not which answer is correct, but which answer you think the Exam Committee is more likely to select.
- Very disappointed with the examination. I considered myself well prepared in light of the time spent revising and my performance when undertaking past pre-EQE papers under exam conditions. However, the 2015 pre-EQE exam was much more difficult, compared to previous papers, in terms of both the legal and claims section. This was certainly surprising in light of the additional recently-elevated pass mark, and seems plainly unfair in particular with respect to the relative difficulty level of the 2014 pre-EQE exam. Many aspects of the 2015 pre-EQE exam claim section were either unclear or in a very different question format to previous exams, which only added to the stress levels and confusion on the day. I'd also add that following the exam, my views were also reflected by many other candidates on forums for the pre-EQE exam. Indeed professional tutors posting provisional answers were unable to answer a number of both the legal and claims questions, resorting to guessing on marks based on certain assumptions. How can this be for an examination where only true/false answers can be provided without supporting arguments???
- The questions and answers were not unambiguously as it is necessary for true/false questions. In comparison to the previous years, the questions were more complex.
- I find it very hard that the claim analysis is only about mechanics. It should be possible to choose between mechanics and chemistry as in the main exam. Our applications in the biochemistry field have never any figures. However, in the claim analysis questions everything is about the figures. I am totally not used to interpreting these figures and this makes the claim analysis extremely difficult. In my opinion, it is not fair that people working in mechanics can make the exam in their own field, while other people especially with a biochemistry background are forced to make the exam not only in a different field, but also with a completely different kind of applications, namely those focussed on figures. Therefore, I would prefer if "figureless" biochemistry or chemistry applications may be chosen as an alternative to the mechanics.
- Many of the questions were ambiguous and could only be answered with a "yes/no, if...". For this type of exam format, i.e. multiple choice, the quality of the questions must be better.
- I found the claim analysis section quite ambiguous in parts.
- I did two of the old pre-exams as a preparation for this year and this year was much more difficult than the ones from the years before.
- It's getting better over the years but some questions may remain not completely clear.
- I think there was too much ambiguity in the claim analysis part. There were a number of questions which I felt I could argue either way (and looking at comments e.g. on the Delta Patents blog, other candidates felt the same way too).

- Very difficult. Difficult legal questions. There were many ambiguous questions in the claim analysis. It is not fair to put such ambiguous/difficult questions in a multiple-choice exam that requires a 70% pass mark.
- I have marked the Pre-EQE as 'difficult' above, as it was significantly harder than in previous years. Nevertheless, it was manageable and the legal section was still a fair test of one's grasp of the EPC. I found myself with enough time to adequately consider the questions and be confident in my answers. I think it was an unpleasant surprise to be presented with a much harder paper, but with the generous 4 hour timeframe, I felt it did not cause many problems.
I felt less accepting of the claim analysis section, however. There was a lot of material to read, and several ambiguities were present - while these ambiguities would normally be an accepted part of an EQE paper where one can justify one's answers with reference to the Guidelines, in a true/false exam format it simply led to too much uncertainty. Even following the exam, myself, my fellow candidates and tutors for the Pre-EQE still found it difficult to agree on the 'correct' answer.
- not sitting in 2015
- Way to hard than expected and clearly needed. If the idea was that the candidates fail, than I would say "bravo", well done.
- Claim analysis part comprised a lot of reading, It required more than 4 hours to finish. I had to hurry up and in a hurry I missed some points.
- Several questions were unclear, misleading and open for endless discussions!
- Questions should be avoided where the answer can only be reasoned by the fact, that (e.g. non existing administrative fees for the change of representative). - see 1.4
Phrases in the questions should be avoided which have no legal basis in the whole EPC (e.g. "legal remedy") as such terms might be defined differently in the jurisdictions of the EPC memberstates. - see 2.2
Advanced know-how in geography should not be necessary to answer the questions (e.g. "EU" vs. "EPC memberstates") - see 10.2.
- More difficult this year with several ambiguous questions
- Please formulate clear questions which do not leave room for interpretation.
- It was too complicated for an attorney with only 2 years of experience. Too much info to read in the claim analysis part, compared to the time you had and also compared to previous years. The questions were also too unclear, very disappointed about that and also quite difficult to understand the correct interpretation of some words in the application...
- ambiguous questions never found in EPC or guidelines specifically designed only for EQE
- It surprised me that it was much harder than in previous years. I had been relying on Nicholas Fox and the Guidelines for answering previous past paper and had found these reference materials to be sufficient. However, during the 2015 exam I had to refer to Visser and even used the Case Law book (regarding representation and opposition questions) because the answers I needed were not in the Guidelines or Nicholas Fox's commentary. The claims analysis questions also seemed more ambiguous than in previous years - a few particular examples such as the cardboard composition was very unclear and lead to difficulties in answering some of the questions. Overall, I think the paper was set to the right standard, but it was harder than the past papers I had practised.
- Several of the claims analysis questions were vague in their formulation.
- As already mentioned, the field should be chosen so that there is not such a huge discrimination between natural scientists and engineers. Furthermore, language ambiguities and unclarities should be definitively avoided so that the results of the pre-examination are not a matter of luck. Examiners should take into account that we cannot provide any arguments concerning our interpretation and therefore, there are high chances that a lot of points are lost if our interpretation does not correspond to the one of the Examiners (please refer to the comments on Delta Patents blog).
- Did not do the pre-examination
- Too many unclear statements in the claim analysis part and unexpected format change of the claim analysis paper.

- The questions of the claim analyses sometimes seem not to be smooth as you cannot comment the answer you cannot argue the decision.
- Too difficult compared to the degree of difficulty to prior pre-examinations
- I should have allocated more time for the claim analysis for 2015 examination. Compared to previous years, there was more slightly material (wider claim sets) to work with and while my time allocation worked ok in training and completing old exams it was not ok in the actual exam this year. At least 60 %, probably 70 %, of time should have been allocated to claim analysis and I was pretty much in a rush in the end for the last 5 questions.
- The formulation of the claim analysis questions was too complicated. There were also too many claims which just contributed to mistakes that are no indication of the level of the student.
- Too much unclear questions or Statements, Lack of Information in the Text for claim analysis
- Some legal questions were simply a bit over the top for the pre-exam in my opinion (e.g. change of representative is not even mentioned in the guidelines in detail but for this, it is referred to the official journal 2007 which not everybody carries with him/her). Other questions were rather time consuming and difficult to assess in my case since the information could sometimes not be found anywhere - which more or less indicated for me that the statement was wrong. The claim analysis was too ambiguous (documents and questions) and I found it very hard to deal with the Art 123(2) questions. Such Art 123(2) questions are also quite difficult in reality and depend on the Examiner's handling of Art. 123(2). Therefore I found that those questions were also a bit too much for a pre-exam, especially since there is no way of exchanging arguments in the pre-exam.
- The questions were different with respect to the previous years and longer, especially the claim analysis part
- The level of preexam was much more difficult than previous year and the legal part was way above the level requested. The claim analysis part contain unclear statements and complex questions. If the target is that people are not passing and then the examiners they achieved their scope this year. It was extremely bad behaviour for an examiner to start with the most difficult question in the legal part and the answer to be based on some journal as it was in none of the available materials.
- quite different from previous years, more difficult
- As legal section was harder this year had less time for claims analysis. Felt that some of the questions were not relevant to day-to-day work practice, which I felt they should be for a pre-qualifying exam. claims section was also much harder due to volume of material to read, additional claim set and ambiguity of questions. This caused me a problem with time management, which I was not expecting based on previous exams. Calendars were also changed without notice.
- What are the aims of the pre-examination? I think the 2015 examination did not reflect them.
- Why don't you publish the solutions a day after the exam?
Why are we not allowed to carry our exam papers home?
Why don't you formulate questions with room for interpretation clearer (esp. in claim analysis)?
The solution sheet with circles to be filled lacks good practicability gives room for mistakes, which is not really exam related.
- The legal questions section was fine. It was a little more difficult than previous years, but nothing unreasonable.
The claim interpretation part was a different story. The true/false format seems very artificial at the outset. Ambiguous drafting made this considerably worse. For several of the questions, there were arguments available in support of both "true" and "false" (e.g. the novelty question which turned on the meaning of "cardboard"). The question then boils down to "can you guess what the examiner is thinking".
This section would work better if:
(a) it was made less dependent on reaching the same reading of a document as the examiner (so more theoretical / abstract questions) or

(b) there was the ability to submit argumentation or
(c) it was drafted well enough to remove the ambiguity.

- - legal question were partially more difficult then previously and it may be unfair to some people with examination anxieties (not me) to start with the most difficult questions (1.3, 1.4)
- Claim analysis was much more involved than previous exams and included several questions that were (in my view) ambiguous and left too much room for debate even when discussing them afterwards with experienced registered representatives at the EPO.
- Question 12 was problematic as a whole since "unnecessary limitation" could be interpreted in several ways.
- Question 16 left too much room for debate since some of the statements from the description were not clearly distinguishable as general statements or relating to a particular embodiment.
- Much more difficult than 2014-2013 - some questions esp. in the claim analysis were ambiguous. It seems that the aim of the pre-exam should be to test knowledge on clear cut cases as opposed to borderline cases.
- The claim analysis was more unclear and more reading than usual compared to past papers. A bit too difficult.
- This year's pre-examination was a LOT more difficult than any previous pre-examination.
- The exam itself was not too difficult, the technical level of the claim analysis part was good. However, some questions (legal questions and claim analysis questions) were ambiguous and impossible to answer with certainty without further information. My answer for some questions was "grey", but I had to choose "white" or "black". And depending on the angle I looked at it, I could see it both ways.

If I were given more time to study and resit the same exam, I would still be unable to come to an answer I would be certain with because some facts are not clear. Imho this should not happen in this kind of exam since in a multiple choice exam there is no option to add explanations. So while most of the exam was fair and ok, some of it seemed to be unsuitable for multiple choice.

I hope that this will be acknowledged and dealt with in a suitable manner. I felt well prepared, passed all previous exams with 90 points and now deeply hope I have the 70 I need...

- Compared to the past papers and the mock examinations, the pre-examination of 2015 seemed to take far longer and had far more ambiguous questions (at least in the English Language paper).
- Did it last year so don't really recall how the exam went.
- Some answers were not answerable from EPC, PCT or most important OA, G-, T- decisions, which wasn't the case the last years --> more difficult, since unexpected to answer.

Besides that it the pre-examination was on the Level of the years before.

- More difficult than previous exams. The claim analysis was not straight forward and in many cases I wanted to write some kind of comment on my answer like: True, if
More questions concerning PCT than before.
- 2015 pre exam questions were more ambiguous than previous years
- The claim analysis was quite difficult in view of the many possible interpretations of the texts and the questions. There were quite some questions that could have been answered with either "yes" (if...) or "no" (if...). Don't think the amount of uncertainty involved was suitable for a multiple-choice test.
- More PCT than expected
- The level of the exam was harder than expected and harder than all the pre exams from the previous years. The questions were as hard as the questions from the main exam.
- As I said before, I found the pre-examination much more difficult than the past papers and mock exams. I found it longer (I almost didn't have time to finish it) and the claim analysis part was, in my opinion, ambiguous. Specifically, I spent 15 minutes thinking if a cardboard has always wood fibres. As far as I remember D1 disclosed a cardboard having wood fibres and D3 disclosed a cardboard having fibres. In my opinion, it is "common general knowledge"

that a cardboard is made of paper and paper is made from wood; therefore, my conclusion was that a cardboard MUST always contain wood fibres.

I compare it with the case of water. For my "common general knowledge" water is liquid from 0 °C to 100 °C; hence, if a document discloses water at 90°C I will always assume that said water is liquid although there could always be gas molecules. Another example could be a piece of bread. For me, bread always contains gluten although there could be gluten free breads. What I am trying to say is that, although D3 did not disclose that the fibres were wood fibres, the "common general knowledge" is that said fibres must be wood fibres. I really hope you can take that into consideration since I can be fired if I don't pass this exam...

- The subjects were not as relevant as in previous exams.
- The pre-exam overall was difficult and for some questions related to the claim analysis not clear
- The claim analysis section was too long. The invention was easy to understand. However, definitely, it was not adequate to solving in two hours.
- Compared to the pre-exams of the last years I had the impression that especially the claim analysis part was more difficult.
- The time between pre-examination and main examination is too large for the pre-examination having a significant effect on the main examination. If one passed the pre-examination due to significant training (time and costs), it is highly unlikely that one would pass the main examination without further specific training. The complete pre-examination is useless in this regard. The pre-examination should take place some months (3-4) in advance of the main examination, not one or two years in advance. This would ensure a better preparation for and of the candidates.
- The level of difficulty was very high compared to the last years' papers.
- The questions of the claim analysis are too unclear and subjected to different interpretations. It is impossible to answer securely T or F.
- Much more difficult regarding previous exams.
Too many questions about Euro-PCT
Too hot in the examination room
Too long: no time enough to review the questions, when the mock examinations from previous years could be done perfectly in 2h30min.
- I found the first legal question related to representation hard and time-consuming. For this reason, I found it bothersome to be as a first question.
The Claim Analysis part was long (longer than in previous years) and the two claim sets were long and intricate
- The time I have allocated (e.g. for past papers) for the legal section was not sufficient, thus much little time was left for the claim analysis section. I had hardly any time left to check to the description of the documents to verify the correctness of the claim analysis answers.
- The legal questions were as expected and similar to the years before.
The claim analysis was significantly more complex compared to the years before, as much information was given (set of claims, prior art documents). Additionally, the presentation of information as well as the given set of claims (2 large sets of claims) were irritating/confusing. In conclusion, the claim analysis appeared much more intense than the foregoing years.
- Concerning to Claim Analysis the questions were not clearly and the time was not fair. So far in short time it was very difficult to make the right decision.
- The PRE should check your BASIC knowledge, so the style of questions should be adopted. In fact they are not since 2014.
- Some questions were confusing, where either a False or True could apply.
- Some questions were quite uncertain, and in many cases I could justify myself both variants of reply. Overall it was much more difficult and less clear than 2014's pre-examination.
- Unfortunately, I think there were quite a lot of ambiguous questions. It seemed as the exam had not been properly reviewed.
Maybe, in an effort to ask questions which have not been asked before, the formulation of

the questions became ambiguous?

- Many ambiguous questions in the claim analysis part, extremely difficult to prepare for such questions.
- Many of the questions (especially in the claims analysis) were unclear and thus required too much interpretation from the candidate.
- The claim analysis section appeared to be much more difficult than in any pre-exam before. In particular, many questions appeared to be rather grey instead of black or white when compared to the pre-exams in the years 2012, 2013, and 2014. The first legal questions were rather difficult compared with the average difficulty of the legal questions. Information about the current member states of the European Union was needed to answer one question. To my understanding, this is not within the scope of the pre-exam.
- The 2015 pre-EQE was far more difficult than previous years, with a different style and emphasis, and with a focus on areas not previously examined that you could not have anticipated. The hugely subjective nature of the Claim Analysis part (and to some extent the Legal Part) of the paper is completely inappropriate to be examined in multiple choice format; there are many questions where there is no one true and definite answer, yet the mark scheme only allows for one of 'True' or 'False', making some questions a mere lottery. This is extremely inequitable given the punitive mark scheme, where an incorrect answer can cost you far more than one mark. Indeed, by definition, the reason that the profession of European Patent Attorney exists, is because many situations that occur in practice are at least arguable in both directions. Hence, to attempt to assess questions in the Claim Analysis sections as if they were objectively and distinctly either 'True' or 'False' seems inappropriate; many questions have ambiguous language in them which makes it impossible to definitely answer either way.
- (see my lengthy comment a few questions before)
- Too different from previous years/mock-exams
- Time is limited.
- The pre-examination exam was not drafted in a way clear enough so that a double interpretation of the questions was avoided. Many times I was faced to take the decision of either taking one direction or a complete opposed one for the meaning of words or formulations. I believe that since a True/False question doesn't allow us to comment on our reasoning, it must not leave any space for a choice of interpretation of a word. What does "skill" in question 9.1 mean, what is an "unnecessary limitation" and with regard to what, what encompasses a "cardboard" etc... This situation happened to many times.
- Die Anspruchsanalysefragen waren an vielen Stellen mehrdeutig und haben mehrere Alternativen offen gelassen, die es sehr schwer machten eine Gute Entscheidung im Rahmen eines multiple choice tests zu machen.
- Pre-EQE was much more challenging than those of 2012-2014
- I found the pre-examination of 2015 a lot more difficult than the previous pre-examinations. The legal questions seem to cover more specific topics and were not really basic. The claim analysis part comprised texts which were a lot longer and more complicated than previous years. Overall I needed about 3 hours to complete the previous pre-examinations during training, but I needed the full 4 hours for completing this year's pre-examination, and did not have any time for reviewing my answers.
- Seemed more time consuming than previous exams and the format of the questions had changed to make them more difficult to grasp. The desks at the exam venue were too small to adequately fit all the books you need along with the exam paper and any working paper.
- Pre-exam 2015 much more difficult than in the previous years
- pre-exam 2015 was much more difficult than the previous pre-EQE's and required much more time for reading the documents and claims of the claim analysis part. Hence, a lot of candidates which based their preparation on making exams from the previous years, were insufficiently prepared to address all questions within the available 4 hours. If the EPO would have communicated earlier that there is a trend in making the pre-exams in future more difficult, candidates would have been better prepared. I am still convinced that the pre-EQE is very useful because it obliges candidates to start

studying and getting familiar with the available books in an early phase leading to a more thorough knowledge of the EPC and PCT and a better implementation claim analysis tools.

- If you are going to set True/False questions, then it is necessary to have a correct and an incorrect answer. It is not acceptable to include incredibly ambiguous, and somewhat subjective, questions, wherein the resultant answer is dependent on how one (justifiably!) construes a term.

There were a number of questions in the 2015 pre-exam paper wherein (based on how one construes a term) it would have been possible to construct a reasonable argument (based on the EPC, implementing regulations, and decisions of the Boards of Appeal) for both true and false. This was made all the more difficult when both arguments were immediately clear; what then results is "what is the most likely/probable answer that the exam board is looking for".

There is no place for such ambiguity in a true/false paper, especially where there is no room for the candidate to comment on and justify his position using the relevant provisions and case law.

I accept that the pre-exam should not be a "walk-in-the-park" examination, however requiring candidates to construe ambiguous terms and arrive at the "correct" answer within 3 minutes (the allocated time per question) is, I feel, rather unacceptable.

- It appeared to be more difficult than both the earlier exams (2012-2014) as well as the 2 mock examinations available. Not so much the difficulty of the specific questions, but as there were significantly fewer "easy" questions that I could answer right off the bat, the accumulated time needed for answering all the questions were much higher. I spent just over 3,5 hours on my first run-through of the questions, whereas previous sets took me around 2,5 hours to complete.

I felt that there were more ambiguity in some of the questions than I have noticed in earlier pre-examination sets which also made it more difficult.

- The Pre-Exam had changed in form from the previous years. It would have been useful to have been told this in advance.
- The difficulty was adequate although the pre-exam paper was significantly more difficult than the 2012-2014 papers.

Main challenges were some unclarity in the analysis part, e.g.:

- Q.15.X and 17.X were unclear as far concerning the disclosure of cardboard containing wood fibers (or not?)
- Q.20.2 was unclear as the argument was correct but D1/D2 as CPA were mixed up in the question and it was not clear whether this was intended
- further problems can be gathered from the deltapatents blog...

Another challenge was time management although I do not consider this being unfair.

However, this was not an issue in all the previous pre-exams. Unfortunately, this was caused by unclarity. A further reason may be seen in the claims given in nested form and sub-questions relating to different subclaims.

IMHO, pre-exam reached a peak level where it is no more possible to draw up more difficult exams without deviating from the multiple choice format. The more difficult the exam, the more decisions have to be taken to arrive at TRUE/FALSE.

- It was very hard. Legal and claim analysis questions demanded knowledge above the level of the previous Pre-examination papers. Claim analysis included long questions - 10 claims - unseen before, amendments combination etc.

Even our coach estimation is that the level of the paper is above the level of all previous Pre-examination papers

- Questions could not always clearly answered by yes or no.
- A bit surprising compared to previous pre-exam: More difficult with much more question relative to case law or guidelines.....
- Overall, I think the pre-EQE was quite difficult, certainly more difficult than in the previous years. However, I am not sure whether or not this was done intentionally. I just think that some of the questions were not as clear and unambiguous as in the previous years and I found that was very irritating during the exam. This holds particularly true for the claim analysis, even though I found the invention easy to understand.

I think that it is alright to put some questions that allow a certain degree of ambiguity. However, if there will be more such questions it may be prudent to change the pass rate again from 70% to 50% in order to allow the Student a few mistakes that were due to a different interpretation of the question so that good students who prepared well still pass despite such a misunderstanding of the question.

- The examination this year seemed harder than previous years. There also seems to be a large difference of opinion on the answers to the claim analysis part.
- Questions very unclear, not adequate for a TRUE/FALSE format. The exam is physically very taxing and if difficulty is increased even more, physical conditions will become important for passing.
- As already mentioned, the field for the claim analysis should be chosen so that there is not such a huge discrimination between natural scientists and engineers. Furthermore, language ambiguities and unclarities should be definitively avoided so that the results of the pre-examination are not a matter of luck. Examiners should take into account that we cannot provide any arguments concerning our interpretation and therefore, there are high chances that a lot of points are lost if our interpretation does not correspond to the one of the Examiners (please refer to the comments on Delta Patents blog).
- Sometimes difficult to interpret the fine details of the text correctly. One example is Q 5.4. This is an early entry but it is implicit by the phrase "enter on 27 February", which is before the 31 month dead-line. Another example is Q1.3 where you need to interpret the text of the question in order to be able to answer.
- The increase in difficulty over the previous years was very noticeable and rendered useless much of the preparation provided by the online course offered by the EPO. The claims analysis section was very poorly constructed, providing both statements and questions which were far too ambiguous to accurately answer using the True/False system. It was incredibly frustrating to know both potential answers and the full reasoning behind both potential answers, and then essentially have to guess what the person who drafted the question feels is the correct amount of common general knowledge that is to be used when assessing questions. It did not feel like a valid test of my abilities regarding claim analysis - which, in practice, have been honed by the prosecution of several hundred EP applications, are well-thought of by my supervisors, and are appreciated by various clients for whom I have successfully prosecuted EP applications to grant with commercially relevant claims. This part of the exam also fails at being a representation of typical work before the EPO. Unless a document is blatantly novelty-destroying (or not) or a claim is clearly obvious in view of one or two documents then a True or False only system is inadequate. This is because otherwise, in practice, you are expected to make arguments to demonstrate how your claims are distinguished, or how the prior art is lacking in ways which, when fully considered, amount to an insurmountable difference from your claimed invention. The claims analysis sections of the previous years papers understood these points, and felt a fairer test of abilities. But in an exam where the high pass mark means every answer matters - particularly as one answer being incorrect can often lead to another being incorrect (this itself reveals poor construction of the exam paper as a candidate should not be punished twice for what amounts to one mistake) - it is unfair that a large part of my revision is often rendered useless due to ambiguity in the paper. I honestly feel that I could have done no preparation for the claim analysis section and have responded to the questions in the same way as a did.
- It was significantly more difficult than in the past years.
- the way the marks are counted is not really fair - if You make it "right", You can miss the PreEx with only 16 wrong answers (out of 80).
- Too many pages of description and prior art in the claim analysis part. Further, there were questions in which a long list of claims was included, but there were no questions regarding some of them.
- Some answers/"facts" seemed a bit ambiguous e.g. is paper made of wood fibres? Silly things like this spoil the whole thing. Some of the legal questions were a bit particular - e.g. the level of knowledge/skill of the skilled person... I think there are more serious topics that

could have been covered that could better test a trainee's knowledge/ability.

- During preparation i did the pre-exams 2011- 2014 and here is my rating in terms of difficulty
1= easy, 10=very difficult

Legal Claims

2012* 4 4

2013* 5 5

2014 8 8

2015 9 9

*) please keep in mind the Limit of 50 marks to succeed

I think the bar was raised in 2013 by raising the Limit to 70 instead of 50 and comparing 2014 to 2013 i judge the legal questions and the claims part a bit more difficult. So far the 2014 exam was the most difficult. I am rather concerned about the Quality of the claims Analysis questions since there was considerable ambiguity about the answers (see Blogs)

- This year's paper was alot more difficult than those in the compendium.
- Some answers were ambiguous and reasoned arguments could be made for answering true or false. This is surely unacceptable.
- More difficult than the previous exams.
Quite many of the questions were open to interpretations.
- Much harder than previous years. Too many ambiguous points that could have gone either way - not suitable for a true-false type scenario
- The pre-exam this year followed a different approach from those set in the previous years. In particular, for the claims analysis question we were presented with a new set after every few questions which meant more time was spent reading the claims and analysing them in comparison to the present prior art documents.
In addition, in both the legal and analysis questions, they seemed to be a number of ambiguous which felt could only be answered subjectively. It was difficult to give a clear cut yes or no answer.
Overall it was significantly difficult than the papers presented in the previous years.
- Really disapointed to see so many ambiguous questions. For instance, it is highly frustrating to analyse completely all documents and wonder if you should only consider one document for a given question that teaches that cardboard is made of fibers but doesn't tell that these fibers are made of wood, or also consider another document provided later in the paper that tells that cardboard contains wood fibers. When this affects one question, it is not too bad but this year, there were lots of questions like this and it is hard to rely on "chance". In my personal case, based on such ambiguous questions, I can get a total anywhere from 55 to 75. By the way, I'd have had no problem if I'd sat when 50 was enough for a PASS but I feel (and based on comments from other candidates, I'm not the only one) that it is unfair to raise the bar from 50 to 70 and now to raise difficulty with so many ambiguous questions. Sorry for being negative but when you're well prepared and get a pass with all past papers from compendium, it is hard to end up with a mark able to go from 55 to 75.
- The legal questions were difficult, so I had not enough time to pay much attention to the claim analysis part. The questions of the analysis part were quite hard and different to the questions in the years before. That was confusing. Due to the difficulty, the other kind of questioning, and the small time, the exam was to hard.
- The 2015 pre-examination was significantly more difficult than the 2012-2014 papers and too much longer to complete. The 2015 questions for both the legal and claim analysis parts were frequently ambiguous and there was an unnecessarily large amount of reading to complete for the claim analysis section e.g. large claim sets on which we were only asked about selected portions.
- I believe that the answers should be more "clear cut" if possible, both in the legal part and in the claim analysis
- Much harder than in previous years. In particular the claim construction. I noticed that there were two questions which hinged on whether or not the same feature was disclosed, which was hard to determine, so would penalise candidates who made the wrong judgement call twice instead of just once.

- The difficulty of the pre-exam has increased over the last years, especially compared to the 2012 and 2013 papers. Some of the claim analysis questions seemed to be rather ambiguous, which makes answering of these questions in a 'true/false' format very difficult.
- I think that the exam paper had too many questions which did not have a clear answer. Many of the answers could be both depending on how you, especially in the claims part, read the prior art documents.
- Claim analysis questions were too ambiguous for a simple true/false question in a lot of cases. This seemed to be more the case than in previous years
- There were several ambiguous questions in the claims analysis part . Also some questions were linked to the same subject being tested (eg. whether cardboard inherently contains wood fibers or not).
- The claim analysis questions seem too subjective to be answered simply true or false
- It was harder than I expected. Harder than the previous ones.
- Online Communication of the 2015 results by the EPO is a mess. (Fluctuating marks)
The examination board appears not to have a clear concept regarding the level of difficulty -
> Super easy in 2012 and 2013 -> Raising the bar in 2014 (70 P) -> Raise of the difficulty of questions in 2015.

I am not sure what the purpose of the PreExam is. a) Start preparation early/Get the basic legal concepts of the EPC

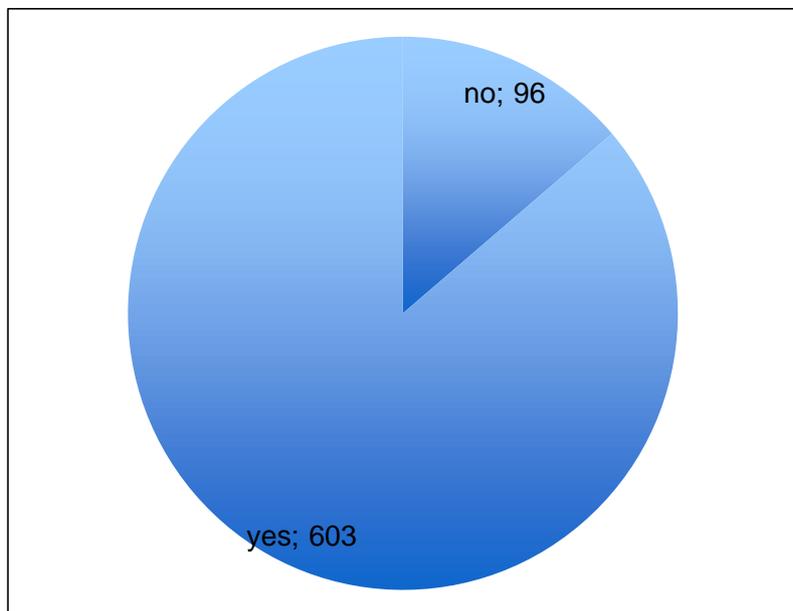
or b) In depth preparation and a first "hurdle" to reduce No. of candidates in the MainExam
EPO should communicate what level is expected

- Maybe slightly harder than past papers
- I found the claim analysis section to be very difficult because there were very long documents to work with. Also, there were some very ambiguous statements some of the questions boiled down to (e.g. does cardboard always have wood fibers as D1 stated that "the" cardboard (meaning the one of D1) had it?), which made it very hard to decide. I generally felt that in the claim analysis section, there were a lot of questions that I would have liked to answer with "Yes, if..." or "No, but...", which is obviously not good in a two-choice Yes or No examination. The fact that the pre-examination has increased in difficulty dramatically over the last years does leave something to be desired in terms of fairness.
- The claim analysis section appeared to contain several questions which were ambiguously worded. This has already been recognised by the Examination Committee for question 20.2. However, there are other examples where true or false could be correct depending on one's interpretation. The phrase "is this a valid argument" seems also very vague when dealing with such questions. Different arguments can be valid, even if not entirely persuasive.
- I think type of questions on the claim analysis section and the way the proposed claims were written differed a lot from the previous years.
- Some legal questions in French were not clearly written. I was obliged to check the English version in order to clearly understand these questions. These questions take me extra time and made me somehow nervous.
During the pre-EQE, I felt that time necessary to treat the claim part increased too much respect previous years pre-EQE, due to an important number of description pages as well as claim set structures requiring concentration in order to avoid mistakes on dependency. Moreover, I was confused about my personal technical knowledge I have to "use" to answer some questions, notably about the topic "carton" with/without "wood fibers" or "fibers".
I felt that the time required and the complexity of the pre-EQE was too high respect what I could experiment with the 2011's mocks and previous pre-EQE examens.
- Ich habe an keiner Vorprüfung teilgenommen.
- Having different set of claims with more than 10 claims each was way too much information for such a short time.
Compared to earlier pre-exams I found it very difficult to assess if a feature was ment as an explicit feature or meant to lead to an implicit feature. (Pappe: explizit oder implizit für Zellulose???)
- I get the feeling that the examiners are trying to devise more challenging claims analysis questions compared to previous years, but the end result is that the questions are more

ambiguous. And as in previous years epi and Deltapatents tutors disagree with some model answers. It feels like the whole exercise is descending into a game of substantive roulette.

- Very difficult and weird

Q28) Did you feel time pressure during the examination?



Q29) Comments concerning the difficulty of the EQE papers

- It is annoying to see that the letter by the client in paper C (I am referring both to the examination I sat and past papers) always contains pieces of information whose only purpose is to mislead candidates and which would never occur in a real letter. The examination does not test a candidate's ability to write a successful opposition: the whole exercise is about avoiding artificial pitfalls and guessing what the examiners want candidates to write.
- ABSOLUTELY NOT IN CORRELATION WITH THE PRE-EXAMS OF THE PREVIOUS YEARS AND DUE THE MARKING SYSTEM YOU LOOSE TOO MUCH POINTS FOR HONEST MISTAKES... REALLY NOT A FAIR EXAM THIS YEAR AND THE MARKING SYSTEM IS ALSO NOT WELL BALANCED
- Paper A: many claims in the same category apparently. That's confusing as it does not correspond to normal practice. What's the point? Destabilizing the candidates? True technical abilities are not tested with this kind of trick...
- I think many of the questions do not reflect a real world situation. The exam should not be drafted by EPO people only, but practitioners from outside of the EPO should be involved. In particular the inventive step questions and A123(2) questions are oftentimes ambiguous, because in a real world scenario you would always use every argumentation and/or paragraph as basis for amendments to overcome an objection. depending on the Examiner or the Opposition Division, amendments are granted and/or inventive step is acknowledged based on argumentation that would not be possible according to the EQE assessment. For example, the closest prior art is in the real world not always the document disclosing the same purpose. In addition, it is known in the biochemical field that some Technical Boards, in particular the one led by Oswald, only acknowledges compliance with A123(2) for features finding VERBATIM basis in the application as filed. This is almost never required in EQE, although it is well-established by this Board. Therefore, I think most EQE papers are too much focused on problems that are not unambiguously solvable based on the emerging case-law of the EPO. In short: If not related to formal matters, there is always a T decision for each type of argument which may, however, be found incorrect in EQE. Such situations should be avoided by either focusing on formal matters of the EPC or G decisions.
- I think the pre-examination of this year is adequate but it is more difficult than the previous

year.

We could not answer the legal questions only based on reading EPC (which however seems to be possible for the past years).

The technical domain is adequate for the claims analysis part, but the questions are more difficult.

- See Q27e)
- Difficulty adequate except for excessive time pressure for B and C, see below.
- This year Paper C was terrible, too many paper to read, too many attacks to do, a lot of priority issues to consider
- I think that this year the pre-exam was much more difficult than the last years.
- Time, Time, Time,...
- Sometimes questions are too opened issues
- time is too strict
- Paper C was much too long!
Paper B was much more difficult than recent years.
- The difficulty of the pre-examination emerged from the many (in relation to the allowed errors) unclear and ambiguous questions.
- It is highly unfair that the difficulty (in particular the time criticality) of EQE paper significantly varies from year to year. Papers do not have to be easy, but they should be predictably difficult.
- I thought this year's exams were fair, except for the timing of Paper C (see below).
- I thought the B exam resembled the B exams from before the time was shortened. Three prior art references and a very messy set of claims from the client made it very difficult. It would have taken less time to start from the as-filed claims and amend to overcome the cited art. In any case, three prior art documents was too many.
The C paper was also very difficult given the number of independent claims and length of material to read through. The nuanced technical issues were also difficult.
- For paper C see above.
For paper A: I just would have needed more time to analyze the client's invention and compare to the prior art solutions.
- In my opinion the pre-examination paper of this year (legal part and claim analysis) was much more difficult compared to the one of the previous year and I felt not sufficiently prepared.
- much harder than previous years
- Its sport, and it shouldn't be...
- Looking back always very nicely constructed cases;
Still, I encounter time pressure and am a bit too slow
- Paper C was very time pressured compared to past papers that I had practised. Paper D was a little disconcerting only because some of the more common provisions did not come up as expected (e.g. R 134(1), appeals, priority claims in D2).
- See above!
- Paper D appeared to be of the correct difficulty level.
- part d is entirely reasonable in length and difficulty
- The main difficulty in the legal part was to find the exact passage of the Guidelines that enabled you to state a question was true or false.
Regarding the claim analysis part the main difficulty was to interpret the intention of the question correctly.
- A (E/M) paper: claim 1 was very difficult to draft in two parts, and in a concise manner. Given my experience with the compendia, I was surprised and this was destabilising.
- Paper C was extremely time pressured.
Paper A (E/M) was considerably more difficult than previous years and less clearly defined
Paper B (E/M) was more time pressured than previous years and less clearly defined
- C seemed harder than all previous years.
- Difficulty and volume of paper D was adequate.
Difficulty of paper C 2015 was adequate, too.

- Many of the questions in the claim analysis section of the pre-exam were completely debatable and inappropriate for a TRUE/ FALSE style question (e.g. the wood fibres questions and whether D3 taught away from the use of Aluminium).
- I observed that this year the documents to read and analyse were too many, so not easy to respond in 3 hours. In particular, the quantity was very similar to that one that was present in the paper B before 2013.
The problem is to read and understand in English (even if my comprehension is very good) because at least Italian people do the translation in their head and this process takes time.
- Regarding paper C:
In preparation i got 100% of the attacks correct and most of the reasoning on the papers from that compendium. I typically get to that stage in a short space of time. But i struggle to write the answer down in the 3 and a half hours remaining. I have no idea how terse i can make my answer without it costing me marks, because no one actually knows. This is because the information from the EPO is useless.
Therefore the criterion actually tested by paper C that defines a pass or a fail bears no resemblance to the skills used to write a notice of opposition.
- Paper C was very hard with huge time pressure thanks to the attacks, did not think it possible to do inventive step justice against 5 of the 6 claims.
- Paper A - The technology was challenging. The language necessary to express the claim seems complex and did not flow naturally. There seemed to be many essential elements to claim 1. It was necessary also to incorporate a large amount of functional language. This provided a much harder paper as compared to any of 2010 to 2014.
Paper B - The prior art seemed to be a random mix, which made it harder to identify a clear amendment. Not clear indications like in 2010 to 2014 again.
Paper C - There was a significant time pressure in this exam. Lots of annexes to consider and a lot of writing (five IS attacks with three different cpa's).
Paper D - Seemed fairer, although questions regarding sequence listing seem to favor certain candidates.
- Paper D:
Adequate.
Paper C:
I ran out of time. It was too difficult in that it only concentrated on mechanics (I am from chemistry/biotech). It appears that the Examination Board did not consider that there are also people from other technical areas. 1,5 pages of claims, 5 prior art documents and the amount of information to be analyzed? That should only occur when you have 6 hours time as in previous examinations.
- Difficulty in general was adequate.
The problem for me was a linguistic traps used in the papers. What is the purpose of using words that are not used every day ? Eliminate the candidates who has the mother-tongue language different than English, German or French ?
The purpose of the examination is not checking the language level of the candidates if it is on the level of native speakers.
During normal work such difficult words can be found in an online dictionary in seconds, but during examination it takes minutes to find the word in dictionary. If there is several words to find - it takes several minutes. It could be the time deciding about pass or fail. This year some words were even not found in the biggest available technical dictionary. For this reason the candidates whose mother tongue language is not EN, GE or FR, should be given an additional time for the examination as handicap. Or just do not use such fancy difficult words.
- Main difficulty is time pressure. Otherwise difficulty should be adequate.
- It seems that the difficulty level of the pre-exam is still in a state of flux. This year's pre-exam blog posts on the Deltapatents website has generated four times more discussion than the equivalent blog posts from 2014 (at time of writing). This is just one indicator of how much more interpretation of the questions was required in this year's examination.
Given that the way in which marks are allocated within the groups of statements (1 mark for

2/4 correct statements, 3 marks for 3/4 and 5 marks for 4/4), it would seem that the original intention was that a group of statements should be fairly closely related (see for example, 2012 Q1.1 to 1.3). Given that a candidate could answer 3 out of 4 statements correctly throughout the paper, achieving 75% correct answers, it seems disproportionate that the marks awarded are 60% in view of the 70% pass mark.

- the worst degree of difficulty in C and D exams is "time".
Time for Reading, understanding and answering. Even more if your mother tongue is not EN, DE or FR...
Exams too long!! and not fair for EN, FR or DE non-speakers...
- C-2015 had too many annexes in view of the formal issues (internet publication, priority issues, witness etc.). 6h would have been much more adequate.
B-Paper was just ridiculous in view of the skills which are supposed to be tested (PSA, amending). The check of the confusing client proposal was similar to a "mechanical Turk" task, i.e., comparing claim text with the application text. Not adequate for an exam, as there is not really a chance to prove the skills you have.
- Too many vague or ambiguous questions. This should not happen in a true or false exam-candidates are not given an opportunity to justify their selection so there should be a clear wrong and right answer.
- Please see above. This exam was simply too difficult with too many arguable points (particularly in the claims section). It is noted that a further year passes before taking any higher exam (if passing the pre-exam) - this makes it unsure as to the value of making the pre-EQE examination too difficult, which in turn can have real ramifications in terms of people's jobs and level of disillusion with the profession.
- PAPER C comments: The exam this year contained 6 annexes to be analyzed.
The number of claims was 6. With claim 4 having 2 alternatives, we had to attack 7 objects in total!

We also had to justify that the internet disclosure (having 3 different parts with 3 different dates) was or not part of the prior art.

Claim 4 was dependent of claim 2 OR 3. Claim 2 and 3 being dependent of claim 1. The 2 alternatives of Claim 4 added during the examination procedure and comprising 2 objects had to be analyzed with even more extra care to check whether they were derived directly and unambiguously from the application itself.

On the top of all the complexity above, time is very limiting and it is very difficult to finish paper C in 5 hours. Why the time for paper C has been reduced?

Apart from the intrinsic complication of this paper, there are additional complications if you are not a native speaker of an official language of EPO, because you have to go through all the documents in a very short time. And a second complication is, in my opinion, your background. If you come from Chemistry/Bio background and not Engineering or Physics, this paper is not straightforward and you have to spend some time trying to understand the invention. Why don't you use more Chemistry/Bio related topics?

Thanks in advance to take into consideration the information above when marking the paper for this year and add an extra hour for the exam next year or adjust the paper C format so it does not contain too much annexes and/or claims and the focus remains on what is really expected from the candidate sitting paper C.

- It seemed to me like a bad joke of the Examination Center
- This year there were too many effective dates problems, I spent almost half an hour to justify all the effective dates of the claims.
And I think it is quite penalizing being obliged to reply in a non mother tongue!
- Too many questions on the PCT
- D was in my opinion too easy (especially the D I part); I missed some funny questions on recent changes in the law etc.; I would also prefer more shorter questions (with less marks) than 5 long ones (some questions felt more like 'small D II' than a proper D I question); I think that just 1 PCT question is ridiculous
A was not totally clear to me; seemed to me that it was a lot of reading, which was slowing me down because I am not a native speaker of an official language

B was far too much to read and do in just 3 hours
C was more or less ok

- N/A
- Time pressure is very high. It is good to be fast in real life too, but it should not be the major thing tested on the EQE.
To be given amended claims in B makes it harder than in former times and you even have one hour less - to my mind not justified at all.
- PAPERS B,C = UNFAIR
Time pressure was too important, it was not possible to show the professional skills in these conditions.
I wonder if both papers have been tested.
- In paper B, the client letter and the draft set of claims make it difficult to determine how much you may depart from the client's draft set of claims and the provision of a draft set of claims does not warrant the one hour reduction in time available for completing the paper.
- too much to read; no time to analyse the info provided
- Not really fair to increase the difficulty that much compare to other years
- paper C should be based on chemistry and mechanics equally
- Viel zu wenig zeit für Teil c
- To me it seemed a little bit easier than earlier D -exams but that depends maybe on me being better prepared or that I did not recognise the (hidden) difficulties - it is a little early to say
- See comment above on paper C.
- Lack of time was for me the biggest problem.
- D was well designed for the 5 h exam. Writing old D papers gave realistic reference of preparedness for 2015 exam.
C was way too tedious. Come on, 3 novelty Attacks, 5 inventive step attacks, one added matter attack and legal issues is too much for 5 h. I don't see why C paper has become a handwriting exam: it's no use if you know how to attack if you don't have the time to write the attacks down.
- Much too difficult for an attorney for only having 2 years of experience! Also such a different compared with previously years, very sooty for EPO provide this different and uneven level.
- Paper B (E/M) was more difficult this year, lots of information, scattered as usual, two embodiments each with specific support. Clients amendments are a real distraction.
Paper C had a lot going on, 3 Independent claims this year!
- Paper C: incredible time pressure due to
 - long feature set of claims
 - no really short Annexes
 - "mad" Annex 2 (honestly, if A2 was prior art under 54(2) for all claims, then please cross out each occurrence of the word "plausible" from Guidelines sections G-IV, 7.2 to 7.5; it is not plausible that someone holds a talk and one whole season after that makes a blog post out of it still calling the stuff presented "new")
 - there was 123(2), priority issues, internet disclosure/oral disclosure and one 54(3), which was a bit too much on top of the "regular" issues ...
- This year paper C contained too much text (26 pages) and thus it took much time to analyze the content. In the end for one attack on an independent claim there was no time left. In comparison : In C papers for years 2010 to 2014 there have always been fewer pages to be read and I finished all those papers within the specified time. Beyond that, it was quite impractical that the claims were printed on two pages. This made the overview chart I prepared much larger than expected and unhindered because it required much space on the table.
- paper C was too long
- Paper C was WAY WAY WAY too comprehensive - This year the paper was a 7-hour paper.
- A exam was much more difficult than before, very difficult on 3,5 hours.
- I find it remarkable that hardly anybody passes with 80 points or higher and that the average score usually lies around or even below 45 points. I never had a tutor in my life (and I've had quite some in all my studies) who said that a score of 75% on 75% of the questions (and 0%

on 25% on the questions) is a very good score, and who told candidates to aim for such score. Normally, a tutor states that with good preparation one should be able to score 8 or higher, and he is driven to guide his students to such realistic score. On the EQE this is entirely different.

- C is very difficult due to the accumulated fatigue along the previous exams
- C was horrific and impossible to solve in the 5 hours.
- A lot of pages to read but too less time to read the pages carefully.
- The difficulty is to answer in time
- too difficult
- The c paper in particular was difficult to deal with in 5 hours given the incredible amount of issues in the client letter, and the way the terms 'originally filed' were used; and the other unnecessary comments. What they testing? Whether I can apply the problem solution approach, or whether I could follow ridiculous and badly phrased sentences. How does that help a non native en/de/fr speaker?
- The time pressure is off the line. It do not provide any realistic view of whether you are fit for practice
- Apart from the extreme lack of time the chemistry paper A 2015 as well as the previous paper A of 2014 were far to difficult to understand from the technical point of view! As to me there is also a difference in complexity between the technical paper A and the chemistry paper A. Especially this year there were too many theoretical options for drafting the claims, in particular with regard to claims categories.
- very unexpected DI-type questions, no questions on new rules and procedure, no questions on divisionals, fees etc., instead DII-type questions, questions on biotechnical field-->vers unusual
- Very much to read; Zoo Long for 5 hours
- Paper C was of appropriate difficulty, but the extent of the paper was completely inadequate, see Q 32 below.
- The pre-examination was significantly harder than previous years, particularly in the claim analysis section. Nevertheless, it was still easy to complete all of the questions and check your answers within the allotted time for the paper.
Some questions included some ambiguity, which is not acceptable in a supposed 'true/false' exam. In particular, "legal remedy" in question 2.2 was not clear - is requesting an extension a "legal remedy"?
However, the overall difficulty level of the questions felt more appropriate for a 4 hour exam this year.
- D was a fair paper, however still barely writable within the prescribed time.
- time pressure in paper B E/M, as to pick up the marks you are required to write out a lot of details for basis and IS.
- Based on the expected outcome of the attacks. 3 x Novelty, 5 x Inventive step, 1 x Added Subject Matter (so in total 9 attacks). Given the complex prior art situation, different effective dates for the claims of Annex 1 and the total of 6 Annexes. In my opinion 5 hours is not enough! I was not able to attack claim 6 due to lack of time. In my opinion removing the Legal Questions which provided only a few marks but making the exam on our shorter is a wrong direction for the exam. The 5 hours was simply too short. In my humble opinion I was very very well prepared for the exam, so I'm really curious how my colleagues handled the enormous time-pressure. What is it was the exam committee wants to test... I people are lucky or if people who are well prepared can draft full, very well argued attacks?
- I found paper C extremely long and difficult, especially for someone like me who does not have a mechanical background. All the annexes were very long, including the patent itself. There were a lot of figures to check, three unrelated independent claims and on the top of that there were problems of Articles 123(2), priority and disclosure. Honestly, it was a 6 hours and not 5 hours paper, especially for someone like me who does not have a mechanical background and needs sometime to read and understand mechanical words and check the figures.
- Paper C required far too much analysis and writing to be satisfactorily completed in 5 hours.

I certainly would not produce that level of work for a client in draft, and I would not even consider submitting it to the EPO.

Requiring candidates to review Annex 1 having 8 pages including 4 figures and 6 claims (3 independent), analyse priority dates and basis so as to determine effective dates; and then to use 5 further annexes (one of which raised unusual issues relating to public availability) in order to mount effective attacks turns paper C into a scramble that closely resembles one of the UK qualifying exams. This bears no resemblance to the challenges faced when opposing a patent in practice. Surely the focus of the exam should be on identifying fewer stronger attacks and developing strong argumentation rather than producing multiple overlapping skeleton arguments, which is all that is possible in the time allotted for this paper.

Without knowing my result I can say with certainty that paper C is not administered to candidates fairly, and the abilities it currently tests don't serve clients and users of the EPO well.

- Paper C was too mechanical. I think it was a piece of cake for mech/electronic/electric people but very difficult (especially to understand the invention and effects) for bio/chem people.
The client's letter was not easy and required time, as well as 6 annexes was not helpful to finish in time.
- Paper D: It was a bit of a surprise to start off DI with a 9 point question. It took me more time to solve than I should have and I spent the whole D paper trying to recover the time.
Paper B: I found this paper B quite hard, but it was mostly due to the fact that it was the afternoon of the second day and I was too tired to be able to concentrate effectively.
Paper C: There was a lot of material and problems which were a little more complex than I was used to during practicing the compendium papers. I would have needed another hour to complete to the best of my abilities. For example, I had to choose between looking and attacking with Art. 123(2) OR complete all attacks for all claims under Art.100(a). I hope that the reasoning and explanation of priority of subject-matter in different claims and how to use the blog entry get awarded as many points as attacking a few claims. I also had to limit myself to putting whole inventive step arguments in point form all the while aware of the fact that this will probably cost me points.
- Papier C was toi difficult (for the first time I thought that a paper C is too difficult technically speaking- it was inappropriate for people who are chemists) and toi long (I fond that this papier was at least as long as former 6 jours papiers (7 objects, 5prior art documents and question of priority and of prior art redevance regarding A2). It was definitely impossible to finish un m'y opinion.
- The legal part seemed more difficult than in previous years
- Time preasure.
- all papers were difficult concerning the time pressure; there was not enough time to think considerably about possible Solutions. The only thing one could do was writing at once.
- too much material in a too short time slot
- Paper C:
Too long in many aspects:
too many issues to establish effective dates of claims and usability of prior art documents, client letter should be one page instead of two
claims also should be on one page
compared to 2013,2014 this paper was quite difficult and had a huge time pressure.
- seemed more difficult than past pre-EQE exams and mock exams
- The Pre-exam 2015 was much harder than in previous Year.
 1. As now 70 points are needed to pass, Questions should be reasonable (!) in difficulty degree like 2014
 2. Pre-Exam Questions should be solvable by use of EPC and not hidden Parts of Guidelines or EPO Bulletin!!
-> Introduction of Pre-Exam was meant to let the candidates start prepare earlier with studying and better pass the main exam. For that purpose, difficulty degree of 2014 - where

questions could be answered by navigation through EPC - with 60-70 points as pass requirement would be reasonable. To further increase the requirements doesn't help the original goal, is thus not understandable and unreasonable! We have enough burden to overcome for to pass main exam paid by take time from our families for exam preparation. Please only impose reasonable requirements especially for such "pre"-exam. Thanks!

- The question on sequence listings, being a subject specific question, was unexpected
- Paper A was electronics. I thought it was much more difficult than eg a "nut cracker". I had lack of time because I found the topic difficult and it took time to read the invention. Writing the first claim took me too long, had to rush the dependent.
Paper B had three prior art. I had difficulty deciding the CPA and a bit of time shortage in the end with inventive step.
Paper D level was as expected. Surprised there were no priorities claimed.
- I had problems with time managing during both papers A and B.
For Paper A I spent a lot of time in trying to understand well the data reported in the Tables of the application, they were not straight forward. I needed time to deduce the particle size of the samples tested because in tables 2 and 3 the particle size were not mentioned anymore.
Then I spent a long time in the interpretation of the D2 phrase saying "after 8 week at latest, there was no longer any visible effect".
Most probably I interpreted it wrongly, because I understood that it meant that the measurement at week 8 showed no significant result.
A table in the prior art would have helped time managing especially for those candidates who are not mother language.
In the patent application table 3 showed that for nanoemulsion containing unconjugated polymer wrinkle reduction in % after 8 weeks was still acceptable a (being 20%).
So I claimed the cream containing the emulsion with unconjugated-botulinum protein and having droplets of the same size convinced that the size of the droplets improves wrinkle reduction up to 8 weeks after treatment while in D2 it was not like this.
Paper B I did not get to finish the argumentation, I am not satisfied of my performance.
- Gets harder from year to year
- Too many annexes to be analysed and/or too many claims to be attacked,
- It's the "all or nothing thing" that is hard in papers A & B.
Find the right claims and it's easy!
Do not find the right claims and you'll be doomed.
- Time was a problem in all papers.
Especially in paper c there was too little time for that amount of information. It was hard to combine all details mentioned in different papers. It is always a problem to distinguish between common knowledge and special details mentioned in a specific paper. Priority was really complicated this year.
In paper b the suggested claims are a time consuming problem. It took me about one hour to figure out the features necessary in the claims. I think it was easier with no suggested claims.
Paper D were only 5 questions in DI part. If you do not get in a case it is hardly possible to get some points. DII case I ran out of time.
- No sufficient time for paper C
It was really difficult for me to read well the paper B because it was planned during the afternoon. I would prefer to have 1 paper a day to be sure to be in a 100%. Unfortunately, Even if I was ready for B, I was so exhausted with D and A in the morning that I lost all my energy for B and it was really difficult to read well the paper. For this reason, my chance of success decreases rapidly because of this. I was frustrated for this reason since I know that I was ready for B.
- Paper C: it was not obvious how to deal with claim 2, which closest prior art to choose.
- As often for C and D, the examen are only difficult because for everyone in the examination room, too much information to digest for Paper C and D2
- see above my reply for the improvement of performance and preparation of candidates

- The examiners should not be strict on unity issues when marking paper A(Ch), because this was very difficult this year.
Rest was OK.
- Legal part was ok, claim analysis too difficult.
- N/A
- It is a time pressure!
- I did the pre-exam
- The claims analysis questions of the pre-examination of 2015 were very ambiguous and therefore it was far far harder to select an answer than I have found after practicing with papers from earlier years.
- >> A (E/M): it was an unusual paper, as getting novelty was straightforward. But the subject-matter was difficult to describe, with many opportunities to get clarity issues. All in all, it was a fair paper.
>> B (E/M): very difficult. It took some time to evaluate the amendments made by the client, and it was not entirely clear what the solution should be. So, at some point, you had to decide for claims to discuss. The remaining time was way too short to discuss inventive-step properly. It might have been a good paper with 3,5-4h of time, but for 3h it was way too complex.
>> C: difficulty was ok, but (again) it was a 5,5h paper that somehow should be done in 5h.
>> D: fair. the question about late-filing a sequence-protocol was surprising, since this is relevant only for a small number of candidates.
- Paper B was very difficult because of the numerous amendments made by the Client. It was very time consuming to find the basis for two independent claims and for all the other claims. I do not really understand why paper A is 3,5 h and paper B just 3 h although you must write a lot more in paper B which is time consuming.
- This year paper-C exam was more complex than exams from previous years with claims on 2 pages! In my opinion this was 6 hours not 5 hours exam!! In addition, this exam was very difficult to understand for not native speakers and I had to use dictionary.
- see above
- D: fair
C: the difficulty of the paper was not easy, but it was possible to handle if you were well prepared. So it was fair. The other aspect will be answered below under "time available"
- Claim analysis level was much higher than previous years. Questions were not straight forward and ambiguous.
- We were constantly assured that we are well prepared but the level of the knowledge that i supposed to have in the exam was much more that i expected. Even if I knew how to use the material the exceptions, decisions and the exam conditions were too many facts that make the exam too hard.
I have the worst result from all the pre exams, after 1 year of study and i can not imagine how come.
- pre-exame 2015 was more difficult that in previous years
- I really feel I am prepared for taking the D exam after these years of preparation for the pre-examination. However, as this year the pre-examination was much more difficult, I feel disappointed and frustated. It is frustrating to study that much and to practice with the past papers and mock exams and then arrive to an examen where you need to pass and see that it is much more difficult and longer. I really hope that you try to understand that and that you understand that for some people the importance is not only to pass the exam, it is also to conserve our jobs.
- I found paper D adecuate, even slightly easy, although I am concern about the mark scheme.
I found paper A challenging.
- This year was crazy regarding time aspect - 9 attacks, 5 of them problem-solution (!!!) additionally, quite a lot of legal aspects (complicated A. 54(2) situation, A. 123(2) suggestions)
Otherwise the attacks more or less straight forward....and not too many other aspects

(ranges, ...)

- The subject matter of paper C 2015 itself was not very difficult. The difficulty this year lied in the complexity of the presented prior art and the amount of documents/information to analyze. Therefore, in this year, paper C did not test the legal abilities of the candidates but clearly their skill of fast reading, fast thinking and fast hand-writing (where the latter is absolutely useless for daily practice). So, from my opinion, the this years paper C has only the function of a filter and not the ability to test wheather a candidate is fit for practice. That is very sad, since it sheds an odd light to the profession of a European Patent Attorney.
- You must have the right idea to solve the problem(s) in DI or DII in your brain. No time to search in indices or books etc. - you may only check some details.
- 5 hours is definitely not enough for this year´s paper.
- The level as compared to previous exams was too high. It may be ok to have a higher level but I think that in that case the candidates need to be informed of the change. The change was too big not to mention.
- i found, that some of the answers were not clear, so I had to guess (hopefully right).
(the pre-exam that left the least room for speculation in my opinion was the one of 2014)
- There was very much to analyze and write in paper C this year. This was my second time, I first attended last year and I have found both exams very time-consuming and haven't been able to finish, in fact I haven't even got close. This has surprised me, as I haven't had any problems when practicing with older papers.
It also seems that these very time-consuming papers are a bit unfair to non-native speakers of the EQE languages.
- The difficulty of the Pre-examination has significantly increased over the last years. This seems at least questionable.
- I do not consider to have poor language skills. I speak and write 5 languages including EN and FR. In addition, I've started on DE.
However, the way the examinations are now prepared, appears to favour native DE/FR/EN speakers.
The examination should focus more on the understanding of the invention instead of finding and formulating it from a jungle of concealing elements.
For a non-native EN/FR/DE candidate the examination felt, like the purpose was to measure whether or not a candidate is able to reach 50 points, instead of how close to 100 points you could get in a given time.
In the A-paper:
The essential features (in general, broad terms) were concealed into few mentions in the prior art and into a single passage in the client's letter.
The invention itself, which the client actually wanted to protect, was expressed confusingly. Loads of features structurally and functionally relevant to each other. A field not so common to all candidates.
This unclear formulation makes the finding of essential features which are expected in the independent claim more time consuming.
A native speaker has an advantage in reading the paper and grasping the idea expressed by the terms used, likely in less time.
What is more important, is that formulating the claim is more difficult now, when there is less time, and the expressions as such can not be used, without modifying them in context of the "broad invention". There was not clear paragraph, which as such would have probided a good basis for starting the drafting. Whether or not a feature used in a claim is considered non-limiting/equivalent, is up to the examiner(s) correcting the paper. This puts too much weight on the language skills, instead of mastering the problem-solution and drafting the invention into an independent claim.
In the B-paper:
The task of amending the claims was made too time-consuming considering the time allocated for the exam.
The claims are necessary to amend, in order to be able to defend and argue for basis for amendments, novelty and inventive step.
Therefore, it was more of a task of optimising the available time such that at least 50 point

could be gathered in areas where I felt to be best at the moment. Way too much reading (letter, communication, 2 sets of claims, D1,D2,D3 and application) considering the amount of amendments and argumentation required.

- The time factor was for me biggest Problem.
Paper A in 2015 was difficult, because the only essential Feature described in the letter, was not usable.
Paper B, the feature which made the Claim novel, was mentioned in the Art.94(3) communication as novelty destroying.
- The level of difficulty was very high compared to the last years papers at least in the claim analysis section.
- Too subject to different interpretations and unclear. It is like a drive exam with too much questions that are confusing and do not test the ability, the knowledge and the understanding of the candidate, but only the ability to read all the words of the test in stress conditions. Too different from the past papers, which are useless for preparation of the pre-EQE.
- I consider this year the exam was too hard comparing to previous years.
- Paper C Ch was very difficult- I wasted too much time trying to decide if the method was truly cosmetic or not (since this is a known grey area, I don't think anyone was expecting it to come up)
- I took A and B (Ch). Neither of them were very easy considering the amount of time available.
- In paper C there is too much to read and analyse in the time available.
- Part B was, in my opinion, clearly too much for the time. Even if I had correctly assessed everything, I wouldn't have had the time to write it all down in the end.
Part A was difficult but doable.
- To answer the legal questions was not sufficient to use the annotated EPC and the Guidelines. Reference to OJ earlier than 2014 was needed. Due to the amount of material I had excerpts from 2014 OJs.
- In Paper B there were IMO two possible solutions, i.e. keeping two independent claims or going for one system claim. There were hints in both directions in the letter and the application and none of the solutions has obviously more serious downsides (the two independent claims have the inherent unity issues and there is actually one invented system, which should be possible to cover in one claim, i.e. no socket/plug situation; on the other hand, the system claim corresponds better to the invention, covers ski and bindings as the client wishes, but may have clarity issues). Given the time constraints one cannot contemplate for more than 5 minutes and a decision must be taken quickly (no or a late decision may hurt significantly due to inability to score the corresponding argumentation points).
Although Paper C did not seem to have any particularly unusual difficulties regarding the situation and material, but seemed relatively extensive overall.
- D exam seemed reasonable this time. Either I missed some things or I was very well prepared. Previous exams seemed unrealistic, too complex and unreasonable. The exam is way more difficult than daily practice. That is not right. This year it seemed to be more in line with reality.
- There was not really enough time for papers C and D
- Unfortunately, the style of questions in 2014 and 2015 exams were too much complicated, questions did not check your general knowledge about time limits, what fees should you pay, and so on, instead, the questions asked about very specific topics, like representation and opposition, and priority (not in the style as usual, eg. EP1 claims X, EP2 claimed priority of EP1 claims X and in the second claim Y), but includes also the dependency of claims and further considerations about interpretation- according to my opinion is too much for PRE, in fact you can learn a lot, and fail due to questions like I mentioned, because too many things to combine, and you get lost about final answer. It is NOT FAIR, mainly for non-native speakers, who's need more time for reading and more time for consideration the questions.
- There was a lot of text to read. Which is not in favor of candidates whom do not have EN,

DE or FR as a first language. The exam was biased to filter them out, I found.

- Concerning difficulty D was fair, C as well
- Some questions was quite uncertain, and in many cases I could justify myself both variant of reply. Overall it was much difficult and less clear than 2014's pre-examination, plus heightening the mark needed to pass - in real 75% of good answers is not sufficient to pass the exam - it's quite stressing.
- Question/Problem in B (E/M) was so different from what I had prepared for and from previous exams. That confused me so much, that I must have failed it.
- I felt there was a lot to do in paper C this year compared to most of the past papers I'd done.
- Less time to do the papers and more information - its not possible to do it all and it does not reflect the reality in any way.
- some point of the claim analysis were in my opinion misunderstanding. also was the structure of the questions of the claim analysis much more complicated than the years before, so I needed much more time and mistakes due to looking at the different places of the needed informations were possible.
- Paper C did not, in my opinion, deal with technical issues within the common knowledge of the average people (Chemists, Biotechnologist)
- Very confusing options
- Too short time allocated
- More difficult than previous Pre-exams as well as more difficult than the mock exams on the "EPI/EPO Pre-exam course" which I attended september 2014 February 2015.
- time pressure is harder on non-native speakers
- This year paper C was very long and difficult to follow for non-mechanical people using very specialised terminology
- Paper A Chemistry was by far the hardest I have ever seen. I practised by doing all papers from 2005-2014 and comparing my answers to the compendium and have never experienced any difficulty getting an acceptable set of claims. The 2015 paper was very unclear - several possible claim formulations presented themselves to me and it was not at all clear which would gain the most marks. Cosmetic/therapeutic treatments are a very niche area that will not be familiar to many candidates practising outside the pharmaceutical area - this topic has never arisen on A(Ch) before so it is impossible to know how the marks will be allocated. Interpretation and discussion of the data in the client's letter was very confusing - the letter was ambiguous about whether the protein-PEG conjugates were the only aspect of interest, or whether we should cover the unconjugated proteins as well.

Paper B Chemistry was fine.

Paper C contained far too much material for a 5-hour paper. I prepared by doing every paper from 2010-2014 under timed conditions and never had any problems. This year there was simply too much for the time available. There were significant amounts of discussion required for priority and for admissibility of (internet disclosure) Annex 2 as well as the oral disclosure evidenced by Annex 2. There were at least 3 possible novelty attacks on claim 1 and an inventive step attack. This was very time consuming and left little time available for the remaining claims. Lots of definitions of terms that needed to be cross-referenced between documents. Shortening the time available to 5 hours is unfair without reducing the amount of work compared to a 6-hour paper. The legal questions have not gone away - they are still there with regard to the priority/admissibility points. Many people seemed to struggle to finish the paper in the available time. The difficulty of the paper was not excessive, but an extra hour was needed to make all attacks fully.

Paper D seemed fairly straightforward. I was very surprised that there were no questions on recent changes to the EPC such as R.164, Art.14/Rule 6, R.71(3), R.36, etc.

- According to my opinion, Paper C of 2015 was too difficult to be finalized within 5 hours. The number of documents to be read and analyzed and the number of claims to be attacked seemed to be the same as those used during the previous 6-hours paper C examinations. Also, for me coming from the field of biochemistry/chemistry, the content of the patent in suit and the annexes was very complicated from the mechanical/technical point of view, so that I would have needed more time to digest it to be able to use it and "play with it" according to

EPC law and practice. I think that in order to give the EQE candidates with a (bio)chemical background the same and fair chance to succeed on paper C as the colleagues with a technical background have, the paper C case should either be less complicated from the mechanical/technical point of view, or the (bio)chemist candidates should get more time to analyse and digest the technical matter. Another option would be to provide a chemical paper C case (like it is done for papers A and B). I think this would more efficiently enable the candidates, even those not having a technical background, to show that they are fit for practice, i.e. that they are able to provide a valuable Notice of Opposition with correct facts and arguments.

- For Paper B was there was not enough time for all the problems. The suggestions of the client were terrible and wrongly cited, there was a unity problem and three document to view...how shall one do this in 3 hours????
Paper C was ok, however, I missed the second date on the A2 document (which was in italic)...therefore I used it wrongly for 2 claims
- I didn't take the EQE papers
- Paper C was too long to be treated correctly. It is a bit of a shame that from one year to an other there as so much differences in difficulty in terms of time pressure. 2013 was pretty easy to do in 5 hours, 2014 and 2015 required much more time.
- D seemed OK to me ... I did not come across questions where I felt that I had no clue at all. A and B (Ch) seemed tricky ... I did not really SEE the inventions immediately and thus kept testing various options back and forth in my head, but did not feel completely "safe" with any of them, so that I just "rambled down" one road of a few I had in mind when time got short; noticing that I had not left enough time to actually argue for my claim set or write a good description supporting my claim set anymore then.
(Plus, it was irritating that in the english version of D2 in B there was a word missing! I saw it in the German version then, but still lost time until I figured this mistake out...)
C was ok with the level of difficulty but by far too short! (see below)
- Complex situation in C paper had to be analyzed before claim analysis could have been started. Identification of closest prior art was pretty challenging.
- The claims analysis part, the documents could be understand in one way or another, not really clear question and answer making the true/false answer quite difficult too answer.
- In the legal part the questions were quite difficult, taking quite a while to look into the documents to find an answer.
- B E/M was too hard, even for a well prepared candidate. In three hours, 2 independent claims, R43.2 considerations and amendments plus the inventive step reasoning on three prior art documents was really too much.
- La formulation de certaines questions pouvaient être source à interprétation.
- More difficult than previous years and less time available to check answers at the end of the paper.
- this type of exam is outdated
- Pre-exam 2015 much more difficult than in the previous years
- B.E/M:
I find the approach of providing a set of claims as the client's proposal quite confusing and time consuming.
First the candidate has to analyse the original claims, then he needs to carefully check the "hidden" amendments in the proposal word by word in order to find out misleading proposals and then finally he hopefully is able to amend the proposed amendments in order to meet the specific expectations of the authors of the paper...
If the idea was give hints and as a compensation reduce the time available, my impression is: that doesn't match the praxis of the examination.
- Paper c: Too many lines to read and long attack to be written down
Paper d: For part II Too many thing to be written
Paper A: Data not easily understandable
- The papers should test knowledge, but due to the time shortage it is difficult to show all of the knowledge...

- Preparation of adequate time management!
- The B-exam had much more time pressure than what is usual.
- Far too much work involved in the C paper (priority issues, added subject-matter, difficult publications, 7 embodiments to attack, 5 publications with plenty of text which had to be handled properly and took time from actually performing the attacks) given the allotted time of 5 h.
- Paper C seemed to a lot more difficult than in previous years. I didn't manage to finish the paper. I had completed my prior art table but struggled to write my answer because of hand pain due to the total amount of handwriting required in the exams. This added significant time pressure.
I thought D was OK, and A and B were also difficult. They seemed to be more involved than in previous years. Also, Paper A in particular was very focussed on electronics. Whilst the terms in the paper were clearly explained, it was quite a shock.
- The EQE papers were not really difficult but I ran out of time in paper C.
- The B paper was extremely difficult. Time was short for papers C and D.
- As usually, paper C was a speed writing competition. Number of Annexes and required attacks is now the same it was when there was six hours for the exam. It is difficult to see the purpose of this exam. In real life time is very seldom an issue when you are drafting a notice of opposition.
- There is an awful lot of material to read in the last two C papers. I feel it would be a more appropriate test of a candidate's skill to have less material to digest but less obvious hints about combinations or teaching away, i.e. forcing someone to read a small amount of material thoroughly in order to construct a convincing argument. At the moment, you just have to skim read a lot of material and hope you glance at some supporting information if you hope to finish in time.
- A-paper (Mechanics): usually 3h30 is ok for me. But this year 2015 it was not OK. Claim 1 from previous exam is half a sheet of paper. But on A-2015 it takes one page and a half with a lot of trap for clarity.
B-paper (mechanics): didn't have time to finish the inventive step. too much time on the modifying the customer claim and argue about their support.
C-paper: Always too long, too many attacks, too much to read.
D-paper: surprise by only DI-5 questions, some with 9pts for marks. Unclear about the extend of the answer to mark 9pts?
- THIS YEAR I FOUND THAT SOME OF THE ANNEXES OF PAPER C WERE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND FOR NON NATIVE SPEAKERS. IT TOOK ME TOO LONG TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT OF THE ANNEX FROM A PURE LINGUISTIC POINT OF VIEW. I HAD TO READ IT SEVERAL TIMES UNTIL I COULD UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I THINK THIS IS A BIT UNFAIR COMPARED TO NATIVE (EN, FR OR DE) SPEAKERS, AS NON NATIVE NEED MORE TIME. AND TIME IS ALWAYS VERY SHORT IN PAPER C
- D was easier this year. So for me it's more a language/marker issue.
C was more stressful than usually....older test is much easier.
- A : it does not correspond to the work of a patent attorney in real life
B : 3h is short
C : methodology seems to be more important than knowledge and experience
- The paper C 2015 was not for 5 hours. There was too much information to be analysed.
- Paper C is still a 6 hour paper. In the new 5 hour C Paper, there is the same number of annexes like in the 6 hour papers before. The only difference is that there is no letter to the client, which a practised candidate writes in 10 minutes.
- Time is too short
- EQE Papers are difficult and time is sometimes short
- Extreme time pressure in part B and C. Getting a grip on the prior art was difficult due to lack of time. Analysis of prior art should of course be a major goal in the exam, but there should be ample time to write the attacks for C and to draft the reply in paper B.
- Paper B/EM has gotten significantly more complicated since pre-drafted claims are provided

and represent a very unreasonable approach as the client very unfrequently suggests claim amendments in this detail.

- la durée pour l'épreuve B (méca) était trop courte vu le contenu du sujet
La durée de l'épreuve C était également trop courte vu le contenu du sujet
- It was very hard. Legal and claim analysis questions demanded knowledge above the level of the previous Pre-examination papers. Claim analysis included long questions - 10 claims - unseen before, amendments combination etc.
Even our coach estimation is that the level of the paper is above the level of all previous Pre-examination papers
- Time pressure is too high. The examination does not any more test the knowledge or ability of the candidate, it tests ability to write fuzzy text.
- I feel that it is somehow manageable to have 50/100.
It is sometime frustrating to see that a higher mark is reachable without having the possibility to reach it (because of not enough time preparation or because of not enough time during the exam)
- The difficulty of C 2015 paper was not for 5 hours but for 6 hours. It gives not equal chance to chemists as there was no chemistry in it, only pure mechanic. The C 2014 paper was also mostly for mechanical issues so it is very unfair that each year it is only mechanic. There should be some balance between it and at least each other year should comprise more chemical issues!!!
- Paper A - difficult to tell what was essential to be included in the independent claims (very few "essential" and "must" wording compared to previous years)
Paper C - too many claims to analyse in combination with the issues involved with the suitability of the annexes (i.e. witness for A2 at a public conference and teaching away statements in A3).
- The difficulty is mainly due to time pressure, see below.
- The time limit for the C paper has been reduced. However, I could not see that the amount of work to do (i.e. the amount of documents to read, claims to attack, embodiments to consider) was reduced as well. Thus, it seemed to be the same task as in previous years to be fulfilled in a shorter time.
For the B paper the candidate receives a proposed set of amended claims. However, it was unclear to me, whether it was expected from me to stay as close as reasonable to these proposed claims or whether I could also have formulated an almost completely new set of amended claims.
- It is impossible to content everybody with respect to the technical field of the invention. But I expect all technical information be unambiguously given in the paper.
In order not to make a candidate lose time in aspects that have nothing to do with what paper A assess, I would recommend the Committee for future years to draft the paper as to minimize the time lost in these details (that are better assessed in other papers). This year's paper is a very clear example. It starts explaining how a sensor works, then the matrix of fibers, just to conclude later that all this is known prior art. I would establish a fixed format for paper A: No prior art in the client letter, just a reference to two documents D1 and D2. If prior art is to be included in the client's letter, then it should first said that it is prior art and then explain it. This is just to facilitate time management.
I think from my solution (which could be wrong), that the independent claim has too many features. This is a sign of an exam requiring more time to finish it.
The difficulty of paper A, apart from the discussions we might have about what should have been claimed and what is inventive or not (paper A 1998 is a good example of a solution lacking an inventive step over D1 in combination with D2), is determined by the time available and the requirement of understanding things right the first time, as there is no time for correcting mistakes.
I misunderstood embodiment 1 and it possibly cost me the full exam, as my correction was done in no time.
On the other side, I appreciate that the committee explicitly gave the generalisation to "characteristic" in the last page. This is a good detail preparing ourselves for 2017 and a

single A paper for everybody.

- The C2015 paper was tooooooo longggggg!!!
5 prior art documents, 6 claims with 2 alternatives to attack, problem with effective dates of the claims...Finally several novelty attacks (3!!) for claim 1, and a lot of IS attacks. This is too much for 5 hours.
This results in too much pressure, loosing time at the end.
- Paper B was not really according to previous years(s), especially not according to the new set-up, which was actually quite disturbing. The added subject-matter minefield of the question was not really appreciated.
- The examinations were not difficult but for Paper C time was an issue.
- I think the excessive technical references in paper C were not necessary. I am an engineer, and I had no problems in understanding the technical field involved, but I think it was too difficult for Bio and Chem candidates.
- Always some "innovation" which destabilize.
- In Paper A (Ch), there was a contradiction between the description and the examples:
In the description, three parameters (pressure, volume ratio of water to oil phase of 90 vol-% to 10 vol-%, ratio between surfactant and PEG-conjugate) were necessary in order to achieve particles which all have the same size. Particles all having the same size were claimed to lead to a prolonged effect.
However, in the examples, the volume ratio of the water to oil phase was not 90 vol-% water to 10 vol-% oil since 100 g of almond oil is equal to 109 ml!!!! Additionally, the particle size was given as an average particle size so that it could not be concluded that all particles have the same size (average particle size is an average value of particle size distribution). But a prolonged effect was observed nevertheless. For me, this led to the question about which feature was actually solving the problem since it could not be the fact that all particles have the same size (since one parameter was not fulfilled but was claimed necessary for the same particle size in the description).
I personally think that this mistake leads to a completely different set of claims and I found this very annoying!!!!
Paper C was much too mechanical for a chemist and all the chemists I talked to had the same impression. After the strange paper A (Ch) all chemists found this paper C rather unfair...
- Time pressure. Not enough time to read and understand everything.
- The subject was not too difficult but there was too much time pressure in Paper C.
The annexes were too long. Reading all the documents took too much time. Thus, time for writing all the attacks was very short and giving a good and complete argumentation was too difficult.
I have the impression that Annexes were much longer than in the past (except C 2014 which was an "especial" paper, in particular for candidates sitting in French).
For a candidate it was too difficult to prove that he/she knows how to file an opposition.
In addition, the client's letter was composed of a little complicated form.
- The content of the paper was not that bad as it was easy to understand the papers/annexes as such. But amount of information to process and time is an issue
- Paper C is complex but perfectly feasible IF the allocated time was proportional to the complexity and amount of work to be done.
Having sat Paper C for the last 3 years, I could see the complexity raising, the amount of work raising as well (more claims, more prior art annexes even with different dates, and more and complex attacks per claim).
- See above
- Wie bereits oben ausgeführt, war der C-Teil in diesem Jahr zeitlich nicht machbar. Wenn man nach den Vorgaben aus den Examiner Reports bzw. den Schriftsatz so wie im CEIPI-Kurs gelernt und auch mit den Compendien geübt hat ausformulieren wollte, dann hätte man wenigstens 1-2 Stunden mehr benötigt. Ich habe mich sehr gut vorbereitet und vorbereitet gefühlt und auch alle Probleme der Aufgabe richtig erkannt. Wenn man dann aber nach Diskussion der Zeitränge der Ansprüche und Zeitränge der der

Entgegenhaltungen nur noch sehr wenig Zeit für die eigentlichen Angriffe hat (vor allem Angriffe zur erfinderischen Tätigkeit sind ja recht zeitaufwendig) und sich dann entscheiden muss, ob man vielleicht dann nur 3 Ansprüche in der verbleibenden Zeit angreift oder entsprechend oberflächlich und fehlerbehaftet alle Ansprüche angreift, dann fühlt man sich ehrlich gesagt veräppelt. Früher hatte man 6 Stunden Zeit und man ggf. einfach die Mandantenfragen nicht beantwortet, wenn man in Zeitnot geraten ist, wobei der Zeitaufwand für die Mandantenfragen vielleicht 10min betrug. Nun hat man die Klausur auf 5h verkürzt, packt aber immer noch so viel bzw. sogar mehr Probleme, Text und Entgegenhaltungen hinein als früher, so dass man gar keine Chance hast, fertig zu werden. Alle Compendien von 2008-2014 hatte ich von den Problemen und vom Zeitaufwand her im Griff, in diesem Jahr war die Aufgabe so nicht lösbar. Das geht völlig an unserem Beruf vorbei - da geht es nicht um Schnelligkeit und quick and dirty, sondern vor allem um Genauigkeit und Qualität.

- This years pre-examination was much more difficult than the earlier pre-examinations by a large margin. Further, there was questions which did not have a clearly defined answer as in 'true' or 'false'. As an example, questions 1.3 only states that the first professional representative informs the EPO of a 'change', not that he unambiguously terminates his representation. Therefore, I spent alot of time on debating with myself whether 'informing the EPO of a change' actually constitutes terminating ones own respresentation. The wording was ambiguous in the sens that it does no follow the actual wording of the OJ or the Guidelines for Examination. The same applies for e.g. the term 'cardboard' in the claim analysis section.

Hence, this years pre-examination required the candidates to apply their knwoledge of the EPC/PCT and interpret the questions. Whiel this may seems to be only positive, it also means that there will be uncertainty for the candidate when having to answer in a binary manner (true/false). Therefore, this years pre-examination was much harder, and more stressful for the candidates.

- Paper A CH offered too many different options for the different claim categories, nanoemulsion/process for nanoemulsions/cream/method of use. During the exam I lost a lot of time on deciding which way will be assessed by the Examination Division as the preferred one. Hopefully, all the options will be aworded with at least some points.
- Paper C felt very short on time.
- Short of time
- Although I experienced serious problems regarding time pressure, I really believe that this year's papers were pretty "fair".
However, the names of the persons in paper C werde quite long and complicated and you do not really want to copy them letter-by-letter to your solution sheets if you are short of time. Although the names may be funny if you see them in the compendium, it may be more apporprate just to have Mrs. X and Mr. Y, as paper C is about an opposition, and not about writing strange name.
- I think that with more energy, I would have passed B. I would have been able to work faster and at least finish it, thereby gathering at least 50 points. Now, I didn't have enough time.
- I spent too much time trying to decide wheter paper fibres were an equivalent of wood fibres or not.
- The legal topics dealt with 2014 C Paper were well known. To me (I'm managing several Oppositions for my company as "Entrusted employee), the real difficulty is the time available to write the attacks
- The novelty attacks in Paper C was very unclear this year. I have done most paper C exams from 2008-. Almost all of them felt more precise.
- I think the bar was raised in 2014 by raising the Limit to 70 instead of 50 and comparing 2015 to 2014 i judge the legal questions and the claims part a bit more difficult. So far the 2015 exam was the most difficult. I am rather concerned about the Quality of the claims Analysis questions since there was considerable ambiguity about the answers (see Blogs) .
- More difficult than the previous exams.
- As mentioned above, this year's paper was a lot harder than the papers set in the previous

years, and therefore using the past papers as an indication of the calibre of the difficulty to expect was misinterpreted.

- See Q27e)

Patent activity requires clarity. Unlike past years, the 2015 pre-exam paper was highly ambiguous.

Too many questions where you can tell True or False depending on which part of the material provided you are considering or not.

When you don't know an answer, you can blame yourself and go back to work.

When you don't know what to answer because it is true if.... or false if.... then there is no good answer, and shame on the question, especially as there is no room for comments on the pre-exam paper.

With all due respect !

Sorry again but really frustrated :

- I found this year's paper B more difficult because of the amount of material to analyze within the time available.
- The 2015 pre-examination was significantly more difficult than the 2012-2014 papers and took much longer to complete. The 2015 questions for both the legal and claim analysis parts were frequently ambiguous and there was an unnecessarily large amount of reading to complete for the claim analysis section e.g. large claim sets on which we were only asked about selected portions.
- Paper C was difficult to me as a not native speaker due to complicated mechanical/electrical language used that I'm not acquainted with while working in chemistry field.
- .
- Increasing the pass mark to 70% requires serious preparation of the preexam.
- Paper C had many issues and complex citability. Perhaps too much to deal with in 5 hours. Paper B (E/M) issues were not clear-cut, thus difficult to determine correct approach.
- D seemed to be fair
C covered far too many aspects! Each aspect wasn't too difficult but I couldn't concentrate on the single aspects because I knew that overall time wasn't sufficient. Very frustrating because I thought I was well prepared.
- The paper C was particularly difficult for the chemists who are not specialized in electronics and mechanics.
I spent a lot of time trying to understand the technical field. I did not understand everything, so I was not able to apply correctly the method for the inventive step attacks.
- an unfair time pressure - paper C
unfair to not native Speakers - no more comment
- Paper C: UNFAIR.
I felt very furious while reading the C-Exam. I'm afraid that in the design of the Exam the EPO did not consider that there are candidates from the biotech and chemistry fields who, apart of not being familiar with the field/vocabulary of mechanics, and in particular in the field of dampers (I had to look for words on the dictionary!!), EN, FR or DE are not our mother tongue. Seriously, I felt in serious disadvantage as compared with my colleagues from the Mechanical fields. Probably, all the information was there, but I needed more time to understand the invention than a person used to this kind of inventions. For when a Markush formula? I would like to see them trying to start the Exam!!
For preparing the Exam, I had practiced with all the Papers-C from 2001, and I had only failed 1 in real-time conditions. With Paper C this year I had to re-read every paragraph because it was difficult for me to understand the invention and the prior art. Consequently, I lost a lot of valuable time for complete my answer. Moreover, the time pressure and the irritation due to the unfair situation did not allow me to think clear.
Please, once the Exams are marked, I would like to see the statistics of how many people from bio/chem fields (having non-official languages) have passed the Exam as compared with the same kind of candidates in the fields of mechanics.
I'm very sorry to hear that papers A and B will end up being the same kind of Exam where it cannot be elucidated if a candidate is fit to practice (to his own/normal practice in his own field)

- A: Always a bit of a guess, but here especially. No clue what they were after, but at least I have an invention, just hope it's the "right" one
B: Appeared to run smoothly, but unclear whether my chosen solution basics will hold up, as it is usually advised against.
C: Far too technical for a chemist, and too large. I'd also understand when non-native speakers will have had language issues, even though for me personally that was not the case. Normally C is my favourite subject, and done well in time, but here I was struggling to even get it finished, mostly because it took a long time to understand the technical matter of the patent to be opposed.
DI: questions appeared doable, some even easy, but the amounts of marks allocated far too high to get them with only the correct answer. So much time spent on writing down stuff loosely related, which caused time pressure toward the end. But overall doable.
DII: same story, underestimated the amount of time needed for Q3, so spent too much on Q1. Without knowing how marks are distributed, every question is a shot in the dark, hoping you hit something. But overall doable.
- For Paper C, even though I had no difficulty in understanding the patent at stake, the subject seemed to be too complex at first from a biotechnologist point of view since there were too many definitions and explanations about the technology. I realised later on during the exam that many of these definitions/explanations were of no real use for attacking the claims. According to my engineer colleagues, this was immediately apparent for them and caused them no problem during the exam. As a result, much of the time that I had allocated to keeping track of the definitions/explanations could have been used more efficiently in writing down my attacks.
I honestly think that the information provided in each of Annexes 1 to 6 could have been put more straightforward for candidates of all backgrounds, let alone for candidates whose first language is not English, French or German.
- Pre-exam felt a lot harder than in previous years
- Way too much time pressure. Paper B with only 3 hours so far: 1 independent claim and 2 prior art documents - 2015: 2 independent claims and 3 prior art documents. Given the examiner reports of the former B papers with all the details of the answers expected => by far not enough time.
- see comment under "Preparation"
- The technical background needed for understanding this year's paper C. If you come from Chemistry/Bio background and not Engineering or Physics, this paper is not straightforward and you had to spend some time trying to understand the invention.
- The step up from 50 to 70 in the pre-EQE was brutal, but it was necessary. On the other hand, it should not get harder or more devious as well.
- I did not sit the Paper B (Ch). I marked the Q26 erroneously for the Paper B (Ch) and I could not delete it.
- More difficult than the previous years.
- In my opinion, some questions in the claim analysis section of the pre-examination could be true or false depending on the interpretation of the words in the documents, which is not suitable for a paper where the candidate cannot provide explanation of answers.
- The main difficulty for Paper C was the time constrain for reading and analysing all the papers which in itself does not bring any points but yet is unavoidable for answering the questions. However, with a proper organization and preparation the paper was feasible.
- The number of claims in Claims analysis section was higher than before.
- The 2015 Paper C was much more difficult than the previous few years and there was far more information to assimilate. Not only was there a priority issue but a complex added subject-matter situation and 6 claims (including 3 independent claims) to analyse and attack. Techniques I used successfully for past papers (i.e. a novelty matrix) took too much time to prepare and as a consequence I ran out of time during the exam to write out my opposition. The overall complexity of the exam seemed higher also.
- Paper C: IMPOSSIBLE EXAM!! SO UNFAIR!! Too much information and issues to solve. It is impossible to process such amount of information so fast if you are not a native-speaker

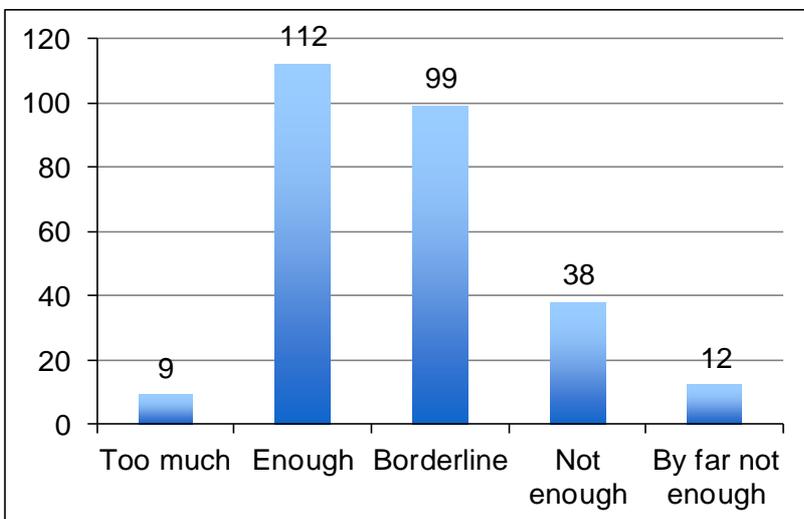
of an official language, adding to that the difficulty of knowing the vocabulary and understanding the meaning of the invention if you are not from the mechanical field. You needed "mechanical" background to really understand the invention fast and to distinguish what is important and what not (ie. longitudinal waves? Does it affect?... and many other things like that), really difficult for a chemist/biotech to solve it in 5 hours. Unfair!!! the exam should not depend on your technical formation, technically speaking should be easy for anyone. Not enough time at all. The problem is that you cannot write anything until you have read and processed all the documents and then it is too late to write anything properly or at least something as the exam was too long, and besides when you realize of this you get blocked as you know, that even probably knowing the answer, you will fail as there is no more time. It's over.

- see Q27e)
- Hauptproblem D II Adressierung von Problemen der Aufgabenstellung
- It was unfair that previous years' pre-exams were much easier, but I hope that the right level has been found by now, and the 2016+ candidates will have better forewarning than us.
- -- Teil A (E/M): gefühlt war es eine faire Aufgabe; allerdings ein sehr langer Oberbegriff (bei mir) - es fehlt mir ein Hinweis darauf, wie Unteransprüche bewertet werden, v.a. die Frage, wie bewertet wird, wenn in Unteransprüchen Alternativen untergebracht sind, also z.B.: "Sensor nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Sensor A oder B aufweist": gibt das nun Punkte wie für 2 eigene Ansprüche ("Sensor wobei Sensor A aufweist" und "Sensor, wobei Sensor B aufweist") oder gibt es nur die Punktzahl für die schlechtere der beiden Alternativen oder oder oder?
-- Teil B (E/M): was sollte denn dieser Anspruchssatz des Mandanten???? Allein die Überlegungen, was alles geändert werden musste hat extrem vile Zeit gebraucht (ca. 1-1,5h)! Unklarheiten in Hülle und Fülle - ich hätte lieber 4h Zeit gehabt und die ANsprüche selber gemacht! Es fehlte am Ende deutlich Zeit, den Aufgabe-Lösungs-Ansatz durchzuführen. Außerdem empfand ich es als unfair, dass der Mandant einen Anspruch mit einer Alternative anbietet, die sich nicht auf Merkmale ("Ski mit A oder B") bezieht, sondern die 2 Kategorien beinhaltet (Ski oder Skibindung mit A) - so etwas kam in keiner der Aufgaben seit 2007 dran. Wenn dann noch soviele andere Unklarheiten in den Ansprüchen auftauchen kann ich diese Aufgabe einfach nicht als fair gestellt betrachten! Es stellt sich für mich die Frage: Was ist der Fokus der Prüfung: Aufgabe-Lösungs-Ansatz oder ist es mittlerweile die Begründung, wieso die Änderungen zulässig sind? Sehr enttäuschend! Die Aufgabe war nicht gut ausbalanciert. Eindeutig zu verwirrend und mindestens 30 Minuten zu wenig Zeit, eher 60 Minuten zu wenig Zeit!
-- Teil C: Welch ein Albtraum! 6 Ansprüche, die sich über 1,5 Seiten hinziehen. Ein Anspruch als Alternative (Anspuch 4), macht also 7 Ansprüche, die betrachtet werden müssen. Und dann sind von den 6/7 Ansprüchen auch noch 3 unabhängig. Dazu: 5 Entgegenhaltungen, insgesamt >25 Seiten zu lesen. Prioprobleme in den Ansprüchen. Ein Dokument (A2), das als Internet-Blog (!) aus 2010 vorliegt und 2015 gedruckt wurde und an das sich die Zeugin erinnert, dass es auf einer Konferenz in 2009 vorgestellt wurde. Dazu Torsionsmoden und Lateralmoden. Meine ganz ernsthafte Frage: angenommen, man ist nicht Muttersprachlör DE/EN/FR. Weiterhin angenommen, man ist z.B. Biologe und hat noch nie von Torsionsmoden gehört und ist vielleicht noch nie Ski gefahren. Wie soll man dann diese Aufgabe mit einer reelen Bestehens-Chance schreiben??? Die Lösung des Puzzles war zugegeben nicht so schwierig (die Analyse) - aber eine derartige Informationsmenge zu analysieren dauert (bei mir) 2,5-3 Stunden. Dann noch 7 Gegenstände angreifen mit 8 oder sogar 9 Angriffen (Anspruch 1 mit 2 oder 3 Mal Neuheit): wie soll man das schaffen??? Es soll ja JEDES Merkmal auch noch mit einer Quelle angegeben werden, d.h. es besteht erheblicher Schreibaufwand. Ich habe ALLE C-Teile 2007-2014 unter Zeitdruck geschrieben - bei keinem einzigen habe ich derart Zeitnot gehabt. In C2015 habe ich 2-3 Angriffe alleine aus Zeitgründen nicht schreiben können. So geht das nicht - es fehlte mindetsens 1 Stunde Zeit. Diese Aufgabe war extrem unfair (vom Zeitbudget her). Hat irgendjemand aus dem Prüfungskomitee einmal handschriftlich die Musterlösung abgeschrieben? Wie lange hat das gedauert? Hat jemand einmal mit Textmarker und Notizzetteln die Dokumente durchgelesen? Wie lange hat das gedauert? Es

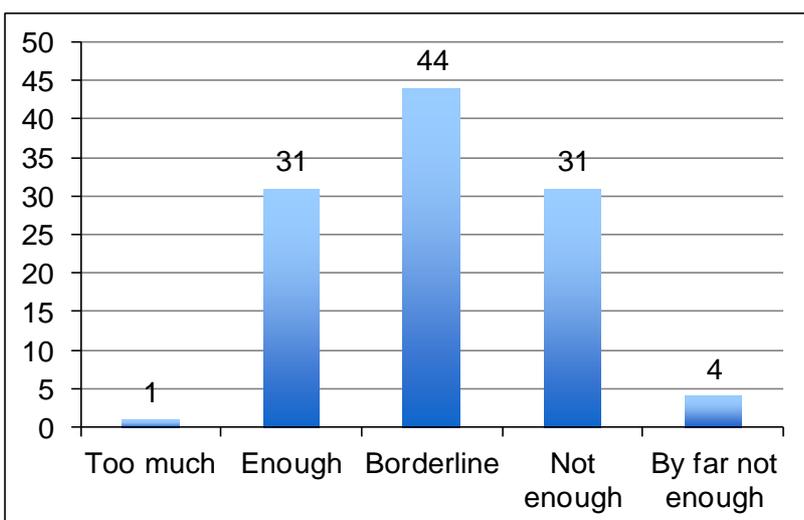
ist für mein Gefühl sehr ungerecht, wenn man ca. 600 Zeitstunden (!) in die Vorbereitung steckt, ALLE C-Teile unter Realbedingungen schreibt - und dann kommt so eine Aufgabe. Das fühlt sich nach Willkür an. So heißt es wohl: Auf Wiedersehen in 2016 :(
 Teil D: dieser Teil erschien mir überraschend fair: keine Prioprobleme in DII und eine faire Merkmalsbenennung (man musste sich nicht selber irgendwelche Abkürzungen ausdenken - großes Lob!) und einigermaßen faire Aufgabenstellung in DI - allerdings war es am Anfang etwas überraschend, dass es nur 5 Aufgaben in DI gab - hier verliert man sehr viele Punkte auf einmal, wenn man in einer Aufgabe völlig daneben liegt. Ich hätte 6-7 Aufgaben besser gefunden. Ansonsten: die aus meiner Sicht einfachste und fairste Aufgabe im diesjährigen Prüfungs-Set aus A/B/C/D).

Q30) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2015?

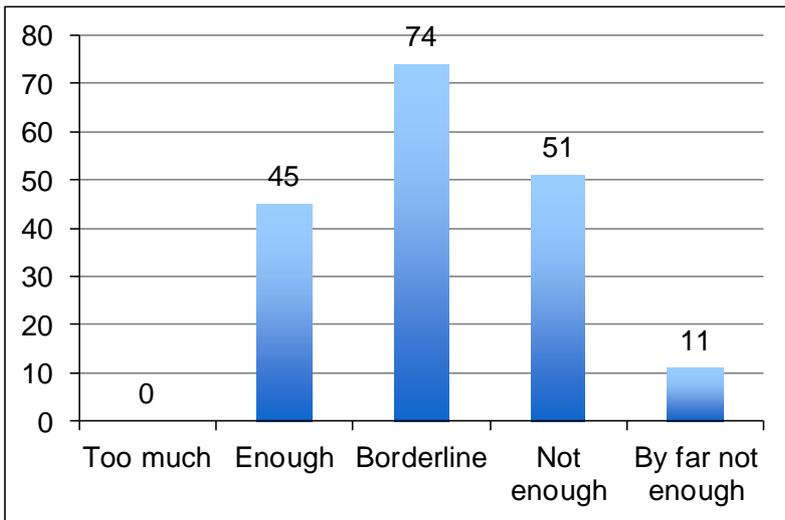
Pre-examination



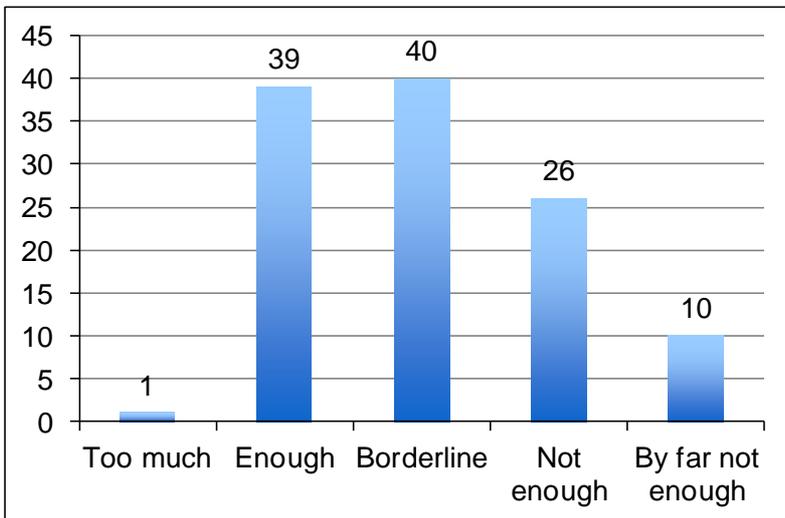
Paper A (Ch)



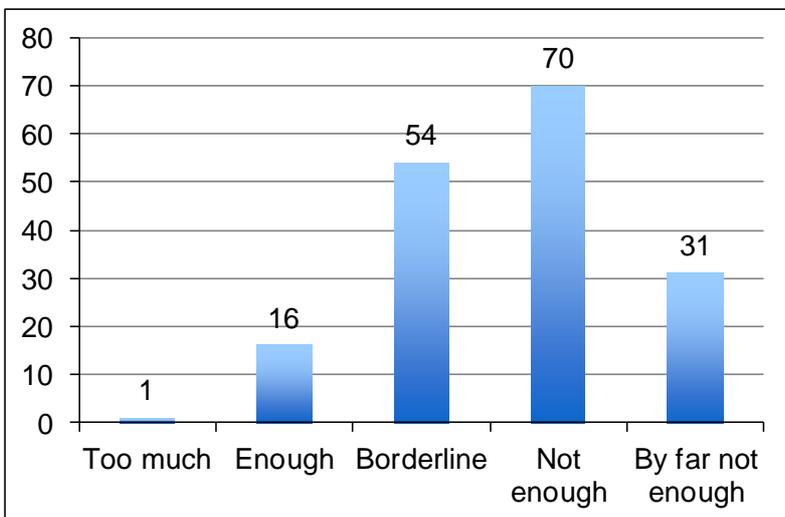
Paper A (E/M)



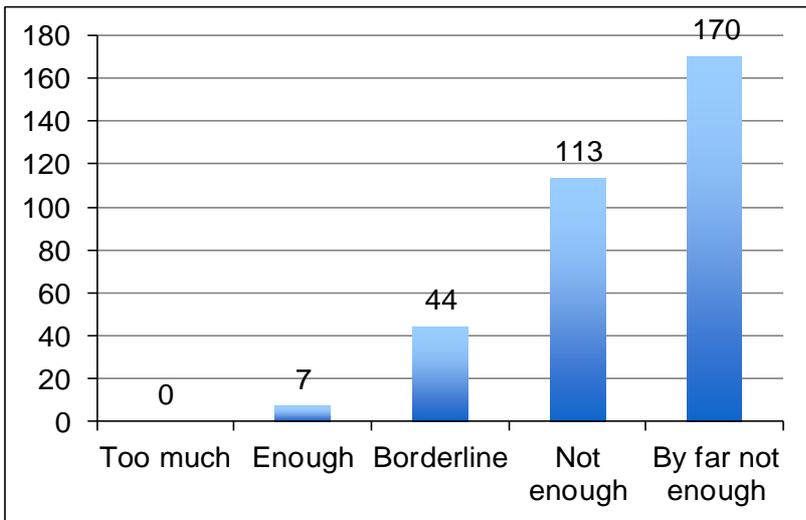
Paper B (Ch)



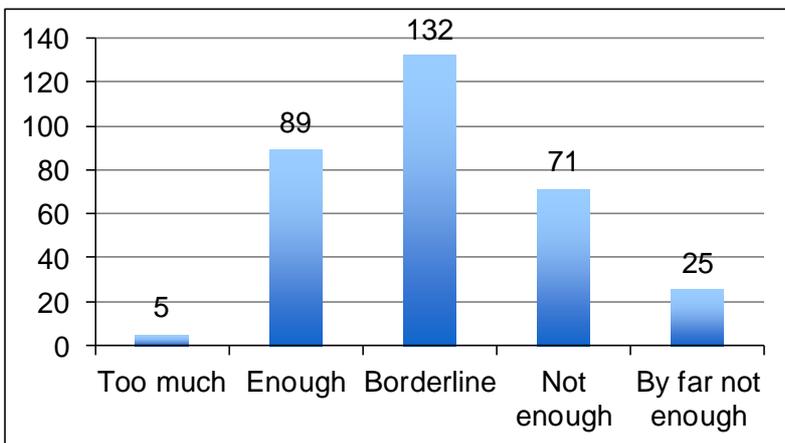
Paper B (E/M)



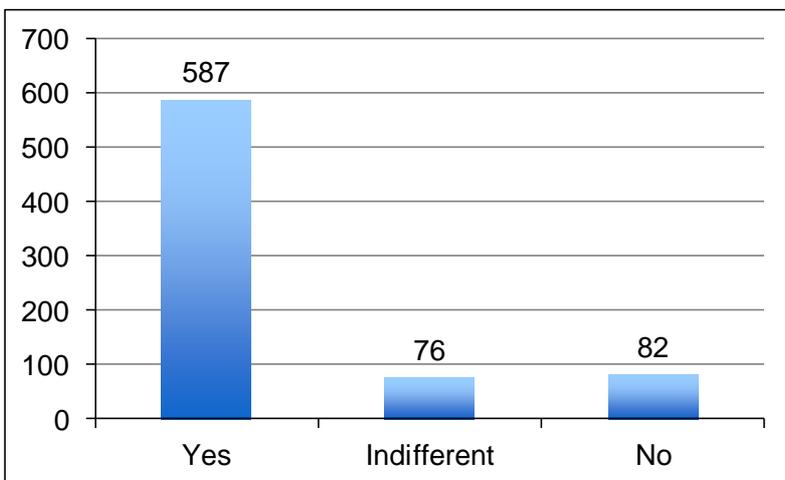
Paper C



Paper D



Q31) Do you think that more time during the examination would have improved your performance in the examination papers you sat?



Q32) Do you have comments concerning the time available for the examination papers?

- It is annoying to see that the letter by the client in paper C (I am referring both to the

examination I sat this year and past papers) always contains pieces of information whose only purpose is to mislead candidates and which would never occur in a real letter. The examination does not test a candidate's ability to write a successful opposition: the whole exercise is about avoiding artificial pitfalls and guessing what the examiners want candidates to write.

- Paper C was way too long. It is really pretty stupid to select people on pure rushing speed rather on their true technical abilities. With 60 minutes more, I could have done it entirely and quite properly. It would be more clever to give enough time so that most people finish it, and to increase the mark required for a pass. But because I had to rush, I did not have time to analyse completely all the documents and to write all my attacks. If I fail, it won't be a reflection of my inability to write an act of opposition, but only a reflection that I have been marked on less than 100 points. In real life, one can always take the time needed to do things properly. And rushing is actually not advised.
- I took my time for reading and answering carefully each question and I spent almost 3h30 to finish the paper. I consider, based on the difficulty and the admission bar (70 scores) this year, that more time available would be appreciable.
- -
- Way too much to write for B-paper E/M (support for new independent claim time consuming) for a three-hour exam.
Also for C time was a huge problem, too many prior art docs and too many attacks possible for a 5-hour exam, taking the 123(2) and priority issues into account, as well as the oral/internet disclosure.
- The time allocated to paper C was 5 hours, but the paper contained most of the topics and documents to be discussed/read as past 6 hours paper. I believe this was not fair this year
- The amount of prior art and number of claims was far greater in previous years. Most of my time was taken up reading the documents and very little in making any consideration of the questions.
- between half an hour and an hour more would make a suitable response (while otherwise all hypothesis have been carefully identified and considered by the candidate but he did not have enough time to just to write them down.)
- I think that time pressure is not a way to select a good patent attorney, because in real job you do not need to answer immediately and without reflecting
- I was told that, as a candidate who suffers from dyslexia, that there was no need to allow extra time for completing the pre-examination as plenty of time was given to complete all of the required reading. I did not find this to be the case.
- There is plenty of time for the pre exam, but that it not to say that there is too much. The test should be whether candidates can carefully and correctly answer the questions, not a race against time.
- Repetition from Q29: "It is highly unfair that the difficulty (in particular the time criticality) of EQE paper significantly varies from year to year. Papers do not have to be easy, but they should be predictably difficult."
- This year's paper C was a bit of a test of how fast one can write. Even if someone had told me before I started what all the attacks were supposed to be, I don't think I could have written them all out in time.
I'm happy to have papers with more complex issues that require a bit of thinking, but I don't think testing people on the number of novelty and inventive step attacks they can write in 5 hours is nearly as useful as testing them on the quality of fewer attacks would be.
- There was simply not enough time for paper B or C. Three prior art references in paper B and the mess of claims provided by the client made for very slow going. C paper had nuanced technical issues and long prior art references to read through. Again, not enough time.
- Actually it was paper dependent as I experienced during preparation: sometimes the time was sufficient, sometimes not.
- But I would be reluctant to sit more than 5 hours, because the exams are very tiring and I was very exhausted at the end of the third day.

- I would not suggest to make more time available for the pre-examination but I would suggest to prepare new Mock exams on which candidates can prepare. These new Mock papers should validly indicate the level of preparation requested for the pre-exam.
- Compared to previous years there was much more time pressure
- Personally, I finished in 2h, but I realise that a lot of people need the full time allotted.
- Paper B was too comprehensive for three hours to finish in time
- As stated above, I think I would make it having at least about half an hour or even an hour more... But I accept, colleagues pass - so I should be able to pass as well...
- 4 hours would be perfect
- The papers are particularly difficult to manage in relation to time available.
- Time is the main problem of the EQE. 50% more time for each paper would probably increase the "pass" percentage to 80%.

- allow a digital watch for christ's sake

- Paper C did not allow enough time to digest all of the annexes, decide on attacks and formulate them. It was extremely rushed, especially for candidates who are sitting their fourth exam of the week and have very tired hands from all the writing. There was not enough time for me to review my attacks at the end. Clearly if you cannot write quickly enough you can not express all of your views in time, which does not therefore test the skill in preparing an opposition, rather it test how quickly you can write neatly enough to be understood.

Paper B (E/M) had three pieces of prior art and to address everything sufficiently in the three hours allocated is not enough.

Paper A (E/M) seemed considerably more difficult than recent past papers to draft and review the claims.

Generally, five minutes at the end of each exam to number the pages seems to be unnecessarily part of the time allocated for the whole exam. Clearly when practicing past papers, this chore is easily forgotten about and does not help preparation when faced with having to do this on the day. Would it not be better to allow five minutes after the exam to complete this task and sign the cover sheet?

- C, if following the approach used this year going forward, needs more time!
- I think they can be done in the time given but given more time a better more succinct answer could be given for papers C and D
- In paper D, available time was adequate.

But paper C 2015 was way too voluminous to finish it in 5 hours.

Absurd time pressure in paper C was inadequate and unfair.

Since you cannot skip any analysing steps before writing the first A.110(a) attack in paper C, you have no opportunity to take a short cut or to concentrate on presumably more important parts of your writ promising more marks.

You first MUST completely analyse all the annexes before starting writing down the first A.100(a) attack.

There is no chance of escaping fatal runout of time at the end while writing down the prepared attacks.

If you miss 20% time (1h) at the end of the exam for completing writing, you miss about 50% of your well prepared A.100(a) attacks and have no chance to pass paper C.

Thus, in paper C, time pressure has an exponential effect, much more than in paper D, for example, where you are writing down answers more or less continuously during the 5 hours.

In short: Extreme time pressure is extremely unfair in paper C, in particular in paper C.

The dominating criterion for passing paper C should be good use of information and good argumentation, and not time pressure.

Considering the latest three papers C in 2013, 2014 and 2015, it appears that the EQE committee intends to press down the pass rate to about 1/3 by increasing time pressure.

Obviously, the EQE committee's intention is not testing "fitness to practice", but reaching a pass rate lower than 35% in paper C by means of time pressure, irrespective of the proper professional capabilities of the candidates.

WHY?

Can this be the meaning of the EQE?

- I would maintain 3 hours for paper B but to have to read less documents and less long.
- Paper C: More information on what the examiner is looking for is needed, or less claims, or more time.
Paper D: normally the time is about right, but this year i finished with an hour to spare.
Paper A: I can finish the ones on the compendium in around 2 hours-2hours 30 and scoring about 60-80%. This year i finished with about 10 minutes spare.
Paper B: Normally i can just about make B in time. But it is usually very time pressured, this year was no exception. Why does paper A have an extra 30 minutes over B? I think all candidates would prefer the extra 30 minutes allocated to B.
- Paper C was very long - lots of reading, lots of claims and lots of issues to consider. In spite of having done past papers to time (and therefore feeling relatively well-prepared), I felt extremely time-pressured in the exam to the point where the good technique I'd developed in my preparation had to be dropped. Testing a candidates ability to write quickly doesn't appear to be the best way to test whether a trainee patent attorney is a "safe pair of hands".
My paper will therefore look like I missed obvious attacks, when the novelty table/attack matrix I prepared during my analysis (which cannot be submitted) clearly show that I had identified the attack and just didn't have time to write it out.
- There are no instructions to candidates on the actual rubric.
It is not clear whether the papers of the question (as printed) may be handed in. Some candidate cut and pasted bits of paper - this seems a little ludicrous.
The invigilators insisted on no writing after the end time signal - including page numbering and that all papers were in the plastic envelopes. Was this necessary? We were warned to start page numbering with five minutes to go. This wasn't actually enough time, (there are quite a lot of pages to sort into order)... if you made a mistake and had to renumber - you would have run out of time. What is the effect of this?
Without official EPO instuctions, we had to rely on what the invigilator thought the rules were, and they did not appear confident!
- give additional time, I can't see the reason for this high amount of time pressure.
- Paper C:
I ran out of time. It was too difficult in that it only concentrated on mechanics (I am from chemistry/biotech). It appears that the Examination Board did not consider that there are also people from other technical areas. 1,5 pages of claims, 5 prior art documents and the amount of information to be analyzed? That should only occur when you have 6 hours time as in previous examinations.
- Even native speakers complain that the time available for each paper is not enough. So what about non-native speakers?
And if I need an hour more for paper C does it make me bad patent attorney when in real life time limit is 9 months?
- Plase see comments to Q29
- For me, it should be enough to have 4 hours for paper A and 6 hours for paper C for dramatically increase the performance.
- Paper C was testing mainly how fast I could write. Not all my knowledge is in my answer. For the other papers, the answer more or less reflects my knowledge.
- Insufficient by far...
I've spent about 2.5h just reading and trying to understand C exam for the first time...
If you do it well is not related to the fact that you know how to do it well but how to do it well in 5h.
Not fair, even when (at least in my case) I am not an expert in mechanics and I am not english speaker..
- I think slightly longer should be permitted for paper B, due to their being a large volume to read as well as requiring you to frequently skip back and forth through the exam paper in a way that isn't needed in Paper A.
- Not enough time to make all the attacks against all claims in Paper C, particularly as

multiple attacks against one claim were often required.

- see comments under Q29
- I never needed more than about 1:30-2:00 for any of the mock-ups, previous pre-examinations or the actual paper.
- I've had no problem with time management during sitting past pre-EQE papers under exam conditions. However, I nearly didn't finish the 2015 pre-EQE exam. Simply too confusing/vague and too much time hunting for answers, despite having a good grasp of the texts I brought to the exam.
- Time pressure for paper C is only fair and as expected in my opinion.
- Das größte Problem in der B-Prüfung sehe ich in der Änderung dieser Prüfung, die mit dem Jahr 2013 erfolgte. Durch diese Änderung sollte, so wurde gesagt, der Focus von der Formulierung der Ansprüche auf die Argumentation und Rechtfertigung der Änderungen verlegt werden. Dazu wird jetzt ein vom Mandanten, laienhaft und fehlerhaft geänderter Anspruchssatz zur Verfügung gestellt und dafür die Prüfungszeit von 4 auf 3 Stunden gekürzt.
Ich habe von keiner Seite (CEIPI oder DeltaPatents) eine Anleitung dafür bekommen, wie mit Hilfe des vom Mandanten fehlerhaft geänderten Anspruchssatz die eine Stunde Prüfungszeit aufgeholt werden kann.
- See my comments above. I am sure that with one more hour I would have done a better exam.
- I would like to see taking part of the exam some members of the Examination Center. They would see the difficulty and the problems caused to candidates.
it would be a good idea to give extra time for those candidates that don't have English, German or French as mother tongue, just to balance.
- There was far too little time available for paper C.
- The 5 hours are too less, the difficulty and the length of the paper is the same as the previous years when 6 hours were allocated!
I spent almost 4 hour and half to read all the annexes!
- Time for paper C was way too short
- 2 hours for claim analysis and 2 hours for legal part is fine
- There was too much time for D paper, but not enough time for the rest. This especially applies for B. In A, there was little bit too much to read and digest. With B the time constraints were much worse - so many things to read and also so many issues to solve, to clean up the client's mess, that it was impossible to do it neatly and on time. This surprises me especially after last year where the B paper was definitely too long for 3 hrs, and this year we have exactly the same problem! Like, was this on purpose? Probably yes, I don't believe the ones who make the papers would do the same mistake twice... But I do not see the point.
Note: I think that the non-native speakers are really disadvantaged by this lack of time, because the more you have to read, the more it slows you down compared to the native speakers (who of course can read very quickly and understand everything at once when they read stuff in their mother tongue). This is just not fair - is this supposed to be a way how to get rid of us non-native speakers? How about granting the non-native speakers some extra time to compensate for this?
- I found time very tight compared to the pre-exams of previous years. For the previous pre-exams, I'd been able to finish comfortably in 3 hours, whereas with this one it took me the full 4 hours and I didn't have time to check all my answers.
- see above
Time pressure is way too high and should not be the subject tested.
- If I had had more time I am sure that I would have been able to do a better job in the claim analysis section. There was too much to read and the claims had an unusual format, different from previous Pre-EQEs.
- it is stupid to put such a time pressure on the candidates because it becomes difficult to judge the real skills of a candidate
- I only sat paper C. It was quite a long paper to go through, so careful time management was

of the essence. I ended up shortening two answers by referring to previous analysis, because I knew I would no time to finish otherwise. I did complete the paper, and had a few minutes to check my answers, realise I hadn't filled in the notice of opposition, and doing so. Correcting anything more than typos would not have been possible. It was an exercise in speed of reading, assessing and writing.

- Paper B should be at least 3.5 hours long
- The Pre-EQE is very generous with time, meaning completing the paper is not problematic and spare time is available. I would not recommend shortening the paper, as the leftover time is crucial to critically checking and reassessing your answers, something particularly important in the more 'interpretive' claim analysis section.
- it was a 6 hours C-paper just without legal questions.
- C paper should take 5.5 - 6 h not 5h - too high time pressure
- As a A14 (4) person - swedish -I may take a bit longer to compose and phrase answer due to language considerations
- Not able to finish C even though the exam itself wasnt too difficult - much too little time to write all attacks.
D was not as bad, but still too little time.
- I think that EPO does not consider the candidates with national Language different from FR, DE and EN are penalized during examination
- As said above, paper C was not intended for 5h, which leads to absurd errors due to time pressure.
- Would have preferred an extra half hour for A and B to give me time to finish and read through my answer. For C would have needed an extra 1 hour.
- For finishing C 2015, 6.5 hours would be reasonable
- See above, too little for paper c
- See answers above!
- This is a theme that is in the survey each year and yet nothing is ever done about it despite the many comments that are provided. The time allowed seems somewhat arbitrary. Yes "guinea pigs" are allegedly used but who or what are they? They can only be either: qualified, someone who knows nothing about EQE subject matter (not a likely scenario); or they must be trainees up to speed to take the exams (again unlikely because they cannot be working through the "actual" paper). Everyone works differently, at their own speed and using their own techniques. What is the problem with allowing say 8 hours for each exam but not increasing the size/complexity of the papers. Some pathetic excuses are given as to why more time should not be allowed, candidates get tired.... etc!! Almost everyone taking the exams is in full time employment and probably do way more than 8 hours work a day. Factor in stress, which isn't given enough attention by those who set the exams, and you can lose anything from 30-90 minutes when you know that you have to process so much information within a time limit which is clearly too shorty because of the majority of candidates who complain about it. Each exam costs the same but they are all not the same in terms of time allowed, I'm getting short changed!
- This year I felt more time was needed for the pre-EQE. But only because it was surprisingly harder than previous years and so I had possibly not allowed enough time.
- If the EPO would like to make the pre-exam more about a selection round to ensure only well prepared candidates would advance to the A/B/C/D papers, I would strongly suggest limiting the time available for the pre-exam to 2 hours.
- Paper C: incredible time pressure due to
 - long feature set of claims
 - no really short Annexes
 - there was 123(2), priority issues, internet disclosure/oral disclosure and one 54(3), which was a bit too much on top of the "regular" issues ...
 - it felt like a 6 hrs C-Paper
- Paper B is very tough, if one sat paper A in the morning because concentration fades. It takes much time to read all material and prepare the claims. In my opinion, the claim draft does not bring so much temporal profit, as every part of the proposal needs to be checked,

which takes almost as long as devising the claims by oneself. However, without the correct claims one cannot get many marks on inventive step arguments. 15 to 20 min more time would have gained me at least 15 marks for arguments on inventive step which I had in mind but could not bring to paper.

- There was not enough time to complete paper C fully. It is as if the old style paper is being sat, simply with less time.
- I could have solved all papers completely when having had 30-60 min more per paper.
- On a first note, regardless of any other point, the EQE exams were effectively 5 minutes shorter this year due to the need to number papers before the end of the exam. This really didn't help.

Paper A (CH) was very time pressured this year, given the need to carefully choose how to claim very similar and overlapping claim types without being punished for claiming, for example both a product by process and by composition of matter doesn't help matters. I will be interested to see how many independent claim types will be getting marks this year I used 5 (or 6?) different types - I had never seen a kit of parts claim in the EQE before which added to interest. At least I am not forced to do engineering type papers as future candidates will be.

Paper C was not too difficult in terms of content but was simply way too short. It would have been fine as a 6 hour exam. As an example, three Annexes destroyed novelty of claim 1, do I have time to write three novelty attacks on one claim? of course not. Seven claim articles to attack, and surprisingly long claims at that, in a five hour exam? - please be realistic. To add to the fun there was the reemergence of involved legal issues - I sat paper D a couple of days before and the pre-exam last year, I believed they were there to test that element of knowledge. Maybe there is a BoA case on the appropriateness of internet disclosures to substantiate oral disclosures but I am not aware of it, so in an exam already heavy on time pressure a little extra problem was added in - can I rely on one of the best pieces of prior art at all? I did in the end but it is an issue that couldn't be dealt with without investing too much precious time. Did this help to convey that I could interpret claims or write a problem and solution attack - absolutely not, in fact it meant that I simply didn't have time to present the good attacks I had identified. Everyone I spoke to after the exam was of the same opinion. Perhaps the examiners thought they had gone too far in reducing the size of the 2013 exam but this year the papers seems to have reverted to the amount of content one finds in pre-2013 exams - with the bonus that 2015 candidates had one hour (and five minutes when factoring the paper numbering issue eluded to above) less to execute matters. I write this comment from the fortunate position of being a native speaker by the way. So Paper C was, in my opinion unfairly time pressured this year. Paper C also falls at the end of three tense days of exams and fatigue and a lack of sleep probably feature in the equation for many of us.

- Yes, 1 more hour in all exams.
- I think it is more important to examine how good a candidate understands the EPC and the use of the same than how fast he/she can read and write the answers.
- See above for c.
- Plenty of time, I finished paper D in three hours and c in four.
- As mentioned. The time pressure is just too high. It is almost stupid that you are under an amount of pressure that provide a great risk of cramp due to writing.. I wound, if having 30 min more to the examn really perform 5-7 marks better at least.
- Yes, D paper should have more time. I knew all the answers but didn't have time to finish. In real life you would never have so short time to give advice.
- no time to finish, no time to double-check answers
- I cannot comprehend how the exam committee continuously fails to provide C papers of a uniform standard.

Giving 5 prior art documents instead of 4 does not simply proportionally add the time required for additional reading, but rather exponentially adds time because of the additional combination possibilities that have to be considered.

On top of that, the wording of the claims was so long that a considerable amount of time

was already needed for simply reiterating the claim features in the attacks.

It is also unacceptable that in a 5-hours paper C a higher number of claim attacks is required than in many of the 6-hours pre-2013 C papers.

I agree that a tight timeframe for answering paper C is a good and necessary hurdle that has to be taken by candidates, but this year this was to an extent that could only be regarded as completely inappropriate harassment.

On a further note, the candidates should be given the time that is laid down in the EQE provisions, i.e. five hours for papers C and D and NOT 4 hours and 55 minutes, as it is handled in the M.O.C.!!! The last five minutes are more often than not crucial for collecting those decisive final marks. The last 5 minutes in which candidates in the M.O.C. were obliged to stop writing and bag their answers should be added AFTER the 5 hours.

Moreover, it is very unfair that it is handled differently in other exam places, where the candidates are given the full 5 hours.

- I think the pre-examination is easy to complete within the allotted four hours. Perhaps, in comparison to other exams, there is too much time allowed!
However, I feel that as the purpose of the exam is to test whether one is on track for sitting the EQE, time pressure should not be an issue in the exam and the present amount of time is suitable.
- time is really a matter.
especially in paper c.
this is not fair.
- I could only finish D with writing in total 4h 55min of the 5h. No time to go back, no time to double check.
- See Q29. The 5 hours for this complex and long exam was not enough!
- About the answer to Q31, it regards only paper C. I found the time available for the other papers enough or at least fair enough.
- Paper C is far too long for the time allowed.

Requiring candidates to review Annex 1 having 8 pages including 4 figures and 6 claims (3 independent), analyse priority dates and basis so as to determine effective dates; and then to use 5 further annexes (one of which raised unusual issues relating to public availability) in order to mount effective attacks turns paper C into a scramble that closely resembles one of the UK qualifying exams. This bears no resemblance to the challenges faced when opposing a patent in practice. Surely the focus of the exam should be on identifying fewer stronger attacks and developing strong argumentation rather than producing multiple overlapping skeleton arguments, which is all that is possible in the time allotted for this paper.

Without knowing my result I can say with certainty that paper C is not administered to candidates fairly, and the abilities it currently tests don't serve clients and users of the EPO well.

- Paper C was very complicated this year, with 6 annexes it was impossible to finish in 5 hours
- Personally, I would have needed another 30 mins for Papers B and D and a full hour for Paper C.
- I think candidates who do not have German, English or French as their mother-tongue, should be allocated more time.

I understand the time pressure for paper D, because it is tested whether you know the legal stuff or not. I on the other side find the time pressure for papers A, B and C absolutely ridiculous, because it is possible to see the solution, the correct attacks and so on, but be left without time to complete the paper and without time to think. The A, B and C papers are more a test of speedy writing and a test of your stress control abilities.

- I think the time available for doing the exams is not adequate for someone who did not write the exam himself. To be able to write everything that is expected in the time slot for someone that sees the exam for the first time appears very optimistic.
- See previous comment for C. I also think I would improve my results of B paper with much time. For A and D more time would not have changed my results.

- Exam was harder than previous years with more material to read, which caused me a problem with time management. I think that the level of time was possibly appropriate but only if candidates are/were aware that they needed to be time conscious. Based on previous years this was not something I was considering before starting the exam so felt 'caught-out'.
- Time pressure was high especially for paper C. A lot of time was required to deal with the client letter issues to the extent that there was not enough time left over to complete full attacks on all the claims.
- too less time
- As mentioned above, 1 h more for paper C would be very helpful.
- 1) L'épreuve C était très difficilement réalisable dans le temps imparti.
Pour ma préparation, j'ai fait les épreuves de 2008 et 2010 à 2014 en temps limité.
Je les ai toutes terminées dans les temps en moyenne plus de 15 minutes avant le temps imparti.
Ici, j'avais préparé mes feuilles de la méthode CEIPI mais n'ai pas pu démarrer la dernière attaque contre la rev 6. Et classiquement, avec le stress, je suis plus rapide dans ma rédaction. Cette épreuve était réalisable en 5h30.
- 2) cette épreuve aurait du être dénommée épreuve c e/m. La plupart de mes collègues chimistes et biologistes ont eu de véritables difficultés techniques à comprendre techniquement les documents, ce qui a en plus rendu l'épreuve inéquitable.
- 3) Le problème du temps est toujours critique pour c, mais cette année, il était vraiment critique. Contrairement à d où le temps est aussi critique, mais où la réponse est écrite progressivement au fil de l'épreuve, à c la rédaction commence très tardivement durant l'épreuve, ce qui fait que beaucoup de points sont perdus à cause d'un dimensionnement inadapté de l'épreuve.
En plus cette année il y avait autant d'attaques à effectuer que sur des épreuves au cours desquelles 6 heures étaient attribuées.
- Stop changing your mind about how long it's going to be.
- The time pressure is too great. It does not allow sufficient time to provide a fully considered response to all of the questions.
- While paper d indeed appears to be designed to test knowledge and abilities of candidates, the remaining papers appear to be designed to only test how fast a person can read and how fast they can write things down. Even for me as a person who usually works very fast in real business, papers b and c were very tough. Not because of the difficulty but only because of the amount of work that is expected and the time given to do the work.
- Paper A was analogous to past paper for which 4 hour were requested.
- This year, paper C was too long to write in the time available: there was a majority of inventive step attacks, almost each of them using another closest prior art. Taking into consideration that the inventive step attacks are the longest and the most complex to write, it was nearly impossible to write all the attacks within 5 hours time. I had failed to write 3 attacks which I had prepared. I do not understand why the time was reduced for paper C while the complexity remained the same. If the aim of paper C is to test, whether a candidate can formulate well grounded attacks, he should be given sufficient time to do so. The time is especially decisive in paper C, as one cannot start writing any attacks before the complete analysis has been done, thus the candidate cannot decide to rather write only part of attacks, but well grounded, as he has to study and analyze all the material. In paper D in contrast, although time is as well rather short, the candidate has a more choice of strategy - e.g. distributing the time between the two independent parts - I and II. Moreover, paper C requires that the candidate understands all the documents both linguistically and technically, which is a handicap for candidates with no mother tongue E/G/F and/or from distant technical fields. Especially for these candidates, the time factor may be decisive for the success or failure.
- The C examination paper should either return to 6 hours or should reduce the amount of annexes,
The point is that after analysing all the papers, there is not enough time to turn this in marks!
- Why the time pressure??

It's supposed to be a professional exam. Meaning that it's supposed to be like in Real Life at the office/firm.

This is not the case!

It maybe happens once in a lifetime to file a patent or respond to Notification A.94(3) within 3 hours.

It doesn't make sense to filter out candidates in this way. Some people just need a little more time to bring out the best.

- Paper c changed from 6 to 5 hours some years ago and it still looks like the problem did not get easier. Even if there are no more clients questions it is very hard because in former time it was easy to get extra time by skipping this questions.
In Paper B it is hard to find a way through the clients proposal and the application text.
In all papers the pressure is that it is not possible to correct any error.
I mixed up question 1 and 3 in paper DII and had no time to give a more structured answer.
So now I have to hope that I will get marks for the answer.
- The documents for Paper C are still very long considering that there are only 5 hours available to write the answer.
Invigilators seemed to unnecessarily expect all papers to be inside the plastic envelope by the end of the time, not allowing candidates to check that all their pages had been correctly compiled (even if these pages were already all numbered) and putting them under pressure to just shove everything in the envelope. I cannot see how this helps the candidates or the examiners. Surely it makes sense to allow candidates to check that they have submitted all parts of the answer and put the sections in the right order, even if page numbering is not allowed after the end of the exam. In the UK (PEB) exams, 15 minutes is given for page numbering and filling out a cover sheet at the end of each exam. Considering the considerable time pressure in the EQEs, it seems to me that the time allowed should be time to answer the paper, rather than to number pages or put pages in an envelope.
- C was too long and a lot of attacks were required.
- Giving a sound reasoning for C would necessitate 30 minutes to 1 hour more.
For Paper A, I would need 30 minutes more.
- As often for C and D, the examen are only difficult because for everyone in the examination room, we were missing one hour to finish properly.
- see above, for paper C my problem is a slow handwriting that I am not able to improve.
Technology is available to cut and paste text with PC terminals (not connected with internet) the examination would test professional preparation only without imparing results (everybody is using PC nowadays no more handwriting is used for preparing a notice of opposition or a freedom to operate opinion and handnotes are even discouraged by the EPO in nowadays proceedings!). Hope in future it will be cancelled this anacronistic effort which is requested to candidates.
- Time for running all attacks in an appropriate way was very short in C. This should be taken into account when marking the quality of argumentation. If time is running out in the end, the problem solution approach cannot be performed ideally.
- Pre-examination was too long this year, especially for the claim analysis portion.
- It is very good to habe previous papers available for practice.
- Personally, I don't see the point of the excessive time pressure. In an exam, the legal ability of a candiate should be tested, incl. time-mangement. So, if as candidate you're well prepared and know the tasks in the paper, you should be able to finish it.
Instead, the key ability in EQE seems to be fast-writing. Taking a step back, analysing the facts, consider arguments and making a reasoned decision is a luxury you could not afford in paper B (E/M), if you wanted to discuss inventive step at all. The same applies to this years C-paper, somewhat less so.
So, as an advice:
>> allow more time in B (3,5-4h). This way, the ability of the candidate to assess a complex A123(2)-case can be tested, without forcing a candidate to make bad judgements.
>> reduce the number of claims of A1 in C. The reason why the C-paper was shortened from 6 to 5h was to not have a writing-contest. The status quo is just such a contest.

The D-paper was a good example of how it could be done: D-II was much shortened by referring to features A+B+C+..., so the candidate can concentrate on the legal issues instead of claim interpretation. So, after analysing all the facts, you had a fair chance to give the client advice without writing your fingers off.

- Paper B was very difficult because of the numerous amendments made by the Client. It was very time consuming to find the basis for two independent claims and for all the other claims. I do not really understand why paper A is 3,5 h and paper B just 3 h although you must write a lot more in paper B which is time consuming.
If the secretariat would draft a perfect answer and then try to write it down with a pencil, I doubt they had to hurry in order to make it in 3h. I don't see the relevancy of keeping the time so limited with testing the candidates knowledge of EPC since there is no time limit in your actual work.
- This year paper C exam was more complex than exams from previous years with claims on 2 pages! In my opinion this was 6 hours exam not 5 hours!! In addition, this exam was very difficult to understand for not native speakers and I had to use dictionary.
- Time for the pre-examination is enough, more time would give more time for searching for answers, where the place to find the answer ist not obvious right away.
- D: available time was unfair
C: the trend of last year is continued. The concept of the committee to reach a pass rate of 30% ist appointed by increasing the extent of the paper. Too much time is needed for analysis. This has nothing to do with anything you do in practice. the extent is bigger than in a 6-hour-exam before 2013. This is unfair and demotivating. I write this here despite I know that the committee is impervious to any criticism.
- I wish i had: More time for the claim analysis, a visible clock, a time line or someone to announce the time passed.
- In my opinion it is not the same to have English, French or German as a mother tongue than to have Spanish, Italian or Portuguese (for example). For people that does not have English, French or German as a mother tongue we need some more time to understand the claims analysis part and some minutes to search in a dictionary since the vocabulary is specific. This is not a problem when we are working since we can spend time translating however, it is time-consuming when we are doing an exam.
- B exam was much more difficult than previous years. It took too much time to decide on amended claims, so there was not enough time for writing the response explaining the amendments and arguing inventive step.
A was OK.
D was also OK, but as always pressed for time.
- No time to reconstruct an erroneous attack during C paper.
- At least half or one hour more is needed.
Was not able to finish the exam in time although I spotted all the attacks.
"Just" scratching all legal aspects doesnt give you one or even 2 hours more, but only saves maybe half an hour.
- Time is the only enemy to fit in the examination. Legal knowledge, smart strategies, detailed answers seem to be not the focus anymore. That is very poor, since, I would expect rather an attorney coming up with smart strategies, than with fast answers.
- In real life you have to give a 100% solution to your client or to your business. So you have to take time to analyse all options.
In the exam you have to get at least 50 of 100, that is 50%; but you have a very high time pressure. There is no time to give a perfect answer. That is a complete different story!
Also in real life for fees and date calculations you use electronic tools (computer; you patent management system etc) which are up to date by online update and also to access the OJ, EPC, Guideline etc..
Most books and also e.g. the "ancillary regulations" are out of date when released. More and more the real life is based on electronic OJ, Communications etc.
- 6 hours for the C-paper would be enough.
- The time was enough fo previous papers but not for this paper.

- I completed the paper during the time allocated but did not have time to come back to borderline answers. There was a lot of documents to read this time, said documents not being easy to understand.
- I don't understand why time pressure during the exam should be a feature. Paper C is not difficult but you don't have time. You need to have a structure or worked out plan on how to tackle the exam which is not what the exam is about. In other words you could know the answer and would be able to give perfect answers but the time does not allow it. The paper should show if the candidate knows how to handle the legal and strategic situations presented in the papers but the papers (especially C) is more about having the best strategy to handle the examination. So I strongly suggest that expand the examination time with an hour and if the problem is that it would render too many pages for you to correct set a maximum number of pages.
- I think four hours for the pre-exam is enough.
when preparing for the exam by working through the exams of the last years I found that even shorter times would be sufficient (2-3 h). but this year's pre-exam definitely needed the 4 h.
- The paper C this year would have been a very reasonable one, had there been 6 hours to finish it. I feel this paper doesn't really test who has the best skills in interpreting prior art and forming a notice of opposition, but who is fastest in reading and writing.
- 30 minutes more for each paper would have made a difference, since in both papers (A, B mechanics) there was not enough time to go through the answers. Ideas were in the head, how to argue /draft, but no time for expressing them on the answers.
- I found that main problem is time.
Despite believing that I knew all answers or I knew how to solve all papers, due to the lack of time I had to go very fast in the end of the papers so that probably something was missing or the answer was not as precise as I would have liked.
- in Paper C in 2015 eight to nine attacks where possible and this is just impossible to manage if you need to read 25 A4 pages, analyze them, think about it and write later on the attacks.
- For D, it might be better to split it in two parts of two (part DI) and three hours (DII), to give a break to rest. Very intensive and possible to split.
- Pre-examination is very difficult from the past ones. I use to solve the other papers in 3 hours. The pre-EQE is impossible to solve in only 4 hours because claim analysis part that is too confusing, unclear, subjected to different interpretations and arbitrary choices. It is impossible to answer only T or F in many claim analysis questions.
- The claims analysis part was much more longer comparing to previous years, so it took so long to read and perform the analysis
- 30 minutes more time for C would be appreciated
- If you are not familiar with the technical field of the papers, the time limit is very hard (i.e. too much of time available is lost for reading and understanding the field the invention relates).
- One can run out of time really quickly
- The amount of time given for C is not enough or there are too many annexes - Give more time or reduce the number of annexes to 5 only.
- Time pressure was really high. Due to the increased difficulty of the legal questions, much too little time was left for reading the material and provide adequate answers for the claim analysis part. Also, the claim dependency consumed too much time to verify if one is looking at the right claim, the right features and to compare the disclosure with the prior art.
- Far too little time for C-exam: many inventive step attacks and complicated prior art and effective date issues
- When doing the internal "guinea pig" runs, I wonder what the acceptable lower limit is for those runs. In my opinion it should be verified if it is at all possible to achieve maybe not 100, but at least 90 points by trained testers under realistic conditions. Otherwise the marking scheme is seriously skewed and not really reproducible, because a significant number of marks have not been verified (a programmer would diagnose too low test coverage).

- Q31) no idea, as the results are not out yet
- definitely, under time pressure you can make a decision far away from reality. it is scientifically evidenced that the time pressure heads to incorrect decision.
- 5 hours is quite long to stay concentrated, I suffered from dizziness and was desoriented for two days after the exam. Breaking it up in two parts, with a pause in between, like before 2013, is better. You need to work quite hard to finish it all in time. I felt there was time enough, but to really check all my answers, at least half an hour would have been a bit more comfortable.
- In my personal opinion the problem lies not in time management but in the style of the questions. Additional time for non-native speakers could be helpful, but the style of questions should be adopted to BASIC level, not advanced as it was in 2014 and 2015
- Pre-exam was long, 4 hours was not a sufficient time.
- D was fair
C was much too much extent for this time. This has nothing to do with practice. Too much stuff to analyse. Not the correct way to push the pass rate under 30%.
- -
- I felt there was a lot to do in paper C this year compared to most of the past papers I'd done.
- Under my point of view, the documents to be analyzed are more and more extensive, therefore the analysis time you need to understand the case is increased significantly.
- At least 30' more in each paper would have been beneficial
- more time is necessary for papers with much reading and writing, like Paper A and Paper C; my suggestion: Paper A - 4 hours, Paper C 5.5 hours or shorter documents
- Time should be adequate to Exam's difficulty. It is not a question to add some extra-time. Moreover, it should be assumed that some of EQE candidates are not native speakers of EN/DE/FR.
- Paper C was too long. 1 hour extra was needed to finish the paper. Don't see why the exam was shortened by 1 hour (from 6 hours to 5 hours) while the amount of work and written answer required was the same. The exam should be about strategic attack to oppose the patent not about running against time!!!
- For paper C 2015 I strongly believe that the result is not representative for my qualifications due to the time constrain. The paper was not "technically" difficult, and I have verified that the attacks that I gave were correct (Delta Patent blog). However, of a total of 9 possible attacks (assuming 3 novelty attacks on claim 1), I managed to complete 4. And in my opinion the analyses were performed without unnecessary hesitations.
If the prime idea of the paper C is to verify that the candidates may draft opposition applications, I think the committee has to review the time constraints and rather increase the technical difficulties.
- As we are all aware, we were supposed to be tested under time-pressure conditions. However, this means that candidate that have to take the exam in the language that is not their mother tongue are under considerably higher time-pressure conditions requiring efforts that could be even health damaging...
- time pressure favours native speakers
- Not enough time in 2015, given the sharp increase in difficulty of the paper this year.
- Non-native speakers should have more time for writing a paper. EQE needs to consider that non-native speakers will never be familiar with the whole technical vocabulary in a foreign language. It is always that non-natives have to memorise technical expressions as well, not just the invention. This takes more time for understanding the invention.
For example; a mention of skiboard having a damper does not ring a bell to a non-native, if he does not know what "damper" means. Only from the description explaining how the damper works, such candidate is able to understand what damper actually is. This takes more time to understand the invention.
I estimate that non-natives should have approximately 10% more time available for the papers.
- For paper C it would be very desirable either to reduce the number of documents or increase time available. It's really difficult to make a good response under such stress

conditions

- Paper A was pressured for time due to the uncertainty in what the "correct" claim set would be - I lost much time experimenting with different options before deciding on one. I still have no idea if it was correct!

Paper C - I will repeat my comments from above. Paper C contained far too much material for a 5-hour paper. I prepared by doing every paper from 2010-2014 under timed conditions and never had any problems. This year there was simply too much for the time available. There were significant amounts of discussion required for priority and for admissibility of (internet disclosure) Annex 2 as well as the oral disclosure evidenced by Annex 2. There were at least 3 possible novelty attacks on claim 1 and an inventive step attack. This was very time consuming and left little time available for the remaining claims. Lots of definitions of terms that needed to be cross-referenced between documents. Shortening the time available to 5 hours is unfair without reducing the amount of work compared to a 6-hour paper. The legal questions have not gone away - they are still there with regard to the priority/admissibility points. Many people seemed to struggle to finish the paper in the available time. The difficulty of the paper was not excessive, but an extra hour was needed to make all attacks fully.

- No comments.
- Please see my comments above regarding paper C.
- Just go back to the old format. That way it was much better!
- Paper C requires to write complete problem solution approach when treating inventive step, which is pretty time consuming. When on top of that you have to deal with priority issues, and added subject-matter issues, 5 hours is slightly too short. With 30 minutes more it would have been much more comfortable.
- I guess the problem is, that whoever CREATES the exams automatically loses sight/feeling for what the candidate will have to think through and evaluate before actually writing. While the creator of the paper will know why/where he left certain "puzzle pieces" to help the solution (and may even assume that everything is now super-obvious). As the candidate, though, the use of certain keywords will trigger the realization "Oh, this is important, I should keep this in mind." However by FINDING the puzzle pieces, one has not automatically put the puzzle together already... it requires some time to put the pieces in various positions first before coming to a conclusion where they best belong.
In A, B and D, I noticed that I was mostly fine with the answer I came up with after "puzzle pieces evaluation" but had to little time left to actually write down my thoughts and arguments in favour of why had assembled the puzzle as I did.
C was just overwhelming... I managed to write 2 attacks "nicely" as expected, then hurried through another 2 (with my handwriting deteriorating big time) and then time was out with 2 claims not even attacked at all yet. If examiners want us to be precise and specific in our arguing for an attack they should leave sufficient time to actually WRITE the answers. It felt as if in 2015 the committee had forgotten that C-paper now is 5h instead of 6h... I did not even find a moment to eat or drink something because I felt so much under time pressure. (I passed 4 old papers with only little troubles but this time I did not even have time to write down all attacks I spotted while reading the annexes.)
- Would have need time to check the answers.
- See above. Really, shortening B to three hours may be fine, but then with D1, D", D3, two independent claims and amendments to be made, it's too little.
- Less time available than in previous years - no time to check answers at the end of the paper.
- see Q29
- Time is not enough especially For papers d and c
Having 30 min more could help a lot
- The time available for paper C is simply ridiculous.
- It was my impression, especially concerning the C paper but also for D and B, that the reduction of time is not taken enough into account when designing the papers. It seems to me, that this year in the mentioned papers the extent of information to be compiled was

- simply to much for the time given to do this task
- C in 2014 and 2015 were too long given the time of 5 h in view of the older papers.
- Time was really the only problem for me. The limited time makes it hard... no impossible... to use the methodology I personally use every day.
- lack of time is the main issue of the whole test
- A, B and D were OK. Not enough time in C. There were a lot of issues to consider this year.
- Candidates should be given time after the end of the exam to number their pages. Cameras should be placed in the halls to monitor candidates. Those candidates attempting to expand their scripts rather than numbering should have their scripts refused - the cameras will provide proof.
- The paper C was to long. There were to many attacs to write after the study and analysis of the documents.I would have easily finish paper C but I would have needed 30 minutes more time for the writing and additional 30 minutes for checking would be fine.
- The lack of time forces you to make quick decisions which can be detrimental for the later analysis.
- Here is a suggestion: let's change rules of C-exam such that no one is allowed to have the paper in one's own language. I guarantee that results in Germany, France and Great Britain would substantially weaken. Maybe then EPO would realise how unfair this Exam is for people whose mother tongue is not an official EPO language.
- Paper C was far too long for the time allocated. All other papers were time pressured but I would say to around the correct level to place the candidate under pressure to check they can notice the details. However, paper C did not permit enough time to adequately answer the paper, despite being able to.
- Paper C 2015 included: admissibility case on the prior art that required a more in depth analysis, art 54(3) prior art, priority issues, 54(2) for different claims, and an art 123(2) case. While this is of course in line with previous exam and expected, in the past more time was allocated for the exam. Five hours are not sufficient if too many aspects are tested
- This year, it seemed to me that it was hard to do papers (in particular A, B and C) in the given time. In particular, at home but in real "time conditions" I was able to finish papers C whereas it was not the case during the exam.
- on paper B , 3h is too little to analyse document, modify claim of customer, to argue about modification,
Paper C: Always too long, too many attaks, too much too read
- PLEASE SEE MY COMMENTS UNDER Q29.
I THINK TIME IS REALLY TOO SHORT, SPECIALLY IF YOU ARE NOT A NATIVE SPEAKER. EVENTHOUGH I NON NATIVE SPEAKER MIGHT UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY THE CONTENT OF THE DOCUMENTS PROVIDED,WE ARE NOT AS FAST AS NATIVE SPEAKERS IN WRITING. WE NEED MORE TIME TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDING, THE RIGHT EXPRESSION, ETC. THIS YEAR I WOULD HAVE NEEDED AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR MORE IN EVERY PAPER I SAT. WITH THIS EXTRA TIME I AM 100% CONVINCED MY RESULTS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH, MUCH BETTER
- You decide what to test.
Stil, for C a wounder wether you obtain a proper selection by the high number of attacks in short time.
- B : 3h is really short
C : 5h is short
- The paper C 2015 was not for 5 hours it should be for 6 hours. There was to much information to be analysed.
- See Q29 for the C Paper. Time for A,B,D is discussable, but by far more fair then for C.
- Sometimes it is not enough
- Extreme time pressure in part B and C. Getting a grip on the prior art was difficult due to lack of time. Analysis of prior art should of course be a major goal in the exam, but there should be ample time to write the attacks for C and to draft the reply in paper B.
- la réduction de la durée del'épreuve B n'est pas en adéquation avec le contenu du sujet
- Paper A should have half an hour more

- for paper c at 1 hour more, same for paper d
- I felt that had not enough time for C. There were too many attacks (at least that is my feeling).
- 5h was not enough for C 2015
- The difficulty of C 2015 paper was not for 5 hours but for 6 hours.
- Paper C has changed from 6 hours to 5 hours. i sat the aper for the first time last year and ran out of time. Although my rpeparation was much imprved, I could not complete all the expected attacks in the given time. in my view there is still too much expected in the allocated time of 5 hours.
- See Q29. I miss between 15 minutes and 30 minutes.
- Too short for looking in deep details guidelines for legal question, too short for claims analysis due to too long description of invention and prior art
- 5 hours is ok if the C paper is normal, i.e. as C2013 or C2014
- Paper C was straightforward but contained too many pieces of prior art, including an oral disclosure and too many claim attacks (including an Art.123(2) attack). All in all, once all documents had been read and the various attacks determined there was insufficient time to draft the opposition fully enough to obtain a pass. I had practiced paper C to ensure timing would not be an issue but it inevitably was.
- paper C is far too long, too many aspects have to be dealt within 5 hours, someone who has not a mechanical background needs more time for analysing
- I think that new Paper B (with the client's claims) makes it more difficult, and it is not fair to have 30 minutes less.
I think that 2015 Paper C had a mixture of too much legal issues and too much claims issues, it was not balanced.
- Time is too much critical for C
- more time for paper C and B
- Paper C:
It is ok if paper C is all about meachnics but it would then only be fair if the amount of time is increased since chemists need more time to grasph purely mechanical stuff.
- Not by far enough time to write down all of your thoughts.
- The subject was not too difficult but there was too much time pressure in Paper C.
The annexes were too longs. Reading all the documents took too much time. Thus, time for writing all the attacks was very short and giving a good and complete argumentation was too difficult.
I have the impression that Annexes were much longer than in the past (except C 2014 which was an "especial" paper, in particular for candidates sitting in French).
For a candidate it was too difficult to prove that he/she know how to file an opposition.
In addition, the client's letter was composed a little complicated form.
- I cannot understand the intension behind so high time pressure in C.
Usually I try to solve the paper properly: I mean try to understand the technical idea behind and look for information using this understanding and not just puzzling the answer by blind point-hunting. This strategy is obviously wrong. Although I am in general able to find the correct attacks, I have no time to write them down in an expected way: problem solution approach explaining why the document is the closest prior art, why the skilled person would combine it with another document and where to find explanation for the features that do not have the same wording through the documents. So I am forced either to shorten my arguments or make it properly but leave some claims not attacked. Other solution would be just to screen (not really read) the documents and miss some information. Finally I have an impression that "fit to practice" and "fit to paper C" are two entirely different things. An I am really confused about it.
- Time compared with amount of claims and annexes of the C exam that should be handled got the better of me - even if you know the different rules/systems/tests you need to actually write things out and that takes time, and then you get rushed when you see how much time you have used on certain things and then disorganized with the rest.

- Here I repeat the comment above and add something about my previous comment on the technical area:
Paper C is complex but perfectly feasible IF the allocated time was proportional to the complexity and amount of work to be done.
The allocated time has been reduced but removing the questions of the Client was not balanced with less 1 hour.
Having sat Paper C for the last 3 years, I could see the complexity raising, the amount of work raising as well (more claims, more prior art annexes even with different dates, and more and complex attacks per claim).
When this is added to the nature of the invention not matching with chemical and biotechnological areas, resulting in a extra effort for the Candidates of those to understand the invention and the prior art, the allocated time is clearly by far not enough.
I dare to say that even with 1 hour extra I would not be able to finish the Papers C 2015 and 2014 but for sure it would be enough to pass.
- siehe oben!!
- Paper B CH was too long for available 3 hour time due to the claim amendments. Client's letter in this case does facilitate the answer, but rather to the contrary makes it more difficult. I find the old paper B of 4 hours easier.
- The time is enough to complete the pre-exam. However, due to the time pressure I made 2 mistakes that was unnecessary.
- Provisions for candidates with dyslexia and other time-relevant conditions would be good.
- For me it was too less time.
- For me, this year and on the given day, two exams on one day proved to be too many. I tried, but I didn't manage to "reset" after A.
- This Year Paper C was too long (6 docs and 6 claims) for a 5 hours Examination, especially for nationals of contracting states in which the official language is NOT an EPO Official language (No mothertongue) . This in my opinion is a discrimination.
- There was essentially a 5 minute reduction in the time available this year due to the requirement to number all your pages prior to the end of the exam.
- Last year I passed paper D. Thus, luckily I could throw all my efforts and energy on preparation of papers A, B and C. In fact my preparation started in April 2014, just shortly after my first part of EQE in 2014. The reasons of my early start is that I heard too much from the others about the difficulties of paper C and my lack of experience in this respect on my daily job. However, despite my intensive and thorough preparation of paper C by attending specific training courses from Deltapaten and doing the past compendiums from Y2002 to 2014, the difficulty of paper C in 2015 still surprised me a lot. As a non-English speaker, my reading speed is not that fast plus keeping track of analysis and recording need time, which is the fundamental base to draw right attacks afterwards and this step can not be avoided. Time constraint is really a big issue in Paper C.
I did my best on paper C this year, but I am very upset and disappointed by the fact that there is no time left for me to attack the last claim 6 and have a final check on what I have wrote on the other claims. Honestly, I believe that if I have extra time, I certainly could better job.
- Pre-exam 2011/2013--> 4 hrs probably enough; pre-exam 2014 --> just enough; 2015 was just not enough
- As previously mentioned, my timing allocation strategy was thwarted given the presentation of the claim analysis questions.
- I feel that the time available for all of the exams is not enough.. An extra 30 minutes for all of the papers would make a real difference. Paper C is by far the worst paper in terms of time pressure (although I did not sit it this year).
- There was too much reading to get through in the claim analysis section of the pre-exam compared to previous years, so many people only just finished and did not have time to review their answers.
- Paper C this year was overloaded with documents, informations and points to be analyzed . It was 6h paper for native speakers and 7h paper for other groups.

- Old C-papers with 6 hours seemed more fair.
- Paper C very short of time - some attacks were very brief as a result.
- Regarding C: see Q29: C covered far too many aspects! Each aspect wasn't too difficult but I couldn't concentrate on the single aspects because I knew that overall time wasn't sufficient. Very frustrating because I thought I was well prepared. More time during C would definitely have improved my performance.
- As mentioned above, I would prefer had more time for understanding the technical field of paper C.
- 30 minutes more and I would have passed C - dead sure
- Paper C: For candidates having non-official EPO languages from the fields of chemistry and biotechnology the time was absolutely not enough.
- see above
- The 2015 Paper C had a very complex scenario in terms of the effective dates of the claims and usability of the documents. I had to use double the time to analyse and write down this complex situation than with the past papers (2007-2014) I tackled under exam conditions when preparing for the exam.
This year's paper consisted in at least 8 different attacks, with 5 of them being inventive step (IS) attacks. The high number of IS attacks combined with the complex scenario of effective dates/usability of documents definitely required an extra hour. I do not see how removing the client's questions, which normally would take 10-15 min to answer, while maintaining or even increasing the complexity of the exam can account for the reduction of 1 hour of exam time - unless of course it is the Examination Board's intention to switch the aim of Paper C from testing the candidates' knowledge and aptitudes to represent clients in opposition proceedings to testing the candidates' aptitudes to fight against the clock.
- Very frustrating to see the problems but not to be able to write them down in time and in consequence to loose points.
- It is the limited time available that makes Paper D difficult. With more time it would not be so difficult to pass.
- Perfect for the pre-exam, it was fair.
- The time available should definitely fit the length of the documents to be examined. There were pre-examinations with far shorter documents and the same time allowed, which also increased this year's difficulty by far.
- see answer to Q29
- The main issue I had with the exam was insufficient time. If I had had more time, I think I would have completed the paper because I had planned most of my attacks. Paper C has been reduced in time from 6 hours to 5 hours and appears to have been made more difficult and complicated. This is unfair and frustrating for candidates who, if unsuccessful, then have to wait another year before they can retry.
- Paper C: Impossible. Lots of documents to analyse, many information and issues to solve in very few time, 5 h is not enough at all for such a difficult exam. I believe it was a 6 h-exam, at least! Even much harder for a non-native speaker of an official language, and even more for a person with no "mechanical" background. I think that having more time available would have improved my results, clearly, as I could not even write several attacks (important ones) due to the lack of time. It is very frustrating knowing some of the answers and not able to write it, and even more frustrating knowing that you will probably fail for that. In this particular exam, the time really makes the difference between failing or passing.
In paper C, the only important seems to be the speed and no matter at all if you know how to do an opposition, the important is to be the fastest of the world and, in my opinion, it shouldn't be like that. The fastest? Why? For a race of oppositions? Sorry but I cannot understand it. Evidently, I agree that the time must be limited but, I think, in accordance with the difficulty of the exam and that was not clearly the case in this exam.
- see Q27e)
- DI Zeitproblem
Hauptproblemb bei Teil C Zeitmanagement bei ausführlichem Problem-Solution-Approach.
- Regarding paper C, it was very difficult for me to attack all claims on the basis of appropriate

arguments due to the big time pressure.

If I compare this exam with the exams of the years 2013, 2010 and 2009, I have to mention that the time assigned this year was not enough. Some Information, which I already marked during my analysis, could not be mentioned in my opposition letter due to this time pressure. I am angry about this circumstance.

In this connection, please be informed that I wrote a lot of previous exams of paper C under exam conditions.

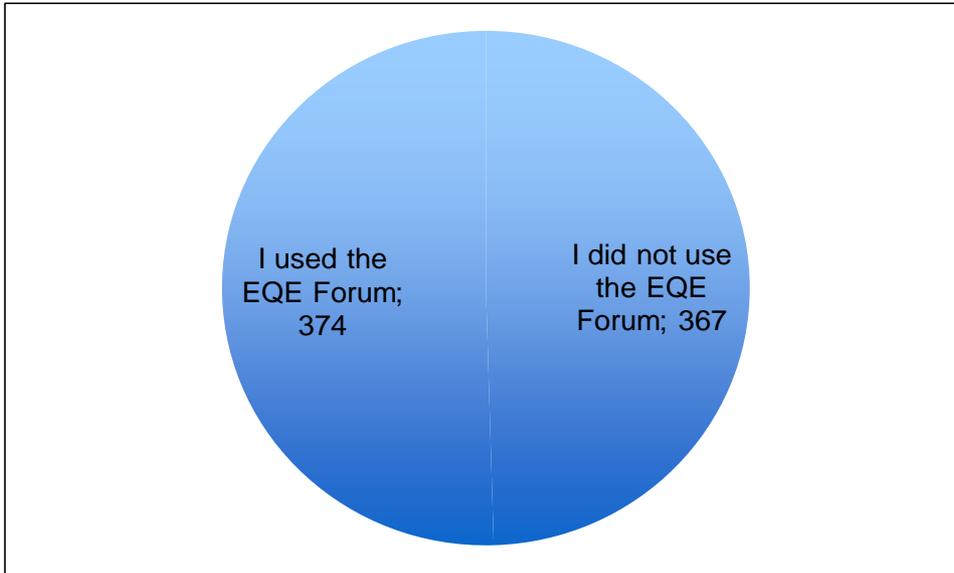
- At least 4 hours for Paper A, 7 hours for each Paper C and D
- I don't think it was a problem of time available. More likely the questions were not clear enough to find oneself a definite solution.
- B-Teil 2015: mindestens 30 Minuten mehr, eher 60 Minuten mehr notwendig!
C-Teil 2015: mindestens 60 Minuten mehr notwendig bei dem Umfang an Informationen und der Komplexität der Zeitränge!

D-Teil 2015: hier wären 15-20 Minuten mehr wichtig gewesen.

Bedenken Sie bitte, dass allein das Öffnen der Unterlagen und das Enttackern ca. 5 Minuten dauert und dass die Schlussansagen ("in 5 Minuten ist es vorbei") auch noch einmal 5 Minuten der Zeit rauben. Effektiv stehen also in JEDER Prüfung 10 Minuten gar nicht zum Lesen/Schreiben/Analysieren zur Verfügung. V.a. die Schlussdurchsage in 3 Sprachen machen es UNMÖGLICH, konzentriert die letzten Sätze aufs Papier zu bringen. Jeder weiß doch, dass es dann in 5 Minuten vorbei ist, das muss nicht in immenser Lautstärke 3 Mal wiederholt werden!

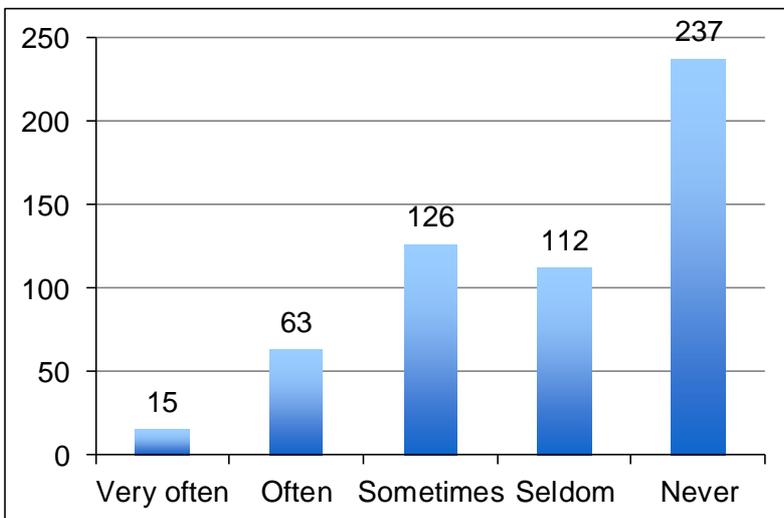
Chapter 5 - Training from the European Patent Academy

Q33) EQE Forum of the European Patent Academy and online services

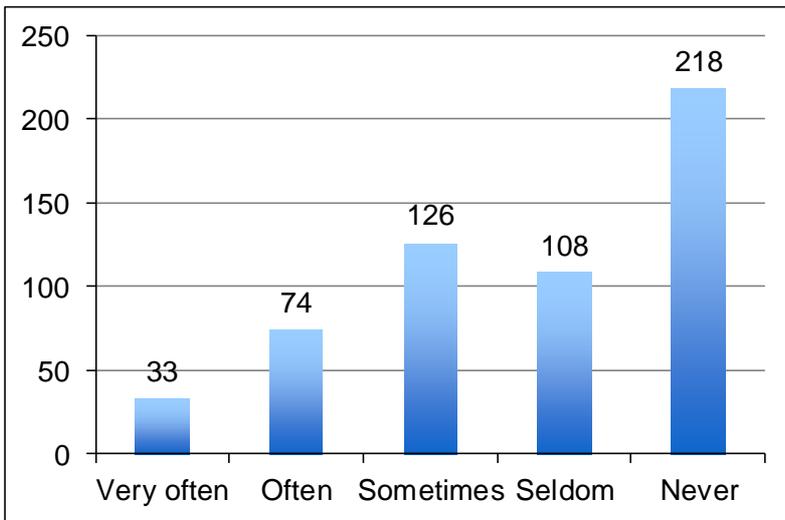


Q34) How actively did you use the following services?

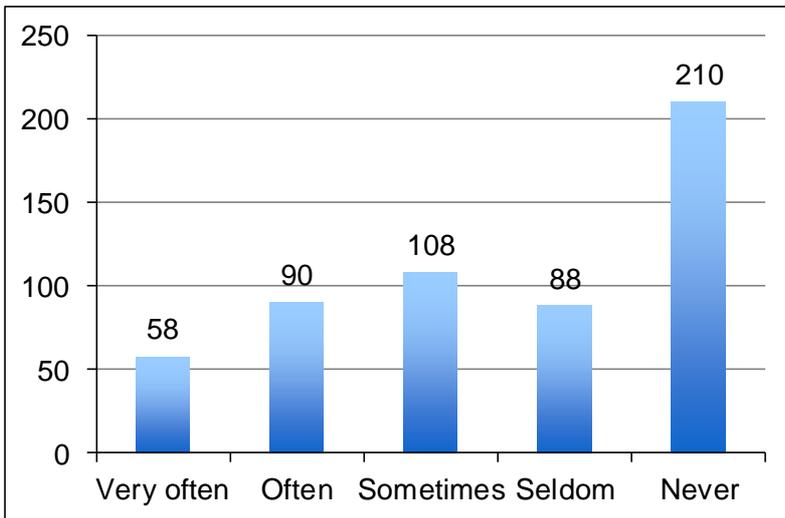
Discussion of general topics



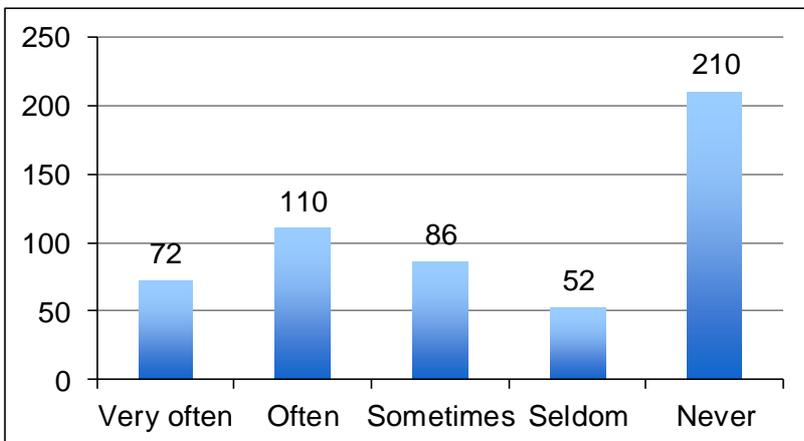
Discussion of Examination Papers



Commented answer papers

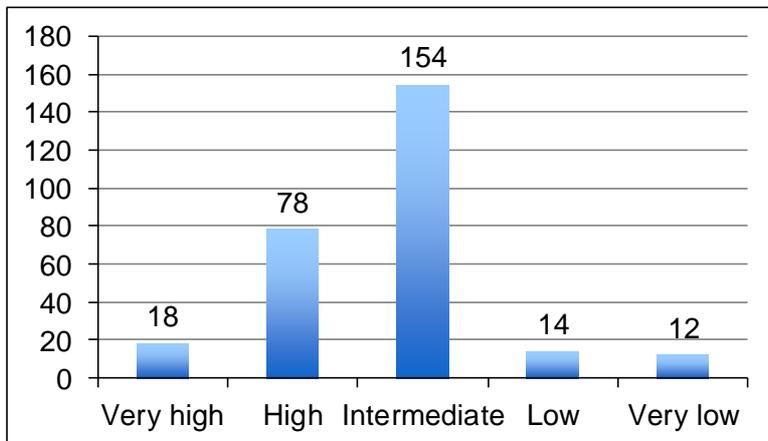


Paper D questions

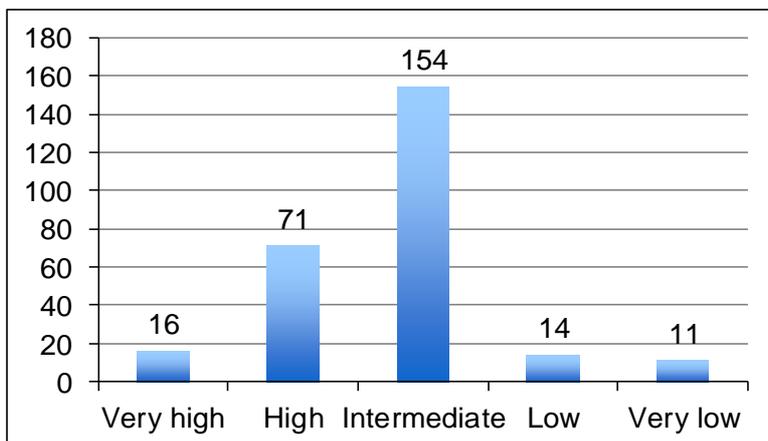


Q35) Please rate the following sections of the EQE Forum on a scale

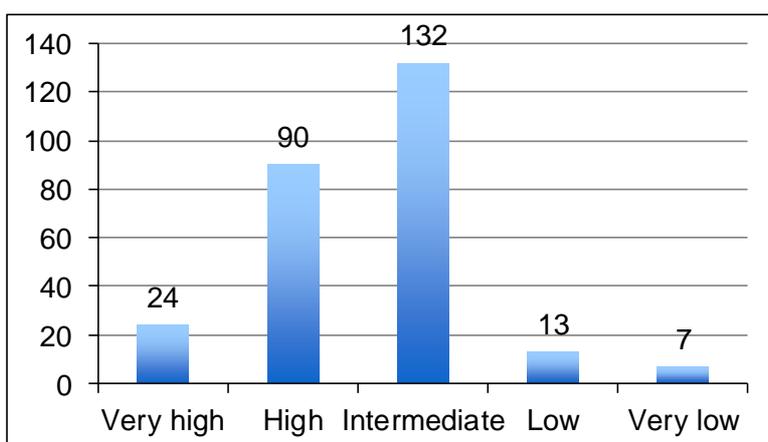
Discussion of general topics: General usefulness



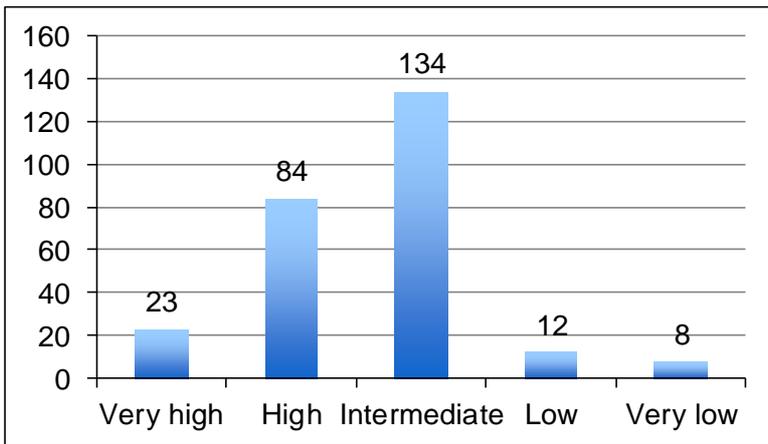
Discussion of general topics: Quality of material



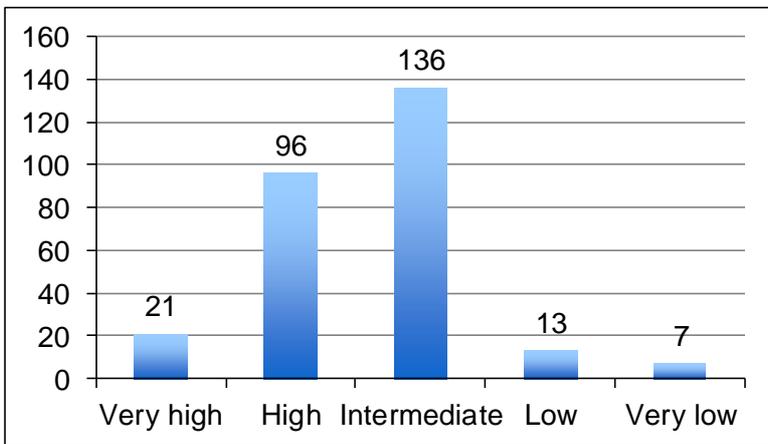
Discussion of general topics: Quality of responses to questions



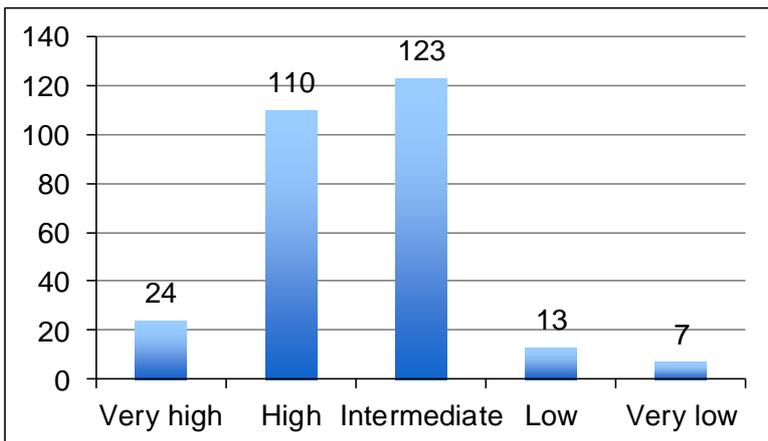
Discussion of general topics: Timeliness of responses



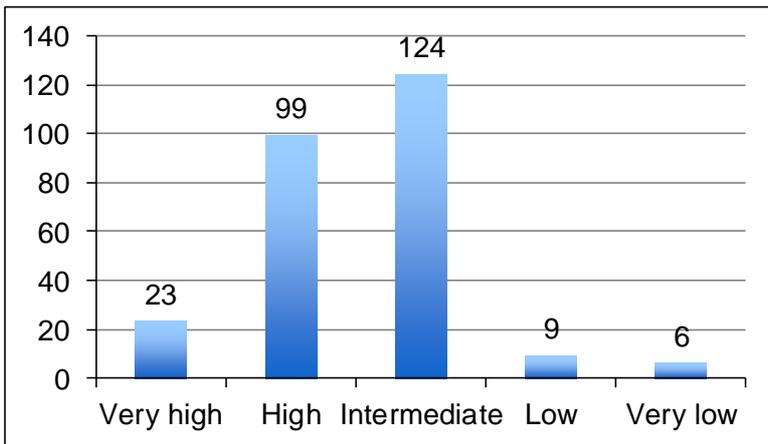
Discussion of examination papers: General usefulness



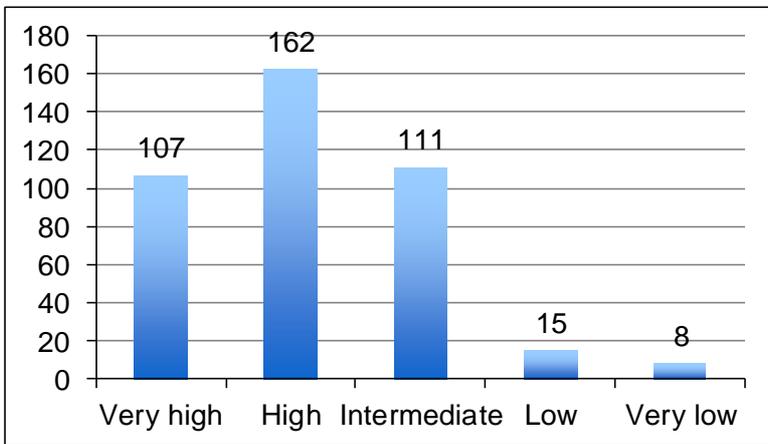
Discussion of examination papers: Quality of responses



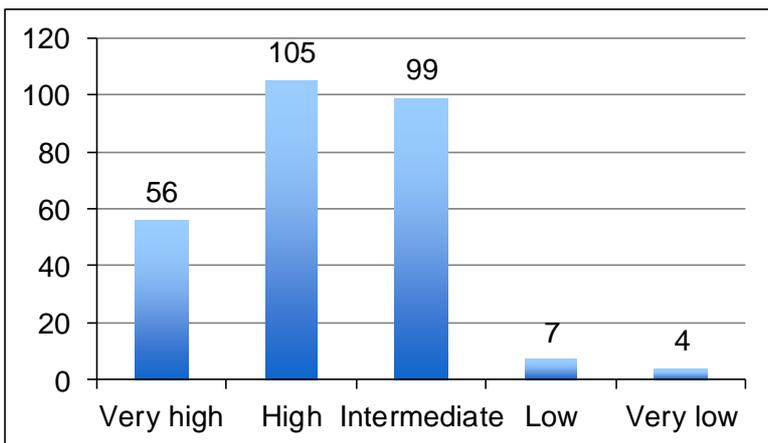
Discussion of examination papers: Timeliness of responses



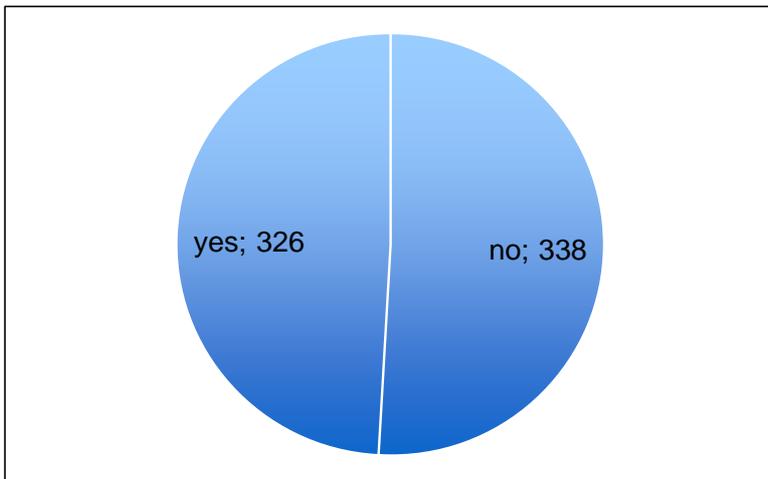
Paper D questions: General usefulness



EQE Commented Answer Papers: General usefulness

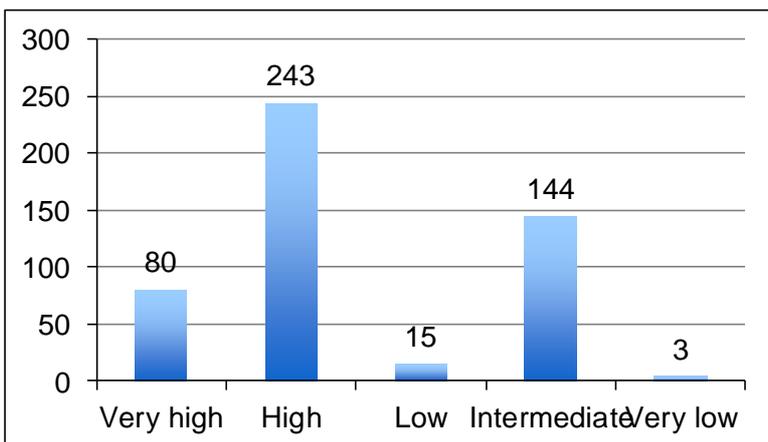


Q36) Are you aware of the programme "Praktika Intern - internships for patent professionals" directed at present and future professional representatives?

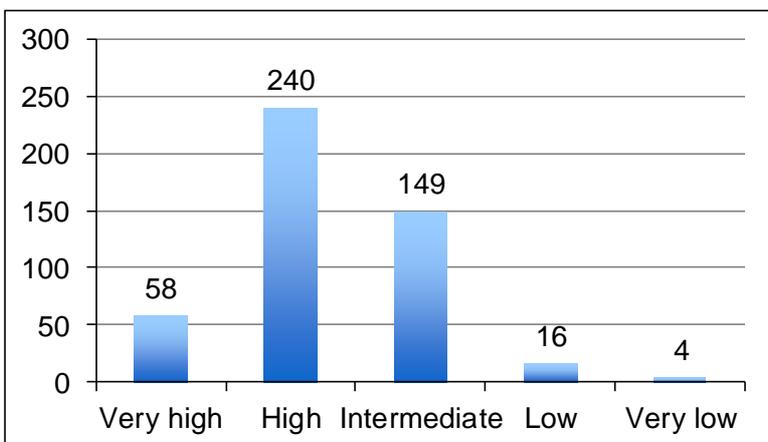


Q37) Please rate the eqe-online.org website on a scale

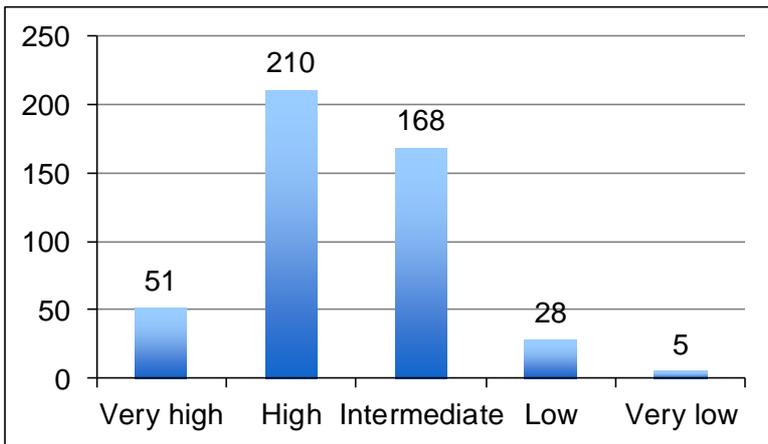
General usefulness



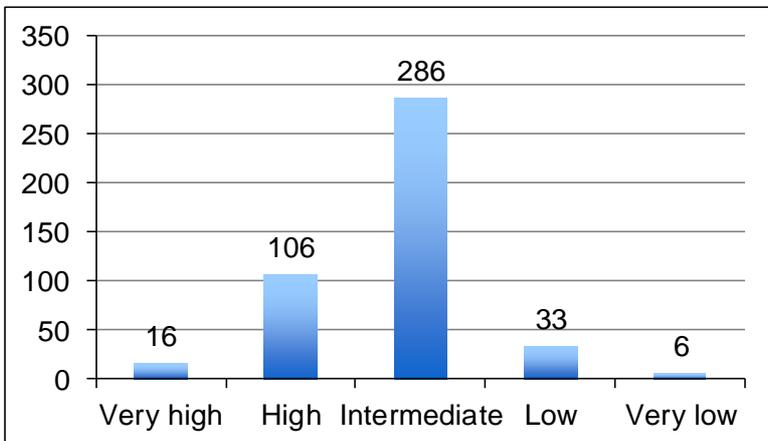
Relevance of covered topics



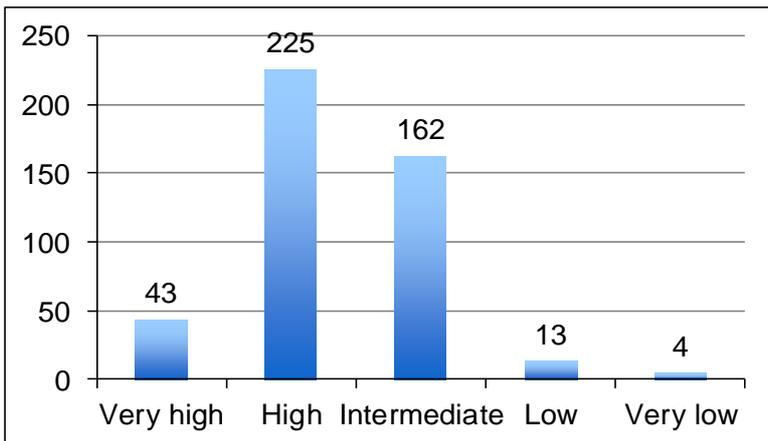
Ease of use of the tool



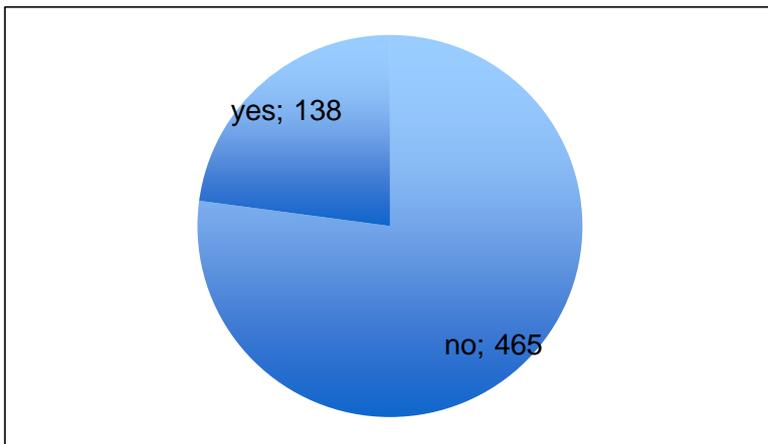
Level of difficulty



Quality of the model answers and comments

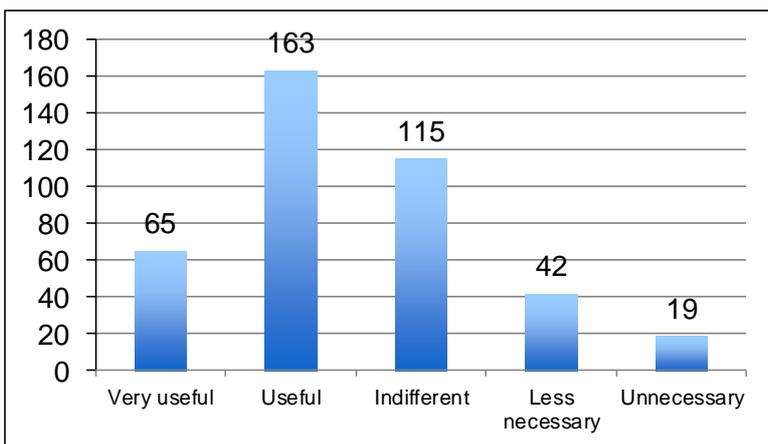


Q38) Did you discuss any of the EQE online exercises with your supervisor/tutor?

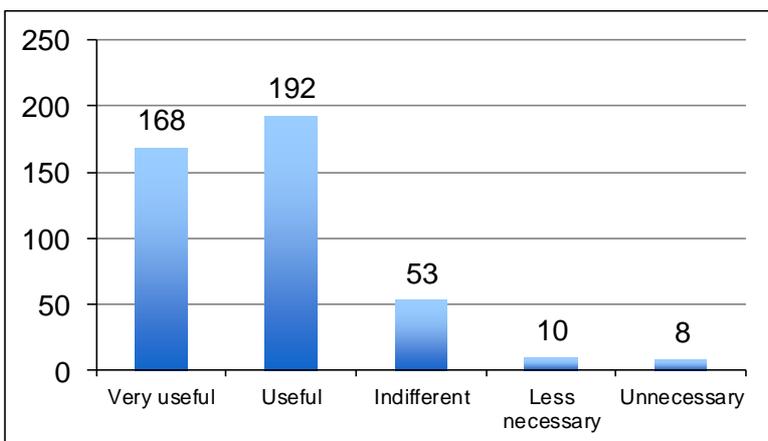


Q39) How could the EQE online service be best integrated into your preparation for the EQE?

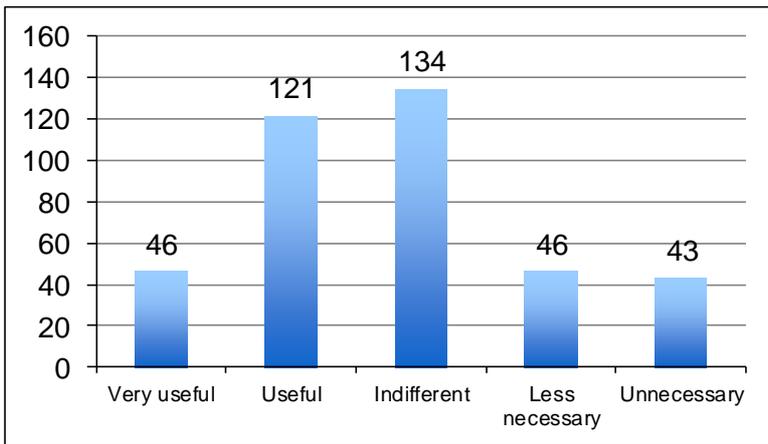
Providing last minute help on a broad range of topics



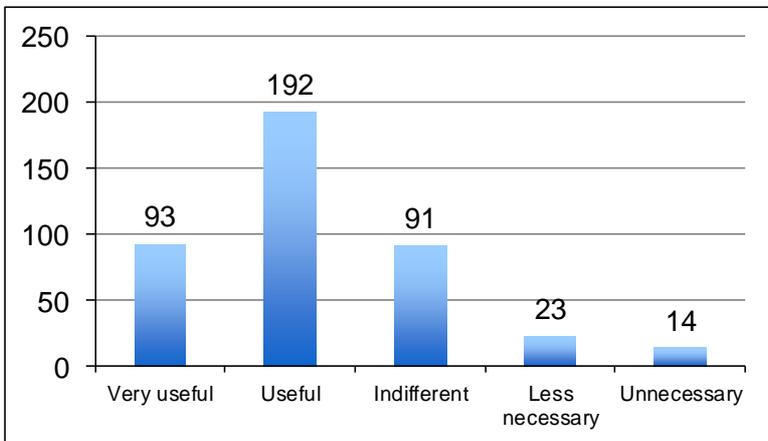
Providing tutorial-like exercises with model answers and an opportunity to discuss



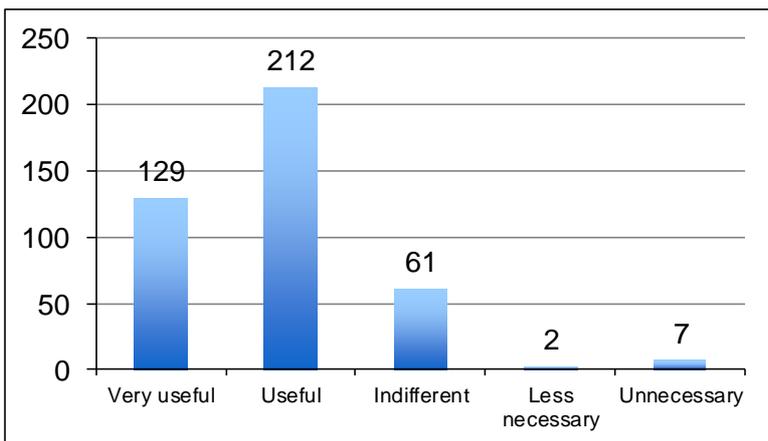
Serving as a basis for discussion with your supervisor/tutor



Time schedule of the exercise



Quality of the model answers and comments



Other, please specify:

- Very good notes!
- RELEVANT information about the level of difficulty of the pre-exam
- I prefer learning on paper basis. What I have written down with my own hands I know for a long time. Only visual learning does not help me much. So, I'm no friend of online courses.
- model answer specially for D
- Not applicable. I have not used the online service

- I didn't know it existed...
- Made no use of material
- Providing difficult examples in order to be prepared for the exam
- Time-limit questions paper DI
- Other exercises Compendium-like structure
- I did not use it
- Die Fragen zu Fristen auf eqe-online sind hilfreich und ausführlich kommentiert
- Very useful are: Coffee Break EQE, Time Limit Questions

Q40) Do you have any suggestions for how the EQE Forum or the other online exercises might be improved or name things you liked?

- There should be more claim analysis exercises
- Sometimes the topic are not so well organized, so for example if I want to deep studying a topic (novelty issues for example), it is not easy to find all the question related to novelty issues since the are sparse in the forum.
- I used this forum for the pre-examination training, and I found time-limits question really useful. Not only for computing, but also for the structure and wording of aswers. Thank you very much.
Unfortunately, for the examination I hed not enough time, I limited the training to the Compendia and CEIPI courses.
- none
- Providing more than one model answer for each paper would be useful
- Many of the online answers (e.g. for divisionals) were outdated and did not take into account recent changes in the law.
- I liked the EQE coffee break questions
- They do an excellent task
- It is very messy and nearly impossible to find anything there (applies to the discussions on old papers as well as D questions). Also a lot of people try to contribute and most of them do not know enough, so it makes you go through a lot of useless or even dangerous stuff. -> I would appreciate some better organization, one thing just at one place, distinguishing the reliable answers of educated people from suggestions of the students.
- As regards Paper D questions, the questions and answers (i.e. corrections) should be posted in the same topic, or at least the question should be copied in the answer topic.
- more discussion of EQE specific questioning such as "it is possible", "seeks protection for a .. alone" etc.
- I never used it because lack of time
- I appreciate the dedication of the tutors who run the forum and the quality of their answers.
- Somehow I never found out it even existed, maybe candidates could be directed to the forum more actively?
- I don't know the forum at all...
sad.
- No, as I did not use it.
- Harder exercises, time schedules for the preparation.
- I took the pre-examination online course last year. It is a pity there is no courses online on the rest of the papers.
- Due to limited time, every candidate tries to find the best learning channels which optimise the preparation. EQE-online was not for me, at least this last year. I find it more useful to have actual face-to-face tutoring.
- I did not use the EQE forum this year. But have done so when preparing for paper D
- They could be better publicised, to make it more obvious what is available

- select the topics, eg. novelty, or priority
- -
- I am not familiar with such tools (Forum, wiki, etc.), therefore it was hard to find the relevant topics. Very useful were "coffee break questions", this is a very good tool - please give more detailed answers, like they are expected in the exam.
- The forum is quite badly structured. It is basically a mess. Hope that questions and answers in the future will be arranged to provide a better overview, and that an email subscription can be restricted to certain topics and not the entire forum.
- Yes, please revitalize the useful commenting on past candidates' C-papers. It would be helpful if there were not only bad examples allocated between 27-37 points average but also at least one in the range of 45-50 points and an additional one with about 50-55 points. That way, a candidate could see what actually made the difference in real life because the maximum solution presented in the examiner's solution and the candidate's solution contained in the compendium may be too indifferent.
- No
- D questions were relatively useful for pre-exam and D preparation. Model answers could be useful. I do not see much value in reading comments and answers provided by other candidates as these are often wrong. Further, in the D questions candidates would often ask questions but the tutor would never reply.
- Especially useful would be more exercises (similar to the past compendia) with model answers. this could then serve as a basis for discussion with the personal tutor.
- Dedicated smaller exercises for paper A and B would be nice. Even C is possible (see e.g. in Deltapatents D book).
- I did use this heavily when preparing for D, but not for A or C, hence no comments above.
- I think the EQE Forum is great as is. Some students answer lead into the wrong direction (do not exclude myself) and there should be a better way to find correct / tutor answers. I would like to thank the tutors for their time and effort in the forum, this helps a lot!
- I think it is very useful, but I did not have time for such a thorough preparation.
- To update the time-limit questions paper DI
- Provide a list of recent changes to EPC
- Since we can only train using the Compendium, i.e. previous Papers and some of them are out of date, etc. I think it would be very important if the Candidates could be exposed to other exercises, other inventions and even new exercises of adapted previous Papers to avoid the use of memory to solve said Papers when training.
- A mobile app would be helpful to allow candidates to make use of their commuting time. Revising while continuing with a full time job means the ability to utilise any unused time in the day such as when commuting could be an invaluable resource.
- not good: some broken links; the were mockup papers promised in all languages, but than available only in English
- I often bumped into an authorisation problem, could not access parts of the forum in which I was interested. This happens especially after a google search on a certain topic and then trying to access the page. I was denied access, even though I was logged in. I don't know why, but could not be bothered to get to the bottom of it.
- I found the daily questions for D1 and the "coffee break" questions very useful.
- The best thing is definitely the online study groups by djackson - he is a really great tutor!
- I want to thank to all ones that answer questions or comments. It is very important and useful for the ones we do not have anyone to ask. Thank you so much!!
- Es sollte vom Prüfungssekretariat des EPO eine Sprechstunde für Resitter angeboten werden. Dort können nicht bestandene Klausuren mit einem Examiner diskutiert werden, auf welchen Gebieten noch Schwächen liegen und was noch verbessert werden sollte. Es kann eine Strategie zur weiteren Vorbereitung zur nächsten EQE, ggf. betreut durch den ausbildenden Tutor oder einen EPI Tutor vorgeschlagen werden. Solange so viele teilnehmende Kandidaten offenichtlich nicht wissen worauf es in der Prüfung eigentlich ankommt und was erwartet wird, wird die Zahl der Resitter in den Teilen C und D nicht abnehmen. Eine Sprechstunde wie vorgeschlagen könnte hier Abhilfe

schaffen. Die Sprechstunde kann aus den hohen Prüfungsgebühren für Resitter finanziert werden.

- explanations for the online pre-exam quizzes would be more useful than a simple tick or cross next to each question number which appear after clicking on "finished".