

Survey

European qualifying examination 2016

Examination Secretariat

EQE Survey 2016

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Introduction

Shortly after the examination candidates were invited to participate in a survey concerning the European qualifying examination. 1086 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

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EQE Survey 2016

Seite 1

Please provide your email address OR 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 2016?

please select

☐ Berlin

☐ Berne

☐ Bristol

☐ Helsinki

☐ Madrid

☐ Munich DPMA

☐ Munich M,O,C

☐ Paris

☐ Rome

☐ Stockholm

☐ Taastrup

☐ The Hague

Q3) Examination centres - rating

Please rate

	Very good	Good	Adequate	Bad	Very bad
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) Examination centres - rating

Please rate

Very easy

Easy

Indifferent

Difficult

I could not find my seat

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



Q5) Examination centres - rating

Please rate

Too warm

Ideal

Too cold

Hall temperature



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

Please rate

Enough

Indifferent

Not enough

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

	I didn't make use of it	Very important	Important	Indifferent	Not important	Useless
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 defined by 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?

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" (cycle long), obtained after completing one-year study with CEIPI in Strasbourg
- ☐ 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?

Seite 3

Q16) In which EPC member state did you complete most of your training pursuant 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 2016

	Too easy	Easy	Adequate	Difficult	Too difficult
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?**☐ 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) Additional comments concerning the difficulty of the EQE papers

Please add your comments

Q30) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2016?

	Too much	Enough	Borderline	Not enough	By far not enough
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?

	Yes	Indifferent	No
Please choose	☐	☐	☐

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) How would you rate the following self-assessment learning materials provided by the European Patent Academy?**

Please rate on a scale

	I did not make use of them	Very good	Good	Adequate	Bad	Very bad
Time limit questions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Daily D1 questions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Coffee-break questions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q34) Please add any comments and suggestions regarding the time limit questions:**Q35) Please add any comments and suggestions regarding the daily D1 questions:**

Q36) Please add any comments and suggestions regarding the coffee-breaks questions:

Q37) Which additional self-assessment material(s) would be beneficial for the preparation of the EQE in your view?

End of survey

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

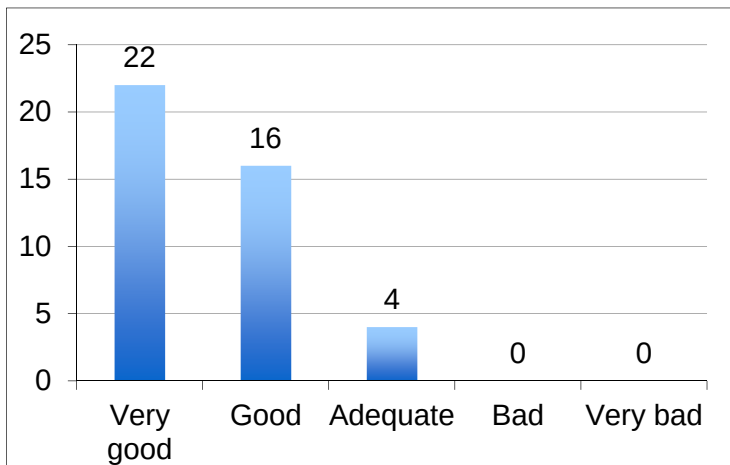
Thank you for participating in the survey.

Chapter 1 – Examination Centres

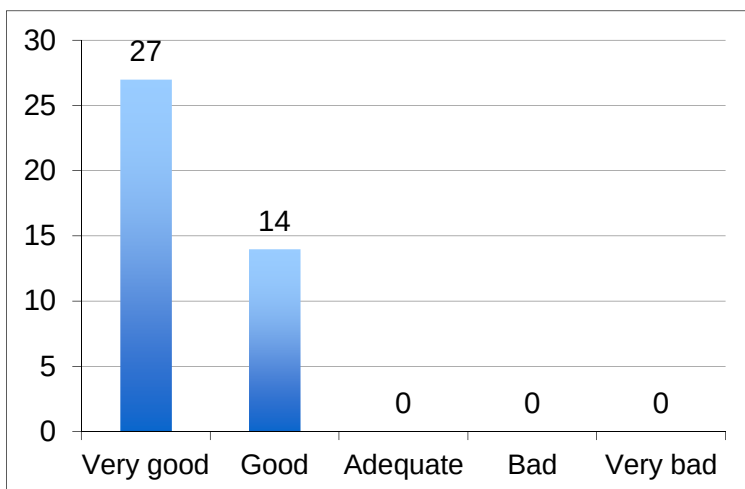
1.1 Berlin (42 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

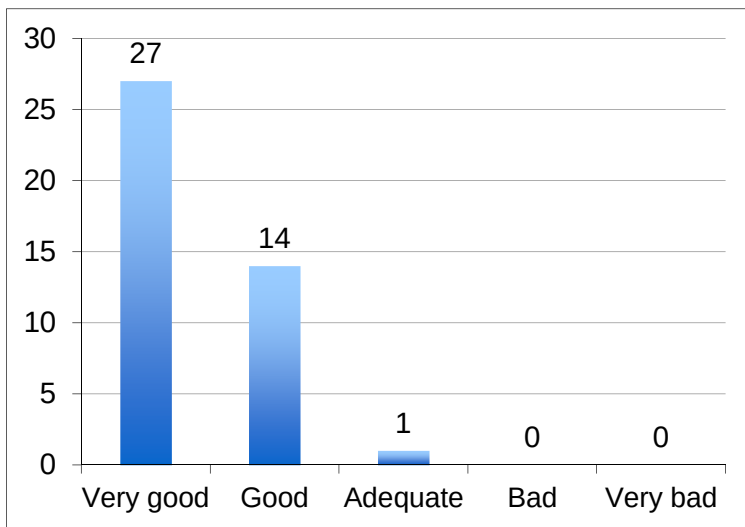
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



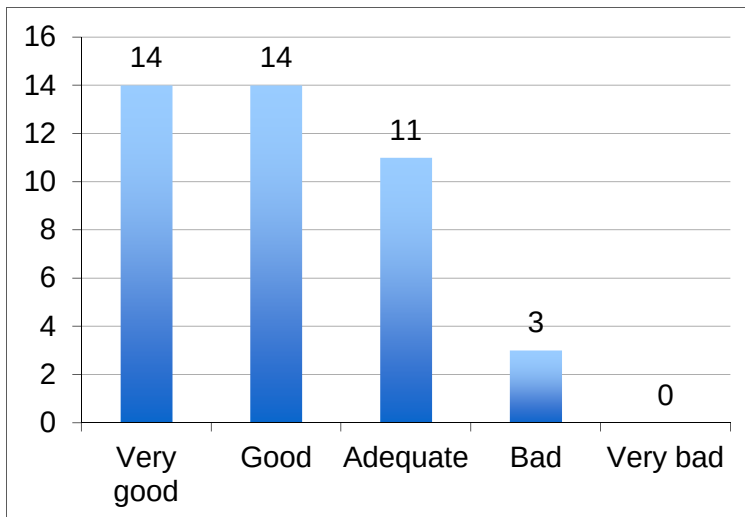
Identification check



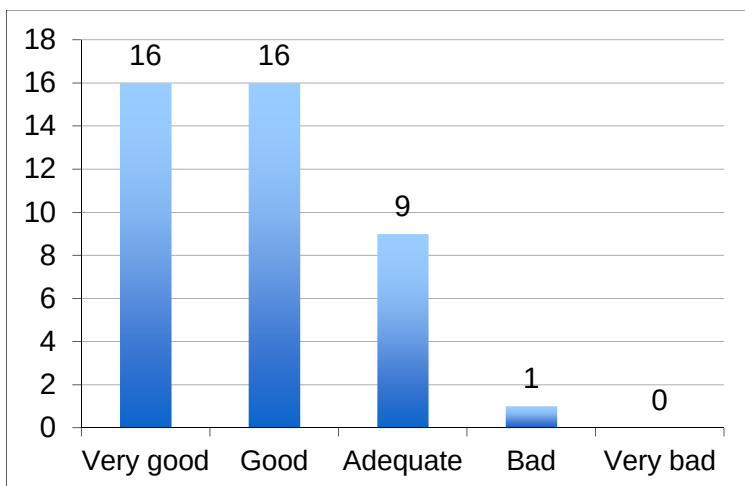
Lighting conditions



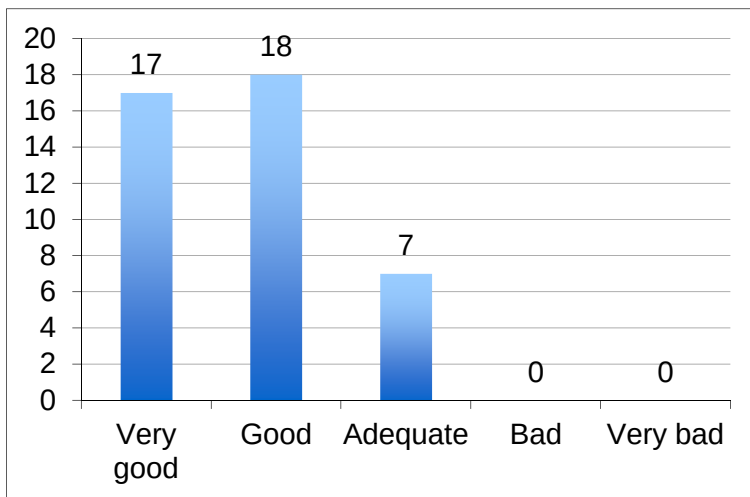
Space for candidates



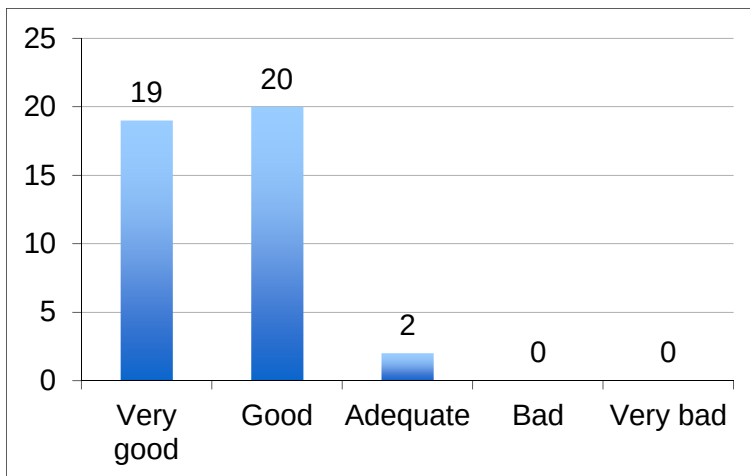
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



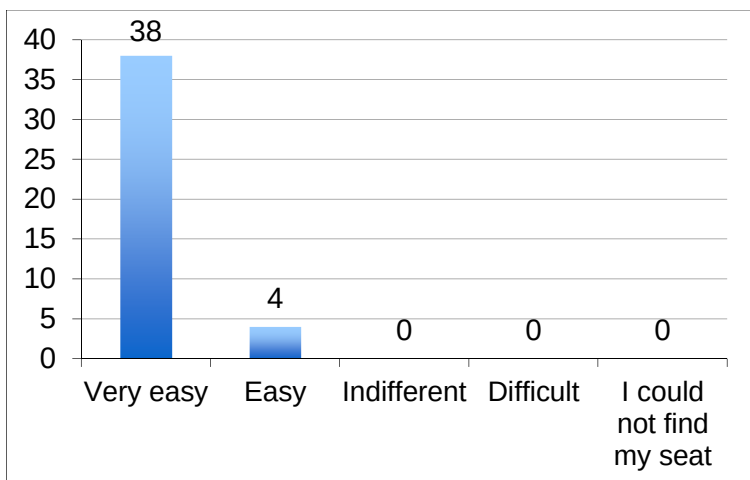
Restroom facilities



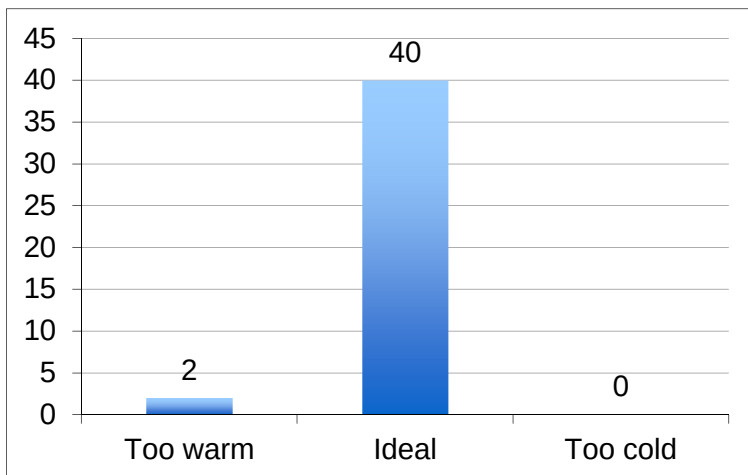
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



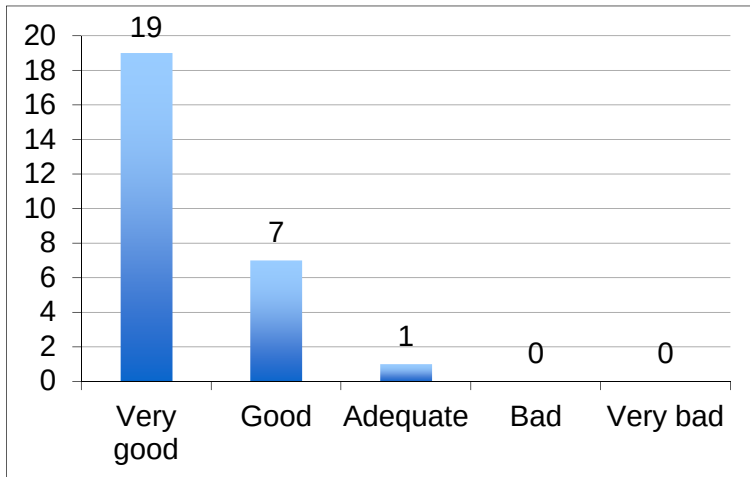
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Just fine. It would have been nice to know in advance that electronic devices could be checked in with the invigilators. I left mine at the hotel, which was cumbersome. The tables could be a little larger, but I imagine that this is not possible. I was positively surprised by the temperature (fine) and acoustics - needed no earplugs at all. It was very quiet.
- Belüftung ungenügend (lacking aeration)
- This centre is very good and recommendable
- Poorly ventilated
- It is a nice touch that there is a canteen available where candidates can have a lunch prior to the exam. I would have liked to be informed about this in advance.
- A very good examination centre. The room was open since 09:30, so you could put the books and the suitcase at the table and got for a coffee to the cafeteria of the EPO. So it is a recommendable centre.
- Die Luft war nach den 4h Klausur sehr verbraucht und es gab keine Möglichkeit zu lüften.

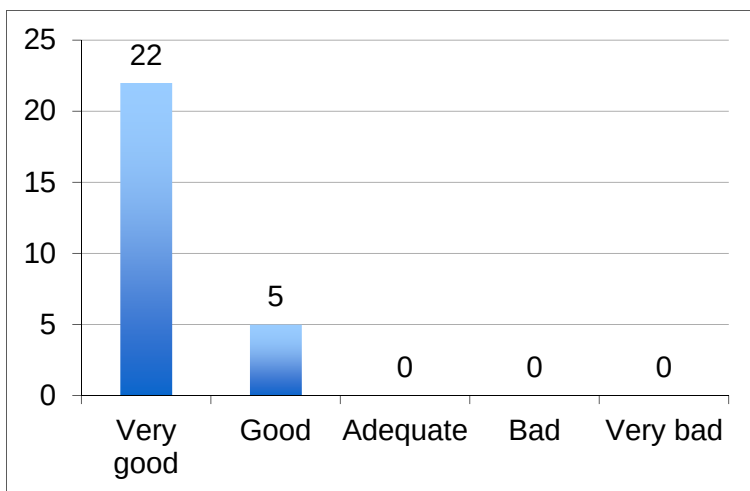
1.2 Berne (27 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

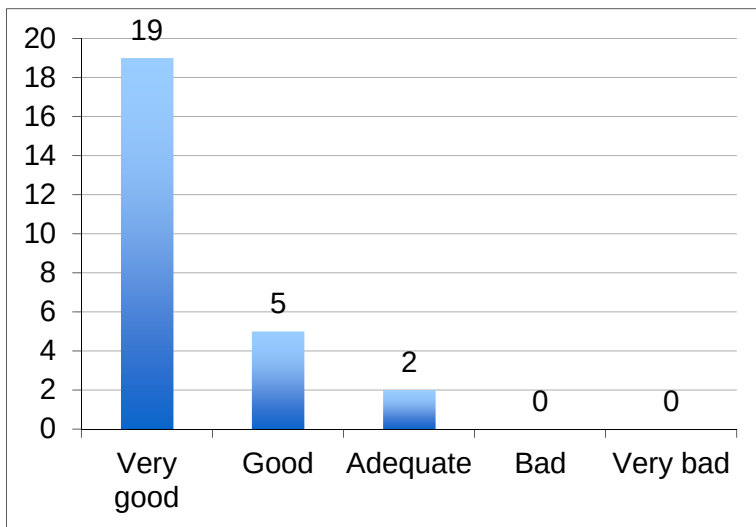
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



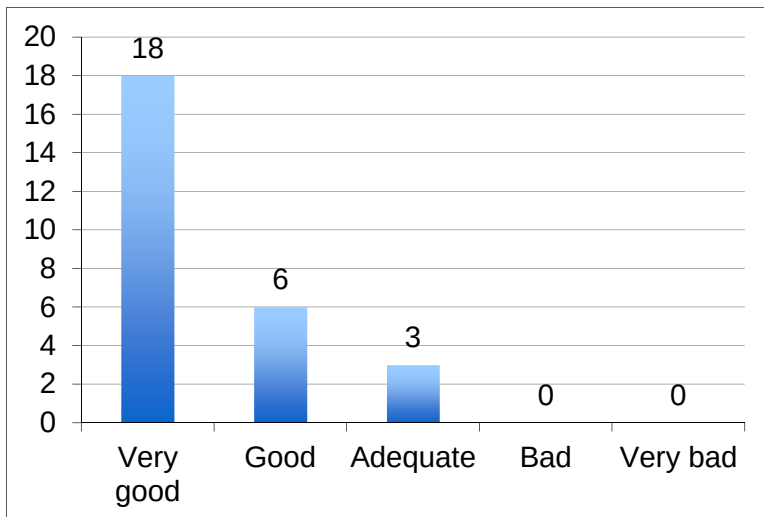
Identification check



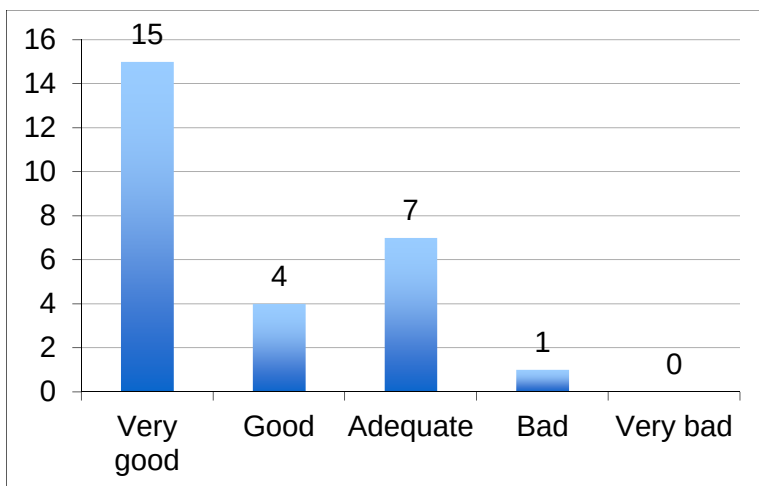
Lighting conditions



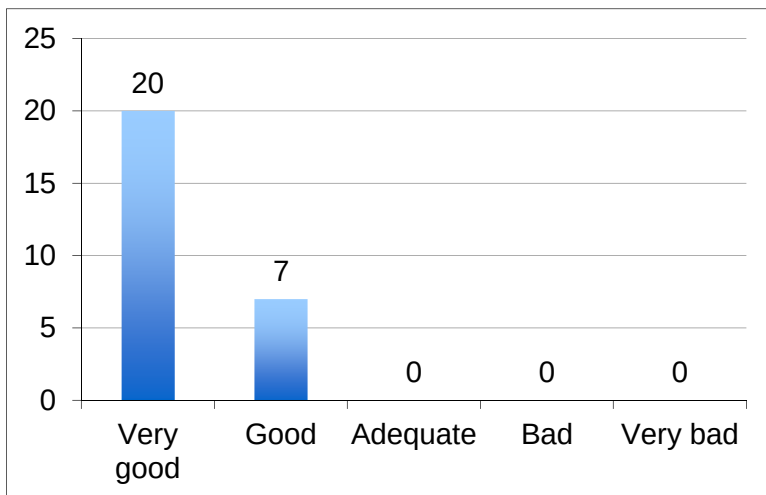
Space for candidates



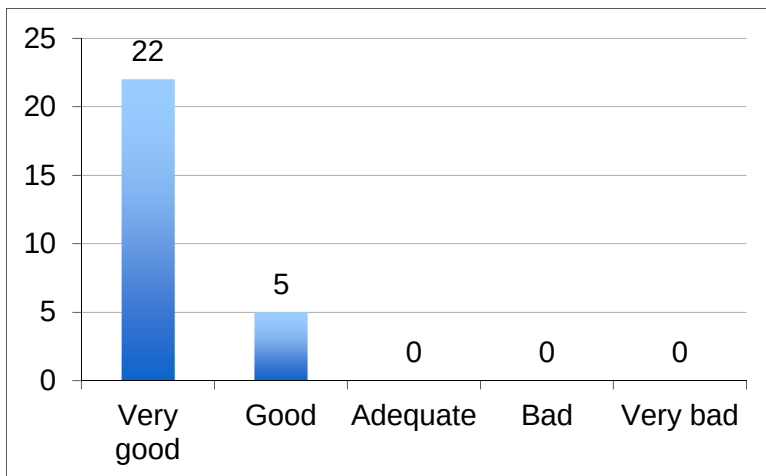
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



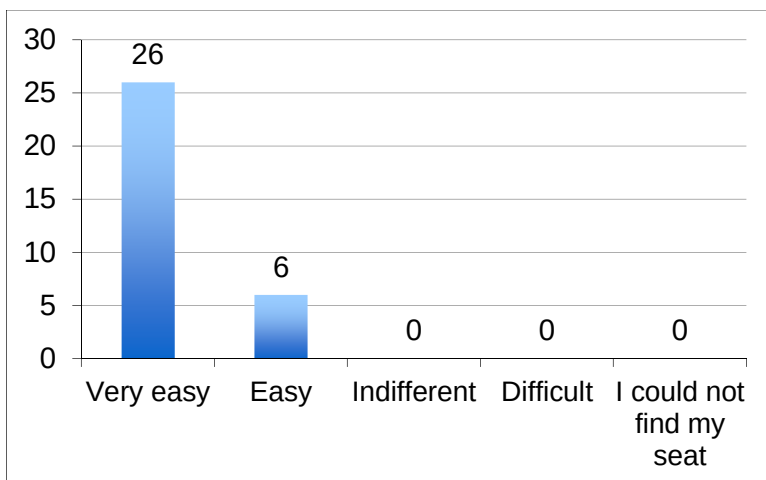
Restroom facilities



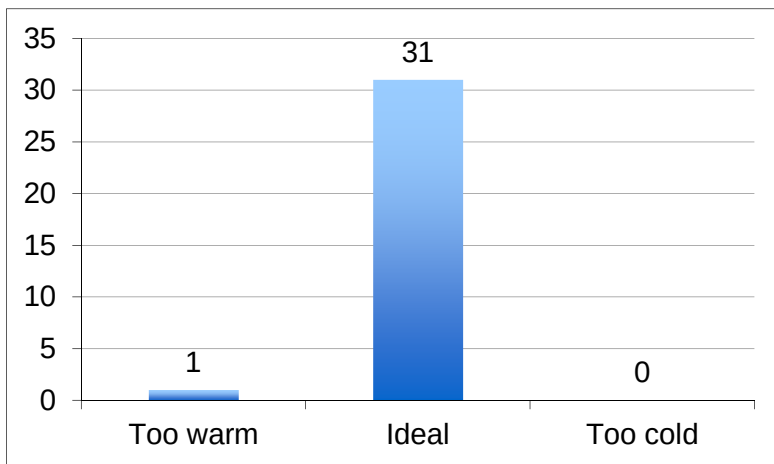
Suitability of the examination hall



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 suitable. Nothing to complain.

- I got a headache in the middle of the exam, but this was probably not related to the hall. It was very nice to have daylight.
- Anbei das E-Mail welches ich dem Sekretariat bereits geschrieben habe:

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren

Prüfungsort und Räumlichkeiten waren in Bern gut gewählt. Leider kann ich das nicht von allen Aufsichtspersonen behaupten.

Eine der drei Aufsichten hat in Bern während des D-Teils ca. 10 Minuten lang mit der Kaffeetasse geklumpert, und zwar derart, dass nicht nur ich befürchtet habe, dass er mit der Kaffeetasse den Boden der Untertasse durchschlägt. Besagte Person hat dies ca. im 15-Sekunden-Rhythmus gemacht, jedesmal, wenn sie einen neuen Schluck aus der Tasse genommen hat. Zusätzlich hat besagte Person dabei eine Packung Kekse gegessen und jeden Keks einzeln aus der Silberfolien-Vepackung gelöst, abwechslungsweise mit dem Scheppern der Kaffeetasse.

Ca. eine Stunde später hat die gleiche Person ihr Mobiltelefon genommen und an das Ladegerät gehängt. Dabei musste ein Stuhl quer durch den Raum gezogen werden, da das Ladekabel nicht bis zum Boden reichte, so dass das Mobiltelefon abgelegt werden konnte.

Die selbe Person hat dann im B-Teil versucht, ca. 10 Minuten nach Beginn, mit einer weiteren Aufsichtsperson eine Konversation anzufangen, was zuerst mit Flüstern los ging, in Kürze war aber jedes Wort verständlich.

Während allen vier Teilen (A, B, C und D) hat das Mobiltelefon der gleichen Person ebenfalls mehrfach vibriert, wobei das Mobiltelefon auf der blanken Tischplatte abgelegt war, so, dass sämtliche Teilnehmer die Vibration deutlich wahrnehmen konnten.

Natürlich ist es nötig, dass auch die Aufsichtspersonen etwas zu sich nehmen oder sich kurz austauschen, bspw. wer Blätter einsammelt oder dergleichen. Kaffeekränzchen als solches sind überflüssig.

Hier möchte ich festhalten, dass dieses Verhalten der besagten Person für eine Aufsicht absolut inakzeptabel ist und nicht nur mich teilweise völlig aus der Konzentration geworfen hat.

- Invigilators have been hard to understand in the back of the hall. It seemed that the hall is providing an acoustic system and it is unclear why this has not been used for the information to the audience.

Light condition in general seemed to be very good.

At my place (seat 38) and also affecting the direct seats behind have been affected by some spotlights in the ceiling being activated so that you had direct front light. Therefore light condition has been derated to good.

- Space from row to row should be bigger to ensure that other participants will not be disturbed by other ones passing

- could be brighter in the room

- Please advise the invigilators

- to shut up and not discuss any matter between each other during the examination;

- they should not bring mobile phones into the examination hall;

- they should be able to drink coffee without smashing the cup on the saucer each time putting back the cup.

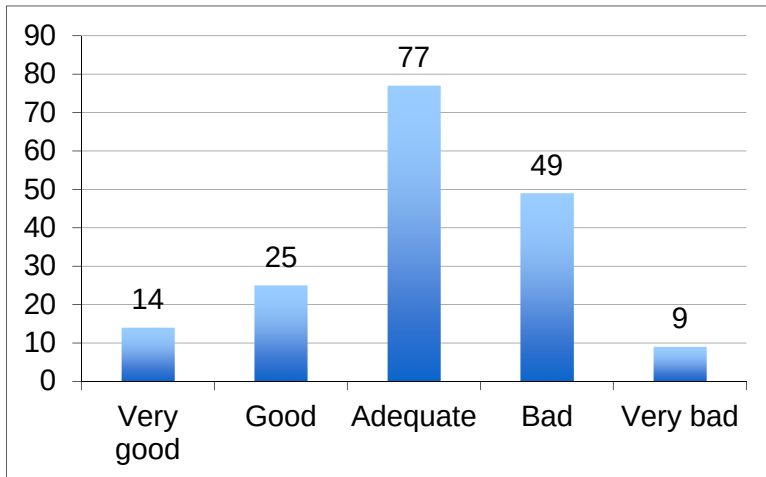
The invigilators, in particular one, were not able to do so in Bern, 2016.

- Simply perfect!

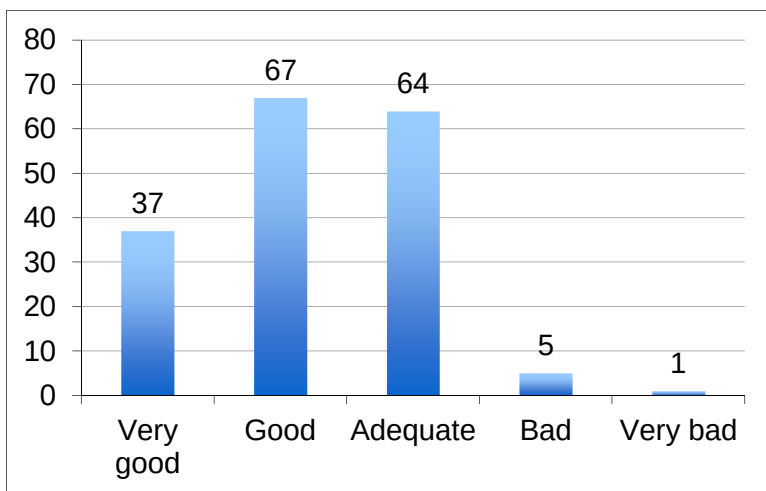
1.3 Bristol (174 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

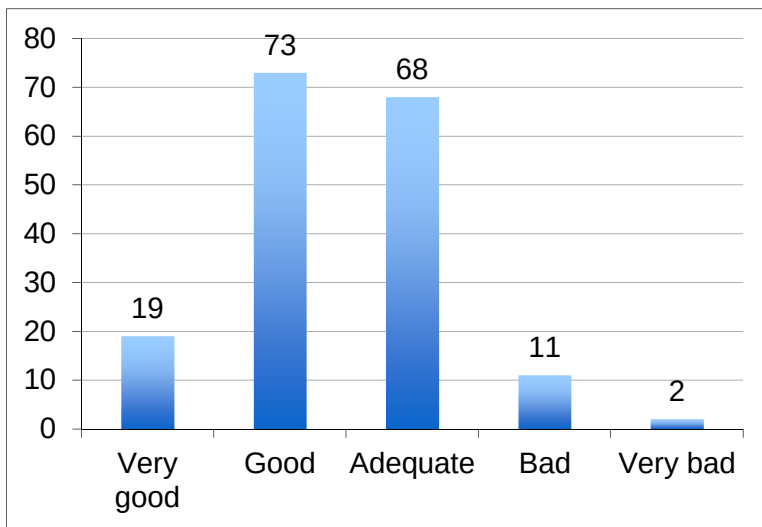
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



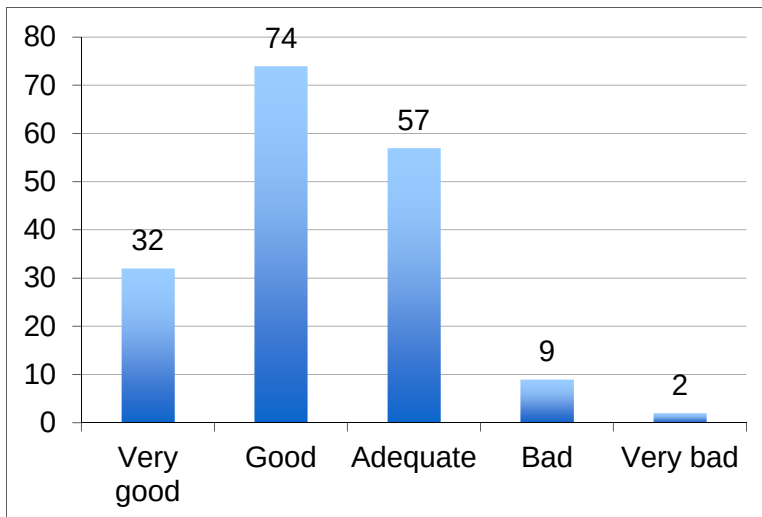
Identification check



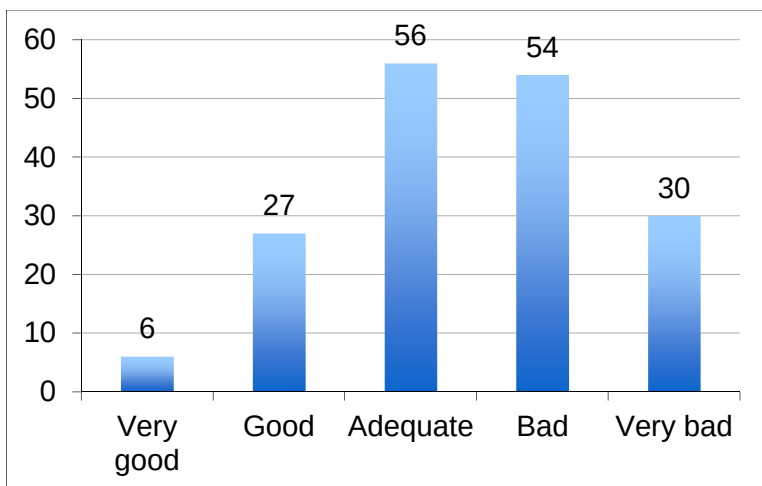
Lighting conditions



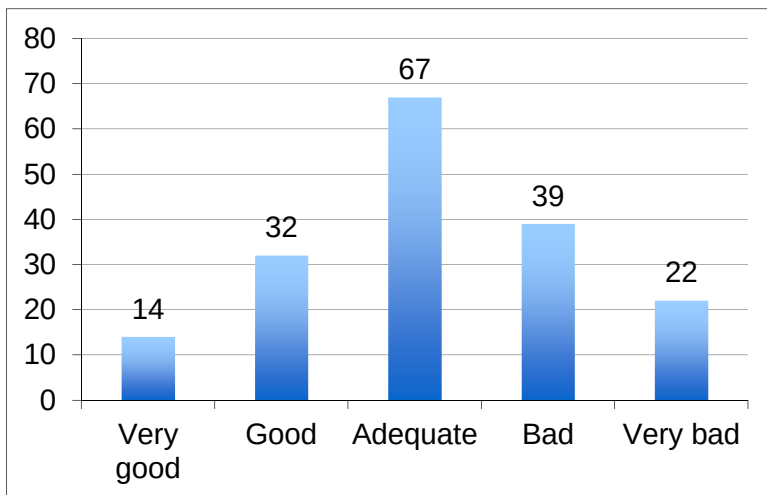
Space for candidates



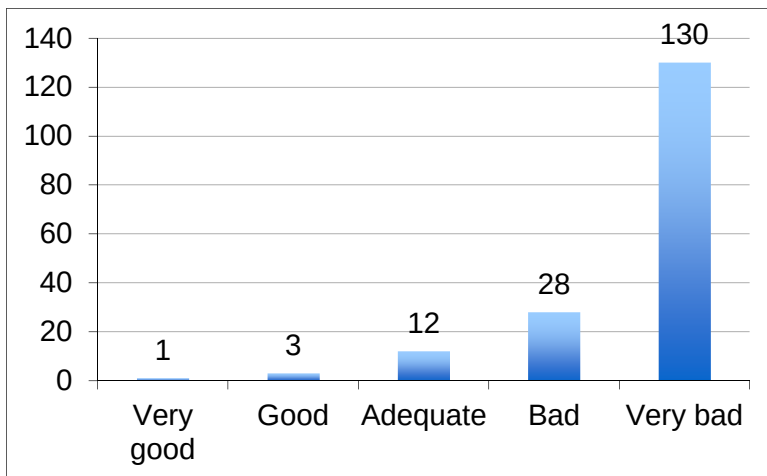
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



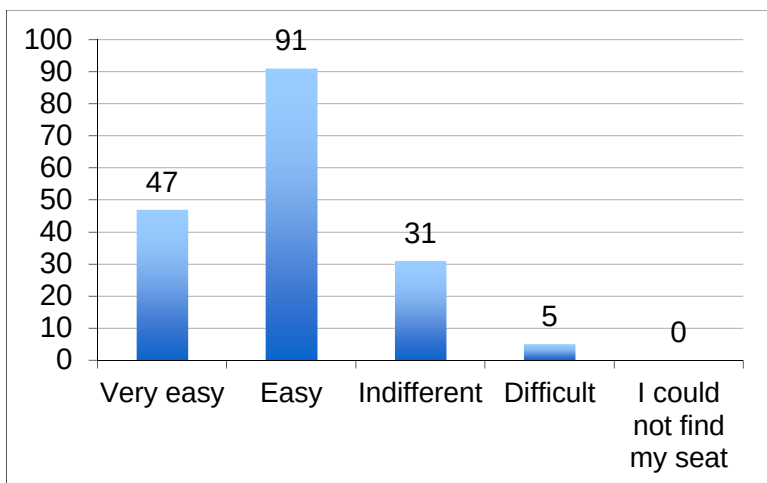
Restroom facilities



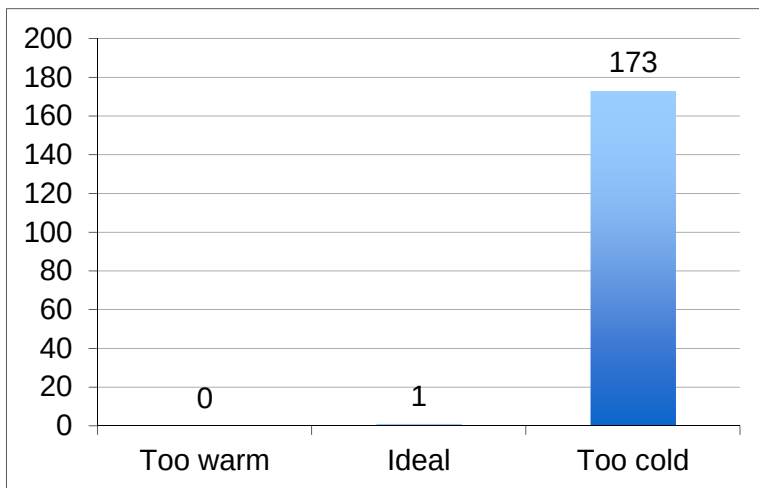
Suitability of the examination hall



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.

Too cold does not do justice exactly how cold it was in the Bristol exam hall. Unacceptable!

- The restrooms were not separated from the examination hall by any doors and there were no paper towels available for drying hands. Therefore, hand dryers were going off every couple of minutes, which was very loud and very distracting.

- The examination hall was essentially outside, and therefore was so cold that I could not stop shivering.

- Examination hall was very cold

- The worst examination hall ever! I was so cold, even though I was wearing a ski jacket and several layers!

- The examination hall was incredibly cold and very loud- near impossible to hear the invigilators.

- The room was very cold to the point of it being hard to focus and write and stop shivering.

The room was also very noisy due to the candidates using the hand-driers in the toilets which were located within the examination hall.

- Far too cold. Inadequate heating.

- Far to cold, and toilets highly audible in the examination hall

- The exam hall was extremely cold - I have provided separate email feedback on this. The toilet hand dryers were very noisy and distracting. The invigilators had to perform the announcements three times walking up the hall to ensure everyone had heard.

- Was extremely cold.

- The exam hall was disgracefully cold - made concentrating difficult

- The hall was very cold

- Completely unsuitable for an examination. No heating. Bad echos. Very audible toilet facilities. Most candidates I spoke to compared sitting in the concourse to sitting outside.

- The examination hall was FREEZING!

- The room temperature was too cold. The Thermometer in my part of the room read 14.9C.

- I've sent this in an email separately, but repeat my comments here for completeness:

Firstly, thank you for letting us give some input. I don't think many people were aware that complaints had to be put in 30 mins following the end of the exam, so I appreciate being able to provide feedback now.

The hall (or should I call it, corridor) in Bristol was by far the worst place I have had to take an exam (and I've taken a few in my time).

Firstly, the cold. Bearing in mind that these exams are held at the beginning of March, when it is not unusual for the temperature to be low, the room was no warmer than the outside temperature. I had to wear my coat for the entirety of the exam, which was inconvenient and slowed me down. Some people had brought gloves with them, which is appalling that these should even be considered to be needed. Coats appropriate for wearing outdoors tend to be bulky and restrict movement. If anyone on the EB has taken these exams they will know that there is a lot of paper involved (in the actual question paper) as well as having multiple folders and books to reach. It makes it incredibly difficult to quickly access all the material when you are restricted by your coat. It is ridiculous that coats needed to be worn.

By the end of the exam, my feet were numb, and I am unfortunately not exaggerating when I say that by the end of the exam I could barely grip paper between my fingers to turn over sheets i.e. to check my answers. When the exam is as time pressured as it was this year (I'm talking about the pre-exam, but that is a different complaint altogether), it is unacceptable that the temperature of the hall has such a negative impact on being able to complete the checking of my answers. Come on – these are professional exams and there is an expectation that the exam is run in a professional manner i.e. the hall is at a comfortable temperature for candidates to do as well as they possibly can. I even resorted to running my hands under the hot tap (which I understand didn't even produce hot water in the mens' toilets) to try and gain some feeling back.

Luckily I suppose for me, it was “only” the pre-exam. I cannot imagine having to write essays in that corridor; my hands were not functioning by about halfway through.

Secondly, the set-up of the hand driers in the toilets. Being a football stadium, there are no doors to the entrance of the toilets. This means whenever someone goes to the toilet and washes their hands, and uses the hand drier (note – there were no paper towels), the whole exam is disturbed – everyone can hear the hand driers. Let's say there were 160 people taking the exam. Assume at least half the people use the hand drier. Over the course of 4 hours, this is an unacceptable level of disruption. Exams should be silent and it was incredibly disruptive having hand driers going off the whole time. I don't think it is too much to ask to have some doors on the entrance to the toilets!!

Thirdly, on the subject of noise, towards the end of the exam, there were unacceptable levels of noise coming from behind a temporary wall (like a garage door) between our corridor and the rest of the corridor to the exit. Because this barrier was locked closed (and formed a pseudo-wall), none of the invigilators were able to go and ask people to be quiet. Very annoying and distracting as it was in the last hour of the exam when you are trying as best as possible to give the correct answers and concentrate.

Fourthly, why on earth is it in Bristol? The majority of candidates are from London. I do not live in London myself, so this is not a selfish objection, but it must be much easier for the majority of people to get transport to London (which offers direct links to most major cities) than Bristol. It must be very annoying for people who live in more northern cities of the UK to get to Bristol.

Overall, I don't think it is too much to say that the exam venue should be somewhere that provides the best environment as possible for the candidates. It should not be based on cost, or alleged convenience (annoying having to get a taxi to the venue). It should be based purely on providing the best environment possible – this means quiet, ROOM temperature and toilets which when the hand driers are used, do not disturb the rest of the exam hall. The exams are hard enough, and the least that can be done is to provide a decent venue.

- The exam hall had a temperature of 12.5 degrees Celcius. That is not an acceptable temperature for sitting at a desk for five hours. Most people had to wear three layers, gloves and hats to try and stay warm. After preparing for months for these exams it is disappointing to think that I may have failed by a few marks because I had trouble concentrating due to the cold.

- The only negative comments I have:

The examination hall was far too cold, I had to wear a jumper, a coat and gloves and was still shivering; and

the noise from the toilets was quite distracting, every time the hand dryers were used (every 5 minutes or so) it was very distracting.

- According to an e-mail already received from the Examination Secretariat, you are already aware of the incredibly cold temperatures experienced by candidates in Bristol. This was really not acceptable for an exam venue.

Additionally, since candidates often need to travel long distances and stay at a hotel the night before, better information about and provision of on-site cloakroom/luggage facilities would be useful.

- The location of the restroom facilities (directly adjacent the hall with no intervening door) led to quite a lot of noise.

- The temperature in the exam hall was unbearable. Candidates were wearing coats and hats during the examination. Hands were too cold to write. Not a suitable exam venue.

- The exam venue was situated next to several toilets. There was no door between the toilets and the exam venue hall. This meant that every time someone used the hand dryers in any of the toilets this could be heard in the exam venue. As you will appreciate, there were around 170 candidates taking the exam, and several of them needed to use the toilet during the four hour period, and the hand dryer was used every time a candidate used the toilet. I did not bring ear plugs with me as I assumed that the exam venue would be relatively quiet. It was not.

- The exam hall was unacceptably cold. On the A/B day the thermometer at the front of the room reached a high of 12.9 degrees at lunch time. I was so cold I could not feel my legs or feet by the end of paper A. I was wearing a vest, 4 jumpers and a winter coat and I was still too cold to properly think or write. There was also nowhere to suitably warm up at lunchtime before paper B (the bar at the venue was not warm enough to warm us up sufficiently) so I started paper B already feeling painfully cold.

My seat was near the front of the venue where there was a large draft coming from the large metal grate that opened up onto the football pitch. The draft was icy cold and also blew the exam papers on my desk.

The toilets were somehow even colder than the exam hall.

In addition, I think there were some sort of building works going on at the venue because there was often loud banging and crashing noises coming from outside.

The location was also inconvenient as there were no hotels within walking distance so taxis were required to and from the venue.

- Extremely cold conditions and noisy hand dryers next to the hall in the bathrooms
- There were good signposts for most of the route, but not on which door we were supposed to enter!

The main issue was the very cold temperature of the examination hall - it was uncomfortable despite wearing a coat and interfered with my ability to do the examination. Had I been doing a written exam. instead of a multiple choice exam., I think that my hands would have been shaking too much to write legibly.

- Completely unsuitable examination venue. Difficult to get to the venue - too far away from train stations and transport hubs. Inside the hall was far too cold - almost impossible for the candidates to actually write the exams.

This venue should not be used again

- I sat papers D, A, B and C at the Bristol venue.

I was sat in seat 20, next to double doors open to the outside. There was a strong and persistent draught coming through.

The room was unacceptably cold for all of the exams. Whilst there were heaters in some parts of the room, there were none down the side of the room where I was sitting. I sat the exams in a jumper with a coat, a hat and fingerless gloves, and I could see my breath. I was informed by an invigilator that the temperature in the part of the room where I was sitting was 10°C just before the start of paper B.

I feel that the conditions significantly prejudiced my chances of being successful in the examinations. I could barely feel my fingers, and was unable to think and write as quickly and clearly as I am ordinarily able to.

By paper C on Thursday some measures had been taken to improve the situation, including use of drapes to cover the doors, and the provision of more heaters. The environment was a little better for this examination, but it was still too cold.

Having worked very hard for three and a half years to prepare for the EQE I feel extremely disappointed that the venue didn't provide the basic conditions necessary for me to be able to complete the examinations to the best of my ability. Please, please don't let this happen to candidates in future years.

- This year's venue was disappointing. My main complaint is to the temperature of the hall. It was uncomfortably cold, to the point where I found I was actually shivering during the exam. Having cold hands in an exam which requires so much writing is a very unpleasant experience and makes a tough exam unnecessarily harder.

In addition, the hand dryers in the toilets were extremely loud, and were disruptive whenever someone used them.

Furthermore, the clocks that were positioned throughout the hall were very small, and positioned up very high which meant they were difficult to see. Where I was sat meant that I was quite far from a clock, and could not easily see one.

I have taken exams in Ashton Gate Stadium before, but last time we were in a different part of the stadium (it was in one of the long bars, I believe). This was a much better venue as there were plenty of TV screens where the time could be displayed, plus the temperature was much more pleasant.

- I know that you have sent an email asking for feedback about the cold conditions in the Bristol venue. I have provided this feedback and won't repeat it here. Suffice to say it was extremely cold and led to very unpleasant examination conditions.

Additionally, the noise from the hand dryers in the bathroom facilities was particularly distracting (although I gather that for the later examinations candidates were asked not to use them and paper towels were provided).

- Not fit for purpose. Ridiculously cold. Laughable really.

- The examination hall was extremely cold. It was also not well located, with only one piece of A4 paper saying 'exams this way', provided at some distance from the actual location.

- Q5 - "too cold" doesn't do the temperature justice. The toilets would have been fine, except for the temperature.

- The temperature in the examination hall was significantly below any acceptable norms making it difficult to focus on the exam. Having toilets in the examination hall with doors that do not close, and consequently the noise from flushing toilets, and particularly dryers were distracting. There were no signs, and no one in the centre knew what's going on until about 35 minutes before the exam when relevant parties appeared.

- I found the level of cold at the exam venue to result in an extreme level of discomfort. It affected my ability to process information and think clearly and was extremely draining on energy levels.

The level of cold also affected my physical ability to write. My hands became numb after sitting in the cold temperatures for several hours. This happened in at least three exams. I also noted that both my hands and lips were purple on several occasions.

I believe the temperature at the venue was well below the minimum working temperature recommended by the UK Government in their guidance for working conditions:
<https://www.gov.uk/workplace-temperatures>

- Freezing! My hands were hurting and I could not spare the time during the exam to rub them together.

- The conditions in the Bristol centre were very bad. The temperature was disruptively cold, particularly during the longer exams. The loss of circulation to hands and feet reduced the ability to write quickly, as well as being a distraction. I, along with most others, had to wear a scarf and coat during most exams and the girl sitting in front of me felt the need to bring in a hot water bottle. Heaters were brought in to the exam area but did not make a tangible difference.

- The Exam hall was extremely cold, particularly on the Wednesday morning, during the paper A session. I wore several layers of jumpers, a coat, 2 pairs of socks, a scarf and gloves (for the periods when I wasn't writing) due to the temperature and was still cold. I found it very difficult to concentrate, particularly during the paper A session, which seemed to be the coldest period. It also made it harder to write, as my fingers were very stiff. I found that I needed to have toilet breaks just to move around and stay warm. Although I appreciate that the EQE officials on duty made many efforts to improve the situation, for example by providing heaters, these did very little to heat the room other than the area directly in front of the heaters. For future years, I think it is important that the exams take place in a room with heating installed, and not to rely on temporary heaters, and that the room be assessed beforehand for its suitability.

- The exam room was far too cold.

The lights above some of the seats were not working.

- Regarding the information signs, finding the hall required exploration and guesswork. There was very little sign posting for how to get to the exam or where it was on the site. The signs that were in place were incorrect or misleading.

- The restrooms were so close to the examination hall that the hand driers were very distracting. Both male and female toilets were directly adjacent to the examination hall with no physical barrier between the two spaces. This meant the noise of the hand driers was frequent and distractingly noisy.

- The room was extremely cold. Not much warmer than the 5 degrees celsius outside.

- It was far too cold in the examination centre. Although heaters were used it was not enough. Despite wearing many layers I was still too cold.

- Far too cold. Apart from that, generally OK.

- So c-c-c-c-c-co-co-c-cold.

- The "hall", being the space underneath the stands in a sports stadium, was absolutely freezing. Not surprising as the building was obviously not designed with heating in mind, and lacked proper insulation, draft exclusion, etc.

Everyone had to keep their outdoor clothes on, including in many cases winter coats / hats / gloves etc., for the duration of the exam. This included the EQE staff and the invigilators. Some provision of heaters had been made but any effect they had seemed to be minimal. It was too cold to concentrate fully on the exam.

There were frequent noise interruptions, with noise coming from the flushing of the urinals (no physical door was provided between the hall and the toilets, just a chicane in the corridor) and very noisy hand driers in the toilets.

The announcement at the beginning of the exam was almost inaudible.

- The examination hall was extremely cold. Despite wearing a coat and scarf throughout the exam, I was still cold.

- The conditions under which the examinations took place this year were completely unacceptable. The temperature in the exam hall was 14.5 degrees - far too low a temperature at which one can be expected to concentrate for any length of time. Sitting still for 3-5 hours at a temperature this low is extremely uncomfortable. This discomfort was a significant distraction during the examinations - particularly on 2nd March when the windy conditions outside increased the drafts within the room. Although attempts were made to raise the temperature by bringing in heaters - the warmth from these heaters was only felt by candidates sitting at

particular locations within the very large space (no heat from the heaters was felt at my location in seat 87 - where I received a constant cold breeze from the rotating fan in the wall to my left).

I understand that large venues are perhaps difficult to find, however more care should be taken when choosing venues - and venues should be checked to ensure that they are suitable for spending long periods of time sitting at a desk. It is not easy to concentrate and write an exam paper over a five hour period wearing three t-shirts, two sweatshirts, a woolly hat and a scarf.

Please take these comments into consideration.

- The examination hall was extremely cold, to the extent that it made it difficult to write because my hands were so cold. There were no paper towels at the beginning, which meant that each time someone went to the toilet they had to use the incredibly noisy hand-dryer, which was very distracting. Also, the toilet paper ran out in the women's toilets in the middle of the examination hall so I had to go to the toilets right at the end of the hall, which took probably a few minutes extra out of the exam just to walk to and from the toilets, as the hall was quite long.

- As I am sure you are aware, the Bristol venue was much too cold. Candidates should not be expected to function in such conditions.

- Too cold is an understatement - I looked like Ranulph Fiennes after the exam!

- The hall was freezing. Although heaters were provided to improve conditions, it was less than adequate for 3-5 hour exams.

- no instructions given to sign the answer sheet
could not hear what invigilator said due to noise/echo
hall extremely cold, fingers and feet were numb after 4 hours
no toilet paper in ladies!!!
no paper towels, therefore everyone used hot air dryers which were very noisy

- Unbelievably and unforgivably cold. Wore four layers, plus thick winter coat, scarf and gloves, and was still shivering. Seriously impacted performance and hand writing legibility. Quite astonished that anyone in their right mind could have considered this to be a suitable venue - this was catastrophically misjudged. It is not possible to overstate how unbearably cold this venue was. Extremely dispiriting after months of hard work to come away knowing you have underperformed as a consequence of the temperature of the venue.

- Extremely cold, difficult to write due to numb hands

- It was freezing! I hope that heaters will be provided for next year.

- It was freezing cold, it was really bad.
The hand dryers of the toilets were very noisy and the entire room could hear the noise every time someone used them.

- Bitter cold exam hall
Unsuitable for candidates to function adequately to sit the exam papers

Poorly organised and hand driers a regular distraction

- Please find below my feedback relating to the examination hall for the pre-EQE exam held on Monday 29 February 2016 in Bristol, UK.

In essence, the examination hall was effectively an unheated, large corridor at the side of the football ground.

My immediate feeling was that the room was very, very cold. Given that the temperature outside was about 6°C (see for example <http://www.timeanddate.com/weather/uk/bristol/historic>), and as upon walking into the hall from outside the temperature actually seemed to drop further, you can imagine that I, and likely every other candidate, was not expecting to be sat in this corridor, in such temperatures, for four hours.

There were several temporary heaters along one side of the room, which may have been beneficial to those sitting right in front of them, but for anyone else they were useless. Given the size of the room, I can't imagine how anyone can have possibly thought that they were going to be sufficient, or even make a slight difference.

After sitting for three hours, my hands were freezing (there were some candidates who had resorted to wearing gloves) and I spent some time trying to warm them up. My feet were also very very cold, having been on the uncarpeted cold floor for three hours. I left the exam after about 3 and a quarter hours, and this was largely due to how cold I was. I simply could not face sitting there for another 45 minutes.

It affected my concentration as I was fidgeting about trying to get warm. I'm also 6 months pregnant and these temperatures just made everything more uncomfortable.

There were also other issues. For example, there were no clocks in the hall. Just prior to the exam, a basketball post was wheeled in, so that a clock could be fixed to this. However, this did not happen, and a clock was put on either side of the hall approximately half way down facing the back of the hall. This did not particularly affect me as I had a watch, but I heard the girl behind speak to an invigilator and tell him that she could not see a clock. However, nothing was done about this, it was apparently tough luck.

The toilets were right next to the desks, with no door separating the toilet block from the examination hall, so every time someone went to use the toilet there was a lot of banging and noise from the hand dryers that was also disruptive.

Given that the exam was held in winter, such a venue seems to have been a very unwise choice, and it should have been evident to those concerned that this was not a suitable venue for allowing candidates to perform to their best ability. If I had had to go back there the next few days for the final examinations, I would have been very disheartened and really hope that things had improved somewhat for these candidates.

I am happy to provide further feedback if required.

- The exam hall was absolutely freezing. It should not be necessary to wear coats, scarves and gloves during an exam.

- The exam hall was absolutely freezing! There was no warning about this! Otherwise, it was fine.

- The Examination hall itself was fine. The only problem that it was very cold (less than 15 degrees C) - one should not have to be dressed as if for a ski trip to sit an exam.

- Bristol - Terrible.

Far too cold. A complete joke. I would seriously like at least a part refund. Why did the EPO book such a crap venue? Unbelievable. So-called professional exams hosted in a far from professional environment. I know I'm not alone in this thinking. Candidates work so hard to get prepared and focused for an important set of exams held only once a year... to find themselves so bloody cold that it's difficult to concentrate. It's so disappointing and just so wrong!

Also, there was no PA system. So the announcer had to announce everything 3-4 times moving down the hall. It was quite off-putting to hear these multiple announcements during the exam (e.g. the 1 hour and the 5 minute time warnings).

Just for comparison - I did the pre-exam in Munich (MOC). That was a very good venue. Please take note for goodness' sake.

- Far too cold, was about 12 degrees C on average, had to wear two pairs of trousers, three t shirts and two jumpers and still lost feeling in my hands by the end of the exam. Completely and utterly disgraceful.

- The temperature of the venue was much too low to be suitable for an exam venue.

- The temperature of the hall was a serious problem. The hall was very large and the heating consisted of a handful of portable electric heaters. Warm clothing was not enough to be comfortable.

Noise levels and lighting were, mercifully, much better than the Birmingham venue used for the pre-exam last year.

- I was not there on the coldest days, but it was still very cold. The natural light was very good.

- I sat the EQE Pre-examination in Bristol.

Although I rated the rest-room facilities adequate, the rest-rooms facilities were good in themselves - clean etc. However, they were situated at the edges of the "exam hall", and there didn't appear to be anything separating the exam hall from the rest rooms. This was made even worse by the fact there were no hand towels in the rest rooms. The sound of people using hand dryers was really loud in the exam hall which was distracting and, worse, completely foreseeable by the organizers/venue staff.

The worst thing about the exam hall was the unacceptable temperature. It was very, very cold - I think everyone in the room was forced to keep their coats on to stay warm. I am glad I had gloves with me. The heaters around the edge of room were not sufficient to heat the room to an acceptable level. It would be unreasonable to expect candidates to perform to their best ability in the conditions we had to sit the exam in.

The space used for the exam was inappropriate, and it should have been obvious that it would be inappropriate. I am sure candidates would assume that we would be sitting the exam in a conference room, or something similar, not on the outskirts of a stadium.

- The examination hall was very, very cold to sit in for these exams which last up to 5 hours. In order to stay warm I even pretended that I needed to use the restroom facilities during the exams so that I could move around a little to warm up.

- It was so cold that made it difficult to focus on the exams. My hands went blue and cramped up during the exam making it extremely hard to write. Please never choose that venue again because it was not appropriate for winter. We might have well have been sat outside.

- Good venue - except for the temperature on all three days of the EQE!

- The venue was extremely cold on the day of the Pre-EQE (Monday 29 February). It was not really a hall but a large indoor space. The temperature seemed to be about the same as that outdoors. I saw there were a few small heaters around the space, but none were near where I was sitting (seat 161), the leftmost of the 6 columns of desks.

Also the length of the area was such that the desks were arranged in 6 very low columns. My seat was near the very back. The announcements in the beginning were made near the front, and it was very hard to hear clearly what was being said.

- A separate email was sent to candidates regarding the temperature in the examination hall in Bristol. No further comments are therefore made here.

- Very cold on all 3 days, had to wear coat. Hands, head and feet were cold throughout. Difficult to stay focused. Very unpleasant experience. If my workplace was as cold as that exam room I'd have been entitled by law to go home - and warm up!

- The examination hall was unbearably cold.

- Examination hall was particularly unsuitable. It was very cold (essentially a concrete corridor with limited/non existent heating). The toilets were located through singles doors along one side of the examination hall. As a result the noise of the hand dryers was particularly loud for those in the hall and, therefore, very distracting.

- It was way too cold in the exam hall - I had to wear my coat the whole way through and it was still uncomfortable.

- far too cold, required my coat and scarf. Temporary heating was inadequate. Poor acoustics also, and being adjacent to the toilets (with no door), hand dryers frequently causing noise disturbance

- This year I was a candidate for the EQE papers A, B, C and D held on Tuesday 1st March to Thursday 3rd March.

When we arrived on Tuesday 1st March the air was cold enough that our breath was fogging in the air. The exam was not held in a room but merely a corridor of the stadium between the turnstiles and the entrances to the venue. The corridor did not appear to have any built in heating whatsoever.

The portable heaters added after the complaints from the pre-exam students on the Monday were grossly inadequate. The heaters only really benefited the candidates right next to them. Candidates towards the centre of the corridor received almost no warmth from them.

Even though the invigilators did try to improve the situation, by Thursday it was still so cold that I was wearing running trousers under my jeans, two pairs of t-shirts, two jumpers and my scarf. Despite this I was freezing.

The extreme cold temperatures and the need to wear layers of bulky clothing were a significant impediment to all candidates sitting the exam. The venue was entirely unacceptable for a professional exam.

- Please find below my feedback relating to the examination hall for the pre-EQE exam held on Monday 29 February 2016 in Bristol, UK.

The examination hall was very cold and even though I was sitting nearer to one of the few radiators spaced around the room, I could not even hold the pencil properly to shade in the circles. I could only imagine how terrible it would be for those taking the main examinations who have to write for hours! My hands were so cold that I could not turn the pages of my reference books properly.

I would always check my papers again after finishing but this was the very first examination in my life which I could not sit for another second in the hall after I have completed my paper.

And after I got out of the hall, I actually felt it was warmer outside the stadium.

Furthermore the toilets were located so close that everyone going to the toilets could be heard and after a while the sound of hairdryers and water flow was just constant background noise.

The conditions in Bristol this year are far from acceptable and I hope that a more suitable venue could be found in future.

- I have already sent a separate email to the examination secretariat about the conditions of the Bristol examination venue.

- I wish I had taken a thermos of tea, gloves, and scarf. I wish I'd also taken a thermometer as I suspect the room temperature was beneath the legal limit for working.

Is a stadium really required? What is the maximum number of people you expect to attend? Why are normal conference facilities unsuitable? This venue was cold, difficult to find, once found, difficult to gain access to, and remote from accommodation. I'm not looking forward to sitting the main papers next year. The venue really should be the last concern of candidates.

- The hall was extremely cold. I did not take my coat off for any of the exams and was very jealous of the candidates who had thought to bring a hat, fingerless gloves and/or a hot water bottle with the.

- As indicated in Q5), the temperature of the examination hall was extremely low. It was so cold that I struggled to concentrate on the exam. Even on the Thursday when heaters and curtains were being used to keep the hall warmer, a thermometer reading showed 14 degrees C!

- The exam hall was far too cold, it was clear that it was not possible to heat the hall to a suitable temperature as the space was so large, and the hall was effectively outside, as it was a concourse in a sports stadium. There were a few small heaters, but these were only of any use if your seat was right next to the heater. I kept my scarf on the the entire exam, and was very cold by the end of the exam. I saw others in coats and gloves. I am not sure why it is not possible to find a better venue. I expected better as last time there were also complaints about the temperature.

- Arctic conditions. Completely unsuitable venue.

- 1) The exam took place in a corridor of the stadium and I was seated on the left side at the back. The room was extremely cold, my hands and feet felt numb by around 2ish. Three small radiators (as far as I could see) were placed only to the right hand side of the room. I walked to the wash rooms to warm myself up but even the water in the washroom was cold, and the hand dryer blew cold air. Is this the normal conditions of an exam room? Some candidates wore their gloves and coats and I wish I had thermal socks.

2) Only three clocks were displayed, which was not clear from where I was sitting. A candidate next to me requested one of the officials to move a clock to a clearer place but he explained there were only three clocks and apologized.

3) Very minor point – but if it is preferred for candidates not to bring mobile phones into the building, then it would be kind to ensure there is a point of contact for requesting a Taxi for the candidates as a lot of us were waiting outside not knowing where to go.

Other than this I would like to say that the examination officials were very kind and helpful on the day and I hope the cold temperature in the room does not affect our marks as we all have prepared hard for this exam.

- I have replied to the other email concerning the hall at Bristol

- In my view the exam conditions were very poor. It was far too cold - especially for papers A and B. Some attempts had been made to improve the situation on the Thursday for paper C which I must admit I did appreciate. The exams are hard and stressful enough not to need the additional worry of exam room environment. Should it be necessary to wear a jacket, 4 layers and two pairs of socks and wish for gloves? I don't think so! It was disappointing.

- Very cold. Taxi/transport to/from centre poor.

- Signs to the examination hall were inadequate. From the back entrance to the Ashton gate stadium it took 10 minutes of searching to find the correct entrance.

The examination hall was very cold. Even wearing extra clothing it was too cold to sit and write for the duration of the examination. Heating was inadequate and only warmed small areas of the hall. My hands were numb long before the end of both examinations that I sat, and on both days I was shivering and shaking by the end of the examination.

- Thank you for your email. I sat papers A, B and C. The temperature in the examination hall for all three of these papers was unbearable to the point where my hands and feet were so cold during the examination that I was in physical pain and discomfort. During the examination, the ends of my fingers had turned blue with the cold. Clearly this had a significant impact on the ability of candidates to write comfortably and to concentrate. I would like to stress that I had dressed sensibly given the conditions. However, due to the nature of the exams we were obviously required to remain seated in the examination hall for hours on end without any ability to move around to keep warm and therefore sensible clothing was of little comfort. The conditions inside the room for all three exams can only be described as disgraceful.

I appreciate that some efforts were made to improve the situation including a small number of portable heaters which had been brought into the room but these were far too few in number given the size of the hall to make any real impact especially for candidates like myself who were situated at the opposite side of the room from where the heaters were placed.

- I provided separate comments in relation to the exam venue, in response to the email sent last week, so I will not repeat those comments here. However, in summary the Bristol exam venue was not fit for purpose as a professional exam venue. A new venue should be found for next year's exams

- The Bristol exam hall was incredibly cold. It was like sitting on a park bench on a cold, damp day. The temperature where I was sitting in the middle of the hall, farthest from heating, was unbearable. I doubt it was above the minimum legal level, particularly in view of the facts that there was a significant draft and it was damp in the air. And, I had to sit there for three and half hours! By the end of the exam, I was unable to feel my fingers or toes, and I was too cold to think clearly. Admittedly, the weather was poor, but the conditions inside the hall were not adequately insulated from the weather.

We have one opportunity to sit this exam per year, and it is simply unacceptable that we should have to take our chances with the weather.

I have previously sat an exam in Brunel's old station in Bristol, and the conditions this year at Ashford gate were much worse than at Brunel's old station.

Since the exam hall conditions impaired cognitive ability, the Examination Secretariat should consider taking the conditions into account when marking the candidates answers.

- It was far far too cold in the examination hall particularly in the front few rows.

- The temperature of the examination hall was far too cold - the temperature conditions affected both my ability to concentrate and to write.

- The temperature in the exam venue was unacceptably cold, especially for an exam lasting for 5 hours.

I was also one of those, most unfortunate candidates, sitting at the very periphery of the exam hall, next to the curtains/outdoors area, which was not only the coldest but also rather draughty. I believe that the temperature at the exam hall wasn't higher than the outdoor temperature, i.e. not higher than 8°C, because I felt warmer outside after the exam.

I doubt that every other venue was equivalently cold, which could be considered rather unfair. I notice the presence of some free-standing heaters at the opposite end far from my exam seat only after the exam was over, which is an indication that the heaters were ineffectual, and that the heat distribution in the exam hall, if any, was very ineffective. As a result, it appears that candidates like me, having exam seats at the periphery of the exam hall, were put in additional disadvantage compared to those sitting closer to the heaters.

- far too cold. difficult to write. too few heaters.

- The examination "hall" was not a hall, it was the concourse of a football ground beneath the stand. It is difficult to see how this could ever be considered a suitable examination hall - it is suitable for buying snacks and going to the toilet at half-time in a football match. It is uninsulated, unheated (apart from ineffective portable heaters) and not a space intended to accommodate people sitting down at a desk for 4 or 5 hours.

The examination hall was extremely cold. Almost every candidate and all the invigilators were wearing coats - I had to wear gloves to keep my hands warm and was shivering towards the end.

In addition, the hand dryers in the toilets were clearly and loudly audible from the exam room, particularly for me as I was sat relatively close to the toilet. Every time anyone went to the toilet I was disturbed by this noise.

Finally, I could not see a clock clearly from my seat. This is because there are no clocks on the wall in the stand of a football ground, and so the clocks in the room were positioned at desk height or on the portable heaters to the side of the room. With the EQE's (needlessly) draconian rules regarding digital watches putting candidates off bringing a watch, one would expect that a clock would be clearly visible to candidates in the room.

- I was very cold - my hands were cold and writing was difficult. Overall if it had been warmer and better signposted it would have been satisfactory as a venue. At least it had natural light unlike last year's venue.

- The hall was unacceptably cold. There was no central heating, and the temperature inside the hall felt the same as the temperature outside (something around 6 or 7 degrees C on Monday 29 Feb). Some portable heaters were provided but these had little, if any, effect. I spent the whole exam wearing a winter coat and was still cold, as were many others. It was difficult to concentrate in these conditions. Indeed sitting still in such temperatures for four hours or more is not healthy.

A hallway in a sports stadium is not an appropriate location for exams held in winter.

- Far too cold. No heating whatsoever and marginally warmer than outside.

- Exam hall was far too cold. I have already raised this issue separately so will not go into detail here.

- Hall was extremely cold, to the point of making it difficult to concentrate, and there was no hot water in many of the restrooms.

- Extremely cold examination hall. Not at all suitable for exams of such importance.

- The hall conditions were terrible. The facility was a football stadium in Bristol with no heating. We were essentially expected to sit exams for an entire day in the cold. It is completely unacceptable that candidates are expected in the middle of winter to write a five hour exam, under what is considered high pressure, in freezing cold conditions. How can you be expected to think clearly, let alone try to write with frozen fingers! Candidates spend months if not years preparing to write these exams only to be faced with a freezing uncomfortable exam hall. I believe that exam candidates should be compensated for such a failing on the part of the EQE organizers. When a candidate does not pass an exam, not only are our careers put on hold, we lose out on salary and face another intensive year of preparing to retake these exams the following year. Finding a location for the EQEs can not be difficult as London and Bristol offer many large heated centers to hold exams! Presumably Aston gate stadium in Bristol was chosen to save the EPO money at the expense of candidates and their employers; which I believe is morally reprehensible and as such candidates should be compensated by either lowering the pass mark or financially reimbursed.

- The examination hall was essentially a concrete-floored corridor with many doors leading directly to the outdoors. While some electric heaters had been put in place, the examination hall was exceptionally cold and draughty. Almost all candidates sat the exam wearing outdoor clothing. I wore my coat and scarf throughout and was still very cold, to the point that my hands were painful and it was difficult to hold the pen. The cold temperature and resulting discomfort were certainly a distraction throughout the examination.

The lack of insulation also made the examination hall quite echo-y. It was difficult to hear the announcements made by the invigilator. Furthermore, given the close proximity of the toilets to the seating, it was very easy to hear the loud noise of the hand-dryers being used. Again, this was distracting.

- Exam hall was far too cold - heaters were being set up during Paper D which was a distraction. However, the type of heaters used only provide heat across a very small distance, meaning that only candidates immediately adjacent the heaters were afforded any benefit. Consideration to adequate heat provisions should have been given a long way in advance of the exams and not as an afterthought which could not be suitably addressed on the day of the exam. Conditions were no better for paper C sat two days later.

- Much too cold. To the point where every layer of clothing one had with them had to be worn. Same temperature as outside. One good point, there was no wind or rain.

- The Bristol exam center was extremely cold. I had to keep my winter coat, scarf and gloves on throughout. The toilets opened straight onto the exam hall and this meant the hand dryers could be heard throughout the exam. This was very distracting.

- It was far too cold in the examination room, which impeded my ability to concentrate and to write greatly. I feel that candidates sitting the examinations at the Bristol venue were majorly disadvantaged compared to candidates taking the examinations elsewhere.

- As you will know, there were severe problems with heating at the Bristol venue; candidates and invigilators wearing coats, etc. and it was like sitting the exam in outside conditions. Such conditions are not what candidates expect (or pay for) or deserve.

- The exam 'hall' (actually more of a corridor) in Bristol was far too cold, and the venue was totally inappropriate for taking an exam in February/March. The corridor where we sat was not really a room, and was only just warmer than outside. There was a constant draught, a cold concrete floor, and no central heating. Lots of the portable electric heaters arranged around the outside of the space were not working, and those that were working did not provide any warmth anyway, particularly for those of us stuck in the middle of the space.

Bristol is a long way from London, where most trainees are based. In addition, those trainees not based in London (like myself, based in Brighton on the south coast) almost always have good access to London (trains to London run from every major city in the UK). In fact, most trainees I spoke to had either come from London, or (like me) had had to come VIA London in order to arrive at Bristol!

Bristol itself is therefore a very poor choice of venue, and I expect that the vast majority of trainees would agree that London would be vastly preferable, as it would be much much easier to get to for the vast majority of trainees sitting the exams. In addition, an indoor hall with central heating is needed for next year, as the conditions this year were totally unacceptable.

- As is extremely well known by the Examination Board, the room was extremely cold. I suspect this may have been exacerbated by local weather conditions at the time of the exam. It is a pity contingency measures (such as those taken during paper C) weren't implemented at the start of the examinations. I am disappointed that the venue is unsuitable (mainly due to the cold conditions) in spite of consistent feedback in the EQE in previous years saying the venue is too cold. I'm led to believe that the 2016 EQE in Bristol was unusually cold compared to previous occasions. I'm sure a more acceptable venue could be found in the UK.

- Examination hall was extremely cold, and the examination centre was difficult to get to from the city centre, particularly during rush hour.

- The hall was very, very cold. The temperature in Bristol was about 6 degrees and the hall was colder than that. I had three layers and a coat on, and I am very rarely cold. It really wasn't a suitable temperature for an exam. My hands went numb as I couldn't really wear my gloves when I was writing and I got a massive headache from the cold. It really had an impact on my performance. I will select a different center/country next year, even if it involves traveling to a different country. I spoke to a few people after the exam and they fully agreed. It wasn't a pleasant experience, specially when you consider the sum of money we paid for the exam. Very disappointing.

- The temperature in the Bristol exam hall was an absolute disgrace. Considering we have worked hard preparing for these exams and put a lot into them, then having to suffer through hours of sitting in very very cold conditions was unacceptable. At times, I had two jumpers on and had to have my hood up, and I was sitting or blowing on my hands to try and warm them up - and I am not usually bothered by cold, I'm from Scotland! There were times when I would begin writing a sentence and then have to score it out as my writing was too messy due to my hand being so cold. I think Wednesday morning was the worst. We had to try and find somewhere away from the exam hall at lunch that was warm to get some heat back into us before we then went to sit the amendment paper in the afternoon. This all caused unnecessary stress and aggravation that we don't need on top of actually sitting our very important professional exams. I would say that the temperature in the exam hall did directly affect my ability to perform at my best in these exams.

- The Bristol exams were held in the concourse of Bristol City football club. This is not a heated room (I'm not even sure you could call it a room) and was not an appropriate venue for sitting professional examinations in which candidates were required to be stationary for 5 hours. The conditions were so bad that I believe the EPO should offer free re-takes to any candidates that

sat the exams in this venue and/or compensate candidates by giving extra marks. These exams are very challenging and candidates spend a lot of their free time preparing for them. It is not acceptable that they were made so much harder by the completely inadequate facilities.

- I was at the same Venue in Bristol (Ashton Gate Stadium) 2 years ago. It was the right temperature on that occasion but it was very cold this time (but yet there wasn't any difference in the outdoor temperature).

The lighting above me was flickering for a few minutes in one of the exams- it was quite distracting.

- The exam hall was very cold. Although there were heaters around the edges of the exam hall, they were insufficient to raise the temperature to a comfortable level.

Just like many other candidates, I had to remain in my coat throughout the exam, but that was still insufficient to keep warm over the 4-hour exam period. Remember that the candidates have to remain seated over that time, so it makes them more vulnerable to the cold.

The cold conditions led to concentration loss due to, for example, needing to go to the toilet, as well as being generally demoralising after a while.

- As I am sure other candidates have noted - the conditions in the Bristol examination hall were terrible. Far too cold.

- The examination hall in Bristol was extremely, extremely cold. I managed to last through 4 hours because I had a warm coat and a scarf, but I would have found it very hard if I had been doing four exams instead of only the pre-exam. There was also a lot of noise from the hairdryers in the toilets that were immediately adjacent to where I was sitting in the exam hall. Additionally, the instructions were somewhat lacking in that no one told us that we had to sign our answer paper, and there were no instructions to that effect on the exam paper - there was only a space marked "signature" on the answer paper, which does not make clear who should sign.

- The examination hall was awful. It was cold, the lighting was bad. It is extremely frustrating for external factors to influence performance in an exam that can only be sat once a year. The table in front of me was empty and used as a place for invigilators to wait. This was extremely distracting and upsetting.

- Very cold. I had to keep my thick coat on which impeded a lot with my writing. The hall was cold even with my coat on. Hands were too cold to write fast. Conditions were terrible.

- Bristol venue was not suitable at all, it was far too cold and the conditions were unacceptable for a professional exam.

- Really badly organised exam, the room was too cold and the facilities were bare minimum

- The Bristol examination centre was extremely cold and made completing the exam more difficult.

- Completely inappropriate examination facility

- The exam venue was unsuitable due to the very cold temperature and noise disturbances

- As previously commented, the room temperature in the Bristol venue was too low. My seat was located next to the windows and the heaters in the area around my seat were not working for a single exam day. This made it very difficult to concentrate on answering the papers,

despite wearing several layers of clothing. The temperature conditions in the Bristol venue were unacceptable for professional exams.

- The hall was so cold I couldn't stop shivering and it was difficult to concentrate. It was even difficult to hold my pen! I don't think it was appropriate to have the desks so close to the restrooms, especially when the only way to dry your hands was by using the hand dryer! This was very noisy and made it even more difficult to focus on the exam.

- The examination hall conditions in Bristol were completely inadequate. I know that the Examination Committee is aware of the conditions at the Bristol venue, especially with regard to the temperature.

Even wearing multiple layers it was freezing cold. Also, please do not forget that people do not necessarily live near the exam venue and may not have taken thermal clothes with them as no one would expect the venue to be so cold.

As I am sure that you are aware, candidates, including myself, spend a lot of time preparing for the EQE exams. To host the exam in such a poor venue, that makes it impossible to perform to a respectable standard, is completely unfair in view of the time, effort and money invested by the candidates and their companies in the EQEs.

Remember, the salary and career progression of trainees is often linked to them passing one or more of the EQEs. The inaction of the organisers of the Bristol venue to ensure a suitable venue has will have severe financial implications for candidates.

- it was okay...the latter days the venue organisers were able to provide heaters and keep the room sufficiently warm.

- Freezing conditions, heating inadequate. No doors to toilets and was distracted by others using the hand dryers as the noise could be heard from the exam hall. Overall, poor conditions.

I sat the pre-EQE on Monday 29 February 2016 1200 - 1600 GMT.

The 'exam hall' is an unheated corridor under the terraces at the Ashton Gate Stadium, through which football fans would enter and exit the terraces. The maximum outside temperature in Bristol on Monday was 9 degC.

The temperature inside the 'exam hall' appeared to be no warmer than outside. That is, the temperature inside the 'exam hall' was unreasonably cold and probably no warmer than outside. At most, 8 portable, electric heaters were temporarily used in an attempt to warm the 'exam hall'. The heaters were completely ineffective, given the size and construction of the 'exam hall' and the temperature. I wore all the clothes I had - three layers - and was shaking from the cold, my hands white, making it very difficult to even concentrate on the exam. It would not have been possible for me to write an exam answer. Around me, others were wearing coats, hats, scarves and gloves, in an effort to protect against the cold. I have trained with the army in Arctic conditions - but we expected and prepared for that. We did not expect and were not prepared for the exam conditions - and no adequate preparation had been made for us.

We expect exams to challenge us but we do not expect the exam conditions to challenge us. The temperature of the 'exam hall' was not, under any circumstances, acceptable. I doubt that it would be accepted in any other country. A minimum temperature of 16 degC is recommended for workers in the UK - and 20 degC is recommended for office workers. I will not sit any further

exams at this 'exam hall' and will, in future, sit exams in Munich, where I expect the exam conditions to be reasonable.

Others complained also about the noise. I wore ear plugs and was not so disturbed by the noise.

In addition, a health & safety fire evacuation announcement should have been made before the exam. No announcement was made. This was particularly important since the metal roller shutter door through which we entered was closed at the start of the exam, closing our only known exit.

I hope that appropriate action will be taken and that we will not be disadvantaged by the unreasonable exam conditions.

- Portable heating was entirely inadequate on a very cold day. Cold water only in some of the toilets. External signage could have been better - location was somewhat obscure, round the back of an enormous stadium, and external signs needed to be more visible and more numerous.

- Extremely cold. Difficult to write at some points.

- As has been well documented the conditions in Bristol were appalling. Each exam sat in that hall represented an number of thousand of man hours spent on study to pass respective exams. Because of circumstance outside the control of the candidates and an almighty oversight by the EQE organising committee the conditions in that exam hall greatly hindered each candidate and was a massive contributing factor in candidates not being able to finish papers due to not been able to feel their hands, and therefore may lead to candidates not passing.

- The examination "hall" was in fact a segment of the area underneath the stands of a football stadium. Conditions in this area were wholly unsuitable for taking an exam. Everyone was wearing a coat and personally I was still cold despite my five layers of clothing. The temperature inside wasn't noticeably different from outside.

In addition to the temperature problem, the hand washing area of the toilet facilities had no door to separate it from the area where the exam was taking place, meaning that at frequent intervals we were serenaded by the less than dulcet tones of a high speed hand dryer.

- The hall was very, very cold. The temperature in Bristol was about 6 degrees on that day and the hall definitely felt colder than that. So, effectively, we were sitting in a cold room/fridge for four hours trying to do an exam.

I had three layers and a coat on, and I am very rarely cold, rather the opposite. It really wasn't a suitable temperature for an exam. My hands went numb as I couldn't really wear my gloves when I was writing and I got a massive headache from the cold. I even noticed an examiner brought a hot tea to the girl sitting close to me! The cold really had an impact on my performance; I have got a 69% and I do wonder whether or not I would have passed in normal exam conditions.

- Absolutely inadequate temperature and bad audibility of the invigilators

- The venue was simply not fit for purpose. The temperature was not just a little bit on the chilly side – it was unpleasant, and keeping warm was a major distraction. The exam hall vetting process (assuming there is one) needs to be thoroughly revised and future EQE exams should not be held at the Ashton Gate venue until major changes are made to the exam hall.

- The examination centre was very cold, and required many clothes, coat and gloves to be worn. Not a good situation in which to be sitting exams.

- The conditions in the examination hall were completely unacceptable. The temperature difference between the examination centre was only marginally higher than that of the temperature outside, which on Wednesday was 7- 8 degrees Celsius and so the temperature inside could not have been much above 10 degrees Celsius. As a result, I was continually shivering and my ability to concentrate and write quickly and neatly was impaired.

By way of example, on Wednesday during Paper A and Paper B, I had to resort to wearing 2 thick jumpers, a vest, an outside coat, jeans, long-johns (thermal trousers under my jeans) and three pairs of socks and, despite all of this clothing, I was still suffering the consequences of the cold. This was not uncommon and most candidates (and EQE officials) resorted to numerous layers, coats, hats and gloves. Furthermore, I even attempted to use gloves to improve my ability to write during the exams, but unfortunately this was not practical when it came to dealing with paper and pens. While this may be enough clothing under normal conditions at that temperature, it is important to remember that we were stationary for a total of 6 and a half hours on this day and 5 hours on Tuesday and Thursday.

The effect was particularly pronounced on the left hand side of the room (relative to the direction of the desks), as this side was next to an exposed wall and was the side with the fewest number of heaters. On this side, only a handful of domestic heaters were employed, which were useless in such a large room. These even had little benefit for those candidates fortunate enough to be within a metre or so of the heaters.

This made sitting the examinations a very uncomfortable experience. Having spent a year preparing for these exams and having devoted the last three months entirely to studying for the EQEs, I was very disappointed to have to deal with these conditions on top of the usual stress of sitting such important examinations. I have no doubt that these extremely cold conditions impacted on my performance.

- The room temperature was far lower than should be reasonably expected for sitting an examination. I had several layers of clothing and was still freezing which was really distracting. It was more like being sat in a wind tunnel than in an exam hall as the venue was more a draughty corridor than a conference room or similar and without a proper central heating system. There were some heaters but these were not circulating warm air around the room and it didn't feel like there was any benefit from them.

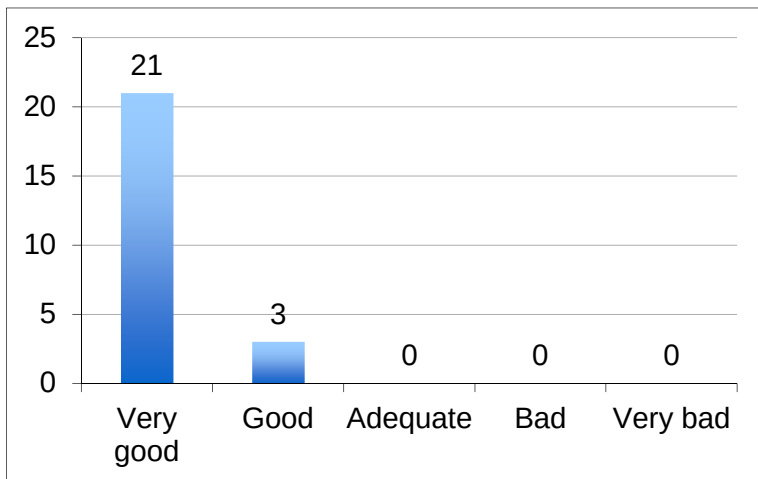
Also because of the fact it was an airy corridor rather than a room, it was difficult to hear the invigilator when speaking if you were near the back of the room.

I didn't have any real problems with the venue, although Bristol doesn't seem like the most central location for most UK trainees. For non-London based attorneys it is cheaper than staying in London though. It was also difficult on arrival to establish exactly where the examination was taking place as there were no clear signs in place and the examination room was locked. Candidates spent a long time waiting around outside and it was clear no one was sure where we needed to be. If specific directions can't be provided prior to the exams, there should at least be an indication clearly visible near the entrance of the venue that we are in the correct place.

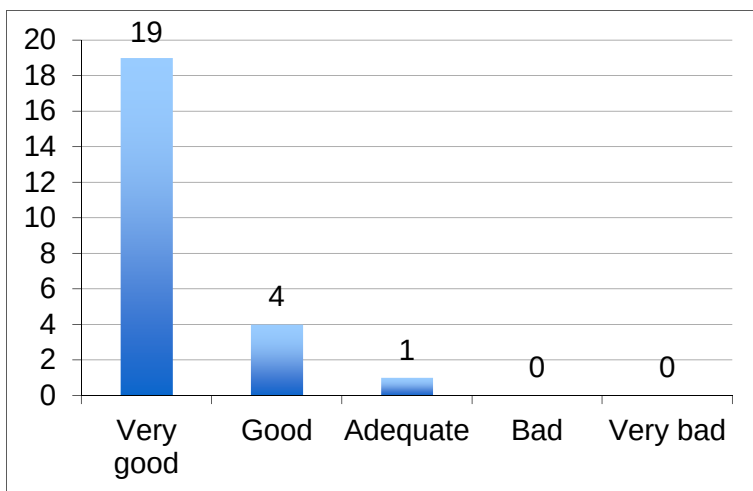
1.4 Helsinki (24 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

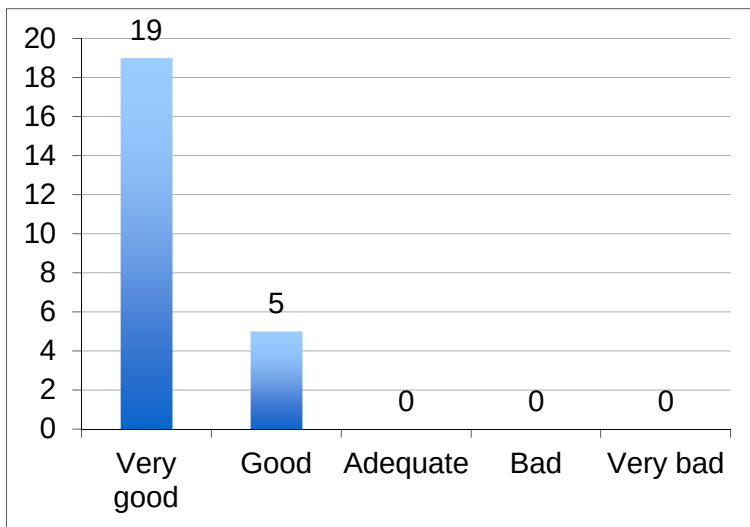
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



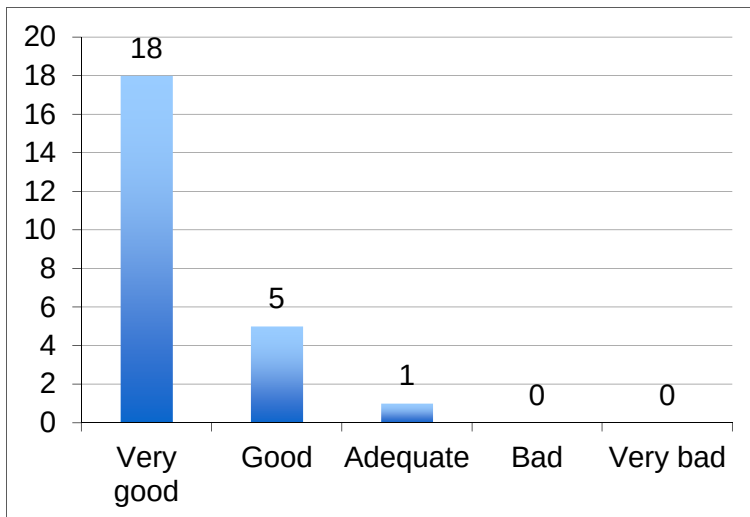
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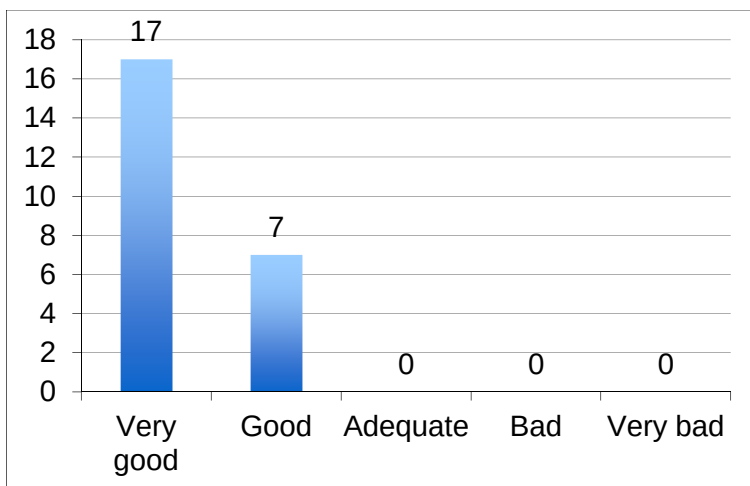
Lighting conditions



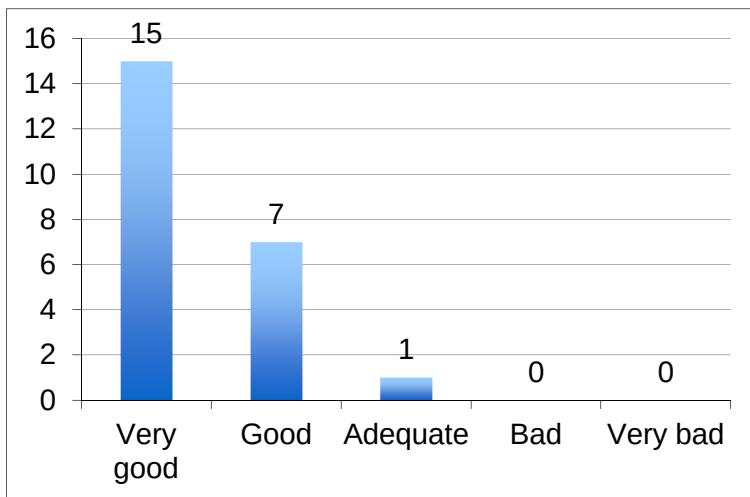
Space for candidates



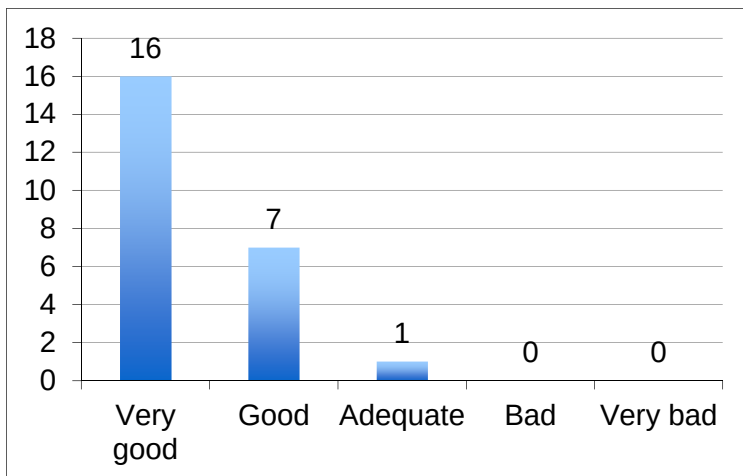
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



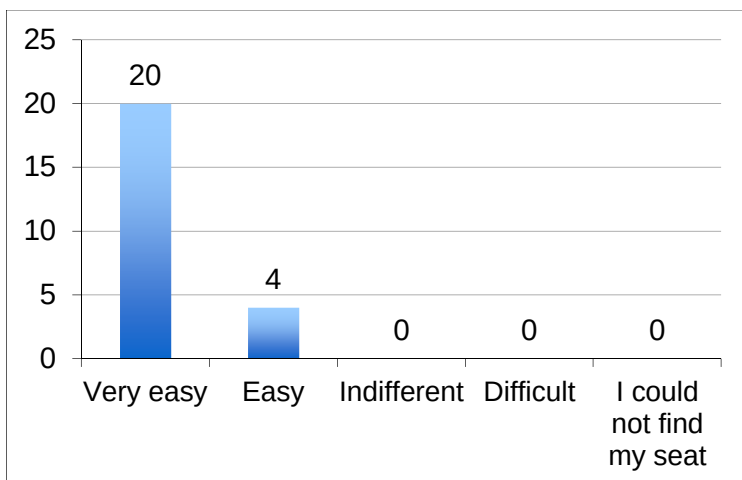
Restroom facilities



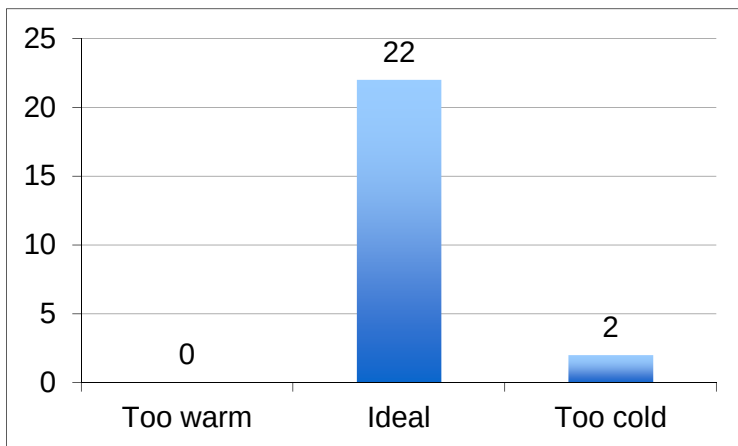
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



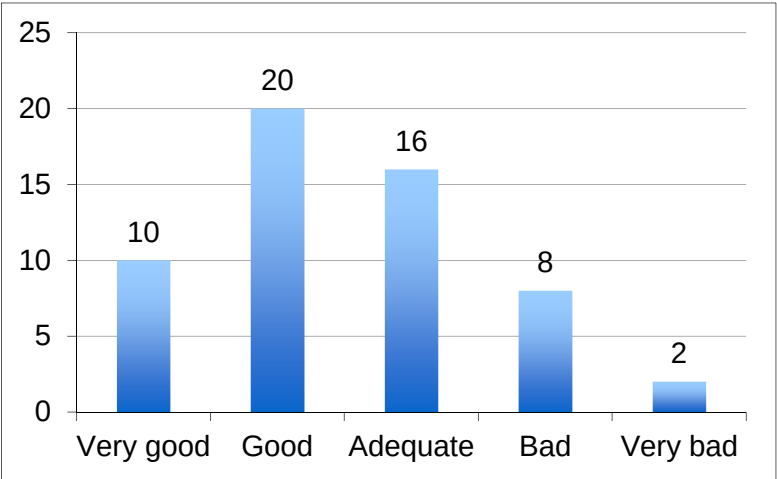
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Just great place!
- Perfect.
- The location of my desk was not good. It was in the corner in the front of the room, although I think that there should have been more space in the back of the room as well (easier to see the invigilators, clocks, etc.). Otherwise the arrangements were very good.
- One candidate had her table just next to door, so everybody were going in and out exactly behind her back, it must have been very unpleasant. Also, tables were at different size, some had more space. It was quite cold and some construction was going on nearby, so you could hear all the noise of drilling.
- Very good conditions, large table for materials.
- Some construction site working noise was a few times audible but I think that originated from the adjacent building and thus, it was out of control of the PRH. I think the general conditions in the exam room were good and there was very little ambient disturbances.

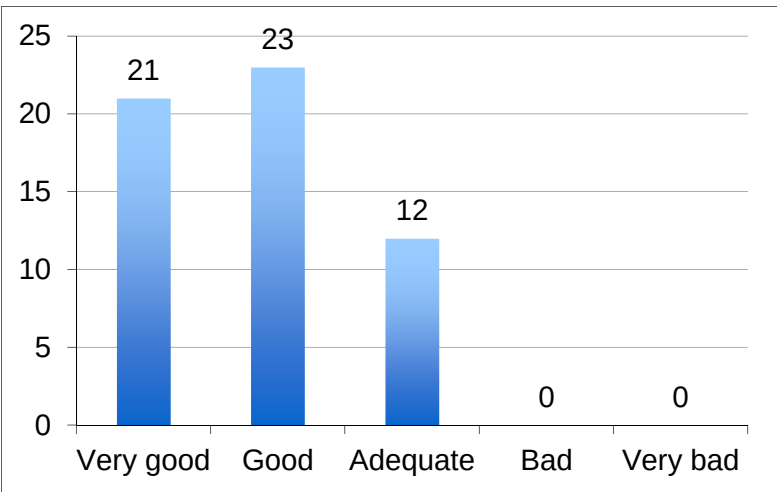
1.5 Madrid (57 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

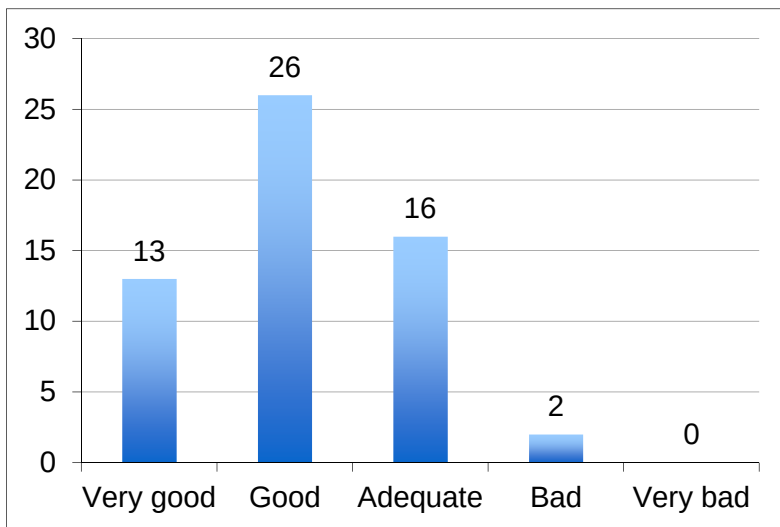
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



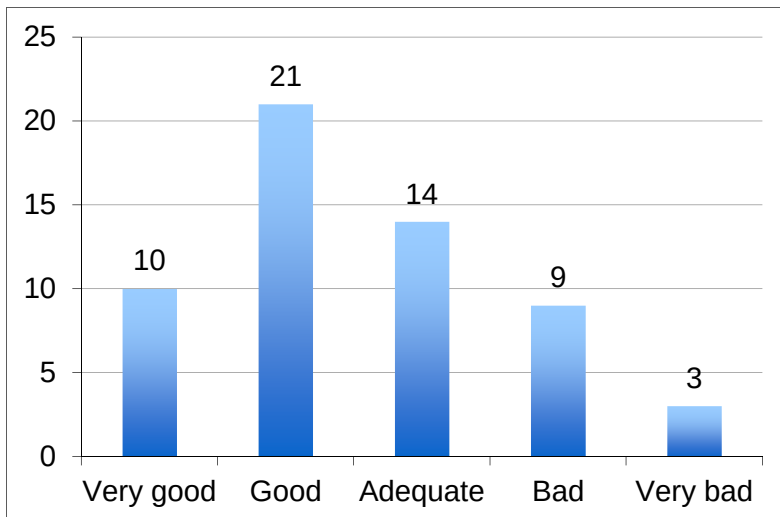
Identification check



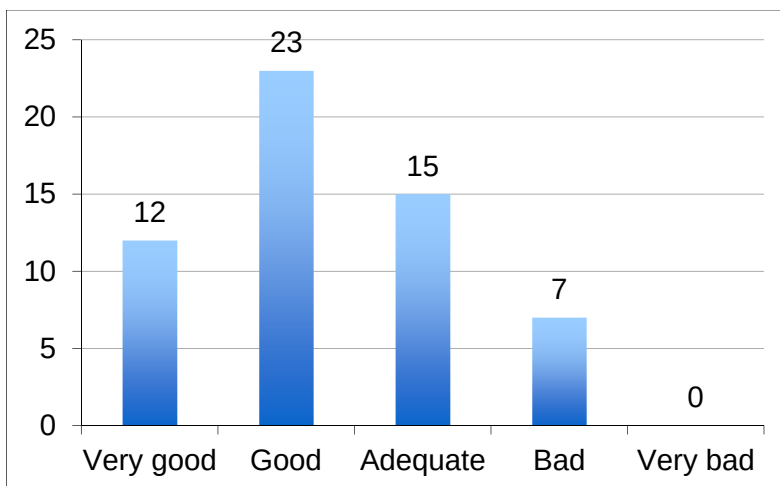
Lighting conditions



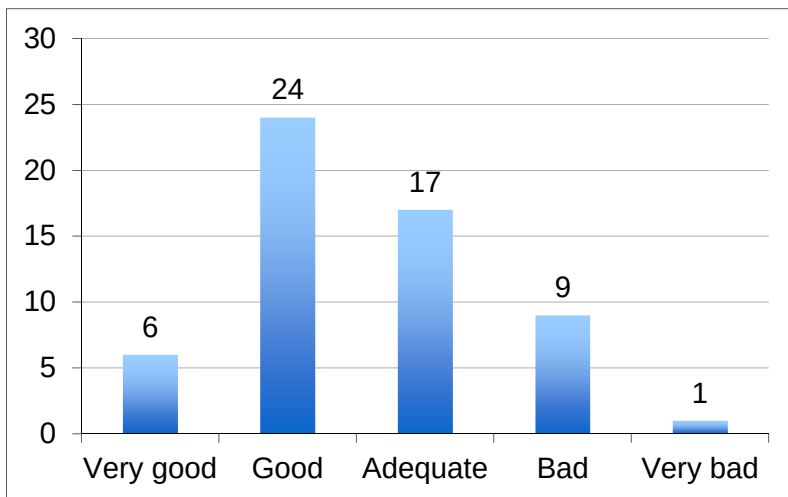
Space for candidates



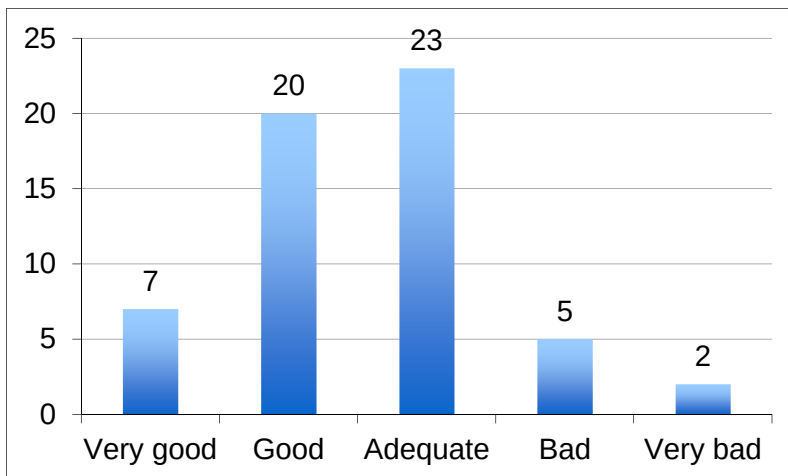
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



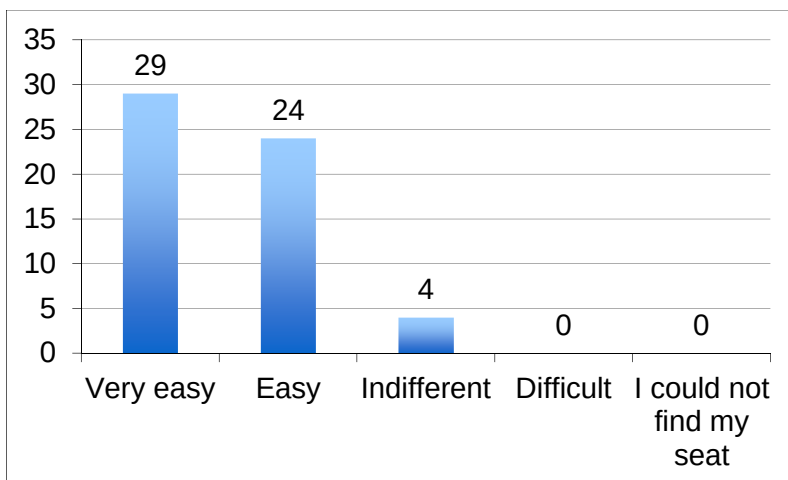
Restroom facilities



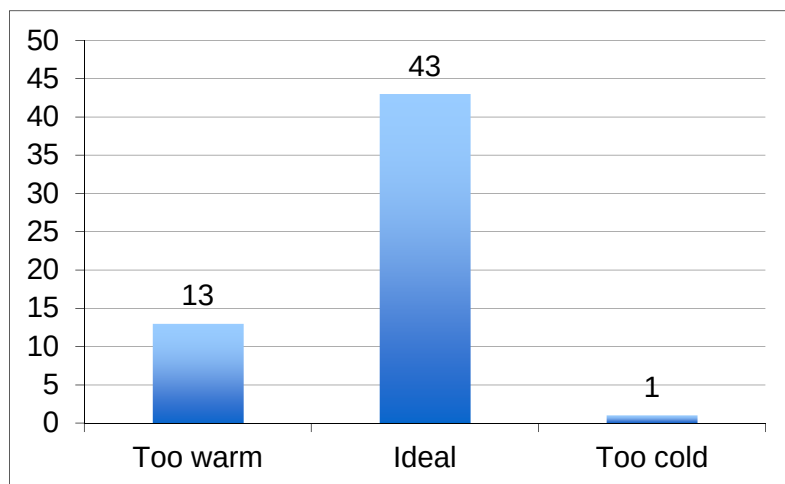
Suitability of the examination hall



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 conditions (temperature and space) were not appropriate
- I would like to have natural light
- Nothing particular to point out.
- Many people sitting the exam do not understand why tables are so wide but, on the contrary, so short: it is impossible to use the whole width of the table (because of arms length and sight reach) while it is very inconvenient to work in a table with several papers (B: original claims, drawings, letter from the applicant, communication from the EPO, prior art documents D1, D2, D3; C: annex 1 and annexes 2-7) to write the response. Tables not so wide but longer would be very much appreciated by a high number of sitters.
- Only one small clock where to check the hour
- There was a "hairstressers meeting", and in the unique toilet (men restroom was out of service) there was people washing the hair, staining hair... Too inappropriate in a stress-moment previous to an important exam!
There are not elevators to the examination hall, and therefore carrying with a heavy suitcase full of books is very uncomfortable.
- The centre has two main significant deficiencies:
 - 1- No lift facilities (disabled facilities) to reach to the examination floor, which makes it really difficult to carry up the stairs the luggage with the books and materials for the exam.
 - 2- The tables are too small to spread all the papers and to fit the exam aid materials. It makes us waste a lot of time looking for the right information, considering that the time to complete the exam is already quite short. Particularly, the tables are much smaller than those provided in the Munich centre, which are significantly bigger.
 - 3- In addition, the tables are provided with table cloths which makes it very difficult to write on top of it, as the pens end up making little holes on the exam sheets and too much time is wasted ensuring that there is always some rigid stuff underneath of the exam's sheets.
- The tablecloth is not suitable for doing an exam. Thank you very much
- Temperature suffocating from middle to end of each exam.

- There weren't any lift to go to the room. This is an important drawback taking into account we brought really heavy suitcases.

Tables too narrow to deal with all the documents in the exams.

Crystal bottle of water, it is dangerous for our exam papers, and the bottle was already open, who knows from when. It would be much better to have plastic bottles of water.

Every year people complain about narrow tables, lift and bottle of water, but it seems that nobody cares as every year is again the same.

- Tables are too long but not wide enough

the room is accessible only through a staircase, it is difficult with the suitcases

- Accessibility of the examination hall was poor (information signs were good). There was no elevator up to the hall level, nor escalators, so that we had to make some staircases, not too many but with a lot of weight considering the reference material to carry

- Again, chairs are uncomfortable. Too rigid the chairs, as last year.

Again no lifts. Carrying 20 kilos without lift.

- The table has a tablecloth of fabric that difficults the writing on the paper

- Please consider providing the invigilators with a microphone and speakers and the hall with proper sound conditions

- Excellent location, easy to arrive from anywhere

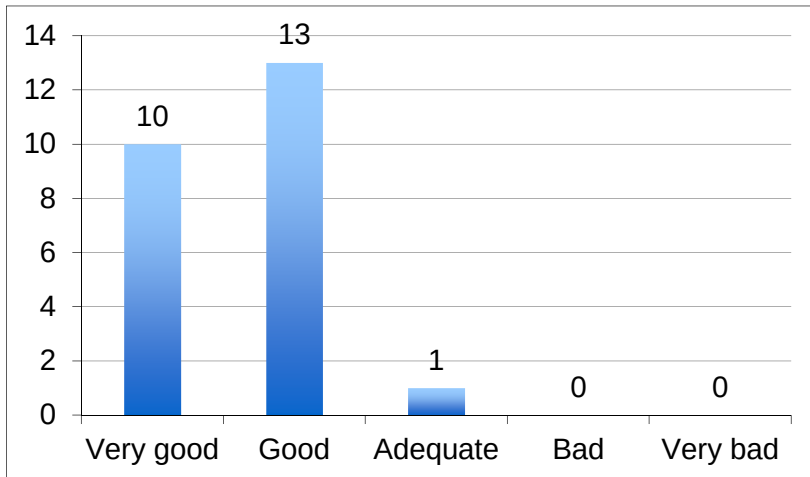
- The toilet was under reparation at the moment of entrance.
Important to assure it does not happen again

The tables used in the examination center of Madrid are too narrow for an examination where the candidate is required to manage several documents at the same time. This might not be an issue on papers A, B and D, but in paper C, wherein up to 9 documents can be used, is very detrimental and hinder document analysis and organisation. Even though the table is long enough, the width of the table does not allow for having two A4 sized sheets one above the other. A change of tables would be greatly appreciated.

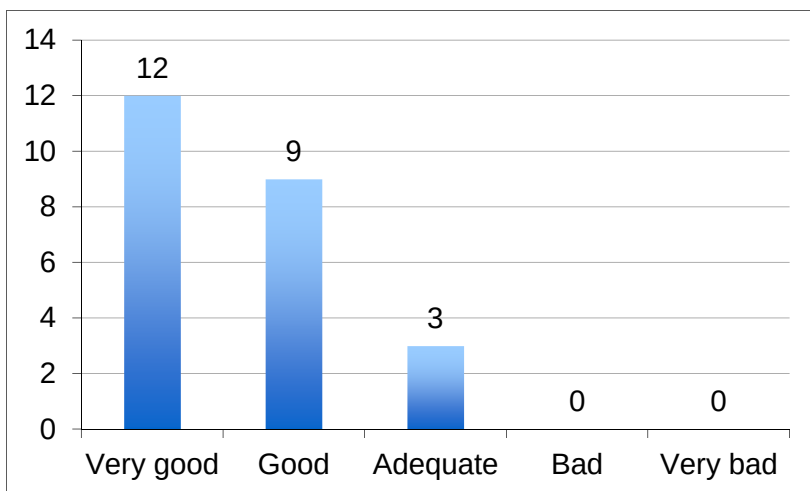
1.6 Munich DPMA (24 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

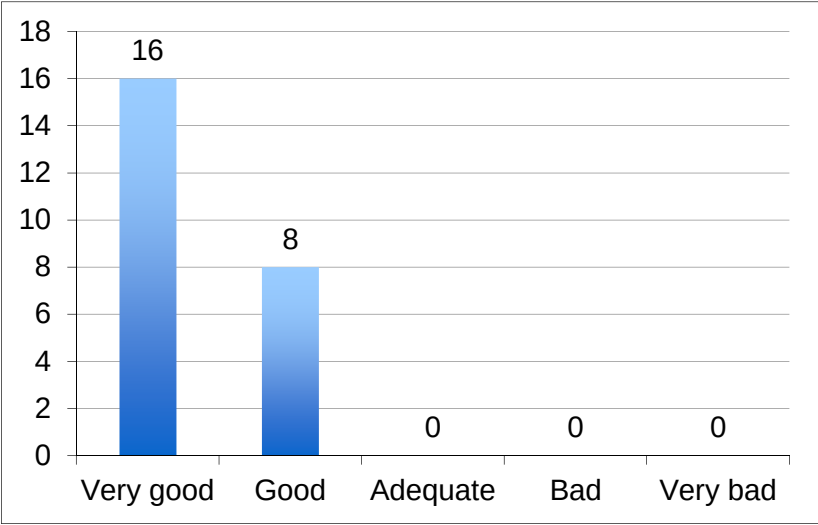
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



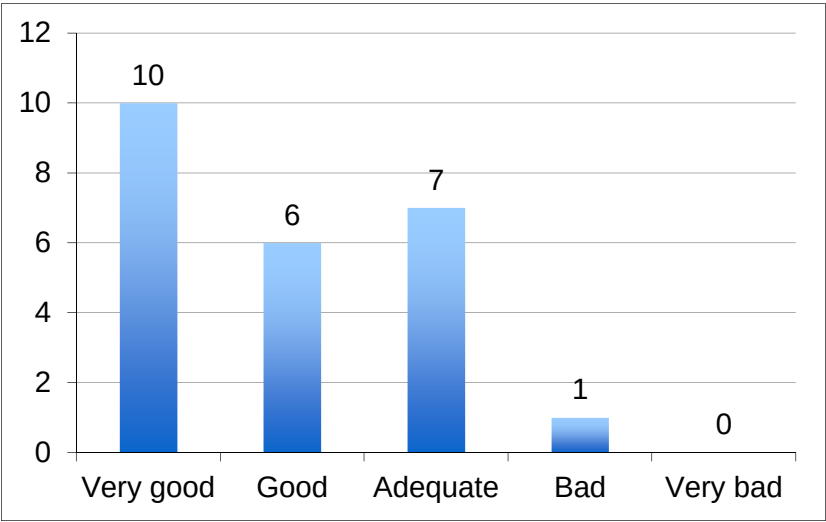
Identification check



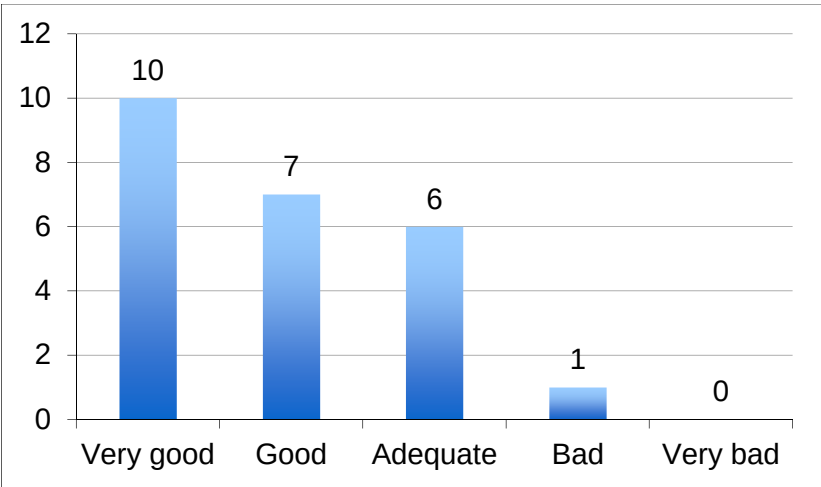
Lighting conditions



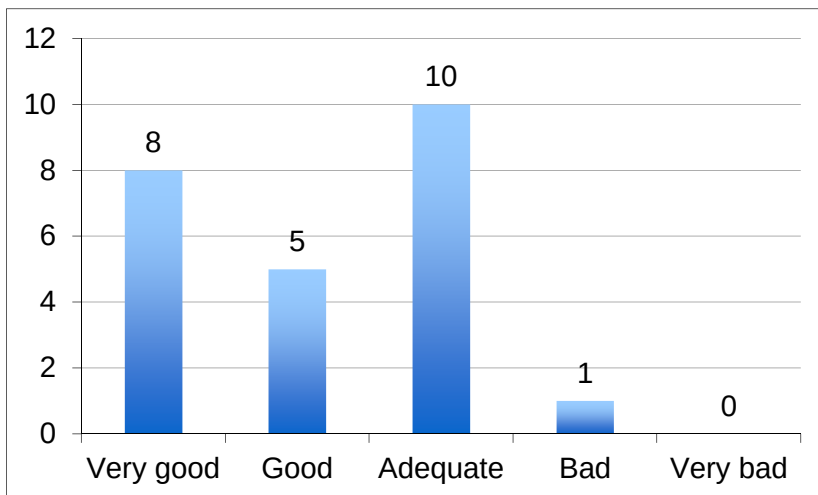
Space for candidates



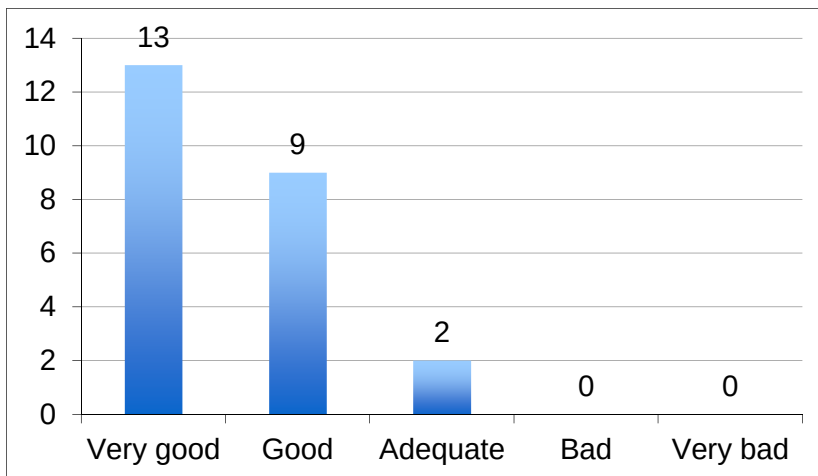
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



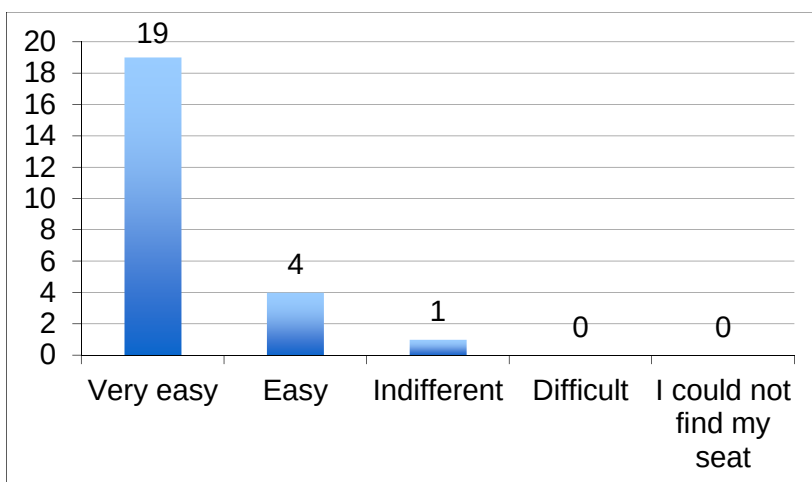
Restroom facilities



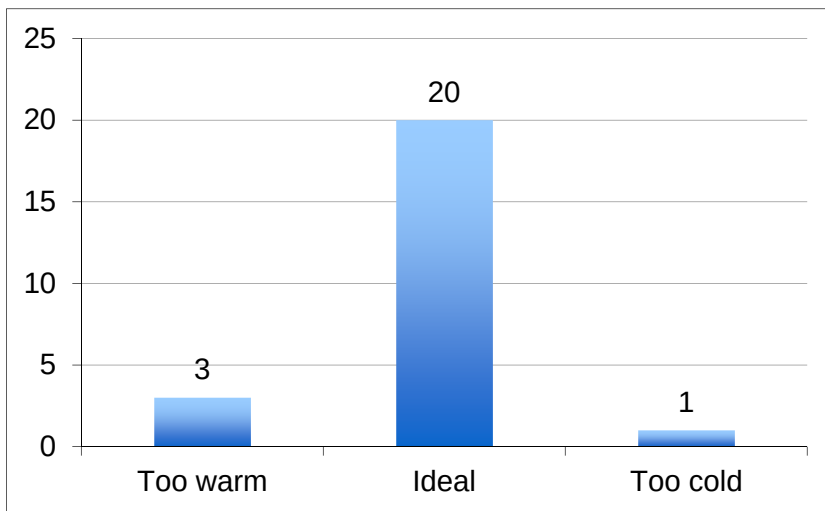
Suitability of the examination hall



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.

Table Desk Space very small

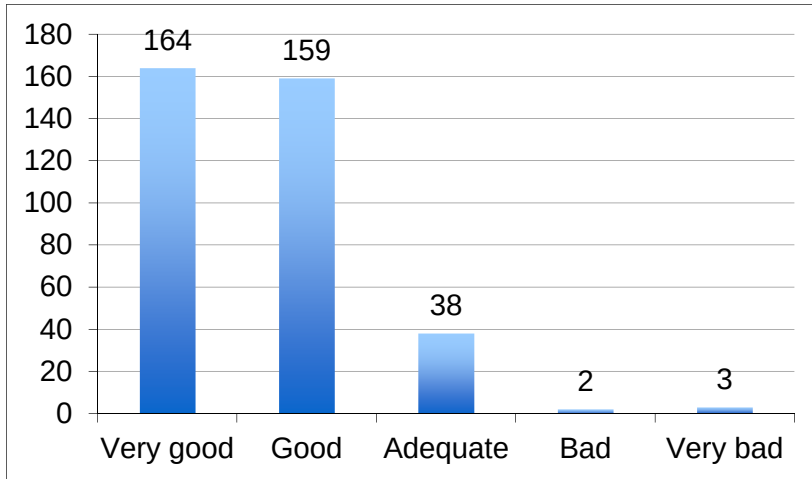
- Please add information signs regarding the elevator (including information on which floor the examination hall is located)

- Size of the room very good in comparison to MOC as there are not too many people in the same room

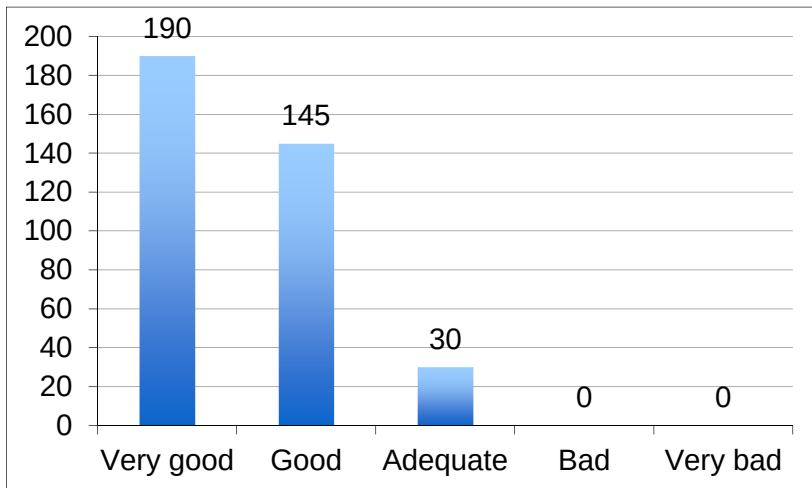
1.7 Munich M,O,C (367 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

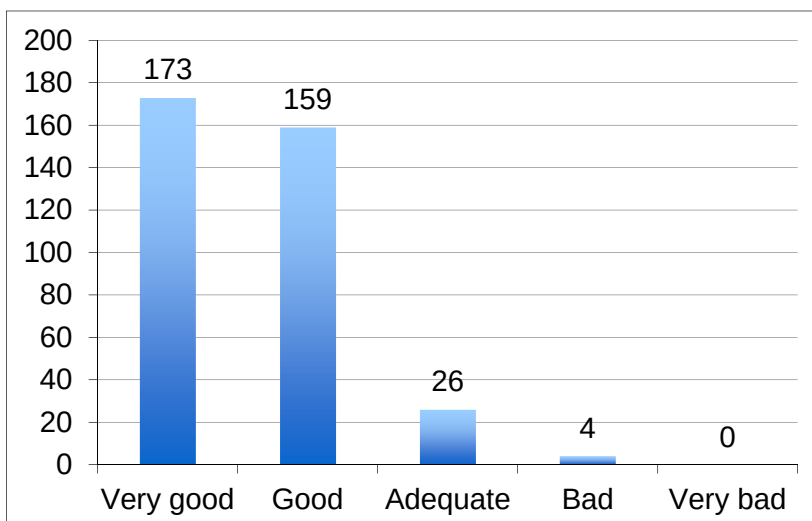
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



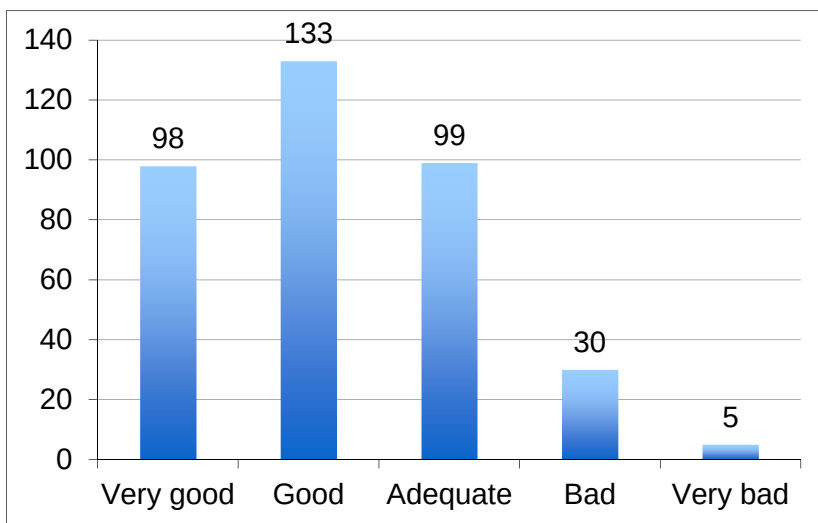
Identification check



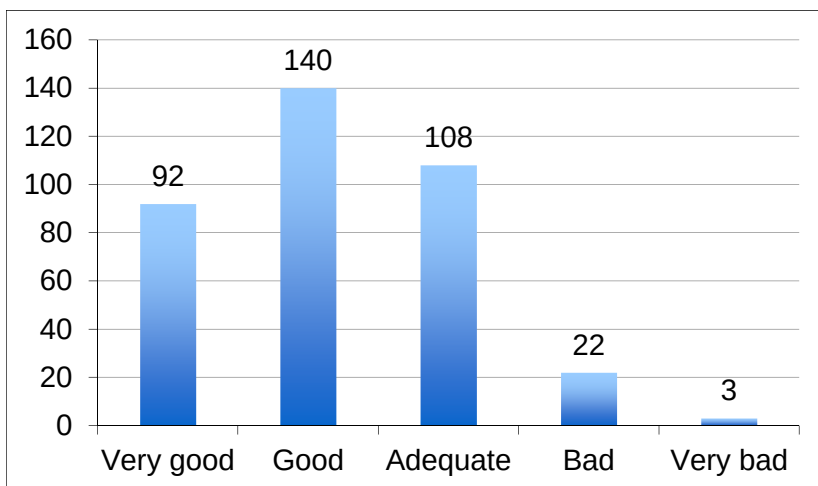
Lighting conditions



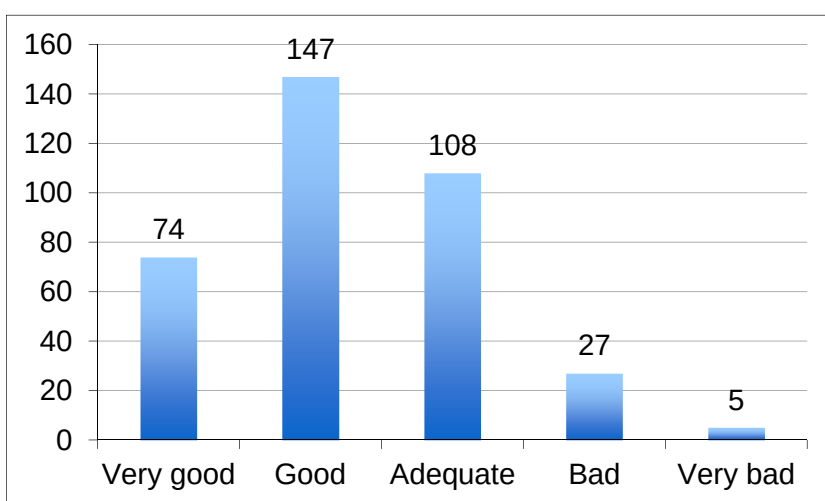
Space for candidates



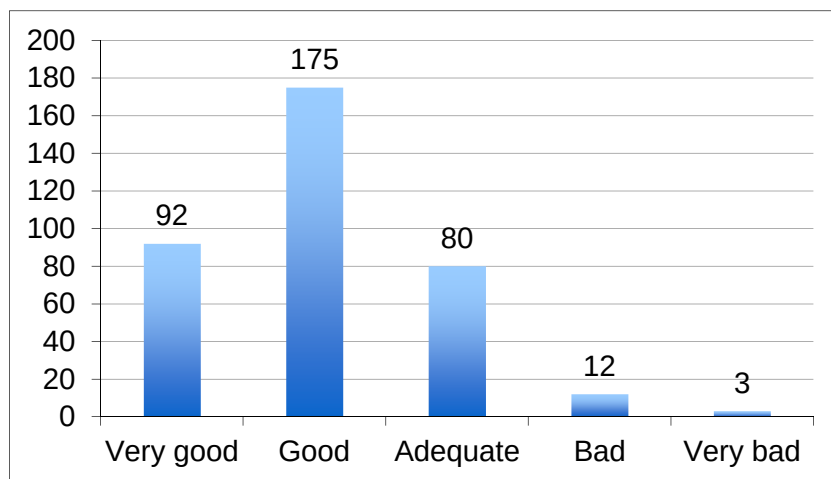
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



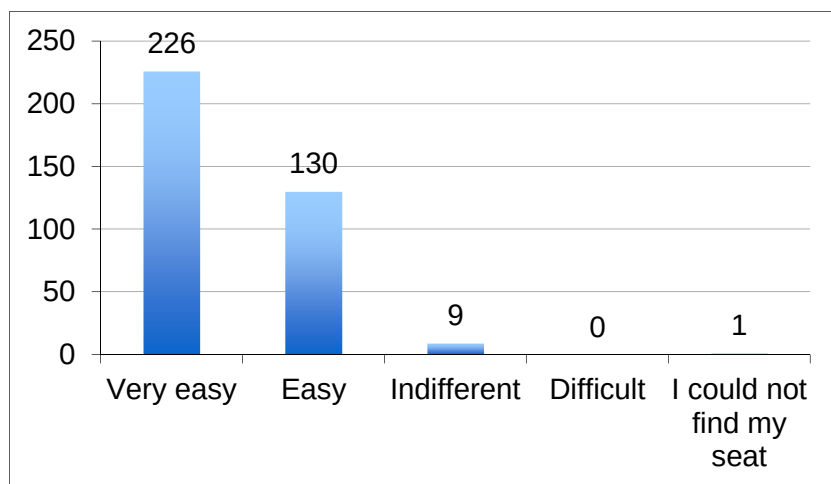
Restroom facilities



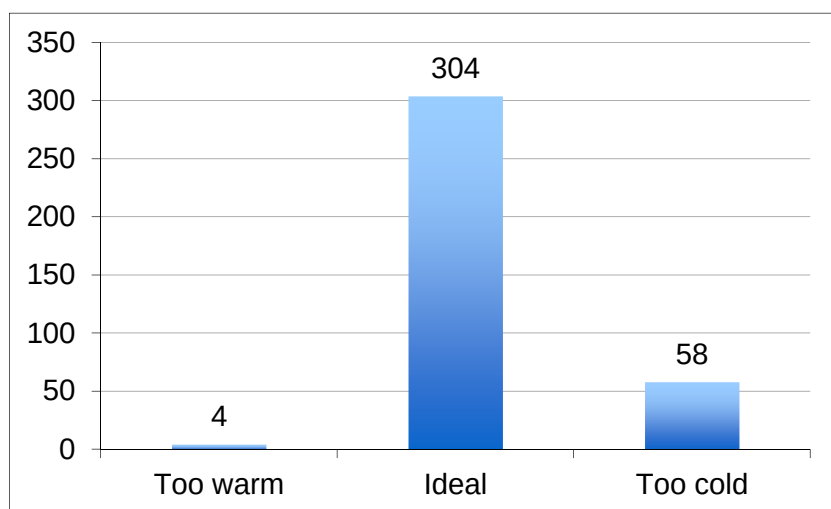
Suitability of the examination hall



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.

- Personally, the table was too high for me. My shoulders got stiff the first day. Then, I used something to sit at a higher position.

- Bathrooms too small for couple of hundred people
- As a suggestion, it should be pointed out to the participants that eating or drinking should not disturb other candidates. Several participants were loudly eating apples or nuts, whereas others were eating very strong-smelling food, such as bananas or sausage sandwiches.
- There was no information that electronic devices can be stored. Would have been helpful if that information would have been passed to the candidates.
- It was hard for me to hear and understand announcements, this may be due to the acoustics in the building.
- Unfortunately no signs directing from Metro station to examination centre
- There was rather bad air within the examination hall.
- A water dispenser would be appropriate outside of the examination wall.
- tables were too small.
- more space would be nice
- Re-runners seem to sit close to each other in one part of the hall. This is discriminating for faces can be remembered and associated with a previous failure.
- NO COMMENT
- People were genuinely kind and helpful
- Please provide more space between neighboring tables.
- For smaller people the table height was not optimal- too high
- WCs were not so clean
- tables are too small
- Excellent. Much better than Birmingham where I previously sat the EQE. Very efficient and we'll run providing a good hassle free environment to take the examination. Very good job by all.
- It was not possible to see a clock from my position. Given that the ability to do the exam under extreme pressure, it is imperative that the exam hall should have a clock, should someone forget to bring one - or should it fail during the exam.
- Where are the clocks? Electronic devices are banned, do no watches permitted unless they are clockwork.
I also never sat an exam in my life where there were no clocks in the hall
- As digital watches or smartphones are not allowed, it would be appreciated to have a common station clock in the hall to help the candidates to watch their time. In the oral proceedings auditorium in Rijswijk there was one.
- I knew that it will be a big hall, so I dressed warmer to not get cold, while sitting all day.

- It was fine. I appreciated having individual tables as desks because it gave us adequate space and also was easier as a left-handed person.
- tables were a little bit too close to each other
- it was freezing cold!
- Access by public transport rather bothersome considering the distance to the subway station.
- There are not adequate seating arrangements outside the examination hall, the examination hall should be opened at least 1 hour prior to exam start and should remain open for candidates to sit in during the break between paper A and paper B if they so choose.
- Toilet facilities in the hall are borderline. Not all the hall was used. Would it be possible to space the tables out a bit more? Would it be possible to put up a few more clocks, or at least make the few there a bit more visible?
- The chair was very uncomfortable
- Good!
- - one warning signal 5 min before end is not sufficient. Two signals - 15 min and 5 would be more useful
- we need more time!
- The space on the table is very limited, and if you are seated in a middle row with people left and right, it is hard to concentrate because of the noise and movement left and right. Considering there were so many empty tables, it would be much better to leave an empty table in the middle. I felt really disadvantaged because of this.
- examination hall was very comfortable, so have no additional comments.
- Due to the bad weather (snow), the start of the examination of paper D was postponed by 8 minutes.
No indication of the length of the postponement was however made, which I've regretted since it could not be evaluated whether enough time was at disposal for instance to go to the toilets or to go and take a coffee from the machine outside.
Furthermore it started 8 minutes after the planned time : I've regretted that it was not a round time like 10 minutes which would have made the calculation of the time spent on each question easier and equivalent to a start at 9:30. One of the challenges of part D of the examination lies in the time management...
- Größere Tische bzw. seitliche Beistelltische wären wünschenswert.
Eine Möglichkeit, Tee oder Kaffee und belegte Semmeln und andere Snacks direkt vor Ort zu kaufen wäre schön (z.B. im Foyer vor der Prüfungshalle).
Das Verbot, Handys selbst im ausgeschalteten Zustand und in der Jackentasche verstaut mit in den Raum zu nehmen, ist überflüssig. Ein Verbot, solche Geräte zu benutzen, würde genügen.
Die Aussage "digitale Uhren und Wecker" seien nicht erlaubt ist uneindeutig. Es ist unklar, ob damit alle Wecker oder nur digitale Wecker untersagt sind. Und ein Verbot analoger Wecker bzw. Tischuhren bei gleichzeitiger Genehmigung analoger Armbanduhren bedürfte zumindest einer Erklärung.
- Very convenient to reach by car

- - between A and B exam some air should have been let in...
- it would be great if beverages could be purchased in the examination hall (maybe not during the exam but e.g. between A and B)
- the chairs were very uncomfortable
- from seats like mine (far end of hall away from the toilets) it took at least 1 whole minute to reach the toilets, summing up to about 4 or five minutes per visit (which is a lot if time is too short anyway)
- Restrooms were dirty and too crowded (too small for the attendance)
- The hall temperature, in my opinion, was not drastically too cold, but significantly colder than ideal.
- The examination hall in MOC is a little bit too large.
- It would have helped a lot if I would have known that we could leave our electronic appliances (mobile phones) outside the hall in a guarded area. Since I didn't know (and because of the very strict rule on electronic appliances) I had to leave my mobile in a hotel and make a detour to the hotel before going back to the airport after the exam.
- Spacing between the each row of tables and between the tables themselves was again very less. There was enough place in the hall for a more generous spacing of the rows of tables. It is hard for someone from the middle to walk to the restroom without disturbing the others, especially when lot of space is taken up by trolleys around the students.
- Der Stuhl war so unbequem, dass man beim Sitzen verkrampft ist, was die Handschrift negativ beeinflusst hat. Stuhl zu hoch für kleinere Personen, schlechte Sitzhaltung, Rücken- und Nackenprobleme durch das Sitzen auf den Stühlen. Stuhlbein klemmte an Eisenplatte im Boden fest, keine Beweglichkeit. Licht zu grell. Andere Teilnehmer zu laut.
- The rest room facilities are totally inadequate. Not enough. No towels to dry washed hands.
- I did not see a buffet or cafe, but perhaps I hadn't time to find it.
- No chance to have a look at the clocks inside the hall.
- Only by car easy to reach. If coming with car more than enough parking space, which is, however, quite expensive
- although still rated "ideal" it could have been somewhat warmer; from time to time I felt a cold blast from the air condition or from a window
- expensive parking... 8-10€
cold
stupid point system
- When I sit directly on the chair, the table is too high. It took me two cushions and a sweater (on the chair) to adjust the height. The chairs should be higher/adjustable (or the tables should be lower).
- Getting a taxi after the exam is not easy ... there is no taxi stand close by and no one to ask.
- better chairs, the chairs are suitable for a congress but are not suitable for writing an exam
- Table should be bigger. Since it was snowing on that day, it was difficult to carry the luggage full of books from the U-Bahn station to the MOC.

- There was so much space in A and B that the space in the between people could have easily been increased considerably.

This would have provided for a much quieter immediate environment of candidates.

- Larger table would be welcome

- The restroom was very far from my seat, which I considered to be a good thing, because it kept the distraction level at my seat to a minimum and gave me a chance to move my legs when necessary.

- The temperature in the hall too cold.

The tables could be bigger, the place on the tables is too less.

- none

- U bahn was delayed on February 29, 2016. This is the reason why the accessibility was so bad.

- Unfortunately, I couldn't really look at a clock. There were clocks, but they were far away. But next time i will bring my wristwatch

- I liked the conditions, maybe more available trash bins would be nice.

- I prefer the hall to be much smaller. In this way the distance to the restrooms is much smaller, too.

- former enumeration with blocks A, B and C + seat numer was better.

- It felt very impersonal to sit with over 500 people in a large fairy building. The temperature was way to low and the noise is too high. Smaller rooms would be much more appreciated

- The examination hall was very, very cold. I couldn't feel my fingers after a while.

- A vending machine would be nice, in case of need, for extra food or water.

- I couldn't feel my fingers after a while, because of the low temperature.

- The way to the Restrooms was to far!

- Nicht genug für jedermann sichtbare Uhren in der Halle,so dass man auf seine persönliche analoge Uhr angewiesen war. Mit der zunehmenden Digitalisierung (dir wenigsten Leute haben noch alte Uhren) und dem Bann elektronischer Geräte wird es dadurch aber problematisch den Überblick über die Zeit zu behalten.

- Distance between participants and/or number of supervisors is/are to small because some neighbors try to exchange information. Fairness cannot be guaranteed.

- A night before the exam I realized that I had forgotten my watch and I was in panic. The one in hall was barely visible from my seat.

Is it such a huge effort to provide a clock (or clocks) that is visible from all seats? Time management is so crucial during the exam and there are so many restrictions about what we can have during the exam with us.

- may be it is better to have a chance for participants to buy beverage or snack during the examination.

- In part c, my neighbour holepunched all documents and attached them into a Leitz-binder. The constant flipping of the pages in this binder made a very annoying sound. Maybe it is a good idea to recommend signature folders to separate the documents without actually attaching them into a binder and instead prohibit binders in the exam, just as staplers are prohibited due to their noise.

- It would be nice when the restrooms would be reachable by all candidates in a comparable time.

- Since I sat the pre-examination for the first time, I was worried about a lot of things, such as how would I get to the MOC Center, how would I drop my mobile phone (which I took with me) to a box before the exam, how would I identify myself as a candidate, whether I would have enough room for all my books, or whether I would not be uncomfortable during the exam because of local conditions.

At the end, none of the above was an issue. At least, I don't remember any problems. The organization seemed quite flawless, as far as I was able to register it under the stress.

One thing I remember might have created some confusion was that there was probably one restroom outside the examination hall and at least one another somewhere inside. I used the restroom outside the hall when I came to the MOC and at that time, I thought it was the only one. I didn't have time to use any restroom during the course of the exam, but I guess that if I would have time, I would most probably try to get out of the hall to the only restroom I knew about at that time (and I would probably not be allowed to do that). However, when the exam ended, I noticed plenty of signs pointing to the other restroom(s) inside the hall. So I guess, this was just me overlooking the signs at the first place.

- I had to put on my winter jacket because it was so freezing cold. I was shaking. It needs to be warmer.

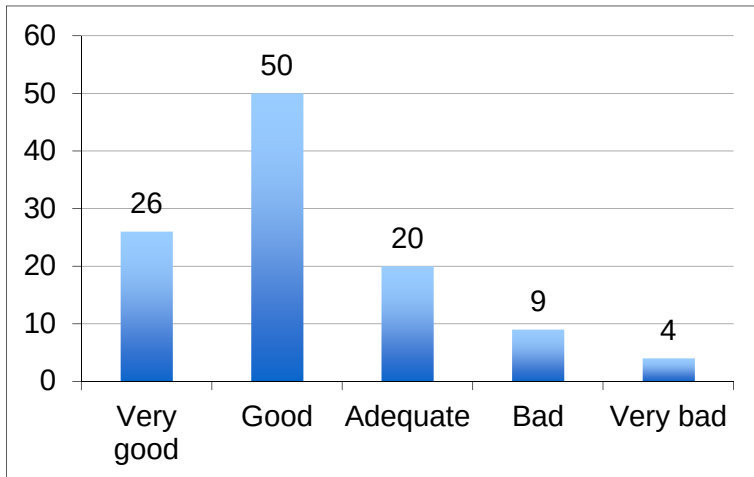
- The only thing was, that the hall was a little bit cold. At the end of the examination my feet were cold.

- Due to the big size of the hall the atmosphere is not so good, it doesn't help to concentrate. Also the clock cannot be seen easily from every seat. As timing is essential for this exam, participants should be allowed to bring their own clock with large digital digits - I don't see any use in forbidding it.

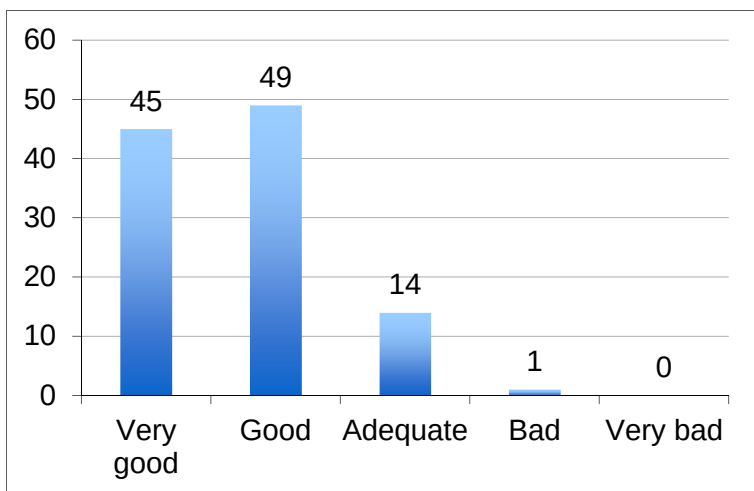
1.8 Paris (109 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

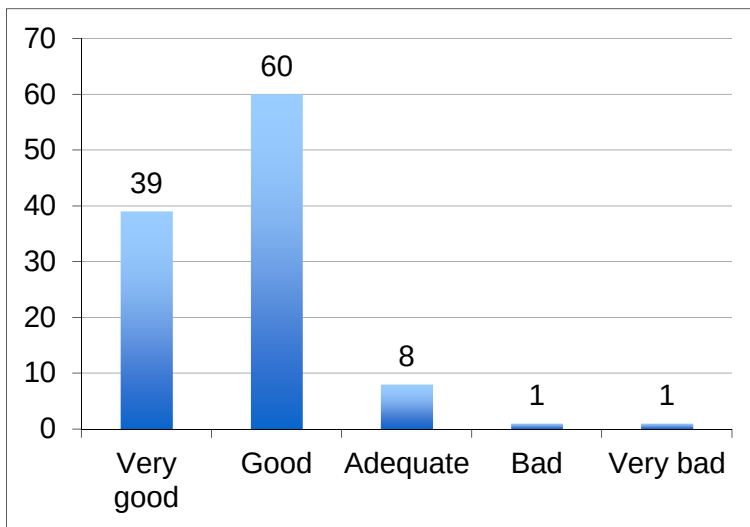
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



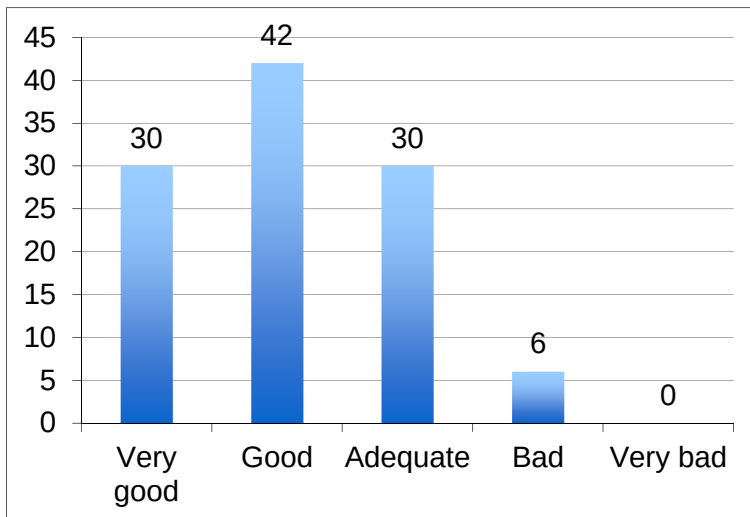
Identification check



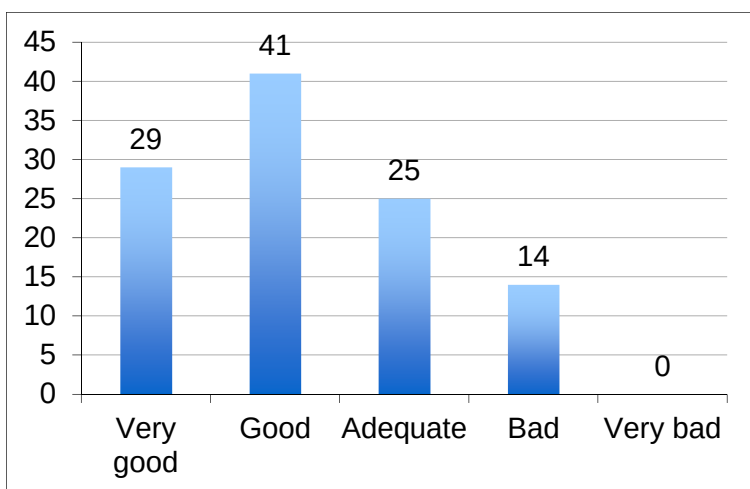
Lighting conditions



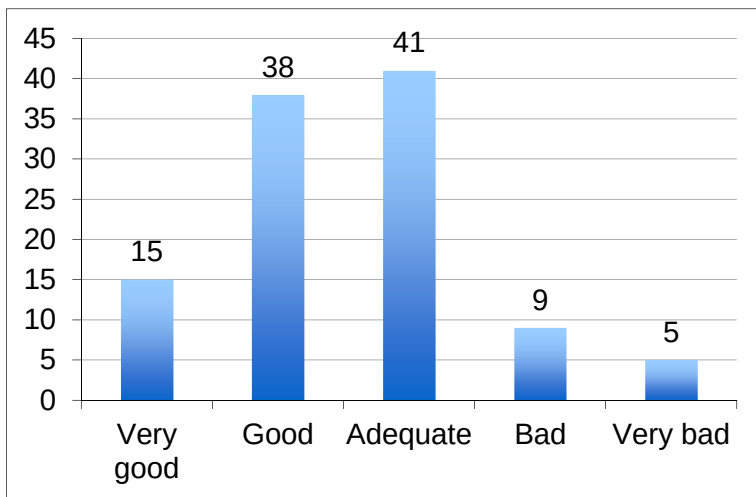
Space for candidates



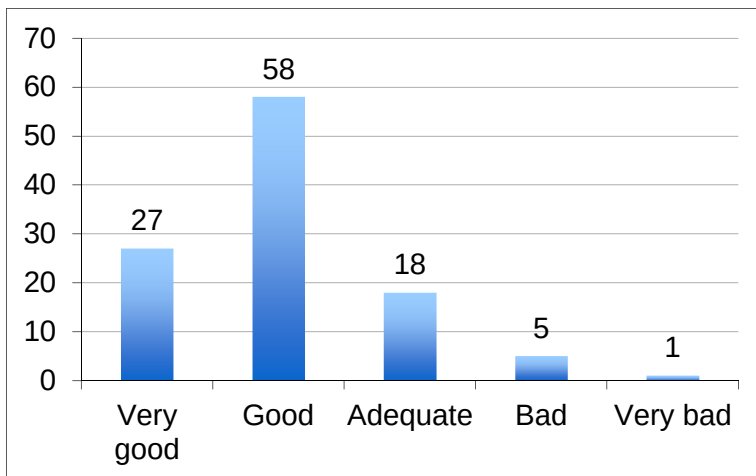
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



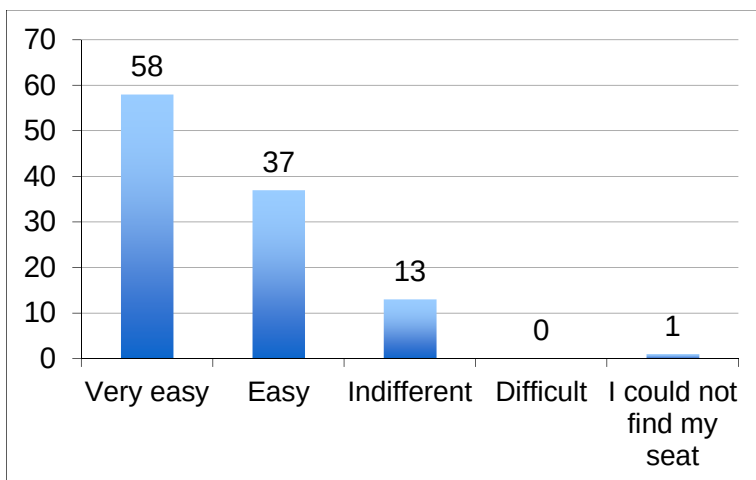
Restroom facilities



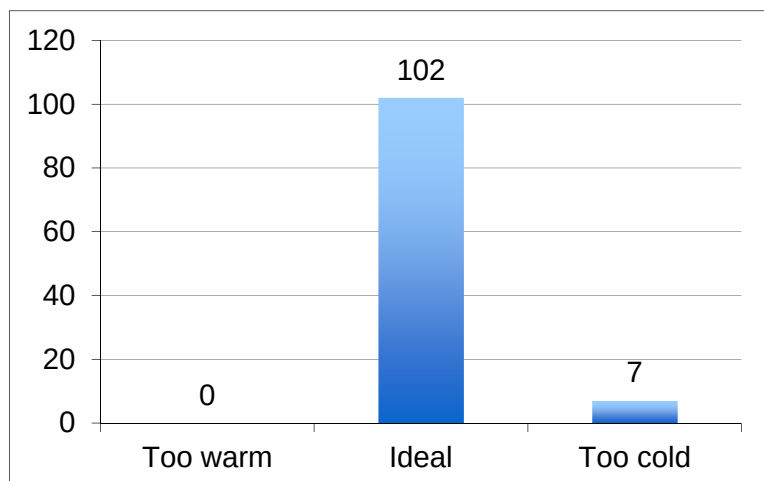
Suitability of the examination hall



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.

Depending on the seats, it could be difficult to clearly see the clocks if seated at an extremity and the clock being in the center, and the other ones too far

- Not easily accessible and very good
- Not in the best location, regarding public transportation
- Mieux si cela peut être dans le centre de Paris, cela éviterait le stress des transports (la ligne 13 a presque tous les jours des problèmes) ou véhicule (nombreux bouchons sur cette zone le matin)
- Avoir centre dans Paris, éviterait d'arriver très tôt pour palier à des problèmes de transport (la ligne 13 à des problèmes presque quotidiennement) ou de véhicule (nombreux bouchons le matin dans cette zone)
- Too many people at the same time in the same room
- very very dark if you do not seat near a window; next time i ll bring a lamp !!!
- the examination center is far away from the subway, moreover this place is poorly-served by the public transportation, only one subway line and one of the worst in Ile-de-France...
- Il est scandaleux d'imposer aux candidats d'aller à Saint-Ouen les jours d'examen : Loin de Paris, mal desservi, glauque et mal famé. Arriver stressé et en sueur à cause de la ligne 13 du métro est une expérience très dispensable.
- Toilets too small
- A centre in Paris (not in suburban) would be better.
- Candidates have complained year after year about in particular toilet facilities, yet nothing has changed. Why have is full a survey if even completely legitimate complaints are blatantly ignored??
- The 'Paris' examination centre is not in Paris. It is actually located in a remote and somewhat hard to reach suburb north of Paris, a truly ghastly place where it is easier to find drug dealers

than decent restaurants. Otherwise the examination hall in itself was very good : well lit, lots of space, very quiet. Everything was well organized and the invigilators were quite professional.

- Exam center itself is acceptable, but it's not particularly easy to get to by transit, nor is there much parking.

- Examination center too far from the center of Paris

- I was in the back of the room, and I didn't hear at all recommendations of invigilators.

- No room opened before the exam to stay, read.....whatever the reading.

- bonsoir,

j 'avais la place numéro 95, donc le dernier siège. J'ai été dérangé par votre surveillant qui c'était mis face à moi sur une chaise. Il n 'arretait pas de taper des pieds ou de tourner ses pages. Ensuite il n 'arretait pas de tourner derrière moi, j 'entendais ses pas. Il m ' a beaucoup gêné, et m' a déconcentré à plusieurs reprises, je ne pouvais pas parler pour respecter les autres. Enfin son comportement à surpris certains examinateur.

Good evening, I had the place number 95, so the last seat. I was disturbed by your supervisor that it was put in front of me on a chair. It does not stop to stomp or turn its pages. Then it does not stop to turn and walk behind me, I heard, turn its pages. I was the last I thought was quiet.r, and m 'has distracted many times, I do not speak pouvias to respect others. Finally his little games to surprise some examiner.

- Saint Ouen is not the most pleasant place to go. Metro 13 is always crowded even on the middle of the afternoon

- pour le prochain examen, demander aux personnes surveillant de ne pas chuchoter ou faire du bruit en utilisant leur ordinateurs. J'ai trouvé cela particulièrement disrespectueux vis à vis des personnes passant l'examen (et essayant de se concentrer)

- Very very bad location,
difficult to access by public transport, while we are heavily loaded
unattractive neighborhood

- Bad location, not accessible easily

- it would be much easier if the examination center were really in Paris and not on a crazy metro line like the 13 !

- The examination center is too far from Paris city center and so too far from the train stations, etc.

- Clock in the room is a good idea

- The examination center is not in "Paris" but in a suburb which not of the easiest access.

- I sat the pre-exam in Paris. The hall was on the chilly side during the first hour - don't forget to bring a sweater! - but then became pleasantly warm. Actually, the hall was even a little on the hot side during the final hour, which is unsurprising, given how many of us there were inside!

- The center is quite outside of Paris in a quite non-appropriate district.

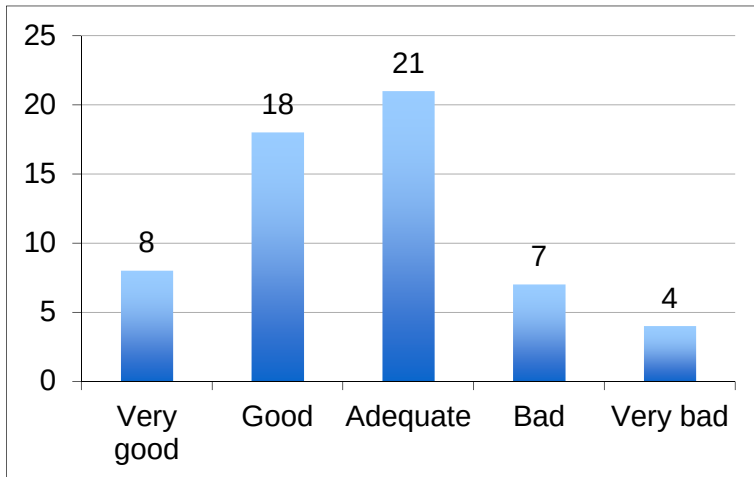
- The "Paris" examination is not centrally located and poorly accessible by public transportation. The area offers very few restaurants choices, if any.

- My table was making noise when I was writing, It was very disturbing for me and for my neighbors.
- I don't like the fact that I don't have a copy of my exam responses.
- The light was not very good.

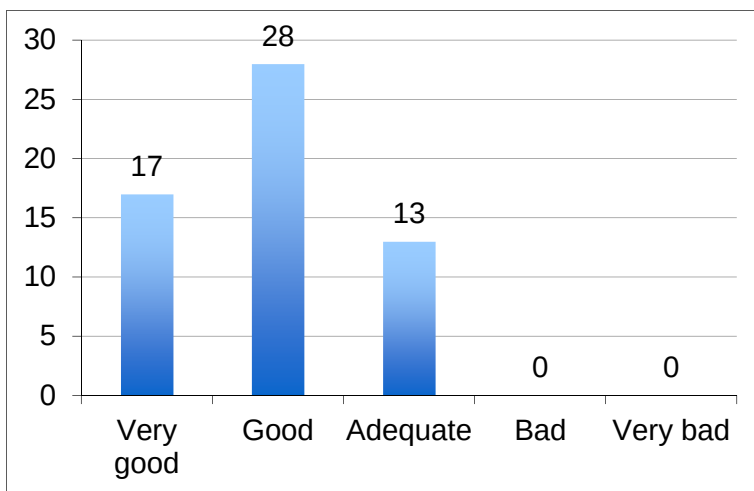
1.9 Rome (58 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

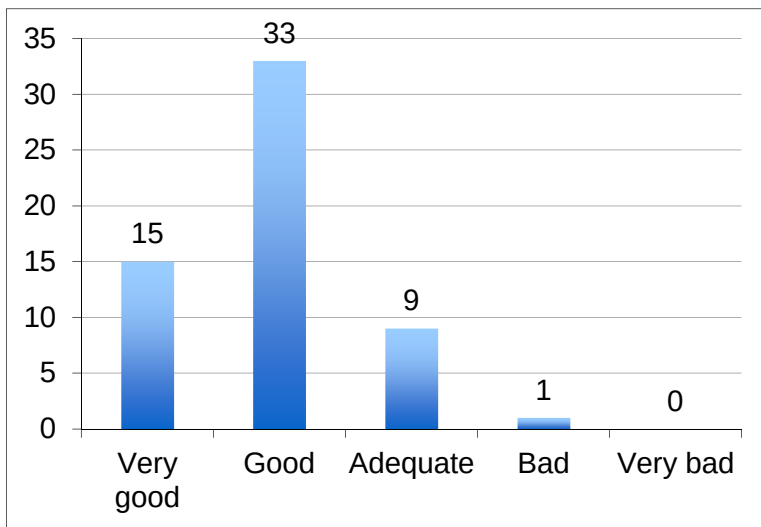
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



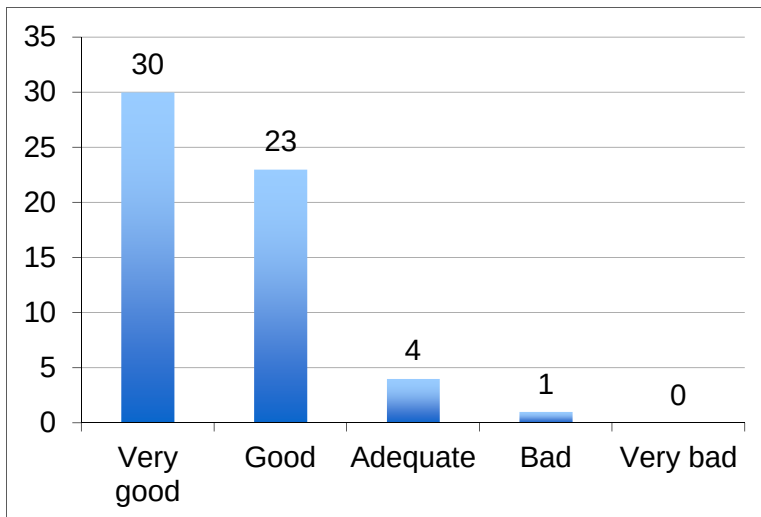
Identification check



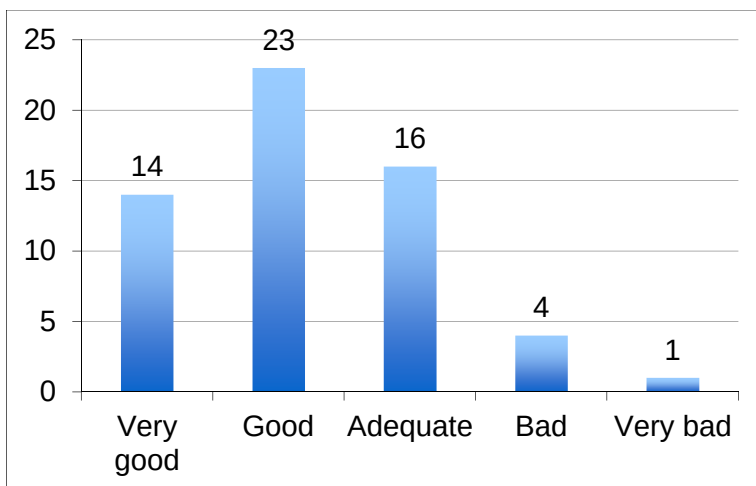
Lighting conditions



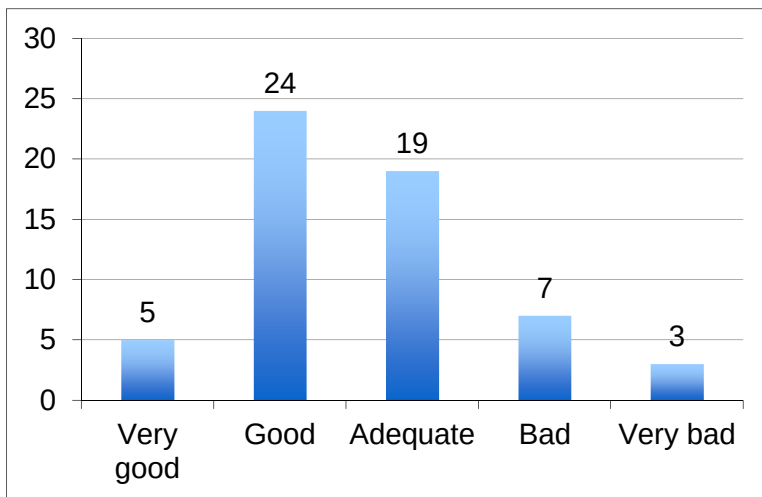
Space for candidates



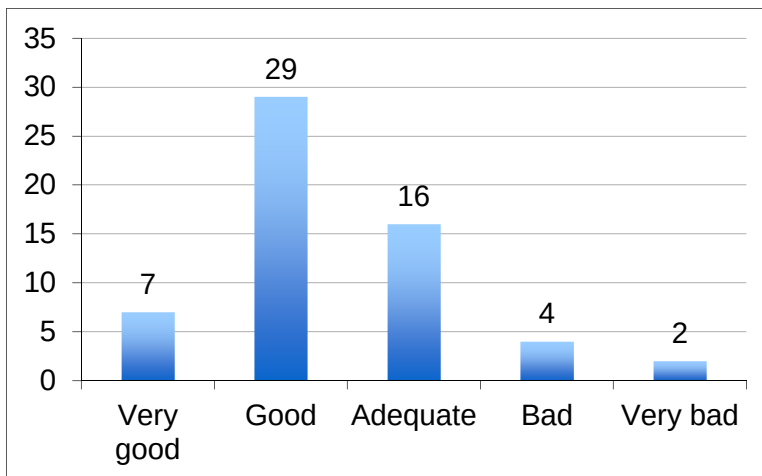
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



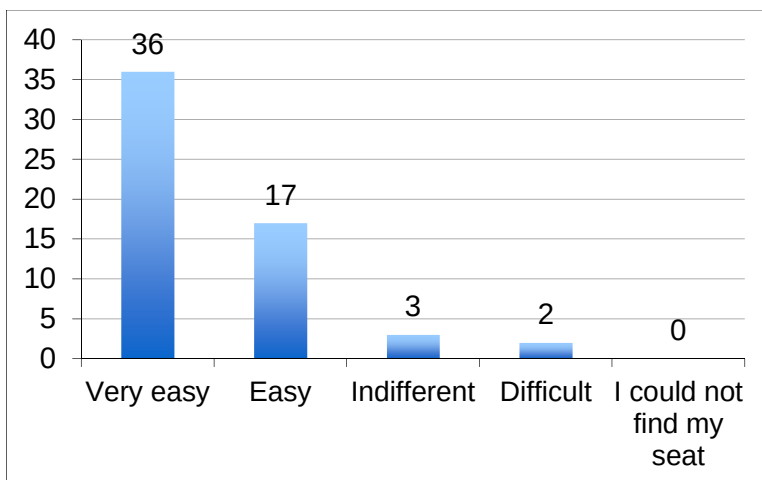
Restroom facilities



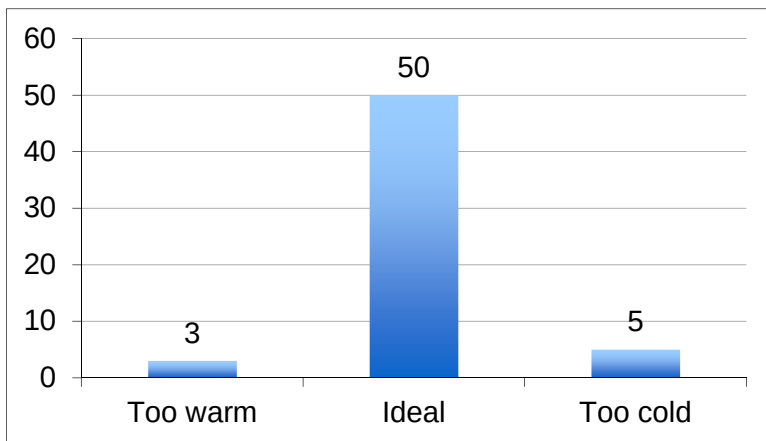
Suitability of the examination hall



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.

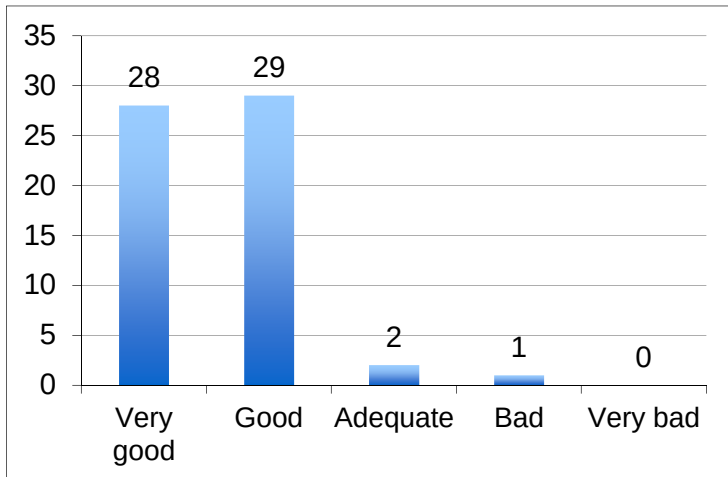
- Some strange background noise, perhaps coming from the speakers, caused a bit of loss of concentration.
- My hands were very cold during the exam.
- three mandatory flights of stairs
- The hall is three or two (I don't remember) floors downstairs. No elevator is present and the candidates had to bring luggages full of books, on six or four (I don't remember) flights of stairs.
- As for previous years the main problem with examination hall of Rome is stairs. No elevator is present and it is really hard to go down (and then up again) with a bag full of books.
- Too many stairs, not suitable for wheelchairs, not very easy to access with heavy bags containing books for the exams
- Very dirty, particularly the bathroom
- Question 1 is not clear. I sit this year paper A+B for the first time; but last year i sit the pre-examination.
- no further comments
- The hall was even too big compared to the number of attendants. Being in the last rows, it was quite difficult to hear the supervisor's instructions.
The heating system was quite noisy.
Despite that, there was a lot of room for each candidate.
- The ventilation system was noisy.
All the soap dispensers in the the men restroom were empty. This may lead to waste of time during examination.
- Improve the correspondence between the marked place on the admission letter and the marked place on the seat in the examination hall
- no facilities for people arriving earlier, no chairs, no refreshment etc.

- As far as I am concerned, the fact that there are two flight of stairs to reach the hall and that there is no elevator is the sole discomfort, as candidates bring along luggages with quite heavy books.
- One day there was a problem with the acoustic system and a noise in the background

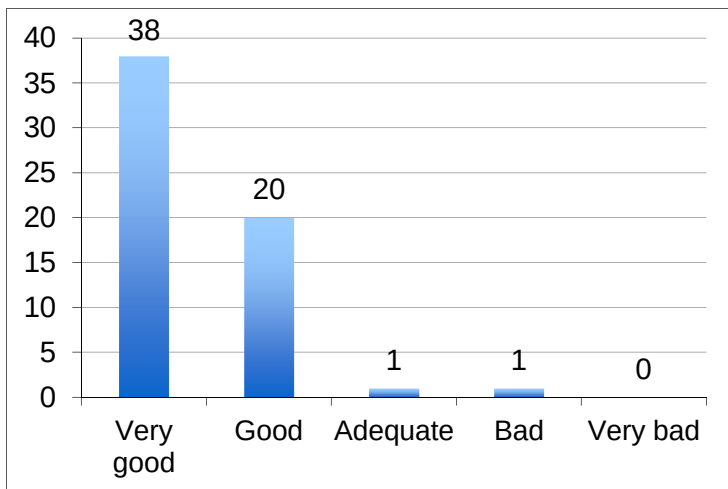
1.10 Stockholm (60 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

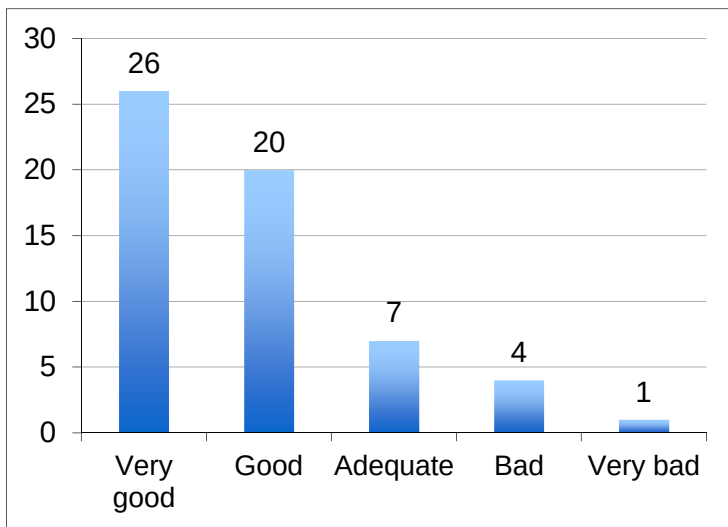
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



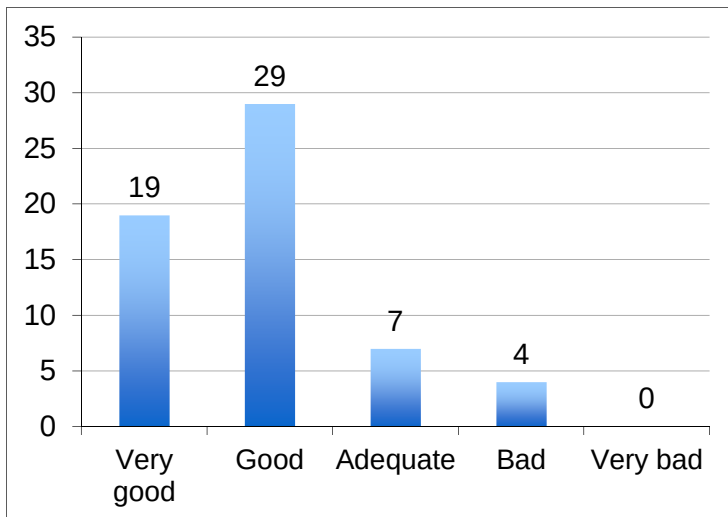
Identification check



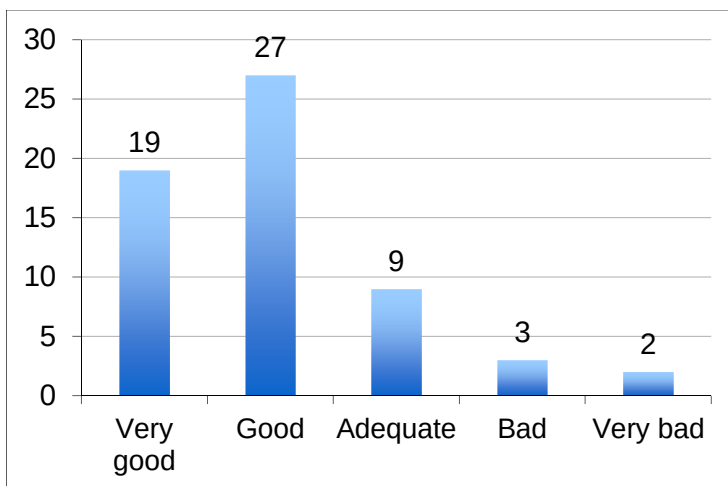
Lighting conditions



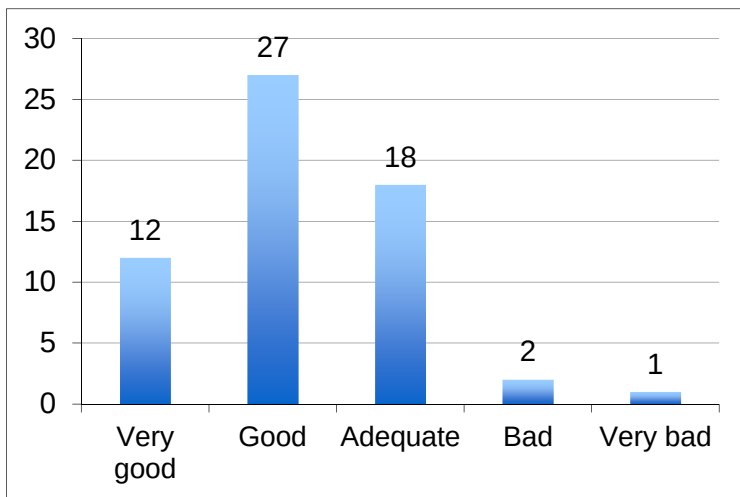
Space for candidates



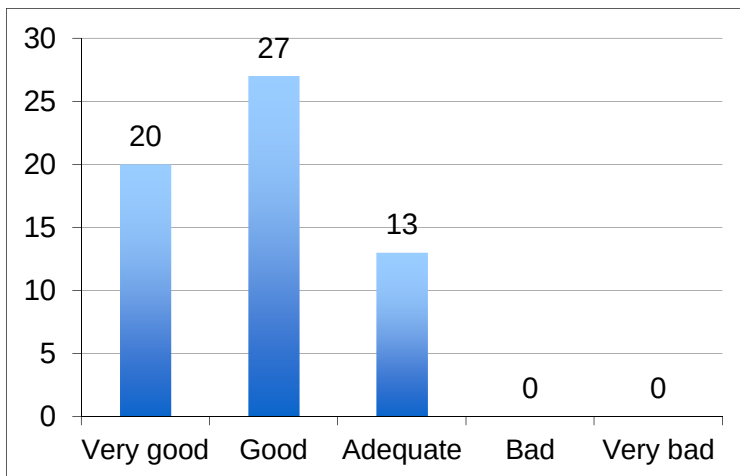
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



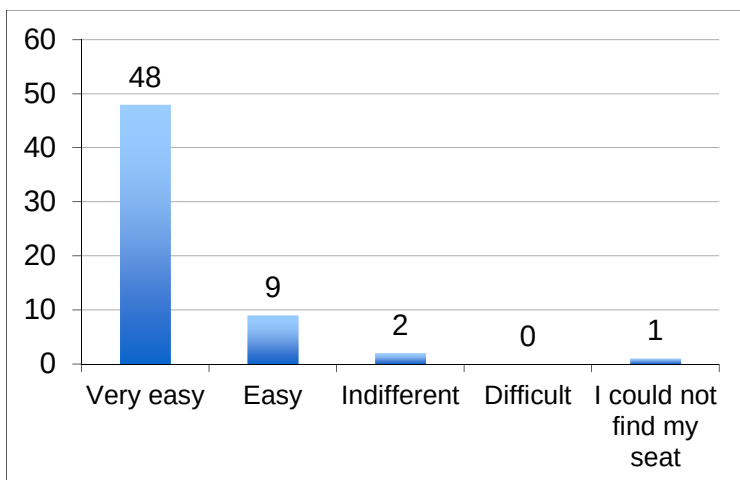
Restroom facilities



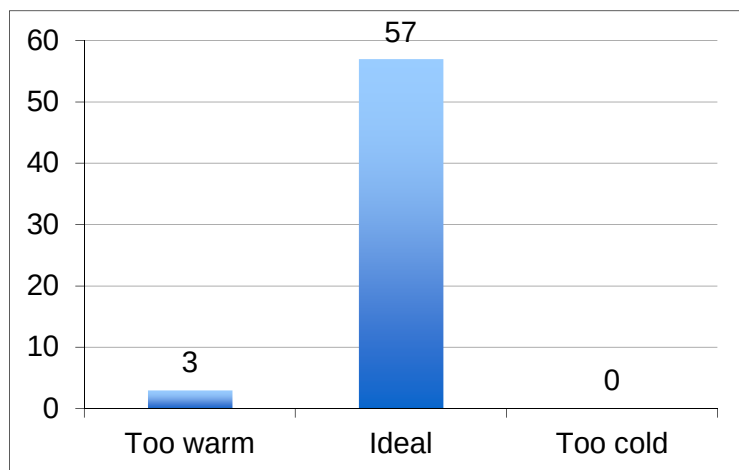
Suitability of the examination hall



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.

Noise fr.o.m. Outside the room

- Just as last year, the information given at the examination center differerad from the information provided by the EPO (such as regarding Electronic devices etc). I do Think the examination center handles this issue much better and realistically than EPO, since many people have to travel far for the examination.

- Very nonchalant behaviour from (some) examiner supervisors. Many of us asked for extra papers before sitting the D exam, but we were denied. I has to ask for more papers 4(!) times during the exam which of course takes time and focus from the exam. We do not need that kind of distraction. The pressure when sitting the exam (more the pressure than that the exams are hard actually) is sufficient as it is. Big disappointment. Next time I will, if possible, avoid sitting the exam at PRV in Stockholm.

- Sitting next to blinking lights for 4 hours is not ideal.

- I sat beside one of the walls. Upwardly directed lamps were positioned on the wall and just above the floor. These lamps did not function as they should and blinked all four hours the test continued. Very irritating.

It was very hard to hear what the invigilator said. She spoke silent and the accustics of the room consumed her voice.

- It would be better to have a wall without the need to use stairs, for example a hall which could be reached by elevator.

In the hall there was a constantly whining sound from the ventilation system or some untightened windows. This is very irritating when trying to concentrate.

- I was in the small hall in Stockholm. I think that they may have been quite different.

- First a comment to Q1 above. If you include the pre-exam with the "EQE" reference, then no, this is not the first time I participate.

Regarding acoustic conditions: To my utter amazement, coffee machines in the very examination hall were being serviced DURING the exam, causing loud ratteling, and repeated, persistant high pitch beeps. It also caused commotion, as the servicing person was asked to

discontinue the servicing, but, as far as I understood, ignored this request. At least the beeping and rattling continued well after this.

I should point out that I was wearing high-attenuation Peltor ear-cups, and I was still disturbed.

Also, somebody's phone started to ring during the exam. It just wouldn't stop. Please make people turn off their phones, or have the phone box placed out of hearing range from the examination hall.

The timing of the identification check is quite inappropriate, and makes the check unnecessarily disturbing. It could have just as well been made prior to the exam. Instead, I was interrupted in the middle of wrapping my head around the DII-case, and asked to turn my face to the invigilator.

Lastly, thank you so very much for providing adequate lighting. I was seated by a desk at the far corner under the pitched ceiling. While seated, my body blocked the light from the main ceiling, but with the extra lamps this was not a problem at all.

- Table space was too limited

- Nothing in particular. It was good.

- PRV is good situated in Stockholm, easy to travel to, both for Stockholmers and for them from the countryside. Two chairs instead of one at each table would be useful, one extra for placing books on as the you want to have a lot of reference literature with you.

- The tables were too small. It was difficult to organise the parts of the exam paper and the answer papers on the table such that they were not mixed. At the D-exam you also need books and binders on the table.

- Lighting was not sufficient to begin with. Apparently it was adjustable-should be set at optimum/lightest condition from start.

- Nothing more to add.

- There were two rooms for the examination in Stockholm. Last year when I sat the Pre-exam I had my desk in the "Canteen" room and the lighting conditions was not good. In the room I sat now the conditions were very good.

- My seat was in the back so it was very quiet and undisturbed, but i'm not sure that was the case for everyone, eg the one sitting next to the extra paper pile.

- The air was bad.

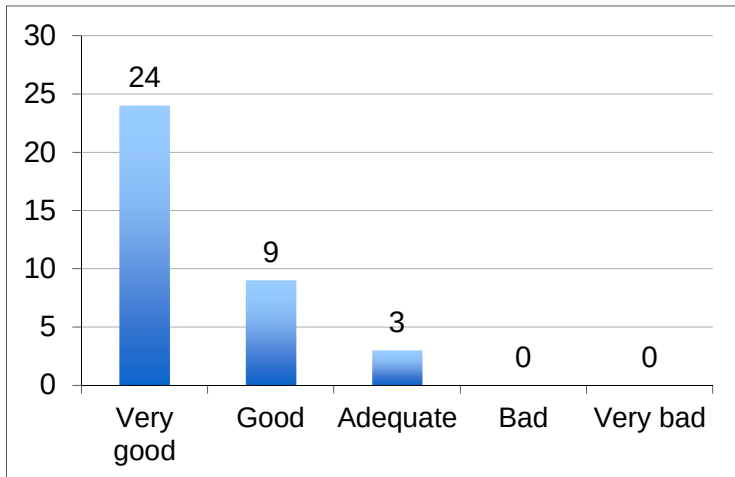
- One thing that irritated me was that people who had put their phones in an envelope and given it to the EPO-representatives had not turned their phones completely off, so there were frequent buzzing sounds from phones close to my desk.

Otherwise it was a pleasure to take the exam :-)

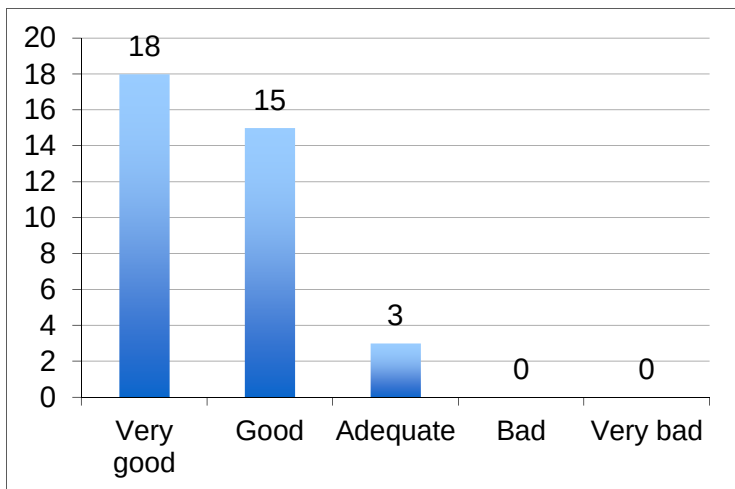
1.11 Taastrup (36 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

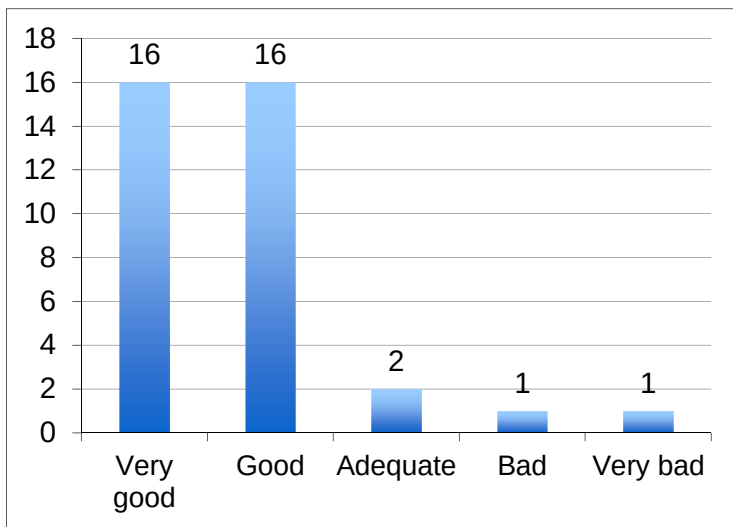
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



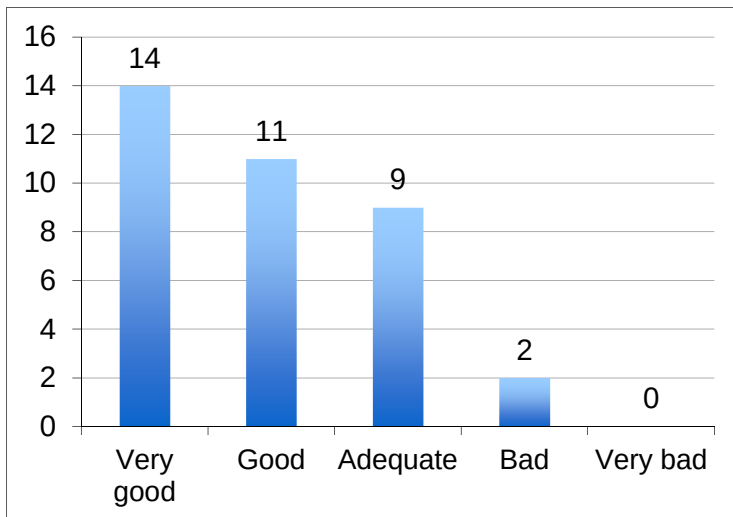
Identification check



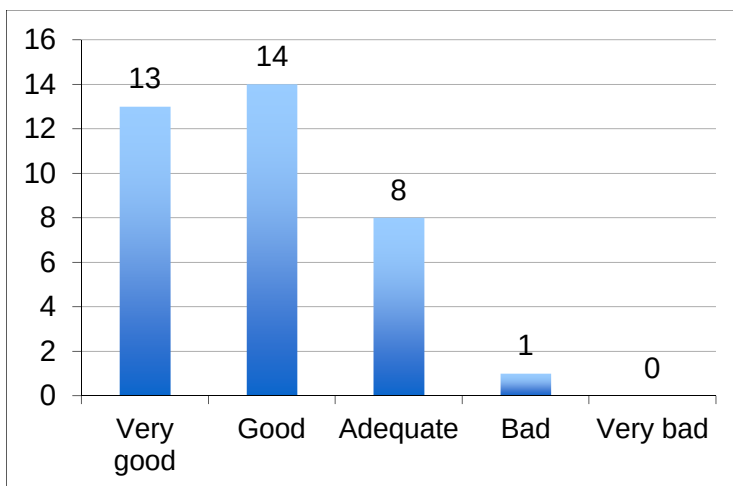
Lighting conditions



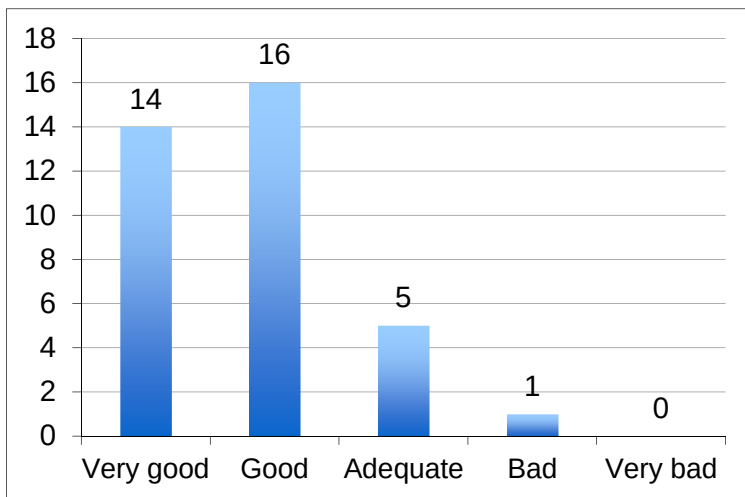
Space for candidates



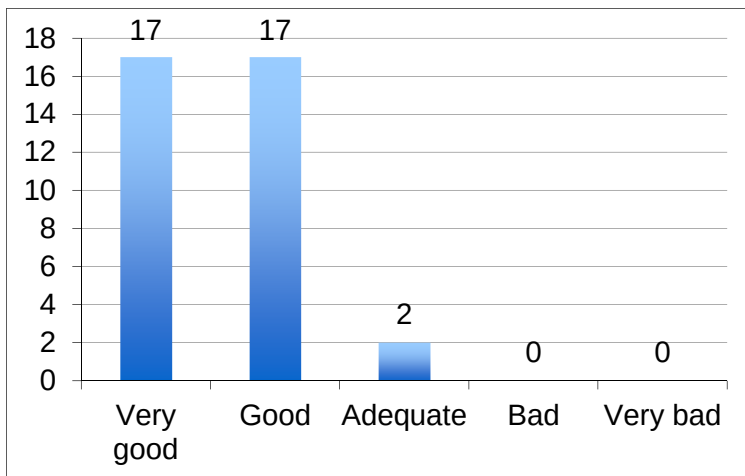
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



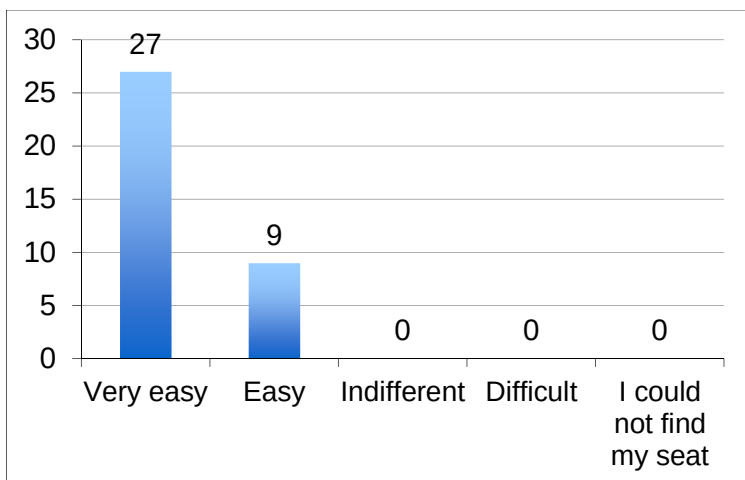
Restroom facilities



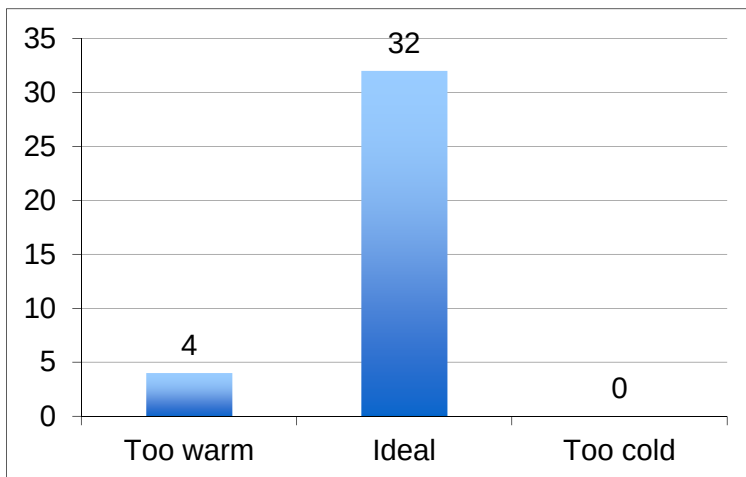
Suitability of the examination hall



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 person in charge of the exam plays of his iPad and does not pay attention when we request extra sheets for writing. I had to keep my hand up for 5 min and at the end I had to call sorry, even if I was sitting in the first row. I don't think that it is acceptable.

- Nice service! Candy, fruits, soda, and water were available. Very friendly staff, good atmosphere.

- Very nice place to sit the exam.

- The examination centre is very far away from the city centre making it difficult to access, but I can see that dkpto location is the most suitable to hold the examination.

- It is difficult to see the time wherever you sit - depends on if you are close enough.

- I have taken earlier EQE exams in Stockholm and Munich. This was miles better than any of them! In addition to the excellent physical conditions, the staff was very friendly and provided nice drinks and fruit, and created a very relaxed atmosphere that was a great counter to the stress of taking the exam. Inexpensive, good hotels were also available nearby, and it was easy getting to/from the airport, witch incidentally also is very good. I am recommending Taastrup as EQE examination center to all my colleges who are to take exams.

- Fix/improve the light in the sitting hall. It must be possible to owersteer the authomatic turning off of the light. Further I am happy that I was allowed to bring my own stand lamp. That helped.

- Perhaps a larger table, otherwise all was fine.

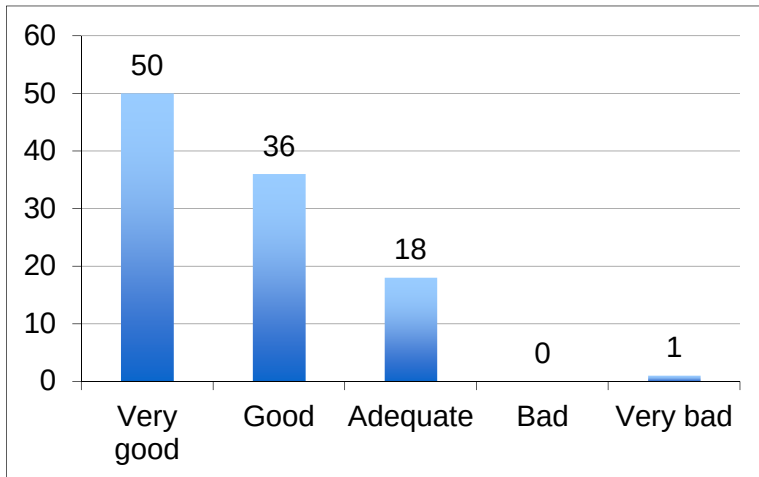
- I think the air conditioning (cooling) was a little too effective, i.e., it was a little chilly.

- Valuable time was lost trying to establish contact to the invigilators during the examination to require additional blank paper and permission to go to the restroom. The invigilators were either seated behind columns and thus invisible or absorbed in their reading.

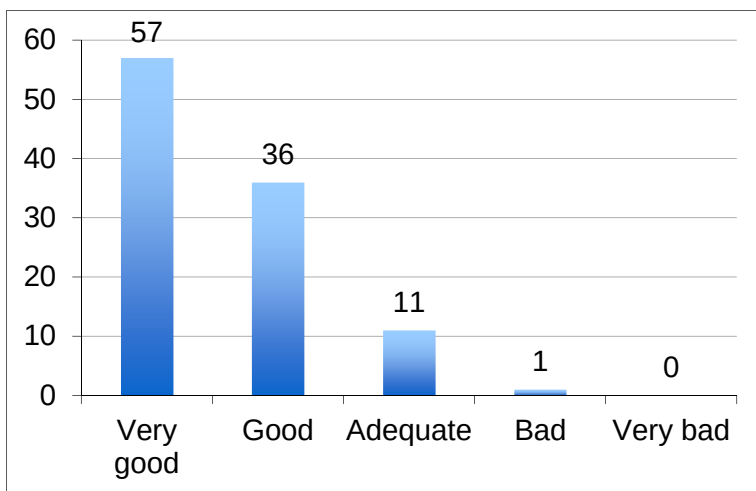
1.12 The Hague (105 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

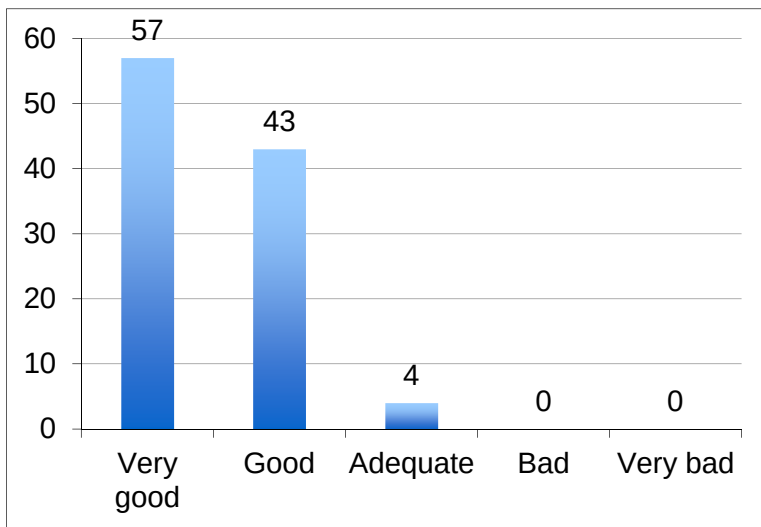
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



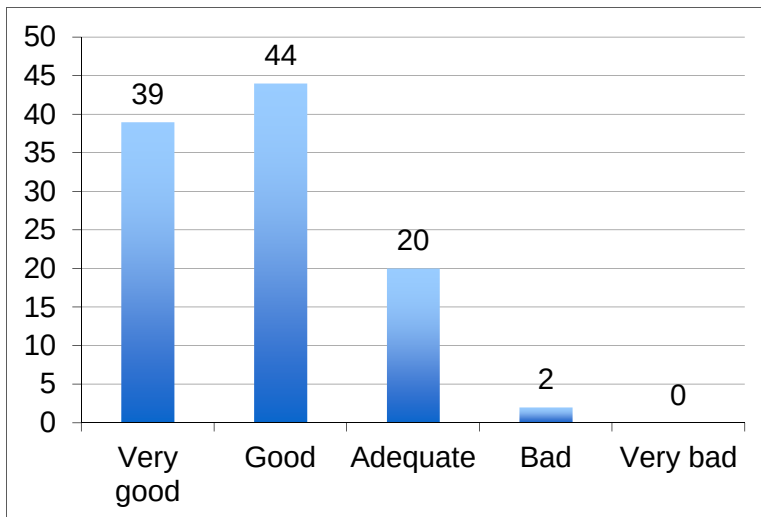
Identification check



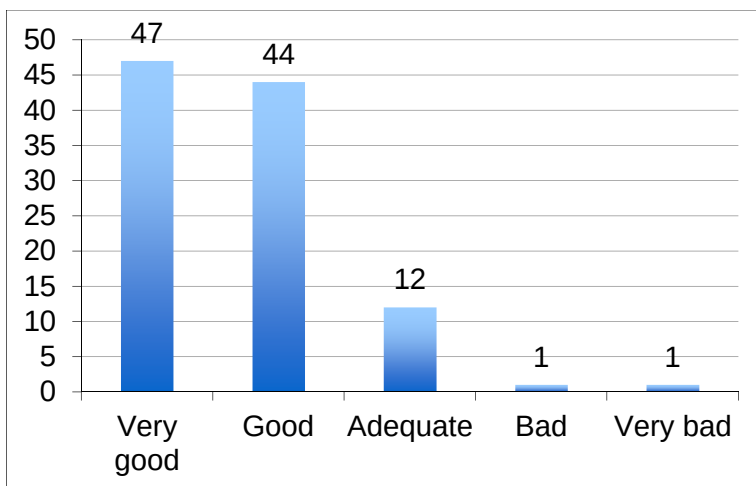
Lighting conditions



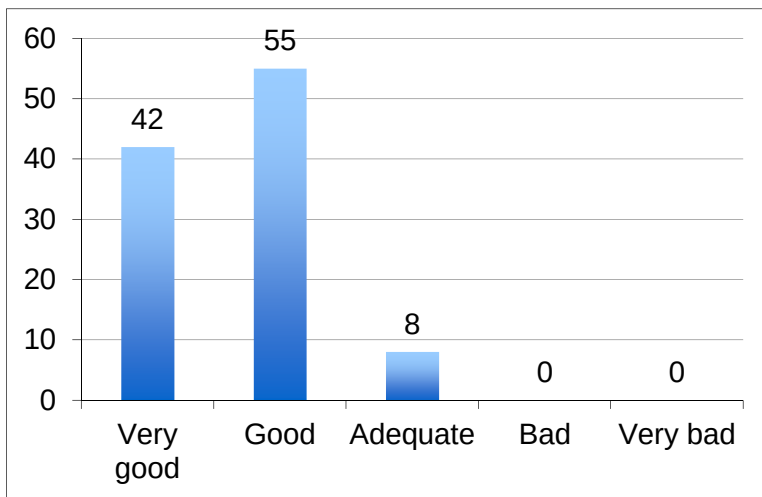
Space for candidates



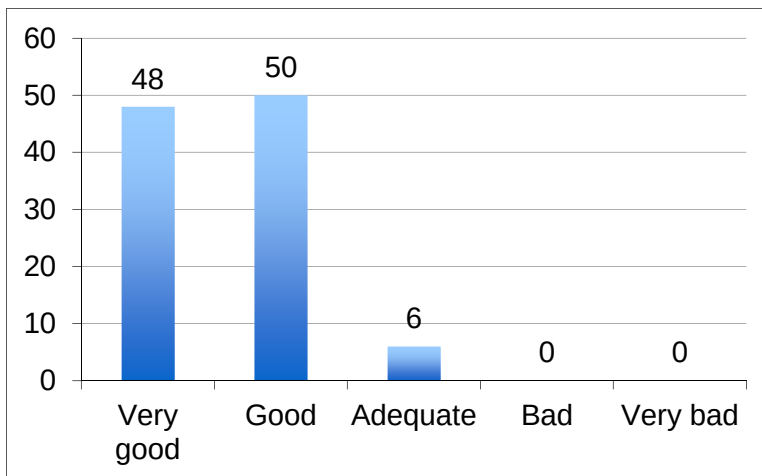
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



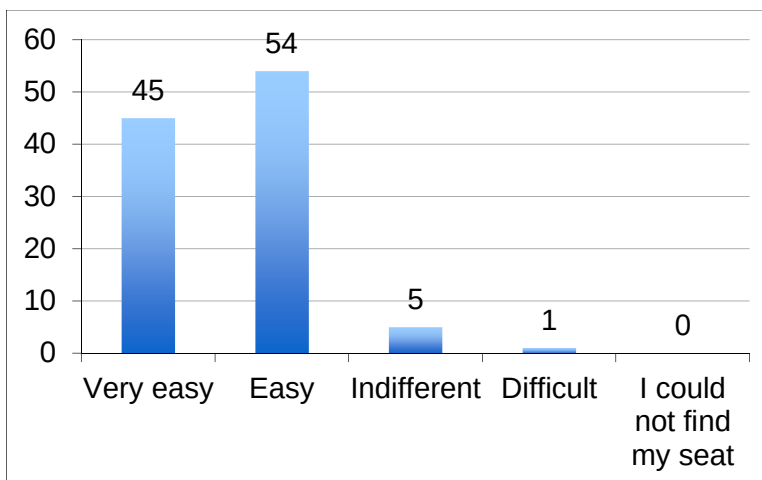
Restroom facilities



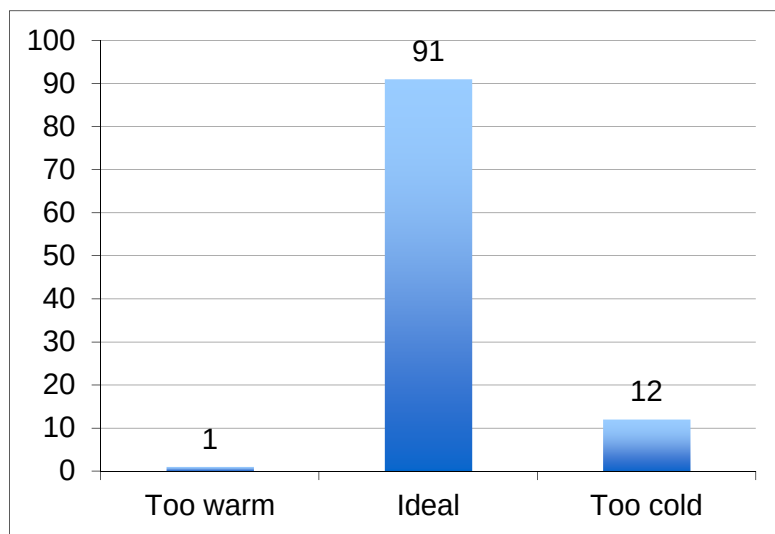
Suitability of the examination hall



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 temperature was just a bit too low.

I had an ideal seat in the front row before the desks, which was perfect. No distraction possible by anyone sitting in front of you.

- I don't think food should be allowed in the pre-exam without medical necessity. The test is not too long and it was very distracting when someone opened a bag of m&m's and started chomping down loudly right next to me.

- The English of one of the invigilator was very poor. He insisted to announce the last 5 minutes in the 3 languages which disturbed me, and the other candidates also.

- There should be a bit more room. I was lucky enough that one of my neighbours did not show up and I had more room to put my stuff. Otherwise it would have been too cramped. That is something that I do not need at an examination.

- it was strange that some rows in the auditorium had no seat numbers on them at all, while others were full with 5 numbers (and not a lot of space for the participants to put all their books etc.), and there were a few rows that had only 3 seats allowing a good deal of space for the participants. Next time, a more even distribution of seats throughout the auditorium should be considered. What I considered too small, at least for the literature-intensive exam D (and also for the pre-exam), were the desks in the centre of the auditorium. I was just lucky I didn't have to put up with one of them.

- The instructor's English was difficult to understand.

- Was seated next to the exit, where people kept passing by and it was rather cold and drafty. I would suggest leaving these spaces free for the next exam.

- toilet is quite some distance away when you want to be quickly back at your seat

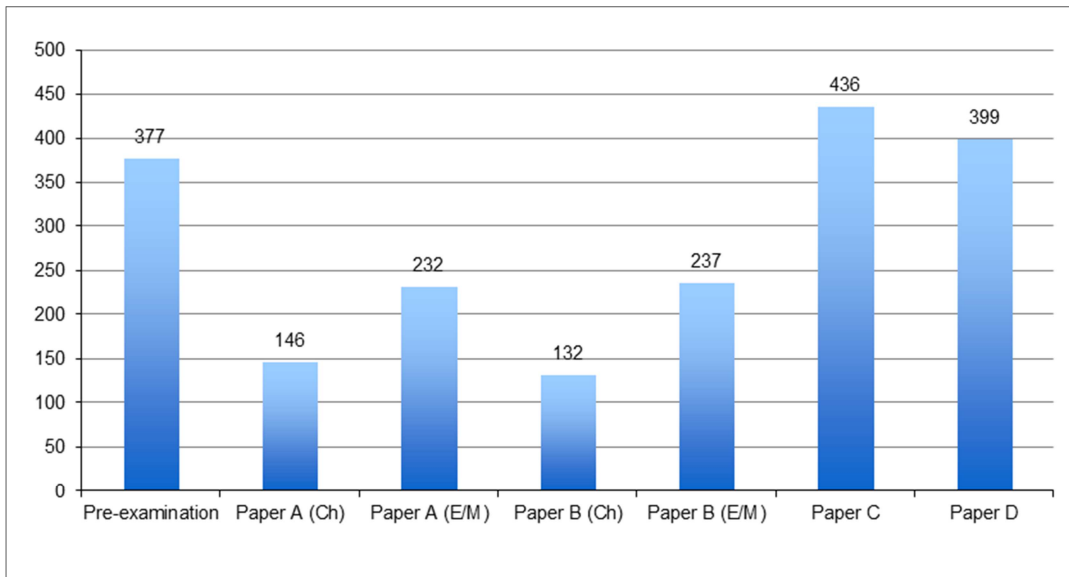
- It was a bit difficult to know which building to enter for the exam. I will point out that there is on-going construction, but perhaps notice of that, (and some indication of what parking lots were available) would have helped.

- When seating just above of an ventilation grid, it becomes very cold.

- I had a large table intended for conference participants, that was perfect.
The smaller tables in the central part of the hall seemed small though, and they were all used while many conference tables were empty. It seems more participants could have had good places easily.
- I found everything ideal.
- Some confusion about whether or not it was allowed to leave the room when finished. Better to have a clear rule and communicate it at the start. I had to leave early for family reasons.
- I had a seat in the middle of the hall on a separate table. I found it a little bit too small compared to the seat around the hall's perimeter. Last year at pre-EQE sitting i had one of the seats at the perimeter and it had more room for my papers.

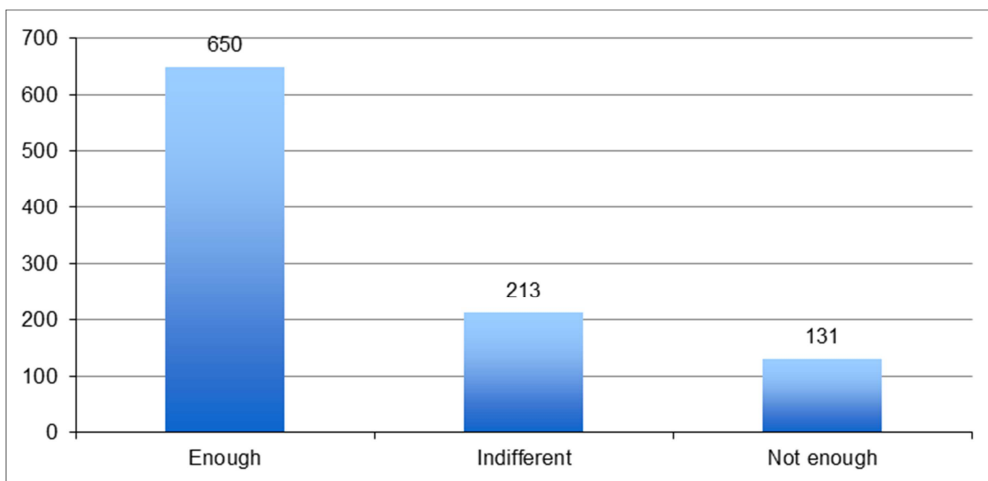
Chapter 2 - Preparation for the EQE

Q7) Which examination papers did you sit?

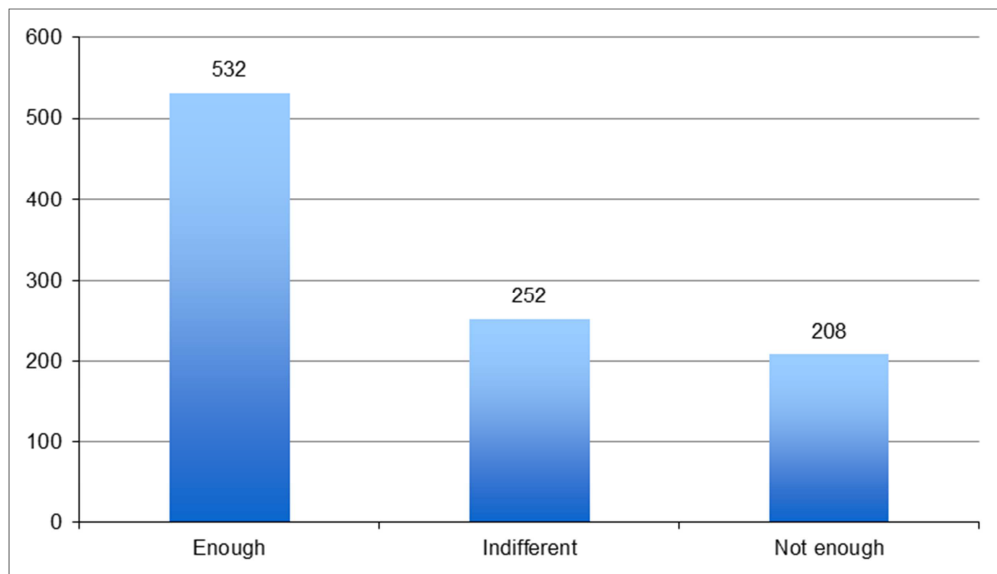


Q8) Examiners' report in the Compendium – rating

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



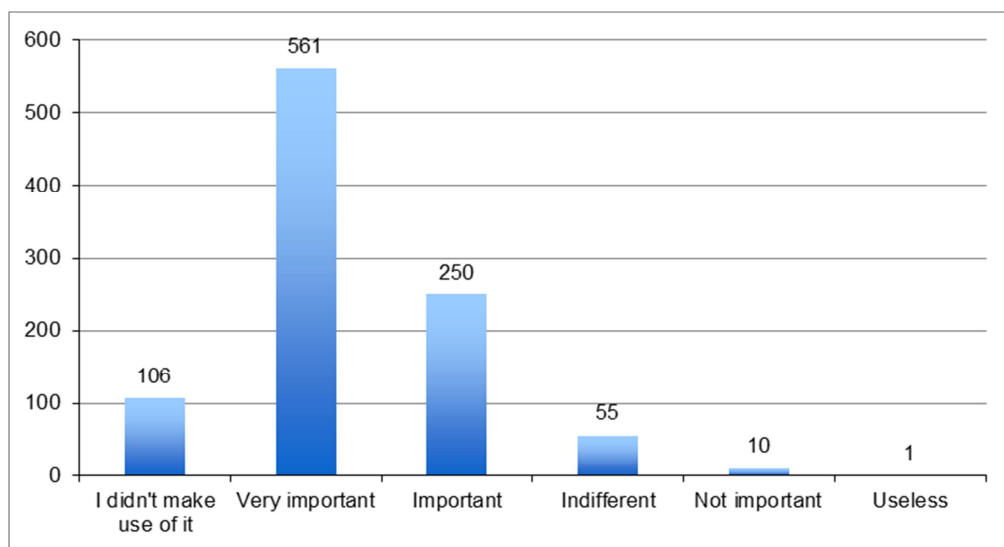
Does the examiners' report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how the papers are marked?



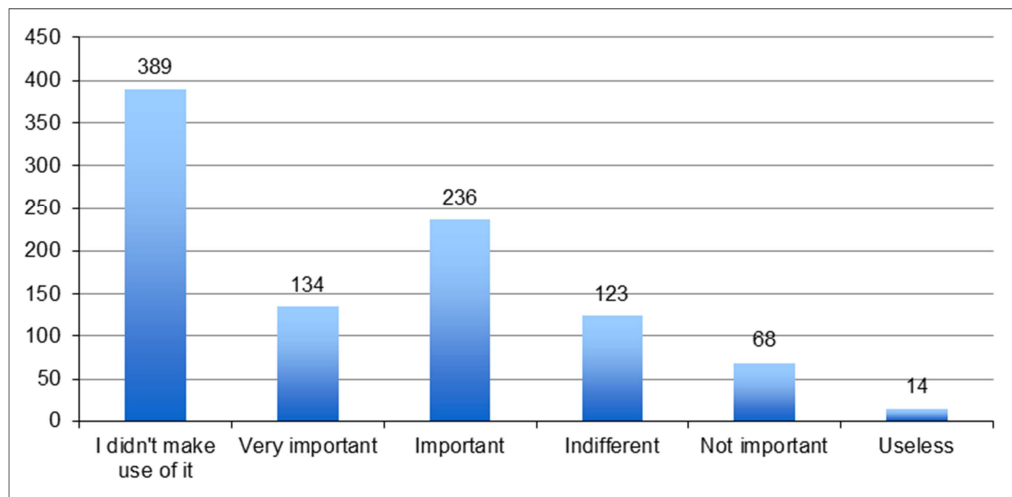
Q9) Elements of your personal preparation

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

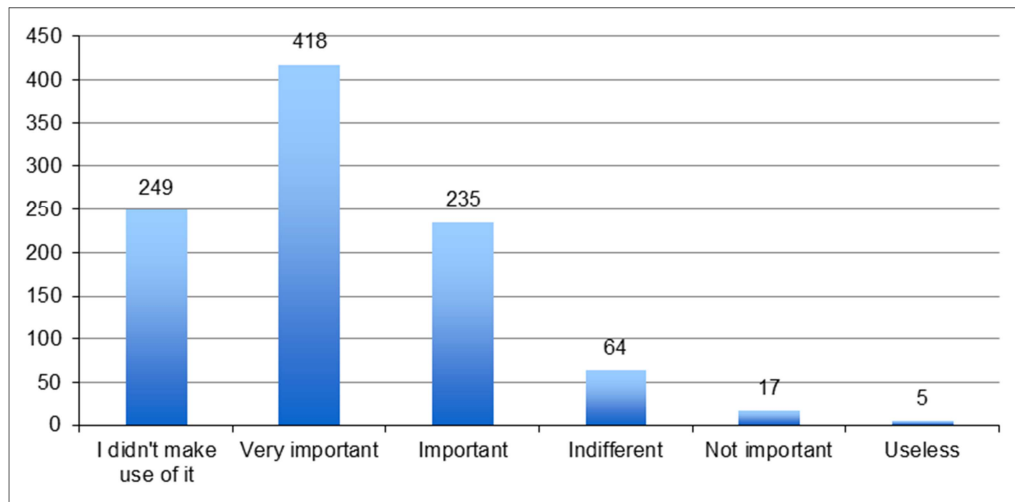
Compendium



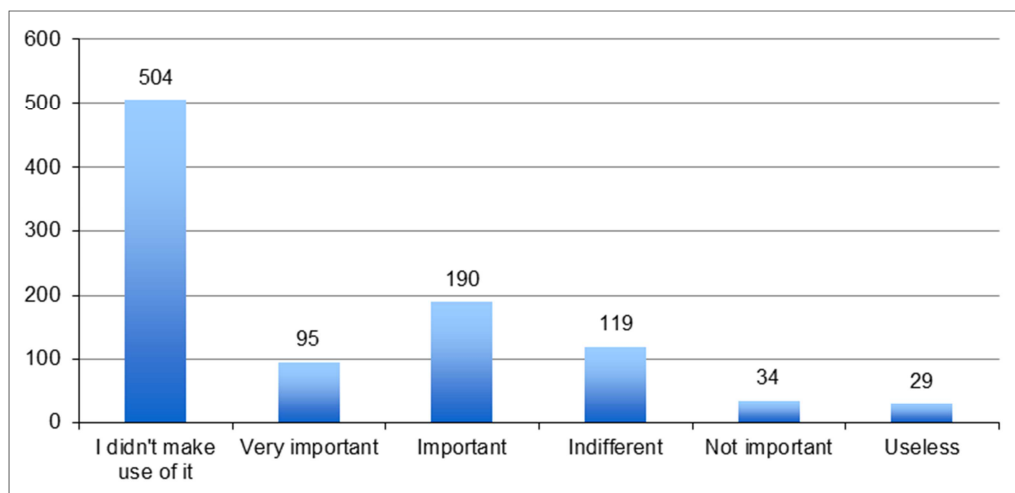
General external courses regarding intellectual property



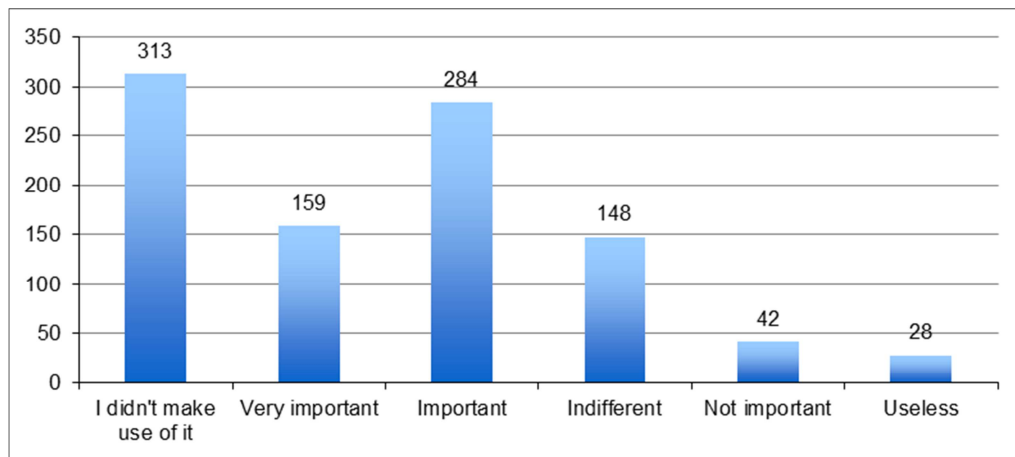
Specialised courses for EQE papers



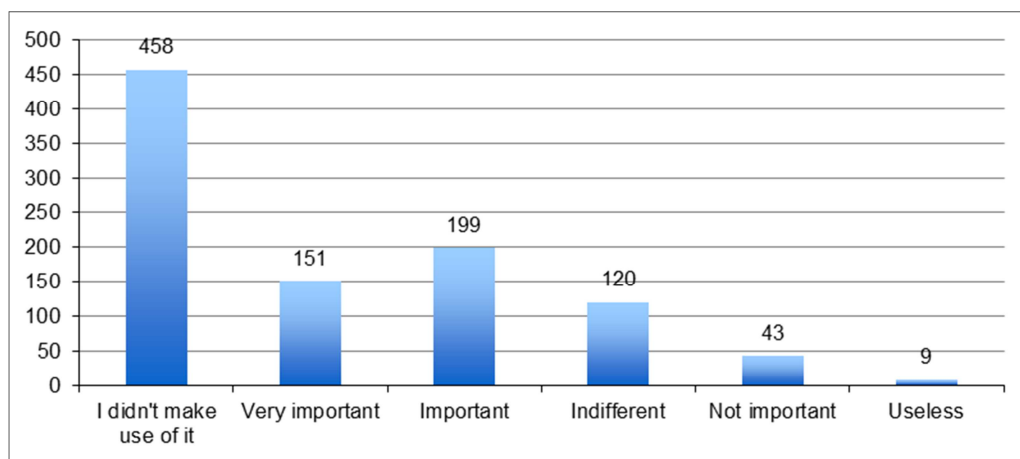
In-house training organised by your company



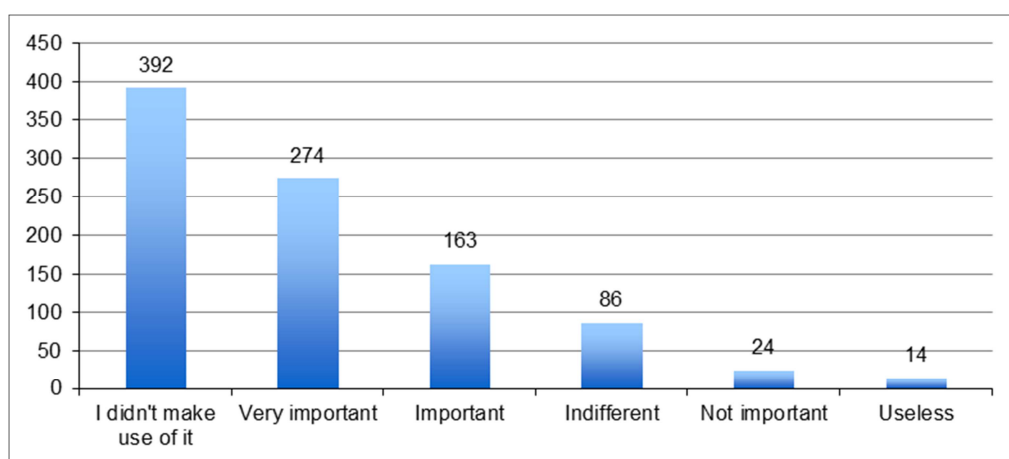
Dedicated training given by your supervisor as mentioned in the Art. 11(2)(a) REE



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/ PCT reference guide/ Guidelines at EPO/ Applicant guide Euro-Pct and European patent
- Kley. Köllner. Trinks. Singer/Stauder
- EPÜ/PCT Tabellen Buch
- Deltapatents' A-course materials and materials I prepared myself during practice with the compendium
- "C Book"
- C-Book; Deltapatents Methodology B
- Delta Patents, EPI online course, CEIPI seminar
- Visser, Guidelines, x-refereced PCT, applicant's guide
- Visser, Euro-PCT Guide, PCT, PCT Rules, NatLaw
- Visser and Delta Patents legal book (paper D and pre-exam)
- Hoekstra
- Visser - annotated EPC, Delta Patents Study Guide, PCT applicant's Guide, EPC Guidelines, EPO coffee break questions
- EPO online course
- Fox Guide to EPC, and Examination Guidelines in EPO
- Visser, EPO Guidelines, PCT Applicant's guide
- EPI course, Annotated EPC
- Visser
- CEIPI paper C book
- Fox, Guidelines
- Derk Visser - Annotated EPC
- Visser / Guidelines / EPO Coffee Break Questions
- Visser
- Delta patents basic legal questions for pre exam and paper D; Visser
- Visser
- Hoekstra
- EPO Guidelines, Visser, PCT applicants guide

- Visser, Guidelines
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- Delta patents paper D questions book, past papers, C-book
- Visser, Delta Patents' PCT Guide
- Cross-referenced EPC and PCT books
- Visser
- Paper C Book
- Dirk Visser
- Delta Patents
- Visser
- Delta Patents Main Exam Questions book; Visser; Guidelines
- Delta Patents book, Daily D questions
- Deltapatents
- C-Book: How to write a successful opposition and pass paper C of the European Qualifying Examination
- Delta books and a number of reference materials; past exams
- Visser
- Hoekstra
- Delta Patents C Book
- Delta Patents
- Hoekstra
- epi online training modules, Kley
- Delta Patents Textbooks
- Visser, Delta patents books
- Annotated EPC
- C book, Deltapatents D book, Visser
- Past papers, Delta Patents books

- Visser (EPC), Mulders (PCT), EPO guidelines, PCT applicant guide
- Visser
- DeltaPatents sheets, Visser, Guidelines
- "D-Book" Rudge
- Deltapatents
- Visser, the Guidelines
- Own comments
- Visser-annotated EPC
- Visser
- Guidelines
- C Book; ceipi course of pre-examination
- References to the European Patent Convention - Jelle Hoekstra
- Annotated EPC by Derk Visser, Delta Patents L and P books, Cross Referenced PCT by Cees Mulder
- RiLi
- Rudge - D book
- Visser, Cross referenced PCT, 500 basic legal questions
- Visser
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- pass-the-eqe Blog, Kley
- Visser, EPC, Guidelines, Caselaw, delta patents web site
- Delta patents books for D
- Visser, PCT Applicant's guide, EPO Guidelines for Examination
- Visser, Mulder, Online course, past papers, Deltapatents books, How to get EP(PCT), Guidelines, Index to Guidelines
- Stephane Speich: EPC 2000; Guide to PCT Procedure
- Visser Annotated EPC
- Deltapatent
- EQE website, Guidelines, EPC

- Deltapatents methodology
- Delta Patents Basic Questions, Kley Kommentar, Guidelines, Köllner - PCT Handbuch
- Kley, Singer/Stauder, PCT- + EPÜ Tabellen
- Visser, pct applicants guide, delta patents pre-exam/paper d questions book
- Delta patents, CEIPI C and D
- Delta Patent Paper D
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen, Kley
- Delta Patent pre exam book
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents questions
- Visser, kley, Self-prepared commentary
- C-Book, D-Book, Kley, Delta Patents A Methodology, Delta Patents B Methodology, Delta Patents D Questions
- delta patents Paper C Book
- Visser
- Visser
- Delta Patents Books
- Visser, Guidelines
- Delta patents
- Delta patents materials
- Visser; PCT Handbuch
- References to the EPC
- Deltapatents guides
- Visser; CEIPI books
- Delta Patents Legal Questions and Pre-Exam book, Vissler
- C-book (Chandler/Meinders)
- Deltapatents C/D-Book
- Annotated EPC
- Hoekstra annotated EPC

- Vissers, Guidelines for Examination; PCT Guidelines
- Delta Patents books
- own summary from previous runs
- I used EPO written materials. I did not have time to participate in the weekly course given by the EPO online.
- Annotated EPC
- Baque - Sedlex website
- Baque
- BAQUE 2015
- Visser, Delta Patents
- C Boon Baque
- EPÜ-/PCT-Tabellenbuch, Deltapatents A- u. B-Buch, C-Book (Ceipi)
- VISSER, HOEKSTRA
- Baque, online courses from OEB (e-learning)
- Methodology C Deltapatents
- Hoekstra
- visser
- delta patents
- preEQE online course; books (Visser, Hoekstra, Spies)
- Visser's annotated epc; Mulder's annotated pct; guidelines, oj, etc
- visser, chandler
- Baque visser directives guide déposant pct cbe pct etc...
- baque
- Visser, Hoekstra, DeltaPatents flowcharts
- Visser, DeltaPatents books
- Deltapatents correction papers, Deltapatents question books
- Kley
- own commentary of eqe and pct, c-book

- Visser, delta patents' commented epc and D Question book
- Delta patents
- Delta methodology book
- Le Baque, A, B, C and D-book
- Hoekstra
- DeltaPatents
- Visser, correction papers from DeltaPatents, books on methodology for each A, B, C and D papers
- Deltabooks methodology book
- delta patents course book C
- Visser, Delta Questions D
- Visser
- Delta Patents methodology
- Material from Deltapatents
- Baque, DeltaPatent Main exam D questions
- The annotated european patent convention - Visser
- Just past papers
- Visser, Deltapatents
- Deltapatents Course materials for Papers A, B, C (and earlier D)
- Delta patents
- Hoekstra, Pre-Exam book of Deltapatents
- Deltapatents Basic Legal Questions
- EPC visser
- Visser
- C book from Ceipi course and previous years materials from the Ceipi course
- Delta Patents Books
- Visser, "The Annotated EPC"; Deltapatents, "Pre-exam" book and "Basic Legal Questions" book
- Visser, DeltaPatens C-book.

- Delta Patents, Fisser
- Delta Patents (various) and Gradolph EPÜ Kommentar
- Visser, Delta Patent D-Question Book
- baque
- Visser Annotated EPC; Speicher EPC 2000; CEIPI C-book
- BAQUE 2015
- Visser
- Grégory Baque's commented EPC
- Visser, Mulder
- Delta Patents D Exam questions
- Annotated Guide to the EPC - Derk Visser; DeltaPatents Main Exam Questions for Paper D
- EPO Guidelines only
- Visser
- Delta Patents book for C exam
- CSP program of the EPO
- Hoekstra
- Hoekstra
- kley
- delta patent basic legal questions
- Visser
- Visser, DeltaPatents pre-exa book, X-Ref PCT Muller
- DeltaPatents question book
- Delta Patents
- Visser and Delta patents questions
- Visser, Deltapatents questions
- Delta patent
- C Book Ceipi
- Annotated EPC Hoekstra and Visser, DeltaPatents materials for A, B and D papers, correction papers A, B and D from DeltaPatents, Guidelines from EPO and WIPO website

- Delta Patents, Visser, Hoeckstra
- DeltaPatents Paper C
- extensive study of C-Book by Chandler/Meinders
- annotated EPC
- Delta Patents Basic Legal Questions Book
- Visser / CEIPI's C-Book / Deltapatent's book of paper D questions
- Delta patents pre eqe/paper D
- C book
- Baque 2015
- delta patent pre exam preparation book.
- Visser
- G. BAQUE
- delta patent and ceipi
- Kley, Köllner, Guidelines
- Visser, GL, PCT, PCT Guidelines, decisions of BoA
- Visser, hoekstra, mulder
- Kley
- The "Baque", A, C, and D book from Delta patents
- Dirk Visser Book
- Visser
- e.g. PCT by Köllner, C-Book
- Visser
- Visser
- D.Visser, C.Mulder, EPO Guidelines, PCT applicant's guide, EPO OJ.
- Visser, Delta patent material
- Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000, Kley; PCT in der Praxis, Trinks
- Visser, Guidelines
- C-Book

- deltapatents
- Key
- Visser, Cees Mulder PCT, Delta P A-D methodology books
- Visser
- Guidelines for examination
- Visse, Guidelines 2015, Case Law, Cross-referenced PCT, etc.
- Guidelines for the examination at the EPO; Kley Komments to the EPC (german)
- Gall - Die europäische Patentanmeldung und der PCT in Frage und Antwort (8. Auflage); Trinks - PCT in der Praxis (4. Auflage); Kley - Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000 (3. Auflage)
- D-Book
- EPI preexamination online course papers; Books from Delta patents
- Gall
- EPI tutorial
- Klee + EPÜ-Tabellen
- Fisser
- A-Book
- Delta Patent; Ceipi
- Deltapatents Legal Questions
- delta patents D book, Ceipi C book
- Material from DeltaPatents
- The Annotated EPC by D. Visser
- kley, D-Book, C-book, own preparations
- Visser, Guidelines
- EPC - Guidelines
- Hoekstra, Euro applicants guide I and II, guidelines for examination, c-book, d-book
- Baque
- Visser
- C-book

- baque
- Deltapatents C-book
- Visser
- Baque
- baque, epc, rule, Jo, jurisprudence
- Visser
- none
- Hoekstra, Delta Patents question banks
- A, C and D books
- Visser, DeltaPatents Questions for the Main Exam Questions for Paper D
- The Annotated EPC by D. Visser
- Visser, Hoekstra, Guidelines, EPC, PCT
- Delta Patents D Questions
- Delta patents C and D
- Hoextra + tutor
- Visser
- Visser, PCT-Tabellen (Bozic), Kölner
- delta-patents
- C-Book, Delta patents, Visser, EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- My special EQE annotated EPC and DeltaPatents Main Exam Questions Book
- Deltapatents Methodology
- Visser
- Delta's C Methodology book
- Delta Patents Basic Legal Questions for Pre-Exam and D paper, EPO pre-exam online course
- Visser, various other books
- Delta Patents publications
- Deltapatents' Methodology for paper A+B chemistry
- Hoegstra

- Vieser, Muelder, EPC, Delta practice and Legal books, Hoekstra
- VISSER
- CBE-PCT Gregory Baque
- the original legal texts, and Visser
- Guidelines, modules
- reading Vischer's Annotated EPC.
- Delta patents books
- Guidelines
- Visser
- Visser's commented EPC
- C-book
- BAQUE CBE PCT
- Hoekstra, Delta patents Main questions
- DeltaPatents, Baque EQE-PCT
- Visser / Hoekstra / PCT-Mulders
- Delta Patent DI Questions, Delta Patent Solutions to DII 2011-2015
- Annotated EPC from D. Visser; DeltaPatents : Main-Exam Questions Paper D, Methodology books for A and B
- visser, trinks annotated pct
- Baque
- Visser - Delta Patents books for papers A/B/C/D
- Visser, Deltapatents C Methodology and Analysis & Model Solution papers
- Derk Visser's Annotated EPC
- Kley Kommentarzum EPÜ und Singer & Stauder
- EPC/Guidelines
- Hoekstra, cross-ref PCT, guidelines, PCT AG
- CEIPI and DeltaPatents materials
- Visser
- DeltaPatents. Annotated EPC/PCT

- Delta-Patents Pre-Exam
- PCT ref guide, annotated epc
- Visser
- Visser
- Deltapatents sheets and flowcharts
- Guidelines
- Delta patents EQE-D, Visser, Mulder
- EPO Guidelines for examination
- Annotated EPC via Hoekstras book, Delta patents main exam questions, Guide lines, EQE Applicants guide from Salted Patents
- Hoekstra
- Visser (EPC), Mulder (PCT), EPO Guidelines, How to get an European Patent, Euro-PCT guide, National Law book, PCT Guide for applicant and Annexes, Delta L and P books, Official journals, Case law
- Visser, D-book, C-book, A-book
- Derek Visser's Annotated EPC
- Visser 2015; Fox 2014
- BAQUE
- Deltapatents Paper C
- Delta patent
- Visser
- Exam related questions by delta patents
- Kley, D-book, C-book
- Guidelines for Examination; Visser; Köllner (PCT); National Law relating to the EPC; Office Journals; Applicants Guide (PCT)
- C-Book, D-Book, A-Book, Delta D-Questions, Kley, EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen, M. Köllner, EPÜ, PCT, Applicants Guide, Richtlinien des EPA
- DELTAPATENTS Basic Legal Questions for Pre-exam and Paper D
- Visser, and other commonly used guides
- C-book

- Visser; Deltapatents - Metodology book for paper A and B
- Visser
- Materials from DELTAPATENTS
- Delta Patnet Paper C, and Annotated EPC by Hoekstra
- Delta Patents Paper D book, Visser
- A. Veronesse and Visser
- c-book
- readings of EPAs EQE online course
- Delta Patents
- Kley (commented by me), PCT treaty (commented by me), PCT Applicants Guide, Guidelines, Delta Patents Question Books and C Book
- C book
- Baque
- Visser, Methodology books and correction papers from DeltaPatents
- Delta Patents books, Visser
- DeltaPatent
- Delta Patents Guides
- A-book
- Visser, Guidelines EP and PCT
- The A-book (CEIPI) & Paper A Chemistry Methodology Book (Delta Patent)
- cbook, delta patent c book
- Visser, Deltapatents C-Methodology book
- Visser, Hoekstra
- Visser
- C-Book, Meinders
- Guidelines, PCT
- Kley
- The Annotated EPC, by Derk Visser
- delta patents pre-eqe exam book

- Hoekstra, Delta patents exam questions for D and Delta patents for exam C
- Baque
- Visser
- Visser
- Guidelines, References to the European Patent Convention” by Jelle Hoekstra
- Delta patents book
- Delta legal question, Delta pre exam book
- delta patent book
- Visser
- deltapatents
- Grégory Baques (CBE-PCT)
- Hoekstra
- Examination Guidelines, Kley (EPC), Koellner (PCT)
- -
- BAQUE, A-book C-book
- Hoekstra, Visser
- Visser, C-book
- CBE-PCT Baque
- Visser/printed version of the EPO Academy course
- Derk Visser
- Delta Patents Course Book
- Deltapatents Pre-exambook, Basic questions
- C-Book by Chandler
- Visser, DeltaPatents Methodology for C
- Hoekstra
- Visser, Deltapatents
- The European Patent Convention
- C-book, D-book

- Delta Patents Legal Questions
- The annotated EPC, Derk Visser
- C-Book, Delta Patents notes A & B
- Delta patents C book
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- Deltapatents C book.
- Visser, PCT cross reference
- visser
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- Visser
- EQE questions on EPO Blog
- DeltaPatents books
- jelle book, muller cees PCT
- visser and also hoekstra
- Kley/Gundlach
- Visser
- Visser, Hoekstra, Guidelines for Examination
- Delta Patents - Methodology for Paper C
- Visser, PCT Applicant's Guide, Euro-PCT Guide
- CEIPI A-Book, C-Book; Kley-Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000
- European Patent Convention
- DELTAPATENT
- Delta Patents Books
- Delta publication. C book(chandler)
- Kley, C-Book, D-Book
- Examinatorium Europaeum, Kley, C-Book
- Visser

- Visser
- Visser, Guidelines, Referenes to EPC (Hoekstra), Cross-Referenced PCT (Mulder), Delta Patents Main Exam Questions for Paper D
- epi online course
- Guidelines, Visser, Köllner for PCT, Deltapatents
- Visser, Cross referenced PCT, EPO online course, Guidelines
- Visser
- Hoekstra, PCT AG, PCT X-reference, Dictionary
- Visser
- Visser, material from Delta patents (basic legal questions book)
- Visser, Applicant's guide PCT
- C-book, DeltaPatents book
- Hoekstra
- C book
- deltapatents
- Delta Patents Basic Legal Questions
- visser
- Visser; Deltapatents
- Delta patents text books, Hoekstra, Mulder.
- A Guide to the EPC 2000
- Visser Delta patent Basic legal questions
- C-book
- Kley, Malte-Köllner PCT, Guidelines, Euro-PCT Leitfaden (sehr gut), EPÜ/PCT Tabellenbuch
- Visser
- C Book Delta Patents
- Kley, Tabellenbuch
- All Heymanns
- Visser

- Derk Visser
- Visser
- EPC, Guidelines, Internet
- deltapatents C-book, correction papers
- On-the-job training, Delta patents "Main exam questions for paper D".
- Baque, C book
- Annotated version of EPC and PCT
- Deltapatents, EPO guides for applicant, PCT guides for the applicant, Guidelines
- Kley/Gundlach; Singer Stauder; Kolle; EPA publications
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- References to the European Patent Convention, Annotated EPC
- Deltapatents C book, old exams
- ceipi c book
- Visser
- visser
- Visser
- Wäckerlin A-book
- Deltapatents pre exam question book.
- communicate with a graduated EPA
- Visser
- Hoekstra and delta patents D question book
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen;
- Visser, C-Paper Chandler Own collection of parts of the Syllabus
- Derk Visser, Jelle Hoekstra, Guidelines for Examination, others
- Visser
- Visser, annotated POCT (Mulder), applicant's guide, guidelines for examination, delta patents questions
- Delta patents Paper C methodology guide

- C-Book, PCT Guide, ...
- derk wisser / methodology paperc deltapatent
- Köllner, Trinkts, Kley
- Delta Patents books
- Visser, Hoekstra, Mulder
- Kley, EPÜ/PCT Tabellenbuch; EPÜ Kompakt; Richtlinien; EPÜ, PCT; DeltaPatent book for pre-exam and D part
- Delta Patent books, Baque...
- Baque
- Deltapatents
- Nicholas Fox - EPC 2000
- delta patents books + info by Fernuni Hagen
- Visser
- past papers and daily questions
- Visser
- DeltaPatents MainExam Legal Questions
- Visser Annotated EPC
- Baque, Patskills, CEIPI support and Deltapatents
- Andrea Veronese
- Methodology book by DeltaPatents
- Deltapatents, C-Book, Viesser Guidelines
- Deltapatents book
- D. Visser: The Annotated Patent Convention; Deltapatents: Main exam questions for paper D
- Visser, Cross Referenced PCT
- EPC from Jelle Hoekstra's book and PCT reference book from Cees Mulder
- EPO guidelines
- C Book, Visser, Guidelines for Examination
- commented EPC from G. Baque

- Hoekstra
- PCT in der Praxis
- Visser
- Visser; Delta Patents Course Notes; Mulder annotated PCT; PCT Applicant's guide
- Visser
- Fox & Mulder
- Visser
- Gregory Baque Book (EPC-PCT), Guidelines, CEIPI courses
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- d/c Book
- D-Book Deltapatents
- Visser
- EPÜ/PCT Tabellen; EPÜ Compact, CEIPI
- AEPC - Dirk Visser, EPO Guidelines, Delta Patents Questions, D Book - Andrew Rudge, Cross-Referenced PCT - Cees Mulder, Methodology for Paper C - Jelle Hoekstra (Delta Patents)
- Deltapatents
- Visser, legal texts (EPC, PCT, Guidelines for examination, Case Law)
- Books from Delta Patents
- DeltaPatents book
- epc annotaed (D. Visser)
- Visser
- delta patents
- Kley
- Visser's Commentar about EPC; EPC and PCT Guide for applicants; EPO timeline questions; EPO coffee break
- Fox, Visser, Helze, Delta patents D book
- Hoekstra
- Delta patents (paper C), Visser
- Visser, EPI Online course

- Baque
- Visser, Fox, How to pass Paper C book
- Visser, Mulder
- CEIPI 1 week course, EPÜ-/PCT Tabellen Buch, PCT-Handbuch, EPÜ kompakt, Delta Patents PCT applicants guide, Prüfungsrichtlinien, EPA-Leitfäden A, B, Nationales Recht zum EPÜ
- Delta patents and past papers
- Hoekstra, Deltapatents D book, Muller's PCT
- The annotated European Patent Convention by Visser and EPO Guidelines for examination and Delta patents material over PRE-EQE
- Visser
- JDD course and DeltaPatents books
- D.Visser "The annotated EPC", DeltaPatents questions books, C. Mulder "The Gross-referenced PCT", EPO Guideline, PCT guideline
- Visser
- Delta patents book pre-exam/paper D
- Kley
- Ceipi
- Baque, C-book
- None
- Visser (EPC), Mulder (PCT) & Guidelines
- Visser (Annotated EPC), Euro-PCT Guide
- Kommentare zum EPÜ
- Hoekstra
- visser, guidelines, PCT applicants guide, speich, national law
- epa pre-exam online course
- Deltapatents Pre-Exam questions
- BAQUE
- Baque
- Hoekstra

- delta patent books
- Baque 2015
- Hoekstra
- none
- EPC, PCT, Paris Convention...=law texts, all texts concerning the subject
- CEIPI courses
- Annotated EPC, and Basic Legal Questions for Pre-Exam and Paper D
- D-Book (CEIPI)
- DeltaPatents Books
- Hoekstra (Questions of paper D), blue book for paper C
- Visser, CEIPI C-book, also repeated the pre-exam online course
- None
- Visser
- Delta Patents books
- Delta patents
- Visser
- guidelines, Köllner, Visser
- Visser, Delta Patents methodology binders/books
- Gregory Baque
- Visser
- Visser
- Annotated EPC
- Visser, Guidelines for Examination
- Visser and Hookstrat
- Delta patent Pre-exam, D legal questions
- deltapatents
- Düwel et al. EPÜ- und PCT-TAbellen
- Jelle Hoekstra: References to the European Patent Convention, Cees Mulder: The Cross-

Referenced Patent Cooperation Treaty, Guidelines, Delta Patents: Pre-Exam Book, PCT application guides

- visser
- DeltaPatents Methodology books for Papers A and C
- Andrea Veronese & Peter Watchorn, EPC / PCT
- Hoeckstra/deltapatent question book/Visser
- Visser, Course material
- Delta Patent Paper A
- Delta, CEIPI
- Delta Patents
- Book of Jelle Hoekstra published by Delta Patents
- Visser, Hoeckstra, Mulder
- Visser, Mulder, GL
- selfmade commented EPÜ
- Mulder: Cross-referenced PCT, DeltaPatents Questions books, References to the EPC, and Visser of course.
- Visser
- Deltapatents Main Exam Questions for Paper-D
- BAQUE
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam Book
- Kley, Köllner (PCT), Visser
- Kley, CEIPI documents and Delta Patents books
- Visser
- CEIPI, DeltaPatents
- Deltapatents
- Singer Stauder, PCT Handbuch, A,B,C-Book
- Online course material, EPC, Guidelines
- Derk Visser
- Derk Visser - Annotated EPC

- Hoekstra
- Hoekstra
- Hoekstra and DeltaPatents
- Guidelines for Examination, Kley Epü-Kommentar, EPÜ-PCT-Tabellen
- Hoekstra
- Visser, Hoekstra
- Hoekstra, Guidelines, Mulder (PCT), EPC, PCT applicant's guide, national law relating to EPC
- Hoekstra
- C-Book CEIPI; Paper C Delta Patents
- DELTA PATENT PAPER D
- Düwel EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen, Kley
- Old exams
- Visser, Guidelines EPC and PCT, pre-eqe online course
- DeltaPatents / Visser
- Visser and delta patents exam questions
- Gregory Bacque
- Deltapatents main questions for pre exam and paper D
- C-book / Baque
- Delta Patents books
- Hoekstra and Visser
- Guidelines and visser book and delta patents website and books
- Visser, Hoekstra
- Delta Patents Paper C
- T
- Hoekstra EPC, PCT book, Deltapatents material
- Baque
- Visser, Annotated EPC; Deltapatent, 500 basic legal questions
- Baque

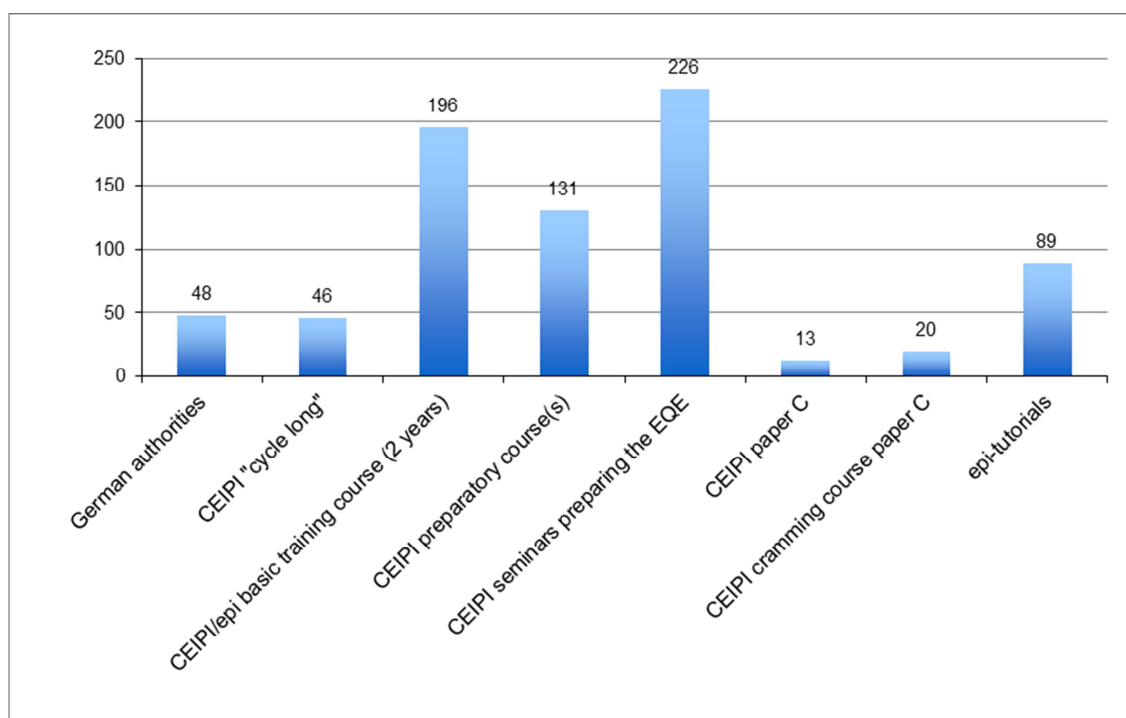
- Hoekstra, Visser
- delta patent
- Visser
- Visser's book, Guideline
- Visser, DeltaPatents D Questions
- Visser, Deltapatents
- C-book and A-book, previous exams
- Deltapatent, Hoekstra, Visser
- EQE pre-examination online course 2015-2016
- The Annotated European Patent Convention- Derk Visser, Delta Patents-EQE Pre-Exam, Procedural Law under the EPC 2000-Kastner
- Visser
- Visser, C-Book
- Kley
- Delta patents preexam book and Basic Q
- C book and Deltapatent C
- C-book, guidelines, visser
- Visser
- Delta Patents
- Annotated EPC by Visser
- Delta Patents Books + Courses
- Visser, DeltaPatents
- Reference to the EPC Hoekstra
- The annotated EPC/Derk Visser and Reference to the EPC/Jelle Hoekstra
- Visser
- CSP
- Hoekstra, Visser
- Hoekstra (which is excellent)
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen, PCT-Handbuch (Köllner)

- C-Book
- Deltapatents methodology
- Visser, earlier exams
- Kley, Ceipi-Books, Deltapatents-Books, Singer-Stauder, Köllner, EPC
- Delta Patents books and courses for A, B and D.
- Delta Patents
- Visser,
- Visser
- deltapatents L and P books
- Visser
- Delta Patents, c-Book
- Visser, Jelle Hoekstra
- Delta Patents
- Visser, PCT&Regs.
- books send by the EPO
- Baque
- Visser, Hoekstra and Cross referenced PCT
- Visser
- Visser, DeltaPatent
- delta patents pre-eqe (very important)
- baque
- Delta Patent
- Kley, Delta Patents, Malte Köllner
- D-Book, EPÜ-PCT-Tabellen
- Visser
- Visser
- Singer/Stauder - CEIPI
- Chadler's C-Book

- Articles and Rules
- Kley: Kommentar zum epü
- EPO's online training, Candidate Support Project, Delta Patent's books and study materials
- Visser
- C-book Chandler/Meinders
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam Book Cases
- C-book, delta patents
- DELTAPATENTS
- Kleye, PCT Tables
- EPC mainly
- Annotated EPC, Visser
- Deltapatent
- RiLi, Timelimited Questions, CoffeBreake Querstions,
- Baque, Visser
- The C-book
- delta patents Paper C Methodology
- Deltapatents A/B books methology
- DeltaPatents - Pre-Exam book
- Delta Patents
- The annotated european patent convention (Visser)
- Visser, EPO applicant guidelines
- annoted EPC
- Visser, DeltaPatents L Basic Legal Questions for Pre-Exam and Paper D
- Delta Patents, Legal Questions Paper D
- Delta patents I book, ceipi materials
- Delta Patents basic legal questions
- commented EPC, guidelines
- Kley

- Visser
- Deltapatents compendium
- Derk Visser- Annotated European Patent Convention
- Delta Patents
- Visser, Delta Patent methodology
- Different Books of DeltaPatents
- Delta Patents D Book
- Delta-patents, Kley-script
- C-book, Baque
- Visser, Kley, Guidelines
- n/a
- Visser, Hoekstra, Delta Patents books, PCT applicant's guide, Cross-Referenced PCT, Past papers,
- EQE-Tools on youtube, official websites EPO and WIPO
- A-Book, C-Book, D-Book
- S. Speich EPC2000, D. Visser
- Deltapatent C book
- Delta Patents
- Visser, Delta Patents Questions
- DeltaPatents Materials and most importantly "EPÜ-/PCT-Tabellenbuch"
- Visser; Delta Patents website
- Baque

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" (cycle long), obtained after completing one-year study with CEIPI in Strasbourg

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.

- Own work.
- Preexam Legal and Claims DeltaPatents
- Delta Patents EQE-courses
- Michalski Hüttermann Seminar
- Delta Patents book
- JDD
- Delta Patents D and C course
- EQE pre-examination online course
- Working through Delta Patents textbooks

- JDD course
- Delta Patents
- JDD (UK)
- JDD Pre-examination course
- None
- DeltaPatents courses
- Queen Mary
- Pre-examination online course
- CEIPI Course on European Patent Law
- Delta Patents courses for Pre-exam
- Delta patents c and d
- Online Pre-Exam Course
- Deltapatents paper C
- Praktika Intern
- Deltapatents D training
- Ceipi cramming course pre-exam
- DELTAPATENTS
- Pre-exam online course held by EPO-EPI
- JDD course in UK
- EPO-EQE e-course
- Work as a patent attorney
- JDD
- None
- Online pre exam courses
- DELTAPATENT
- JDD (UK)
- aspi
- EQE CSP PROGRAMME
- Deltapatents pre eqe training
- E- learning courses from OEB for the preEQE
- Deltapatents
- delta patents
- delta patents
- DeltaPatents, NL
- DeltaPatents methodology courses
- DeltaPatents A, B, C and D paper courses, CEIPI paper D course
- European Patent Academy Online Training Course for the pre-exam
- Deltapatents Methodology courses for D
- Delta correction papers programme
- KVIV Belgium, Delta Patents, EPO online
- Course on C and D at Uni of Maastricht
- Delta C and D courses
- Delta Patents guided D exam
- DeltaPatents
- Pre-examination online course - EP patent academy
- Deltapatents, in house EQE-basic
- Deltapatents Paper C (and earlier D) course
- Epo-epi preexamination online course
- Ceipi 2nd half of C/D by VO in EPO The Hague (only D)
- DeltaPatents C-course
- Self-study
- QM course (not recommended)
- EQE C and D training course Maastricht University by Cees Mulder and Nyske Blockhuis
- epi online training
- EPC course in Stockholm
- Delta

- deltapatents ab intro
- CSP program of the EPO
- DeltaPatents
- Delta patents
- CEIPI (D.U. internationale de la PI - cycle court)
- Pre exam course EPO
- DeltaPatents Claim drafting, Academy pre-exam online course
- JDD Consultants
- JDD
- courses for A, B and D and correction papers from deltaPatents
- Delta basic legal course
- DeltaPatents - Basic Legal Questions
- mock exams organized by ASPI
- Deltapatents
- Delta A and C courses
- Maastricht C&D-course
- deltapatents (C, D)
- none
- Deltapatents
- DeltaPatents A+B and C
- EPI online course
- Delta patent
- Queen Mary University of London
- Delta Patents (Paper D course)
- Deltapatents
- Dekta
- deltapatents book
- Delta P C and D methodology courses
- Delta patents
- Maastricht Univ. D and C
- Delta Patents
- ehe coffee break questions
- Online course for the pre-exam by the EPO
- DeltaPatents D-course
- Deltapatents Distance Learning
- EPI/CEIPI seminar for A and B papers (pre-prep and prep)
- ASPI courses
- EQE Pre-examination 2016 of European Patent Academy
- Deltapatent C course
- DeltaPatent's courses for all the exams
- ceipi accelere, baque
- Delta Patents books
- epo online pre-exam
- JDD
- Delta Patents, Paper C methodology (3 days)
- Deltapatents D methodology
- Delta, tutor
- Delta Patents
- Delta patent's distance training
- Delta Patents training 2014-2015
- Seminars for CSP Project 2nd year
- Deltapatents
- Delta's C methodology 2 days
- Deltapatents courses
- my own studies and old exams
- IP-akademin "Advanced EPC"

- Delta Patents course
- DELTA PATENT
- none
- non
- In-house courses
- DeltaPatents
- Delta patents C/D
- Delta Patents training course
- DeltaPatents
- Maastricht University Paper D
- DeltaPatents Exam Training paper D and A/B methodology
- delta patents DII
- no specific course for EQE
- Deltapatents 3-day C course and 2-day cramming course
- Deltapatent's methodology courses (C and D)
- DELTA patents methodology courses
- Delta Patents EQE training for Dutch attorneys
- DeltaPatents Paper D courses
- Deltapatents pre-exam training
- 3 day methodology course Deltapatents in 2015, IP-akademiets D-course in 2007.
- Pre-exam online course
- EQE pre-examination on line course
- None
- Delta Patents courses
- Delta Patents for C/D
- EQE pre-examination online course 2015-2016
- Deltapatents
- Pre-examination online course
- Deltapatents pre-eqe course
- no courses this year
- DeltaPatents
- DELTAPATENTS
- Delta Patent paper C for resitters
- Guidelines2day
- Deltapetents Methodology, and training course with marked-up paper,
- deltapatent
- EQE pre-examination online course 2015-2016 | PP24-2015
- Delta patents
- Deltapatents
- Delta Patents A/B, C and D courses (3 days each in autumn)
- ASPI
- methodology for C and D at University of Maastricht
- Delta Patents
- Delta Patents pre-EQE course
- Deltapatents full C course
- Delta Patents
- Aspi
- Pre-exam EPO course
- DELTA Patents
- CEIPI/epi basic training course, only for the first year
- EQE Pre-examination online training course
- Delta Patents, 3-day Paper AB Electricity-Mechanics Methodology course
- Delta patents methodology A and C
- delta patent
- EPO PP24-2015 EQE pre-examination online course
- EPO on-line pre-exam training course

- pre examination course from EPO Academy
- Queen Mary EQE training programme
- DeltaPatents Paper D - Methodology
- Delta Patents A and D
- Examinatorium Europaeum
- Delta Patents, European Patent Academy Online Course
- CIPA tutorials for Paper A; In-house tutorials for Paper C
- Delta Pattens for Paper C and D
- delta patentes D, CSP programm
- delta patents 3-day course C
- Delta Patents
- Deltapatents methodology courses
- DeltaPatents C / D course
- delta patents nederlands
- deltapatents
- DealtaPatents EQE training
- Delta Patents - Methodology Paper C
- Delta patents course for papers A and B ch
- self-study
- Delta Patent, Pre-examination methodology courses
- Writing a real application with an external patent attorney
- DELTAPATENT, METHODOLOGY COURSE, CORRECTION PAPERS
- Curso ABG in Madrid (Spain)
- Queen Mary, University of London
- Examinatorium Europaeum
- JDD courses
- Delta Patents Papers A, B, C and D
- EQE pre-examination online course
- EPO online course
- DeltaPatents basic legal training
- deltapatents courses
- DELTAPATENTs
- JDD
- Delta Patents C-Methodology
- Delta patents pre-examination course
- Delta Patent preparatory C Course
- EPO online course
- DeltaPatents
- Delta patents
- deltapatents c-course
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents methodology course
- Pre-examination course European Patent Academy
- Deltapatents
- delta patent D cours
- EPO pre-exam online course
- Delta patents
- JDD
- Deltapatents EQE training
- Online EQE course from EPO
- deltapatent courses
- Now I do not know
- CSP candidate programme
- DeltaPatents Part D Strategy
- CEIPI Pre-Exam 3 days course
- DeltaPatents C course

- CEIPI course (paper D)
- Delta Patent courses
- Delta Patent courses in paris
- Pre-EQE online course
- Delta Patents Pre-EQE Training
- JDD
- ASPI course
- Deltapatents
- Only CEIPI preparatory course for part D
- ASPI
- DeltaPatents claim analysis training
- DeltaPatents A+B and C
- Master in intellectual property, by Convey, Italy
- Deltapatents Claim Drafting / Forum: Novelty, Inventive step, formalities
- EPI online course
- In-house training
- Courses by Deltapatents (C and D exam)
- Delta patents
- Deltapatents
- JDD in Milton Keynes, UK
- EPO on-line course PP24-2105
- none
- DeltaPatents Course for PreExam
- Course of Centre de Patents UB
- CIPA organised tutorials
- European patent law by KVIV
- JDD Consultants Course
- IP-Akadmiens "EPC Advancerad Kurs"
- CEIPI (cycle accéléré) not finished yet, and ASPI
- none
- Deltapatents D courses
- Deltapatents
- Pre-exam online course at the EPO
- Delta Patents Pre-EQE Basic Legal training
- Online training course for the pre-exam
- IP academy (Sweden) EPC course. Delta Patents methodology courses.
- CEIPI pre-exam course
- EPO Academy Pre Exam Course
- none
- EQE pre-examination online course 2015-2016 from EPO
- EQE Online pre-examination course; epi Online training course for the pre-examination paper;
- Coffee Break EQE
- internal
- Pre-exem online training
- Pre-Exam course of the European Patent Academy
- DeltaPatents course A, B, C, D
- Delta course
- Delta Patents courses
- DeltaPatents Methodology courses: A/B Chem; C; D
- DeltaPatents Book D and Course - C
- Earlier: DeltaPatents' courses in Helsinki
- Coffee Break Questions
- EQE Training in Maastricht, Cees Mulder
- Delta patent D-course
- Delta Patents Methodology courses and Guided exam courses
- EQE pre-examination online course (PP24-2015)

- CEIPI "cycle accéléré" in Strasbourg
- DeltaPatents C course
- Pre-EQE-online course
- JDD courses
- University of Maastricht
- EPO Academy online course
- deltapatents
- Delta Patents - Paper C
- Ceipi one week course paper D
- Deltapatents
- European Patent Academy EQE pre-examination online course
- Epo pre-eqe online course
- Pre-eqe online examination course
- ceipi cramming course preEEQ
- Delta Patents EQE-pre-examination course, CEIPI cramming course Pre-exam.
- DELTAPATENTS
- Delta Patents EQE materials
- DeltaPatents methodology, guided exam D
- Delta Patents C for resitters
- EQE pre-examination online course
- delta patent
- University of Barcelona Patent Center z
- DeltaPatents
- Deltapatens
- EQE pre-examination online course 2015-2016
- Deltapatents
- Delta Patent
- Internal company EQE training
- DeltaPatents for D
- Delta Patents
- Delta Patents
- Delta patents methodology for paper C
- Delta Patents
- Patent Academy pre-exam course
- CSP coaching, Deltapatents CSP D-course
- Deltapatent D courses
- Épi online course
- EPO pre-examination online course
- Deltapatents methodology
- Delta Patent Parts of A, B and D
- All of Delta Patents courses for A, B and D.
- Deltapatents speccial EQE courses
- European Patent Academy
- Delta patents C and mock exam. C
- Delta Patents D-Methodology
- Delta Patents (1 year course)
- Delta Patents, Ceipi paper D
- online training
- Pre-EQE training online given by the EPO
- DeltaPatent
- EPI Online Course
- EPO pre-exam online course
- DELTAPATENTS
- EPO pre-exam online course
- Deltapatent
- 4-day Paper C indepth with Gregory Baque

- EPC Advanced at IP-Akademien, Sweden
- delta patents paper c
- Vorprüfungsmodul des Examinatorium Europaeums zur Europäischen Eignungsprüfung (EQE) der FernUni Hagen
- on-line EPO course for pre-examination
- DeltaPatents training course
- none
- VIPS/VESPA Vorbereitungskurs EQE
- CEIPI cramming course pre-examination
- Delta patents methodology paper D
- European Patent Academy online course EQE Pre-examination 2016
- Deltapatents 3 day D methodology
- EPO pre-exam course
- Delta Patent
- Delta Patents C and D Training
- Delta Patents A paper
- C-course by Michalski Hüttermann, Düsseldorf
- on-line course at EPO
- Delta-course training for D (5 days)
- Pre Exam Online EPO course
- deltapatents
- n/a
- JDD
- Michalski/Hüttermann
- Deltapatent 3-day methodology paper
- Delta Patents Course C
- JDD Paper D preparation course (UK)
- ASPI

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

- daily practice
- I found the EPO online course for the Preexam very useful. I would have liked it to be in German! It's sometimes confusing to switch between languages of different study sources
- Doing loads of old papers from the compendium; analysing the mistakes I did therein
- Past papers
- Contact with other candidates during courses and seminars. This helped identifying the ideal study books and materials useful for passing the exam.
- Past papers
- Reading the relevant texts
- practicing past papers was the most important preparation.
- Reading through guidelines
- Completing lots of past papers
- availability of question papers is not great for the pre-exam especially given the difficulty of this year's exam paper. Years 2012-2014 should not be taken into account as they are very easy compared to the level which seems to be expected now. On the other hand, the mock exams (March and Sept) are unnecessarily complex and do not reflect what the exam is like (appear to

be UK P6 style paper question). It was a shame to not have more preparatory materials.

- Private study
- The most helpful preparation for the legal questions was self-study by working through questions from past papers and from a textbook (Delta Patents basic legal questions). I found the most helpful preparation for the claim interpretation part was experience from actual practice under my supervisor, supplemented by the past papers and examiners reports.
- Careful study of past papers, EPC and Guidelines
- Completing past papers
- Plenty of practice of past papers
- Reading through the guidelines and making my own comments to them, looking up the cited case law was a very good way to study for me.
- time
- Doing lots of past papers to time.
- It is not ok to publish my answers in any form ... If you cannot guarantee that, please delete my answers as well as the questionnaire!

To have a fair and predictable exam it is of importance to have comparable tasks to solve. Sometimes one has the feeling, that there are ill-minded people trying to find a task where the candidates could not find any guidance in the text books or former exams ... That is quite bad, as we all can deal with the tasks we have to do in our daily work life and the exams are often too far away from that ... But how could they possibly know. The guys from the EPA likely never worked as a patent attorney ... and I still do not know, what the guys from EPI are doing. Actually it is your job to set limits to the EPA ...

- time to prepare...
- Doing lots of past papers.
- Past exams from other years
- - DeltaPatents study guide book.
- Time and psychological availability to study continuously, only possible with an agreement with the employer. I was fortunate enough to have both.
- Self-prepared table of legal references
- Practice past papers
- Completing past papers
- Coffee break questions
- Time limit questions (online)
- Delta Patents questions and answers
- Inhouse weekly webinars (M&C)
- working experience with EPC and PCT

- Compiling reference documents, especially regarding the PCT. The list of documents suggested on the Deltapatents website was very useful in this regard.
 - Many, many practice papers
 - PCT Table Book
 - 2.5 years experience in the day to day work of a firm.
 - Deltapatents Book L
 - Going through past papers and questions in the DeltaPatents books
 - Speed writing, capability to write during hours, physical resistance and having EN, FR or DE as a native tongue and capability to think under very strong time pressure.
 - Lots of practice on past papers, experience from work.
 - Detailed assessment of previous papers. A "candidates answer" that obtained only 90 out of 100 marks is useless for preparation. Taking the EQE is very expensive and I do expect to receive an individually marked return of my own paper. Otherwise it is not possible to determine individual deficiencies
 - Very important is to practice past papers in order to understand the essence of each test. If I understand the essence, I can understand how to construct my own strategy for each paper. The strategies I learned in EQE preparatory courses were not very suitable for me, so I had to build my own strategy. After that, the rest is practice and more practice.
 - The C-book, and revision guides from Delta Patents were useful.
 - writing responses to communications regarding Art. 94(3) and following the steps required in the exam
 - Studying written materials and reviewing previous exams.
 - Good notes
 - NO COMMENT
 - Make a lot of exercices is very important for a good préparation
 - professional work; training by doing on the job
- following the EPO case law / reading established case law
- PCT cross-referenced book
- EPO applicant guides EPC, PCT
- Time and practice
 - secrets of the puzzle artificial exams
 - Reading the examples provided on the EQE site of candidates of earlier exams.
 - It was immensely important that I had weekly study meetings w fellow student,

I also took time off to study whole days.

- Practice tests
- Most important were own prepared commentaries to EQE and PCT as well as some prepared forms specifically suited to the different papers
- Time for studying.
- Past exam papers and discussions with other candidates
Also the plenty of assignment given throughout the period till the exam from the Uni of Maastricht course
- Specialized course
for national examination and group training
- In house EQE-basic from Awapatent
- exercise on earlier papers
- time (non-existent due to work pressure)
- Kommentar von Kley
- 14 years as an examiner at the EPO
- D: selection of questions to various areas.
All: mock exams
- -
- Silence
- Past papers
- Learning by doing plus a continuous self study discipline!
- Delta patents correction paper programme
- Time is essential
- Repetition
- discussions with former candidates
- make a lot of exercises especially on CPA,OTP
- Discussion with other candidates!
- Tutorials with friends who are qualified.
- Very useful to have done pre-exam last year, I thought the online training course for the pre-exam was a very good foundation for D.
- preparation of FTOs during my work (for D2
)

- Perform mock-up pre examinations
- Extensive study of the Kley-commented EPC, Guidelines for the Examination at the EPO, and (particularly fruitful for both every-day work as IP-practitioner and the EQE) the Examiners' reports and the exemplary candidate's solutions at the EQE-Compendium.
- Doing all available mock-up exams under real-life conditions (same time & duration, materials, answer sheet)
- Lots of training and personal commitment on my free time.
- Self study at home
- Time (full days, holidays, ...) to study, to practice compendium...
- compendium guidelines
- exams from the last years
- Compendium ad nauseam.
- Past papers
- CEIPI courses for EQE very usefull
- Sitting exams of the previous years (available on the EPO web site), reading EPO Guidelines, practicing EQE questions.
- The workload at the Company was far too high for providing a good study period.
- Colleagues help
- Doing as many past papers as possible
- Practise
- Deep understanding of guidelines.
- Referring to D: to use several sources of information for clarifying obscure/unclear legal issues
Referring to C: to try several past Papers
- I think the combination of the EPI online course materials (the pdf printouts) and the EPO Guidelines are actually all you need.
- Reading and marking EPC;
- Guidelines, RiLis
- compendium and preparing past papers
- More courses, which dedicated especially for EQE, which would not be extremally expensive.
Eg. via internet.
- to know for what you will get points

- 5-10 old exams in each part.

3 of them in each part under examination condition

- working completely through the commented EQE by Visser

- For me personally, the biggest obstacle in order to pass the exams is not that they are hard, but that the situation as such - sitting the exam is so stressful - and that the exams are configured such that if you make a mistake at some points during the exam it might be impossible to fix due to the time pressure.

- write old examinations under harder conditions (0,45 to 1,5 hours less time)

- Personal time to make mock exams in "real time".

- Past papers

- Old exams and examiner report

- Past papers.

- Personal summary and key phrases

- D compendiums are not as good as other papers compendiums. In particular, DI answers are not enough elaborate, there is a big gap between the best papers (that are full of legal basis and details) and the correction given by the EPO. If the jury considers that too much details are given by candidates, it should indicate it in the compendium. Apart from this aspect, I consider that compendiums are very good and helped me a lot for preparing the EQE.

Moreover, I consider that the EQE is a fair and properly organized exam in comparison with national examinations.

It was very hard for me (work/family...) to prepare the EQE. I believe that there are too much examinations to pass to be able to work as an IP practitioner (in France CEIPI/EQF/EQ and now maybe UPC's exams). National examinations should be given when the EQE is passed. It has to be considered that IP firms use these examinations to bound employees with binding training commitment clauses (30 to 50k€).

- For the pre-EQE, 2 years experience of EP prosecution was enough to get me through.

- Delta Patents books

- past papers

- Doing lots of practice past papers to time.

- Discipline and persistence.

- Speed-Hand-Writing training.

- Training old question + feedback from tutor

- DeltaPatents, especially the C course, were excellent

- Work (Study) - Live - Balance

- Reviewing last year's mistakes and learning from them.
- Support from the family members and employer during the preparation and also moral support and encouragement to keep going.
- - Make past papers
- Feedback from the tutors on past papers
- Study Model solutions by Deltapatents
- Study Marking sheets by Deltapatents
- Study Examiners report
- I consider that training for the C exam was fruitful in better understanding the feature-effect combination together with the problem-solution approach which therefore improves understanding the challenges of A paper, as well. A synergy existed, for me at least.

For A paper, I tried to go more "philosophical" by understanding by means of the past exam papers, e.g.

- what is the object to be claimed
- what is the purpose of the object ("for..." - i.e problem to be solved)
- what features are needed in the object to solve the problem
- what is the effect of each feature
- which feature solves the problem
- ...and thus figure through problem-solution approach which features are essential and could make the claimed object patentable in view of given prior art.

- Claim analysis
- My own annotating, studying old exams.
- experience - practice in the Field for more than 20 years
- Working as an examiner.
- finding my own knowledge weaknesses (partly based on previous years' papers) and working on these weaknesses; making a personal list of topics (re-using something that somebody else has put together doesn't give the same learning effect) with relevant articles
- To have enough time to study, and to being allowed to spend working-time (although too little). To start the preparation early, in good time.
- Several years preparation as Examiner at the EPO. Helped doing the claims analysis.
- Diplôme du Ceipi, cycle accéléré
- Delta Patents Training-Books
- Feedback on mock Exams
- Paper A + B + C: Compendium and Delta patents books
- Paper D: ompendium and Delta patents books + Visser
- Time off work for study during the day instead of at night
- Not to much Work load
- A suppoirting Family whilst being away to study.

- Courses can be relevant and important, but the key factor to be able to gain enough skill and knowledge to be able to sit the exam was to find a personal tutor able to sit and discuss exam papers and my answers.

- Kley/Gundlach Mind maps, Veronese/Watchorn "PCT Procedures ...", EPC Guidelines

- Practice of past questions

- Practicing past exams and homework questions.

- I got sick A LOT! Pneumonia, ear infection, flu, sinus infection, - all since November - which got me behind, so I studied even harder and that probably led me to keep getting sick, and I was still sick on the exam. The best thing I could have done would have been to spend more time on my health early on and less on studying, I would have done better in the long run. Don't underestimate the detrimental effects of stress on the immune system.

I was very lucky to have a very supportive work place. They gave me time off to study, and a lot of positive encouragement. When you are giving up everything else for months and working like a fiend, having that kind of support is very important in order to stay motivated.

When you first start studying, the scope of the task seems overwhelming, and you don't know where to start or what is more important - everything seems to be. Taking a class, in my case Deltapatents 3 day methodology class, was an excellent way of getting a "plan" and taking charge of my own learning. Especially when your tutors are grandparents and know a lot less than you do, so that you are on your own.

- Dedicated study during work hours would have been of great help, however, my employer did not approve that...

- Having a study group, practising all pre-examination previous papers

- Tutorials ran by EQE qualified attorneys based in the UK (run through CIPA).

- The EQE forum Daily D1 questions was invaluable.

- HOMEWORK

- Compendium

- Detailed Study of:
Guidelines
Applicants Guide EPO-PCT
Visser

- Above Q9-11 fail to explicitly specify whether, for re-sitters, the question should be answered for this year alone, or for the sum of all years attending the EQE. The first is assumed to be the intended purpose of the question.

- Experience in European patent legislation
Time to prepare the exam
Working groups to discuss legal and practical issues

- Practising old exams and other exercise questions.

- Q&A books

- Past exams
- ... time ... time ... time!
practising past papers under "real" conditions,
practising writing three days in a row (50+ pages is a LOT to handle for your wrist)
- The CEIPI A and B course was not focused on the methodology (how to handle the papers, how to interpret the documents and on what to pay attention). It was mainly on the time split and exercising past papers. This I was not satisfied with its content. Also very early in the year (in November) you already burn the last past exam paper (A and B 2015) which one should exercise in the last month before the exam.
- 20 years of experience as information specialist of which many years in a company without in-house patent agent.
- practising lot's of old papers: all from 2003-2015
- Review of on-line questions.
- The obtention of all necessary documents.
- The EQE pre-examination online course organized by EPO is the best for the preparation.
- Notes from EPI course. Training book
- Practise as much as you can to understand what the examiners want to see written on the exam paper. The need to pass an exam is in my opinion useful and necessary. However, This type of test is a waste of time when really assessing the professional knowledge or skills of a candidate.
- Delta patents exercise book
- applicant's guides, previous exams
- The Guidelines, PCT applicant's guide, Euro-PCT guide
- Past papers
- Normal work
- Daily Questions, Coffee Break Questions, Time Limit Questions
- Coach support in CSP program
- Getting used to the T/F format for claim analysis.
- Adequate hydration.
- Study sessions with other candidates with questions and discussions
- The Pre-Exam ensures that the law is substantially known when starting the preparation of the main papers.
- daily study of guidelines

- Examination Guidelines, EPC, PCT, Euro-PCT Applicants Guide
- DeptaPatents training + practicing old exams 2011-2015
- Discussing with former EQE candidates
- Reading case law of the Boards of Appeal.
- Everyday work in my company, including talking to experienced co-workers
- A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF THE EPC
- Delta d1 questions
- Practice exam papers
- Revising 1 hour daily in the morning.
- Consultation with my Colleague who passed all papers in the last years.
- Reading the EPO Guidelines and PCT Applicant's guide
- practise
- The Delta Patents books on the law paper and pre-exam were useful, along with Hoekstra.
- Tackling past papers.
- Time
- old exams (≥ 4)
- For A, B, and C very useful and indeed very important to do about 4 - 5 old papers, at least one under "real" (time pressure) conditions.
- brain
- Although exempt from pre-examination due to earlier inscription in 2007, I sat A & B now for the first time. I found it important to do the pre-examination course nevertheless, to bring myself up to speed
- I consider most important the compendia from past papers
- Acquire fast writing skills
- The time management
- Actually knowing the job, and doing it well, all aspects of it, from drafting, prosecution, invalidation, licensing, to strategic work on how to employ a well put-together patent portfolio for the benefit of the client's overall business strategy, knowing what a patent can be used for, and what it cannot be used for.
- Own material prepared on Basis of the Guidelines as well as previous exams
- Past papers.

- Time to practice the old exams, especially when employer/supervisor doesn't provide extra time for study
- Past examinations.
- old exams, reading materials
- Self study
- Training with the subjects of the papers. Drafting and prosecution of patent applications in real life.
- practicing handwriting
- Being an open examination, with a clear Syllabus, it should not be needed to attend any courses.
- self study
- samples of candidates answers
- delta patent methodology paper c book
- re doing the previous paper c exam
- Don't work, but study 4 weeks before the exam.
- more practice
- Training using old papers (with and without time restraint).
- For the claim analysis, my experience as examiner
- Having enough time for preparation
- Delta Patents Books. Visser.
- Be confident
- Study and exercise
- Past papers
- The guidance and material provided by Delta Patent Tutors
- Guidelines
- I was able to have some time leading up to the exam off from work, which helped me to focus on preparations.
- Taking past papers; and reviewing candidate's answers in previous years to understand what does and doesn't contribute to the mark.
- Past examination papers and in-house tutorials
- Free up sufficient time for preparation for the EQE

Fatigue management with daily work
Regular revisions
Do as many mock exams and DI questions as possible

- Mental/Psychological Preparation (i.e. Stress Reduction) using a combination of visualization, music and emotional self manipulation.

Speed improvement for D Questions by practicing a methodical approach.

- I understand Q11 as being relevant to the past year.
Otherwise I have followed several CEIPI courses

- A good training by the supervisor is essential for the claims analysis part.
The compendium in EPO website is very important to understand the level of preparation required, get familiar with the papers and the tricky questions contained therein.

- Other candidate's experience

- Reading the Guidelines, especially for the substantive patentability part.

- Doing past exam papers and then checking the Examiner's comments and sample answers.

Daily D questions.

- Examiner's comments really are key, especially if they don't change/ use standard text year after year, particularly for Paper C, as it helps very much with what you want to see with inventive step.

- The CEIPI course was very important to learn the consequent answering and the mock exam

- Doing past papers

- Previous exams in order to get an understanding of the type questions and how they are formulated.

- EPO European Patent Academy on-line course PP24-2015 helped a lot.
CEIPI basic training course in Riga (1 year) was also very good and helped a lot.
D. Visser "The annotated EPC" helps a lot to understand articles and rules although it has no legal base.

- the firm should give time to candidates for preparation

- knowledge of the EPC and the guidelines (all parts)

- Reading Kley and PCT-Applicants guide

- to do mock exams and correct them with compendium

- Time, time, time, ...

- More emphasis needs to be given to the 'Claim Analysis' section, and dedicated training for it is essential.

Timely studying is essential.

I took the CEIPI basic course, but it was totally inadequate for Pre-Exam purposes. The tutors

all fell into the trap of 'Paper D' mentality, and either went too detailed into issues, or the sessions ended up just reading through the EPC and PCT without any explanation. Too much detail confused the attendees, and the read-throughs were inadequate.

- Past papers
- Delta patents questions
- Doing the exams of the previous years.
- Previous exams helps a lot
- Free time from work
- Former exams (Found on EPO's website). Coffee Break questions. Time limit questions. Former D-exams.
I read Hoechst "References to the EPC" and Mulder "Cross-Referenced PCT".
- The PCT Applicant's Guide
- Working with my supervisor has given me enormous amounts of experience.
- Past Papers
- EQE Coffee break questions
- Doing practice questions was most useful, I found.
- discussion of old papers; general strategy for each paper
- internal CEIPI-course/study group.
- Past papers
- Access to past papers and solutions.
- day-to-day work as examiner
- Read the Visser
- - doing 1h daily exercises in delta patents book with other eqe candidate
- discussing eqe coffee break questions and pre-exam questions with my tutor and colleagues
- Correction of one handed-in C paper by my ASPI tutor.
- The daily work. I think it is important to get adequate cases for the preparation. I need difficult and diversified files. As I work in a private practice, the cases I get depends on our customers - and also on the possibility to get these interesting cases.
- working with my tutor in CSP project
- DeltaPatents Book of DI-questions
Past Papers
correction of papers by tutors from epi and DeltaPatents
- Sitting old Papers by myself and correcting them using examiner report

- Motivation and enough time to rehearse, and less other "normal workday" work would be beneficial as well!
- Practice a lot
- Rigor, organization, extrem motivation, and hard work.
- severe discipline and a lot of practicing and repeating
- In my opinion, for the pre-examination, what is crucial is being extremely familiar with the Guidelines, which in my case was easy enough since I mostly do EP prosecution at my firm. Doing at least one or two past exams is also very helpful to become familiar with the type of questions asked.
- Visser, Guidelines and C-Book
- Mich Zuhause einschließen und lernen
- Time off work to study that is key. Lack of time and long work hours means on day to day basis very difficult to find the time or energy to study. Plus being a parent and the primary carer for a small child makes it impossible to use weekends/evenings to study.
- Extra time given by the Company to study for the exam and alleviating the work burden accordingly
- None
- Past paper, study by yourself
- Time and interest
- Studying at home.
- Practice
- Hands on experience from working many cases. Discussions with experienced attorneys and examiners.
- training during time pressure,
- Tools you get in with
- I also followed the "Diplôme d'études internationales de la propriété industrielle" (cycle court), from CEIPI in Strasbourg.
- Discussing delicate points with colleagues
- I made checklists and small memos for the exams
- Practising using mock exams or exams from previous years, being reviewed by tutors
- It is better to take little notes while working when you come across with important cases, related for the EQE.
It is very important to have an intensive preperation.
Also, I believe that it is more usefull if you study with only one book rather than 3 or more

books. When you study with more than one or two books, during the exam you may confuse if you really do not know the related article.

- Annotated EPC. EPO website.

- analyzing the paper done by yourself

- study plan + good time management

- The most important "element" was the help of my coach in the Candidate Support Project

- Making many old papers

I passed the other parts the previous years, and had lots of benefit fr.o.m. those studies.

- I have not had any supervision from my employers, and it is very difficult to study yourself.

When I got admission to participate in Delta Patents courses the formulations to use in e.g., the D-exam was totally new for me.

It is important that you have permission to study and get education, otherwise it takes very long time to conclude the use of EPC.

For me, it has been bad luck, most other companies support their employers in their studies. Small companies cannot afford the expensive courses.

- Private study group.

- Delta Patents books and courses for A, B and D.

- Practical experience of EP drafting and prosecution

- It was crucial to understand the time constraint for the exam (at least for the Pre-EQE).

80 questions to answer in what felt like a rather short/quick 4h.

Had to be focussed and push through to the end, or else it would not have been possible to complete the paper.

- epi-online course was a great help as is help and the Ceipi 1 week training course.

For claim analysis part the daily work was very helpful.

- Good time planning

- I prepared myself using pas pre-exams, delta patent book and gregory baque book (which very well documented).

- Time.

- old pre-exams

psychological Support from colleagues

- Dedication to study after work.

- Regular contact with other people studying for the same exam, who are in the same or similar situation.

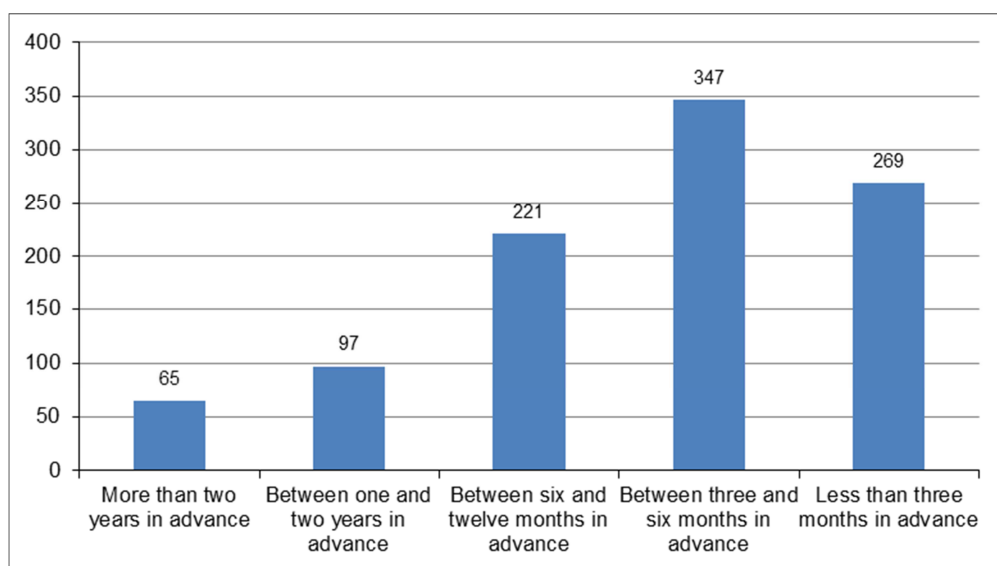
- Passing past papers/Compendium was one of the most important aspect of my preparation

- Studying previous years' EQE papers

- Compendium epo homepage

- - real life work
- hints by other candidates
- Discussions with colleagues who already say and passed the exam!!!
- For the pre-exam: Stretching out study over several months (i. e. starting in early September) and finishing off with doing all the previous pre-exams under exam conditions to get a feeling for the questions, their level of difficulty, the time I would need and the material I was comfortable working with. Knowing that you can virtually pass all old pre-exams and have ample time left over to re-check on your answers also really boosts confidence for the real thing. From January on I considered the foundations laid, concentrated on the old pre-exams and only looked up points they brought up that I had to clarify for myself. I found it important to do no last-minute cramming, but to allow things to sink in slowly and in fact did no studying in the last week before the exam.
- I used "Visser" and also (but to a lesser extent) Hoeksta's book on EPC. Also the "Cross referenced PCT".
- Personal study - exercise on previous papers
- Daily practice
- Dedicated training given by your supervisor, individual study of materials
- Delta-courses and training material from Delta-patents are much better than CEIPI,
- old exams
- practice practice practice
- writing former papers under examination conditions
Preparing legal texts with comments by myself
- use of EPC in daily work, especially the procedural subject-matter
- Practice past papers
- Previous work, studying and sitting of CIPA UK patent attorney examinations
- Personal work and preparing seminars

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?

- I did my best with the resources I had. If anything, I should have started revision earlier.
- Speed; time is running out to fast
- Clarity and Inventive Step for Preexam, being a chemist, I found that quite difficult in view of the preexam papers' non-chemical subject. I fear for the main exam 2017. It would have been good to be able to discuss more with peers/tutors about this.
- I should have started earlier, because preparation of summary materials takes a long time. In the end, I had not enough time left to do as much old papers as I wanted to. In the resit year for A-paper I was fine, though, just practising old papers the second time round.
- Not enough time to study due to work load. Not a lot I could do about it.
- I have a good Feeling about the exam. However, I did not reach 100% of the possible points. Therefore, maybe further studies could have been useful.
- Started too early
- The claims section of the pre-exam was difficult to prepare. Would have started preparing for this section earlier.
- Lack of time.
- Lack of experience with PCT. The Paper D 2016 was extremely PCT focussed when compared to previous examinations, with only one question not including PCT issues.
- I think my preparation was adequate.
- More familiarity with rules over the appointment and powers of PCT representatives.
- Time Checking and Writing skills. Could improve by going on a writing course to improve handwriting.

- The 2016 paper was unusually difficult (especially the claim analysis part); the true/false delta patents questions do not adequately reflect the level required, neither do the previous exam papers if the exam will remain this difficult.

I thought because I performed well in the past papers available that I was at the correct level for taking the exam. However, it appears that I should be at the level of taking paper D (which, by the way, is ridiculous; it is a foundation level exam).

I thought the point of the pre-exam was to remove very weak candidates, not just those who are exceptional at working out what the EB are trying to test you on. It should be testing candidates on the fundamentals of the EPC/PCT and not subtle legal points.

- I probably placed undue focus on the legal and procedural questions because I was initially more concerned by these. Having said that, there is less relevant material available to practice with for questions 11 to 20 of the pre-exam. I'm not sure how best to have overcome this, because in my view the claims analysed in the exam were quite different to claims encountered during practical day-to-day work.

- I should have brought ear plugs to the exam venue. Assuming the venue would be quiet was a mistake.

- No training offered and no other trainees in Avidity to gain experience from. Supervisor had not sat the exam and the majority of my work experience is in UK JP IN AU and US practice.

The EPO website was a good resource.

- Lack of cold-weather survival gear and hand-warmers.

Next year, if we do not have a guarantee of a reasonably heated venue, I will bring a sleeping bag, fingerless gloves, chemical hand warmers, a thermos flask and hot water bottle.

This should not be necessary examination preparation.

- I needed much more time to find a way of learning for the EQE and underestimated the time and the number of trials I needed for that.

- I probably would have focused on technique more for Paper D part 2.

- Focus more on claim interpretation, no changes to the legal aspect of the course.

- Concentrating uninterrupted when practicing past papers. Could have been overcome by being more disciplined e.g. turning off phone.

- Lack of study materials for the new style of Paper B exam (2012-2015).

- Had not enough time - job and family are also time-consuming.

- Started reading through the material earlier, and worked through more revision questions
- I did not bring gloves or extra layers or clothing. The room was so cold that it was too hard to concentrate.
- Practising under examination conditions
- The fact that you keep changing the exam every year - changing the pass mark, making the questions more complicated/ambiguous/useless. It makes it virtually impossible to know how prepared you are.
- Claim analysis. I do not know how I could have prepared for it better. The questions seem to comprise elements which are not clear year after year. I understand the difficulty of composing T/F questions, but it still seems a bit unfair that one test is to understand how the question itself should be understood. Understanding questions in some particular way should not be a part of becoming an EPA.
- Strategic aspects on how to tackle the papers
- I panicked a bit in the exam. I'm not sure how I could've overcome it - I think I just get very nervous about exams.
- Not realizing that, during the exam, nerves can make one think worse or slower than usual and therefore, one should be prepared to solve the Paper in even less time than available in the real exam
- Not having specific courses for the EQE in my country
- Managing time during exams. A course form a tips more than content of exams would be useful
- Claim analysis part was the most difficult part because it is highly dependent on the technical area to which the invention is related, and how close it is to the professional / studies background.
- It is a big step to be prepared to the Pre-exam, since I wasn't yet as familiarized as I would like to with EP and PCT procedural issues. That makes that a large amount of study has to occur, which can be very exhausting after a few months. Therefore, I found hard to maintain a good performance no only in the studying process but also to balance the study effort in order to reach the exam in a good condition.
- PCT, Verbindung von Regeln und Artikel. Keine Übersicht über PCT. "Der Weg zur Euro PCT" Guide von EPA ist nicht ausreichend.
- not enough time for preparation, i should have started earlier
- None. I prepared perfectly to pass all previous year exams no problem in considerably less than 4 hours. This year's exam was far harder and there was no warning. I followed the strategy that worked flawlessly for previous examinations and ran out of time. I don't think I'm getting my exam fees refunded for the lack of warning. Had I known that I was sitting an exam different to that of previous years, I would have prepared accordingly.
- Not wearing a thicker jumper!
- Wasnt fully aware of the vast amount of information that needed to be studied when starting preparation + had to work during preparation; when working during preparation, need to start

earlier.

- Making the paper in time. I could not overcome it.
- In my opinion, my preparation was more than adequate. However, the analysis part is very different from real-life experience and this year, the answers to the questions were not straightforward but rather pretty questionable.
- Susceptibility to extreme cold, given the temperature of the Bristol venue - could have overcome this had I been born a different species.
- Start revision earlier, but only possible if there was a larger gap between the UK exams and the European exams
- Claim analysis part difficult to prepare for. Only limited number of old exams available and this part became more and more complex in the last years.
- none
- I overestimated the time I have available for studying so I should have started before Xmas to prepare the exams.
- Time Management during the exams, writing speed and the handicap of not having De, En or Fr as mother tongue.
- It is VERY difficult to know what is required of the candidates in terms of the standard of the examination. The paper gets trickier every year, yet the manner of answer (T/F) is TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE for the level of subjectivity presented in the questions. It should not be the case that a candidate is tested on whether or not they can read the question setter's mind.
- I could not spend enough time, or only the less efficient evening hours.
- I got tired
- Difficult to find time to do an entire paper under exam conditions. I usually ended up breaking up a 4 hour past paper into 2 separate 2 hour sessions. So tricky to gauge whether I would be fast enough on the actual day of the exam.
- The main problem is the availability of time to sit past papers in one session - this requires sacrificing the weekends and family time for months in advance of the exam.
- The lack of a standard solution of previous papers that would have scored full marks.
- Identifying closest prior art based on hints/information
- I had not enough time for a real focused study.
- Finding the time to study.
- combining usual work with learning
- Methodology (time management, information analysis)
- sitting down again and prepare while working full time
- fear of Multiple Choice Questions

- Time
 - time pressure. Not sure I have overcome it!
 - Time management
 - Gestion du stress qui fait perdre du temps durant l'épreuve. J'étais bien préparé au niveau juridique et pour ce qui est de la technique d'examen (plus de 15 épreuves réalisées en temps réel); mais toujours du mal à finir l'épreuve
 - NOT WORKING IN GERMANY OR UK OR SWISS BASED PATENT COMPANY
 - Read more the directives
 - Time management, specially paper c
 - Stating the obvious in paper d, finding a wording covering all embo and new over prior art in A, and understanding where is a hook in paper c,
 - claim analysis
- more professional practice / more discussion on homework during the course
- I was not too focused on pct, making me a bit slow in finding legal basis in the pct. maybe it would have made a difference, had I studied the pct more, on the other hand maybe my knowledge of epc then would have been less good...
 - Time management and overlooking details.
- Practice, eye in the swatch and colored pencils sera helpful.
- understand the rules of the exams, not even patent laws
 - The ratio of PCT to EPC questions for D1 was different this year. In my training I had focused more on EPC than PCT. In hindsight I should have trained more for PCT aspects and brought a PCT reference book other than Visser.
 - I didn't expect reading the claim analysis part would take so long and lost my patience after 20 minutes. I shouldn't have relied on the length of previous papers when planning time management for the exam.
 - I should have started earlier. A year in advance would have been better.
 - Clarity issues with claims. More preparation time
 - I think greatest weakness was to rely on the style of the past papers
 - More training in methods for tackling the different Papers.
 - my stress and tiredness management
 - I underestimated the ability of the examination committee to make the pre-examination each subsequent year more difficult than the previous year. For the legal part this translates to (at least some) questions that are hard to interpret for non English, French or German speaking candidates.

So one of my weakness is that I have another mother language and that I do not fully understand all the questions, which cost me extra time to really grasp the question, also the wrong interpretation of a question may lead to a loss of points.

For the claim analysis part the issue is the amount to read, which again for a non English, French or German speaking candidate amounts to loss of time to make sure the content is properly understood. Same item for the correct interpretation of the questions, we lose additional time compared to native En, Fr or Ge speakers. Combined with a multitude of long claim sets to read with multiple dependencies does not make it easier.

In conclusion my greatest weakness was not enough time and the fact that I am not born and raised in Germany, England or France.

- The timing. Overcoming was not possible for due to the amount of writing. I didn't use the copy paste approach as then the structure of the documents is lost.

- strict time keeping

- More PCT since paper D of this year was a WIPO examination.

- Time to less. The examination has to be take in a hurst. As nonspeakers sitting the pre-examination in other language needs more time for reading and reason on the question with leisure.

- not practicing using the exam timeframes for A and B

- checking of exercises on earlier papers vs examiners report/model candidate answers

- Read more carefully the guidelines and prepare more the claim analysis part of the pre exam

- Test is artificial, without time to prepare with mock examinations and compendium chances of passing it are very low

- Work pressure meaning that revision was very interrupted and had to start very late.

- Große Informationsdichte in den Angaben und wenig Zeit erfordert sehr hohe Konzentration. Kleine Fehler wirken sich als Folgefehler oft stark auf die Antwort aus, wodurch auch kleine Fehler zu massivem Punkteverlust führen können.

Die Gefahr von Flüchtigkeitsfehlern lässt sich im Endeffekt nicht umgehen.

- Doing more D-paper of Compendium. Only did 2. 4-5 would have been better.

- Not being motivated enough to find a right technique for myself to be able so do the papers in the given time. epi tutorials would have been beneficial for me.

- PCT

Preparing the PCT applicant's guide in more detail.

- Some books are very thick and too time consuming. Mock-exams are more effective.

- PCT

- Manual writing

- Claim analysis in the pre-EQE. It requires 50% of luck in addition to 50% of EPO's white book and Examination guidelines F part reading.

Biggest difficulties this year where to guess the EPO's point of view on whether the sieve in D2 has retention means (my point of view is yes : the lower edge) and the problem solution-part

(Q14-20).

The test as it is gives no chance to different point of views.

- Didn't realise the exam would be a PCT exam rather than a European law exam.
- Work - Study - Private balance.
- Initially I had problem understanding the question itself and finding my way through the EPO/Guidelines.

Later the claim analysis part was always a bit tricky.

- Claim analysis part - pretty tricky and not too much material one can use to prepare for it.
- doing past exams in real time conditions
- I should have done more papers from the compendium.
- Stress management and keeping calm for a good legible writing
- Didn't practice enough in 2015, -> practice
- Assessing CPA, OTP, technical effects. You can study a lot on the theory of these subjects but in reality, due to the environment or circumstances of the subject matter at hand it's each time different. It's like learning driving a car, there is a huge difference driving downtown or in rural areas or on the highway. Unfortunately I didn't find for myself enough examples to study. Of course each year the pool is growing, thanks to the pre-exams.
- 4 out of 5 of the D1 questions were PCT-based. I would have spent more time studying the PCT had I known this in advance.
- Time pressure is not the same during preparation, even if tried to simulate it.
- Lack of time for focused studying. I ended up having to change jobs to reduce my workload so I could study on the weekends and evenings.
- Not enough time. Some of this was due to health issues. It would be better not to have to do UKs in the October before EQEs.
- Health issue
- analysis of paper A and preparing the set of claims which are "ready for grant". solving about 15 old A papers I was able to analyse the data more quickly and therefore had more time to consider all the needed issues
- Being really tired in the examination to the for me uncomfortable (bad) Futon style beds resting at the hotel in Berne where the examination took place the night before.
Only mitigation is to test the hotel bed in advance.
- Too slow at finding the answers.
- I had trouble at first with time management and with knowing exactly what was expected by examiners, especially for paper C.
Solution : lots of practice, reading the examiners' report in the Compendia, taking methodology courses.

- More mock pre examinations (if available!) to better prepare for claim analysis, because sometimes the questions in this part of the examination are somehow confusing!
- Pre exam: I have less prepared pct
- Lack of study time.
- Impossible to know in advance it's own "level" as it is impossible to get an official score on compendium. Impossible to know if the time allocated is enough or not.
- time issue for C!
- great nervousness - not overcome yet.
- I think the PCT part. The compendium is quite short, while the PCT guidelines are 800 pages long. It was difficult to find something in between.
- There are only so many past papers that one can practice.
- Stress management
- For D-I I knew pretty fast how to respond but I lost quite some time to find the right legal basis. For example representation PCT, I know the important rules but verifying if sth is R90.1a)I) or II) made me loose quite some time. This time was unnecessarily lost for D-II. I've to learn some stuff by heart I assume, in order to be faster.
- Balancing EQE prep with regular work.
- I did not practice taking the exam in a freezing cold room
- spend more time in general
- I spent way too much time on studying legal issues and case law in detail. However, in retrospect it seems more important to have a well practised standard approach for doing the specific papers, which is in particular due to the time pressure.
- It is virtually impossible to predict knowledge of what part of the procedures (both EPC and PCT) will be checked in the EQE pre-exam. However, the syllabus of the pre-examination should be limited to checking the candidates' knowledge of truly fundamental issues of the most practical importance and should not include questions related to subtle procedural aspects of very limited practical importance. This time, however, many fellow candidates however had a strong feeling that the above was not the case.
- The problem of how to answer T/F questions when the question is not 100% specific.
- No invitation for courses or preparation sessions where people and instructors could be met.
- N/A. Doing as many past papers as possible to get an idea of what scenarios could potentially come up in each of the exams.
- Full time, full on workload. Give up work! But that's not an option.
- Doing mock exams in real time. But I should have taken into consideration that we lose 5 minutes to open the documents and organize them and 5 other minutes to put numbers on copies and make sure I hand back the right documents.

- my greatest weakness is the language: often Papers are written in a tricky/ambiguous English and for this reason the available time risks to be insufficient for participants that, like me, are non-mother tongue
- too much praxis experience -> due to that I was tending to interpret too much knowledge into the disclosure of the papers -> wrong solution path -> not sufficient time to solve the expected solution.
- I would have to study more PCT stuff. Although I believe it was not fair to overbalance the PCT over EPC like it was done this year.
- Understanding what the marker wants.
- to sit down for writing and focussing on a paper in complete
- Age, more living issues than younger candidates
- - methodics for A & B;
 - experience with legal issues when coming from the country where not much EPC or PCT applications is filed
 - PCT itself - not much of a materials like Viser or Hoekstra for EPC.
- we have a family
we have a job
we have children
we have social contacts
we are no robots
- Time management
- Develop your own methodology incl. time milestones within the examination time given.
- There were not enough past exams to train so that I could not reliably predict how my state of knowledge was.
- i underestimated the amount of time necessary to prepare for the D part, particularly with respect to the unusually large number of PCT related Questions
- Experience in sitting the exam. The situation as such is really stressful.
- When I made the Pre-Exams of the last years, I had plenty of time to spare. However, for this years pre-EQE I had just enough time to fill in all my answers. I could have used a bit more time to have a second look on a few questions. I noticed that I had to look up more as compared with the exams of the last years.
- find enough time between two little childrens and job
- claim analysis: technical effect and objective technical problem
- should have actually used the c-papers in the compendium as mock exams and do it all in writing
- I feel I couldn't make better than I did during A and B paper.
There was no surprise with patentability aspects, nor with prosecution.
- Should have printed off material to be used earlier.

- To understand how the papers should be answered
- Not enough speed for the theoretical part of the claims. Ability to mix data from a lack of concentration.
- Legal questions - overcome by being familiar with Visser.
- Lack of time to prepare for A the first time, and use CEIPI method. Which is why I had to sit A again passing passed B, C, D last year. This time I used the Delta Patent method for A. It seems to me to be better.
- not allowing sufficient time. Solution: begin earlier
- Uncertainty over how D2 is marked. Attempted more of the old style D2 papers?
- Lack of time for training with old papers mock style.
- 1: I couldn't find enough time to study. I should have started earlier.
2: I was not fast enough on the exam. I should have practiced on a few more old exams.
- Not having enough experience in all fields (e.g. drafting)
- B: Dealing with the Claims of the Client - For me the old style of paper B was easier
- Hand writing is the most difficult part of the exam. The amount of hand writing for people like me that are writing in computer for many years is a big handicap.
Also, specific argumentation style, trained with mock-up exams.
Time-handling during the exam is also a specific difficulty.
- More training of answering questions
- Not enough time to focus on any papers other than paper D in the last few weeks. I spent all of my study time on D. I should have done more practice papers for A.
- finding the best book and preparing it in time
- Paper B has changed quite a bit since 2013 and there were actually just two prior exams 14' and 15' which were particularly relevant mock exams for current paper B. Having done both of those exam earlier, there were actually quite little relevant material to study.
- My greatest weakness was my lack of experience in drafting, answering Official communications and filing European Patent Applications and notices of Opposition. I worked really hard to overcome my weaknesses and I still do it.
- Time. This is always the biggest enemy of the EQE. The exams are rather hard and difficult.
- Lack of time.
- Intensive work load, which was difficult to delegate or postpone made the preparation lighter than I would have wished.
However, expecting this to happen to at least some extent I had already decided to only go to some papers and not all remaining ones.
There is no way to fully overcome daily life problems.
- Claims analysis is difficult, because even if you know theory well, there are very few

possibilities to practice claims analysis, because there just are no similar available exercises.

- Better indexing of information so I could retrieve things better.

Not expecting to have to print out hundreds of pages of PCT applicant guides and other info to find translation and language requirements and so on...

- Weakness: claim analysis

I should have taken more time to get to a routine problem-solving

- I could have used more time studying the compendium and the Examiner's report

- Claim analysis part, which needs more practice

- to understand how to tackle the Exam

- I can't judge myself.

- I find my preparation satisfying enough.

- Reading the questions carefully. Several times I noted the correct reasoning on my own paper, but still marked the wrong answer on the sheet, as I missed a minor nuance of the question.

E.g, "Can Further Processing be requested on date dd.mm.yyyy?" I had a complete reasoning with calculated time on my papers, but still marked "wrong", although the date will always be within the limit for Art. 121 EPC.

- Some questions are difficult to understand because there seems to be a grey zone between "true" and "false". It would be so helpful if at least a few comments would be allowed.

- Not enough time. Too much stress at work.

- Insufficient study/practice time due to work load

- 1) Too little time to review what I had studied long before the exam. 2) No good reference for PCT

- Papers A and B still rely on some specific technical knowledge especially for assessing inventive step of some features in a specific technical field.

- Preparation was good. Stress in the exam was most difficult. Appending to the structure of old examiners report answers would have helped to not forget important points to mention

- Already passed A/B/D last year. Just paper C: need to speed up on preliminary analysis but I find it hard to do because if you miss something on this part, claims attacks could be wrong.

- Paper B was terrible, I simply did not have the stamina to think analytically after paper D and A. It was perhaps in retrospect not a good idea to attempt all four papers at the same time. If the exam would be spread over 4 days, I think this would improve pass rates.

- A mentoring system at work that allowed more studying and less office work would have been very helpful

- I could not have done more than I did with the time available that I had.

Retrospectively, I should have spent more time on practicing the method to do DII instead of getting all the latest Development of the law in my head.

- More time with a personal tutor. Given the fact that I have switched employer (industry) 4

times since 2010 the lack of continuity in the preparation work has been a drawback. If you have no EPA colleague suitable to be a tutor, you need to find money through work or pay yourself for a tutor and that is sometimes difficult. I think that I have had 3 tutors since 2010 and hopefully as this present tutor is one of my colleagues we can continue.

- I left out "Opposition" in the Delta-Patents book due to lack of time.

- Claims part in 2016 exams, I needed more practice and focus

- Nerves, since the exam is only once/year, which put a lot of pressure on a person. I was very well prepared, but nerves can make you block so you can't reach your knowledge. How to overcome it...I wish I knew! I have followed a training for controlling fear of taking exams, but I am still anxious for failing.

- Please see answer to Q12. Staying healthy was by far the greatest detriment to my studying, and to the exam itself. When I was healthy, I spent several 14 hours days doing exam style questions with the same time pressure as on the exam, and got tired but it was ok. On the exam, I was "done" after 3,5 hours, due to sinus and ear infection. I was hoping to get a good grade, now I am just hoping to pass. So - stay fit, exercise, take your vitamins, eat healthy, don't eat junk, sleep enough, avoid sick people, take time every day to relax and get your stress levels under control - all the best laid study plans are impossible to follow when you keep getting seriously sick. It sounds silly, but really is of vital importance.

- Time to study, the only way to overcome it would be skip working that was not a choice

- Time management, which would have been improved if I had time for Mock exam at home before the "sharp" sitting...

- I worked intensively for 1 year before sitting the pre-examination. After the exam I had the feeling I had the right level of preparation, or at least I covered all the topics properly and my material was well prepared. I should have known more to be able answering better and faster the claim analysis part, but ideally there should be more material available for it.

- My greatest weakness was not dedicating enough hours to study. In retrospect, I would enrol in a teaching course because that would force me to study.

- Ma plus grande faiblesse a été la gestion de mon temps durant l'épreuve.

J'ai suivi l'un des conseils lors de la formation préparatoire pré-EQE du CEIPI qui était de passer plus de temps sur la partie juridique que sur la partie technique. Toutefois cette année la partie technique était plus longue et plus complexe que les épreuves techniques des années antérieures. Je n'ai donc pas disposé du temps nécessaire pour bien faire la partie technique.

- It depends. In my case its one exam per year. This means that I learnt a lot when passing A and B. I was not surprised at the time pressure or detail argumentation. But in general, one does not expect the in-exam pressure.

- Writing the answers in time. I got pain in my hand from writing during the second day of the exams which slowed the speed and legibility of writing. I should have trained more intense handwriting over several weeks.

- I felt more secure with the legal questions than with the claim analysis;
Further studies of claims analysis case studies

- Could have studied more previous papers.

- I have no time during the week to prepare to the exam. My supervisor does not allow us to use

working-time to prepare the EQE, and due to the long working journeys (from 8:30 am to 19:30 pm), I have to study only on weekends, and this is not always possible because familiar and personal causes.

A better preparation and more time to study would be very useful, but without my supervisor help it will be impossible (and my supervisor, who is my boss, will not let me to dedicate working time to study instead working in the files. I have already ask him...). It is very frustrating not be able to prepare myself better because lack of help from experience people. And I do not how to overcome this problem, because I cannot give up my work.

My employer (and supervisor) just pay the examination fee, and he does not anything else regarding EQE preparation, but complaining when his employees fail. It is very hard to feel alone in the preparation, with no resources other that online-information and the documentation from a previous online course.

- It is difficult to asses the required scope and the appropriate knowledge level. There is a lot of subject matter to go through before one obtains an overview, and a lot of it was never tested in pre-exams.

- My greatest weakness was that I became ill with Lyme's disease and had to stop all studying from October 2015 to beginning of February 2016. I could not have done more than I did to overcome it.

- I think the best preparation is achieved by doing the compendium papers.

- That I started the intensive preparation too late and didn't even have time for weekly Q&A. Given the workload at my job, I could not have overcome this.

- Paper is all about getting the basic right quickly, timeline and A123(2) and possible other topics.

The challenge is getting the overview and find the closest prior art, with the suitable second document.

Performing the attacks is craftsmanship if you have the time. Thus, get the basic right quick.

My Achilles heel is stress.

- Administration of time

- I focused too much on the legal questions. Should have invested more time on the claim analysis part.

- Time availability

- Preparation was good.

- Maybe I should have spent more time on PCT with a commentary book - I only used the PCT itself and the applicants guide and the Delta questions relating to PCT.

It's unfortunate that B papers have changed in 2013 - so the number of papers to practise on is limited (no way to overcome this)

- Timing. For B, C and D the amount of writing is great. I don't use the cut and paste approach as the structure of the annexes is lost, thus the answers required lots of writing which is difficult to handle in the limited time. For paper A, most difficulties in general with structuring well the dependent claims.

- No enough study material and help on requirements for claim analysis. No good study book or

guide about PCT.

- Coming from an industrial environment, we don't care about procedures or what someone from outside the EP area is allowed to do and what not. We care about novelty/inventive step, enablement and allowed amendments etc. in short, we care about content.

When coming from industry you have to realise in time, that in order to pass the exam, the procedures and exceptions are important as well

- Scheduling sufficient time. No solution.

- Time management. Time-limited training.

- - I couldn't take enough time for training; started too late
-> better prioritisation

- Time

- I have the most difficulty by preparing the Claim Analysis part. It would be better if I can start earlier and have more exercises.

- Claims analysis, especially clarity and inventive step questions. I could have spent more time studying guidelines.

- There is very little training material around about claim analysis. Even in formal training sessions/courses, the same cases are being used over and over, which doesn't allow to sufficiently train on certain aspects such as inventive step problem-solution approach. For me there was still a lot of uncertainty after taken the available previous exams....

- Better time-management
Started with mock-exams earlier

- A lot of other things to do at work (and family). hard to prioritize.

- Writing speed is a very important for papers B, C and D. Also time management is extremely important for all papers.

- The great weakness is the lack of time.

Firstly, lack of time in studying to prepare the examination (due to my intensive working time) and,

secondly the small amount of time to make the pre-examination:

in my opinion, 4 hours is not an adequate time to reach 70 points on 100, above all due to the evident increase of difficulties of the claim analysis, the number of documents to read and the level of detail requested.

Furthermore, the method to calculate points based on true/false answer (0 marks for 0 or 1 correct answers, 1 mark , for 2 marks for 2 correct answers, etc.) is just punitive and not remedial.

Then, the sheet-answers to fulfill is very unfriendly and complicate to fill considered the small amount of time and the difficult situation the attendee is subject to.

- My most weak area was the claim analysis part, particularly the understanding of concepts like clarity, extension of subject matter, technical effect and obviousness. The reason for this, I believe, is that the area in which claim analysis is examined, is a general field supported by drawings. Candidates working in a technical field not based in drawings have one more hurdle to overcome. Therefore, adequate exercises should be available but this is not the case, as pre-exams are held since 2012 only and the exercises provided by the epo online seminar are not

similar to the level of the real exams nor are they scrutinized sufficiently.

- Nerves, I was well prepared, however, my nerves took the best part of me during the D exam

- ?

- Too little time for solving the questions and due to this too much stress leading to a lack of overview.

More training in exam situations.

- I would have started studying cases earlier.

- Last year my greatest weakness was time - it was a problem in paper C. This year, however, I had solved a lot of past exam papers and was really prepared and had enough time.

- Should have done more practice exams

- Time

- Working in-house with no peers to study with

- Time management is very important during training. Duties, which coming from job and family, consume the time continuously as making the training and focusing harder to EQE exam.

- Handwriting under bad seating condition; should have tested it on uncomfortable chairs

- Language problems, especially technical vocabulary.

Practice

- I followed two courses to prepare the legal part of the exam, that is why the most difficult part to prepare in my opinion is the claim analysis.

- Timing

- Setting aside enough time to complete past papers under examination conditions. In retrospect it would be easier to prepare better if I were to divorce my wife and leave my children.

- Greatest weakness: no tutor, no attempting to EQE course because they are very expensive including flight and hotel.

- time to prepare

- I did too much and I was quite tired at the end of the study.

- Claim analysis was difficult, especially since the claims used were very different from what any professional in Biochemistry would write.

- Speeding up the reading of the text and questions in English language (I'm not native English speaker). It seems the pre-exam papers are getting longer in time. The text to be read is getting longer than in the past pre-exam. Questions are getting more complicated. Therefore, time was an issue for me more than comprehension or finding the right answer.

- Could have practiced the old exams more seriously.

- Organizing time between learn sessions and family activities
Making a plan when, how long are the learn sessions and what is the topic to be done within this time
- Pay a more attention to former exams and the important general knowledge taught in the CEIPI seminar.
- INITIALLY I DIDN'T HAVE THE CORRECT METHOD, AFTER LEARNING IT I NOTICED THAT I WAS ABLE TO EXECUTE PAPERS AND I COULD EVALUATE THE LEVEL OF PREPARATION
- Too much work (office) and then being tired
- PCT related Topics. I just got familiar with the relevant literature.
- I was weak with respect to formal and procedural aspects as compared to claim analysis including assessment of original disclosure, novelty and inventive step. Answering questions of previous exams and the study material provided by Deltapatents was helpful
- The legal questions were trickier than I anticipated. I should have started preparing earlier, and have read everything in more detail.
- The main problem is remaining concentrated 5 hours in a row. Even when practising mock exam at home, you are constantly distracted. At the D exam you keep focused for hours without having a second of mental rest. I made most of the mistakes in the last part of the exam - since I was worn out and my concentration was decreasing
- Stress during exam. For example, leaping over a month while counting them would only happen during time pressure in exam conditions.
- Finding all the information necessary to write a proper attack in a short time. In retrospect, I couldn't overcome it.
- Not enough preparation time on papers A and B
- Time management.
- Bad sleep the night before.
- I really need a lot more support on how to tackle the papers - I still have not cracked this. I tackled several past papers under exam conditions, and I certainly improved, but overall I could have done with a lot more of this.
- Time. Start earlier to study.
- time management for part C (do old exams)
- weakness: money, solution: lottery;
- in Paper A, time management: underestimated how much time was needed to cut and paste description.
- for me time is the most challenging factor in paper C --> to find a balance between performing the attacks in a sufficient detailed way while not spending too much time on each

- I don't know..I am just not a fast writer. For the C-Part this is definitely my weakness. I tried to write several old exams to improve this, however it seems it was not enough...

- Self control, bad sleep

- The language, express myself in a non-mother language when you have almost no time to think.

- Not writing down complete answers as would be necessary in the exam during preparation

- I have been tied up the entire last year with a national infringement/invalidation case, which is still ongoing, and was forced to handle the initial stage of a US-infringement case in January, leaving very little time for preparing for the exam.

My best tip for avoiding such a situation is to either make sure that one is not considered an indispensable asset to their employer, OR to leave for a competitor, and use the period of notice to study and prepare.

- Working longer in advance, considering the difficulty it is to combine office work and personal work for EQE during the personal time out of the office

- claim analyses part

- Paper D requires more time than I have assigned to it.

- Difficult to find the time for revising, particularly in view of the day to day requirements of the job. I could have discussed this with my employer/supervisor more, and potentially been able to gain more free time to revise. However it was largely an issue with the current volume of work for everyone in my team and so probably little that could be done.

- the exams older than 5 years do not contain enough explanation from the examiner report. Training with ceipi overcome this problem partially.

- Time pressure.

Hard to simulate examination environment, except sitting in the real situation.

- not having enough time with work and family and not knowing what to expect on each of the exams

- My preparation was quite good. I could have studied the examiner's reports more closely for the previous exams for more help with the claim analysis part. But I do not know whether this would actually have improved my result.

- I did not have enough time to also train Paper D from the compendium. It could not have been avoided by planning different as it was paid and unpaid work that improved by skills with drafting patent applications.

- Quick making decisions under timed exam conditions is always difficult.

- Trying to remember information you had study months before. I don't think it can be overcome easily, unless you are to cram information in the last few weeks.

- I am a slow writer; I still don't know how to overcome it.

- Overwhelmingly to write by hand and not being able to use (as in real life) options of "find" (in

pdfs of C papers, for example), "copy and paste", as most or all of us do in real conditions.

Probably you may pass all exams if having your Computer, but this has nothing to do with the real conditions of the Exam.

Time management and concentration.

Evaluating what could be the closest Prior art in the C Paper (according the Examiners). I wasted too much time on that, not used in writing.

Evaluating what the Examiner expects in the answers of the D. In the Compendium there are many examples where the Examiners expect sometimes more than the sole answer to the question to gain full marks). This leads inevitably to lack of time to complete properly the paper (in my case).

- time management

more past papers in exams conditions

- not knowing what really went wrong in the argumentation of my previous exam it is difficult to focus on exact aspects to improve them

- more time (hard when you are on parental leave with small kids)

- Time management! And after Part D and A it was very hard to concentrate on part B. I was very happy that I split the exam and I will try part C the first time next year.

- Greatest weakness - underestimating the extent to which low temperatures slows writing ability. Retrospectively, could have overcome this by practicing past papers wearing gloves.

- I need more practice of preparation of Papers under indicated time and under pressure

- Questions regarding claim analysis; I didn't exactly know how to learn and practice that. For the legal part there are more ways to learn and read a lot but not for the claim analysis part. As the answers that are required by the examiner are not always realistic compared to real life practice in the office.

- Not enough past exams with the new version of D, so difficult to know how to manage the time correctly.

- Speed at which you write,
Too much time spent on analyzing the annexes

- health problems like shoulder and neck issues. More sports and less work.

- Time management Control

- PCT. starting earlier with Delta Patents' exercises book.

- To write very quickly, to think quickly... we do not have time to check what we are doing and to amend errors

- lack of candidates in the city

- Time management

- Difficulties in quickly understanding the topics "hidden" in the papers (I'm not mother tongue) and therefore to find the proper (requested) combination of documents for making the attack. It is not a matter of how to write an attack (in terms of steps), but to find the proper arguments. Unfortunately language jokes are decisive for passing the papers, and this penalizes citizens who are not mother tongue in one of the official languages. Duration of the examination should be extended for candidates not mother tongue in EN, DE, FR, in order to have really equal opportunities.
- Uncertainty. Go ahead and be confident.
- I would have liked to have started intensive revision earlier but this was not possible due to the UK final exams. I also should have marked up my texts for use during the exam whilst working my way through the EPI course for the pre-exam.
- Not enough practice for Paper A. Could have been overcome by spending more time in Paper A rather than equal time on A and B.
- Timing is the key factor and when you have a family and a full time job, it becomes very challenging to obtain free time to study.
- time management
- The knowledge that the wording of the questions have a main focus on misleading the candidates from the actual knowledge that is aimed to be tested result. Subsequently, the candidates are likely to give faulty answers to questions they in reality know because of stress (i.e. in addition to the stress caused by the examination time available). Most seriously, this is especially negative for the candidates not having the official EPO-languages as their native language.
- For the Pre-EQE, I practiced a lot of legal analysis related questions, so I felt that I was well prepared. However, I was not confident with the claims analysis type questions. It would have been better if there were more of these types of questions available for candidates to practice with before the exam.
- Difficult to assess for the preExam. The law questions were very broad, for example.
- Most of this year's questions were about the PCT. I would have focussed more on the PCT in my revision. The pre-EQE is very useful: the Board is to be congratulated for introducing the pre-EQE.
- Bad time management particularly for C and D.
Do as many mock exams as possible
Start with DII, then DI (I feel more comfortable with DII)
- Time
- I retrospect, I failed to spend enough time learning about and understanding the Euro-PCT system. I could have spent more time studying the wonderful booklet published by the EPO "Euro-PCT Guide: PCT procedure at the EPO".
- Speed of writing
Bionic arm?
- Having more time for studying would have been useful. However, doubts on the right answer in some cases would have not been solved anyway.
working more and earlier on the compendium would have been wise, as well as getting more

familiar with the legal texts in order to be faster in finding the relevant paragraphs during the examination.

- I'm re-sitter. Last years I didn't have enough time at real exam for the claim analysis part as it was hard; this year it was same - hard claim analysis part, not enough time.

I think Pre-exam 2015 and 2016 claim analysis part in not in conformity with the exam duration, claim analysis part is harder than before (2012-2014) for the same exam duration - it is not fair.

- At the beginning the greatest weakness was the legal part. Instead, in the last weeks before the examination, I found that I made some errors more in the claim analysis.

- Bringing gloves to wear in the exam hall would have been good.

Making sure my method for Paper C was spot on and following it more precisely in the exam.

- Having time to practice enough past papers as our firm only give one day study leave per exam. Started revision earlier (but life gets in the way!).

- I only work with one other trainee (who is in a different office). It would have been better to have bounced ideas off others also sitting the exams. Would be good if there were more events for trainees to get together (especially for others like me who are going it alone).

- I focussed too much on the EPI online course wherein 50% are of "no use" in the pre-EQE. E.G: disclaimers, ranges, second medical use, exclusions of patentability, US Law, ...

- A et B ne nécessitent pas un entraînement spécifique. la pratique quotidienne (réponse aux notifications, rédaction de demandes) est le meilleur entraînement).

Pour C, il faut s'entraîner en temps limité (ce qui est difficile) pour bien gérer son temps. J'aurais du faire ça.

Pour D, il faut apprendre à maîtriser ses outils (Baque notamment). un entraînement précoce est donc préférable.

- Papers having changed recently (eg reduction in time for B) mean few past papers are available if you are repeating an exam.

- I finished the DI part in two hours and then I surprisingly got a little bit unfocused in part DII which resulted in that I did not have time to answer all the questions asked in DII. One of the main reasons I got unfocused was because I changed approaches as compared to the approach used when practising before the exam (viz. the approach used by Deltapatents according to which the questions not necessarily are answered consecutively). Thus, I retrospect should have stuck to the approach I knew. Hopefully, I will pass anyway.

- The paper is a race against the clock, it is not what you know but how fast you put it in writing. When preparing I should have been more strict to do both part 1 and 2 of past D papers IN TIME. Part 2 can make one easily spend 0,5-1 hour extra and part 1 questions can easily make one spend 10-15 minutes extra here and there, which will add up on the exam and make you fail on insufficient time to answer all questions. Time management is critical!

- Time Management
Understanding legal questions

- Finding time outside office hours to actually get focused enough to study.

- feedback from an unbiased marker for a past paper is very important

- I have got from "Claim analysis" questions very few points last year.
I used for preparing exercises of on-line course and also tutor from CSP program have helped me a lot.

Also materials that I have got during CEIPI course in Strasbourg, that was part of CSP program,
have helped by studying.

EPO on-line course questions and DeltaPatents "Pre-exam book" and "Basic legal questions for pre-exam and paper D" helped to improve answering legal questions.

A. Rudge "D-book" was also good for getting explanation about some topics,
although I have book from 2015 and then I had to take into account changes.

- For the main exam, next year (I hope), I will start to work in October and take the CEIPI seminar in November.

Discuss more about the cases with colleagues.

- Too much work for my company

Too much information, did not know where to start studying

- learning in small groups of candidates would be helpful to discuss and find weaknesses

- greatest weakness was about paper A. I should probably try harder to find my own method to handle this paper

- Find enough time for preparation and exercises.

- I should have started on Claim Analysis practice much earlier, so that I had time to get comfortable about it.

- - Controlling the time when drafting the responses.

- -

- The fact that the pre-Exam difficulty increases each, which is impossible to anticipate by doing the exams of the previous years.

- do not try to interpret too . Take the questions as they are and try the most straight forward analyse.

- I had no available time for preparation. No way to overcome it... I hope next year I will have more time available

- Last time I started to late, about two month Before, and I also made the mistake to believe that doing my job and caring for my family could be combined with the studies.

This year I started much earlier and only concentrated on studying and left Everything else to someone else.

- Legal part, and the way to read question to fully understand it. Finding where to search informations to answer a question.

Collecting documents to be updated.

Technical part, the importance to find just the correct answer and to not look on tiny détails. For example, for the novelty analysis.

As the answer is just right and false, we have to find the expected response, even if another

could be defensible.

- I am Japanese patent attorney, thus I tend to misunderstand the European practice due to my knowledge of Japanese practice. In order to overcome this drawback, I studied the past exams of papers A, B and D as well as the examiner's reports.

- There are tons of material to learn available. There is no way to go through all of them. So, I think one difficulty is to make an individual plan for what material to use and in which order.

- lack of time

- Training the answering technique and argumentation.

- Keeping with the study plan. I believe it required more focus, but was difficult since I was attempting all papers at once and I also have national qualification exams one month later...

- I was too slow especially for paper A. I would prepare better for that paper, having in mind the limited amount of time available.

- I didn't start long enough in advance

- The ability to handle stressful situations, so that I could cope better with the exam hall.

- Time management. I would have needed 10-20 min more in order to be able to finish off the exams such that I would have been able to write everything that I wanted to write.

Practising more past exams under exam conditions may have helped.

- My main weakness was the argumentations format.

In order to overcome this deficit, I did a lot of practice in real life situations (real EP cases). In particular, I have prepared dozens of reply letters to official actions related to patent applications that I drafted several years ago, and I have given a significant contribution during several opposition proceedings.

The "real life practice" together with specific examination preparation for papers B and C have significantly improved my ability to manage different kind of situations that may occur during the EQE (and during real granting/opposition proceedings). This makes me more efficient during the proceedings by making possible to interact expeditiously with the examiners without the needs of oral proceedings or phone call.

- The PCT, it would be useful to have an annotated PCT like there is for EPC.

- Time management! No chance to overcome this, it really depends on the purpose of the exam

- No free time at work neither at home to focus on studying.

- PCT

- as always, have sufficient time for preparation beside job and family

- Getting the latest edition of the Hoekstra book only just after Christmas, and not having any book before that, so did not really get into intensive study more before that. Studying with a previous year's version did not seem proper but maybe in hindsight an earlier version could have been useful already during Autumn. That way the studying would not have felt so rushed during the month before the pre-exam.

Doing mock pre-exams at home environment did not match with the real pre-exam situation.

Maybe that played a part why I spent so long for the legal questions at the pre-exam (and left too little time for the claim analysis).

- Need to practice more the claim analysis part.
- to create mental scheme on the common matters
- Time-management during examination. It is difficult to finish all papers with the amount of time that is given. The best way to manage time is to focus on important issues, e.g. inventive step attacks in paper C and "neglect" questions with fewer points to be gained, e.g. comments regarding effective dates and novelty attacks in paper C.
- time limit to answer questions, use of books
improve by practicing
- Time management under exam conditions was unexpectedly much harder than during preparation. Exam conditions are hard to simulate. More compact writing style necessary
- For the Claim analysis part, there is not so much training material and mock questions that can be done.
- My greatest weakness was that I did not have enough energy to study, because my work was also very demanding. The solution would be: reserve time and energy for studying and say more often "no" to your boss.
- I appreciate the examiner's report for each paper A. The examiner's report of 2015 was very rich. However, it would be even more useful if the wrong solutions were explained with more details (notably for the clarity A84CBE explanations). When reading the report, I would enjoy explanations about why a given solution is wrong.
- with D paper I should have studied more (read also PCT in detail); for A and B paper it depends on whether you understand the subject matter or not; practice is important (to do as many past papers in detail), to learn and to get the idea how to extract all important information
- Time pressure.
- The material is endless, so I always had the feeling that I could do more... But you need to stop somewhere and accept that there will always be questions which you cannot answer.
- Not enough examination practice --> starting sitting old papers and improving the "How to structure and attack the papers most efficient" to focus on the concrete "challenge" of the exam rather than thinking on the process of taking the exam as how to sort the papers, read it efficiently, structure the answer, ...
- I had too much regular work in my office in Jan-Feb 2016 and thus the final rehearsing period was quite poor, because I had not enough energy to study in the evenings or weekends. There should be clear management decisions that at least part of the regular work should be carried out by other agents who are not participating in the EQE.
- To be very quick when giving a complete answer.
- Not enough knowledge in order to connect different issues. Practice a lot show you different situations and combinations of problems. As much as you see better.
- I didn't think I would need so many documents already for the pre-exam specially in view of the previous ones and I left some ones at home that would have turned useful.

- To answer the questions (compendium) in time.
- It seems there was not enough material how a question could be interpreted.
- Despite having studied so hard, also practicing previous exams under time pressure, I was unable to cope with the time limits and did not have time to finish off any of the Exams. I was "overloaded" and nervous and got way too little sleep before the Exams. I was so nervous and stressed at the Exams that I missed quite a few things that I actually know very well and have practiced a lot.
For some reason I did not even spot some of the information given in the papers at the Exams. However, when looking at the papers again, less stressed, after the Exams in my hotel room, I immediately spotted the information missed...
- Clearly, I was not familiar enough with the PCT, as I realized during the pre-examination. (Thankfully, this year's pre-examination contained only one PCT question, so I was not particularly harmed, but it would have been a very different story for me if there had been three or four PCT questions.) In retrospect, should have spent more time getting familiar with the PCT (at the very least the Guide for applicants), as the PCT approach is very different from the EPC approach.
- Not doing enough papers to time
- Klausursituation: mehr Routine
- The claims part of the pre-EQE paper is subjective and so does not fit the true-false format.
- Leaving enough time in the day/evening for study. Students need to push-back on workload pressure from their employers.
- Time management. It was my nightmare and finally it seems I could solve it
- Zeitmanagement In Paper D (Keine eigene Uhr, Uhr im Saal zu weit entfernt),
- Claim analysis
- Not taking enough cloths to Bristol to keep me warm. Other than that, organisation of exam papers on the table during the exams, which I corrected as I progressed through the exams by keeping the table tidy.
- Having time to study.
- My greatest weakness is related to the length of Paper C and the time it takes to exercise each of the previous exams.
After 3h of reading analysing and writing down information I'm already exhausted and therefore unable to show my skills and knowledge of the subject matter.
I cannot foresee how to overcome this situation.
- It was difficult to find the correct passages of the compedium, course and guidelines. A better preparation by means of post-its, etc would have helped.
- My mother tongue is none of the EPO officially languages. Must take more time.in familiar.with the exam language
- lack of time for study

- Time management. Never had a problem when doing the practice exams but was pressed for time in the pre-eqe. Should have done the claim analysis part first as it took more concentration.
- Language barrier, my mother tongue is different from the official languages of the EPC. I overcome it reading star wars books and other space opera books in english
- Claim drafting knowledge was good enough but not fast enough to practise.
- Check always G decisions and practice more in real time
- I started to study 10 days before the pre exam. During this time i had to work 50% due to unexpected urgent cases. My original plan was to study 14 days full time with no other work. In retrospect it would have been better to start earlier, for instance around xmas, to ensure 14 days full time studies.
- Having papers marked a few months before the exam is very important, because otherwise candidates will not know their real status and just a general idea of how to answer is not enough for passing.
- lack of time for preparation while working at the same time
- PCT. if I had more time, I could have invested it more on PCT part
- By knowing the papers in advance?
- Too little focus on PCT questions.
Lack of practice in the problem-solution approach.
- I used to believe I had not determination and energy to study after job. By the time I found I actually did, I had only five months
- timelessness was my weak point, I have a huge workload in my company, hard to overcome
- dealing with a lot of information within the time limit (only for the old papers B and C, when the exams were longer!)
Methodology for A and B: there is no ideal methodology. It really depends on the subject.
It is also very difficult to stay focused during the entire time when you are doing the exam at home !
- I wish I had performed more previous papers (I did 5 exams per paper at home).
- Time
- Where to find suitable information and how to study for the examination
- Time management, speed of analysis and answer formulation. Still an issue.
- I could not study enough for the legal part because of my work load and during the exam I could not find the related Article for the question quickly. This made me lose time, therefore I could not have enough time to solve the claim analysis part.
I need to have intensive preparation for the next time. In addition, I have to race against time.
- Along with the EQE training course, I should have started earlier by doing more case study examples and answered more questions.
- language;

I lose too much time reading and understanding the documents
improving speed of reading and understanding

- Time

- Training time management

- I underestimated the necessary time necessary for increasing the knowledge from 'good' to 'very good'.

- I had studied enough, but I need more strategies in how to reply to the questions in order to get the points. The time is a big issue.

- Very difficult to have enough time to study if one is a worker. I studied at night after working the whole day.

- Time allocation. More speed training.

- I should have spend more time in advance, but it was not possible to to professional and personal work load. I should have rested more before the examination date, i.e., I should not have studied the evening before and on the day. I was drained from energy in the last half of the examination.

- See above. Since my employment was changing and I did not have time to really study, the results are bad. However, I put my duties to my clients and employer first which reduces the study time and most of all the concentration to study.

- more % of PCT preparation

- My greatest weakness was lack of time to study for the pre-EQE due to the very heavy workload. In addition, without following any courses, it was difficult to prepare for the pre-EQE.

I will follow a training course and arrange a time to study intensively for the future exams.

- I was not able to finish papers within allocated time.

- It is just speed of writing

- not enough time due to high work load

- I focused on D

I prepare decently for B and C

But I did not prepare enough for paper A

- language, because generally I do not use English, German or French, and I am not fluent in these languages. I need more time to analize and prepare a letter or description in foreign language.

- I don't know another candidat to talk about the examination and to Train together. I had no Money for the eqe learning Forum, so I had to learn by myself. I wasn't sure if I had all important documents and references. I tried to do the best.

- lack of time for paper B and C (especially the latter one).

Training more exams, but C changed several times in last 10 years: no longer document in another langauge, reduced to 5h. Thus, i ran out of training material for the given exam conditions.

- Greatest weakness is finding a balance between workload and study prep. Perhaps more study time could have been beneficial.

- Should have started intensive study a little earlier.

Also, when practising Pre-EQE past-exams, should have frequently sat the entire paper in one sitting. Doing the first half, taking a break, and doing the the next half a bit later does not demand the same focus and effort as doing it in one sitting even though the time spent on the paper itself is the same. Important to practise the papers in one sitting to understand the concentration required, and the time constraint.

- Trying to juggle preparation for the English Patent Exams in October 2015 and then trying to change focus and prepare for the EQE in particular for Paper D to sit in March 2016.

- - I would start earlier.

- Put more focus on guidelines

- My greatest weakness was clearly how to handle the claim analysis as this part of the pre-eqe requires a lot of time to make sure that each answer is correct.

I noticed for example that I had to go through each prior art document before answering any sub-question because it is very easy to miss one detail in a document especially regarding A123(2) issues.

Therefore, the claim analysis requires far more time than the law part.

- Not enough time for preparation (job, family, ...)

- Not preparing enough papers

- - I would have needed a continuous study over a longer period than just three month intensive and about two more month not so intensive study;

- more preparation before the CEIPI course would have been good

- stress

- I was difficult to stay focused, do not become discouraged and/or demotivated, and to maintain consistent work throughout the entire time dedicated to the preparation. Some people tend to have downswings. I am one of them. It is thus important to create conditions with constant challenges, positive feedback and gradually increasing level of difficulty.

- Claim Analysis. A more detailed study of the relevant chapters in the Guidelines and the EPO Online Course would have been helpful. Compared to legal questions, only a limited amount of claim analysis training cases is available, so more cases would have been also helpful.

- Tiredness for making Paper B, after paper A. Maybe some cocaine could have worked

- Time management

- more practice to speed up - time is the biggest problem.

- Time management discipline. Wasting too much time for looking up legal Basis.

- I had now one to Ask Questions, so I had to find all the Answers I had by my self.

- Not studying previous years' EQE papers enough

- Time, Family and work -> reduce time to sleep
- I should have managed my day to day workload better to allow more time in the evenings for studying.
- I tend to make mistakes due to knowledge of the Japanese practice. However, when I read the guideline, I understand the differences.
- Insufficient preparation for PCT
- I fell for every trick question there was :). Twice. Never underestimate odd-by-one errors for calculating deadlines. Also I didn't really prepare the PCT part.
- Time pressure
- I could have learned more things (i. e. the exact wording and numbering of the more important articles and rules) off by heart so that I would not have had to look them up in the exam situation to make sure I really remembered them correctly. However, for the pre-exam I found time to re-check things was ample.
- You could always study more... I arranged such that I would have a month between jobs in February, which I used to study. In that way I could concentrate more on the studies than if I would have worked as well.
- Dealing with chemical information in paper C
- I believe methodology is very important to understand how to approach the papers and time managing.
- Especially for the legal questions, it is hard to find material for preparation that assesses all the relevant topics in a systematical manner. For the Euro-PCT procedures, there exists the Euro-PCT Guide on the EPO website which comes pretty close to this (even the Euro-PCT Guide could be more detailed on some issues), but for non-PCT related european patent law, no such work seems to exist. The main preparation course books for EQE exams (Pre-EQE and D-paper) seem to focus on asking direct questions instead of a systematical introduction.
- Time management, there were not enough compendium to train so that it was possible to get a good time management...
- Claim analysis. More practice with supervisor and in small groups.
- I'm working half-time in a company. I have two children (one handicaped) and less time for learning, we have no inhouse-training and I get no feedback or time from my senior chief for learning. I have to take my holidays for preparing for the EQE
- To balance theoretical knowledge about EPC with "exam-technique" training. Further increase the knowledge known by heart. Make even more exams, hart as the number of current exams are limited.
- To practice within a limited time
- The patentability issues of the problem, questions 11-20. I guess a strong supervisor could have help in this issue.
- Finding time to do past papers

- Should have started earlier with updating my files. Could have practiced more.
- Not enough time to study.
- insufficient speed in analysis and argumentation under 'exam' conditions. More training on speeding up the analysis and argumentation under more 'stressy' conditions
- My weakness are nerves and inventive step. I guess more real time training at home writing the full answer to the paper might help me.
- Time managing. I wish I knew. If I read too fast, mistakes are made. If too slow, the exam will not be finished on time.
- PCT. Always use commented PCT Reference Books.
- Consistency on Paper A - Practice
- Time management, in particular time for writing. Lost too much time writing full sentences and at least in the beginning a full-text answer.
- Probably should have prepared the 'open-book' documents to take in earlier, but limited by publication of most recent updates. Would have preferred to have had something a little more familiar in respect of some of them than ones I'd only been able to download/print a month or so before.
- It was difficult to combine my real work and EQE preparation

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

- Read EVERY word of the question. One word can make a difference between a T or F answer and a 69 or a 71 result.
- Try to plan in discussions with peers such as to clarify things you cannot understand yourself.
- Use the EQE-Forum! It is a great source of finding info if everybody participates (e.g. on all those little bits missing in Examiners Reports of old exams).
- I found the epi online course for the EQE extremely helpful, especially as a repetition. I would recommend other candidates 1) the CEIPI basic training (2 years) for a first education, then the CEIPI pre-exam-preparation week in Strasbourg (intense and excellent tutors). Finally, for repetition, the epi online course. With this sequence I found myself very well prepared for the exam. In the final stage (1-2 months before the exam) I would recommend to do the previous year's exams under real conditions to get used to the exam situation and to identify potentially remaining weaknesses.
- Dress for an arctic expedition.
- Start early!
- Would highly recommend the CEIPI paper C course and textbook.

Take warm clothes to the Exam!

- Be sure to read every single word of the question carefully. Do not assume a questions means

what you think it means at first glance - really analyse the meaning. In the Pre EQE a statement may not be referring to the specific scenario of the question, but of the rules more generally!

- Do paper D questions to prepare for the pre exam.
- Pace yourself and don't wear yourself out before the exam
- Seek advice from people who have already sat the exam and start early
- Take ear plugs in case the exam venue is noisy.
- Meet in groups.
- Bring a sleeping bag, fingerless gloves, chemical hand warmers, a thermos flask and hot water bottle. Or perhaps sit the examination in Spain.
- Remember to pack hat and scarf.
- Read the guidelines for the pre-exam! and comment your EPC so that you find the related part of the guidelines.
As we were told, that we should not cite the guidelines, I was trying not to use them for quite a long time. But for the pre-exam, they were a great help.
- N/A
- Success in the exams is preparation, and luck. You need to do a lot of preparation to reduce the luck factor, but you can't eliminate it.
- Take gloves and extra layers of clothing. Potentially ear muffs if you have them.
- Bring gloves.
- Assume you will be taking the exam in very cold temperatures!
- A longer period of study in a slower tempo works better than a shorter period of intensive study.
Dont wait too long before starting using the compendium.
- I'd just suggest doing lots of past papers.
- Yes, those of Q12 and Q14.
- Teil D ist mit den Hilfsmitteln von EPA z. B. Richtlinien nicht zu bestehen. Nötig ist ein PCT Übersichtsbuch, in dem Artikel und die passenden Regeln zusammen kopiert sind. Bei reinen EPÜ Fragen helfen die Richtlinien.

- Bring warm clothes to the venue.
- Start at least 3 months before the actual examinations. Do previous papers using the compendium.
- Start early and do little and often to keep stress levels down around the exam. Take time out before the exams to relax and switch off.
- No.
- Start early - use all materials available to you - do all available past papers - become familiar with Guidelines - spend extra time on claims analysis
- Study hard and bring your talisman with you.
- I'd suggest practicing the 5 hour papers outside in winter, to prepare themselves for the temperature of the exam venue.
- Start Early!
- The pre-exam is getting more tricky and difficult, might need more time to prepare it and to familiar with the materials.
- Mock-Up exams are most important
- Start soon enough and do so many exams as you can.
- Bring Gloves.
- Having knowledge and being able to solve the exams is not enough
- Focus on doing past year questions rather than spending too much time reading act and regulations. I highly recommend the Delta patent books because they provide detailed answers with the reasoning so you can figure out whether your understanding of the law and claim analysis is correct
- Read the Examiner's comments on past papers and sample answers to see what degree of detail is required. Don't try to do anything too clever in the examination - play it safe and stick to the basics.
- Do not even dare to think that the questions asked during EQE are related to everyday work of a patent attorney.
- To practice past papers and create their own strategies to tackle each paper.
- Do not fail the first time. Or do not fail Paper D the first time. This modul takes by far the most amount of time to prepare.
If you do not have the time to prepare for all modules, do prepare for one/two/three moduls only.
- Exercice.
- Dont rely too much on past exams
- Practice past papers. Work with others - talk through answers to past papers in groups.

Do bundle up - it's cold in there.

- For A and B, start practising with 2-3 papers from the compendium, in order to build your own methodology

- NO COMMENT

- Follow a formation In order to have a lot of exercices to do and begin the training 6 months Before, and work In group wouldxxxxx be very helpfull

- Study well before and manage stress well

- start preparing early.

start early reading a reference book such as Visser in combination with the Guidelines for Examination, as well as the PCT applicant guide in combination with a cross-referenced PCT book (Mulder).

Practise as many legal questions and claim analysis questions as you can.

For any question to be answered, during day-by-day professional work and when preparing for the exam, confirm the legal basis in the EPC, PCT, OJ, case law, etc.

- Take some methodology course. It seems that is the core to pass the exam.

- Be in mind that the true world la far different from the Exam. So you have to deal with the in a different manner.

- change the eqe not the candidates
your exam is anachronic

- It's not that bad actually. There's no need to ruin your Christmas vacation.

- Start very very early....

- Allways expect the new and different

- Make exercises

- Prepare for the worst as the exam is harder and harder each year.

Do not count on your legal knowledge or claim analysis skills alone as that is not being tested, they test you for speed.

- Devote sufficient time, start as early as possible with A and B , exercise D questions up to the time when the preparatory courses start. And then do focus study mainly training on C and D part along solving past exams of A and B

- Reading careful and fast the text And the questions, cause there is not time to get back.

- Just to do all the past papers really seriously.

- many exercising using earlier papers and also preexam modules

- Remember test is artificial (see comments above)

- Don't spent thousands of Euros in Preparation courses. It is not necessary. If at all then only for Part D.

- As many mock-exams in real time, as possible and iterative improvement of personal working

materials.

- Provide tablets that the candidates can use for typing and filing the answers
- Take it seriously - it is getting more difficult year by year.
- find a good mentor
- Keep cool, calm and collected during the whole examination. The exams are designed to be performed on scarcely time pressure.
- Practice and evaluate
- Make exercises.
- Buy Mulder's cross-referenced PCT. I only found out about it on a course at a relatively late stage and it is a very useful resource.
- Start early and take practice exams.
- start solving old papers from the very beginning of preparations. that was the most efficient way of learning what kind of problems appear in papers and the problems which I faced forced me to study particular subject. For D part the only efficient way is to solve questions from DeltaPatents books and compare own solutions with the model solutions.
- Check one not to old exam paper and the solution and way of asking before starting the preparation.
- The exams are hard. You must be prepared adequately.
- Do mock examinations after self study, that is the best way! But also do as many as possible questions of the claim analysis part!
- Start very early and work regularly (daily basis if possible)
- a) possibility to choose one compendium and to submit it to get an "official" score during the year before EQE
- b) A lot of documents are not available (up to date) on wipo/eqe website. It takes time to re-create all the needed documents (for D exam). As an example : "National Law". The only possibility is to manually get all the html pages on the 31/12/Y-1 (and this information is not well known). This document could be officially provided as a pdf document for the EQE for example.
- c) Full PCT annexes provided by ompa is a too big document (possibility to limit officially to some countries)
- d) For A, B and C : it is relatively easy to know how marks are given (compendium), but for D, part II, it is still mysterious and thus difficult to do its own notation.
- every minute counts, try to accelerate speed, if you don't pass the mock once it is hard to pass the real, ceipi or delta patent course is mandatory in addition to excellent legal knowledge to avoid looking up something,
- take your time; study the exams from previous years; take a CEIPI or similar class
- Reading Guidelines early enough.
- Doing Delta Patents Exam related questions as much as possible.
- 1 month leave from office before examination - just doing old exams

- I think it is very important to exercise (past papers, MOC papers, coffee-break questions, revision at the end of each chapter of the compendium).

I also think, apart from the -too short- PCT chapter, the compendium is quite good.

- Wear lots of layers

- Start preparing as soon as possible.

- Bring thermals

- print and collect all important Official Journals in advance, so you don't have to rush through it in the end

- Know the procedure as good as possible. A well structured easily accessible study material is crucial when sitting the exam. In order to be efficient one must know where to retrieve the needed information quickly. A good timing is of an outmost importance!

- Use Visser and for each important art or rule, make a cross reference for PCT. Expect at least 10 part questions to be unclear at the preEQE (see discussion at Deltapatents the day after, for deeper understanding of this problem).

- Yes, I do.

It would be of great help that all registred candidates receive automatic (and thus active from the side of the EQE) invitation for preparation courses.

- Start early. Practice previous papers.

- Do the Delta P C and D meth. courses!

- Do the mock exams as if you had 10 minutes less for each " official duration"

- to practice

- exclude own knowledge - focus on the disclosure in the papers only.

- Read the full EPC as well the implementation rules at least once in order to get a feeling for the EPC.

- Look closely at the compendium to try to understand what the markers want.

- just relax, you cannot learn all.

- Realistic prep time is 1.000 hours

Delta Patents! Do it all!

Gall!

- - Just after pre EQE, keep in touch with legal part, do short questions within first part of the year;

- Prepare from October for writing both D short and legal advice

- minimum for preparation is 600+ h - maybe to less

- Read guidelines for examination and methodology books as well as become again familiar

with epc questions ALL until 2 month before the exam.

Then, make a study plan to have ca. 8 to 10 old exams while optimizing the methodology.

- The EPO online course for the pre-exam is very helpful, especially the questionnaires.

- Do not see the exams as a way to be a better patent proffession, just focusing on passing the exams. You may know all EPC and PCT there is and still miss the exam. In order to pass the exams there are other aspects that are important. The exams are quite remote from how you work in real life, even if some aspects of the exams of course may be useful in the proffession.

- /

- write old examinations, prepare your own documents for the examiation. Coffee-break questions

- It's mandatory to have a preparation including a clear definition of "jury expectations". I got it from "pre-prep" and "prep" proposed by EPI-CEIPI, and it was very usefull.

- Take it easy.
Use the compendium

- Avoid the CEIPI pre EQE course as the UK version was a complete shambles and a total waste of money.

- do more explanatory duty on claims and explain the case law and guidelines for each case. inventive step, novelty, lack of clarity as the case of oppositions , limitaiton also understand new jurisprudences. To consolidate the knowledge and theory.

- N/A

- start in plenty of time. Attempt past papers in exam time conditions

- Do past papers, in exam conditions, to time.

- Start early and do as many mock exams as possible.

- Start training early 2 years advance before taking main exam, do not underestimate professional experience (the 3 year training period for the exam is crucial for preparation)

- Start early, keep doning

- it is most important trying to benefit from the experience and tools of colleagues who sat the exam just the year before

- Deltas methodology is a very good course, which I would recommend. I would also recommend to do a full mock examination including all the details which are present in the examination. At least I got a little mixed up with the papers last year when it was my first time at the EQE and the course did not include a simulation of exam situation.

- Work as hard as you can and practice / study as much papers as possible.

- No

- Practise handwriting and test different writing equipment, since EQE measures that to a level almost equal to the problem-solution approach.

Try to figure out ways of being more efficient to save idle time when doing the exam.

- Please prepare a course or a book for claims analysis part.
- Print the PCT applicants guides, check where to find info for national procedures.
- no
- Start studying early, at least from the day of enrollment.
- Study perfectly the law and Rules.
Understand perfectly what is expected from the candidate.
Look into the structure of Examinations reports from the Compendium
- Use common sense. Knowing where some information comes from is important in D-I, but not so critical in D-II. And D-II has more points.
Bring a lot of water and some chocolate or food, 5 hours is pretty long.
- Start studying in time.
- Read the questions carefully.
If in doubt, read it again in another language.

Or do the test twice, once English, once another language, and compare the different answers you gave, if any.

Also: during the pre-Exam you'll have plenty of time to look things up. Make use of it (I was finished about 1,5 hours before the end).

- Take time off from work.
- 1) Plan some time for reviewing, 2) find a good reference for PCT
- Paper A + B + C: exercises using Compendium as much as you can. Prepare some schematic answers for typical cases
Paper D: Study using Visser and integrate it with pointers to pre-arranged solutions to various themes
- The most useful tip I can give is start early, and practise exam-style questions in a small study group.
- You can never spend enough time on D - but use your time wisely - you have to practice DII so much that you know how to score points fast
- Select another occupation!
- Reading the entire Guidelines is probably more useful than reading entirely a commented EPC like Kley/Gundlach
- Not to be based on the past exams, since the difficulty changes from year to year
- Practice a lot, so you will know what kind of questions you may expect and so you get up to speed. Try to keep calm.
- You cannot study forever, then you loose motivation. At the same time it takes a lot of time to get ready for the exams. So, as soon as you know you are going down this path, buy some key

books like Visser, and look up stuff therein every time you run into something relevant at work. Also take it with you and read sections every now and then, not necessary in order. That way, when you enter the focused study phase, the material is familiar, and just has to be organized in your head, so you can see how it all fits together. Then, when it is getting near to taking the exam(s), take a good methodology class and make a study plan. Make sure it has extra time for unforeseeable events such as necessary sudden overtime or disease or family emergencies. Go into hibernation the last 4 months, stick to your plan and study hard, focused and organized every day. Spend the last two weeks doing practice exams under realistic conditions, especially in regards to time.

And - don't bring a ton of materials to the exams - you don't have time to look it up anyways. Have very few books that you know very well, if you find extra good stuff in other books write it into your main book (s).

- complete past papers within the actual time limits given for completing the paper during examination.
- Start at least one year ahead and convince your employer to invest in day time work hours to study, either at home or at work or in combination, and do at least 4-5 mock exams in Q1...
- Do not underestimate the pre-examination. One year of intensive preparation is needed for it.
- Practice, practice, practice. And be aware that doing all four main exams in one week is physically, intellectually and emotionally draining, especially if you have to stay away from home.
- Attempt as many practice examinations and questions as possible. Then compare your answers to the sample answers provided. Try to work out what answer the examiner is looking for. The EQE does not reflect real Life patent attorney practice. There are theoretical answers and candidates just need to know what to look for in the questions and how to structure their answers.

Do not just read a book and think to oneself "I understand that".

- le pré EQE n'est plus une simple formalité.
- Understand the logic behind the answers.
- Train handwriting for several hours every day!
- - Start basic legal training (DI) early (>1 year, now standard due to pre-exam).
- Start preparation for the other parts at the latest around Christmas.
- Write at least 3 exams under real-time conditions to optimize time management and get used to writing by hand.
- If there is not enough time for writing many exams for preparation: focus on understanding (recent) examiner's reports.
- Know the Guidelines for Examination by heart.
- Preparation regarding the time management during the exam is absolutely critical. This includes time management during each individual written exam and the time between the written exams.
- To study on a regular basis (start early and do not focus the study on the last few weeks)
Study the legal aspects also on basis of questions to be answered which test particularities/details of the EPC and PCT
Use the previous exam papers to prepare yourself in order to get a feeling about the scope of

the questions and the traps which are present

- Experience is more useful than study (which is important, but the interpretation of EPC is more adequate after working some years in european patents).

- Start early, go through the material once to obtain an overview of the processes and workflows, then study again in detail to be able find the relevant sections in the guidelines and/or reference books. Practice a lot with questions.

- If you sit in industry e.g. where IP is a very small department (perhaps only one person), management must understand the extensive preparation needed for EQE preparation.

- More exams to practice. Please translate old paper C into ONLY english (or DE or FR).
Thanks

- practise at least 4 or 5 past papers (A, B, C) each!
with DI, I personally think that using the Delta questions is better (because these are up to date), and practise only the past two year's papers maybe.
with DII, here also at least 4 or 5 papers practice would be good!

- The planning is very important. For paper D, it is very important to maintain the knowledge from the pre-exam (do basic D questions again, do coffee break questions, have question session with colleagues who prepare for the main or pre-exam)

- practise many papers

- Do a few questions per day. Everyday.

- No

- - start early, especially learning for part D

- The book of "Derk Visser" helped me very much to pass part D with good marks. The content of the book is very precise and gets always to the point

- Start as early as possible.

- Good time-management
Start with mock-exams early

- Invest money in courses.

- I would suggest workind on previous papers, but there are only five for the pre-exam until now and the level of difficulty is more realistic only in 2015 and 2016.

- Just plan your preparation, and use the compendium. Reading books is not enough for the actual exams

- be smart ;-)

don't go for overpriced courses

don't waste your holidays for the preparation

- Make sure to read the EPC, but don't focus too much on the rules and articles more than once beforehand. Study cases, and answer many questions in order to cover different legal situations.

- Do a lot of past exam papers and try to find a method that work for you, especially in paper C.

You may for example base your method on either CEIPI's or DeltaPatent's method and then adapt it. That worked for me!

- Do lot of exams in real-time stimulation, especially A, B and C. Look at the examiners report for the answers and see how the marks are allocated, especially items which you would have taken for granted as thinking process must also be written on the paper for marks.

- Spare enough and quality time and try yourself with past papers to see whether you can manage the time during examination conditions.

- Try not to panic during the exam - which is something I struggle with myself especially when I know I'm running out of time

- Try hard.

- take enough time to prepare

- Do many practice papers. I did not feel the need to have them externally corrected since the examiners report is so detailed.

Do papers on time to assess how long it will take you.

- Take it easy the last weeks.

- Start early

- Be prepared to speed up reading in English.

- - Practice old exams

- See how they are scored, what is expected in the answers

- follow dedicated exam training

- Organizing is everything

- FOLLOW COURSES FOCUSED ON THE METHODOLOGY, FIND YOUR RIGHT METHOD.

- Perform mock exams under conditions as close as possible to the real life situation.

- Don't rely on the old exams to indicate what the requirement level is, there can be variation from year to year.

- yes, practise, tudy and particularly, do mock exam without eating/checking emails/etc... it is difficult but you should try to isolate yourself completely for 5 h

- Exercise quick hand writing.

- Wrap up warm

- work early on the strategy for each paper and then practise, practise, practise

- Wear thermal underwear.

- Try to find specialist courses - which were not available to me. I suspect that this will make the most difference to anyone who has difficulty passing the exams.

- No matter how hard you study, you need mainly luck the day of the exam.

- marry a millionaire or become a child of one
- For A&B do as many exams as possible and spend enough time analysing the examiners reports.
- practice past papers and all available exercises in training material e.g. C Book
- sadly no, i guess everybody has to find his own learning tempo.
- To practice.
- Realizing that knowing the subject matter is just a hygiene factor, and that what is actually being tested is your ability to memorize fix combinations of statements and exact legal basis, to the iii:th paragraph, said combinations optimised for scoring maximum points with minimum waste of ink.
- Do not assume that one of the many techniques and methodologies that other people talk about (for example, for paper C or Part II of paper D) are necessary to learn or even will work for you. I found all the tables, charts, sellotape and matrices that people suggested to be a hindrance, and mostly just did what I thought was best as I worked through the paper and became aware of the tasks needed on the day. The single page of A4 matrix used for recording claim objects, prior art usability and attacks for Paper C is useful though.
- Do as many questions as possible! Many many more than the previous pre exams.
- I think the EQEs were harder in 2016 compared to the exams in 2012-2015. I would suggest that a candidate not rely on those past exams in trying to assess how prepared they are for the exams. So prepare for a harder exam than in past years.
- No.
- 1.- To learn really the Syllabus, to have localized and to be familiar with its whole content. There is no time to find anything if not already in the head AND indexed. Not even annotated EPCs help completely on this.
- 2.- Do not be stucked in a question in D paper and/or Evaluation of an Annex in C paper. Make a choice and write.
- 3.- Try in real conditions as much as possible Compendium exams (it is irrelevant that the older papers are different, it is a Training for time Management and hand writting.
- 4.- Provided you the Basics (or even extra-advanced knowledge of all the EPC) think that the exam is not done with a Computer and it has nothing to do with your day to day activity. To work with physical documents and to write by hand is for some (at least for me) the most difficult part of the Exam.
- The true/false questions are sometimes not really clear (do they refer to the explicit case in the preamble or is it a general question?, the claim analysis questions are sometimes obscure...)
- relax, you cannot learn all.
- redo the maximum of previous paper c exam

follow deltapatent paper C methodology

be up to date with case law and board of appeal décisions

- start in time, practice on writing problem-solution so that you know how all that needs to be in the argumentation. make sure that you have a very good understanding of how priority works

- Bring lots of layers and practice writing in cold conditions.

- Practice more claims questions.

Learn to work out what answer the examiner wants. Not (what you think) the (actual) answer to the question is.

- more practice

- plan in advance, read and learn a lot, especially G, T and J decisions. They are very important. And also the EPÜ articles and rules, and guidelines are very useful for preparation of the pre-exam

- None

- Do the compendium

- a little bit every day is better than a lot all at once

- Start early enough and try to learn regularly

- A lot of personal work

- Forming a study group, make a schedule and stick with the plan

- I believe that EQE is not linked to real life. legal questions are often and often not mirroring the reality. I'm convinced that most of the professional representatives (and EPO examiners as well) are not able to correctly answer to several of those questions.

Therefore, I believe that EQE as configured for 2016 Examination was really beyond testing the preparation of candidates.

- One paper per year.

- read the guidelines

- Prepare well in advance. Having a course is essential to your preparations. What I realized though, no matter what you do to prepare, the exam will always be quite tricky. So expect the unexpected and learn to deal with the stresses that come with that fact.

- It would appear that the Board is intent on asking obscure questions in the D1 section. Almost nothing can prepare you for this other than being well organised in terms of knowing where basis can be found for answers. I found it much easier to identify basis in the EPC/OJs etc, but less easy to identify basis in the PCT... the Board probably knows that candidates struggle more with the PCT. I wasted a lot of time trying to identify PCT basis (which is generally less clear than in the EPC).

Focus on papers C & D. Nailing the problem-solution approach in paper C helps with papers A & B.

- Start intensive study at least six month in advance

Prepare summary thematic sheets with essential elements as soon as possible

Do as many mock exams as possible

Be as rested as possible for sitting the EQE

- Spend some time on physical fitness during the intensive preparation phase before the exam. If you are sitting all four parts you should understand that it takes a non-negligible physical toll on your body, which could become a limiting factor on day two or day three.

- Prepare yourself to a divorce if you are married.

- Use brains when studying and understand the ratio beyond laws and rules. Memory is important too but the field is so wide that it is not enough, without reasoning.

Work a lot and very early on the past examination texts in order to get familiar with the way questions are made and the hidden tricks.

Try to prepare schemes of the time limits and of procedural steps.

Don't get crazy on one thousand books, few are better if you know how to use them.

- Time management on real exam

/I'm re-sitter. Last years I didn't have enough time at real exam for the claim analysis part as it was hard; this year it was same - hard claim analysis part, not enough time.

I think Pre-exam 2015 and 2016 claim analysis part in not in conformity with the exam duration, claim analysis part is harder than before (2012-2014) for the same exam duration - it is not fair/

- Make sure you bring warm clothes and gloves and a hat for the exam hall.

- Start preparation as early as possible and do this for the pre-EQE as well as for the main EQEs as the pre-EQE preparation is very useful for paper D.

- Concentrate you only in the topics from the past-pre EQE exams.

- Read everything on the EPO.org/EQE website with interest.

- See above under Q14).

- It is important to select the books to bring with and to mark the book pages. Further to make at least one older paper under "real" conditions, including marking the answer sheet. To conclude: it is important to know where it is written not to learn special things by heart.

- Don't think you are going to pass just because you know the answer! Make sure you also answer in time, i.e. 3 minutes per point!

- Take your time, dedicate certain Days or times where you set goals of what has to be achieved for each study session. Be organized. Practice thinking larger than just the question.

- The more past papers you attempt and get feedback from your supervisor for the better

- Main steps of the procedures of European patent applications and patents and PCT main procedues should be very clear.

This includes also time limits. Good overview about PCT procedures is in the end of book C. Mulder "The cross-referenced

Patent Cooperation Treaty". I recomend to use this book, because references to relevant articles and rules

are added to every article and rule.

Very important topics are novelty, clarity, inventive step, scope of protection and amendments under Art 123 (2) EPC.

Both the legal and claim analysis questions will include these topics.

Calculation of time limits will always asked.

Also exceptional situation, when something has been forgotten, then how and when can be filed missing part of patent application, when can be made changes in data of applicant and inventor. And legal effect, if something has been forgotten or not made on time.

- Discuss with colleagues about case law, articles...

Take the time to check in a hard copy of the guidelines and not typing on google (thus, you are prepared for the exams and you know exactly where you can find the answer)

Prepare the exam by using the compendium

- Only focus on a commented version of the EPC

- seminars (Ceipi or Deltapatents) are very helpful to prepare for the EQE and to find friends, do not forget to relax - it's just an exam

- It takes time for issues to sink in, and for issues to link up with each other and everyday patent practise - so start preparing as early as possible.

Identify chunks of individual topics, e.g. Priority, and work on them first. Other topics like Added Matter need a good basic understanding of a number of other areas, so deal with them later.

Spend time reading through your chosen text (e.g. Visser), and make notes on each major topic as read, so that you can capture it, and move on.

- Spend enough time for preparing.

- Practice writing quickly, that is the biggest problem.

- It takes a lot of time, really a lot, it is not about understanding, like math or physics, but about learning a lot.

- Try on an old paper first in order to understand the kind of questions, and the kind of tricks. To ask questions to their supervisors to understand the way of thinking with the law.

- Do not use just one book, utilize varied sources and I really recommend the Pre-exam online course, even for main exam papers - because it is great for keeping the right pace.

- focus on limited time which is available for each paper

- The "real life practice" may be a good way to test your ability in formulating argumentations. But in order to acquire the necessary speed for having a chance to pass EQE, you have to do a specific EQE training which includes:

- 1) theoretical study for learning and choosing the methodology to adopt during a particular EQE paper;

- 2) practical simulations on past papers.

The practical simulations are necessary for mastering the methodology.

- Do as many past papers as possible, although the law changes (paper D), so be careful.

- Reading the compendium from the beginning chapter for chapter.

- Take at least 4 weeks holiday before the exam to study very intensive, it is more effective than studying in the weekend!

- start as early as possible with the preparation and continue to do regular preparations;

- For pre-exam:
 - start studying early enough, start reading e.g. the guidelines and make notes if you don't have any other books to study with in the beginning. In hindsight my intensive studying felt rushed when I started it 1,5 months before the pre-exam. So, study already during the previous year, so you will have gone through the subject-matter at least twice: it helps in learning the things and gives more confidence also in the actual pre-exam.
 - Hoekstra book was really useful for me and my colored tabbing (colored stickers you can write on) was useful. Use colored tabs for different subjects, e.g. filing related = green tabs, examination = purple tabs etc. if you associate and remember things with colors you may find the subject-matter of the question quicker in the book if you need to check the book during the pre-exam.
 - find someone with whom you can discuss e.g. the ege coffee break questions, or do earlier pre-exams questions and then discuss them. While looking at the examiner's answers is helpful you may get more out of the question and answer by discussing it with someone else - especially if you answered incorrectly.
 - for the actual pre-exam: leave more time for the claim analysis questions, if possible. Although, it's good to get as much points as possible for the legal questions, too. Use highlighters in the claim analysis section to mark features, invention etc., separate the claim analysis exam papers so the Dx documents are easily at hand and you need not shuffle the papers all the time.
- Candidates should primarily focus on time-management during examination, in order to avoid overspending time on questions with few points to be gained. Thus I would recommend candidates to carefully look at the scoring scales of the past EQE papers in order to decide on which questions to spend time during examination.
- follow on-line training
 - discuss questions with other candidates
 - start in advance
- Solve many old papers under simulated exam conditions.
- See Q12
- Start with study as soon as possible; get the information on how the papers are marked so that you could know how to answer the questions so you would not loose too much time with comments that don't bring you points
- Start studying as soon as possible, time is never sufficient.
- Start early
 - Use questions as a starting point for studying different topics. In this way, you "iterate" your way through the material and encounter some of the most common problems several times.
 - Take a methodology course - especially for C and D.
 - Discuss difficult topics with other students.
 - Read the discussions and questions on EQE Forum.
 - Make summaries and overviews - share with fellow students - correct each other.
- Get very familiar with GL and either Visser or Hoekstra. Do as many available previous exams as possible. Don't loose time/money on anything else.
- 3 Steps are
 1. Knowing the EPÜ and all the theories around (PCT, ...) is a must and the basis for further steps (know by heart where to find the answers)
 2. Assessing/Finding your "personal process/structure" of attacking the different papers

(supported by CIEPI or Delta Patents approaches)

3. Practicing using 1. and 2. under "Exam conditions" - mainly timing

- Discuss with your boss, and try to negotiate some free time to practice for the exam. Do not fear the exam beforehand and ignore possible negative comments from experienced attorneys who say that there is needed so many years of time to practice well and "still you won't make it" etc.. Open the books rather sooner than later before the actual exam, and you'll notice that the stuff is rather interesting! In the actual exam day and exam room, try to be as relaxed as possible, because the session itself is physically demanding as well; I have got a really bad headache each time just when the exam finishes, and once even during the exam. Try to sleep as deeply as possible the previous night before the exam.

- Practice a lot exam questions.

- Bring everything even if it is in a huge suitcase

- Focus on the earlier Pre-Exams. Get used to the style and mode of question and answers and practice as many questions as you can find...

- Training under real condition with timelimits. "Learning" the marking scheme.

- A highly specialized book such as the Baque/Visser/whatever is not necessary to successfully sit the pre-examination. If you have the time to prepare using such a book, then by all means do it, but don't worry if you don't, because it is quite possible to obtain 80+ marks just by being very familiar with the EPC and the Guidelines.

- try to figure out what the ideal answers should be regarding the compendium or how much is needed to get the marks, if you found out tell me!!

- Ausreichend Zeit für Vorbereitung, viel Übung und Routine

- Do not take the EQEs until you have had several exam scripts marked by a qualified attorney; ask them to give a frank appraisal of your readiness. If they do not think you are ready, do not take the exam.

- Start preparing early. Do not cram for the exams just prior to the date of the exams as sitting the four exams over three days is tiring.

- Preparation is essential - especially with the main EQE exams, really need to put the time and effort in. It can be demotivating especially if you have failed a paper or two.

- None

- Group study is very useful

- start early

- Relax and enjoy during the exam

- Do as much exam questions as possible

- Prepare with many time in advance.

- Aim for full marks in pre-EQE legal questions. The claim analysis section is ambiguous.

- Have papers marked a few months before the exam and don't overlook PCT.

- my experience to prepare for EQE pre is to practice basic legal questions and finish all the old papers and understand all the unclear questions before the exam
- Know your tools, get used to them.
- Make sure to understand all latest changes in EP procedure for the pre-exam.
- for non-native speakers, I suggest getting used to the wording of EPC and past EQEs
- Do the maximum of exams of previous years than you can !
- Start the studies early, do it properly.
- If they study with well-organized way, they will pass the EQE :)
- Start answering questions, like the ones in Delta patents Basic Questions book.
- I thought that it is much more important to get familiar with Guidelines than to intensively learn materials provided by other organizations.
- stay focussed!
- Start learning early enough. Learn regularly.
- train yourself in writing quickly
- Remember to prepare in advance and do not study the evening before the exam.
- The employers must support the candidates, if they cannot do it themselves they must find someone who can support them.
Make a study scheme and start in time. Since it requires concentration to study and learn EPC, there must be time for that.
- Don't panic!
- Write faster think less, C-part just seems to be an endless repetition of the problem solution approach
- Do the compendium, start with older exams, for instance 5 years ago, as you progress in the learning do more and more recent exams, do the previous year's exams during the last week before the real exam.
- no
- study hard
- There were not many past-year Pre-EQE papers in the compendium. So, when doing these papers repeatedly (inevitably), it is important to bear in mind that improvements in speed and results are partly due to becoming more and more familiar with the papers. Sitting for an exam paper for the first time is rather different.
- The pre-EQE is becoming more difficult than the exams in 2012, 2013 and 2014 so they must be prepared and study at least three months before.
- The CEIPI seminars for Paper A and B (E/Mech) are ok but there does seem to be better courses

out there for Paper A and B.

- Start latest 6 months before the exam.
EPI Online-Training is great for preparation.
If you well prepared you should not be afraid of the pre-exam.

- Candidates usually think that the pre-eqe is easy to pass. It used to be true, but this is no longer the case.

A candidate must have a good preparation. The pre-eqe is getting more difficult year after year and at one point, the candidate shall need to be more prepared especially regarding the time.

The candidate must be aware of his weaknesses and shall for example take the least time to complete the law part to focus on the claim analysis part.

- Never pet a burning dog.

- Start as soon as possible
know the different chapters of the EPC

- réserver absolument des moments pour la vie personnelle quitte à ne pas réviser autant qu'on aurait voulu.

- Everyone should find his/her own rhythm. I think the important thing is to be open. Open to people, challenges, opportunities, and generally to everything related to the exam and to the profession itself.

- make eqe papers of last years to prepare for exams

- Do a lot of assignments

- Try to do as much of the old exams as possible, and also try to do it the prescribed time. It's makes a big difference if You have time pressure or not, when You try to understand the underlying problem and formulate claim 1.

As the exam is a synthetic one, real life exercise won't help: In real life, You're allowed to use Your technical expertise and Google, and You can take "another 15min" to make claim 1 as perfect as You want.

- Practice time management discipline for D I part. Let go faster when getting stuck and move on fast to next DI question

- For the pre-exam: Start early, keep working regularly, begin by laying foundations, make a note of things you feel wobbly about and then return to those when the groundwork is done. Get very familiar with the material you are going to use. To round things off, do as many old pre-exams under exam conditions as possible. They give you a good feeling for what to expect and how you will do with regard to time. You'll also get a feeling for whether you have assembled materials you can work with comfortably. Make sure you get some outside input, by other candidates and/or tutors. If possible, join a course to help you structure your study. If you can't, make a plan for yourself and stick to it (aim to have the foundations done about the turn of the year so you have time to revise). Don't panic!

I found I only used less than half the four hours I had for all the old pre-exams. So I printed myself an answer sheet from an old exam (they are always the same) and took it to the real thing. When I had finished my exam proper I just did it again with my additional answer sheet. Then I compared both answer sheets and took another look at those questions where I had given different answers both times around. Worked well although under real exam conditions I

took a lot longer for the first round (i. e. the exam proper) than I had expected.

- Do not believe what everyone else says about how extremely complicated everything is. It will only get you worked up. When I finally got around to studying for the D-exam, it was no impossible mission.

- Follow specific courses

- Delta-course (Heide Götz from EPO-examiner) was perfect trainer for part D.

- Make compendium exams in exam conditions

- Take time off from work.

- Do many many many past papers.

- Don't rely too much on books that others have prepared - you have to understand the system yourself and practice working with such books.

Find your own way to manage documents within the short time given for the exam.

- Start doing past papers early.

- Prepare for the 'worse', do not hope or expect that the exam will be 'easy' this year

- Make a lot of exams from the compedium.

Revise in detail the examiner reports.

Make some exams in real exam conditions.

- Be fast and be right. Otherwise, try again next year.

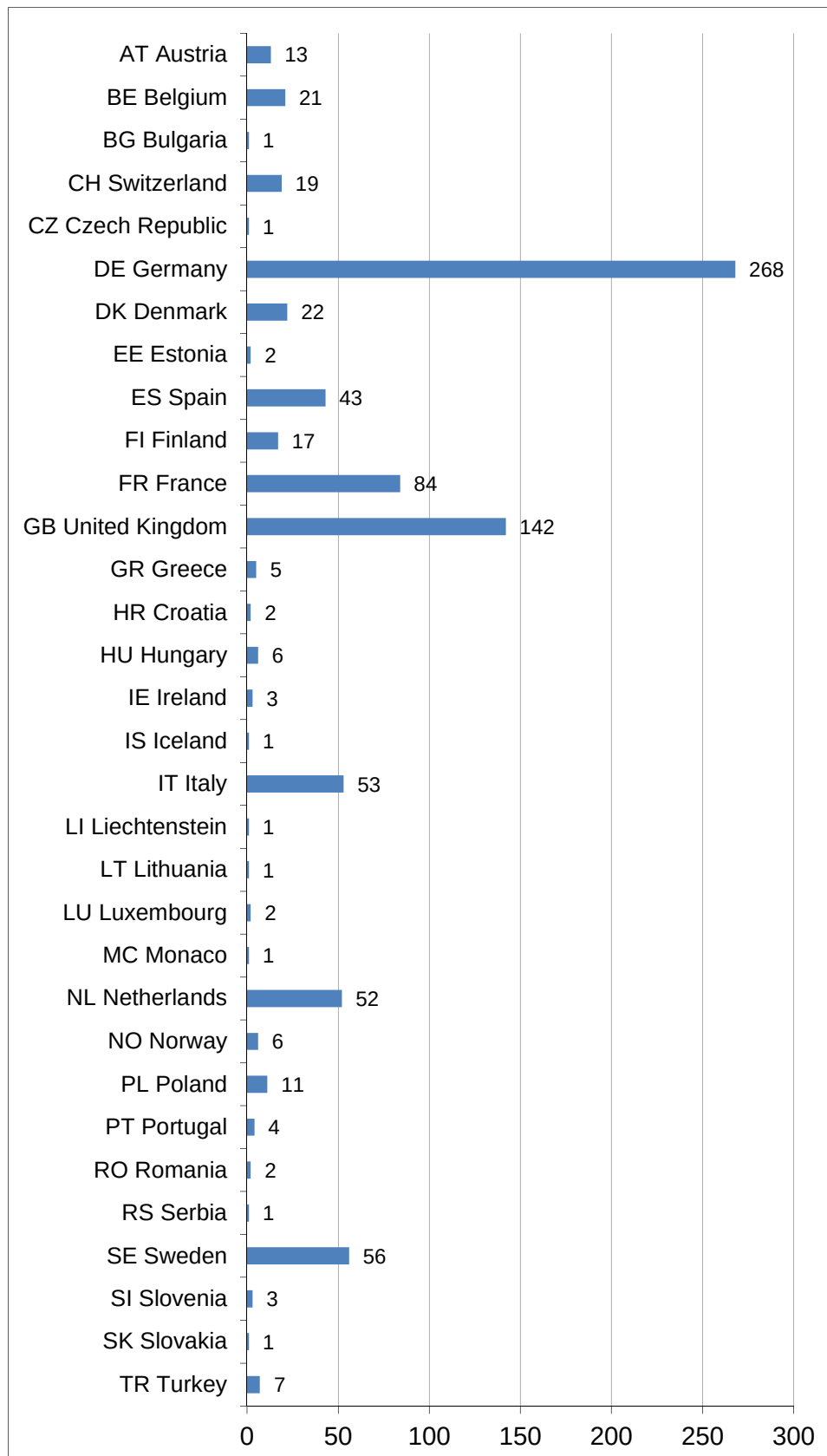
- Dont take too much books to the EQE. They are just confusing.

- If you understand German, get the EPÜ-/PCT-Tabellenbuch, it gives a pretty good and condensed overview of all relevant topics. Good starting point, in particular for Part D questions.

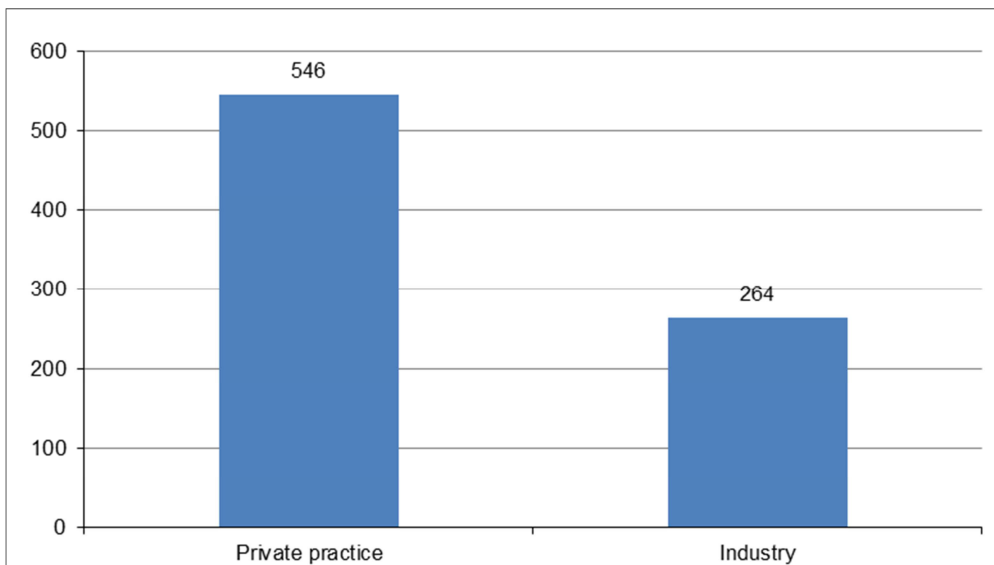
N/A

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

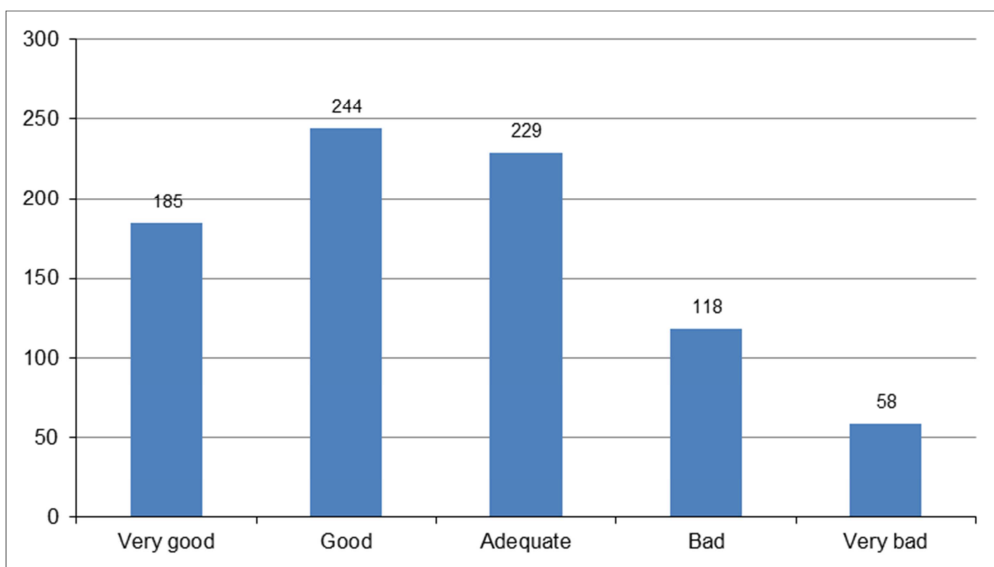
Q16) In which EPC member state did you complete most of your training pursuant to Art. 11(2)(a) REE?



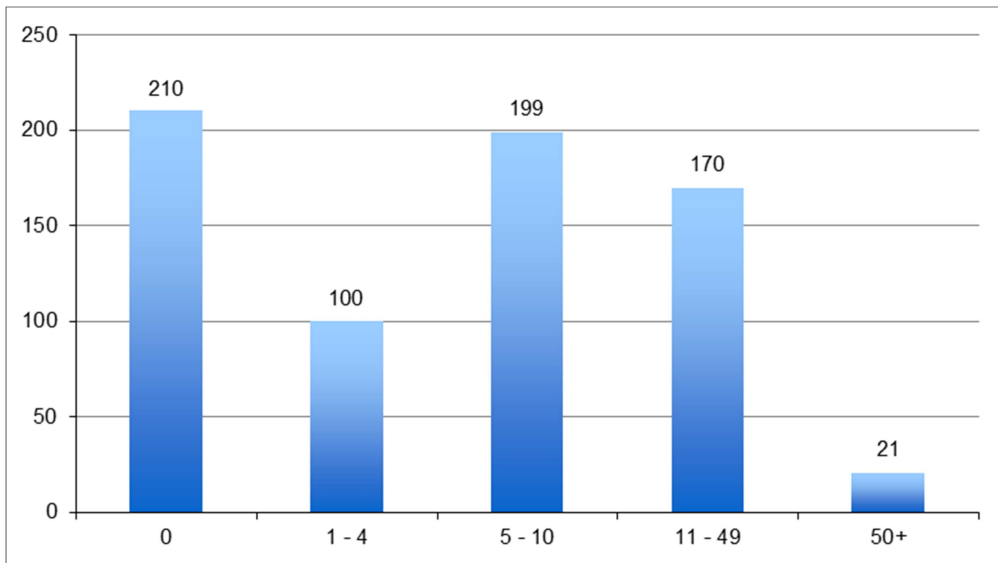
Q17) I completed most of the training (Art 11(2)(a) REE) in private practice / industry



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

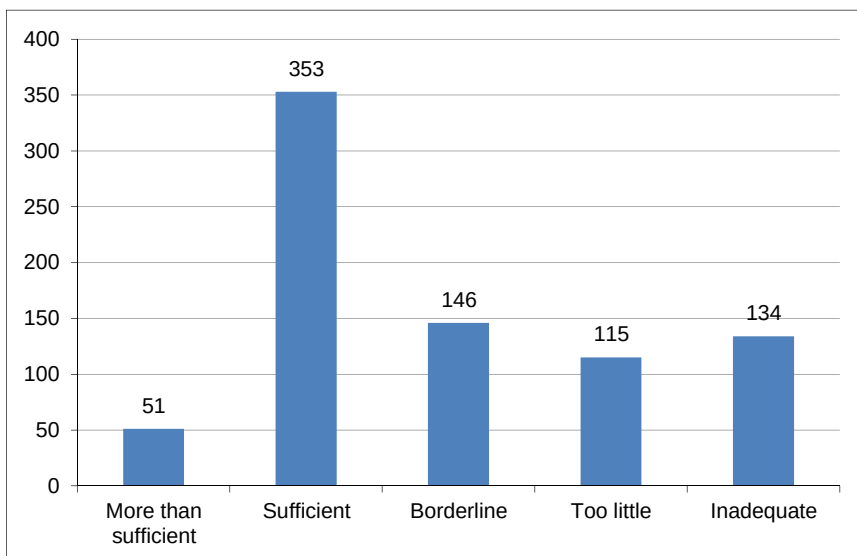


Q19) How much time did your employer allow for attending courses for your preparation for the EQE?

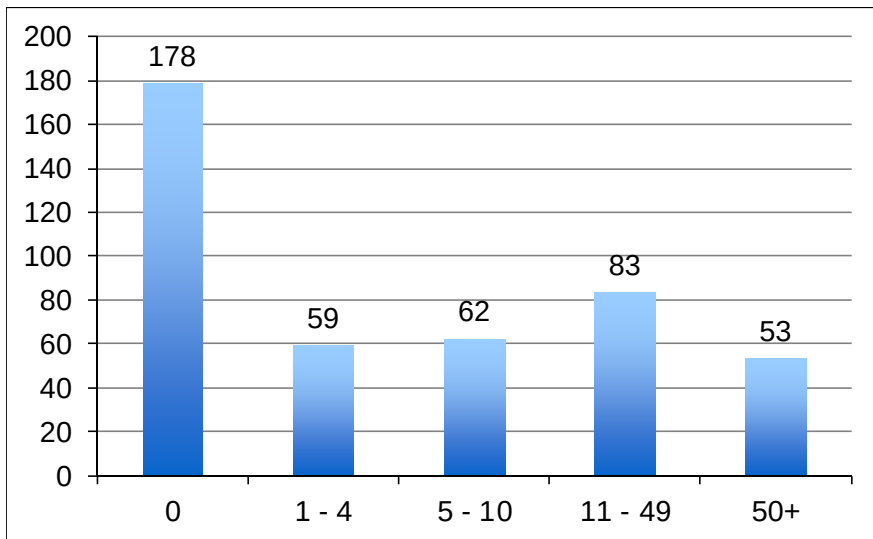


The median of the time allowed for attending courses for the preparation of the EQE is 5 days.

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

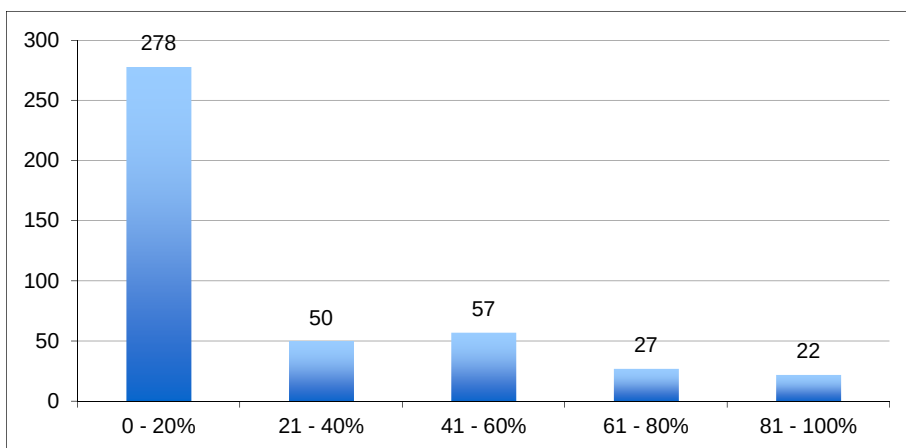


Q21a) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 11(2)(a) REE (i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)?



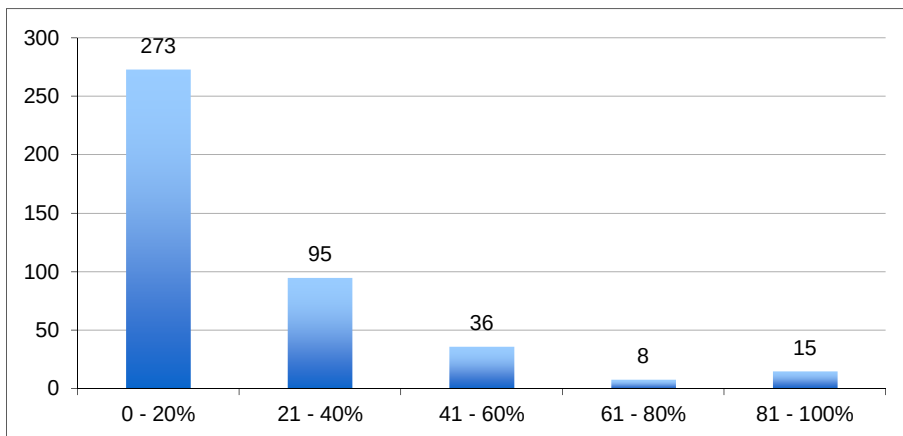
The median of the time allowed for attending courses for the preparation of the EQE is 30 days.

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



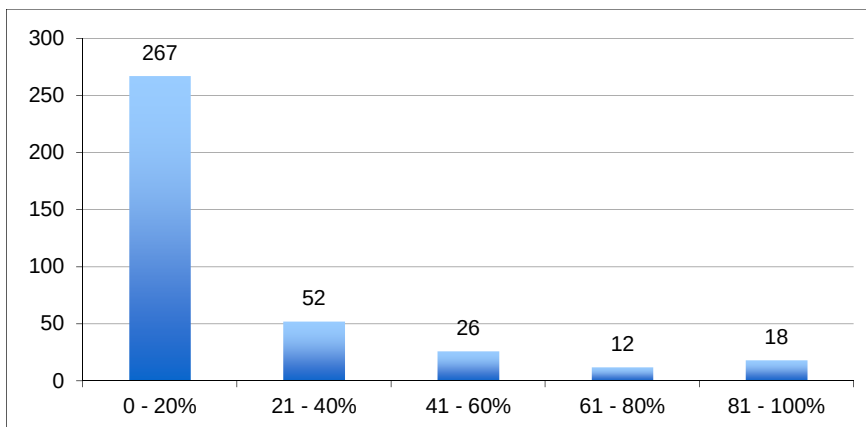
The median percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) spent during the first year of training is 41,5 %

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



The median percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) spent during the second year of training is 26,5 %

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



The median percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) spent during the third year of training is 31,5 %

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

n/a

- be available.

- Do not think, all is set and done just because you sent candidates to CEIPI.

Allow dedicated time to e.g. answer "daily D1s" or coffee break question and even better, check&correct them! This stuff is helpful, yet if we always have to invest our private time to do it, it will fall short.

- Paying for EQE-preparation courses such as Deltapatents is nice but asking us to invest our holidays for the time of these courses is just mean...we need time off, too, in particular after the strenuous weeks and months of studying.

- My supervisor was very helpful and encouraged me to use courses etc., paid by the company. For others, I would recommend to support the candidate as much as possible, e.g. by offering study time during work hours, and most importantly, to allow visiting training sessions such as the CEIPI seminars.

- -

- Give them a varied work load (including EP prosecution, opposition and PCT).

- Allow time of for personal study/ practice of past papers.

- paper D questions

- Give students relevant experiential work.

- Discussions starting from real cases were most helpful for me-

- Nothing - my supervisor prepared me well. But what I would say is that Q21(a) - (d) above have no answer - there is no explicit time set apart for training in the EQE; my training me in the skills required to be a patent attorney IS my training for the EQE and it is impossible to delineate between the two. Dedicated in-house tutorials were set up, but these were to be completed in my own time.

- Offer to mark exam papers or help with revision

- As I am an experienced patent attorney in a different jurisdiction, my training was primarily as a part of my work, including monitoring and attending various prompts for the whole group; therefore it is difficult for me to put specific numbers in respect of the above questions

- N/A - I had most of my training from other members of my firm rather than my direct supervisor.

- Provide with more days completely dedicated to exam preparation.

- Enable the continuous and increasing participation in practical related to EP and PCT applications, as well as being themselves not only within the particularities of current practice but also of the EQE itself.

- Call the EPO and ask if they intend to prepare an exam that has nothing to do with previous year exams.

- Spend more time on claims analysis section

- Instead of just practicing with files, there should be courses and seminars. These should be mandatory for both the supervisor and the candidate. In my experience, the supervisor will not give you extra training or time off for preparing for the exam. Instead, you will have to work 9-10 hours a day (excluding breaks) and study for your pre-EQE during the evening. There should be rules in the REE to prevent such exploitative conditions.

- That they pressure the EPO to provide adequately heated venues.

- To allow more time for studying

- They should understand that EQE is nowadays more difficult than some years ago. Lots of

work is needed to pass it. Real practice is distant from the exams.

- Allocate time in working hours to sit past exam papers and then mark the answers generated is probably the best assistance for exam preparation.

- I worked in private practise. So my supervisor expected me to draft patent applications and to respond to EPO communications - not to train for EQE.

- To allow the candidate solve a past paper during work Programme. It takes 5 hours and it is better to be done in the morning, when the mind is fresh. After 8 hours of working, I am not as fresh to solve such a paper in the evening.

- NO COMMENT

- Focus and stupid exceptions and stuff you will never need in real live

- Challenge candidates during day-by-day professional work to search for the legal basis of any issue that comes across, and to explain their thoughts in the dedicated EQE discussions.

Invite candidates to draft two papers each year on a selected topic relevant to the EPC or PCT, for publication in a journal/on a website.

- be clear on the choice of closest prior art: priority to objective THEN effect THEN domain etc depending on the priority, response does change

- keep up the good work

- Consider If they supervisors really want candidates pass EQE. Candidates who doesn't pass the EQE are cheaper.

- Training candidates to succeed has not been a very high priority for my employers in France. I have dragged myself to the point where I can sit the EQE, which I am paying for, through several temporary contracts. Although supervisors have spent time with me correcting my letters, you need a steady job that allows you to practice all aspects including drafting and most importantly you need someone who believes in you, will support you even if you fail a paper, and who doesn't just pretend to want you to succeed while benefitting from having them there for a few months. In other words I would suggest employing more people on a serious (permanent) basis and actively training them up.

In my case I have actually fealt more discouragement than encouragement from my actual supervisors (i.e. People telling me I can't do it rather than I can do it, which is just bizarre) and I think it is due to an elitist culture in a small profession in France. I have never been taken on on a permanent basis and have been employed for my language skills and patent searching experience. So I'm obviously feeling sorry for myself that I'm in my prime (33 and just married) have 7 years experience in IP as a patent searcher or trainee patent engineer, am bilingual EN/FR with an understanding of basic German, have no job and might have just failed a couple of papers. Maybe it's because patent law is hard and always has been, but maybe it's also because I haven't had the opportunity to learn steadily in the security of knowing that I can have a future in this field.

So who cares? No-one, but the contradiction is this: There are very few job ads in chemistry for people who are not already EPA, yet there is a decent demand for EPA's. This is typical French ridiculousness at its best because on the one hand they're saying we want EPA's and on the other hand they're not training enough people. It's like the way they drive fast and get annoyed if anything is in the way, but they also want to be able to put their car on warning in the middle of the street so they can get out and buy a baguette. Stalemate.

If you do get into one of the good companies on a CDI, by some miracle (you went to the right school or sucked up to the teachers at the Ceipi) then you will get more advantages. The trouble is getting admitted to the club (being given a permanent contract).

Aside from a real job, supervisors need to give candidates the chance to improve all aspects required: drafting, replying to letters, oppositions. The legal exam side depends more on the candidates desire to go out and learn patent law.

- You cannot just hire juniors and tell them to simply read the Guidelines to get money in.

- I am a patent examiner, the above does not apply. The EPO grants three days after successfully passing all exams. This is clearly not sufficient for a normal preparation, so I consider the EQE as part of my hobbies.

- real interest in helping candidates

- I cannot exactly rate my employer's support because I am self-employed which is very good on one hand, because I can use all the time I wish, but also very bad on the other hand because I cannot leave my work to my other colleagues in order to study more.

Actually I don't have a supervisor as defined above, so I cannot rate a dedicated training with him. I had a coach within the CSP program of the EPO.

- Time and patience

- Many supervisors don't care for their candidates.

- Organised external courses are valuable. Exam technique is not something that can be picked up from day-to-day work!

- Set up dedicated training time and incorporate day to day work as training opportunities.

- Keep updated on changing EQE requirements on the basis of current Examiners Reports.

- Encourage more reading

- Do the paper yourself first

- I took my holidays to learn, it would be better if that could be avoided since they are supposed to be for relaxation, I assume. However, I think I learn already quite a lot based on the daily work (responses to epo, patents drafting...). I do not think that's my supervisors job to help me with the preparation, however 1day per week 6m before the exams would be nice for learning.

- If you want to train your candidates yourself you should be familiar with the examination, especially with the standards of the last years (not 20 years ago when you sat the examination). If you do not want to spend time on your candidates, then at least give them enough time to attend courses.

- Let them go on more external courses.

- Remember how difficult it was to pass. Most would probably struggle if they had to do it again.

- More time for D exam

- It would be nice to have the opportunity to take part in a training (let's one day for each part of the EQE) held by a experienced member of the examination board.

- repeat an EQE part under real conditions
- Teach them PSA from the first day on!
- I find the EQE to be a very artificial situation which is very formalistic and does not relate well to everyday patent prosecution work. The training on the job to become a patent attorney therefore differs significantly from the training for passing the EQE.
It can in my view be compared to training to become a cook and an exam in which one is required to name the ingredients of a recipe in exactly the right order.
- help candidate and discuss solutions of the examination papers
- My supervisors did not provide EQE-specific training. However, I would have appreciated some.
- Trust younger European Patent Attorneys (that passed the EQE less than 3/4 years before) to supervise and help candidates preparing the EQE.
- Broadly speaking they supported me very well.
- Perhaps use EQE papers A and B for teaching the whole concepts of drafting a patent application and office action reply. At least my training period for becoming a patent attorney was based on the empirical experience of the supervisor, not the EQE.
- More exercises on claims analysis.
- for EPO employees, these questions make no sense
- Being interested, ask if they can in anyway help the candidate.
- More understanding of the time required outside the courses for study. Despite being allowed to attend training days, it was hard to get sufficient time to really focus on what taught during the courses. Many course days seemed to be about quantity and not quality.
- spend time on your candidate
- make a plan for the training
- My employer is the EPO. I would suggest that preparation time is granted and expenses are reimbursed.
- It needs more time spend on EPC study than practical job
- It is hard to estimate the number of days as asked in 21a. I prepared assignments and if I had a question, I asked. After being finished we reviewed the assignment. I did a lot of different types of assignments and I believe that this is a good way to get familiar with the work.
- Having grandparents supervise is a joke. They think that since they are grandparents, they know it all, when they do not even know of the existence of the 10 day rule. Ideally supervisors should have taken the exams recently themselves.

Ideally, there should be some kind of distance supervisor program for new member states and also small companies without EQE qualified staff. Or a special chat for those of us who are doing this on our own, supervised by a real supervisor, where no questions are stupid.

- See comments above regarding the employer investing in work hours for study and mock exams...
- Q 19 and 20 are not totally properly formulated. A distinction should be made between time for courses and time for studying. I had 7 days for attending the CEIPI preparation course, but additionally I had ca 2 hours every week for participating to the study group.
- Spend more time with them, and go through past papers with them. But make sure the tutor is aware of what the exam consists of. My tutor sat their EQE 15 years ago, and the format and timings have changed considerably.
- I would suggest supervisors either provide an extensive in-house training program OR they allow candidates to attend many external courses.
- One has to distinguish the role of supervisor. I believe that the supervisor's role is less on your preparation of the EQE, but regards rather the preparation of the work as a European patent lawyer. These are two different aspects.

For the preparation of the EQE it is, from my point of view, best to rely on dedicated study material as the supervisor not necessarily is aware of all the particularities of the exams. In particular, it is to be considered that the pre-exam is rather new and my supervisor does not know the pre-exam himself, but at his time there were only Paper A, B, C and D.

In my case, the importance may change with respect to the preparation of the main exams.

- Working is very important in an IP firm, but in order to have better employees, better in their work, it is highly important to have time during work-time to work and discuss the
- Make sure that candidates have sufficient time and make sure to hold a weekly momentum. Make every possible daily work episode a short EQE preparation - this will ensure a better understanding of the line of reasoning in the EPC, PCT, etc.
- Allow time for training
- learning at work did not work out for me (too much daily business), so a few days off before the exam are crucial for success
- better planning, more focused training
- NA
- Helping in the définition of necessary documents, and how to use them.
- Try to provide some exercises, especially about the substantive topics....
- Supervisors believe real life situation is different from exams, which is true to some extent. Therefore, training for work is different from training for exam.
- Better leave dedicated EQE exam training to dedicated exam training courses. Supervisors come with advice based on very old experience - better to listen to instructors who are up to date on EQE examination.
- Dedicating from 5 to 10 days focused on EPC law, 5 to 10 days on methodology for each paper, form 5 to 10 day on exercising on each paper.
- Not applicable

- we did a seminar going through the argumentations of each G-decision which helped me a lot understanding the EPC

- Regular short periods focusing on what is required to pass exams would be helpful. Review of past papers taken under exam conditions would be useful.

- Let candidate's problems be candidate's problems. Better invest your time and money wisely.

- Explanation to the answers above: the indicated 40% relate to the preparation for Paper C for 2016, the remaining days were spent before for Papers A and B in 2015.

- To let them study in the practice (maybe 1 day a week) during the last half year before the EQE. It is really hard to spend all your holiday days for preparation. I mean, there is still life to consider.

- If you by "dedicated training for the EQE" are referring to training in pursuit of requisite aptitude and knowledge to represent applicants before the EPO, my estimate is a flat 80% overall for all questions. I did that by doing my job.

If you are actually asking how much time I spent on trying to make sure that I would pass the D-exam, or any other of the exams, that is another story.

Regarding Q21a) In theory, my employer would allow as much time to prepare as needed, but did not provide necessary support to relieve me of my ordinary work-load, which of course made it very difficult to find the time to participate in courses, or for that matter study in general.

- The education of EPA should not rely on the employer. This would lead to too few graduated EPA as an employer is not enough motivated. The fewer the number of EPA the higher a pay for patent jobs they can charge!

- Give more time off to study

- Unless supervisors are themselves attending Trainings where some of the questions of next EQE could be inferred, few help can provide.

Supervisors cannot study for you, organize the documents for you and lesser make Compendium exams (time Management) for you.

- I think my supervisor did well: I get trained in practice cases focussed on actual work and get opportunity to follow courses for learning the theory and exceptions and focussed on passing the paper

- bi-weekly meetings focusing on aspects of law or examinations

- spend time with candidates, discussing the cases the candidate prepares and explaining what the candidate did good and what was wrong and must be improved. Taking time to discuss the important things like problem solution approach and not about the commas that are missing!

- EQE should be encouraged among EPO examiners, it has a direct impact in the quality of their work. Directors at EPO do not recognize how valuable EQE is also for examiners.

- Allow more time

- An overview of all the texts available to take into the exam and how to organise such material e.g. to assist with searching for information

- The problem-solution approach is often regarded as an irritation to US-based clients. Accordingly, most responses do not contain a "problem-solution" approach to inventive step. Even though in "real life" we don't use these types of arguments, supervisors should be aware that we need experience with such arguments.

I would encourage supervisors to go through the problem-solution approach with their employees. If possible, use a direct-client case that didn't go into the US to "live" practice the approach. Supervisors should be made aware/reminded of the fact that the EPO Guidelines do NOT explain how the problem-solution approach works in the EQE (i.e. it consists of only 3/4 steps in the GL). The EQE requires the 9/10/11 step approach in order to pass.

- Free up some time for preparation or at the very least assign a reasonable workloads
- My employer did not spend dedicated time for the EQE preparation, however he provided high quality professional training on a daily basis.
- I am very satisfied with my supervisor. A good supervisor should always be available to answer questions and support the candidate. However, there are no shortcuts, and the candidate must prepare most part by himself/herself.
- It does not depend on the supervisor, you have to do the job! Study the different parts of the epc/pct and do many legal questions and several past papers complete. In particular the last months should focus on doing them IN TIME!
- Don't know. It was alot more easy to study during the first year since the every day work load and demands were considerably less. It got harder during the second year since my work responsibilities increased, and less focus could be kept at training.

Note that I've only written the pre-EQE so far, hence I have not practised for three years yet.

- leave more time for studying
- use the examiner comments and marking scheme when assessing past papers
- organize learning groups or send candidates to seminars
- provide time
- Have an understanding of the pitfalls and tricky areas of the EPC and PCT, and work with your candidates on them. A good foundation of understanding is essential for the resst of the training to come together.
- put at least some effort...
- Allow free time from work
- I can't make a good estimation of the times above so I don't make any.
- give them an EPC and the guidelines at the beginning of training.
- When facing special situations, explain the broad context if time allows.
- More support, more time
- Keep in mind that they are preparing and give them the interesting, difficult cases :). And make sure they know you are ok with giving them some leave to study or that there is a possibility of

financing at least some of the materials, courses.

- For each EQE paper the supervisors should present at least a methodology to their candidates. Without a methodology the chances to succeed are too low...
 - I am a patent examiner at the EPO
 - organize deep study focusing on few important aspect
 - I would suggest supervisors to insist on time-management during examination.
 - I am an epo examiner.
 - None, the why it was handled was well balanced between support and self motivation
 - I switched my employer after I passed A and B, which was also after I participated all the DeltaPatents courses for A-D. My preparation was best for papers A-B and in a small internal study group. The problem is: "too much regular work" when the candidate is a more experienced attorney in the business (12 years in my case). Supervisors need good management skills and "eyes" in order to give practice time justicefully to those who are motivated.
 - It is very interesting to create a working group, if there's more than one persone preparing for the EQE, and regularly perform presentations by the members of the group for example.
 - Provide the Delta Patents Book on Pre-Exam as early as possible to the candidate and support him with one chapter per week
 - (Note: in Q19 I am counting the number of working days allotted for CEIPI "cycle accéléré" before the pre-examination, not all of which were dedicated to the EPC.) As past candidates have said, the key point is that supervisors should try not to swamp candidates with files in the 2-3 months immediately preceding the EQE as that can make preparation much more difficult. Of course, I realize that is not possible everywhere, but if possible, it should be done.
 - Clear guidelines as to training required/expected.
 - Do not recruit a trainee unless you are prepared to offer appropriate training.
 - Asking to indicate the number of days or % of time training (i.e. Q21a-d) is meaningless.
- Supervisors should encourage candidates to start early and offer training materials free of charge.
- To take the EQE training as serious as possible.
 - None
 - share your experience
 - Actually my Supervisor doesn't know what is asked in the Pre-EQE
 - Providencia more holidays to study the eqe
 - Encourage candidates to attend preparatory seminars a few months before the exam and support the associated expenses.

- Clearly map out all required knowledge.
Use examples.

- I don't know, I did not work on the EQE with my supervisor.
And I really think that CEIPI Seminar and training at home can be enough.

- I did get training from several people in my office, just not from this person because of the work load.

- -

- EPO does not provide any time for the EQE preparation. It is totally inadequate as it improves the know-how of the examiners and therefore the quality and efficiency of the examination process. EPO could provide some time budget, at least in the situation when the exams are passed, i.e. in retrospect.

- Give time for study

- Allow more time and help prioritizing in order to avoid to large work load while preparing for EQE.

- Take care of your responsibility and support your candidate - don't just use them to do your job.

- not applicable to EPO examiner

- The exams are difficult and require a lot of preparation.

It is important that a good balance is struck between doing work and training. Supervisors may sometimes think that a candidate can learn everything/be trained by just doing their routine work, whereas it is important that time be specifically allocated for training and that the candidate be supervised. It would be good if more of work time could be dedicated to training the candidate, as opposed to expecting them to do it all in their own time.

- To take time to review the office action , the draft of a patent application or draft of notice of opposition with the candidate and to tell the candidate what he could improve is a very good training.

- I know that the eqe training is a personal work that must be made at home as the company needs you to produce work during working days. Supervisors usually need to focus on the company work and not on the training. Companies prefer sending candidates to the training centers (CEIPI....)

Honestly, supervisors do not handle a big part of the training but they provide means to help in the training. For example, supervisors provide any book you need which by the way are very expensive. Also if you ask a question, then they will answer.

If I had to suggest something, I would say, that supervisors must work closer to the candidates and be more engaged in their daily training.

- To create a plan and follow it.

- No number of courses can compare to self-study

- to let work candidates for EQE at the office during working hours and clearly define the number of hours or the percentage

- Although the answer under Q21a) may give the impression that I did not receive any support from my supervisor, she conveyed the teaching of legal knowledge to other experienced co-workers. But this teaching was not done specifically as a preparation for work, but to allow me to represent my employer at the EPO.

- Q21a-21d: n/a

- For the pre-exam: Encourage them to start early and study regularly and allow them to follow a course that accompanies them over time, even if that means that they are absent e. g. one afternoon a week. Be there to answer specific questions and sort out mix-ups.

- I have to learn at home, the company pays a Delta-patent course (5 days) and the books for learning. I get no training for the EQE with my supervisor.

- no comment, my situation was not the usual one

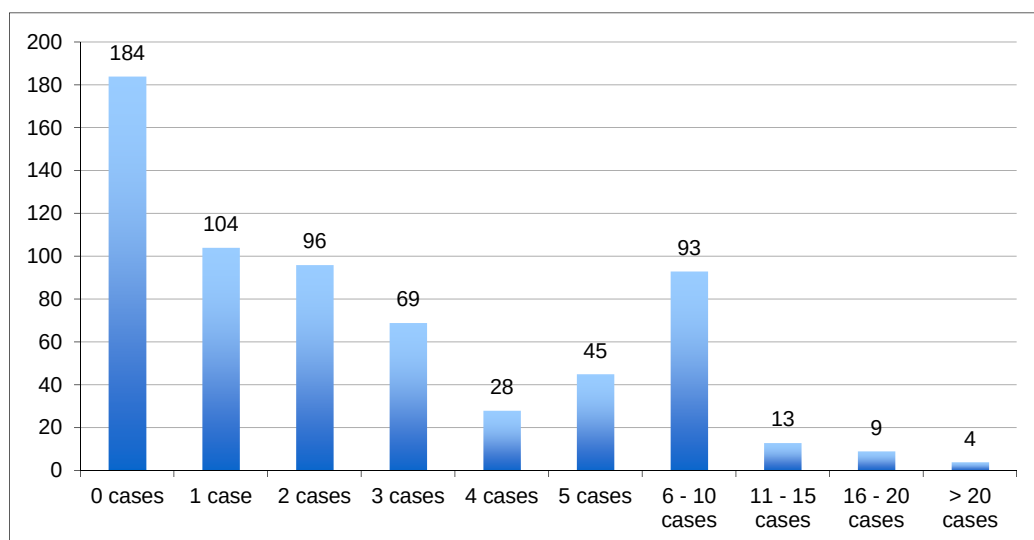
- involve the candidates in activities which differ from the daily work of the candidate, e.g. opposition proceedings, appeal proceedings,...Allow the candidate to focus of EPC and PCT patent law and try to not bother him with national prosecution in US, Japan, China,....

- Dedicate time to the candidate in a constructive way and with an organised Schedule, otherwise, there is always something more important to do. Giving training to the different candidates of the company at the same time can also be helpful.

- I'm afraid it is useless

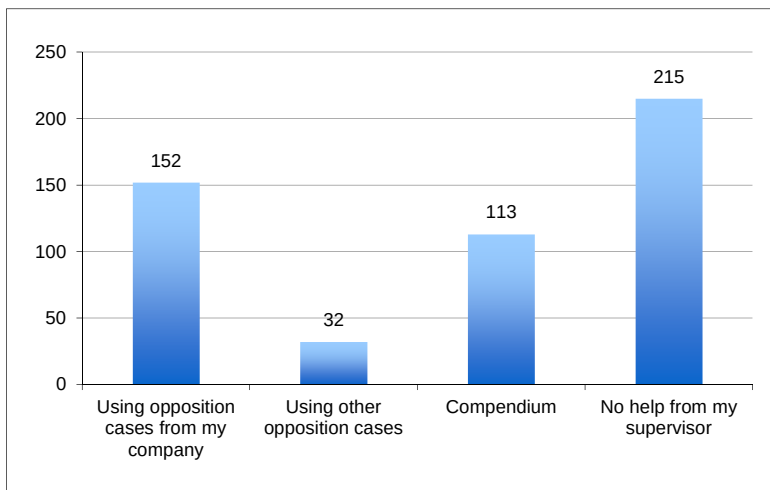
- Provide more guidance on previous experience in relation to non-day-to-day activities - such as oppositions, oral proceedings etc as studying in (UK) national law don't help here. Also provide more availability for training courses outside the office.

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



The median of opposition cases were candidates were involved during the 3-year training period is 5.

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



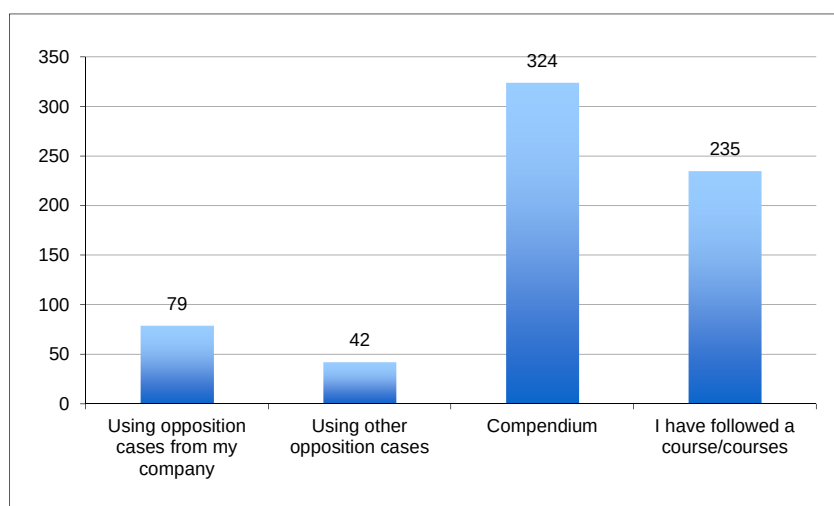
**Candidates were asked to make comments concerning Q24.
The comments are listed below.**

- Pre exam!
- did not take C yet
- we used the compendium ourselves; he answered questions on it if we had any
- I did not do it yet.
- Pre-exam
- N/A
- N/a
- NA
- Talked through a past paper
- I only sit paper B
- only pre-exam!
- N/A
- N/A
- not applicable (pre-EQE)
- Have not taken Paper C yet
- Handing me over the C Book
- CEIPI
- not applicable
- TRAINING HAS NOT YET STARTED
- did not do paper C
- opposition as examiner
- Erklärung der Systematik
- C-book and Delta Patents C-book
- showing his papers
- not applicable yet
- Na
- I didn't prepare for C paper
- Did not sit paper C
- as an employee of the EPO
- C-training not yet started
- Course (EPO Praktika intern 2013, Cours at Maastrich Univ.)
- Didn't pass Paper C this year
- I have not sat paper C yet.
- Did not sit paper C
- Only took Pre-EQE

- I didn't sat paper C
- Suggested attending external course
- I have not written paper C
- No training yet
- Discussing all Delta Patents Questions
- I did not sit for paper C
- Did not participate in C
- I didn't do paper C
- EPO-examiner
- Not applicable
- Not yet prepared
- I did not sit paper C
- N/A
- I did the pre-exam
- Already passed C-exam.
- I have not prepared paper C yet
- have not started yet
- I did not pass C
- NA
- Paper C not attended
- NA
- not applicable yet
- Not a paper C sitter
- in specific C question
- I didn't do the C exam yet
- I took the pre-EQE
- Pre-EQE
- I have not trained for paper C
- N/A
- Other
- work training is focused on practice, not on passing paper
- not yet relevant
- no paper C yet
- sit the Pre-Exam
- n/a
- i took the pre exam.
- did not sit paper c
- N/A; I'm at the Pre-Exam stage.
- Deltapatents questions
- I am only a pre eqe candidate
- i attended for pre-exam
- N/A
- not appplicable
- Cources where used and 1 old paper incl. correction
- Not applicable, I sat the pre-examination this year
- I have not sat the EQE yet
- Not concerned yet
- no specific training for paper C with supervisor yet
- pre-exam
- Other colleagues helped me
- I sat pre-exam
- attending courses,
- not the case
- Did not sit C
- Did not sit C
- Have no experience of C

- No preparation for paper C, I haven't sat it yet.
- PreExam
- Pre-exam
- Didn't sit paper c
- just general advice
- Only took Pre-exam this year

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:

- did not take C yet
- I will do it this year
- Pre-exam
- N/A
- N/a
- NA
- Using past papers
- Study books
- In house tutorials, past papers
- using C-Book: How to write a successful opposition and pass paper C of the European Qualifying Examination
- S.O.
- only pre-exam
- N/A
- N/A
- None specific training
- not applicable (pre-EQE)
- only did pre-exam
- Have not taken paper C
- Deltapatents C-Book
- CEIPI
- not applicable
- C-Book
- TRAINING HAS NOT YET STARTED
- Deltapatents methodology

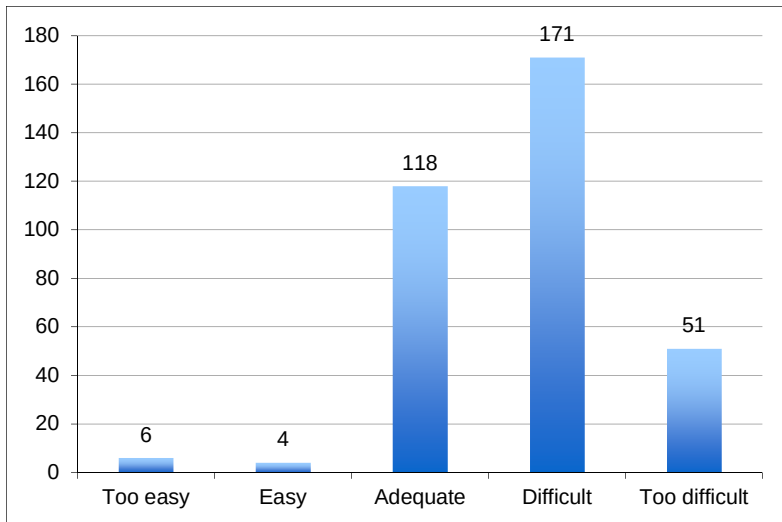
- did not do paper C
- Delta C course
- self-study
- C-book and Delta Patents C-book
- book
- not applicable yet
- Na
- Book
- I didn't prepare for C paper
- C-Book by Chandler/Meinders
- self study
- Did not sit paper C
- C-book
- C-training not yet started
- Didn't pass Paper C this year
- I have not sat paper C yet.
- Did not sit paper C
- Only took Pre-EQE
- I didn't sat paper C
- C-book
- I have not written paper C
- No training yet
- C-Book
- Haven't done it yet
- see Q24
- Did not participate in C
- I didn't do paper C
- pre-exam, no paper C yet
- Not applicable
- Delta patent books
- Not yet prepared
- I did not sit paper C
- N/A
- Already passed C-exam.
- I have not prepared paper C yet
- C-book
- Did not sit this paper
- I did not pass C
- NA
- NA
- Mainly self-training
- not applicable yet
- Not a paper C sitter
- old papers, c-book
- Past exam papers
- past C papers
- delta patents course C
- I didn't do the C exam yet
- CEIPI C-Book and Seminar
- I took the pre-EQE
- I have not started yet
- Pre-EQE
- C-book
- I have not yet taken paper C
- I am smart, I know everything.
- I have not trained for paper C.

- N/A
- Practicing old exams
- CEIPI 2 years
- Doing D and C exams in same conditions of the exam
- not yet relevant
- deltapatent
- no paper C yet
- na
- Methodology for paper C - Hoekstra
- Books as before/ Courses run by JDD
- n/a
- i took the pre exam.
- N/A; I'm at the Pre-Exam stage.
- C-Book CEIPI
- I am only a pre eqe candidate
- CEIPI C-book
- i attendend for pre-exam
- C-book
- Delta Patents course
- N/A
- not applicable
- Colleages
- I did not yet prepare for paper C
- old exams
- courses
- EQE Training Maastricht
- Not applicable, I sat the pre-examination this year
- Self studying
- Not yet
- Not concerned yet
- Meinder's book
- pre-exam
- not the case
- Did not sit C
- Did not sit C
- Have not attended C
- No preparation for paper C, I haven't sat it yet
- Not sat paper C yet
- PreExam
- Pre-exam
- Didn't sit paper c
- studying different "C-Books"
- Past papers
- Didn't take Paper C this year

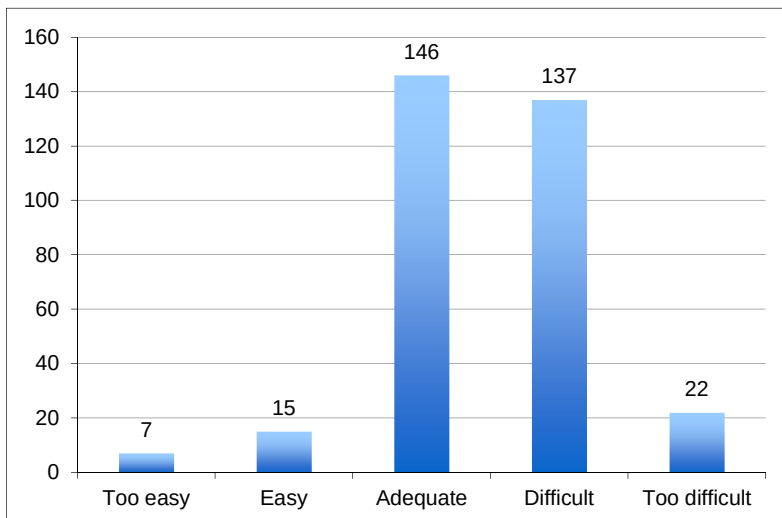
Chapter 4 - EQE papers

Q26) EQE papers - Please rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2016

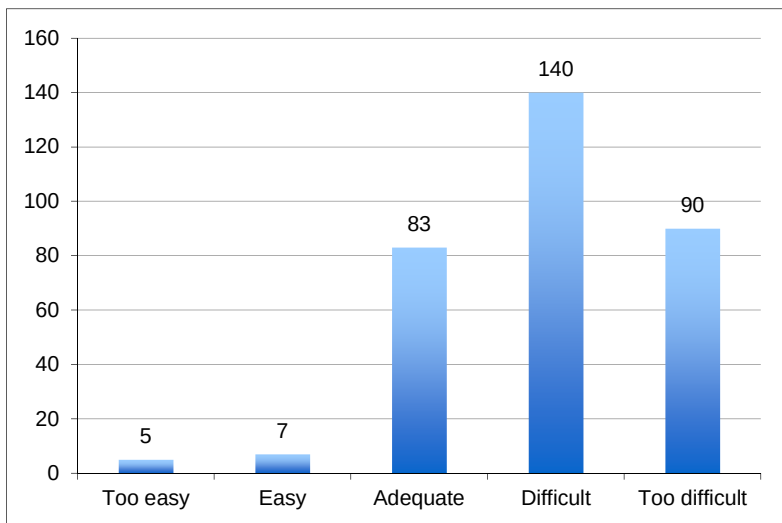
Pre-examination as a whole



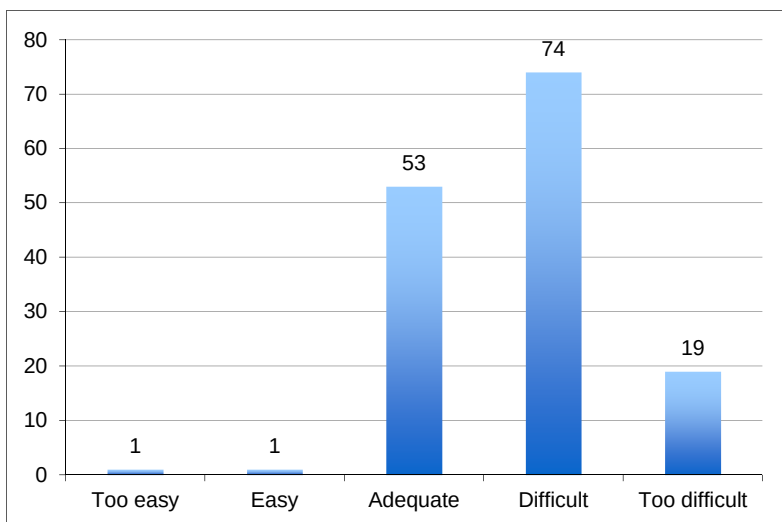
Pre-examination (legal questions)



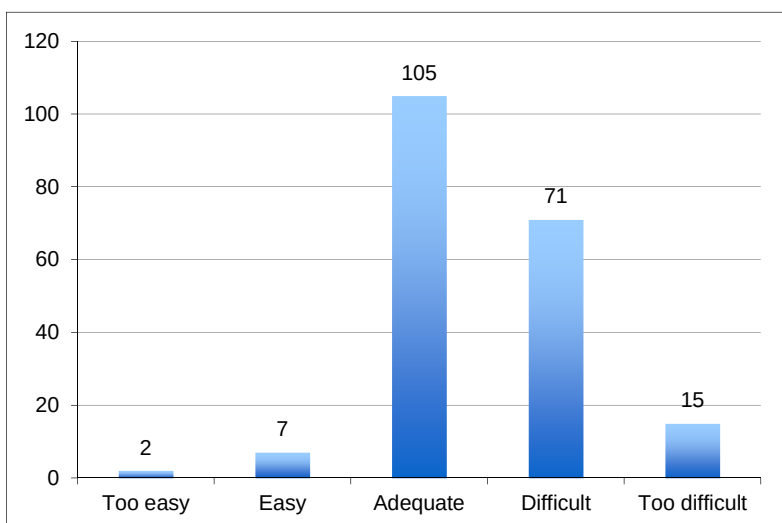
Pre-examination (claim analysis)



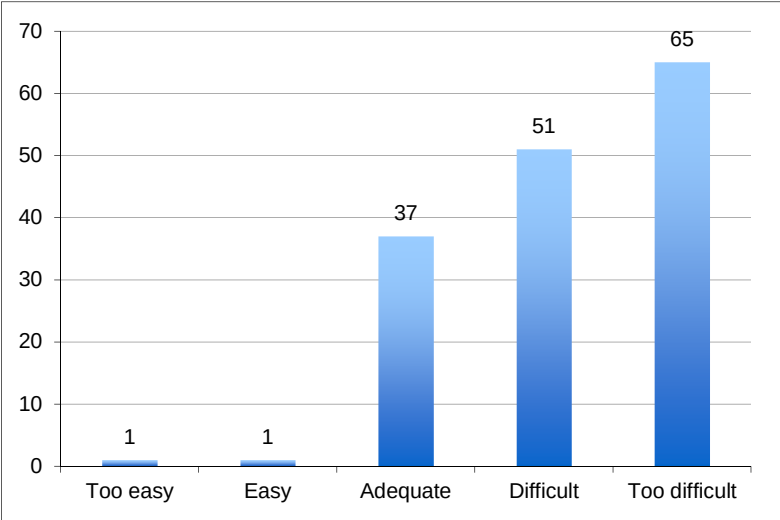
Paper A (Ch)



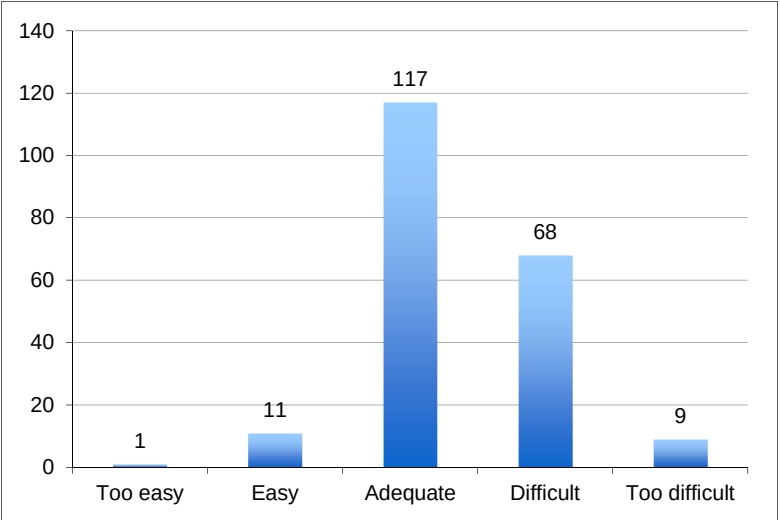
Paper A (E/M)



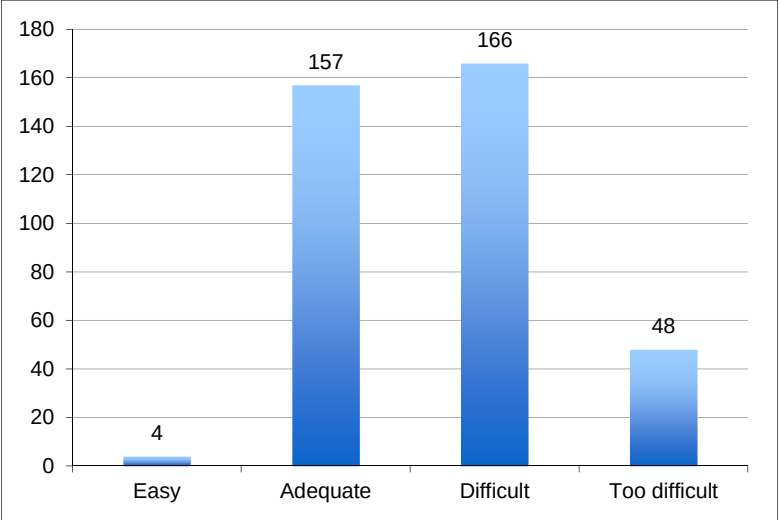
Paper B (Ch)



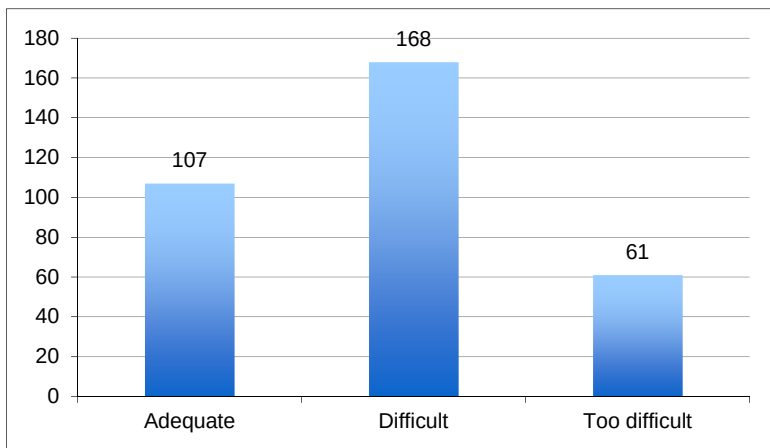
Paper B (E/M)



Paper C

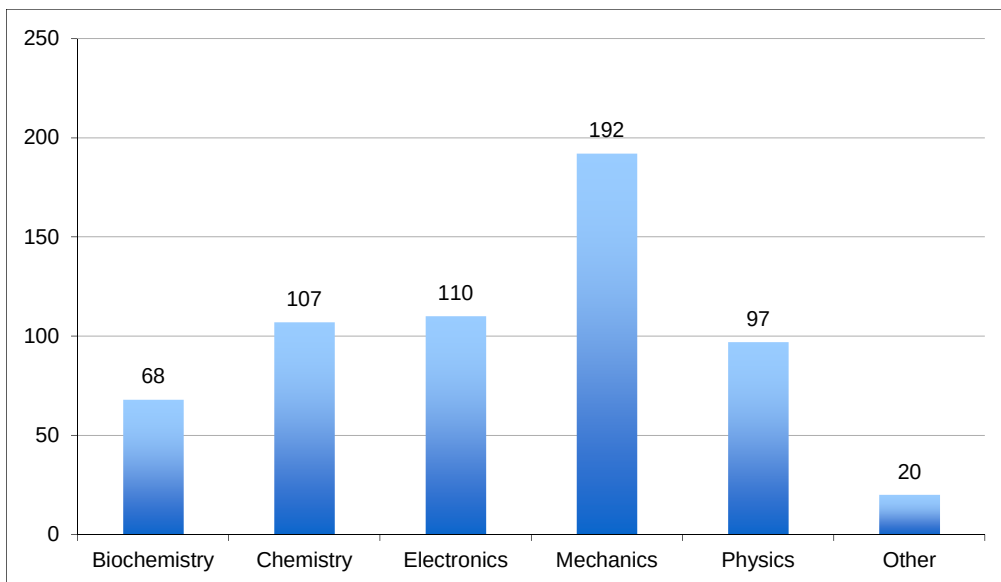


Paper D

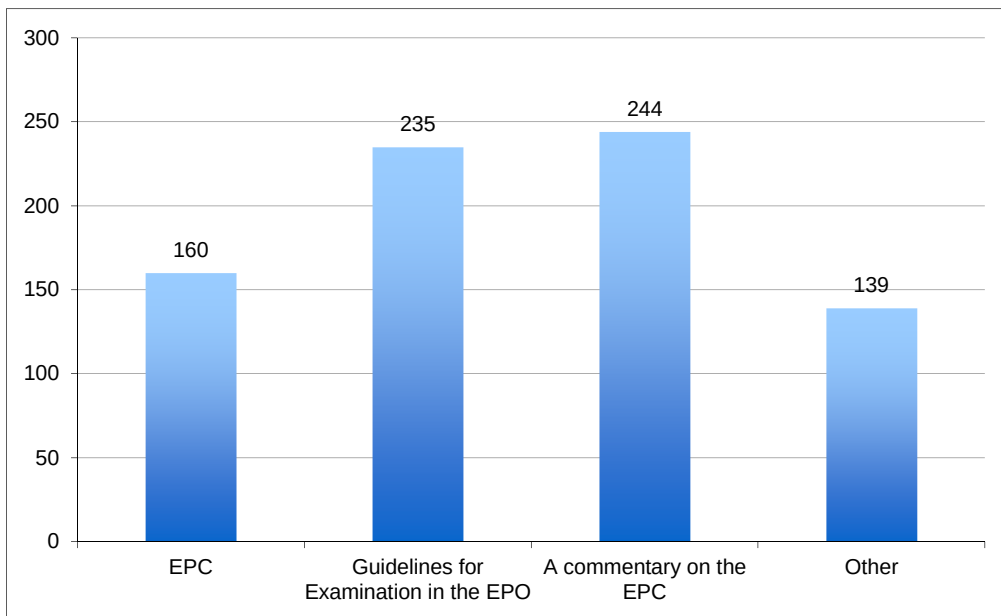


Q27) If you sat the pre-examination:

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?



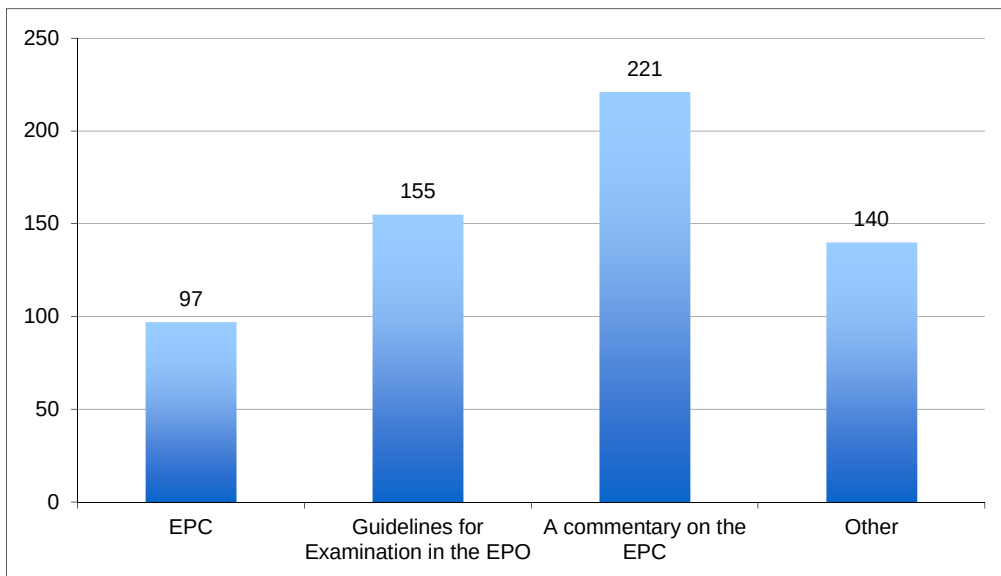
Candidates were asked to specify which other reference books were the most useful for the preparation of the pre-examination. The replies are listed below.

- EPO Online Course Preexam
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellenbuch
- My own commented EPC
- EPÜ- und PCT Tabellen
- Visser
- Visser - Annotated EPC
- EPC 200 by Nicolas Fox
- Fox
- Visser
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- The Annotated EPC by Derk Visser and Delta patents Paper D questions
- Online training modules
- Visser
- Visser
- Visser
- Annotated EPC by Derk Visser
- Rudge, how to pass D
- Visser
- Online training course
- Visser and fox
- veronese, rudge, visser
- The Annotated European Patent Convention
- EPO study materials
- Hoekstra
- visser
- Visser (EPC) & Mulder (PCT)
- Hoekstra, PCT applicants guide, Euro PCT guide
- Visser
- Euro-pct guide

- Visser
- Quizzes from the EPO online training
- online course
- Visser
- Annotated Visser;X-Ref PCT Muller
- C-Book by Chandler/Meinders
- Kley
- BoA decisions
- My own
- The Annotated EPC, Visser
- Visser
- D.Visser's Annotated EPC
- PCT in der Praxis, Trinks
- Visser
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- epi online class books
- Baque
- Visser
- materials of pre-exam course of European Patent Academy
- Baque
- REF to EPC, Hoekstra
- Visser
- Reference to the EPC
- VISSER
- CBE-PCT Gregory Baque
- material from EPO exam div
- Vischer's Annotated EPC
- Delta Patents
- BAQUE
- Commented EPC (Baque)
- Mind maps of Kley/Gundlach
- Visser
- Derek Visser's Annotated EPC
- PCT
- Pre-exam EPO online course 2014
- readings of the online course
- Documents of the EPO pre-examination online course
- The annotated EPC
- Procedural law under EPC (Watchorn & Veronese), Visser
- Baques
- The annotated EPC (Derk Visser)
- Visser
- PCT commentary
- epi online course; Düwel et al. EPÜ und PCT-Tabellen
- readings of EPO online course
- Hoekstra
- deltapatents
- Visser
- visser
- Hoekstra
- visser
- Annotated EPC by Visser
- Visser
- Jelle Hoekstra EPC book and Cees Mulder PCT reference book
- Visser
- EPO On-line course

- Visser
- EPÜ-kompakt
- annotated EPC by Visser
- Online course EPA
- Basic legal questions pre-exam/paper D, Delta patent
- binders of DeltaPatents
- Mulder (PCT)
- BAQUE
- Coffe break Q, D-exams, Time limit Q.
- Ceipi courses
- annotated PCT guidelines, Deltapatents
- Jelle Hoekstra: References to the European Patent Convention
- training course
- Visser, Mulder
- Delta Patents Pre-exam Book and EPÜ/PCT-Tabellenbuch by Düwel et al
- PCT commentary
- c book
- Online training material
- Visser
- Visser
- bacque
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- Baque
- Gregory Bacques
- Deltapatents, Visser
- Delta Patent EQE Pre-exam, the Annotated EPC- Derk Visser, Procedural Law under the EPC-2000 Kastner
- C-Book
- Kley
- Vissers Annotated EPC
- the annonated EPC
- References to the EPC
- Hoekstra
- did not sit pre-ex
- Visser
- In particular, Visser
- delta patent pre-eqe case law
- BAQUE 2015
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam Book
- Baque
- Visser
- Epü Tabellen
- delta patents basic legal questions
- Course material from the European Patent Academy online course
- EPC and PCT table book
- Exam Related Questions by DeltaPatents
- EPO online course
- Malte Köllner for PCT, Kley-script, Delta-patent-material for all parts
- Visser
- Baque
- Visser, Delta Patents
- visser
- Past examination papers

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



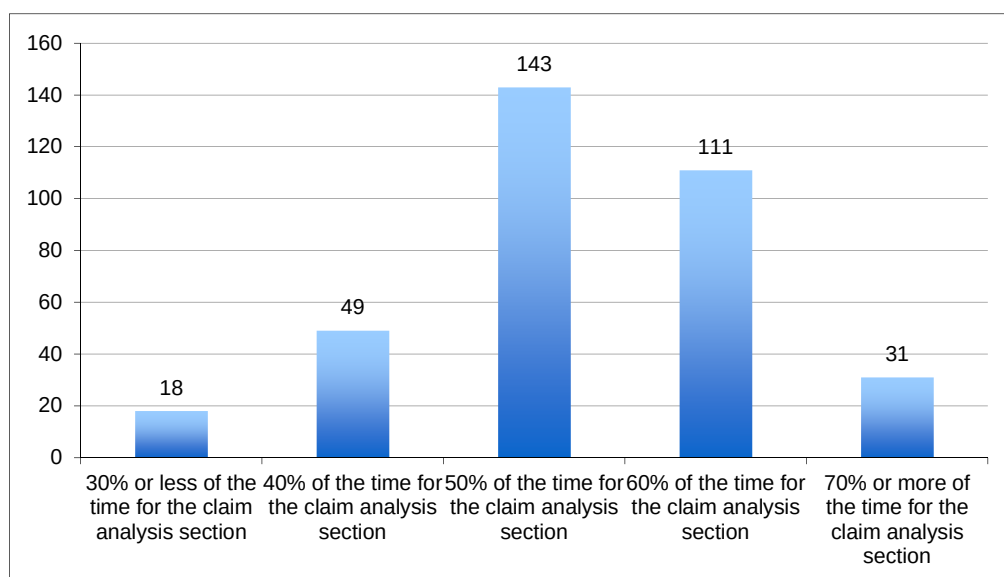
Candidates were asked to specify which other reference books were the most useful while sitting the pre-examination. The replies are listed below.

- .
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellenbuch
- My own commented EPC
- D-Book
- "EPÜ- und PCT Tabellen"
- Visser
- Visser and PCT Guide
- Visser - Annotated EPC
- EPC 200 by Nicolas Fox
- Fox
- Visser
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- Paper C Book
- The Annotated EPC by Derk Visser
- Visser
- Visser
- Visser
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- Baque
- Visser
- visser
- Visser

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



Q27e) Any comment on the pre-examination?

I found the claims sets distractingly useless.

- claim analysis section was too hard and unclear

- It was more difficult than previous years. However, I don't think it was too difficult. For the previous year's exams, I constantly had quite a bit of time left when I was finished. For this year, the 4 hours were just right. In my opinion it makes sense to increase the difficulty regarding the high passing rates of previous years. But I think it should not be more difficult than it is now.

- -

- I found quite a lot of the questions to be a bit ambiguous as to whether they were indeed true or false, which was very stressful and cost me a lot of time in making up my mind.

The claims questions especially were very difficult, especially compared to previous years. If there are going to be questions about the closest prior art document then the prior art should be more clearly separated or distinguished.

I think reducing the number of prior art documents to three would be sensible, or else the pass mark should be reduced down to 50% to make up for the increasing difficulty of the questions.

- Still there are many ambiguous questions.

- I felt there was a little more ambiguity in the wording of some of the questions than in previous years

- Pre-examination 2016 was more difficult than the papers from past years. During preparation, I easily completed each of the 2012 - 2015 past papers in under 2 hours under examination conditions. The 2016 paper required all 4 hours.

- The complexity of the claim analysis has increased to a level of subjectivity that is completely unsuited to a T/F format.

- Claim analysis contained a lot of reading compared to previous years.

- I think a true-false style mark scheme is bizarre for claim analysis questions where one could argue for both sides

- Too many "grey area" questions, especially in relation to the claims section. For example, "Is X obvious?" does not lend itself to a rigid T/F answer format where one cannot give reasoning for the conclusion arrived at.

- Please bear in mind that I passed with good marks (75-94) the previously available exam papers in under 3 hours and I had tried some paper D questions.

I began with the claim analysis part to get it out the way so that I didn't have to attempt the more difficult/subjective inventive step questions at the end. This was a mistake, because the claim analysis part questions were exceptionally difficult and ambiguous. The pre-exam should be testing whether we can apply general concepts i.e. basic claim construction; can we use the problem-solution approach; do we know what makes an unclear claim. This can be tested without needing to have multiple dependencies, multiple claim sets and unclear questions (see 2012-2014 papers).

Not only do ambiguous questions make for extremely psychologically challenging conditions in the exam meaning that the whole exam can suffer, it puts unnecessary time pressure on candidates by wasting time trying to think about what the question is asking, but also, if the answers need to be as black and white as true/false, it is essential that the questions are equally clear. I count myself lucky that I have English as a native language.

By the time I got to the legal part I was so stressed by the claim analysis that my brain was not functioning. Looking at the legal questions in the cold light of day, they were not as hard as they felt in the exam, but still comparable or maybe slightly worse than the 2015 paper which is generally considered to be the hardest available past paper. I just about finished within the four hours.

Unnecessarily difficult.

Please remember what the pre-exam is for! It is meant to remove the weak candidates who do not have a high chance of passing paper D. The exam has now descended to a ridiculous level where even strong candidates are struggling. This should not be the case. Paper D is for this. The pre exam is a foundation level exam and should be set accordingly.

The questions must be clear. The claim analysis questions were the least suited questions for T/F answering.

- The questions posed in the claim analysis

- The marking scheme for the pre-examination makes no sense. Each of the twenty questions is focussed on a particular area. If you get all the questions right in one section you get five marks. If you compare a candidate who gets 3/4 marks for every question with one who got the same number of answers right across a 15 questions, the latter candidate will pass with a mark of 75% whereas the former will fail with a mark of 60%.

This seems grossly unfair given that the former candidate will have a broader scope of knowledge demonstrated across several questions.

- The Claim Analysis section seemed to be in a different form to the past papers and there were questions that were designed to catch out the candidate. The Legal section was difficult but relevant.

- Many of the claim analysis questions this year seemed ambiguous - I could have argued either way on several questions. I have not had that impression for more than one or two of the questions in the past papers and mock papers (of which I did all the available papers with a comfortable passing grade).

I do not know how much of this was genuinely due to increased paper difficulty/question ambiguity, and how much was because the examination hall was so uncomfortably cold that I was not able to give my usual level of thought and attention to the questions.

Multiple choice is a very poor format for claim analysis questions, which often have a marked subjective element - particularly, for example, with questions as to which argument is "best" or which prior art is "closest" if one document lacks feature A and another lacks feature B.

- I didn't sit the pre-examination this year.

- Bei der Anspruchsanalyse gab es sehr viele Fragen (u.a. 18.4), die einem Graubereich zuzuordnen sind und die somit eine richtige Beantwortung mit falsch oder wahr nahezu unmöglich machen. Mein Eindruck war, dass hier bewusst "Fallen" gestellt wurden, um die Kandidaten zu verunsichern. Dies halte ich für unangemessen, da solche Grenzfälle eher ein Thema der Hauptprüfung sein sollten, da die Kandidaten dann auch mehr Erfahrung mit dem europ. Patentrecht gesammelt haben und besser damit umgehen können.

Mein persönlicher Eindruck ist, dass die Vorprüfung nach 2014 von Jahr zu Jahr schwerer geworden ist. Dadurch sind künftige Kandidaten gegenüber den bisher erfolgreichen Kandidaten stark benachteiligt.

- The questions, especially in the claims analysis sections, often have no clear, objectively correct answer - the true/false format is completely inappropriate.

The quality of the English used in the paper is sometimes suspect too - on some of the questions it is unclear what is actually being tested.

- There were generally too many ambiguous questions this year (particularly in the claim analysis part). See the extensive comments on the [deltapatents blog](#) to get a feeling for this. It seems rather unfair to ask this sort of question in an exam in which it is not possible to justify your answer.

- I do not understand the point in a "true/false" exercise, in cases where one can validly argue either way. This is true for many questions of the "claim analysis" part.

- Yes, time available for the claim analysis part was not enough. I followed the recommendation of 1h30 for the legal part and 2h30 hours for the claim analysis part and think that I lacked time for correctly understanding and answering questions 17 to 20.

More specifically, I think that the claim analysis documents and different sets of claims were too much for the available recommended 2h30. I don't question the level of difficulty, but I do the several base documents and the change in the set up of each question, which leads to a need of more time to correctly evaluate.

- Doable had there been warning as to the significant rise in difficulty.

- Many of the questions related to quite obscure material - the challenge was to find the correct reference, rather than a test of the law

- The legal part was more difficult than in the previous years. The claim analysis section was ambiguous.

- The questions should be less entangled and there should be less "implicit disclosure". In

particular, if you make the wrong choice on the disclosure of a feature, you most probably will lose 5 points. Moreover, in my opinion, asking about the closest prior art in a multiple choice test is just nonsense. As can be derived from the Examination Guidelines, several prior art documents can be used as the closest prior art, depending on which path seems to be most promising for you. Therefore, there is lots of arguing involved.

- some vague questions in both parts
- Please make focus on more clear questions, in particular in the claim analysis part.
- The exam format is fundamentally poor.

I appreciate the need to filter candidates who have no hope of passing the main papers and to test unequivocally candidates understanding of basic EPC/PCT law, but the pre Exam is not fit for purpose. A pass mark of 70% is demanding, particularly when you can answer 75% of the questions correctly and achieve 60% of the marks. Manifestly, this mark scheme is flawed.

In terms of the sections:

Parts of the legal section are far too specialised to be considered basic and some questions are unnecessarily protracted. Each year, the goal posts are moved further and further towards paper D, such that there is barely any distinction between the difficulty of the papers.

Of the claims analysis section, it truly is a farce. It should not be the case that the questions are so ambiguous that the exam effectively becomes a test in guessing what the question setter meant. The distinction between the T/F options for questions in novelty and inventive step are inappropriately fine and frequently punishes candidates who consider more than one angle. The skill of a good patent attorney lies in arguing the grey not in recognising someone else's idea of black and white.

The pre exam is increasingly constituting an exercise in luck - 'can you guess which of the answers the question setter thinks is right'

- Claim analysis questions considerably harder this year compared to previous years. More claims to analyse than usual and many grey area questions. In my opinion a bit too difficult.

For previous years 4 hours seemed like too much time but 4 hours for the pre-exam this year was just enough due to the difficulty of the paper.

- Claim analysis part is too difficult and does not test the knowledge. All the questions are based on tricks. Too much green zone.
- Multiple Choice Questions are not AT ALL relevant for this kind of topic.

Overall many "grey" answers in the claim analysis part.

Even though the pre-exam is do-able, as a whole, I do not have the feeling I am more prepared now for the EQE.

Too many ambiguities. Some poorly written questions. And some other "tricky" questions.

- POORLY drafted questions. Unclear. Chemists are not familiar with mechanics.
- The questions 16-18 were particularly difficult.

The questions 5.1 and 5.4 were for me particularly difficult to answer.

- I don't yet know if it was only exam stress or the claim analysis part was really longer than in the previous exams, but it definitely took me too long and I panicked when I saw I was running out of time. And I don't panic easily.

- For me it is clear now the pre-examination is not designed to test the knowledge of the candidates of the legal part and claim analysis!

They test your speed! Which I think is NOT correct for a pre-exam. Each year the bar is raised and it makes me wonder what the objective of the pre-examination is??? Are the patent attorneys who did not do a pre-examination better or worse Attorneys? Are the patent attorneys who passed the pre-examination with 50% better or worse Attorneys? If the goal is to show it is hard, and only 60-70% may pass then I would say keep up the good work. If the goal is to test the candidates on their knowledge and skills to successfully apply for the main exams, then you need to reconsider the current pre-examination. Some candidates have a disadvantage (language, dyslexia, others) that makes it harder for them => should these candidates not become patent attorneys? Will they be less good patent attorneys than others in daily practice? Again you need to think what you wish to achieve with the pre-examination. Honestly it is not only my opinion => this is a common perception (maybe not for the examination board & committee).

Ask yourself what do you gain if a well prepared candidate fails the pre-exam by 2 points, because he lacks 5-10 minutes of time? Is he not worthy, does he need to blame himself that he is not a native French, English or German person.

Who sets the bar and how high must it be set for a FAIR pre-examination? The answer varies over the past years and seems to be driven by only one item, cut the distribution (= only 60-70% should pass) to what end? Save the reputation of the EPO? The pass rate is an indicator not a goal!!! The sad thing is that cutting of the distribution is done not on knowledge but on time. Which brings me to my first point, what is the ambition of the pre-examination and is it achieved? My sad analysis (shared by many others, even those who pass) is the pre-exam does not test what it should test.

I rest my case. A disappointed candidate, who was motivated to go to the main exams and was well prepared, but did not make it. He now blames himself and tries to figure out why he failed, could he have done more, etc... Time was the key factor. But he also want the examination board and committee to ask THEMSELVES what THEY can do to make sure good candidates, that one day will become excellent European patent attorneys, should NOT fail the pre-exam...

- The exam is well made and tricky

- It doesn't seem like a pre-exam but a full exam. Legal part was very hard, the claim analysis was way to long to read and the multi dependency too much for such a short examination time

- Question 5.2 seems to be open to interpretation with different outcomes

- The claim analysis section was straightforward (with the exception of a couple of questions for which the correct answer was very debatable - clarity, closest prior art - but it was very long. I have been an examiner in physics for 14 years and I still needed most of the 2 hours to complete the claims analysis section (albeit it not rushing). As a comparison, none of the claims analysis sections of the previous years had taken me longer than an hour.

- some words use in the paper could be unclear

- Where can one get help on the claim analysis clarity issues...? The Guidelines F-IV, 4 aren't enough.

- There was no warming up questions and the exam started with a tricky question.

- I do understand that the Exam committee is trying to reduce the percentage of candidates who pass the pre-exam every year. However, I think the exam setters have from 2015 started asking

more ambiguous questions that we cannot properly answer. For example, question 5.4. has been discussed on many forums and it seems that people still cannot agree what the correct answer is. This question was apparently ill-formulated.

When it comes to the claim analysis part, the situation is even worse. For example, questions 15.3, 17.1 and 18.4. Some of the prior art documents were equally good to be the closest prior art documents. If a candidate makes a wrong assumption, that "propagates" to many subsequent questions and this leads to many points being lost.

- Really hard for non-mechanics people
- I feel it as unnecessary to include in the claim analysis part a partition speed reading of 8 pages. Will you filter here the good practitioners from the bad ones?
- The claims section was too long and the questions too vague. The legal section was more complicated than in years past but was doable.
- Sometimes, the questions in the claim analysis part appear to be both T/F, depending on perspective
- It seems that the test is more and more difficult each year. It is therefore difficult for candidates to estimate the preparation needed. Moreover it does not seem that after the previous exam filter, the pass rate of eqe increases
- pre-exam 2016 was by far the most difficult pre-exam compared to the other pre-exams.
- Some statements are rather unclear. For example, statement 5.1: Shall Hassan be appointed as representative specifically for the EPO as ISA, or not? Or statement 5.4: Does the statement refer to the case mentioned in question 5, or not?
- i would appreciate to learn why it is becoming harder every year and what the intent of the pre exam is. For what I know, the original intent was to lower the number of inept first-sitters of the actual eqe, which goal had already been achieved years ago.
- - I found the two first questions of the legal part quite unexpected and hard. As a consequence I had to spend some time looking up the answers.
- According to me, some of the claim analysis questions were not unambiguous.
- I will begin with the analysis of claims that deserve more sustained attention.
- Claims section was too subjective - not appropriate for true/false format.
- Much more difficult than previous years. More difficult legal questions, more to read in the claim analysis section and harder questions
- Claims analysis was too difficult, different from last years.
- Some questions were of not easy interpretation. Could be because I am not native speaker, but this was my difficulty.
- I sat that in 2015, and the claim analysis part was sometimes quite ambiguous. Yes, I passed, even with quite good marks, but directly after the exam I had no clue if I would achieve 40 marks or 90. Some part of it was rather guessing how the question should be understood than actually being sure.
- There was indeed too much material to read through in the claim analysis section. The claim analysis section should not focus so much on the candidate's reading velocities, rather on their

understanding. Too much time needed to be spend on Reading the invention and the cited references. That is bad.

- Plenty of time. But the nuances in the questions. ARGH ! (frustrated at myself as I knew the correct answer, had the correct reasoning, yet still answered wrong as I missed a nuance on the question)

- Some question were difficult to understand. Due to this it is difficult to just consider "true" OR "false".

In my opinion two questions could be answered "true" AND "false" depending on the point of view. "true" because... OR "false" because...

- Most of the candidates were done after 2h and a half. This was also true the previous years.

- Questions appear to be tricky instead of testing candidate's strength in legal and claim analysis.

- The legal questions did not represent a set of generic questions as in the previous years. They dealt with special situations which you could not know, but had to look up. I wonder what the goal of the pre-exam is: testing if a candidate has enough general knowledge to sit the exam or test how thorough a person can look up the answers in the reference books. My opinion is that the pre-exam should test the first.

- More material should be available (from the EPO) for preparing the claim analysis section

- L'épreuve de cette année était au moins aussi dur pour la partie juridique que l'an dernier, mais la partie technique était beaucoup plus dur et il fallait consacrer beaucoup plus de temps pour bien la faire.

Avoir un niveau de connaissance approprier pour la qualification de mandataire est normal. Mais tendre à favoriser les bêtes de concours en mode "scolaire", cela nuit à la diversité des profils.

- I believe that the EPO should clearly communicate their goal with respect to the pre-examination. It is evident that the level of difficulty of the pre-exam did increase significantly in the past two years.

Thus, it seems that the EPO wants to decrease the number of successful candidates. This, itself, is not a problem. It is legitimate if it leads to a decrease in the number of re-sitters of the main exam. However, the EPO should make this clear.

A preparation of an exam is also based on the difficulty to be expected. Thus, in light of the difficulty of this year's pre-exam it seems that it was needed to already start to practise for the main exam which I partially did (based on the solutions of Deltapatents which certainly are not the official ones I would expect to have about 5 errors).

I also believe that the order of the questions should be arranged differently. I am convinced that the questions should be organized in a way in order to reduce the nervousness of the candidates. E.g. in the set of 10 questions of the legal part there were some easier questions than others. Just put these first so that candidates become more secure of themselves so that the knowledge can be tested.

- each year is more difficult, and there is no way to prepare oneself to those questions. previous exams are very easy when comparing to 2015 and 2016 exams, therefore mock examinations 2011-2014 are not useful in the preparation, because you feel confident with the preparation, and then, when doing the exam, the questions are completely different!

The marking system is also extremely hard with the applicants. It is difficult to get 70 marks, but with the marking system (0 or 1 correct 0 points, 2 correct 1 points, 3 correct 3 points, 4 correct 5 points), having more than 75% exam correct. Some who have more than 80% of exam correct should pass, because this is a pre-exam, and for having failed 2-3 questions more, does not mean that it will apply epc worse. Exams are complicated, people are nervous (because the importance of the exam), and the pressure of pass the exam is strong. ,In a true-false exam, one moment of nervous, is fatal in the result, and I consider that this is not fair, and does not prove that an applicant is not as good as other with two (e.g.) answers correct.

- Die Rechtsfragen waren nach meinem Empfinden wesentlich schwerer als die Jahre davor. Ebenso war die Anspruchsanalyse an vielen Stellen unklar, insbesondere die Beschreibung der Anmeldung und dessen Offenbarungsgehalt. Durch den ersten großen Anspruchssatz führt dies zu Folgefehlern. Meiner Meinung nach war ein Merkmal des Anspruchs 1 für das zweite und das dritte Ausführungsbeispiel nicht offenbart. Wenn ich mich daran festklammere, dann wäre ein Teil der nachfolgenden Fragen irrelevant geworden. So etwas führt zu großer Unsicherheit und man kann die nachfolgenden Fragen nicht mehr ohne "Beigeschmack" lösen.

- First two legal questions seemed to be difficult / involved some search. This increased the nervousity at the beginning of the exam. A different order with a more basic question in the beginning would have been appreciated.

- The claim analysis section was inappropriately difficult in comparison to the claim analysis section in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Even compared to 2015, which on itself was a lot harder than the mentioned previous exams, the 2016 claim analysis was even more difficult, as the sheer amount of text that had to be read (4 prior art documents and 3 different embodiments) was way bigger. Additionally some questions seemed to lack clarity and preciseness, which made it impossible to get to a definitive answer.

- Claim analysis was not reasonably doable in 2 hours : it is getting worse every year : 4 pages of description, 3 sets of claims, the first one with 13 claims including multiple dependencies and alternatives, 4 pieces of prior art with all kind of combinations to be studied on ever changing claim features. Many grey-zone questions on what is or not prior art and on what would or not be combined. No clear answers were possible, even the tutors do not agree... What sense does this make then for a "pre" exam ?

- The relationship between time, level of difficulty and marking of the paper is problematic. The area to be covered is large and 4 hours are not sufficient actually not because more time is required, but because 4 hours are too much for an individual to work in a clear state of mind. Either the extend of the exam paper should be 10-15% shorter or the paper should be splitted in two. My performance dropped dramatically after 3 1/2 hours to the extend I was not able to discriminate the lines, due to fatigue and high level of stress.

- It might be advisable to warn the candidates that "filling" the little circles will require more time than one might think! I might appear stupid, but I fist wrote the answer on the examination paper and "transferred" them only at the end: it took me a lot of time - definitely more than I expected! and at the end I did not have enough time to check whether I have done it properly ;-)

- the claim analysis part had (too) many ambiguous questions

- Claim analysis was much more difficult than any of the training material on the Epo website

- Please note that for cadidates who are not English, German or French native speakers, the amount of text that a candidate has to read is an important limiting issue. Increasing the length of the text of the pre-exam /papers should not be the factor on which the selection is based. Candidates for which the native language is not one of the three Official languages of the EPO start with a disadvantage if the length of the text of the pre-exam will increase more and more.

- I was confused by two questions asking whether the "Gegenstand" (subject-matter) of a certain claim was new, and as far as I can tell, I answered them wrong, even though I actually knew the correct answer. I would have answered them correctly if the question had just been whether "the claim" was new. Being under stress, I was not sure whether the "subject-matter" of a claim refers to its broadest or its narrowest interpretation when the claim has a back-reference to several other claims, and I found that questions unnecessarily confusing.

- The saucepan in the claim analysis part itself was not too complicated but the Figures were too detailed, the claim sets were too long and the four prior art documents were too many to survey them during the available 2 hours.

- It was more difficult than 2015 or the years before. I was quite surprised, since I had thought I was adequately prepared. I don't think there is anything wrong with "raising the bar", but it would be fair to indicate such intention beforehand. This would be especially important for pre-exam, since you can't take any other exams the year you're resisting. Had I known, I could have studied more. Now I am afraid the whole EQE project is being postponed by one year.

- The exam was really difficult and very long, too much information to read, overall for people who are not native. There is not enough time to do it.

The answer's sheet is a really bad system since it makes you miss a lot of time, at least 15/20 minutes to pass the answers.

It is not possible to ask questions to the keepers, you have to write down the question in a paper and give it to them. It is ridiculous.

Some questions were written in unclear way, so many doubts at the time to respond.

You are not allowed to do the main exams until you pass the pre-examination. This is not fair, taking into account that the degree of difficulty of this exam is becoming very high.

- The claim analysis section was unnecessarily complicated. It felt like it was more a matter of testing my ability to focus and guess how the examination group was thinking, than a matter of testing my skills in claim analysis.

- Some sweets and drinks would be nice. I like HARIBO Goldbären very much.

- Claim Analysis was too much text for the period of time available

- The claims analysis section was once again incredibly unclear at points and had obvious ambiguity. The entire of question 18, but particularly 18.4 was very difficult to answer given what was provided. Valid answers can be argued for both true and false. There were many other questions which were worded using ambiguous language and it is unclear what this paper is designed to do. Surely for a true or false paper there must be one answer which is correct and one which is incorrect. However, this is not the case and marks will be lost due to the inability of a professional body to prepare a suitable question paper.

- Claim analysis questions were confusing and ambiguous - this sort of question is not suited to the true/false format.

- The Legal questions were more complicated than in the previous years. The claim analysis was too long (set of claims of 13 claims!) and unduly complicated (closest prior art not relevant...).

- Too much ambiguity in the claim analysis question to confidently answer a true or false question.

By making the claim analysis section more difficult, the questions lead to situations in which either true or false could validly be argued to be the correct answer.

- No

- Too long and unnecessary reading, such as a set of 13 claims or too many pages of literature which do not add anything that could not have been drafted more succinctly.

- The claims analysis section is just too ambiguous for straight forward true/false answers.

- Some of the claim analysis questions were ambiguous (e.g. selecting the closest prior art), which is very difficult when the answers are true or false with no justification!

- The claim sections of 2015 and 2016 still feel like they are intentionally confusing with respect to the questions, and are in a completely different level of difficulty (i.e. much harder) in comparison to the 2012-14 questions.

- The amount of prior art and claims in the claim analysis section was too large for the limited amount of time to study them

- It was quite intense. The claims analysis, which I considered the easiest part, was very rich. Many prior art documents provided, many details to keep in mind. It required more time than expected, thus the remaining time for re-checking the paper was not enough.

- I'm re-sitter. Last years I didn't have enough time at real exam for the claim analysis part as it was hard; this year it was same - hard claim analysis part, not enough time.

I think Pre-exam 2015 and 2016 claim analysis part is not in conformity with the exam duration, claim analysis part is harder than before (2012-2014) for the same exam duration - it is not fair.

I needed 1 more hour for the claim analysis as English/French/German are not my mother languages and I have new words in the claim analysis paper; it is time consuming to search for new words in a dictionary and to understand the paper

- The pre-exam was very different to the previous exams. The level of complexity of the claim questions had really increased. Some of the questions were not particularly clear, and the claim dependencies were rather confusing, to the point that everyone I talked to thought there had been mistakes when drafting them. Also, there was a lot of reading, perhaps a bit too much for the time allowed for the exam.

The legal questions did not seem to test our knowledge/understanding of the European Patent Law, they were focused on very minor/trivial aspects of the application process and they felt more like traps to make us lose time and points.

- Some questions were not clear. Figures in questions could have related to the cited prior art or to the patent application. Questions in claim analysis part could be interpreted ambiguously. I had to hand in all material I was given. Other candidates only handed in the answer sheet. It was not clearly communicated where and how to hand in the results.

- Compared to pre-exam papers of the years 2012-2014, I found that the difficulty of the legal part has increased.

- What does it mean 'pre' ? I think I was well pre-prepared and give me another year I can do the main exam.

Now I have the feeling you should already prepared full for Exam D before starting the pre-EQE and this is not justifiable as "pre"-examination.

I have also no clue, even I had a positive feeling after the exam, what my total shall be by this very strange point-quotation.

- The pre-examination was more difficult as the previous papers. Partially challenging legal

questions and a lot of description and figures

- It was tricky. Quite a lot of the questions, especially on the claim analysis part did not seem like proper true/false questions. Their answers could vary depending on how you argue. E.g. an opening and an aperture, should they be interpreted as two different things or. After all, an opening is an aperture.

Also, having 3 embodiments and 4 cited documents presented a heavy burden to read, there simply wasn't enough time to really go through the material quite as meticulously as I would have wanted. Note that none of the earlier pre exams has demanded so much time to sit through when I have done them as training exercises but under time limit.

- very bad... too many difficult, misleading and ambiguous questions.. too many PCT issues... too many prior art documents in the claim analysis section.. I found more simple the previous pre-examination tests (maybe the 2015 legal section even difficult)!

- Claim analysis part: Some questions were not clear regarding the possible clarity or A. 123(2) EPC objection. The questions were different compared to the other years.

Legal part: infringement, surprising

- The Claim Analysis section was longer and more complicated than in the previous years, making the 4-hour exam period uncomfortable.

The amount of time needed to sort through the text was longer, because the amount of text was longer, and it was more information dense than, for example, the 2015 Pre-Exam.

Remember, some candidates do not have an Official EPO language as their mother tongue, so it takes longer for them to digest the facts on all the embodiments plus the prior art, as well as the multiply dependent claim structure that was presented in 2016. If the exam becomes a race to read and digest, then it becomes indirectly discriminatory to such candidates.

- Legal questions : too focused on small details that many good professionals will never meet even in their entire career. So does not reflect a real Professional experience.

Claim analysis section : people working in non mechanics field are disadvantaged. The last questions (from 17 to 20) were not clear enough. The proposed claims were more difficult to analyse than previous years as they were set of claims (with questions on depending claims) rather than unique claim. Also the claims were not written in the form "preamble and characterizing part" as in the previous years.

In conclusion, it seems not fair to increase so much the difficulty of the pre-Exam compared to previous years, both in Legal and Claim analysis sections. Finally, the pre-Exam does not reflect a real 2 years Professional experience but seems to only be a selective tool to obtain a defined level of non-admission.

- Tricky questions is fine, but when understanding the question is the most tricky part, I am somewhat wondering what the Point about it is. Situations in reality is often very complicated with many parameters, but in reality it is never to understand the question that is the hard part. This is addressing the legal part. For example, see below:

The answers to 5.2-5.4 depend very much on whether you read them as limited to the sketched situation or read them as phrased i.e. not within the context of the sketched situation.

E.g., for 5.2: is the "representative" mentioned there Hassan, or not necessarily?

E.g., for 5.4: is the "application" PCT-G that was filed a week ago, or not necessarily? In particular, can it be one that still needs to be filed and where the appointment can be done in the request?

In a real situation the question of such parameters would be not be the issue.

- Many ambiguous questions

- first time for me at EQE exam. Sincerely, I expected a more easy exam, in particular the analysis section had too long text and documents, and this imply to spending too much time for read and analyze claim, drawings etc.

- The most difficult legal questions (for me) were at the beginning of the paper, which threw me off. I also found that a lot of the legal questions were on quite obscure subjects, and seemed contrary to what the stated purpose of the pre-EQE is.

- question regarding claim analysis far fetched, sometimes 50/50% decision possible, especially Art. 123(2), Clarity and inventive step (In my opinion all cited documents rather to be classified as A, subsequently inventive step/problem solution approach rather academic if all potential closest prior art documents have to many differences in order to be considered as suitable springboard for arriving at the invention)

- Multiple-dependent claims were somewhat of a surprise, along with system claims. At the time of answering this survey, if the points are correct in the web page, I just passed the pre-exam (I hope the binding letter has the same number of points awarded). I don't know where I lost the points but my gut feeling is that I did better on the legal questions even though they were also a bit tricky. The claim analysis with the multiple-dependent claims took time when needed to go through the various combinations.

It seemed that in most questions there were two pretty easy statements but then at least one quite tricky one. But I guess that is the idea of the questions and their statements so in that view the questions were pretty well made (although difficult). The claim analysis sections' claims also seemed relevant to my current work so they were also good (but difficult for me).

- Why is there no different claim analysis section for each technical area (mechanics, chemistry, biology)?

- Die Fragen sind zum Teil unklar, s. bspw. Frage 5 Pre-Eqe 2016. Einen legal part kann man m.E. bei klaren Fragen mit multiple choice abdecken. Aber eine Anspruchsanalyse müsste so klar und eindeutig sein, dass nur eine Antwortmöglichkeit in Betracht kommt. Wie die vielen Beschwerden auf das Pre-EQE 2015 gezeigt haben, gelingt dies nur unzureichend. 3 Fragen wurden 2015 als offensichtlich unklar anerkannt und mir sind weitere Verfahren bekannt, bei denen die Kammern zugestimmt haben, dass Fragen uneindeutig sind, die Beschwerde aber als "nicht offensichtlich" verworfen haben. Somit sind über 10% der Fragen des Anspruchsteils 2015 als nicht eindeutig verworfen worden. Dies zeigt, dass ein Multiple Choice für solch eine Prüfung ungeeignet ist.

Weiterhin muss berücksichtigt werden, dass wir uns im rechtlichen Bereich bewegen und nicht im naturwissenschaftlichen. Die sklavische Verkürzung auf Richtig/Falsch ist im rechtlichen Bereich schwer möglich. Es gibt immer Interpretationsspielraum, auch im Patentrecht.

Die Verantwortlichen sollten in Erwägung ziehen, im Rahmen der Pre-EQE ein rechtliches Gutachten anfertigen zu lassen, welches Rechtsverständnis abprüft und verschiedene rechtliche Konstellationen behandelt. Dies erfordert eine intensive Vorbereitung und führt dazu, dass grundlegendes rechtliches Verständnis und Argumentieren frühzeitig geschult wird.

Möglicherweise sollte der D-Teil der Hauptprüfung vorgezogen werden und nur bei Bestehen dieses Prüfungsteils erfolgt eine Zulassung zu weiteren Teilen der EQE.

- Of course some questions ambiguous or too easy, but overall you did a good job.

- Very different from previous years

- Unfortunately, some questions leave to much room for interpretation or they are badly translated (see e.g. 6.1. of 2014 in German language...the model solution is unfortunately plain

wrong if you ask lawyer for his understanding of the wording)

- Claim analysis section was 5 pages more than usual. Plus the questions were not clear on many points for the examinee.

5.4 has two wrong translations in German: DER Vertreter and "nur dann", what means "only then" and not just "only". So there were different kind of questions for German examinees. Different interpretation of the question took much more time than it would have taken in the English/French version.

11.3 a saucepan SHOWN IN FIG 2 -> Saucepan as shown, not as being described in the description of the embodiment. Embodiment-questions was asked in 2015. Dimensions are not disclosed in a figure (without the description). Furthermore there is no direct link between the perforations of embodiment 1 and the perforations of embodiment 2.

12.1 FIG 3 does not disclose dimensions PLUS description discloses a new straining section 45. So, there is no direct link between the perforations of embodiment 1 and the perforations of embodiment 3. (Even, if the embodiments are not part of the question)

12.3 look at 12.1 PLUS a dissent according the opening in the claims between I.8 and I.9. Claims have to be read in their entirety.

13.2 look 11.3

13.3 look 11.3 and 12.1

16.2 word "perforation" is unclear. German meaning seems to differ from English meaning. A perforation in German contains a plurality of steady holes. (Look at a German Google picture search with the single word "Perforation") Same as the word people. Two people are not more than just people. It is always plural. Plus the holes of a perforation are steady.

17.1 in German "near" means always NOT in contact. "On" means in contact. So the technical effect is never reached.

18.2 and 18.4 closest prior art does not just have the most common technical features but the closest aim/purpose. So D3 is the closest prior art.

19.1 "secure" is nowhere disclosed in the application, but speculative. This might not be accepted, according to 18.2 and 18.4 of PRE-EQE 2012. Speculation can also go in the different way so hot water can on the user by just using one hand when the mass centre of the cooked food changes unexpected. By using two hands, this problem would have been controlled. So the device is not safe in its absoluteness.

- I'm thankful that there was only one PCT question!! Apart from that, I thought that the pre-examination paper was rather well-balanced and of reasonable difficulty. I think that some of the claims analysis questions could have gone either way (e.g. 16.3 and especially 15.1), but that is unavoidable with a true-false question format.

- - question 5.4 has translations Errors
- general problems concerning the figures
- question 17.1 "close to the container" is not clear
- question 18.2 & 18.4 is not clear

- The pre-examination was unclear in many points, especially in the claim analysis section.

Question 5.4

Wrong translation between German and the other two versions. This leads to a different question as it is asked for the time rank (Question is "only then" not "only"). Furthermore in the German version it is asked for THE representative, not just a representative.

Questions according the FIGURES and the claims:

An embodiment is built by the figures and their description. The questions relate exclusively to the figures and not the text. The sample solution leads against T 451/88. According to T 748/91 the measurement of the perforations is just disclosed in an embodiment, not in a figure, because the description is needed for disclosing measurements of the figures.

Furthermore: Embodiment 3 (Figure 3 and their description) discloses "A" new straining section 45. So it is not the same as in embodiment 1, which leads to the ability of different sized perforations.

Other problem in question 12.3: Opening of claim I.8 is in opposition with opening of claim I.9. The application should be interpreted in its whole disclosure. This means: there should be no forced lack of clarity for the claims in their whole content just to match Fig. 3 and claim I.8.

There seem even more unclear facts about this (even for Figure 2), but I cannot write it down all in English for now.

Question 15.1

This is true, because the questions is part of the EUROPEAN qualification examination. In the EU there is a definition of minimum sizes for cooked foods in so called marketing standards. Look at T 455/92 and GL-IV 4.14. Furthermore a size can be found for just letting water drip through the holes.

Question 16.2

Word "Perforation" seems to be different in German. For a German technician it is understood as many constant holes. So, depending on the language, both answers can be right.

Question 17.1

"Near" and "on" never mean the same, at least in German. As the condition of "near" is never reached while changing the cooking position, it cannot be a technical effect. The lid is permanently "on" the saucepan.

Questions 18.2 and 18.4

In my eyes, D3 is the next state of the art. D2 has a totally different system and is not the springboard to reach the invention. There is no relevance, that D2 has the most common technical features, see GL and case law.

Question 19.1

"Safe" describes a maximum state of a device. It means that there is no unsafety. This is not disclosed in the application. Furthermore it is not disclosed what kind of safety it might be, so the argument is indefinite.

After all, I am happy, that I guessed so many answers right. But it might also have been different. I had good luck. I guess, a searcher of the EPO and the board of appeal would or will see some points of the above mentioned points different.

The pre EQE was much more difficult than the last examinations. I left all the last exams for the last week before the pre eqe and scored between 91 and 96 points. There was no fair preparation for interpreting answers against the view of the board of appeal.

- The claims analysis questions were very border line which therefore made them more subjective. In many cases it would have been possible to argue true and false as an appropriate

answer. Therefore, the claim analysis part does not fit the true-false format.

- The length of prior art documents was too long, combined with a large number of suggested claims.

- Claim analysis material too long

- The difficulty of the pre-examination appears to increase with every year. Maybe any further increase is not necessary anymore.

Some of the questions - in particular in the claim analysis part - were not entirely clear. With respect to question 1, some commentaries contradict the guidelines.

- Too many set of claims and too many number of the claims in each set of claims

- The claims analysis section is of low value.

- you may start from the claim analysis part because for this part you need to concentrate for a long time and consider the connections between questions and the cited documents and so on. Normally, people have a clearer head at the beginning of the exam. therefore, use it for something more difficult. That's the claim analysis part.

- Claim analysis section was a bit too time-consuming.

- I see that exam committee try to make the pre-exam harder and I agree that, however making tricky questions is not the answer for this purpose. Since the pre-exam is an exam with time limit, it is very possible that candidates couldn't think fast enough to see tricky parts. What I mean if the pre-exam is 6 or 8 hours, everyone taking the exam can be able to do it. The ideal case for me is that exam committee should measure the knowledge of the candidates not their ability of fast thinking.

- Honestly, I don't really remember the time I spent on claim analysis, it was 2-years ago !

- It is becoming more difficult every year

- It was very challenging. Many "new" questions and situations that had not been on previous exams. The claim analysis was somewhat intense and the allocated time was hardly enough.

- Tricky. I would prefer an examination starting at 9 or 10. I am usually not performing well in the afternoon.

- did not sit pre-ex

- It was a long exam this year and more difficult than the previous year (maybe the same level of difficulty than 2015 but obviously more difficult than the exams in 2012, 2013, and 2014).

- The most difficult legal questions were the first two, what was quite nasty. I got into time pressure because I lost too much time answering them.

- Several questions were in the "grey" area. Especially question 18.4 and the PCT question 5.4

Also, the holes 45 were of the same size in the first embodiment. The same size was not indicated in the other embodiments (2nd and 3rd). Claim 1 was directed to holes being of the same size.

I thought first that claim 1 was directed to the first embodiment only. Therefore, such detail can lead the candidate in the wrong way. The specification must be checked several times by

different examiners as it clearly appears this year that the claim analysis part had some dangerous inappropriate tricks.

- Concerning the difficulty of the pre-examination in these days, the 4 hours for the pre-examination are now just enough to finish in time.

- When practising past exams, I was always very quick (1h15-1h30 for the whole paper). When taking the exam, it took me much much longer - 3h20 to answer all questions and 35 mins to mark my answers on the answer sheet (also re-reading the question to see if I still agreed). I had not anticipated this and had not made any plan for how to divide my time. Of course, when practising, it is easier to think "I know this" and not look up the legal basis etc while at the exam, or give up and just guess if you have no idea where to look, while at the exam, you tend to keep checking until you're satisfied you have the right answer.

- I didn't feel like the goal of the exam was to check my knowledge of the procedure and substantive law... As funny as it may sound, it felt like the true intention was to trick us by asking some very minor and not that significant details of the procedure. The claims section was way too long, the multiple dependencies were unclear and the claims themselves were drafted in a rather bizarre way i.e. far from being clear.

I found some of the questions quite ambiguous and I do believe that the answers could easily be argued as being valid either as true or false.

For example, question 17.1. According to the examiner's report, the technical effect is clearly derived from the application. The wording used "maintain the lid close to the container" is not clear due to the word "close", which is a relative term. Also, what does it mean that the lid is close to the container? Is it "above the container", "beside the container", ...

Paragraph [008] states "In the straining position, the lid 15 allows the liquid content of the container 10 to be strained by tilting the saucepan and holding the lid 15 on the container 10 without lifting the lid 15 away from the container 10." Thus, the invention describes the lid to be on the container and not close to it. [017] states: "The lid 15 can be rotated in the cooking position and in the straining position while keeping the lid 15 on the container 10." The technical effect of the lid being movable around a vertical axis into the two positions defined in claim II.2 is not to maintain the lid "close to" the container while moving the lid from the cooking position to the straining position. The technical effect of the lid being movable around a vertical axis is to provide a position for cooking and a position for straining.

Another question I found rather tricky was 5.4. It took me a long time to find the appropriate references, and I ended up choosing "True" as the answer, mostly based on PCT Rule 90.4(e) and 90.5(d). It was also unclear when reading the question whether 5.4 was related to the specific case discussed in the preamble or to a general example. Furthermore, there appears to be a discrepancy between the wording of the question in English and in German!

Please check the Delta Patents pre EQE blog, you will see that some of the questions, including these, were heavily discussed not only by the exam sitters but also by the attorneys themselves.

- Multiple choice questions seem not to be the most adequate for claim analysis seems

- The character of the examination has changed over the years so from doing the old exams one is not really prepared for what to expect. Especially, 2015 and 2016, while similar in difficulty and structure, were different than anything previous.

Time is ample to do extensive re-checking of answers. Under real exam conditions, however, I had no trouble using it all and in the end felt a little pressured to finish re-checking in time although during preparation I had worried I would have lots of time left over.

- 5.4 different representatives

English and French: a representative German: the representative (5.2 and 5.3 ask for just "a" representative even in German)

This leads to a different content question. The German version asks for Greta and Hassan and the whole content.

Wrong translation of "only". In German it is translated as "nur dann", what means "only then".

"Only then" asks for a ranking of reason and effect. So even here it is a different question.

PRE EQE 2015 question 14 asks for embodiment.

This years PRE EQE asks in question 11 asks for a saucepan just as shown in a figure! T 451/88 states that figures don't show sizes. So no figure shows two perforations "of the same size". This for you need the the whole embodiment (T 748/91).

Embodiment = figure + description

Even the description for Fig. 2 doesn't disclose unambiguously, that the perforations of Fig. 1 are part of fig. 2 (T 1500/07, T 1501/07 and T 1502/07).

The feature that the perforations of the straining section 45 are all of the same size can be found in the first embodiment:

[004] In the first embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 1 a saucepan includes a container 10 and a lid 15. The container 10 has a circular upper opening 70 and a side wall 25. The lid 15 has a form such that the circular upper opening 70 of the container 10 can be closed by the lid 15 during cooking. The lid 15 can be provided with a knob 27. The container 10 can further comprise a handle 20. [005] The lid 15 comprises a skirt 40 protruding from the rim of the lid. The skirt 40 has at least a solid section 50 which has no openings and fits against the inner wall of the container 10 when the lid 15 closes the container. The skirt 40 also comprises a straining section 45. The straining section 45 provides a plurality of perforations through which liquid content of the container can be strained. The perforations are all of the same size and are dimensioned such as to only allow liquid to pass through them.

In the second embodiment, the straining section is referred to "the straining section 45" when first mentioned, implying the straining section of the first embodiment:

[011] In the second embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 2, the skirt 40 comprises a ring 53 and four protrusions 45, 50 protruding from the ring 53, the protrusions 45, 50 being separate from each other. One protrusion is the straining section 45 and the other protrusions are the solid sections 50, corresponding to the solid sections as described for the first embodiment. The open space without wall between the straining section 45 and the solid sections 50 provides an opening 55 in the skirt 40.

However, in the third embodiment "a straining section" is used when first mentioned:

[014] In the third embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 3, the skirt 40 of the lid 15 comprises a straining section 45.

Thus, "a straining section" does not seem to refer to the straining sections from the first and the second embodiments.

Further on, in the third embodiment, it can further be read:

[014] ...The skirt 40 further comprises the opening 55 of greater dimension than any of the perforations of the straining section 45.

"Greater than any of the perforations" in the third embodiment implies that the perforations in this embodiment may have different sizes. If the perforations were of identical size as in the first embodiment, there would be no reason to compare the dimension of the opening 55 to the dimension of any of the perforations of the straining section 45.

One may argue that the fact that the straining sections have the same reference sign (45) in all the embodiments may lead to the conclusion that they are all the same. However, consider another example of opening 55: the opening 55 in the second and the third embodiment have the same reference sign, but different shapes. Hence, the use of same reference numbers in the description does not indicate identity between different embodiments.

The facts mentioned above point to the fact that the feature that the perforations are all of the same size cannot be directly and unambiguously derived from the description of the invention,

and thus that the perforations in the third embodiment may have different size.

In questions 12.1, 12.3 and 13.3 it is asked whether a saucepan as shown in FIG. 3 falls within the scope of claims I.4, I.8 and I.13 respectively. All of these claims are dependent on claim I.1 reciting that "the lid has at least two perforations of the same size". Therefore, the saucepan shown in FIG. 3 does not fall within the scope of claims I.4, I.8 and I.13 and it could be argued that the answer to questions 12.1, 12.3 and 13.3 is FALSE.

PRE EQE 2015 question 14 asks for embodiment.

This years PRE EQE asks in question 11 asks for a saucepan just as shown in a figure! T 451/88 states that figures don't show sizes. So no figure shows two perforations "of the same size". This for you need the the whole embodiment (T 748/91).

Embodiment = figure + description

Even the description for fig. 2 and 3 doesn't disclose unambiguous, that the perforations of Fig. 1 are part of fig. 2 or fig. 3 (T 1500/07, T 1501/07 and T 1502/07).

[014] states for fig. 3 that there is "a" (NEW) straining section. So it is not the same straining section as in fig. 1.

15.1 can be interpreted as clear. A person skilled in the art knows that in a saucepan there are always just cooked just food pieces and water. So the person skilled in the art will make the perforations so small that just water fits through the perforations. So no food pieces will fall through it. This needs just a small number of test for the person skilled in the art.

The European Union has definitions for everything. Even the minimum size of sold food. Look i.e. "Marketing Standard" (<- defined minimum size of several food pieces) of the "European Union" in combination with GL F-IV 4.14 which relates to T 455/92.

According to GL F-IV-4.5, the claims, which define the matter for which protection is sought, must be clear, meaning not only that a claim must be comprehensible from a technical point of view, but also that it must define clearly all the essential features of the invention. Essential features of a claim are those necessary for achieving a technical effect underlying the solution of the technical problem with which the application is concerned (the problem usually being derived from the description).

It is the candidate's opinion that claim I.1 and consequently claims I.10 and I.13 are not clear, because of the fact that essential features such as an opening in the container which can be aligned with the perforations in the lid, e.g., a spout 30 or a circular opening 35, are missing. Even though claim I.1 recites that the lid has at least two perforations of the same size and claim I.10 recites that the lid further comprises an opening for pouring, the fact that there is no mention of any opening in the container that can be aligned to the perforations or the opening for pouring renders the claims unclear since the opening in the container, be it a spout or circular opening, is necessary to define the invention. It is essential for the invention to have the opening on the side wall of the container – had there been no such opening it would not be possible for the liquid content of the container to be strained.

Alternatively, one may argue that a skirt is another essential feature that is not defined in any of the claims I.1, I.10 or I.13. According to [005] the lid comprises a skirt protruding from the rim of the lid. The skirt comprises a solid section and a straining section, as described in the first embodiment. Further on, according to [007], during cooking, the lid can be rotated within the container to a cooking position in which the solid section of the skirt closes the spout, thus preventing for example boiling liquid from escaping through the spout. According to [008], after cooking, the lid can be rotated within the container to a straining position such that the straining section can be placed in communication with the spout, allowing the liquid content of the container to be strained by tilting the saucepan and holding the lid on the container without lifting the lid away from the container. The skirt may additionally comprise an opening that, when placed in communication with the circular opening in the second embodiment or with the spout in the third embodiment, further defines a pouring position. It appears that the skirt is an essential feature of the invention, as it enables the cooking, straining and pouring positions depending which of its parts are in contact with the spout or with the circular opening, depending on the embodiment. The skirt is, however, mentioned only in claim I.2 for the first

time. That said, neither claim I.10 nor claim I.13 is dependent on claim I.2 and thus claim I.13 may be argued to be unclear.

Therefore, it may be argued that claim I.13 is not clear not because of the mathematical relationship between the size of a perforation and the size of the opening for poring (as stated in the Examiner's report, but rather because of the lack of essential features that define the invention.

16.2: In German "perforation" seems to have a different meaning. A perforation for a technician is always! a plurality of holes, whereas the holes are even (Perforation = gleichmäßige Durchlöcherung). (nearly every German dictionary states this)

A perforation = ONE hole <-> just in medical case. Never in technical use.

So sample solution is in opposition to GL F-II 4.11.

The answer can be interpreted as in "PRE EQE 2013 in question 13.2: Many air cannels build ONE continuous air channel.

Other example: Two people are in a room. People are in a room. It is always at least two people.

CLOSE is very familiar with ON. But there are two different states. I gave an example in the delta patents blog.

Imagine a gambling casino. The casino instructs a programmer to manipulate a roulette table, so the ball just drops CLOSE TO the winning number (technical effect <=> technical problem!!!). But the programmer makes a mistake and the ball always drops ON the winning number. The casino becomes poor. The technical effect is not reached!

Firstly, please note that "maintain the lid close to the container" is not clear due to the word "close". Close is a relative term and, in addition, it is not clear what it means that the lid is close to the container. It may be also argued that "close to the container" can mean "above the container", "beside the container", "not touching the container" etc.

Paragraph [008] states "In the straining position, the lid 15 allows the liquid content of the container 10 to be strained by tilting the saucepan and holding the lid 15 on the container 10 without lifting the lid 15 away from the container 10." Thus, the invention describes the lid to be on the container and not close to it. Further on, [017] states: "The lid 15 can be rotated in the cooking position and in the straining position while keeping the lid 15 on the container 10." Therefore, "on" is used again to describe the spatial relationship between the lid and the container, and not "close" as in question 17.1.

Finally, a technical effect of the lid being movable around a vertical axis into the two positions defined in claim II.2 is not to maintain the lid close to the container while moving the lid from the cooking position to the straining position. The technical effect of the lid being movable around a vertical axis is rather to provide a position for cooking and a position for straining.

18.2 and 18.4:

D3 is the closest prior art. D2 has the most common technical featers, but a completely different system of straining.

It might also be argued, that D3 was delta patents' sample solution as the closest prior art, too!

According to GL G-VII 5.1, the closest prior art should be directed to a similar purpose or effect as the invention or at least belong to the same or a closely related technical field as the claimed invention. Moreover, GL G-VII 5.1 further specifies that, in practice, the closest prior art is generally that which corresponds to a similar use and requires the minimum of structural and functional modifications to arrive at the claimed invention.

It can be argued that to arrive to what is claimed in claim II.3, D3 could be the most promising starting point. Indeed, a simple modification of the lid of D3 consisting of creating a solid section on it would be enough. Creating a solid section could be done by e.g. not creating some of the openings on the lid. On the other hand, although D2 does describe the notion of a closed position, the mechanism of D2 for switching between the closed position and the straining position is very different from the movement "around the vertical axis" as required by claim II.2

and consequently D3. . In order to arrive at the latter feature, the skilled person would have to thus make quite non-trivial modifications to the set-up of D2. Therefore, in terms of "most promising starting point", one could argue that D3 is more promising than D2 since the technical gap to be bridged is smaller.

Another reason in favor of D3 being the closest prior art is given as follows. Claim II.3 encompasses all the features of claims II.1 and II.2. In addition, it recites "the container comprising an opening for pouring, the liquid being strained through said opening for pouring." With respect to this, please note that D2 discloses no such opening for pouring wherein the liquid is being strained through said opening for pouring. Indeed, in D2, the opening for pouring 8 [001] is not used for straining liquid. Instead ([004] "The skirt 4 is used to strain liquid contents from within the container 2. [...] The liquid content can exit through the perforations 19 whilst the engagement of the bottom part 42 of the skirt 4 with the inner side wall 6 prevents solid content from escaping out of the container 2." Thus, it is the skirt (perforations of the skirt) that is used to strain liquid contents and not the opening of the container. Therefore, the liquid is not strained "through the opening" in D2. On the other hand, D3 clearly discloses a container having a spout, through which the liquid content can be poured out of the container.

19.1

Safe with respect to D3 means that D3 is unsafe. If you use D3 as it is said in the description of D3, then D3 is not UNsafe. (It is not worded "safER", just "safe".

So the sample solution is speculative.

Also see sample solution PRE EQE 2012, questions 18.2 and 18.4. There, the EPO states, that correct answers are speculative, as long as they don't stand this way in the description.

Safe is never worded and just speculative. Maybe the handling is better with just one hand. (BTW: with just one hand you have a risk to burn yourself faster, if the saucepan strains too much water too fast. You cannot control it with one hand, so it is not safe. In D3 you have both hands for controlling the straining.)

- In practice, the requirement for minimum training favours larger and richer companies which, typically, can afford to invest more in training employees. This is especially true for those working in larger and richer IP private practices in comparison to smaller ones or jobs in industry.

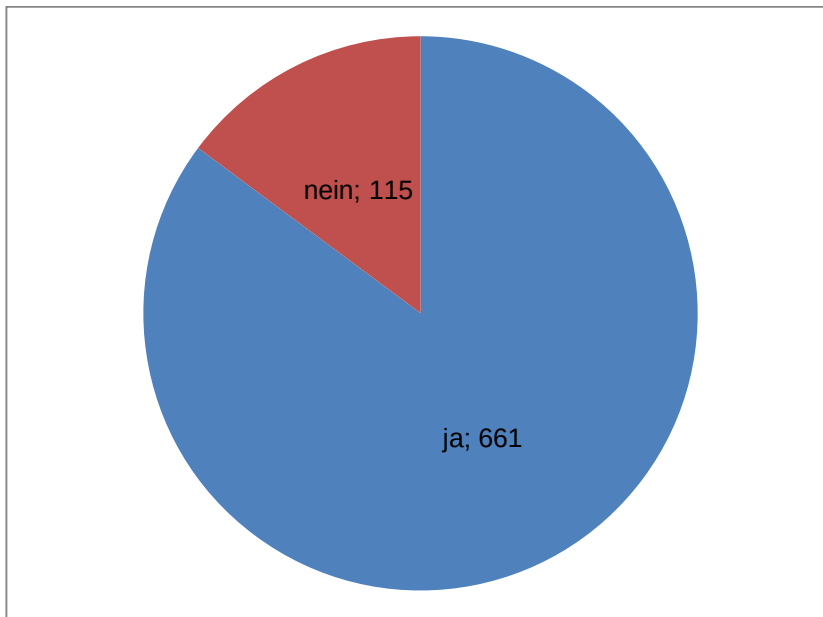
- Yes, I believe is much more difficult for not native speakers in English, German, French.

I'd suggest to use very clear words in the questions: with a clear and univocal translation when looking it up on a dictionary, otherwise, in case of finding several translations, and some of them possible in the question context, could lead to a wrong answer, even having a perfect knowledge in the matter.

- I see that the claim analysis does not correspond well with the daily standards of the EPO Examiners. Objections on Clarity or discussion on inventivity are much more accessible and in the real life.

- The claim analysis section is frustrating in that every year there seems to be at least one question which is ambiguous. When there are only true/false answers to be given this is unfair as you cannot justify your answers even if you have good reason for choosing the 'wrong' answer.

Q28) Did you feel time pressure during the examination?



Q29) Additional comments concerning the difficulty of the EQE papers

- D was clearly more difficult than 2015

- I cannot say that much about B, C and D, as I just practised a few old papers each, but the variance in difficulty for A-papers is just incredible and bordering on the level of unfairness. I did all from 2000-2015 and re-sat A in 2016. For some of those 16 old ones I spotted the invention already 20min into the exam, while in the "real thing" in 2016 I just could not "see it" at all until the end (which had NEVER happened in any of the 16 old papers I had practised... And no, I had no black-out in 2016, cause after "passing" 14 of the 16 old papers I had practised, I felt safe and prepared for my resit). Maybe I just could not believe, how much limitation of the invention was expected? We'll see if the results are out....

- -

- Whilst it is understandable that obscure legal questions are provided, given that it is an open book exam, I think there are too many questions where the Examiner tries to trip the candidate up.

- Claims section is far too ambiguous.

- Paper D had all but one question in D1, and DII dependent heavily upon PCT issues, which were not the main focus of my preparation. This is not comparable to previous years.

- See above.

Unnecessarily difficult. Claim analysis in particular. Too much to read, questions unclear. Strong candidates struggling. The EB should not fall back on using "awarding true or false" - please do not set a precedent for doing this. If the EB say, well it's ok to award true or false - this is not fair, because such a situation doesn't just impact THAT question, but impacts the ENTIRE exam paper: makes candidates stressed and suffer in the paper and the marking system does not reflect this.

Some legal questions were difficult to find basis for.

Test whether people know what is required for filing, or entry to national phase. Third party observations during opposition proceedings as the first question is a bit unfair.

See delta patents blog for a lot of discussion.

- It is not good practice to answer true or false answer on an inventive step point. An attorney who did so in practice would be leaving themselves open to a liability suit. Consequently, true or false questions on the problem solution approach in professional examinations with no opportunity to justify the answer encourages bad practice.

- The Claim Analysis section seemed to be in a different form to the past papers and there were questions that were designed to catch out the candidate. The Legal section was difficult but relevant.

- Paper B was unlike any previous year. It was very difficult to understand what the Examining Committee were looking for.

- I understand that the examiners wish to test the PCT and that candidates should expect questions on the PCT, but the quantity of PCT questions in this year's paper D was too much. We are supposed to be principally examined on our ability to practice under the EPC, and I do not feel this year's Paper D achieved this.

- Claim analysis a bit unpredictable. Some questions in the exam as a whole were poorly phrased as they provided for different interpretation that lead to opposite results. That is, there were a number of questions where I knew what the question is about and what would be the answer depending on different conditions, however, it was not at all clear which question you were actually asking. For example, "the one requirement for A is ..." - does this mean the only one or one of?

- I feel like the difficulty is quite variable. I found the 2015 (especially Paper D) quite straightforward, but I found this year's paper much tougher. I also found that the amount of questions on the PCT was significantly higher this year than in any previous year, which I hadn't been expecting. I think more consistency would be appreciated!

- Teil D 2016 war fast EPÜ frei und daher sehr unfair, denn mit Mitteln des EPAs nicht zu bestehen.

- A step up in the level of difficulty compared to the past years

- Doable had there been warning as to the significant rise in difficulty.

- time pressure is too high

- Eine der Schwierigkeiten lag darin, das erfundene Wörter zu benutzen sind. Das macht die Prüfung unübersichtlich und kompliziert. Ausserdem ist es extrem mühsam, wenn man im A-Teil einen Gegenstand hat, der 10! Bezugszeichen hat. M.E. ist es ein Overkill.

- Too many PCT questions

- Due to the increasing time pressure candidates not writing in their mother tongue are more and more unable to express their knowledge of the syllabus matter.

Non En, Fr or De candidates should receive more time...

Writing in my national language is not a real option as all the commented epc, pct and compendium is in the three languages.

Thus, following the same language that an Applicant filing an application in a non-EPO language receive extra time to file a translation, candidates of the EQE should receive extra time to write too.

Alternatively, the time pressure during the exams should be reduced in such a way that the language differences would not cause unfairness.

- The EPO needs to consider carefully what the pre-Exam is for. Eliminating candidates who think of alternative (and justifiable) interpretations of questions to those that the question setter had in mind is surely not its purpose. It is bizarre that people can qualify as a UK attorney (passing P6 in the process) and not be eligible to sit the EQE, because their claim construction considers more than one interpretation of terms.

- Paper D was not EQE, it was PQE.

- Time pressure everywhere (except for paper A)

- I have studied electrical engineering and my daily work relate to software patents. Paper-C always relate to chemistry or process engineering. Neither my mother tongue nor English language allows me to judge equivalents of terms used in the documents.

- For me, I feel that paper C is more difficult due to the high amount of information which needs to be sorted and extract the essential and useful data. To read and understand that amount of information in a foreign language is very challenging, but I like the feeling of detective I have when I solve such a paper.

- Time pressure is a particular issue with paper C.

- A-Paper: even if you really know how to proper claim subject matter, it is not relevant to the exam. You need luck for the paper. One small mistake which could easily overcome during the patent examination phase might "break your neck" for the exam.

- I was surprised by the amount of questions on PCT-related topics in this year's paper D. While the PCT is, of course, very relevant, I expected the EQE to focus more on the actual proceedings governed by the EPC and the EPC alone. The heavy focus on the PCT increased the difficulty of the paper tremendously - not because the questions were harder but because the focus in past years was different and I, of course, focused my training on what I expected to be asked.

- Please! Either ask for basic answers, or change the format! No MCQ!!

- Time pressure makes it difficult. Especially Paper D. Even though 5 hours - it's not that long considering the number of different issues to discuss.

- Paper B (Ch) was rather unclear as usually the answers can be found in the paper itself. In this Paper B it was difficult to identify the answers or they were not given in the paper. There were too many difficult decisions to make which answer was not in the paper that at the end the pure accumulation of difficult decisions makes the paper difficult and the expected answer so unclear.

- NO COMMENT

- Paper A was too difficult because of the diverging embodiments were as numerous as the common embodiment

- Too many PCT issues on paper D.

- I felt that the time was especially limited for paper b. I found that I did not get the chance to prove my knowledge of the EPC sufficiently in D-I. I found D-II lacking information to frame discussions, e.g. Important markets etc. Generally I found D-II to be messy.

- D is way too difficult

A and B ok

C should be shortened to 4 hours AT MOST; what is the advantage of selection by speed writing or puzzle retro engineering

no handwriting any more: we use COMPUTERS

exams are obsolete, anachronic

big advantage: it is a diversion from real problems (exploitation of IP rights, TECHNOLOGY)

- It was surprising that in DII you had to compare PCT applications without knowing in which states or regions they were going to enter the national or regional phases. It was difficult to approach this situation as it had never before come up in paper DII. So there was big uncertainty as to what exactly was expected in the answer.

- In general time is a very important aspect during all papers on the main exam. It is like the paper serves to test the candidates capability of reading and finding the correct information in time rather than testing the candidates understanding of the EPC and PCT. especially part D-II and paper C is more at test of finding the information in time rather than testing the candidates understanding of the law. This can be improved by giving more time during the examination and/or by providing the information in the papers in a more structured way.

- the random side of the exam

- It is terribly frustrating to master the EPC for paper D and to answer only PCT and EURO-PCT phase entries questions. Why study every details of the CBE for that ? It's very disappointing.

- Panicked due to time pressure and drafted the wrong claim in A and over limited the claim in B.

- I thought the papers this year were excellent. Very well written and paper C in particular was a much better test of a candidate due to the improved level of genuine legal issues compared to previous years.

I felt the papers really hit the aim of being a test of suitability to practice and the result achieved will reflect this. Time pressure was sufficient to make the decisions under pressure but not too high so that your decisions had to be unduly rushed/guessed, for example, as was the case during 2015 paper C.

- Der D-Teil war dieses Jahr sehr PCT-lastig. Es ist nicht verständlich, warum sich bei einem so breiten Rechtsgebiet nahezu alle Fragen mit einem Teilbereich, dem PCT, befassen müssen. Dadurch wird es den Kandidaten unmöglich, Wissen in anderen Teilbereichen zu präsentieren.

Die C-Teile werden trotz der Reduktion der Zeit von Jahr zu Jahr umfangreicher. Fragen bzgl. Priorität, unzulässiger Erweiterung und 5 Entgegenhaltungen in 5 Stunden diskutieren zu müssen, erscheint übertrieben. Die Prüfung, ob das relevante Wissen vorhanden ist, wäre auch mit weniger Entgegenhaltungen gut möglich. Dann würde das tatsächliche Können und nicht die Fähigkeit geprüft, viel Information in kurzer Zeit zu verarbeiten.

- I'm wondering if paper A E/M was not a bit ambiguous (after discussing with my colleagues and reading the blog of delta patent).

- The C-paper is too much to digest. It's a marathon where speed is tested rather than knowledge. I would prefer a shorter paper (in size, not in time) with more difficult questions.
- Even if some questions appear to be easy, I was thinking there must be something in this question...! So at the end of the exam I was exhausted and could not judge my performance!
- Paper D comprised too much PCT complicated issues and few EPC, this year compared to previous ones.
- A M/E 2016 is very unclear from my point of view - even after comparing with delta patents solution draft. See the corresponding blog of delta patents: <http://eqe-a-em.blogspot.co.at/2016/03/paper-electricitymechanics-2016-our.html?showComment=1457066087487&m=1#c8698612367795537076>

Please consider when drafting the official compendium solution/s

- A and B are just artificial scholar exercises, having so little connection to reality that, unlike C and D, (i) training by drafting real world patents/replies is of very little, if any, use and (ii) success at either exam provides no hint of one's ability to draft real world patents/replies. There should be more room to submit our reasoning, as in real life you can either discuss with the client or, in rare cases where this is impossible, draft the application so that any foreseeable required adaptation of the claims is made possible, allowing for later discussion with the client. In real life, a patent application does not lose 25 % of its value if the first claim is not novel in light of 2 prior art documents identified by the applicant. It does lose 100 % of its value if fallback positions are not carefully foreseen and the client missed a relevant piece of prior art or e.g. 54 (3) prior art appears in the search... Thinking that a candidate could succeed at A with merely two independent claims drafted and prior art introduced correctly and without a single fallback position, while one could fail with roughly all the necessary fallback positions claimed and supported if the independent claims are a tad too broad... I certainly would not trust anyone to draft an application based on the grade received at A!!! It does get me wondering whether the papers are tailored to optimally test real life abilities, or whether they seek to optimize ease of correction...

Regarding D, I find it a bit disappointing that it focused on PCT and translation questions so much, when such a vast array of topics are at hand.

- I am a little bit concerned about the disabilities candidates might have. Personally I have some stiffness in my writing (right) arm. Does the examination committee pay attention to those people?
- I unfortunately, felt too much time pressure, which at times hindered me to think efficiently. More time for the EQE would be very helpful.

One should only have to prove that one understands & handles the EQE subject-matter well and adequately and not that one is a champion in "racing" through an "old-fashion" examination. Being used to computers, it is quite hard to do a hand-written examination!!!

I would have much more enjoyed doing a good job by providing a good quality examination, instead of "racing" through the EQE, being constantly aware of the time pressure.

- To my mind this examination is only a time pressure test, with no or at least very little relation to reality.

- B-paper in the afternoon is a challenge. If there is no chance to have A and B during separate days - they should start much earlier (8 AM). I was

- C is always very-very interesting and thrilling, adequate too. I don't wish it easier, but I would so much appreciate to have a little (10-20%) more time for the solution.

- For some papers, there's too much variation in difficulty from one year to the other. I practised D 2015 and found it was shorter and much more easier than this year's D paper.

- Although really not important, I preferred the style of the previous pre examinations, wherein, in the legal part, when referred to clients etc., names were less familiar, like "Mr. X", not "Greta" or "Hassan". What was that about?:)

- A lot to write, especially in D1.

- B(Ch) not as in former years. Numerous claim amendments + both unity and clarity problems

- In D paper (part I), some implicit questions are difficult to guess.

- Paper D seemed very difficult this year compared to papers from other years which I have attempted in the run up to the exams. Part of the problem was that this year there were only five short questions as opposed to the usual six or seven and so each of those five questions was weighted more heavily.

- B more difficult than the last years,
A ok but time pressure,
C ok but great time pressure,
D1 too difficult, DII ok

- I think there is lots of artificial difficulty involved due to the time pressure and some hidden traps. Due to that the results may not really reflect understanding of the law and whether a candidate is fit for practice.

- Paper C had 2 unusual attacks for two of the claims. Generally, the more difficult C papers over the last 6-7 years appeared to have a maximum of 1 tricky attack, if at all. I therefore consider the C exam to be relatively difficult this year.

A was very tricky in one respect ("overflow level" vs. "threshold level" - see blog Delta P), which was important for claim 1. I therefore consider paper A relatively difficult compared to other years.

- Time.... It's always the same issue... But nothing's going to change here, didn't help this year doing it in a fridge.

- Putting C the last day makes it more difficult because we are tired intellectually speaking

- In Q26, I've wrongly indicated a rating for pre-exam, paper A and B. On 2016 I did only C and D papers

- The legal questions of the Pre-Exam 2016 were a bit more difficult than in 2015, but still doable. The difficulty of the claim analysis was the same as in 2015. In total, the difficulty is fair. I wonder, if the EPO wants to proceed with "raising the bar" for passing the Pre-Exam...

- Concerning paper D: There was too much PCT- and much too less EPC-content.

- a have hour more - and we will pass

- This year D1 questions were far more difficult than in recent years

- the number of pct related question in this years D paper was in my view ridiculous. I thought I was going to the european qualification exam, not a PCT qualification exam.
- In my understanding, paper A was quite difficult, but classical.
Paper B was unusual, with very low technical matter in the filed application. Claims had to be totally written in another way. It looked like a second paper A.
- The style of some questions in the claim analysis part seem ill-suited for a "true/false" exam
- It was frustrating that Paper B (Chemistry) was significantly more difficult in 2016 than in previous years. It was also not clear how far one MUST implement the client's wishes.
- Broadly fine, although the constant change of the format of the papers is difficult as it limits the number of relevant past papers.
- The contents of the EQE papers A, B and C is easy. The time pressure makes these papers difficult.
- B chemistry was unnecessarily difficult and confusing
- The difficulty seemed mostly in line with the previous exams. There is always a point that gives a bit of a struggle. However, overall it seemed fair with a few things in there that were unexpected.
- They are always difficult, as one cannot yet know what the answer should have been, to get points.
They are also always time-restricted - and measure the answering technique to a considerable amount.
A native EN/FR/DE person always has an advantage, when other factors are eliminated.
The writing output speed to paper is a factor, which depends of how fast writer you are.
This has an effect to gathering points, since a slow writer needs more time, even if adept in other skills tested by the EQE.
- -
- as a whole, from the statistics it appears that there is a rather high fail rate, which might discourage people from actually trying when they don't really really have to because their boss wants them to; time pressure is always an issue as I hear (and also heard this year) from a lot of colleagues.
- If the paper D says e.g. "the priority is validly filed", it feels stupid to calculate it again. Why say so, if it is needed to be calculated?
- non-native speaking candidates are more at a disadvantage when the paper involves a more extensive amount of text to analyse.
- Time is the main problem which is an unreal condition if purpose of exam (for example paper C) is to test ability to file a valid opposition.
A shorter paper (not shorter in time but with less claims and less annexes) would be enough to test ability in using problem solution app. or other attacks (added SM / novelty).
- The level of detail required to score sufficient points in C is too high given there are only 5 hours to do the exam. C should reward legally correct argumentation, even if the specific combination of documents isn't the one the exam committee wanted to see. C appears not to test whether a candidate can write a legal argumentation but rather whether a candidate and put pieces of a puzzle together within a certain time limit to come to a predetermined answer.

- Time pressure is a big issue we do not face during our normal working days. For all the papers there is not enough time to think properly and write down the answer. Hand writing is very time consuming and should be avoided by using an electronic device provided by the EPO.

- Too much PCT or PCT-derived questions

- Frage 17 zur technischen Wirkung: Ohne den Unterschied zu einem Stand-der-Technik-Dokument spielt die technische Wirkung keine Rolle im Problem-Lösungs-Ansatz. Bei dieser Art von Fragen gibt es daher zu viel Abhängigkeit von der persönlichen Sichtweise des Prüfers.

Frage 18: Die Frage nach dem nächsten Stand der Technik ist ebenfalls abhängig von der Sichtweise und vom Ergebnis des Problem-Lösungs-Ansatzes (welches in der Frage jedoch keine Rolle spielt). Bei negativem Ausgang der Analyse der erf. Tätigkeit ist das Ausgangsdokument ein richtiger nächster Stand der Technik. Der Vergleich verschiedener Dokumente im Hinblick auf nächsten Stand der Technik hängt daher vom Ausgang der Beurteilung, d.h. auch der Kombinationsdokumente ab.

- They seem to be getting easier with time. (As in older exams tend to be harder) They are very well written, testing different aspects, and making the different aspects as independent as possible.

- While I have indicated the papers were hard, I believe they were fair in comparison to other years and also to the level required of a practicing EQE qualified attorney.

- I believe to have already exhaustively commented on the pre-examination.

- degree of difficulty was ok, but not enough time

- Each year is harder. And when comparing with exams with previous year is frustrating to know that whether I had apply two years ago I would pass, and not now. After doing my exam I was happy with my study, I felt that I could not have studied more, but the exam was difficult and very long, so the frustration feeling is devastating.

- In paper D part II, I was puzzled that the facts of each document was spread out in many paragraphs (in former papers the facts are given in one or two coherent paragraphs). It took me approximately 20-25 minutes extra to sort these facts out and despite this I now know that I have missed crucial facts. Not being a native speaker this was quite a challenge and in my opinion an unnecessary way of organising a paper.

- t

- Paper C was too long in too low time

- I just sat C-exam. Since I only have C left, I prepared A LOT (Did all exams between 1992-2015). I estimate to manage 80-90% of the tests. Still, the newer tests are easier but time pressure makes me miss things so for me they are tuffer. It would be interesting to know passrate of older candidates, I get the impression that time pressure affect them to a greater extend.

- especially in C and B the lack of time is really the determining factor - not the difficulty of the paper itself. I guess that if there would be one hour more time, the pass rate would be much higher.

- difficulty was adequate but the amount of writing was excessive

- The temperature of the Examination Hall made sitting the papers much harder. I was wearing two T-shirts, a jumper, and a thick jacket and I was still shivering.
- I don't understand how is the true-false system working to assess one's capability of analysing the claims. It does not seem an appropriate way of examination for this field.
- C paper seems too long to be addressed properly.
The time pressure makes the thinking not efficient.
- I found the paper DII unclear in respect of enablement issue.
In paper C sometimes difficult language was used, making it more difficult for non native speakers, specially the part related to the added matter in the description and some of the words used to define the invention. I would have appreciated more definitions on it.
- A was very different from previous exams - that was confusing
- The papers do not prepare to the challenges of the real profession; they require an ad-hoc understanding of artificial tricks that only appear in the papers.
- no comments
- I do not understand why all these examinations contain traps. In the end, you are not learning for being a good professional, but just for passing these exams which have nothing to do with real life.
- My assessment of the objective difficulty of the Paper A (Ch) exam is affected by the fact that the terrible, cold exam hall conditions made it difficult to concentrate.
- Especially on the claim analysis, it is hard to just state True or False. In some occasions you would like to give a reasoning for the statement. In particular for claims you wouldn't ever phrase like the proposals in the exam paper. One realizes that these claims are not good, but still they may be clear in one perspective but still not a good claim.
- It may be helpful to get some more sheets to write on.
- Paper C was too complex for 5 hours exam.
- Paper C- More time should be available for people who has no mother-tongue EPO language. For us it is more difficult to digest all the information, find the solution and write it. It was a 6h-exam.
- Paper D - Too long questions for only 5 h. It was a 6h-exam. Too many PCT questions, more than 50% of the exam, so if you don't deal well with PCT you are lost, you fail, it should be as a maximum 50%.
- To express yourself in a non-mother language when you are under time pressure
- The D-exam questions describe business-as-usual situations as far as I am concerned. The exam format, however, is utterly devoid of connection with reality.

Who partakes in an oral proceeding without preparing as much as possible in advance, regarding the specifics of the case in question?

Who performs complicated analyses under time pressure without making use of tools beyond a 23.3x17.4 cm rectangular area, and a permanent pen?

Who gives instant recommendations to a client based solely on a single reading of a client's synoptic recollection?

Would such a person be fit to practice?

- The amount of PCT material in Paper D was fairly extreme. I appreciate that the PCT forms part of the syllabus but I feel like my knowledge of European law in what is a European legal exam has barely been tested. It was an odd choice for the paper to feature so much PCT material and felt like the Examiners were simply attempting to trip-up candidates or unsettle them, as opposed to truly test their knowledge.

- time pressure is way too much
the exams are not too difficult if one would have enough time to think
the exams were poorly made testing the speed and not the real knowledge of the students
also the general feeling is lack of respect for candidates, I have my PhD and was working for Nobel prize winner, but I felt humiliated on the EQE because it is made so that the best most of the candidates can do is 50%, due to the time pressure. Most candidates, being hard working and not happy with this. Also the time is needed to consider all possibilities and to decide for the one that seems the best.

- Time limit and pressure is far too dominant (especially when you not taking the exam in your mother tongue).

- The exams this year were drastically more difficult and trickier than the previous few years. The EPO should warn candidates if the level of difficulty is going to change. I was under much more time pressure than the previous years exams.

- Mostly, the structure of the Exam has nothing to do with the real work of a Professional Representative.

It is designed to search "manually" and to "copy and paste" by writing.

This makes that there is a profound gap in between what a candidate actually performs and knows on the EPC on real life and the artificial conditions of the Exam.

- Paper B Ch was not very clear at all and very different from the papers from the previous years

I also consider that 3 hours for the exam was not enough.

- paper c was 6 hours long then now 5 hours, but the work to be done is still a 6 hour paper, the number of claims stay the same and the difficulty of the cases improve usually, the time to answer was reduced but not the complexity of the exam.

- Difficulty mainly related to time pressures

- too less time for each paper

- The pre-examination was difficult this year, way more difficult and confusing and tricky than the previous years. I know that the examinations get more difficult every year but I think it is unfair because the ones who wrote the exams a few years ago had easier exams and it is unfair to the ones who write the exams later.

- None

- Too much PCT Focus in paper D

- In general difficult.

- We study hard and still, it is difficult, because of the time pressure, to be sure about your answers and if you have managed to pass the papers.

- There is only 5 hours for a 6 hour paper.

- Paper C included a German word. I would imagine that paper C was written in German then translated into English. I hope that nothing has been lost in translation. Given that there is only one "correct" answer - I hope the English version is reviewed in case there is a different "answer" (or dare I say it... different possible answer"S") compared with the German paper.

Again regarding paper C, the Examination Board must understand that by increasing the length and complexity of the paper (compared to previous years), this results in less time to analyse properly (and hence find the correct "CPA"). Adding issues in such as different priority dates is obviously fine if the rest of the paper isn't too long (but the 2016 paper was hideously long compared to previous years - each prior art doc = 4 pages). No person would seriously do a notice of opposition in 5 hours. Adding in the issue about the added paragraph in the specification was a waste of time. Ok, so we get it...it's not added matter. So what? Either you don't attack it (= 0 marks), or you attack it (= 0 marks). Either way, you waste time. None of the other papers A, B & D are too time pressured, but why was paper C subject to such a time pressure?

I think papers A & B were a pretty good test. These papers are mocked as being "easy". In fact, I don't think this is the case - they have been easy in previous years, but not this year. Both required clear thought and were challenging, but not unreasonably so.

- the time length of paper C and D

- I think Pre-exam 2015 and 2016 claim analysis part in not in conformity with the exam duration, claim analysis part is harder than before (2012-2014) for the same exam duration - it is not fair

I needed 1 more hour for the claim analysis as English/French/German are not my mother languages and I have new words in the claim analysis paper; it is time consuming to search for new words in a dictionary and to understand the paper

- Couldn't click off the circles on Q26. I sat all of A-D (mech papers)

- Paper D seemed more PCT heavy than previous years, which is fine but I think it should be specified which percentage of questions will be on PCT/EPC each year if this changes significantly from previous years.

Papers A and B Chemistry were much harder than previous past papers. Paper B in particular seemed to require consideration of many issues and in previous years there have only been a few issues to consider. This does not help with time management.

Paper C seemed appropriate although the description of potential added matter/priority issues in the client's letter was not very clear and again there seemed to be more issues to consider than previous years, which did not help with time management.

- Habituellement A et B sont relativement simples.

Cette année, beaucoup d'informations semblaient utiles et ont pris du temps d'analyse et de réflexion. après coup, on s'interroge sur leur utilité et on a perdu du temps.

- I really think the B-chemistry paper was awful. I never had problems with the old papers, I did 8 in total, and I felt prepared. There were too many issues and it was not clear what the client wanted. It was even not very clear which document was the closest prior art. I changed my mind three times and lost a lot of time. The clarity objections were very strange too.

- You should perhaps change the claim analysis part so that it is possible to leave a reasoned statement, this would also resemble the main exam more and give a better measure on how well prepared a candidate is.
- When reviewed under non-exam conditions, it is easy to think that the Claim Analysis section might not take too long, BUT it really DOES take longer under exam conditions - the idea is to weed out the weaker candidates, but at least please do it on a fair basis - let each candidate show whether they know their legal & technical knowledge, rather than who can read quicker.
- Legal Questions of Paper D were mainly focused on PCT procedure. Unfair limitation given the amount of topics to be prepared for paper D, mainly relating to EPC.
- See answer Q27e => this is not motivating for candidates who were well prepared.
- Comments can be made once the examiner reports are available, papers are marked and sent to the candidates. Beforehand, it absolutely makes no sense to reasonably assess difficulty of the papers. Candidates would have to merely state their "feelings" during and after sitting the papers.
- To me, in the analysis part, there were some questions surprisingly feasible, but some were ambiguous so that good arguments for both answers may have been found. (But I guess it is always like this)
- The balance between EPC and PCT in paper D was not adequate.
- B was surprisingly difficult this year but overall I like the difficulty level. It is a challenge but doable.
- The main difficulty was the limited amount of time.
- The level of the difficulty is fine.
- Paper D was more a PCT Exam than a EQE.
- For a same paper, the number of pages/words is not consistent from one year to the other, e.g. paper A was shorter in 2016 since there was no additional prior arts D1 and D2 as in the previous years; on the contrary paper C was longer in 2016. These variations in the number of pages/words from one year to the other are not "fair" for the candidates.
- how to use the books under time pressure
- With the B-exam for Chemistry it was not clear in which direction to move forward. The claims suggested by the client were not helpful.
- Reducing amount of time available, without changing the questions could make the exam a better filter. Some questions too trivial.
- The main difficulty is the time pressure and how to manage it.
- Time pressure does not accurately reflect real life (as have option to work late, at weekend, etc)
- The Chemistry papers A and B seemed particularly difficult this year compared to previous. There was an additional annex in paper C.

- Time was an issue for me on both papers. The level of detail needed to address the points meant that towards the end I panicked a little and had to rush. I missed some key points - frustrating as I knew them but under the conditions of the exam overlooked due to pressure and panic.

- I find the the exam difficulty reasonable.

However, the majority of the claims are of the same type regarding their construction and interpretation and therefore require a similar approach.

In result, if a Candidate shows difficulty in respect to this particular type, he will surely fail the exam.

On the other hand, the result cannot reflect if this Candidate is well prepared to other types of claims.

I believe that both Candidates and the public would be better served if more type of claims were presented in Paper C.

- Not enough time this year to complete the exam. Much longer than 2015

- Paper D was way too much focused on PCT instead of EPC

- Paper D required much longer time than available and was too much focused on PCT than usual and expected

- Paper C : difficulty to deal with the time limit

Paper A : difficulty to define if some features had to be considered as essential features because of the vocabulary employed

Paper B : difficulty to see where was the invention (a difficulty that I never encountered with previous papers when I prepared the exam)

- Time is too limited.

- time; the answer will be very different with no pressure of time; with 2 more hours. The exam conditions (time) does not really let show your level of knowledge

- Time at disposal for paper C too short

- the time is not enough to answer properly

- Paper C as expected

- In B this year, the details was only in the text and one of the formulas was not included in the general formula. I got very confused and time was running. I also had a fever which probably influenced my concentration, but details in text takes time, a table showing substituents/effect/formulation etc would have been helpful.

Depending on your personal preferences, A is very difficult or not. For me, that has quite broad experience and are very analytical - it is very difficult to learn the technique for the A-exam. I need more time, but I am not sure that I would do it better with 30 min more... I have to learn the method and only use the information in the paper....

- Time is the most critical element. Maybe it would be a better test of attorney qualities, if the exams were less time critical, but more complicated regarding the actual content.

- The amendment paper did not ask the candidate to prepare an argument in response to the exam report. I assumed this was required in addition to the amended claims. However, the candidate should not have to assume what is required. The paper should set out explicitly what the candidate is required to do.

- Paper A was very strangely made. One of the alternative embodiments was described in such a detail that it seemed like a first dependent claim had to be constructed with as much thinking as the independent claim. This has never happened in previous papers.
- Found the paper difficult, and the 4 hours did not seem enough.
Had to push hard throughout the duration to finish the paper, with not much time to have a pause or drink.
- Paper C was very long in terms of reading this took up a massive amount of time.
- Reasonable and fair.
- Too much to read in the Claim Analysis part.
- Paper D was quite a surprise in its shift to PCT. While I consider it still as fair concerning the legal questions (former D1) it was not very nice for the legal analysis (former D2) since it requires a lot of writing such as if PCTXX enters the EP-Phase and PCTYY also enters the EO-Phase then... I mean not a single EP-patent or application in the entire legal analysis?

However, Paper B (CH) was surely the lowest level of an examination paper I've seen including the last ten years of papers in the compendium with the possible exception of Paper C of 2007. This refers to the three objections under Art. 84 EPC in the first claim. I deem the clarity issue quite unfair since on the one hand it generates a significant conflict of using one's expertise as a chemist to possibly counterargue such objection in a way to clarify how the skilled person may interpret some unclear wording but at the same time one should avoid special technical knowledge. But my real grief is that such clarity issues were set in Claim 1: Accordingly, all other issues which usually give the majority of points (i.e. amendments and arguments regarding novelty and inventive step) were dependent from the clarity issue. Thus, by failing to overcome the clarity issue it was basically not possible to collect sufficient points to pass Paper B. This really looks like somebody wanted to make up for a too high passrate in last years paper B...

- Paper B (CH) was set out in such a way that it was impossible to find a reasonable solution. At least one of the clarity objections could not be addressed in a manner which could under any realistic circumstances be expected to be accepted by the EPO. One of the not satisfactorily soluble clarity objections further influenced the discussion of novelty and inventive step to such an extent that it appears unrealistic to assume that nov/IS would be accepted. Consequently, the paper did not appear to fulfill its purpose, i.e. to test the ability to prepare a reasonable response to an official communication. Instead, unnecessary obstacles were set up which exceed the appropriate framework.

- This year paper B was not technically difficult but very long with a lot of argumentation expected so the time pressure was so important that in the end even though you know what is expected you do not have time to be as thorough as you wished...

- For all parts I had time problems: part C and D was not too difficult for me, but I could not finish all questions in time.

- Would not less difficult but periodic examinations be more beneficial. In the same manner as the knowledge level by heart is extremely high just after the exam, it appears to be significantly reduced with time for successful candidates.

- Unlike real-life, the exams are a puzzle where the pieces do fit together. To become good at puzzles you need to practice practice practice. You will then be able to see your way through the exams.

- Paper C was way too complex to get through within 5 hours - this was already the case in 2015. When the examination time was reduced from 6 to 5 hours it was promised that the number of documents and/or claims would be reduced as well, but this is not the case. Now we are back to the same amount as before the change, but with one hour less time. This is unfair to candidates who have to write now - for comparison: in 2012 there were 6 documents, no priority issues, only novelty and inventive step attacks and 6 hours time...

I'm really tired of reading complaints about the lack of argumentational skills of candidates in the examiners' report. It is not a lack of skills but a lack of time to elaborate a sound argumentation. I don't see any use in such a time pressure.

- Paper B (Chem) was totally different from past papers. The claims suggested by the client has almost nothing in common with the claims of the application. There were clarity issues of definitions to deal with and from past papers there was not clear whether these issues had to be resolved by adding the more definitions from the descriptions into the claims or whether it would be sufficient to argue form clarity of the used phrases.

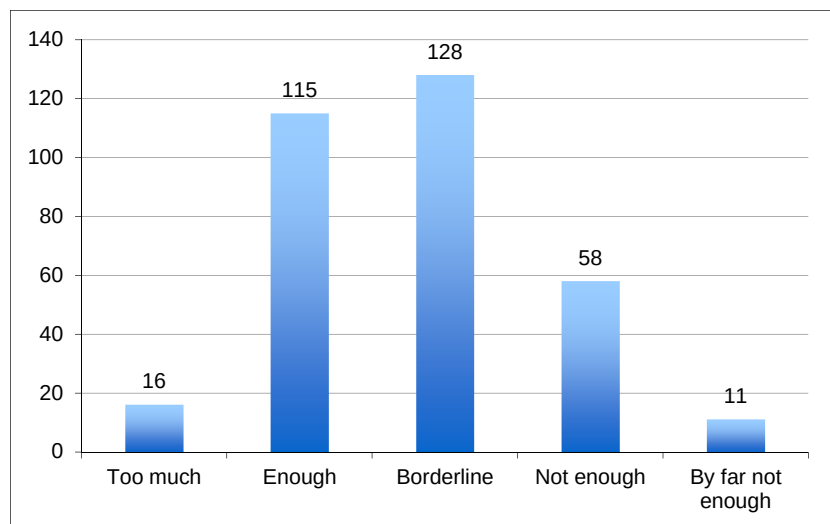
- The level of difficulty between exams is quite variable. When doing them at home, were you are supposed to be in the same conditions, some exams are quite straight forward whereas others are not that easy, at least when deciding the attacks for the C exam. In the case of the D paper, I considered them more similar in terms of difficulty.

- Tempus fugit

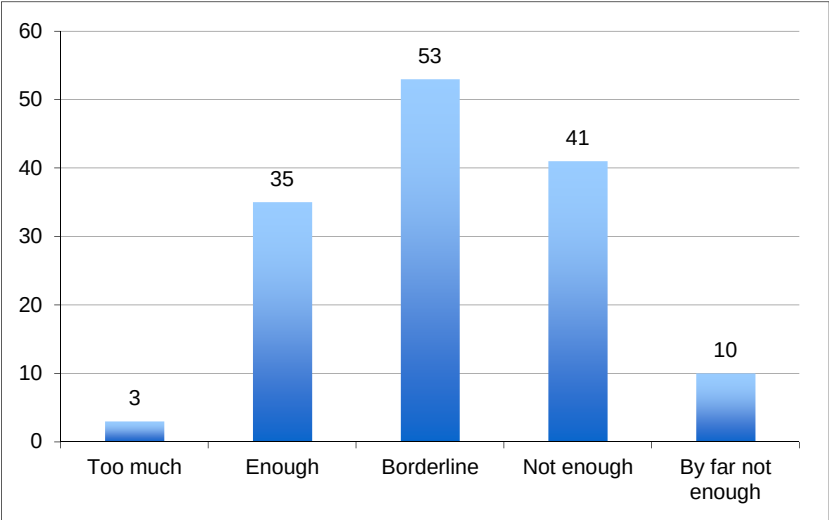
- Time management is of the essence. Don't even try to write full answers, just try to get through all points and maybe expand later on.

Q30) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2016?

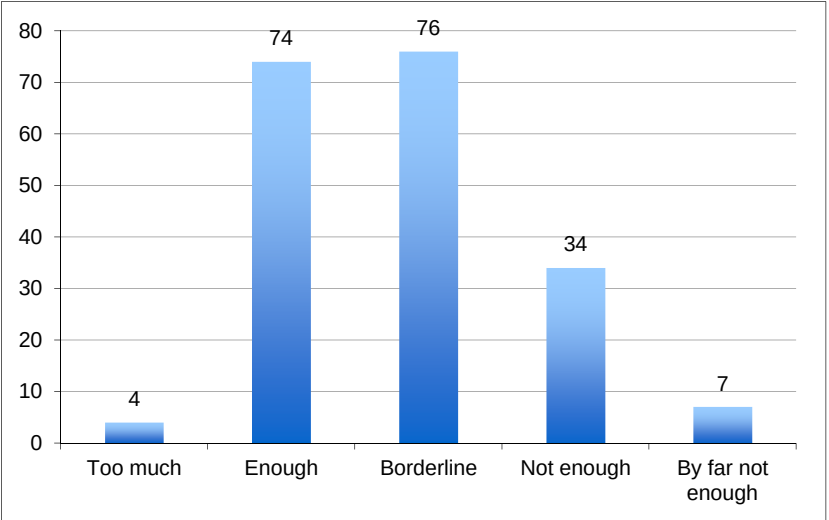
Pre-examination



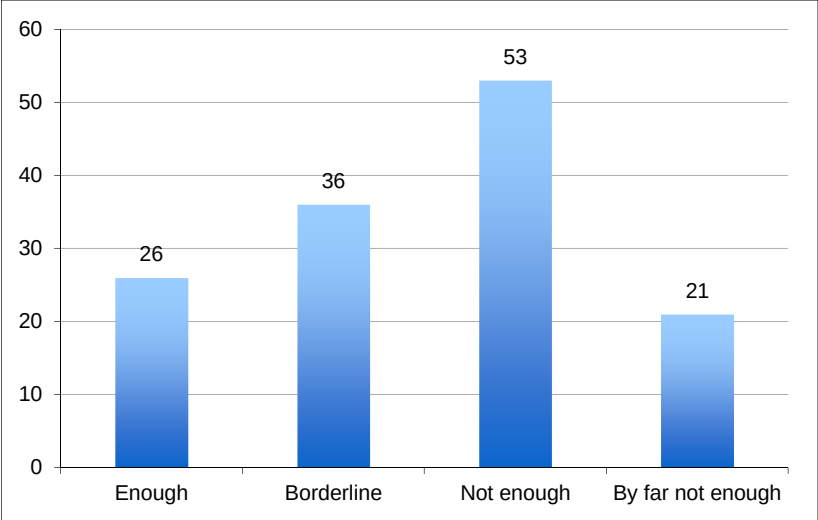
Paper A (Ch)



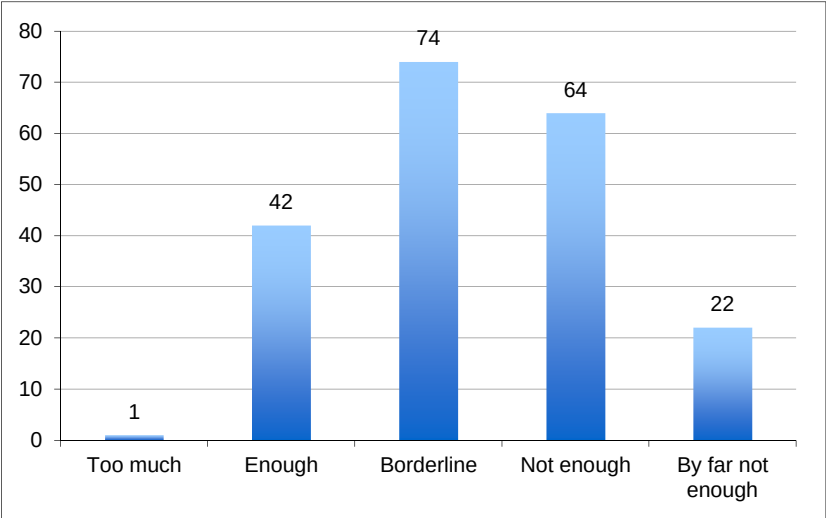
Paper A (E/M)



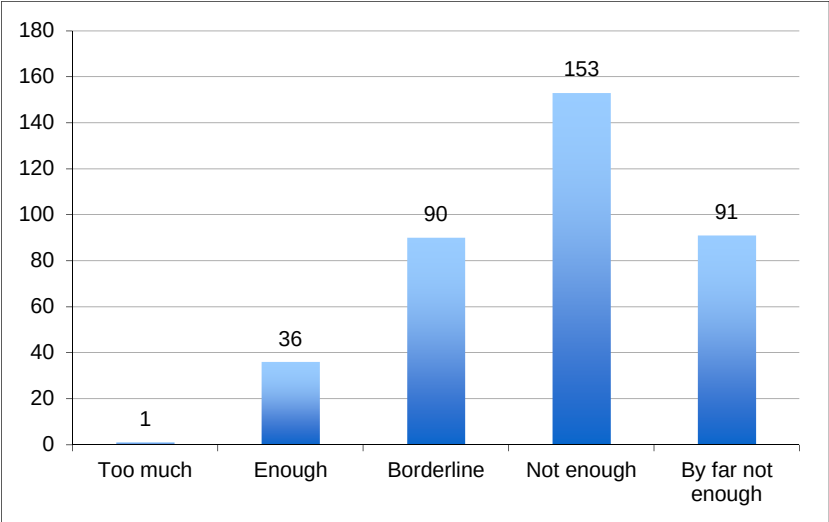
Paper B (Ch)



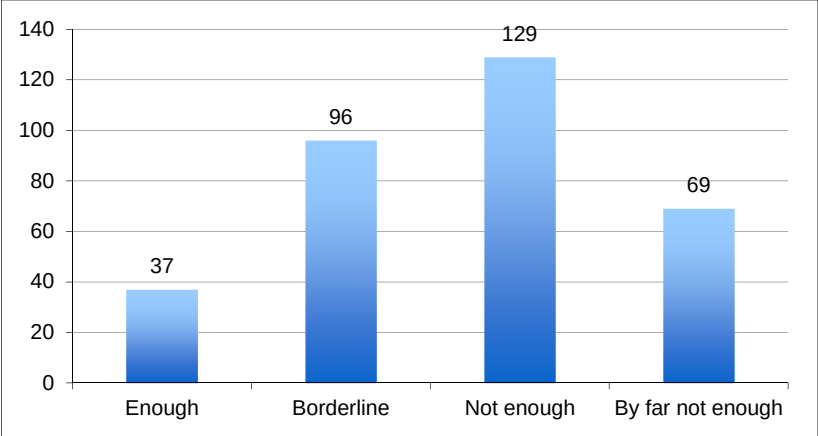
Paper B (E/M)



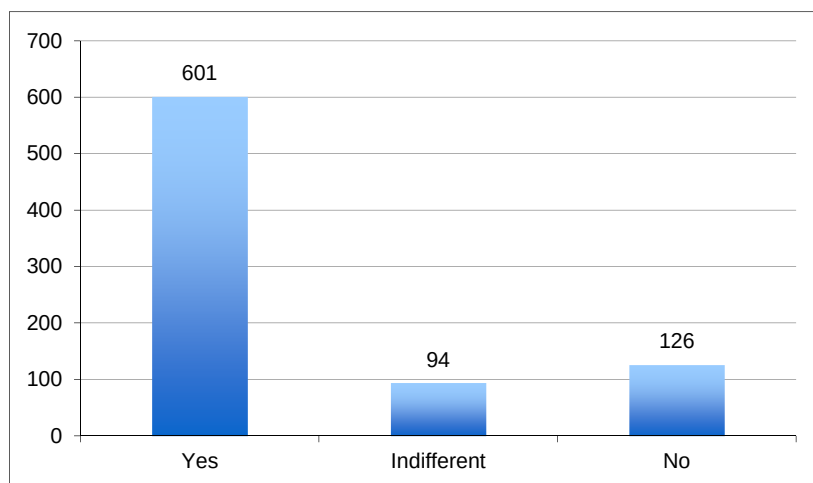
Paper C



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?

- No, not really... I guess the overall time for writing A is in theory enough if the made-up invention is not so very "hidden" that it takes you more than 90 min to spot it.
If it takes longer, candidates will almost always fail because it is simply impossible with less than 2h left on the clock to draft good claims AND finish your description in time (even if cut&paste is allowed, cause even this takes time to bring text-bits in the right order, think about what you want to address first etc.) And my gut-feeling after practising numerous old A-papers is, that the people who draft it, have little clue, how hard or easy it is to see their made-up invention, causing quite a fluctuation in difficulty.

- -

- Didn't have time to thoroughly check all answers.

- More than enough time for me, but I am a native English speaker and quick reader

- Paper C and D were rushed, and I did not have sufficient time to return to check my answers at the end of the paper, which I believe would have improved my marks.

- The paper is long and tiring - more time is probably not the solution.

- 4 Hours is too long.

- More complex and varied issues than usual in Paper B (Ch) meant that more time was needed to digest the paper with less time available for drafting arguments.

- Paper D, since moving to the new format, provides us 3 minutes per mark. This is in contrast to the 4.2 minutes per mark of the old format, yet the difficulty of questions (at least in part 1) has not changed. This puts a strain on time that is just a little bit too tight.

- In my opinion, the difficulty of Paper C is ok. The problem is that there is inadequate time to process and fully respond to all of the issues. Increasing the duration of the exam by 30 minutes would overcome this problem, or alternatively, reducing the number of issues/attacks by one.

- The time is adequate. The extra time would have helped, but that is primarily due to the cold conditions during the exam which slowed my productivity significantly.

- Nö

- I felt that B (E/M) in particular had far too much material to be able to prepare a decent answer in the time. It felt to me like there was the same amount of material as in the years where the exam was 4 hours long except the exam this year was only 3 hours long. I found the amendment was not straightforward, and there were 3 prior art documents so multiple inventive step attacks so there simply wasn't enough time to write out the answer I wanted to give.

- More time is necessary for the C and D papers. This is particularly so for candidates with mother tongue other than English, German or French.

- I would have marked at least 90% had I had 30 minutes more.

- 4h is ok. But little too difficult.

- I would prefer more questions and less points per question. There is no time problem with the pre-EQE. Rather, there is a "decision problem": if you make the wrong decision on an answer, you can lose many points. Therefore, even if you think you found the answer in the guidelines or your commentary, you will spend minutes on being afraid of choosing this answer since you might lose points if you choose the wrong answer.

- The 5hr paper D structure does not work. 2 hours is not enough for part I given that such exact legal basis is required for each answer. 3 hours is fine for part II - but back ending it onto part 1 just creates unnecessary stress. Even if the overall time is maintained, what harm could there be in having a 2hr part I in the morning, and 3 hour part II in the afternoon? 5 hours is a very long exam - I appreciate that it is necessary for paper C; but why paper D given that the sections are unconnected? Even a half hour break in between would make a world of difference.

- See my comments above.

- Paper B seems particularly time pressured.

- For me, the time allotted for paper C still seems not enough. I wish I had 1/2 hour more for this paper.

- I feel that the time pressure makes the exams a lot harder than they need to be.

- It is hard to say. Each year pre-exam paper in claim analysis part is becoming more and more difficult. The important thing is the time is the same for people having English, French and German as a mother tongue and for others. Maybe a solution is to add some time for people having EPC language as a non mother tongue language.

- Time pressure makes it difficult. Especially Paper D. Even though 5 hours - it's not that long considering the number of different issues to discuss.

- I found B difficult this year. Not enough time to construct a proper response.

- NO

- When preparing for the preEQE exam, I trained myself by doing the mock-exam and the exams 2013, 2014 and 2015, and the training exam of the EPO online course. These, I could finish in 3-3,5 hours.

The 2016 preEQE exam took me the full 4 hours. To my opinion, this year, 5 hours would have been more adequate.

my scores during the training were 84, 84, 84, 86, 90. The 2015 preEQE exam gave one of the 84 scores.

Now, based on published preliminary answers, I expect a score of 82 for the current 2016 exam. Pressure because of the real thing and a somewhat more difficult exam, is my impression. Perhaps, somewhat more time would have helped me to better sort out 5.1, 5.4 and 16-18.

- C and D not reasonable
way too long, way too difficult, way too artificial

- Given the large amount of PCT questions in D1, additional time was needed to find sufficient legal basis.

- It was more than enough in the previous years - at least writing them at home. It was not enough this year, but maybe only because the exam one actually has to write is always more difficult than the ones others have to write...

- Please also see my previous comment in Q27e. I am 100% sure that with 15-20 minutes more I would have passed the pre-exam 2016 with sufficient margin. Even 5-10 minutes would have been enough to pass the examination, as then I could really read the last questions and provide more correct answers that reflect my ability. I made almost half of my errors in the last 4 questions as time was running out. I am a slow reader and need to be attentive (dyslexia) when reading text and questions, I can do that if I am focused but this takes time. If time runs out I make mistakes, not because of stress as I was calm, but because I cannot absorb the questions properly and have no time to consider the proper answer due too lack of time.

Again if you want that only fast candidates pass you are doing a good job.

The fact that you ask this question makes me truly hope that for future candidates that you may take this feedback into account and adjust the coming pre-exam to allow a bit more time.

despite my negative mood I will give some constructive tips on how you might achieve that:

1/ legal questions

=> should be designed to test the basic knowledge, maximum 1 or 2 deeper questions to check candidates level. Here candidates with more in depth knowledge can gain points.

=> why not just ask what you wish to test, honestly some of the phrasing of the questions, maybe easy to understand for native speakers but not always for non native speakers, ask yourself what you want to test? OK, I agree we should know English (French or German), but we do not necessary get all the understanding of the questions correct as we are not native speakers.

2/ claim analysis

=> why 4 pages of client application, 3 embodiments, that is a lot to read and takes away time to read and answer the questions.

=> Why 4 prior art documents that is a lot to read and takes away time to read and answer the questions.

=> 13 claims! multiple dependencies, depending on all of the preceding claims, OR claim

=> a second claim set and a final claim

All that at least for me was not complicated (we know that) it just takes time, that all.

And then there is no time left to read the last questions and to give a proper answer => and then you fail...

Not because you did not know because you did not have time...

3/ General

=> In my view it is time vs score balance

=> for time as said some candidates have a disadvantage and the content of the claim analysis keeps growing

=> on the score side 70% is a lot, I personally would have less issues with the 2016 exam if a score of 60% would be a pass.

Note that 15 questions wrong is a loss of 30 points so we have 70% and we pass (if you do not have all 4 sub questions wrong) => Actually the real score is $(80-15)/80 = 81.25\%$ this is the real

score we need to pass. this because of the scoring mechanism. So the 60% I propose allows 20 questions to be wrong, gives a real score of $(80-20)/80 = 75\%$.

So far my tips.

Well I am happy you pose the question. I also hope you use the feedback to allow future candidates more time so you can test their knowledge not their failure against time. Although I fear you will only make statistics on the heating conditions or lighting of the room. The substantial discussion is more important and I hope to see some feedback on that as well.

- increase time or reduce workload...not enough time available has too much influence on the outcome of the examination

- Time is barely sufficient. Filling the answer sheet is easy but have to be done carefully and that requires time

- Why do we need to work so quickly on an application if the goal is to provide patents of quality that will stand up to the EPC?

- The time is very dependent on the paper. I think the length of the examinations is correct however checks on whether it is possible to finish the paper should be improved.

- Der extreme Zeitdruck in den Prüfungen entspricht nicht den tatsächlichen Arbeitsbedingungen als Anwalt. Wollte die EEP das tatsächliche Können prüfen, könnte dies auch ohne die knapp bemessene Zeit geschehen.

- I simply do not understand why the C and D exams could not be e.g. one hour longer each. It is VERY frustrating to put time on training of the EXAM technique. Of course the external course providers which make very succesful business with the preparation courses are very satisfied with the situation.

- There was no time to check any of the material in any of the papers.

- It is not possible for a non native speaker of any of the three official languages to provide a complete answer covering all the points in the exam. Although a person can see all the tasks to be done, time impedes to write all the argumentation expected from the examiners. It is frustating to know all what has to be done and seeing that you cannot prove all your knowledge.

- I think that more time should be available for candidates who are not native speakers of any EPO languages otherwise the native speakers have unfair advantage.

- I think the time pressure is on purpose and one of the criterions in the ege. Also in practice, one would sometimes need to make decissions under time pressure, for instance at oral proceedings. Therefore, I think the time pressure is basically fine and simply pushes candidates to pick up the needed skills to decide fast and most likely correct.

- More time would definitively improve my marks.

- Not enough time!
Not enough time!
Not enough time!

This makes everything so stressful and painful !!!!!

- for not-natives it takes longer to read the paper and sometimes we spend time analysing scope of meaning of particular words. I understand that "problematic" words are used unintentionally by the authors of the paper - but still from the beginning chances are not equal.

0.5h more for the present form of papers will improve the situation.

- A little more time for the C paper would be very-very nice (10-20% more time), just to be able to do both a thorough analysis and a thorough writing of the answer. Otherwise, in my opinion, painful short-cuts and trade-offs are unavoidable, which I personally consider as a great pity for such an interesting and thrilling paper as C always is.

- Heavily depending on how much reading is required for the claim analysis part, which this year was more than in any of the previous pre examinations. However, 4 hrs are quite sufficient!

- Lack of time (mainly in C, D). More time could also imply a cleaner copy (handwriting)

- For C my problem is solely a time problem, Half an hour more would be sufficient

- one general question/comment: what does the EPO do in supporting the training for the main exam?

- D: i have not had enough time for D-II last questions. I needed to make quite a lot of hypothesis in the response which takes time for writing, since main patents were PCT patents not already on the national phase...

- Please give out more EQE lined paper within the envelope for paper D next time. I had to ask for more paper 4 times during D. That is disturbing for everyone and takes time.

- Paper C is always a race. Same with paper B which is shortened by 30 mins due to a proposed amendment by the client which needs to be revised significantly anyway and is therefore only helpful to some extent.

- Why not make it longer, no big deal. Just seems arbitrarily low. Who in their right mind in reality does an opposition in 5 hrs..... It's like your client comes to you at 19h00 on the last day to fill...ridiculous... Most offices close at 17h00! I can sit for eight hours no problem, do it regularly in work, obviously with comfort breaks

- Non-mother tongue participants can't have the same time for performing the Papers of English, German and French mother-tongue participants. It's simply not fair

- Although I basically finished all papers, with more time I would have done a better job. On all of them.

- 30 minutes more - and we will pass

- Paper B should be 3,5h, because A123(2) check takes a lot of time!

Paper C should not have so many time rank problems, because this consumes the time needed for good text analysts oh A2-A6.

- I cannot really see why time pressure should be the biggest obstacle during the exams.

- Hard to say, since I had enough time to overthink every question. However, I did not have enough time to have a second think about a few questions I was not sure about.

- 30 minutes more will be good

- Time is tough, but it's part of the exam.

I wouldn't have made different answers if I had more time (except on formal aspects).

- Time pressure is the most important reason to fail the Examen. It is very frustrating that you cannot write up everything while you do know what to do. Passing Exam is primarily based on selection on speed and not of Quality of the work. This is a way to select people but not to select the best candidates for real practice.

- I felt time pressure during the exam (paper C). This exam is very complex especially for not native speakers and we should have more time. The language of the paper is not easy and sometimes is very technical (like in 2015).

- The contents of the EQE papers A, B and C is easy. The time pressure makes these papers difficult.

- Too much writing for DII was needed this year due to many applications/inventions

- Again ran out of time

- If more time was available, I would have had time to read through the claim analysis text more carefully. Time was not an issue when preparing with the old exams.

- Time is a major issue because after the analysis of the material there is only about 2 h left for writing and the model answer was 8 A4 pages long (written with a computer). This time I found the solution quite nicely so I did have enough time for writing but last year I struggled with the analysis and ran out of time.

- For Paper C there was a lot to read, this took a lot of time. Finally, I had all the attacks on my mind but not enough time to write them down.

- The 5 hours allocated for C were not sufficient. I barely finished it, without the time to go through it again and make corrections if needed. That does not give a very good feeling. The same exam, with one hour more would be more reasonable. In practice the time is not as constricted as during the exams.

- Perhaps the output could be in electronical format, since it is nowadays relatively easy to arrange clean computers, which cannot communicate in a wireless manner. This would give more time to actually test whether the candidate is fit to practice, and also facilitate the examiner's work since the handwriting of each candidate would be identical (as in this survey).

- At least 30 minutes more and it would have been good.

- half an hour or one hour more would have given me time to go through my answers and add missed things. I did finish in time and answered all the questions, but it would have been helpful, and I would have felt better, with some extra time to double-check

- At least during the pre-examination I had plenty of time to waste.
And I left 45 minutes early.

- From my point of view the available time and the scope of the examination are not well balanced.

Less scope: 4 hours are enough.

Same scope: 4 1/2 hours could be enough.

- Half an hour more for C would have been enough to go through the paper and finish it.

DII was far too complex to finish it within the timelimit.

- Would be helpful to have enough answering paper sheets. I had to request for more paper

twice. And still I ran out of paper 7 minutes before the end of the exam.

- For D: if well prepared you could write much more, especially for D-II the time pressure is high. For A and B: it is too case dependent. I rated A (Ch) and B (Ch) as difficult, therefore I would have need more time to finish.

- Most of the candidates were done after 2h and a half. This was also true the previous years (pre-exam).

- Time is the main problem which is an unreal condition if purpose of exam (for example paper C) is to test ability to file a valid opposition.

A shorter paper (not shorter in time but with less claims and less annexes) would be enough to test ability in using problem solution app. or other attacks (added SM / novelty).

- Time pressure is a big issue we do not face during our normal working days. For all the papers there is no enough time to think properly and write down the answer. Hand writing is very time consuming and should be avoided by using an electronic device provided by the EPO.

- It is of course difficult to make the proper selection of what the scope of the new claims should be. Here you need a bit of luck as well and for that there is of course no remedy in allowing more time, but it would be very useful to be able to re-write some of the pages so that they are readable. I had just enough time to complete the respond, but some of the pages were VERY messy and I would have liked to be able to re-write them and make them neater. I can see no point in giving the candidates insufficient time for the exam and I do hope it is not intended that the candidates have too little time to complete their tasks.

- Die Prüfung wurde ca 1.5 Minuten vor 17 Uhr beendet - gemessen an den Wand-Uhren der Halle. (Ich hätte gerne noch eine Antwort korrigiert.)

Die Prüfung hätte gut und gerne auch 2 Minuten nach 17 Uhr beendet werden können.

Am 29.2. gab es beträchtliche Verspätungen bei der U6 (eingleisiger Verkehr). Ein verspäteter Prüfungsbeginn wäre angebracht gewesen. Mein Hinweis diesbezüglich wurde nicht beachtet.

- The time given is just right - stressful yes, but also doable if you actually know your stuff.

- Too short...

- I would have surly profit by having at least additional 30 mins for the claim analysis part. This was not the case when I practiced all the other pre-examinations papers, where I was done in ca 3 hours and I had time for reviewing my answers.

- There is a balance required. For example, I spent longer on fewer claim attacks for paper C to do them justice, rather than doing all of them quickly, because I have realised i only need 50 marks to pass. I may as well make sure I get the 50 marks, rather than reaching for 100 marks.

For paper A, I spent longer making sure the claims (independent and dependent) were in good order, because again I only need 50 marks. I know I sacrificed the description of prior art D1 and D2, but would prefer to spend longer working on the claims and getting up to 85 marks for them.

- Look, It is absurd that you put 6 Annexes. In order to get the marking of a candidate, less in enough and the main thing that you are testing, for a good candidate is how fast can we write or read. The same exam with 4 Annexes and 5 claims tests us pretty well and allows really to show how well can you argue.

- The increase of the difficulty lead to the fact that for me the time available was just sufficient.

Consider that it took me to answer the exams 2012 to 2014 in about 2 1/2 h.

- not enough time; the time pressure is no indicator for being fit to practice
- As I have previously said, each year the paper is more difficult, and more time to perform the exam is needed. I consider I did the exam quite fast, and I had no time to review my answers.
- Time for Paper B is definitely too short. Half hour more would be better
- By far, not enough
- If I had 30 more minutes on each paper I am sure that I had passed both Paper A and Paper B.
- I manage all old 6h tests. For the 5h tests I do not manage them to the end only about 70-80% of them (I'm simply too slow).

So, for me time is an issue.

- see last comment
- For paper B I have adopted the approach to start with novelty and inventive step argumentation after amending the claims (if I don't follow this approach, I don't have sufficient time to complete the inventive step argumentation on time). This also helps to see any pitfalls in the amended claims.
- since the English is not other mother language, there is always time pressure
- Just 15 more minutes would have been enough
- I would have completed paper D and C if I had 30-45 min more in paper D and about 1h more in paper C

The questions were not that difficult, the time to answer them to the standards required by the examination committee is unrealistic and insufficient

- The time-factor is the most constraining factor for the exam. An additional 15 or 30 minutes would for most of the candidates probably give much more comfort in responding to the questions. Since working under time pressure is NOT a skill required by the profession, I really wonder why it was chosen to make it such an important determining factor... If we would sit the exam for air traffic controllers, I would understand why.

- The time pressure applies to both A and B, but particularly B.

- I always write the same things every year but it seems useless!

I think that non mother tongue people should have at least one hour more than mother tongue ones!

Above all for paper C where the comprehension of the shades of the words is very important. I work every day in English but it is completely different from sitting a paper with a great pressure time!

I think that an exam made in this way doesn't show if a candidate is fit to practice and if he can file an opposition, it is just a run against time, read and write immediately without thinking! Do you want that we file opposition without thinking in real life?????

- Paper D 2016: It is not fair to have knowledge of the EPC and then sit an examination where lack of time inevitably leads to a bad result.

It has been an exam for people who can memorize the concepts but not a test for people who understand the matter and need to consult the appropriate books. I am disappointed with the EPO examiners. Once arrived to this end, I hope that examiners evaluate the results considering the enormous pressure we have suffered.

- More time could perhaps lead to a lower level of stress and to this extend it might have allowed me to perform better. As I was working under time pressure I made three separate mistakes in novelty-related questions, being actually quite obvious when examining the drawings and figures in tranquillity. I think I am a little below the 70 marks, so had I not done those mistakes, I would probably be successful.

- not enough available is part of the game.

In case you realise during the exam that you have made a substantive mistake, it is very difficult to make the necessary modifications to compensate the error.

- It has to be noted that people do not write that often anymore. So, it is not an equal competition if someone is capable of writing faster than the other, it is similar to making everyone type the exam.

It does not test the ability of the student, but the way the student is able to write within the given time. Especially for paper C, where in normal situations, an attorney surely has more than 5 hours to draft an opposition, and real life oppositions do not contain such convoluted hints on different fronts. Paper C is purely fictional for testing the candidate. It only has to be seen if the student gets the hints, why limit them to time when in real life they do have more time to draft the application. If the attorney takes a lot of time and bills the client, then let the markets decide if he is efficient for his money. It is not the task of EQE to filter out inefficient candidates, but merely test their knowledge.

- maybe 4 hours for B, but same difficulty

maybe 4 to 5 hours for D, but less complex (although one studies and knows a lot, it is often the pure examination conditions that keep you from writing the right answers)

in principle: more time/mark or less time in total: better handwriting

- I struggled with timing in all 3 exams that I sat. There were things I knew and wanted to write but couldn't because of time constraints which is very frustrating.

- Three hours for drafting a proper reply to an office communication is too short.

- Paper B could be half an hour longer.

Additionally, and for me of higher importance, the time BETWEEN Paper A and Paper B should be at least 2 hours.

- The time was sufficient to answer every question, but not enough to double-check the ones where I was not sure against the books.

- it would have been helpful having from 30' to 1 h more. Anyway more than 6 hours is too much.

- Paper d (munich, moc) was delayed by 10 minutes. This was due because the invigilator was late. The impact was that each question and time had to be readjusted. This was unfair.

- I suggest that the time available was borderline. However, it might have been enough under acceptable exam hall conditions. More time would not have helped in 2016 as I was not able to tolerate the cold conditions any longer, and just wanted to leave.

- the time was more tight due to the cold conditions in the exam hall
- as I mentioned above, the problem with the D exam is not so much the fact that you do not have enough time, but the fact that you cannot rest a second. I guess that if I could have stopped before the end (30 min), rested a few min and rechecked, I could have scored better
- In paper C, the information necessary to write a valuable opposition is spread over 26 pages. It takes about 1 hour to handle priority issues, added subject-matter issues and state of the art issues. For added subject-matter issues the whole granted patent has to be controlled to be sure that there is really no subject-matter which may be the basis for the amendment. Then, the remaining 24 pages may be read to collect the information needed. Reading the 24 pages carefully to discover all the details takes about another 1 and a half hour. If you were able to find the correct attacks while reading, thus, two and a half hours are remaining for writing down all the informations found in the patent and the state of the art and drawing proper conclusions. Since it takes about 30 min to write down informations which are marked with about 10 points means that at the end there may be about 50 points for the whole work.
- Increase the time for paper C back to 6 hours.
- There is not enough time to do the exam. Too much information to read.
- I find there is not enough time to properly consider everything, assimilate my thoughts and construct the answers. I was rushed in both papers and the pressure tends to induce panic.
- Paper C- More time should be available for people who has no mother-tongue EPO language. For us it is more difficult to digest all the information, find the solution and write it. It was a 6h-exam. You don't have time to think at all, so if you realize that an attack is wrong you cannot even change it, just lose it as it is too late. Maybe you could find the right attacks but not under so time-pressure, too stressful to think. And there were many traps to mislead us.
Paper D - Too long questions for only 5 h. It was a 6h-exam. Impossible to finish or even write the main points in the second part of the exam (DII), I could not do it properly at all.
- too much time
- see my comments above
- For the C-part it all comes down (for me) to fast writing, which I cannot so apparently. If I get time pressured, I limit my argumentation and also make stupid mistakes. I believe that I might write a nice opposition if I had more time. I do not understand, how fast writing skills can be the ticket to passing the EQE. I mean, don't you want the oppositions to be nicely done?
- Since the papers are in language that is not your mother language you need extra time to process all the information, reorganised said information and then try to express your conclusions in the non mother language in a very short of time.
- Both B (E/M) and C are very time-consuming
- I have been working with patents for some 25 years now, at national patent office, in the industry and as a consultant for the last six or seven years.
I sat the pre-exam last year and enrolled for the D-exam this year, no other exam. I accidentally selected an answer regarding Paper A in the question Q30 above. Disregard this - it appears impossible to un-select.
- The D-exam questions describe business-as-usual situations as far as I am concerned. The exam format, however, is utterly devoid of connection with reality.

A large part of the people that pass the D-exam will have relied on rote learning and advanced personal notes optimized for saving time during the EQE. They have not been long enough in the business to realize that legislation and practice change over time. Rote learning for the EQE will unequivocally fail you within a couple of years, if passing the EQE is all that drives you.

A patent attorney who has been encouraged to give advice without consulting the sources will eventually fail the clients.

It is sad that this culture is being encouraged actively through the exam format. The format gives an unwarranted confidence boost to a certain category of people, to the detriment of the clients.

Does the EPO really want to give precedence to patent attorneys who never stop to think?

I appreciate the reasons for not allowing other tools during the exam, and I accept the format of the exam text, but the idea that a person who answers the D-exam questions in six hours instead of five makes an inferior patent attorney in real life is, excuse my French, *une blague et une blague de mauvais goût*.

I am absolutely confident that more time available for the exams would produce better EPAs.

- TIME allocated for the paper C !!!

The time is manageable for papers A, B and D but for paper C the time is really short for analysing all the documents, preparing the different attacks and then drafting the notice of opposition with all the elements requested for the marks (analysis of the information, citing the different references, explaining the interpretation, etc)

It is a pity that there is not 30 min or 1 hour more for paper C...

- time pressure is way too much

the exams are not too difficult if one would have enough time to think
the exams were poorly made testing the speed and not the real knowledge of the students
also the general feeling is lack of respect for candidates, I have my PhD and was working for Nobel prize winner, but I felt humiliated on the EQE because it is made so that the best most of the candidates can do is 50%, due to the time pressure. Most candidates, being hard working and not happy with this. Also the time is needed to consider all possibilities and to decide for the one that seems the best.

- I think extra time should be available. For example, if using extra time the amount of max points achievable could be reduced e.g. to 90 pts. As a result it would provide opportunity to finish the paper without need of skipping some of the relevant parts due to the lack of time. At least in paper B there is not enough time to write your answer even if you would know what to write.

- More time would give less stress. 10 to 20% more is adequate. It should not be a test in how fast you can work and as having experience for many years from real life.

- There was not enough time compared to the previous few years exams. Not only is it not fair, it is not a reflection of how well a patent attorney does his job or is safe to practice. What purpose does have a massive time pressure serve? It won't tell you how good an attorney a person is!

- The question arises whether the examination is about knowledge about the EPC (and PCT, etc.) and aptitude to analyse or about who can write the fastest.

- With double or triple time, surely I could reach 100% in both papers. It is just a matter of time, when the Basics are there.

- I find a bit weird that paper B is only 3 hours and paper A 3h 30 min.
- Not enough
- The temperature meant that I would not have been able to stay in the room and focused any longer.
- no
- during my preparations I thought 4 hours are enough and I finished the papers always in advance but during the examination I needed more than 4 hours because the legal part was so complex that I spend more time than usual and also the claim analysis was too much too read and too tricky so I needed more time for that as well.
- It will adviceable to extend the time restraint to 5½ hours or 6 hours, as the time pressure and amount of writing seems to have increased since 2013
- Paper C in 5 hours is very hard
- See my previous comments
- See above regarding difficulty.
- Time managment problem for paper D (Not enough time to complete DII)
That is why I think I should have started with DII, then DI
- The time limitations in the exam are one of the biggest reasons why many people who have a deep understanding of patent law and practice and who produce quality work in realistic settings fail to pass the EQE. Is the point of the EQE to test how fast someone is, or to test whether someone is fit to practice?
- I needed 1 more hour as English/French/German are not my mother languages and I have new words in the claim analysis paper; it is time consuming to search for new words in a dictionary and to understand the paper
- Not enough for paper C. In a real life situation you would not be analyzing 6 annexes and preparing attacks in 5 hours.
- Paper C this year involved 6 claims (3 were independent, one of the 6 had two alternatives so 7 claims to do) plus a host of other issues about added matter, not a patentable invention, claims added ion prosecution, which was a surprise, as the claims were daunting enough without having to spend significant time on the other matters.
- The time for this paper was at the point. For the mock paper from 2015 I only needed 2,5 h.
- An hour or even 30 minutes extra on the D exam would probably have resulted in at least 10 more points for me. This is the difference between fail and pass. It's frustrating when one knows the answers but don't have time to put it all in writing. The exam is not really testing knowledge due to the extreme time pressure. Instead it's testing skills in time management and your personality (where being "fast and sloppy" - i.e. the ability to drop questions with incomplete answers is an advantage).
- I guess you can always use more time. Especially for D, but this year also for B-chemistry.
- I was suprised of the sheer amount of material the PRE-EQE presented. I'd say that 4 hours normally would be more than enough for 80 questions. You should not cram so much into the

claim analysis part.

- A balance needs to be struck, especially regarding the content of the Claim Analysis section, as mentioned above.

- Time pressure was a key issue and unnecessarily reducing the quality and quantity of the responses. Either more time should be allowed or less questions/shorter questions should be included.

Time pressure is a special and unnecessary handicap for non-native speakers.

- This year I think nobody leaved the room before the 4 hours end. It was possible to finish the exam during the 4 hours but not too much. The problem was really the difficulty of the questions.

- Time for paper C is absolutely not sufficient as amount of given information is huge.

- The invigilator announces five minutes remaining to the end of the examination. Nothing can be done at that time, so that I understand that it is intended solely to be aware that end is coming up. I understand that timing of the examination is absolutely the responsibility of the candidate, but a further previous announcement (say 30 minutes in advance to the end of the examination time) might be good, and not an inconvenience for anybody in my opinion

- Suppose the EPO wants it to be under time pressure.

- I felt quite pressed for time. It is fair to give difficult questions, but then, I think, a bit more time to research is necessary.

- Maybe adding a 0,5 h to B would be helpful. But then again, it usually was not that time consuming, just this year, at least for me.

- I would add half an hour for paper A

- for paper B more time would have been useful

- The time to answer is too short for candidates that are not exeptionally fast in writing (and/or analyzing). Especially on papers A, B and C where there is not much point in looking up things, I think it would be better to allow more time such that slower candidates would be assessed on their full knowledge. I did not have a chance to finish the description of paper A properly, nor give a full argumentation of the inventive step of paper B, nor make proper attacks on the last 2 claims of paper C.

In principle I think that the time for D could also be longer, but someone may argue that it would allow more looking up in books.

- it was good to see, that the part D II problem was shorter; it was unclear if certain inidications to the solutions which are usually given in the paper were missing this time (e.g. in the form of "in his communication the examiner determine that....")

- 4 hours for the pre-exam seemed reasonable although I had to answer the last 3 questions very quickly in the last 15 minutes. But, knowing me, if the exam was e.g. 5 hours I'm not sure I'd do any better. Sometimes having too much time can also hinder you as it lulls into a false sense of security. Some time pressure is good, I think.

- The Examination Committee should try to reduce the number of pages of the C-papers.

- not enough time; to be within the time limits you have to find the right solution right away, if you want to change your answer because during the exam you find out that different solution is better, you don't have enough time; in real life this is hardly ever the case

- Too little time, I don't think that needing 30-45 extra minutes a candidate "unfit to practice". Its heartbreaking to see candidates almost crying because they are so nervous and cannot handle the time pressure. The exam should be about testing knowledge and not about testing how you handle nervousness.

- Since everything can be brought, time is the most powerful tool to find out how good the person sitting the exam knows (by heart) where to find the right answer.

The more you need to "look up", the more time is needed.

D - part 1: "Everything" has to be looked up --> timing is most critical, structure of answer is less important in view of timing

D- part 2, A, B and C, "looking up" is small part of exam --> timing is only critical if process and structure is not practiced well

- I missed a single small question totally in part D1 because of the lacking time. Last year I missed 2 or 3 small questions because part D2 took me so much time, and I governed the used time poorer than this year.

- Frankly it is not enough. It is just enough to answer super quickly and of course no way to go over what have you done. I am sure this is the key and what we should learn; how pass an exam super fastly.

Luckily in our professional life we have more time.

- The time pressure was much higher in 2016 in comparison to the earlier Pre-Exams

- I sat the pre-examination, and I thought this year's paper could not be completed as fast as some of the past pre-examination papers. I ended up using all the available time to carefully review my answers. I did not feel much time pressure, but any less time (e.g. 3.5 hours instead of 4 hours) would have made this year's pre-examination paper more challenging.

- If it would be outlined by the examination difition how long a Answer should be time could be used better. For example the answers uin the english version of the examiners report ar much shortert then in German but if you would write the same things in German as in english you would not get the same marks. so in my oppinion the German answers wich yshould be given to pass are much more time critical then the english

- It is neither appropriate nor is it necessary that candidates are forced to use exam time to number and collate their scripts. When I sat Paper B I had an invigilator threaten to refuse my script because it was not ready in time – I panicked and scrambled my script together. As a result I failed to include those pages that had my amended claims – I received a compensable fail.

A candidate's ability to number and collate a script in a timely manner in no way reflects their ability to act as a patent attorney.

- I understand that exams need to be of set time. However, providing a lot of pages to read disadvantages those candidates that read slowly or are not sitting the exam in their first language. The exams should be constructed so that it tests the candidates knowledge and analysis of the situation.

The rebuttal to this argument is that time is limited in the workplace when doing the job of a patent attorney. However, I say that that is a separate issue between the attorney, their employer and the client. It should not be confused with the job of the EQEs.

- Too much information to absorb and more time needed to fully address and present a reasonable answer

- The time of 5h is already a problem because in my view after 3h people are already tired and concentration is already low and stills go down till the end of the Paper. Therefore, more time would not solve this.

I find that the difficulty resulting from the prior art and patent texts interpretation + legal issues is considerable and increasing along the years.

Moreover, there are still too many claims to attack (usually 7 claims + division resulting from OR) and too many prior art documents, usually 6, as in the years when the Paper took 6h. This year, I would need 6.30h to finish the Paper conveniently.

Therefore, the balance between time and task is not reasonable. In fact, the Paper C framework is becoming farther from the real life practice I cannot see how it is possible to access whether someone is fitted to the practice in this way.

- Not enough

- Time was sufficient for me as a native speaker of one of the three EPO languages (German). I think, though, that the lack of clarity of some questions as well as the shere amount of description to be read during the claim analysis part might have caused some issues for any participator who is not a native speaker of either English, German or French. In particular, some details may - for non-natives - have been difficult to derive from a first read of the descriptions.

- shorter exams would be better

- With more time I am sure I would do it better or with less PCT questions and less patents mentioned in D2

- Since it was so very cold, I was looking forward to leaving.

- It is too short

- The EQE should determine your fitness to practise as a Qualified Representative, but with the current short exam durations, there is too much emphasis on speed.

- Since I'm re-sitter of Papers C I have the impression that, compared to Paper C 2015, this year the time available has been more adequated and adapted for non-native speakers and to non-E/M.

- It was unexpectedly little time, since the allocated time has been ample with margin on the earlier pre-exams.

- for paper C
time; the answer will be very different with no presure of time; with 2 more hours.
The exam conditions (time) does not really let show your level of knowledge

- the time for properly answer to the papers is not enough; handwriting is very time consuming and the candidates experience anxiety during the exams. All these things make the papers very hard to solve even if the candidate studied very much.

- See above.

- + 1h or minus one claim with problem solution approach would be perfect

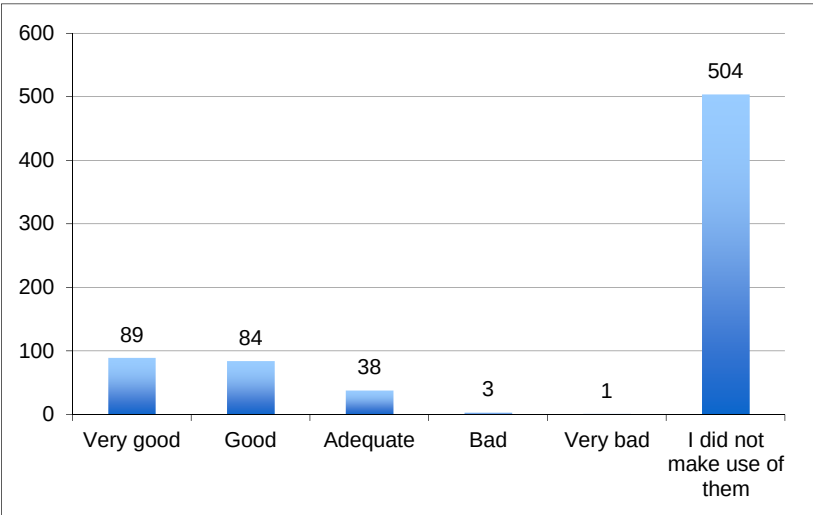
- paper C was too long!!! It is inadequate to assume that it can be done with all detailed argumentation required in time.
Especially in a view of the limited number of exams to train for this changed 5h time duration.
- Candidates must make sure they understand the time constraint.
- My answers re duration of papers are skewed as I sat exams in Bristol. because of the cold in the exam hall I was forced to stop writing on a number of occasions and sit on my hands for extended periods of time to regain sufficient feeling in my hands to try and maintain legible hand writing.
- Should have 1 more hour.
- Time should not be the reason of fail
- After that 1 hour has been removed from the examination period for paper C, the examination has turned into a pure race against the clock, testing mainly writing speed (endurance of the wrist) and mechanical methodology, leaving very little room for the development of an independent, coherent argumentation and the testing thereof
- The answer to Q31 refers only to Paper C. Instead of artificially created substance names it would be helpful to name the compounds just with letters from A to Z
- Time for the pre-examination is ample, although with the 2015 and 2016 exams not as much as with the older pre-exam papers. With less time available I would have had trouble to do checks on all my answers.
- The biggest challenge is time management, is this really beneficial for training representatives?
- Paper C was very tight for time. It doesn't seem as though the EQE exam board has the correct balance yet for the paper. This one had easily enough issues in it to make it more appropriate as an (old system) 6 hour paper.
- see Q29
- 5 h for the C exam is too, too tight. Even though you might manage to make a C exam at home in 5 h, in exam conditions the table (too narrow in Madrid), the surrounding noises and the nerves make impossible to finish it.
- for the time available there is too much reading material and too many claims to attack
- Same thing as last year. Please give us more time to think. It is wise to do things after spending some time to sort thoughts. Most of candidates uses a language that is not the mother tongue.
- Compared to old paper B exams, the time has been reduced, but the material to be studied has not been reduced. Moreover, the additional suggestion of the client for new Claims are also more time consuming, because it is just confusing. In fact you know you have two different sets of Claims which are not allowable. The clients claims are not necessary, they just eat time.
- I made use of all the time available in the Pre-exam, mostly by triple checking everything, but, going on the past papers, four hours seems longer than necessary, particularly when over-checking can induce self-doubt.
- I think that Paper C was too long in comparison with those of the last few years. The lack of

time was the main difficulty of this paper.

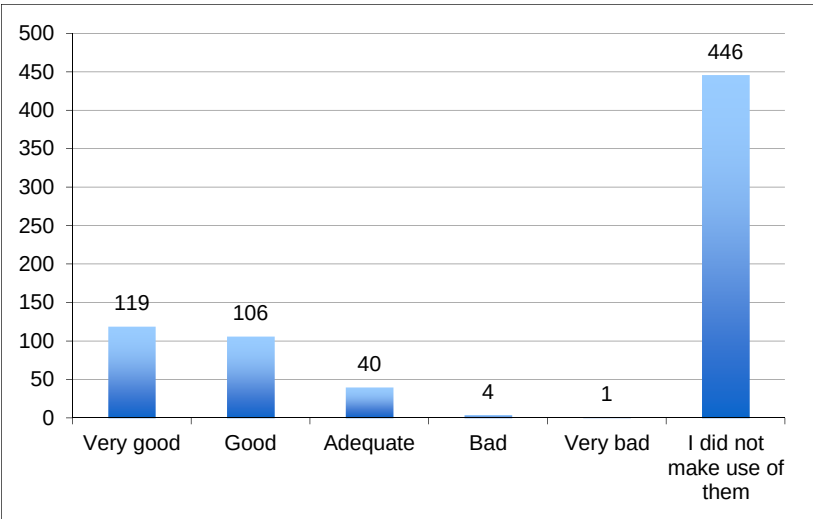
Chapter 5 – Training from the European Patent Academy

Q33) How would you rate the following self-assessment learning materials provided by the European Patent Academy?

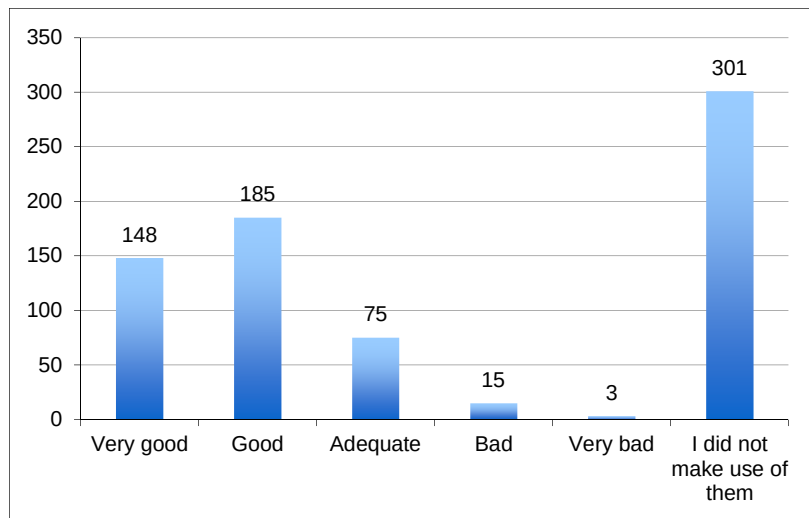
Time limit questions



Daily D1 questions



Coffee-break questions



Q34) Please add any comments and suggestions regarding the time limit questions:

- Very good!
- I spotted (and reported) some coding issues where dates were not properly being picked up in the answer calculation
- I could not find the calendars to answer them
- -
- Very good. Happy using them.
- A calendar on the website would be nice. In addition, the website is buggy; sometimes, the answer was not displayed. Also, several "in-between" questions were missing. Therefore, you could not just "click" from question to question
- I don't know the coffee break question
- Nice feature.
- Include the calendars needed
- Could be more pronounced on the website
- I found them very good.-thanks
- Make the entry of dates easier - one has to click back to 2012 each time
- I wasn't aware of this feature but will look it up for use in studying for the main exam.
- new questions should be added to the pool used already
- great
- I did not even know about them! So more information would be nice!

- only available in english
- Did not know the existed? How could I know that?
- should use them
- -
- did not know of their existence
- Good reference guide
- The content is great, but the dates need to be updated.
- not available in german language
- Answers well written . Thanks
- Not updated and quite a few bugs
- I did not know about it
- Unfortunately I didn't have time to look at them
- Outdated, otherwise good.
- not up to date - calendar does not seem to wok with firefox
- nice
- The are very useful to assimilate concepts
- These may need to be updated soon as some were out of date
- Update them so you dont have to go back to 2009 each time
- The above questions seemed to come mostly from the Deltapatents book, which I had, so I did not make use of them this year.
- I did not take adequate advantage of training from the European Patent Academy.
- Very good for training!! Please update them to newer cases
- The interface was a bit confusing at first but I am afraid I have no constructive pointers...
- Unfortunately I am not aware of these.
- It would be helpful if one could download them all (questions and answers) as a pdf-file. In this way, a candidate can use them without having a computer/smartphone at hand.
- useful
- very good!!
- It's the first time I have heard of them

- -

- There were some bugs on the page
- newer Dates. And some should be clearer
- good questions
- not available in German.

Q35) Please add any comments and suggestions regarding the daily D1 questions:

- If supervisors were forced to allow time for this in the working hours, everybody would pass D-paper far more easily

- -

- It would have been more convenient if the question itself had been included in the email, instead of providing a link to a web page
- Difficult to find on website
- not applicable
- Wusste nicht, dass es sowas gibt...
- Haven't used them as I did not do D, but they look good.
- Seems to be very similar to the selection of essential questions of Delta Patents
- A precious incentive
- I wasn't aware of this feature but will look it up for use in studying for the main exam.
- new questions should be added to the pool used already
- some questions seem to be corrupted/contain severe typos (i.e. wrong year compared to the answer)
- See above!
- to send the answers via e-mail would be useful
- sometime answers contain errors. This kind of answer risks to be misleading
- other languages
- Impossible to combine with full time work
- they did not come regularly
- I entered the list with my email, but didn't get any questions.
- it would be useful if an indication of marks available would be given
- Good reference guide

- None - these are excellent.
- not available in german language
- to keep the level of legal knowledge it is important the questions are released starting from summer not that late in the year
- I did not know about it
- Excellent resource for preparation!
- Did not use them
- nice
- They are very useful to focus how to answer the legal questions of the paper C
- Fine
- very helpfull
- The above questions seemed to come mostly from the Deltapatents book, which I had, so I did not make use of them this year.
- i dont know what is it
- Really useful - please keep them up.
- very helpful !
- Very good!
- the english note form is sometimes confusing for me as a non-native
- I loved it. Please make more :)
- They are very similar to the questions from Deltapatents
- Unfortunately I am not aware of these.
- It would be helpful if one could download them all (questions and answers) as a pdf-file. In this way, a candidate can use them without having a computer/smartphone at hand.
- it keeps you on alert
- not that helpful
- kinda hard for a pre-exam candidate
- -
- Useful to keep the preparation
- not available in German.

Q36) Please add any comments and suggestions regarding the coffee-breaks questions:

They're a bit too simple sometimes (and I do not mean that one period, where for some strange reason the answer was A all the time ;))

- -

- I think these needs to be updated to reflect recent law changes
- too few
- Some of the answers were wrong. That was unhelpful.
- Always the same, no really new or important knowledge.
- Nice to have, but not relevant for exam
- Is there a possibility to also publish the questions online? Sometimes, an e-mail was lost and therefore, I didn't receive the answer.
- Hatte ich abonniert, nach knapp 40 Fragen war Schluss.
- First I thought they were too easy, but they were just good for the pre-exam
- N/a
- Could start earlier and continue longer.
- There are mistakes in some questions. Moreover, I sometimes received the answer before the question itself : Q25+A24, then Q27+A26, then only Q26 + A25
- Very good questions- Thanks
- They were a gentle reminder to stay on track. Thank you for this feature.
- A few of the answers seemed to be incorrect.
- new questions should be added to the pool used already. they could be divided for pre-EQE and main-exam participants
- some questions seem to be corrupted/contain severe typos (i.e. wrong year compared to the answer)
- Some of these questions are not up-to-date
- Nice!
- a bit too easy
- I used them last year and they were OK. However some of the answers were a bit strange. once I posted in the forum and got a reply along the lines of - yes, you are correct, but the required answer is X anyway!
- more PCT
- the suggested solutions to not reflect the complexity of the answers expected in the exam

- They are quite good
- should use them
- I entered the list with my email, but didn't get any questions.
- At a certain time I missed answering a few, and then they jsut started stacking up.
- Provide questions like examination
- they had mistakes in them
- Multiple choice format doesnt help prepare for any part of Paper D
- Have used in the past - they were very good.
- not available in german language
- Some answers were incorrect!
- to keep the level of legal knowledge it is important the questions are released starting from summer not late in the year. Also the questions should be updated. I was following the coffee break questions for my preparation for the pre-exam as well as for the main exam and I have noticed the questions were almost all (if not all) the same
- Some solutions to time-limit questions were wrong, as the dates in the answers were calculated for a wrong year
- some questions or answers never reached my mailbox
- I signed up to these but did not get sent any.
- Too easy
- I did try to enrol several times this year and it was not possible. I did ot received the questions like the previous year
- Unfortunately I didn't have time to look at them
- Rather easy. Also for pre-exam it would me more helpful if there were questions that match the level of the exam.
- nice
- They are very useful to focus how to answer the legal questions of the paper C
- Questions were often changed from previous years but answers were left as per the previous question. This is obviously not helpful when attempting to work out why your answer is wrong. It seems to be another resource provided by the EPO which is not accurate, and considering the highly accurate nature of the job, does not seem to be suitable. It is shocking that teaching materials such as these coffee break questions are not checked before sending them out. They are designed to assist trainees and further their understanding, but more often than not they simply created more confusion.
- Fine

- Some dates had been changes in Q's but not in A's.
- Too easy
- the level of difficulty is very variable
- Too easy and does not at all correspond to the level of main exam questions
- The above questions seemed to come mostly from the Deltapatents book, which I had, so I did not make use of them this year.
- I liked them, more of those please
- good, but sometimes there were errors in the question
- Really useful - please keep them up.
- questions are too easy
- Very good!
- Very good to prepare to the pre eqe
- sometimes I have my difficulties to understand the explanation, since I am a non-native in English
- Loved it.
- In some questions there were mistakes due to old dates or unclear language but in general they were very useful to me.
- It is excellent. Even after passing D, I would enjoy going on making these questions.
- It would be helpful if one could download them all (questions and answers) as a pdf-file. In this way, a candidate can use them without having a computer/smartphone at hand.
- Fit well with pre-exam. Nice concept
- Please offer more than 50 questions
- Too easy
- Examination questions are a completely different level. Bad preparation
- Sometimes the explanations were not sufficient or satisfying
- Add more of them.
- Some of the answers are incorrect - questions updated for new year but answers not updated correctly.
- very well questions
- -

- There are sometimes mistakes in questions/answers and those were confusing.
- Most of them were useful since they covered current problems complementing the matter of the epo-online-training course; some questions were incorrect (eg. regarding cited legal basis)
- Useful to keep the preparation
- The coffee-breaks questions should be more like pre-eqe questions. Currently they are quite different.
- There was some technical trouble, sometimes questions and answers were jumbled up. At least one question was severely outdated (after the 2014 EPC changes).
- far too few
- not available in German.
- Coffee break questions suddenly stopped

Q37) Which additional self-assessment material(s) would be beneficial for the preparation of the EQE in your view?

- Somehow Additional Material on Claim analysis
- a commented EPC and "cheat sheets" on important topics like novelty, claim interpretation, time limit calculation, differences EPC vs. PCT etc.
- -
- more practice questions for the claim analysis section
- Course materials available at a price
- More reasoned analysis test questions on subjective-seeming questions like which document is the closest prior art
- podcasts/audio lectures
- Webinars of procedures before the EPO
- Coffee Break Questions for the claim analysis part!
- DII type questions
- More case studies
- I just need to improve efficiency in sorting out the important information. More practice.
- For mock-exams: as detailed as possible distribution of points
- HOECKSTRA
- setting up CPA and OTP example cases.
- It seems like the pre-exam changes a lot year to year. It would be great to have a warning as to what is expected, for example this year could be that the claims section was substantially

longer.

- A B and D2-like cases as multiple choice quiz. that will resemble situations which we face when solving papers (e.g -is X enabling disclosure? is X entiteled to priority date, will X be able to stop Y when patent whis granted?)

- Questions for Claim analysis prepartion

- Delta Patents D questions

- for paper D it would be very useful if you provide the date of the exam within the compendium

- More computer/mobile device friendly QnAs, flash cards etc.

- Overview of terms and time limits defined in the EPC and the PCT

- time machine

- Material teaching you how to prepare for the exmas, how to divide your time, more strategical advice regarding how to collect points (cuz trying to solve the exams is a shitty way if you want to pass the exams).

- delta patents

- Delta Patents: Main-Exam Questions for Paper D

- Delta Patents questions books

- general exam situation training with a focus on legal stuff

- Weekly/Monthly D2 questions

- Questions more similar to those that will be in the real exam

- Q&A books

- more on PCT

- correction papers from Deltapatents give very good overview of where your answer is lacking sufficient details and legal basis

- more mock-ups fore pre-examination, examiners report on march 2011 and clear expectation for claim analysis

- A larger test bank for the on-line chapter/segment assessments. That way, each time you took the exam a "random" sampling of questions would come up.

- candidates solution with specif. marks

- Questions about novelty, inventive step assessment in simple cases...

- More claim analysis exercises

- More examples of type DI and DII questions.

- Up to the date any of them.

- Delta Patents Main Exam Questions for Paper D
- At the moment, Delta patents seems to be the only source of well thought through answers for the exam. I think it would be very useful to have a more thorough analysis from the EPO as well.
- Compendium
- As long as the format stays the same: More detailed information regarding how much writing is necessary, to what extent there has to be full sentences, and to what extent the candidate can rely on bullet-form answers, acronyms, abbreviations, and aids such as arrows to indicate causality etc.
- Mock exams
- training recent papers from the compendium under time pressure i.e. as in mock exams in order to deduce what is required at examen
- A/B/C/D Papers as in Compendium but under the new structure and the latest EPC/Rules
- claim analysis questions
- Official Annotated EPC
- The mock exam papers
- More questions and more adherent to real examination texts would be useful
- Online EPO course like there is for the pre-examination - this was a great course
- None.
- Sample solutions: Strategic tips for finding answers
- CEIPI Book Paper A, C, D
- More exercises for problem-solution approach.
- More, random legal questions to prepare for the pre-exam
- D1 - questions, which are closer in style compared to real exam questions
- e-courses.epo.org web site. I found that just two days before the pre-exam and I was lucky as one question in there helped in the actual pre-exam.
- Short questions on novelty and inventive step.
- exam related book
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam Book
- A full marking scheme for past papers
- A more elaborate and properly prepared commentary

- More questions on claim analysis
- model answers
- More than one model solution marked in detail for A, B, C and D
- material for papers A, B, C
- Gregory Bacques ! And a lot of pens..
- Mock Exams
- -
- Methodological and explaining why
- If there were more pre-EQE exam papers.
- online training provided directly by the epo.
- pre-exam: claim analysis case studies
- Delta Patents, D-exam was very useful
- Questions in the pre-exam style with yes/no answers in a format similar to the coffee-break questions (i. e. emailed regularly).
- Exam related Questions by DeltaPatents
- new case law
- Broader scope of time limit questions, not just calculation of dates if possible