

Survey

European qualifying examination 2017

Examination Secretariat

EQE Survey 2017

Table of contents

.....	1
Introduction	4
Chapter 1 - Examination Centres	19
1.1 Berlin (54 answers received)	19
1.2 Berne (49 answers received)	23
1.3 Helsinki (30 answers received)	27
1.4 Madrid (42 answers received)	31
1.5 Munich DPMA (37 answers received)	35
1.6 Munich M,O,C (465 answers received)	39
1.7 Paris (137 answers received)	47
1.8 Rome (74 answers received)	52
1.9 Stockholm (56 answers received)	56
1.10 Taastrup (38 answers received)	60
1.11 The Hague (129 answers received)	64
1.12 Walsall (191 answers received)	70
Chapter 2 - Preparation for the EQE	78
Q7) Which examination papers did you sit?	78
Q8) Examiners' report in the Compendium – rating	78
Q9) Elements of your personal preparation	79
Q10) What other books and/or study aids did you use?	81
Q11) Which course(s) did you follow?	89
Q12) Which other elements did you consider important for your personal preparation for the EQE?	96
Q13) How long before sitting the EQE did you start intensive focused study?	105
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?	105
Q15) Do you have comments or suggestions for other candidates preparing for the EQE?	127
Chapter 3 - Training/Employment under Article 11(2)(a) REE	140
Q16) In which EPC member state did you complete most of your training according to Art. 11(2)(a) REE?	140
Q17) I completed most of the training (Art 11(2)(a) REE) in	141
Q18) How would you rate the support of your employer in view of your preparation for the EQE?	141
Q19) How much time did your employer allow for attending courses for your preparation for the EQE?	142
Q20) How would you rate the amount of time allowed by your employer for participation in courses?	142
Q21) 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)?	143
Q21a) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the first year of training?	143
Q21b) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the second year of training?	143

Q21c) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the third year of training?	144
Q22) What would you suggest to supervisors in order to improve candidates' preparation for the EQE?	144
Q23) In how many opposition cases were you involved during your 3-year training period?.....	151
Q24) How did your supervisor as defined by Art. 11(2)(a) REE train you for paper C?.....	151
Q25) How did you prepare for paper C apart from the training you received from your supervisor?	155
Chapter 4 - EQE papers	158
Q26) Which of the following best describes the technical area you are working in?	158
Q27) EQE papers - Please rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2017 ..	158
Q27a) What reference book was the most useful for the preparation of the pre-examination?.....	160
Q27b) What reference book was the most useful while sitting the pre-examination?.....	161
Q27c) How did you allocate the available time during the pre-examination?.....	164
Q27d) What is your opinion about the time available for the pre-examination paper you sat in 2017?.....	164
Q27e) Any comment on the pre-examination?.....	165
Q28) Please rate the difficulty of the main examination paper(s) you sat in 2017	173
Q29) Additional comments concerning the difficulty of the main examination papers	174
Q30) Did you feel time pressure during the examination?	189
Q31) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the main examination paper you sat in 2017?	189
Q31a) Do you think that the additional thirty minutes have improved your performance in the main examination paper(s) you sat?.....	191
Q31b) Do you think that even more time would have improved your performance in the main examination paper(s) you sat?	191
Q32) Do you have any comments concerning the time available for the examination papers?	191
Chapter 5 - Training from the European Patent Academy	204
Q33) How would you rate the following learning materials provided by the European Patent Academy?	204
Q34) Please add any comments and suggestions regarding the learning materials mentioned above	206

Introduction

On 10 March 2017 candidates were invited to participate in a survey concerning the European qualifying examination 2017. 1307 answers were received by 10 April 2017.

Among the candidates who participated in the survey, 697 took part in the EQE for the first time, 607 re-sat the examination.

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

.....

Wir bedanken uns bei allen Bewerbern, die an der Umfrage teilgenommen haben. Wir freuen uns, dass Sie sich die Zeit für die Beantwortung der Fragen genommen haben.

Das Prüfungssekretariat

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

Nous souhaitons remercier tous les candidats qui ont participé à l'enquête. Nous vous sommes reconnaissants d'avoir pris le temps de répondre au questionnaire.

Le secrétariat d'examen

EQE Survey 2017

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 2017?

please select

- ☐ Berlin
- ☐ Berne
- ☐ Helsinki
- ☐ Madrid
- ☐ Munich DPMA
- ☐ Munich M,O,C
- ☐ Paris
- ☐ Rome
- ☐ Stockholm
- ☐ Taastrup
- ☐ The Hague
- ☐ Walsall

Q3) Examination centres - rating

Please rate

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

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?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q5) Examination centres - rating

Please rate

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

Q6) Additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions

Please add your comments

Seite 2

Q7) Which examination papers did you sit?

- ☐ Pre-examination
- ☐ Paper A
- ☐ Paper B
- ☐ 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 <u>composed</u> ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the examiners' report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how the papers are <u>marked</u> ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q9) Elements of your personal preparation

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

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

Q10) What other 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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q19) How much time did your employer allow for attending courses for your preparation for the EQE? Please indicate the number of working days:

Please select

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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q21) 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:

Please select

Q21a) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the first year of training? Please indicate the percentage:

Please select

Q21b) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the second year of training? Please indicate the percentage:

Please select

Q21c) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the third year of training? Please indicate the percentage:

Please select

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

Q23) In how many opposition cases were you involved during your 3-year training period? Please indicate the number of cases:

Please select ▼

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

- ☐ Biochemistry
- ☐ Chemistry
- ☐ Electronics
- ☐ Mechanics
- ☐ Physics
- ☐ Other

Pre-examination

Q27) Please rate the difficulty of the pre-examination paper you sat in 2017

	Too easy	Easy	Adequate	Difficult	Too difficult
Pre-examination as a whole	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-examination (legal questions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-examination (claim analysis)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q27a) 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)

Q27b) 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)

Q27c) How did you allocate the available time during the pre-examination?

- ☐ 30% or less of the time for the claim analysis section / 70% or more for the legal section
- ☐ 40% of the time for the claim analysis section / 60% for the legal section
- ☐ 50% of the time for the claim analysis section / 50% for the legal section
- ☐ 60% of the time for the claim analysis section / 40% for the legal section
- ☐ 70% or more of the time for the claim analysis section / 30% for the legal section

Q27d) What is your opinion about the time available for the pre-examination paper you sat in 2017?

	Too much	Enough	Borderline	Not enough	By far not enough
Pre-examination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q27e) Any comment on the pre-examination?

Main examination

Q28) Please rate the difficulty of the main examination paper(s) you sat in 2017

	Too easy	Easy	Adequate	Difficult	Too difficult
Paper A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q29) Additional comments concerning the difficulty of the main examination papers

--

Q30) Did you feel time pressure during the main examination?

☐ yes☐ no

Q31) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the main examination paper you sat in 2017?

	Too much	Enough	Borderline	Not enough	By far not enough
Paper A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q31a) Do you think that the additional thirty minutes have improved your performance in the main examination paper(s) you sat?

Please choose ☐ Yes ☐ Indifferent ☐ No

Q31b) Do you think that even more time would have improved your performance in the main examination paper(s) you sat?

Please choose ☐ Yes ☐ Indifferent ☐ No

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

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 learning materials provided by the European Patent Academy?

Please rate on a scale

	Not applicable	Very good	Good	Adequate	Bad	Very bad
Time limit questions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Daily D1 questions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coffee-break questions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commented C papers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video interview presenting changes in A and B papers for 2017	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q34) Please add any comments and suggestions regarding the learning materials mentioned above:

End of survey

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

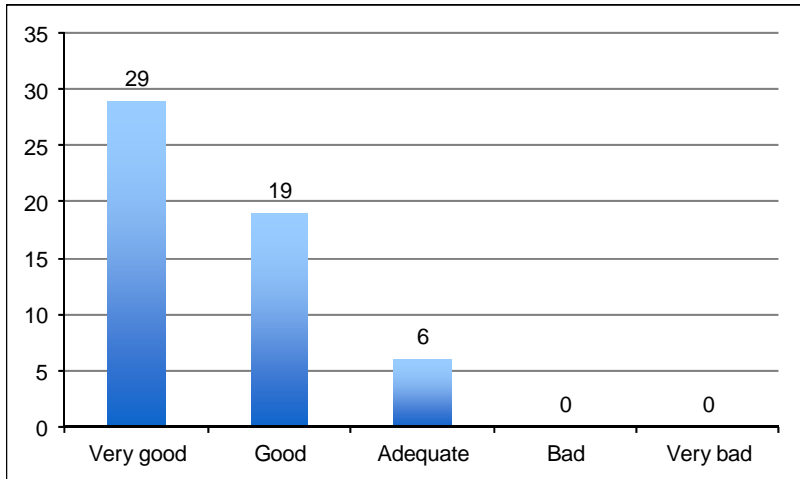
Thank you for participating in the survey.

Chapter 1 - Examination Centres

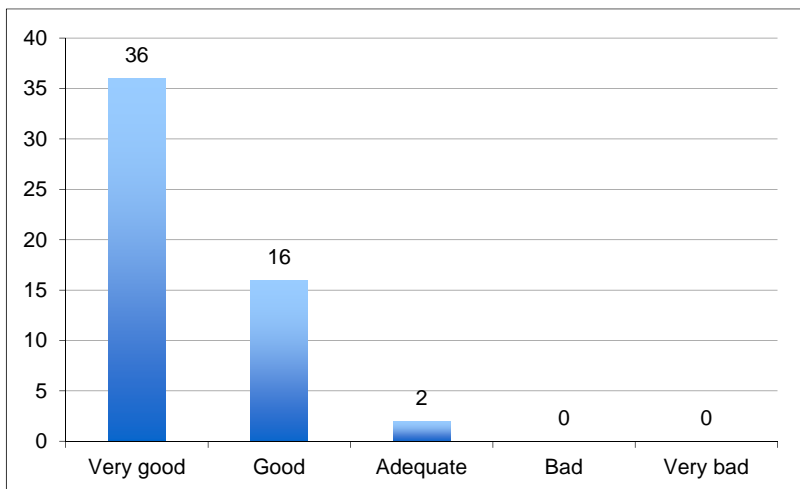
1.1 Berlin (54 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

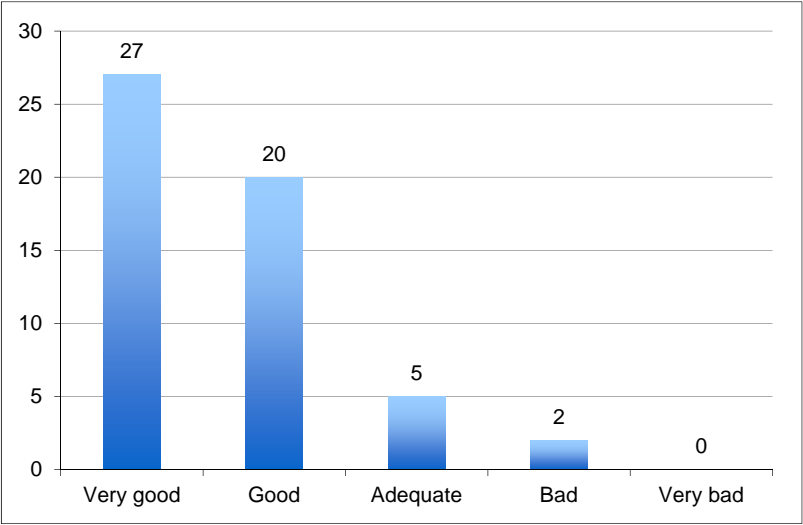
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



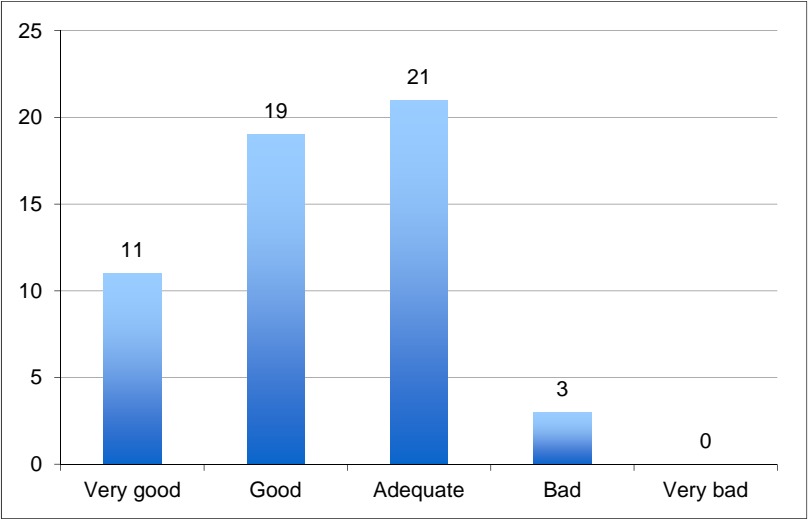
Identification check



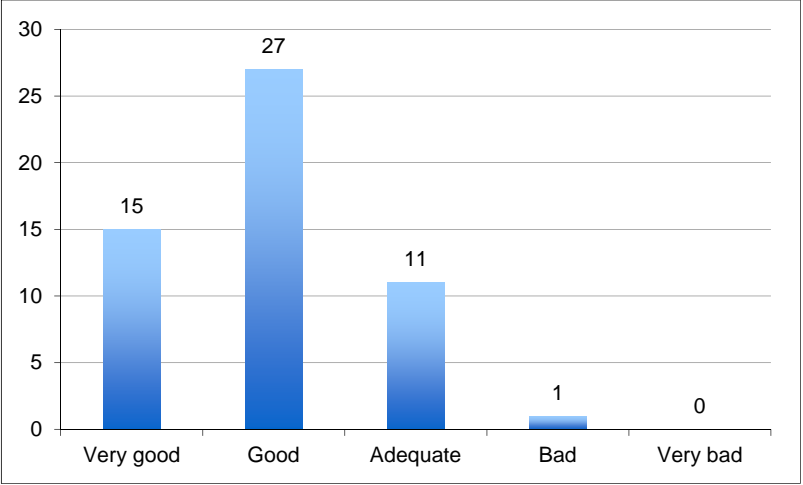
Lighting conditions



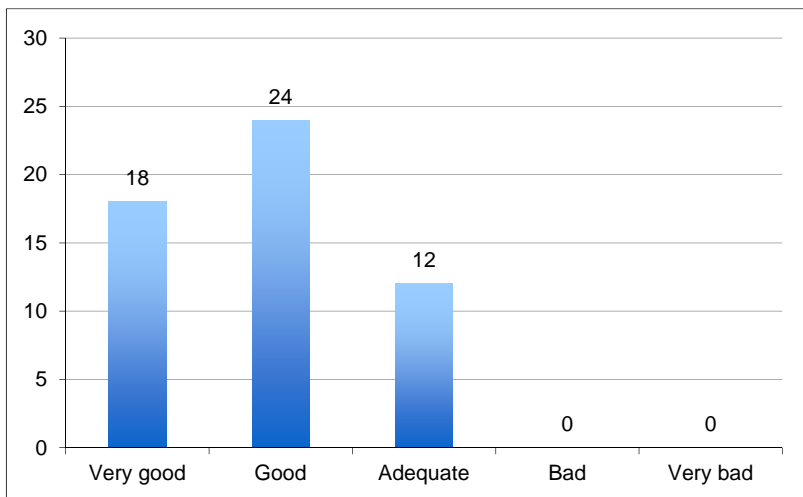
Space for candidates



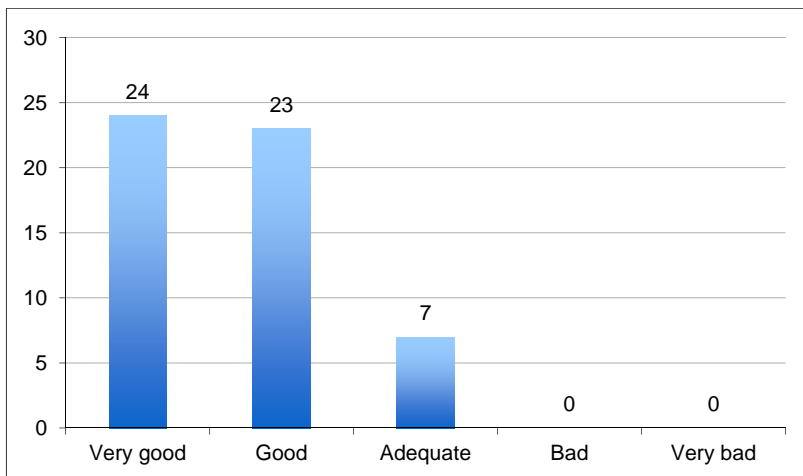
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



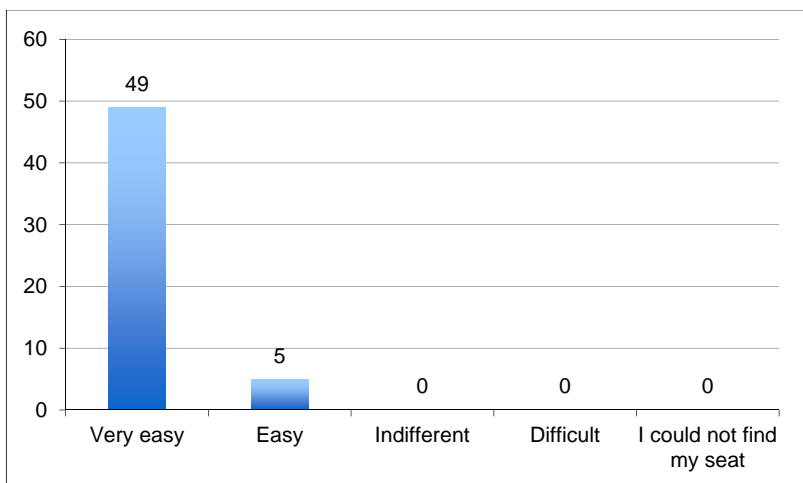
Restroom facilities



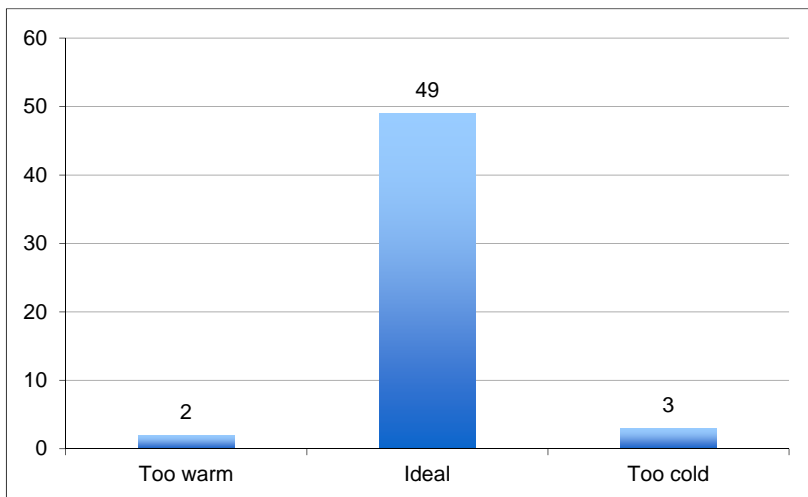
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



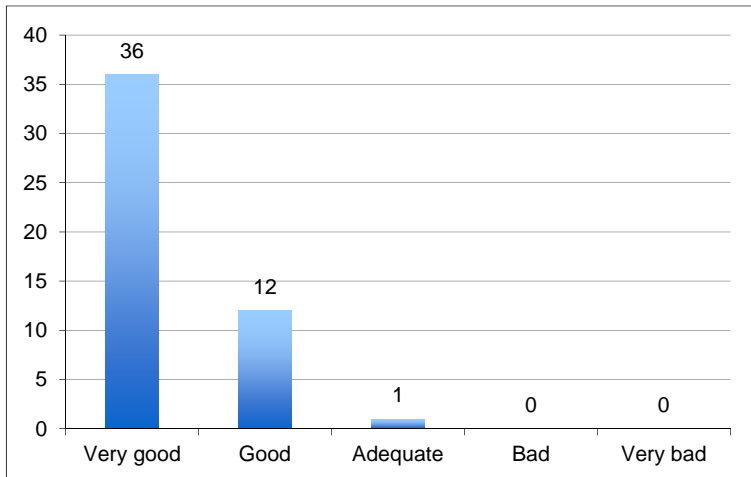
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Circulation of fresh air may be improved by using the air condition for about 15 min. after each paper sat and the candidates left the hall. ; ; Otherwise after the three days of exam stagnant air may accumulates, especially for tackling paper C.
- Great atmosphere, very kind supervisors
- Nice examination hall, not too big, comfortable atmosphere
- Air was getting a bit used up, but invigilators were doing their best to adjust without too much interruption. It did not really pose a problem
- I could have done with a bigger table
- The air conditioning was turned off on no windows could be opened. After a few hours the oxygen level became so bad, that the level of concentration dropped significantly and a lot of people (me included) complained about headachse, afterwards. ; ; PLEASE, provide better air conditioning otherwise concentrating and writing for 5,5 hours is nearly impossible!
- Lack of fresh air in the end
- Well, after three days the air in the room wasn't too fresh anymore due to the lack of windows. But it wasn't too bad either.
- A cupboard for each candidate would be helpful to maintain the overview of the working place. Moreover, i was surprised that blank paper was Not handed over together with the examination folder.
- Berlin centre has stairs in the entry hall and unfortunately no elevator. It's quite difficult to get the suitcase with all the books up there.
- Lighting was in such a way that it was not possible to sit at the table without casting a cloud over the exam paper
- Good atmosphere!
- Air quality should be improved / air condition should be turned on.
- Difficult exam ;-(

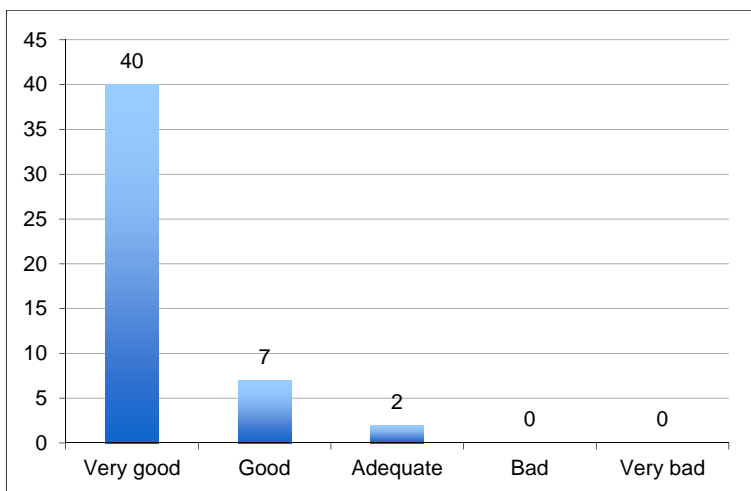
1.2 Berne (49 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

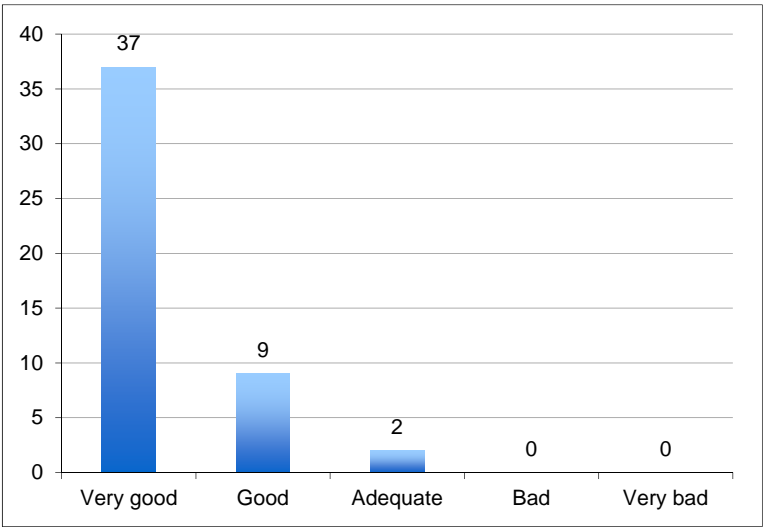
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



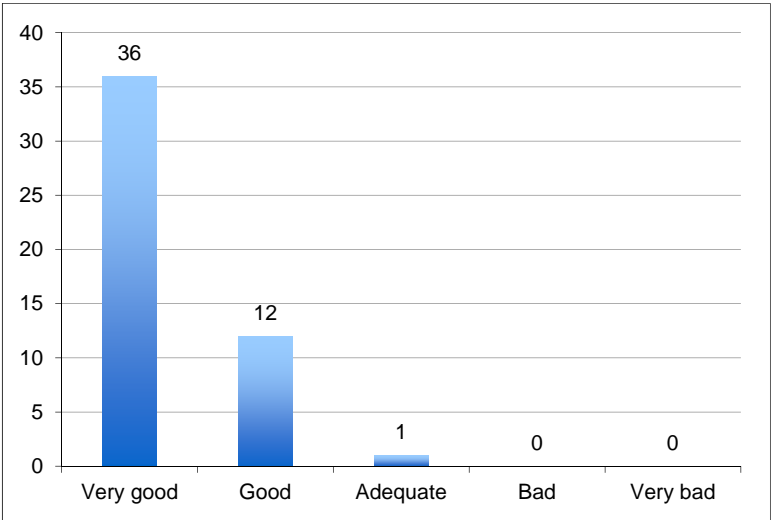
Identification check



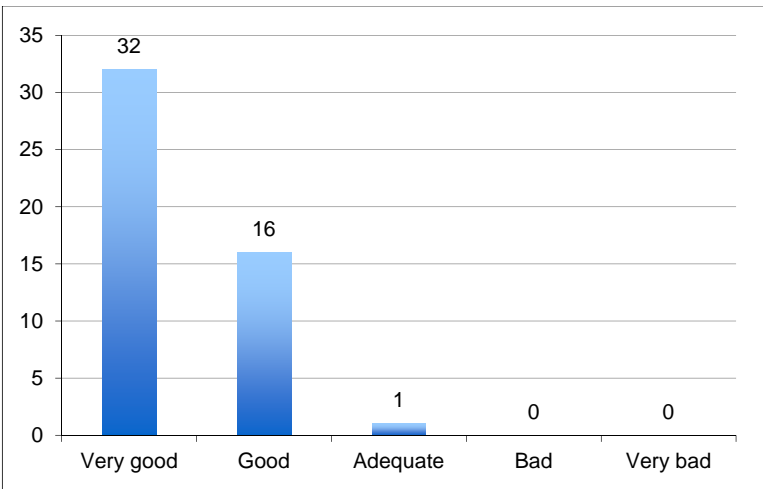
Lighting conditions



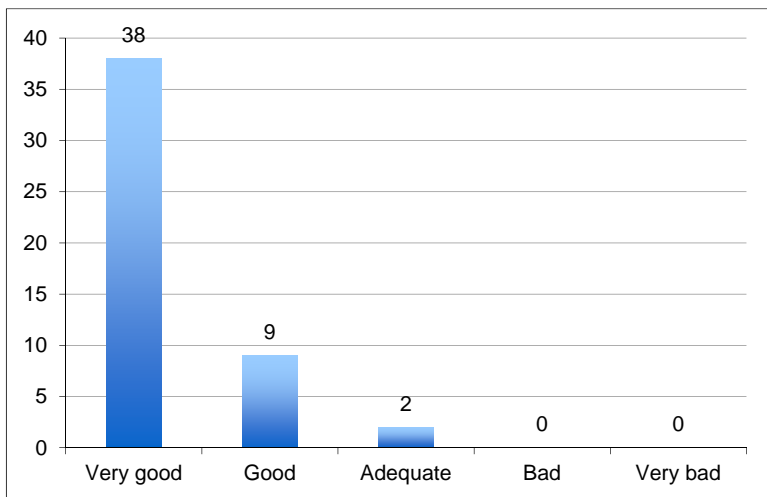
Space for candidates



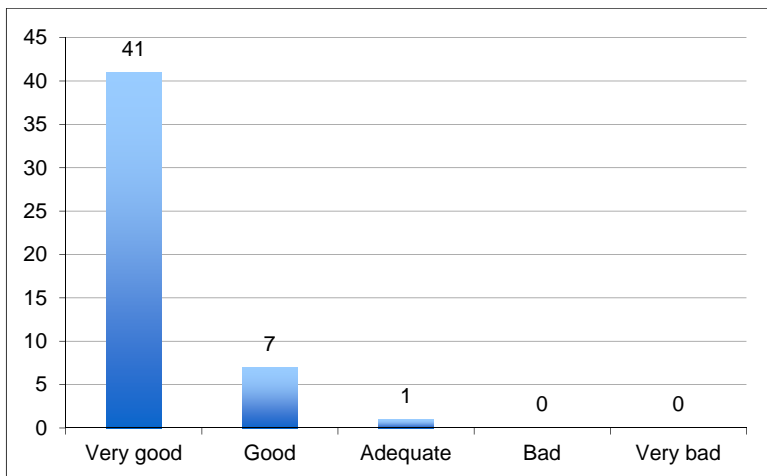
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



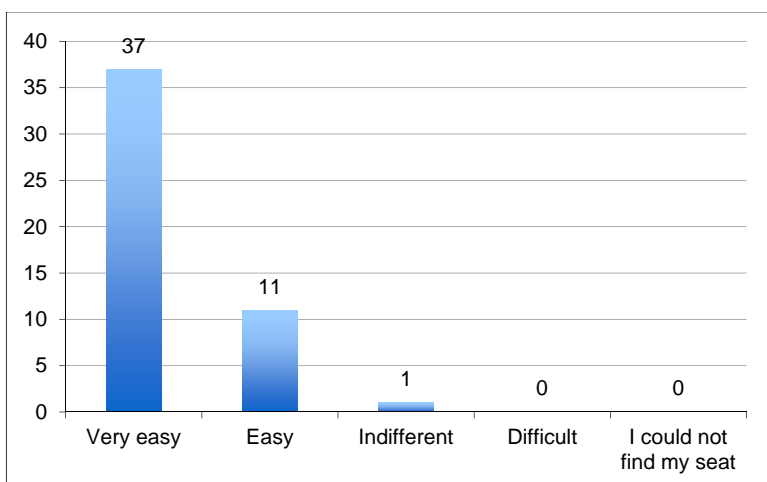
Restroom facilities



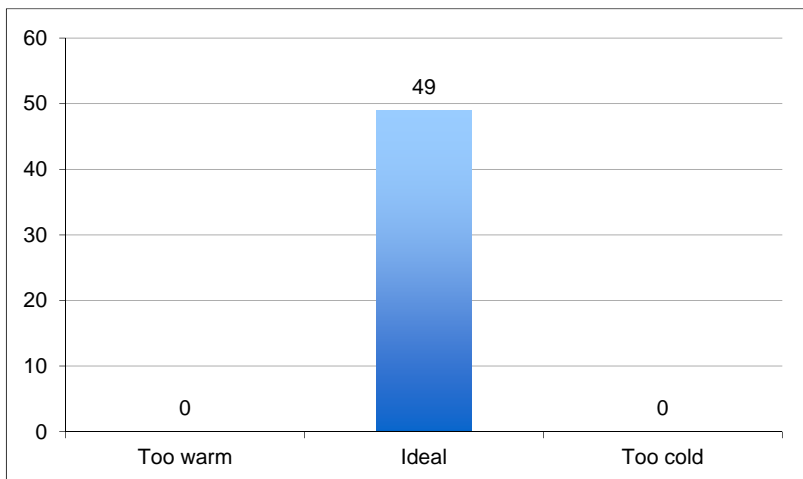
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



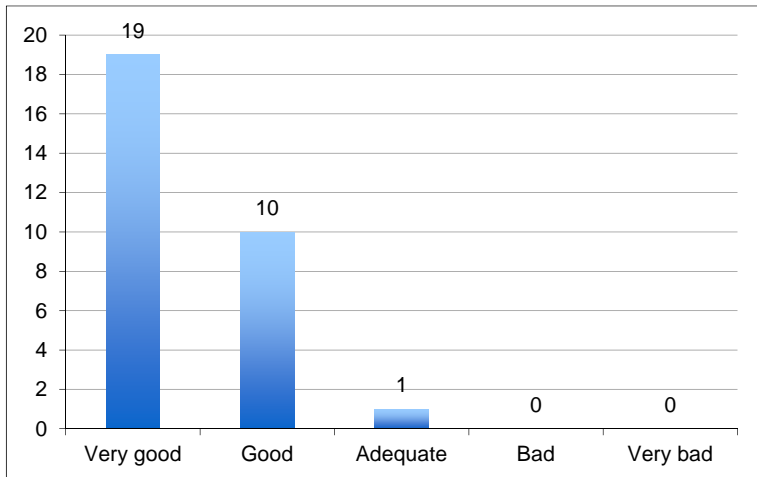
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- The best one no need to change Bern examination all. It is just perfect
- The lightning system in the Berne examination centre has been exchanged in the last year and is now very good
- Amazing location and conditions
- Everything was prefect
- It was very nice, that for those who wanted, a lunch was organized on the second day. However, as I was not aware of this possibility, I could not use it.
- Perfect conditions in Berne.
- Great place - convenient, easy to find, perfect atmosphere.
- It would be better to do the identification check once entering the exam hall.

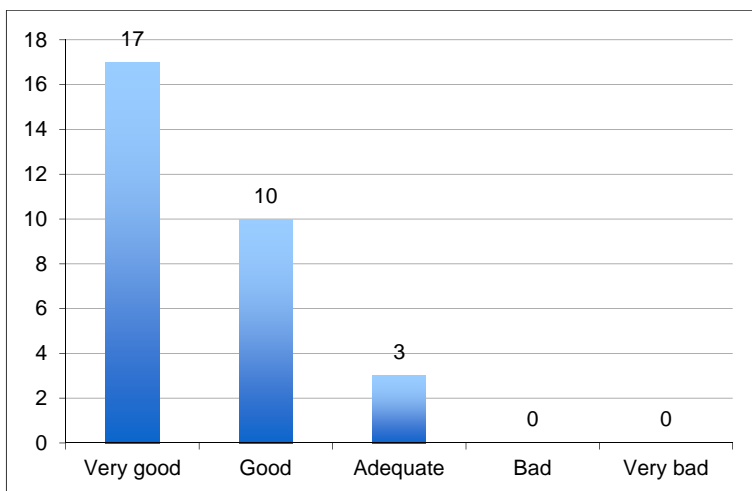
1.3 Helsinki (30 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

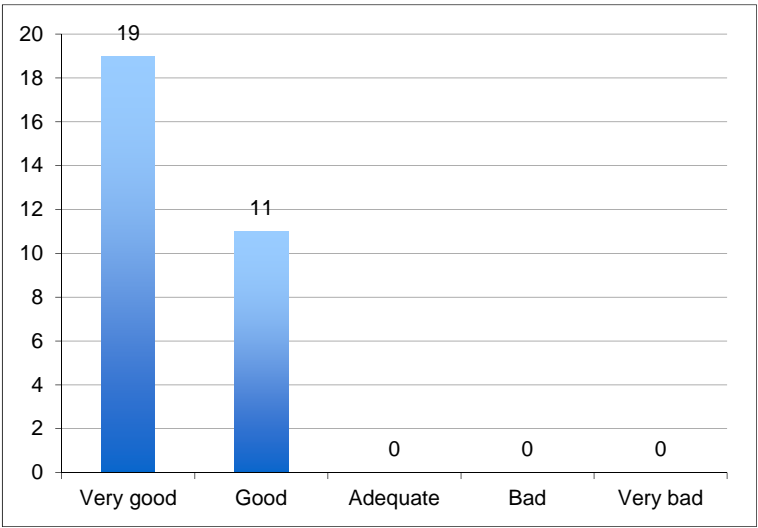
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



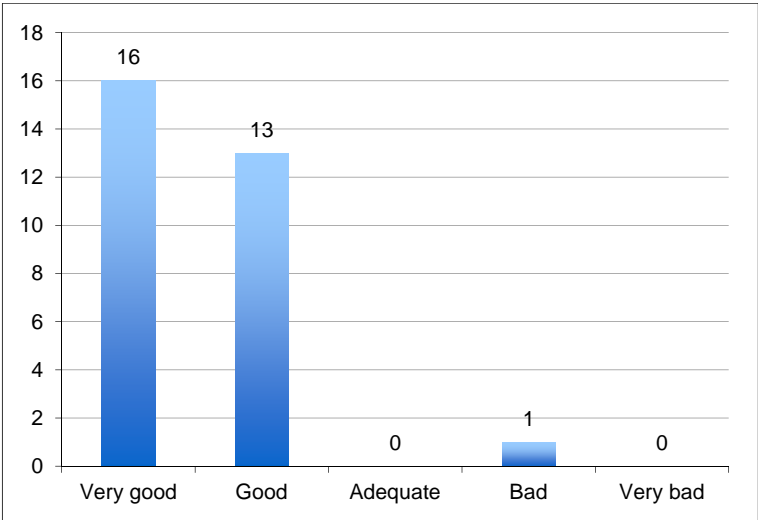
Identification check



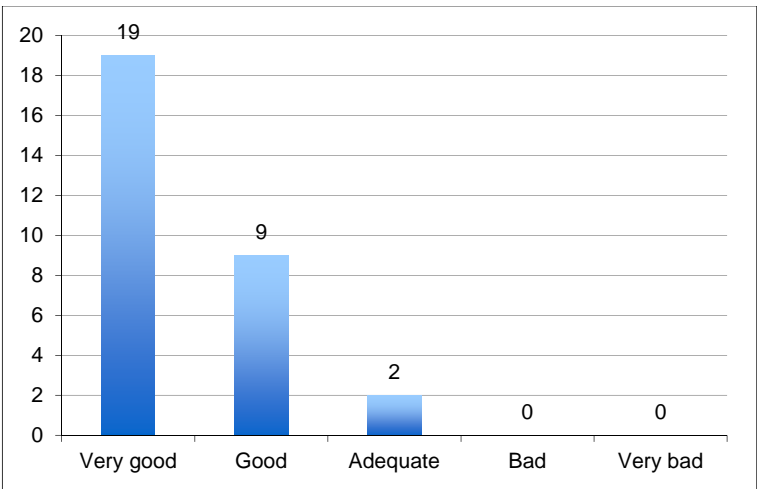
Lighting conditions



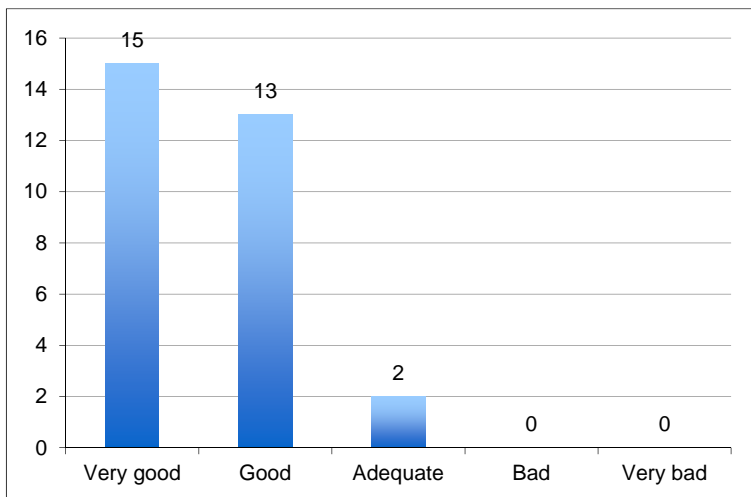
Space for candidates



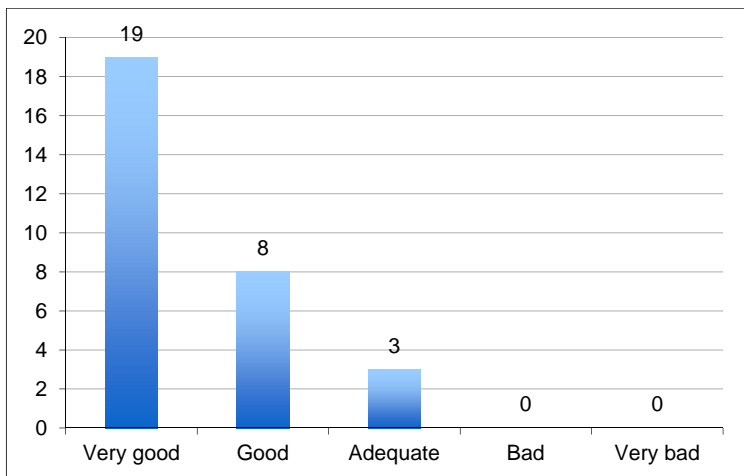
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



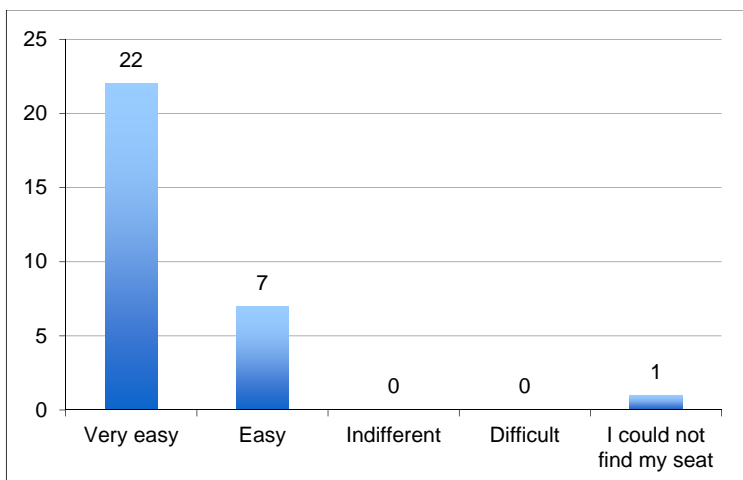
Restroom facilities



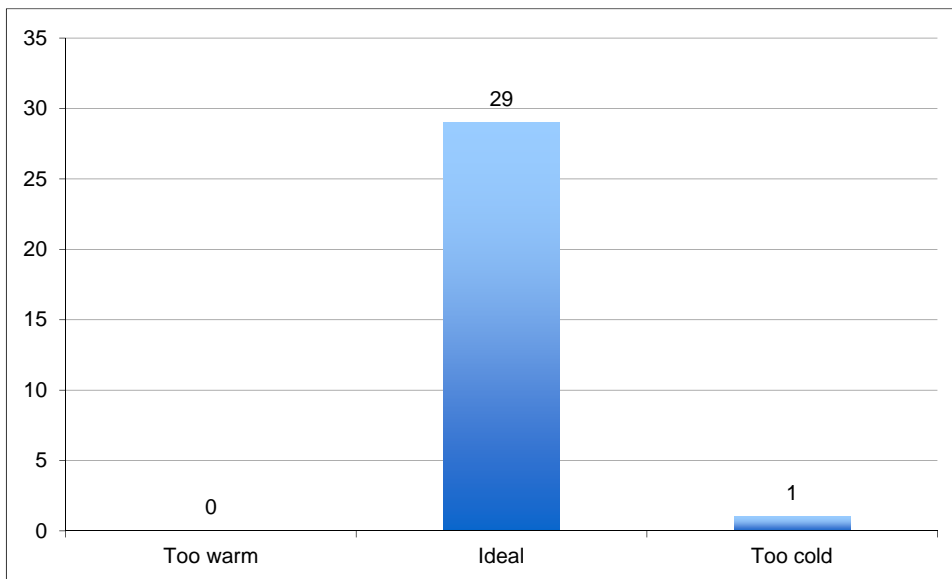
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



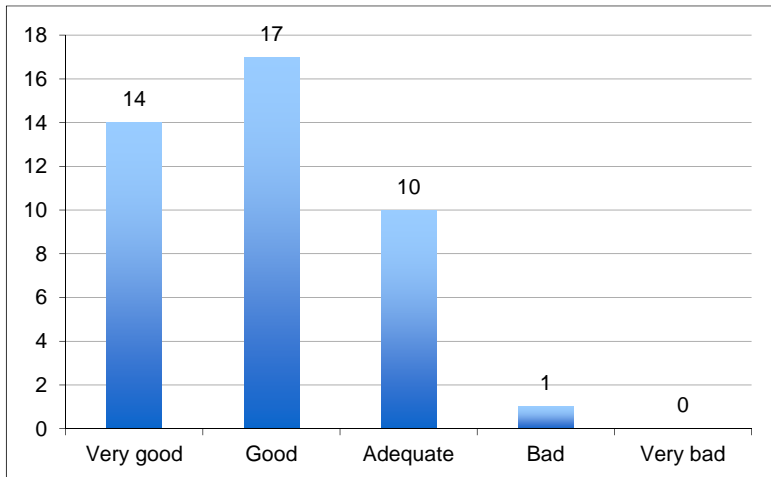
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- No problems, everything was well organized.
- Some of the tables are smaller than others.
- No further comments
- Helsinki was very good in all aspects.
- Nothing to complain, Helsinki is quite perfect.
- I had been assigned a seat which did not exist. After informing the invigilators, I was assigned another one, which turned out to be already taken. Then I had to wait for some time to be given a free seat. This was not too bad, since there was still time to organize my materials etc., but it was a bit nerve-racking given the circumstances and the level of overall nervousness experienced at the time. I wish they'd gone through the seating plan beforehand to avoid this confusion.
- Excellent examination hall
- Some slight noise was heard briefly behind the back wall of the room where I think there are some PRH staff's rooms. This is of course fully unnecessary hindrance for the candidates. The ID check was not that good because after the start of the exam, the invigilator audibly asked for the driving licence while I had it already on the table (he looked from the wrong side) -> this was unnecessary as well. Also I would cut away all the walking made by the invigilators in the center of the room (in the "aisles"), for just monitoring purposes of the candidates' "cheatings", because at least in the Finnish EQE, no-one comes to cheat in this kind of an exam. As you see, I'm quite prone to get hindered by any external activities or sounds. Still, I think I managed these activities pretty well regarding my own concentration ability.
- Conditions are excellent in Helsinki examination hall. There is suitable amount of space and everything is organized very well in advance.
- Nice and quiet

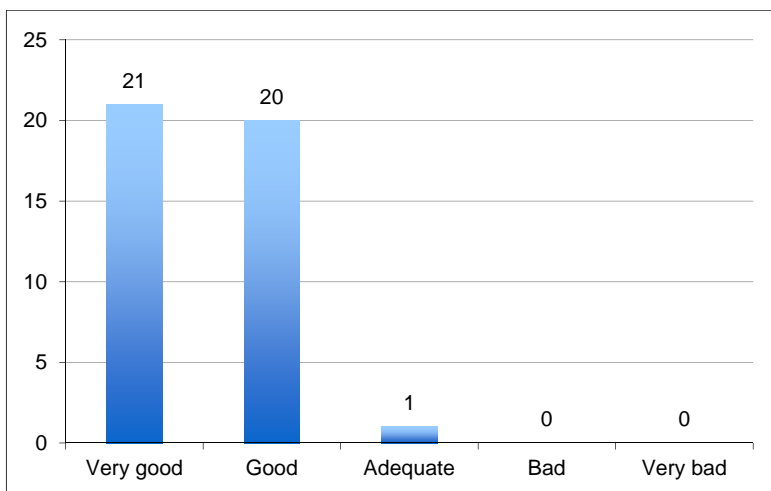
1.4 Madrid (42 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

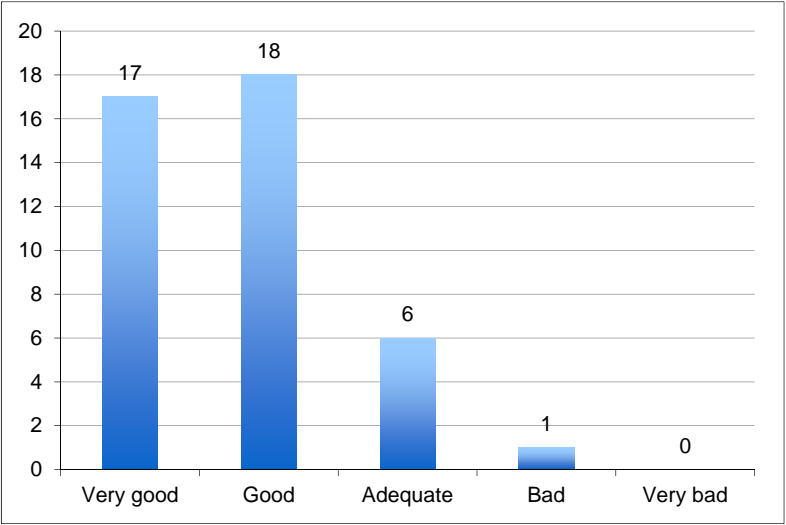
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



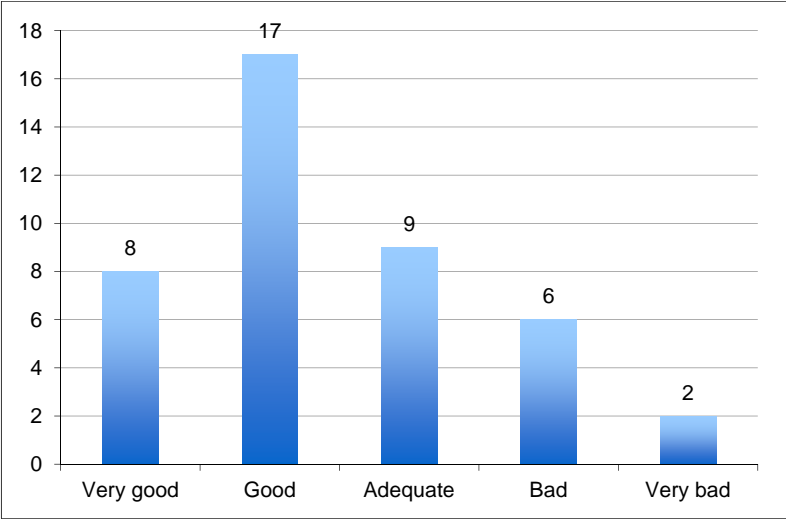
Identification check



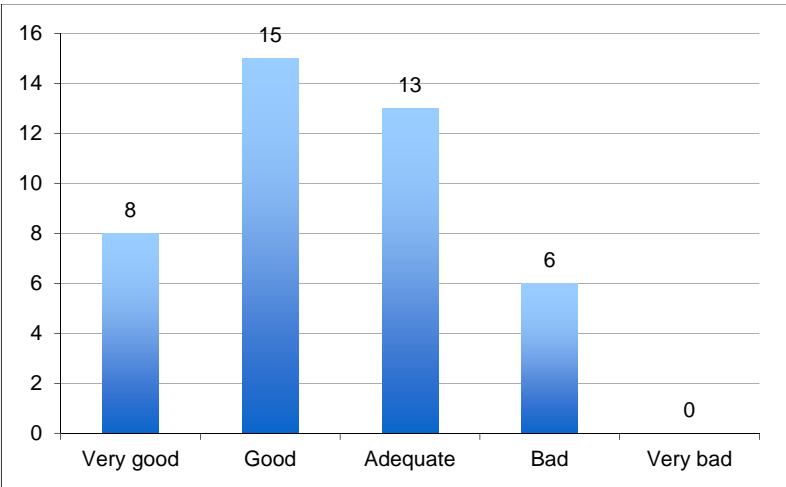
Lighting conditions



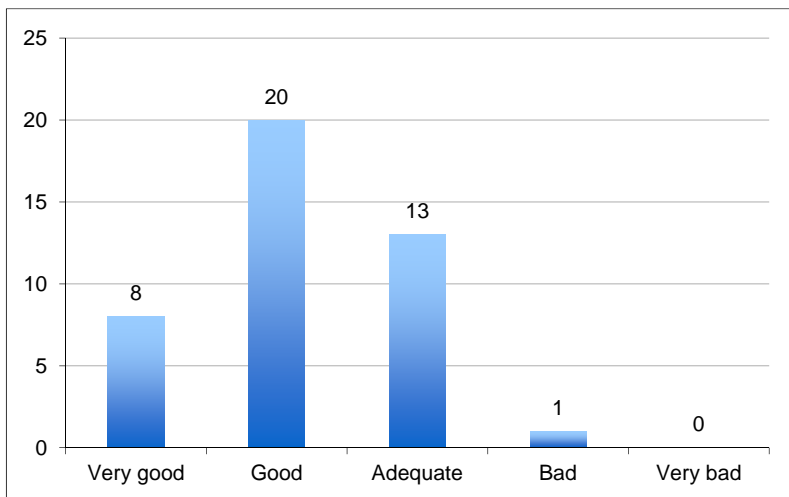
Space for candidates



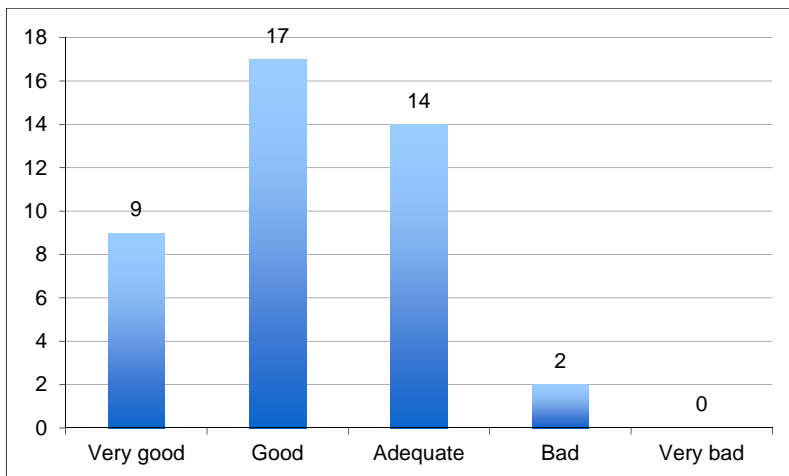
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



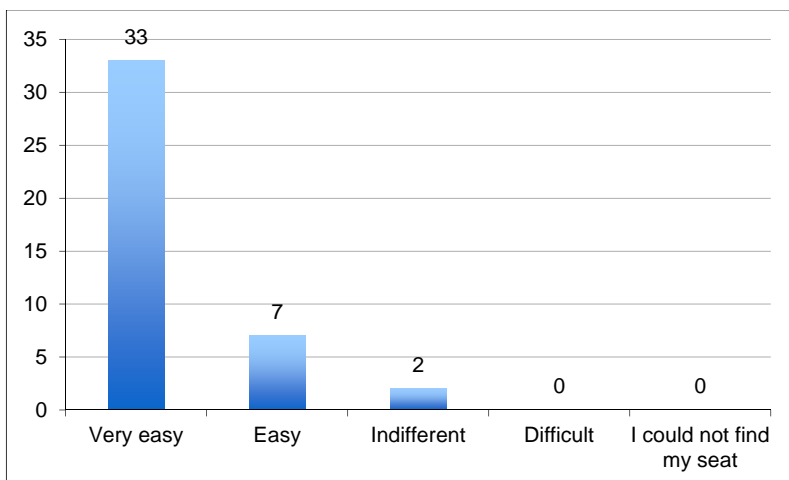
Restroom facilities



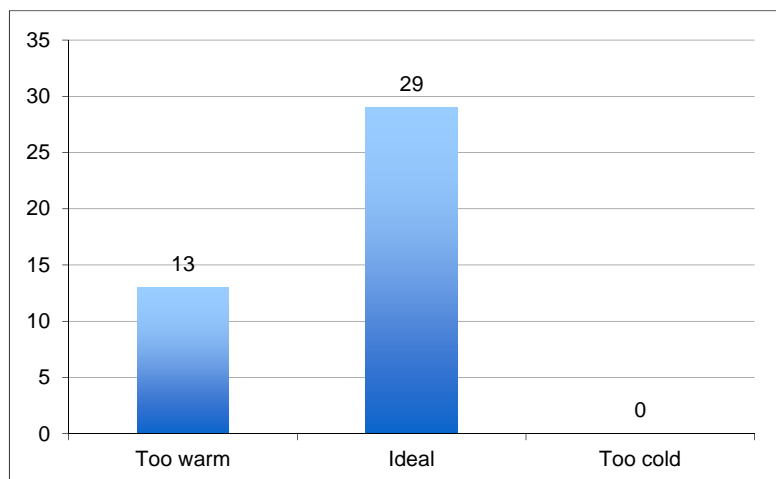
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



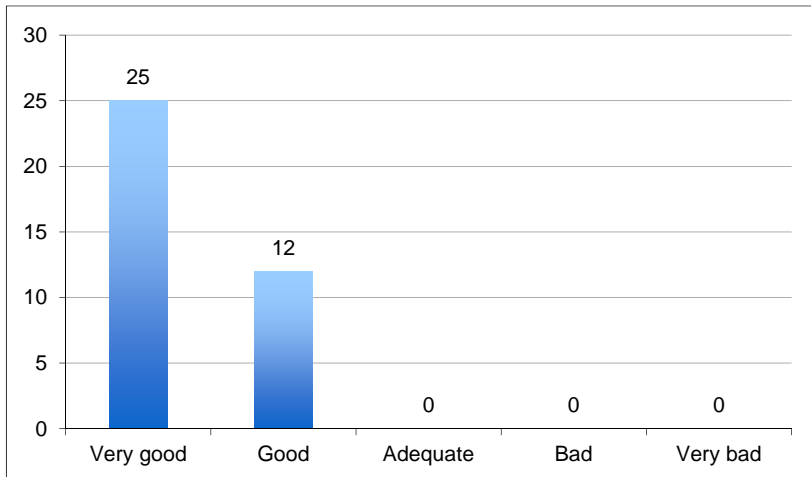
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- For certain papers, for instance, papers B and C, desks were large horizontally, but not vertically which would help candidates to organize better the several documents given from the papers, prior art documents for instance.
- Nothing else to add.
- The tables are not good. They have tablecloth which makes more difficult writing in the paper.; ; The amount of paper for answering the questions was not much
- There is difficulty accessing the room with suitcases because there are only stairs.
- Although the tables have a good width, they are too narrow (the space in front of you), which leads to too few room near the candidate to place all the pages, books, etc. The room was either too hot (when the AC was off) or too cold (when the AC was on), and I think the responsible team couldn't do much more about the temperature. Occasional noises of construction works could be heard in the outside of the room during every exam.
- As mentioned, the temperature was too high, in particular in the afternoon.; And the table was small, too narrow for having extended all documents
- Very width tables but not depth enough to place the documents in front of you. The depth was just for one A4 document, the rest of documents had to be distributed on the right and left hand and this makes it very uncomfortable to handle all information, specially for paper C. Also, the tables were covered with a very long tablecloth which also covered the thighs.
- The Hall temperature is completely unadequate, it is always over an ideal temperature for intellectual tasks. This is recurrent all over the past years. The C day an air-conditioning was in order but for a very short term, any candidate sweats a lot of hours, which influences on the mental efficiency. Please, keep the temperature under a reasonable range. Please, please, please.
- You have to go upstairs with a very heavy suitcase.
- There is no lift to access the examination hall (we need to carry our luggage to a first floor)
- Tables should be deeper, thus, one could write having the relevant documents surrounding the paper you are writing on. Tables need not be so wide: farther ends of the table are useless.
- It was nice to have a bottel of water on my table
- Too hot, too harm for...."The King in the North"....please review ventilation conditions.
- The tables are a bit too small (particularly the width) for organizing all the books one normally carry, particularly for paper D.
- Tables too narrow.

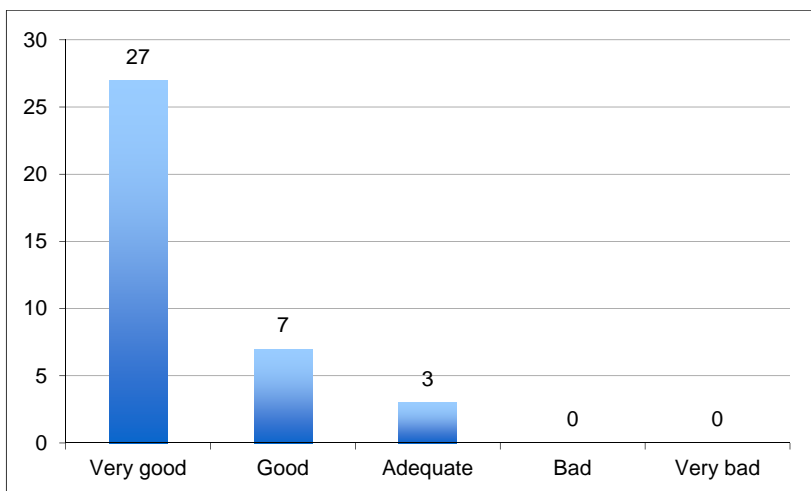
1.5 Munich DPMA (37 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

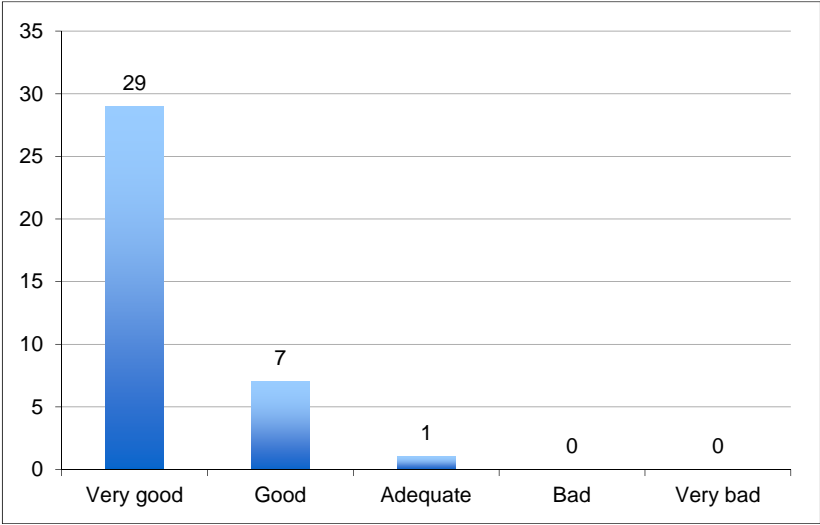
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



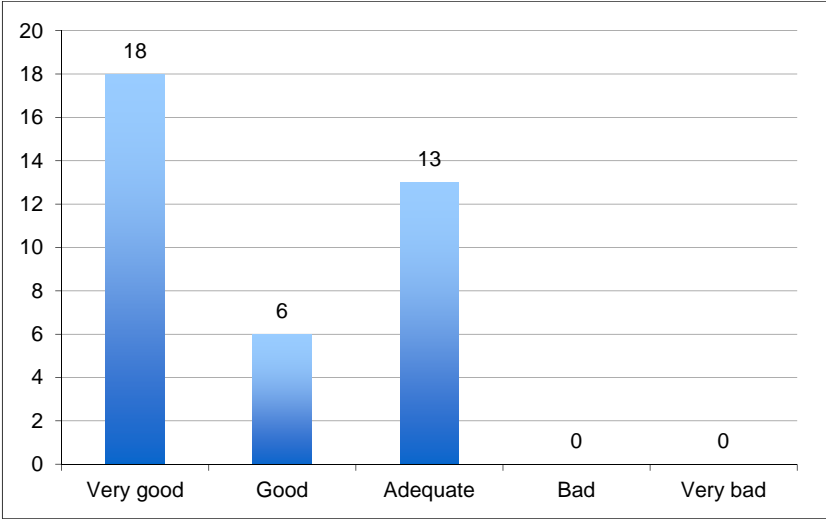
Identification check



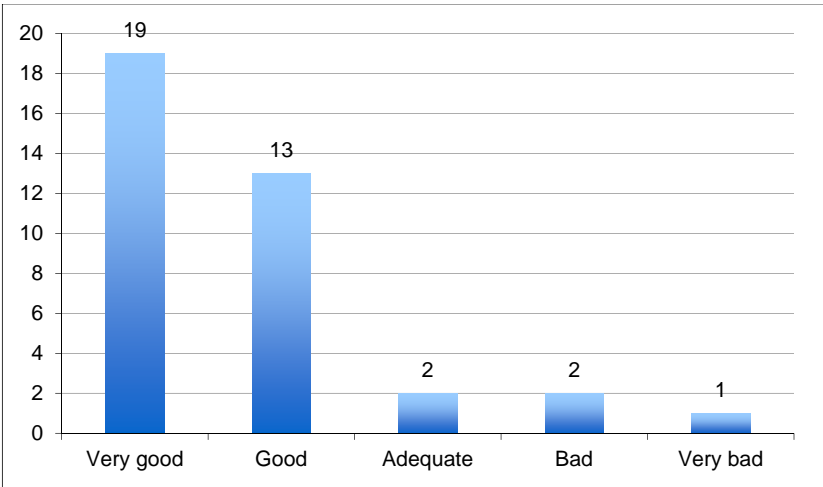
Lighting conditions



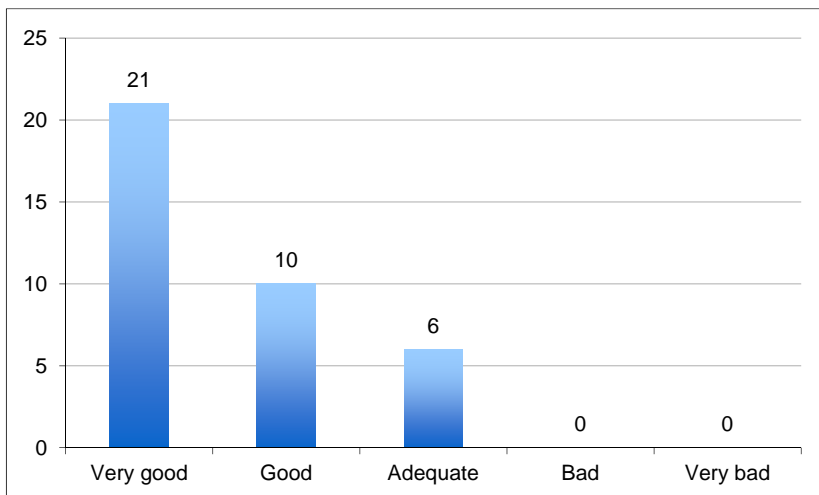
Space for candidates



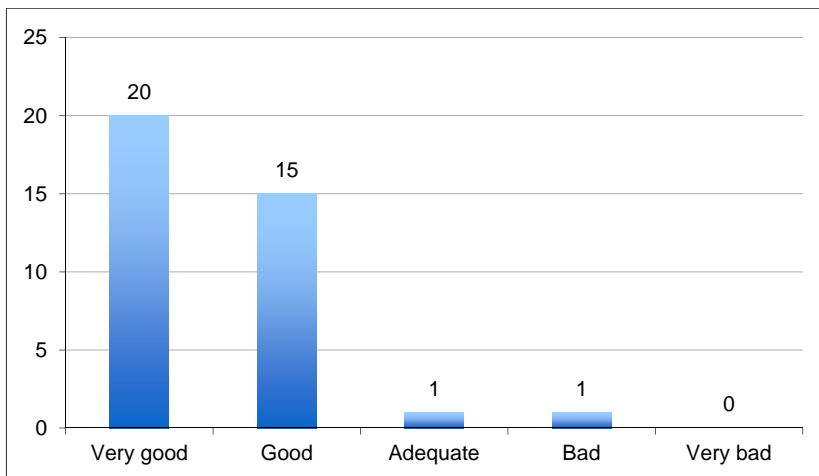
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



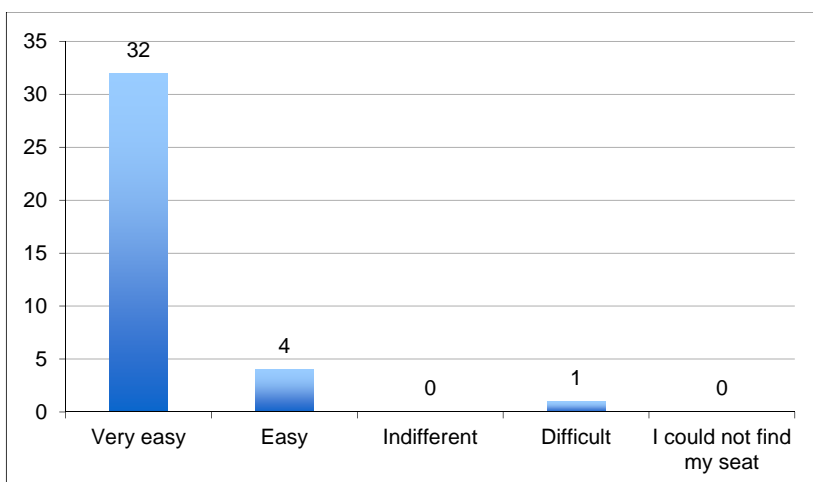
Restroom facilities



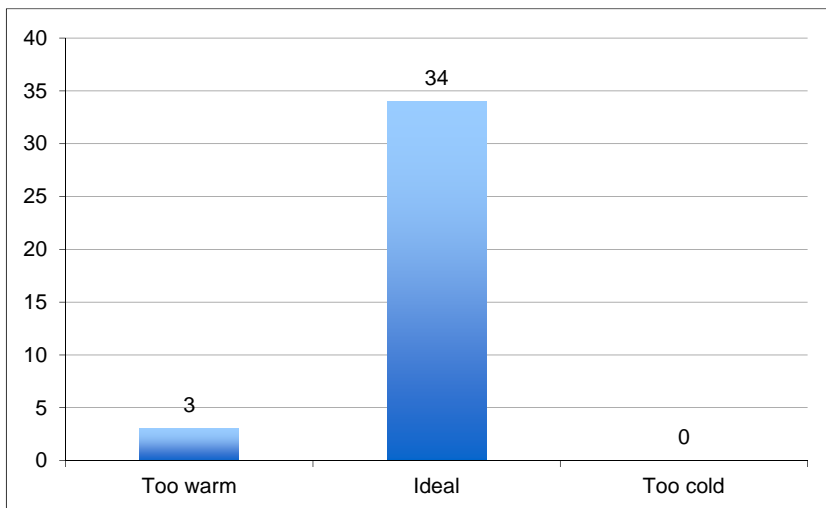
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



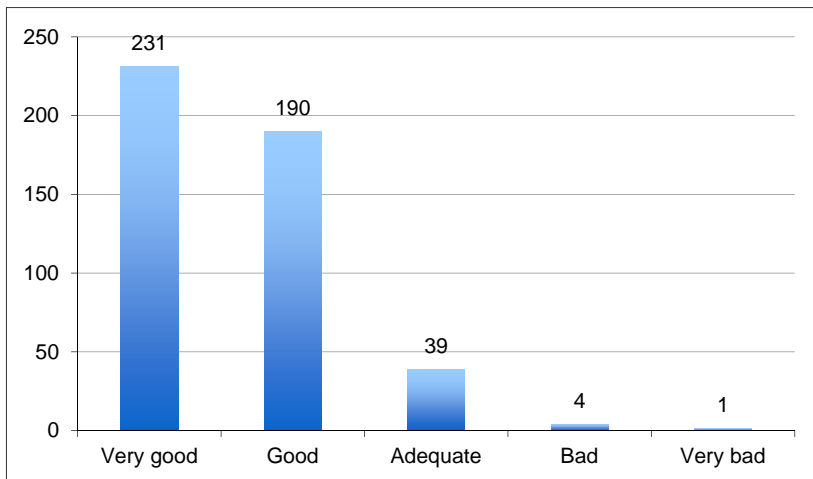
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Schlechte Luft schon nach 2h.
- It was a very pleasant atmosphere, very good for writing all four parts of the examination.
- To sum up, it was very agreeable to write in this DPMA-room.
- Very good conditions!
- The tables were arranged too close, so that noise generated by a neighbor eating during the exam was disturbing.; One aisle was not enough - candidates walked slalom between the tables to get to the restrooms which was also disturbing.; High background noise level.
- Keine Lüftung, dauerhaft geschlossene Fenster und viele Kandidaten machte die Luft sehr stickig. Bekanntermaßen ist dies nachteilig für die Hirn-Leistung

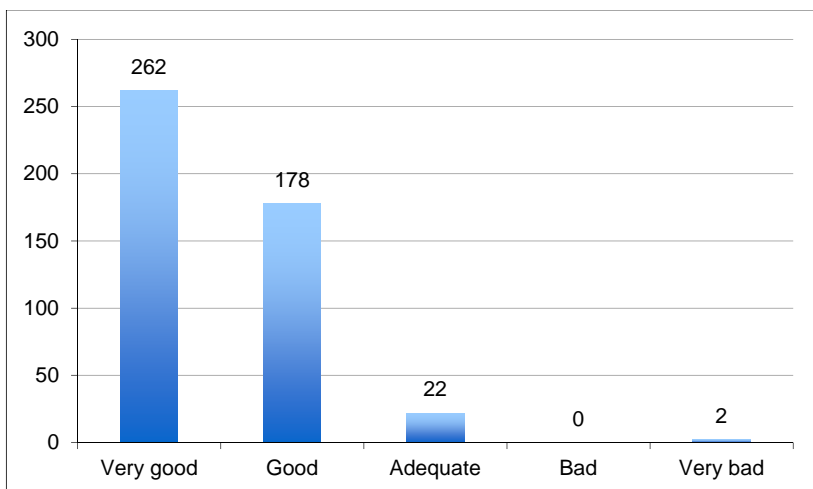
1.6 Munich M,O,C (465 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

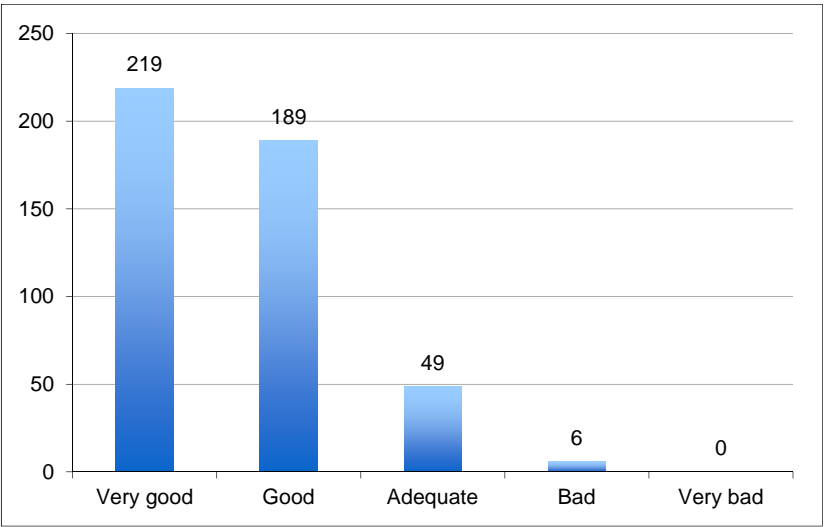
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



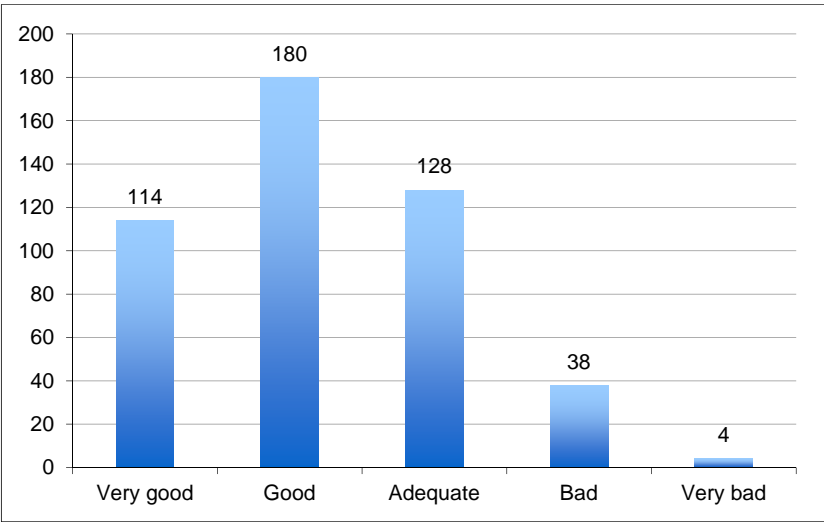
Identification check



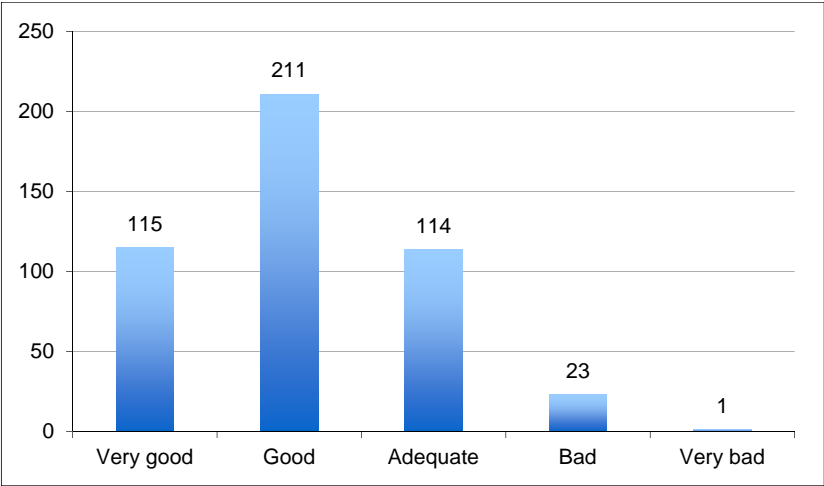
Lighting conditions



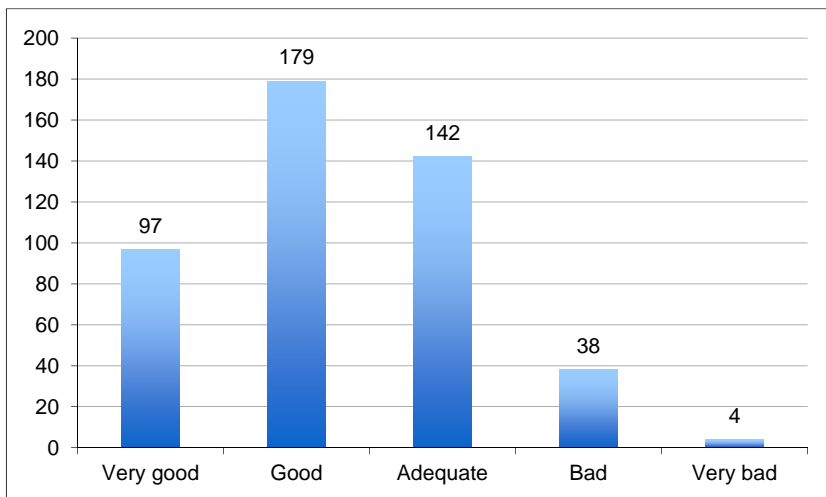
Space for candidates



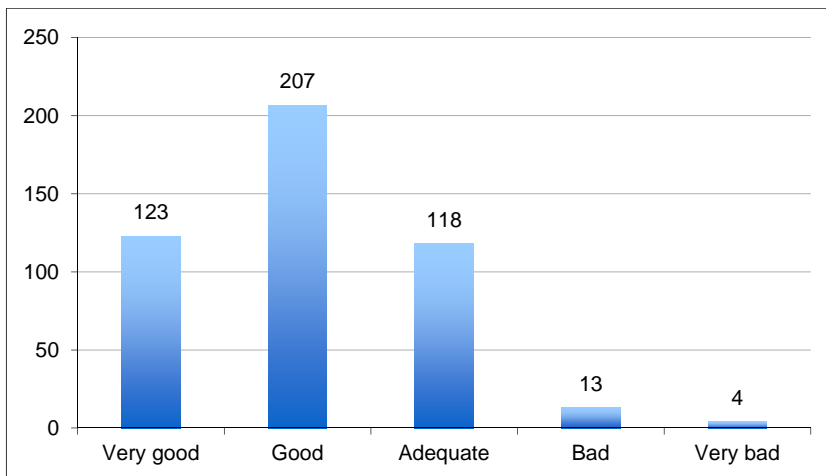
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



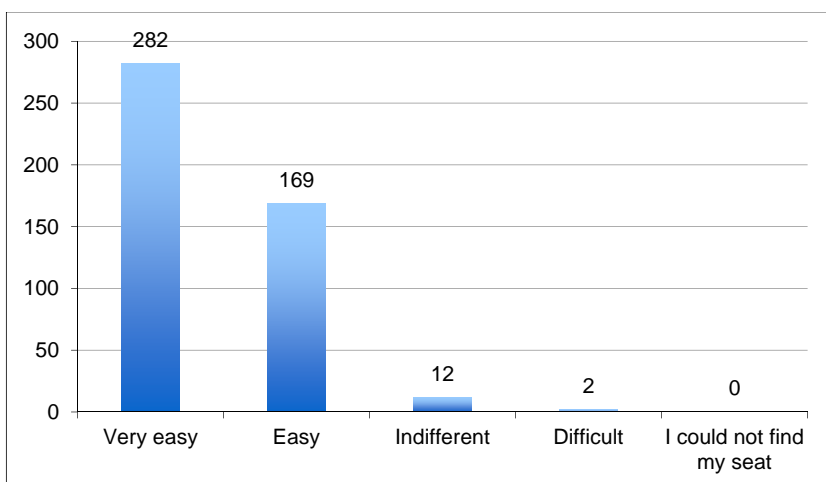
Restroom facilities



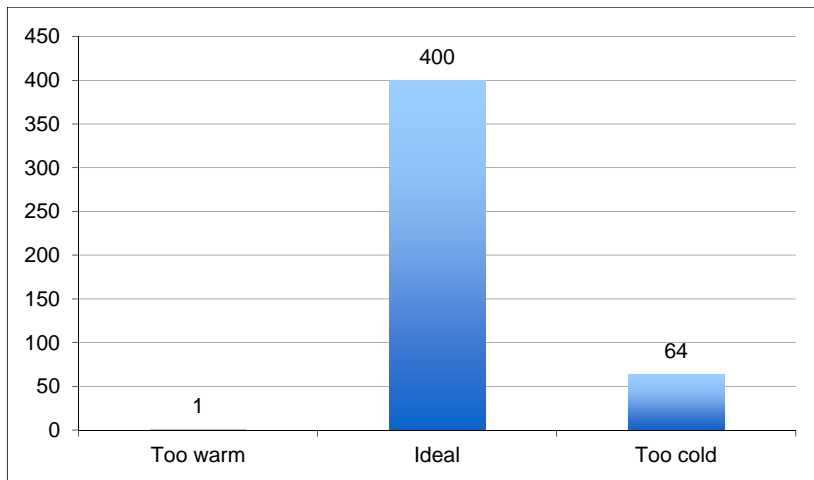
Suitability of the examination hall



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.

- Es waren so viele Tische aufgestellt, dann hätte man auch nur jeden zweiten Platz vergeben können. Um mehr Abstand von den anderen Kandidaten zu haben. Es stört schon sehr, wenn die anderen Kandidaten Papier ausschneiden, Essen, etc.; Außerdem traut man sich fast nicht einfach zur Entspannung mal 30 Sekunden umher zu schauen, weil es ja vielleicht als "abschreiben" ausgelegt werden könnte.
- There was very little space between tables.
- This year I had to go to Munich (6 hours on train) just for paper C, although Berlin is only 2 hours on train away from my work place.; Last year I was allowed to do it in Berlin. So, I can appreciate the difference.; ; Same happened with another colleague which works closer to The Hague and had to go this year to Munich as well.; ; I think it would be more reasonable to always allow people to do the exam in the desired (closest) place and in case of space problems to habilitate more tables. I think that the EQE exam is difficult enough and more logistic problems could be spared.; ; Thanks for the possibility of add my comments.
- The clocks on the wall were not visible from my place (too far or behind a column)
- My table was shaking very badly when writing. Took me 5 min to fix it with sheets of paper. Very annoying.
- Not enough clocks at the wall. Especially in view of forbidden watches there should be at least one clock visible from every table without any major burden (e.g. turning the head around 180 degree or the like). In my case I had to look left behind my shoulder to see the next clock at the wall, which was even hardly readable as the viewing angle was very flat. So I had only a glimpse of an idea of the time and I had to go to the restroom passing the clock to verify it. Especially in the time crucial papers C and D a real drawback. So either allow watches or provide enough clocks in the hall.
- Airconditioning / ventilation causes discomfort (cold feet, sometimes headache). Maybe less would be more in that respect.
- Excellent venue overall, toilets quite small.
- I found it rather disturbing that there was no free parking and parking costs were 10€ per day.
- Minor: Visibility access to hall clocks could be improved if some more clocks were installed. The only hall clock that I was able to see was if I turned my head 180 degree.
- For EQE B I had to sit in my coat and wearing a hat.
- Aucune horloge n'était visible de ma place.
- Double the space would be needed!

- Sufficient wall clocks should be provided and these should be synchronized with the exam start and end signals.
- The guy was talking like a machine ... awfull
- I appreciated being able to leave my cellphone at the front desk. However, returning the envelopes could be organized more efficiently - different lines for last names starting with different letters for instance.
- It was difficult to see the time. Now, when the own (digital) watches cannot be taken into the hall, it would be most important that there are clocks wherefrom the time could be seen.
- I am hard of hearing and I really struggled to hear the invigilator over the loud speaker. Thus, upon sign-up/registration I think there should be a question on disabilities so as to ensure you cater for persons on the day of the exam which would be appreciated.
- The time to answer was too short.; The table for the candidate was too small.; Too much noise in the hall from other candidates
- However I have asked for a different examination center, but it was not considered my request.
- Air in the M.O.C. was getting worse throughout the pre-examination
- There is few space for a rest during the break between A and B.
- Es wäre von Vorteil, wenn man etwas zu trinken und Snacks im Eingangsbereich kaufen könnte.
- Von vielen Sitzplätzen aus konnte man keine Uhr sehen.
- I was surprised how comfortable the seat was - comfortable chair and a sufficiently big table. Also I was surprised that despite the huge hall, I did not feel disturbed at all. The temperature was OK - a bit colder to keep the mind awake which was perfectly fine with me. It is recommendable to take a little blanket/plaid in case that it is too cold. The only disadvantage was that there were not enough clocks on the walls, so that I had troubles to see the "official" time. However, this can be foreseen and one can bring own analogous watch.
- It was better than expected after reading the 2016 survey comments. However it was a bit too cold. The visibility of clocks was not great from the back of the hall.
- Insgesamt eine sehr gute Organisation.
- I just would like to thank you for your organizing work.
- Candidates were sitting too close to each other, despite the extra empty room in the hall. You can not refrain from touching or hitting the tables and chairs of other while trying to go to restroom or smw. Sitters always have luggages and bags so need some extra space between the tables. Sitting very close to other is also has bad effect on concentration.; ; Identity check is very disturbing after the exam started. Can it be done before the exam?
- The loos were too far away from the majority of candidates.
- More oxygen in the examination room would have been nice...
- Over time, air quality declined. Hall temperature was at times at the lower end of "adequate". However, I think too much heating would be much worse because in that case, you would not be able to help yourself by wearing a sweater.
- More space between desks would allow better access when going to / returning from toilet without disturbing other candidates. No drinking water available.
- Visible clock required
- Nothing particular to say about the examination hall and conditions that has not been said in the last year. Just take every possible clothing combination so as to feel fine whatever the conditions (it's early March anyway).; I knew the 20-cm clock on the wall in a 450-candidate examination would be so symbolic that I brought my very own watch. Yeah, I did that.; Unexpectedly, the exam tables were very stable. Thank you for that. Kind staff also.; More importantly : Daily D questions (useful by the way) and updated Guidelines for examination come way too late in the year given the generally huge work load at companies at that time of the year. That seriously impacts the way we can study and bookmark the latter. Plus that's generally the time of the year when you get influenza. That makes much of a lottery out of D. Thank you anyway for the rich material available.
- It is better for the participants to buy hot water, coffee or tea during the exam.

- Everything good and well organized.
- The bathrooms were too far away from where the majority of the candidates were seated.
- Halle war streckenweise angenehm temperiert, später wurde es unangenehm zugig
- I had an impression that comparing to 2016 there was significantly less people sitting the exam and this influenced the general noise made by people (using the paper materials, moving chairs etc). - and this in consequence influenced generally the ability to concentrate
- The restrooms are too far away
- Licht hätte etwas heller sein können; Temperatur am Mittwoch war etwas niedrig; Luft hätte besser sein können
- It was quite a long way from some of the desks to the toilets, but that wasn't too big a deal really. The main issue for me was the lack of clocks - I wasn't able to see the time from my desk at all.
- There should be somewhere to buy fruit, nuts, chocolate and drinks that you can bring to the exam. We did not have time for a full meal
- I did not even start to think about the examination hall during the exam, as I was focusing on the papers the whole time.; This means the Examination center was perfect, since it apparently was not a source of any distractions.; ; Thank you for such a great organization.; ; Personal story from Wednesday, 8th March, 2017: I also have to mention that I left my smart phone in an envelope before sitting the B-paper in the afternoon of 8th March 2017. After completing the paper, I totally forgot to pick it up and left the Examination center without it. The next day early morning I was supposed to travel back home to Czech Republic. As I got back to the hotel that evening, the organizers immediately contacted me via email and it was thanks to their kind readiness, that I was able to get back to Examination center again that very evening and collect my smart phone.; ; What a relief and what a nice example of caring people.; I am very grateful for such amazing organizers.
- It may be possible to sit examination in other countries for Turkish people.
- There were no visible clocks on the room's walls.
- I thought overall the pre-exam was very well organised at the MOC. My only issue was not being able to hear the invigilator. However, I would recommend taking the exam at the MOC.
- The issue that comes to my mind was the position of clock in the Examination. I owned only a digital watch. Since I cannot take it owing to the restrictions in the hall, I primarily assumed that there will be clock for me to see. But it was too difficult to get any glimpse
- Please, more sitting places in the waiting corridor.
- Not enough clocks / lack of visibility of clocks
- The MOC is a fantastic examination centre.
- Even though the outside temperature was around 5 degrees Celsius, the air conditioning inside the examination hall was on. I was placed under a vent hole and during the exam cold air was blown on top of my head. A bad headache occurred due to this fact.
- Too long distance to toilet. It would be more feasible for the places to be rotated so most places being next to the toilet, not the opposite.
- Clocks were too small to be readable from all places
- The MOC center is very difficult to reach by car due to heavy traffic. The candidates should be informed about this: In some cases one might need considerably more than one hour for reaching the examination hall from the city center by car.
- A touch more space between desks would have been appreciated - wrangling bags was a bit of a struggle, as was getting to the toilets without disrupting others. Other than that, it

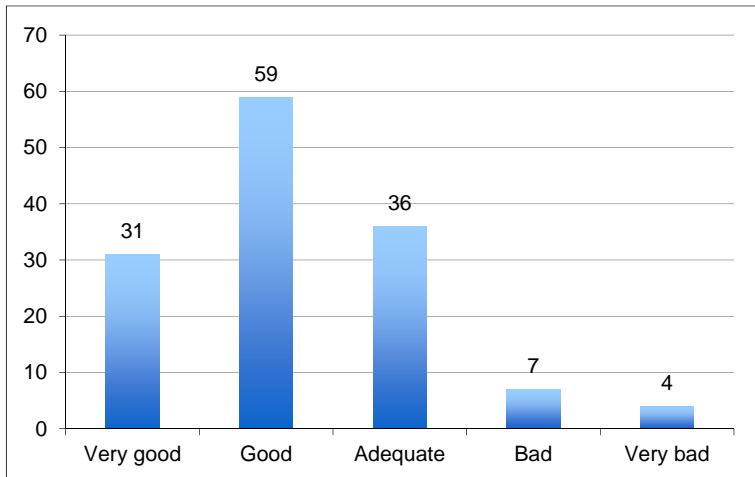
- was perfect - on leaving paper C I noticed there was an active construction site opposite the hall, which I'd been totally unaware of during the exams.
- Please keep it as it is!
- this points are not essential to pass the ege -why do you ask this?
- I did all 4 exams. and for 3 days the conditions were ok. just mixing coffee or beverage dispenser
- Perhaps it is useful to hang some clocks on the wall so that candidates can easily watch the time.
- There was just one clock in the hall as far as I can see. Maybe there could be much more clocks for the candidates that don't have an angle for the clock because of the columns in the hall . And instead of an analogue clock, there could be bigger and digital clock with bright colours.
- There was nothing relevant that I found to be negative or annoying. I was a bit worried about the size of the hall and possible noise, but I was positively surprised that the level of noise was quite acceptable and not annoying.
- good parking opportunities
- Having sat 2 exams in Bristol in 2016, I was very impressed with the MOC in Munich. The exam venue was perfect for sitting exams!
- Not visible central clock
- Good examination hall. Suitable for the exam. The desks are never big enough for this exam because of the many materials we bring to the exam, although I can tell that an effort has been made to be as big and spacious as possible. It was sufficient, so I am happy with the organization and the center.
- It would be great if there would be more possibilities to consult a clock.
- The examination center M.O.C. is badly reachable by bus or train. No taxi available after the examination. Poor possibility to get something to eat or drink at the examination center and the area nearby.
- The examination center M.O.C. is badly reachable by bus or train. No taxi available after the examination. Poor possibility to get something to eat or drink at the examination center and the area nearby.
- table size: tables are not large enough considering the material which needs to be organized on the table such that easy access is always possible;; space between two tables are not sufficient; this means - in addition to the limited table size, there is not sufficient space to place the material in a handy manner
- Walking to the restrooms was very noisy since carpet paths covered (invisible) metal covers on the floor.
- Everything was perfect.
- Noisy due to the big number of candidates. I struggled with space however, since at least for part D a lot of books and material is needed during the exam which was hard to arrange on the table.
- Desk was too small, apart from that, everything was fine!
- Far to restroom
- The table could have been a little bigger. ; ; It would have been helpful if the plan outside of the hall actually indicated the precise seat numbers as opposed simply stating seats xx - xxx are located on the left hand side of the room, whilst seats xx-xxx are located on the other side of the room. It's very vague and causes confusion under already slightly nervous circumstances. Even more helpful than this, if you sent the seating plan out to candidates a few days ahead of the exam, it would add an additional layer of organisation and (should) drastically reduce any confusion about seating.
- There aren't enough clocks
- the height of the table was too high
- The men's toilet ran out of hand drying towels.; The system for handing in and returning of mobile phones needs to be improved as it was rather chaotic after the exam.
- Very few Wall Clocks!
- The tables are a little bit too small.

- off topic; ; Main supervisor said something like the last five minutes are for filling out the circles on answers sheet. When it really depends on these five minutes, than this is barely enough..i lost five points on this. luckily i still passed, but i find this advise rather dangerous for candidates.
- Sitting is scarce in the waiting hall.
- desk is too small for part D
- Only one watch for so big room is not sufficient. ; I did not see the watch at all. As I did not know, how much time I still have,; this added a lot of stress. This had influence on my result.; Please add mechanical watch to lists of things that should be taken with you.
- It is very difficult to be concentrated on the exam among hundred of other people. It is not any natural environment for a mental work.
- Refills for soap and more towels in the restrooms would be nice
- Es wäre gut, wenn die Prüflinge nach dem Betreten des Prüfungsraums diesen vor Beginn der Prüfung noch einmal verlassen könnten oder man bei Betreten des Prüfungsraum darauf hingewiesen werden würde, dass ein Verlassen dann nicht mehr möglich ist.
- the desk is too small
- When entering the MOC the Hall was to warm. After the beginning of the exam the airconditioning cooled to much. I got a bad cold afte some days past the exam.
- A hint would be appreciated that once you enter the examination hall, you are not allowed to leave it anymore.
- Next time, please do not position the carpet runways on the metallic covers of cable pits. This would further lower the background noise in the examination hall.
- Atmosphere and especially the light was very bad. I felt uncomfortable. The speakers voice was irritating.
- A lot of background noise.
- it was not possible to see a hall clock from every place; as it is forbidden to take electronic devices in the examination hall by the candidates it should be possible for each candidate to see a hall clock easily.
- Quite far from the city with not good public transport in the area
- Clock is not visible bigger electronic clock would be better for time mamagement
- Couldn't see the clock!!!
- A bit more space would help
- from my place i could not see the clock on the wall because of light reflection
- Depending on your place number, it can be difficult to clearly see the clocks on the walls.
- I had to ask 3 times for additional exam paper and I got each time only 3-4 papers and had to fetch myself. I found it not very friendly.
- Desks are much too small relating to the amount of documents to handle with!

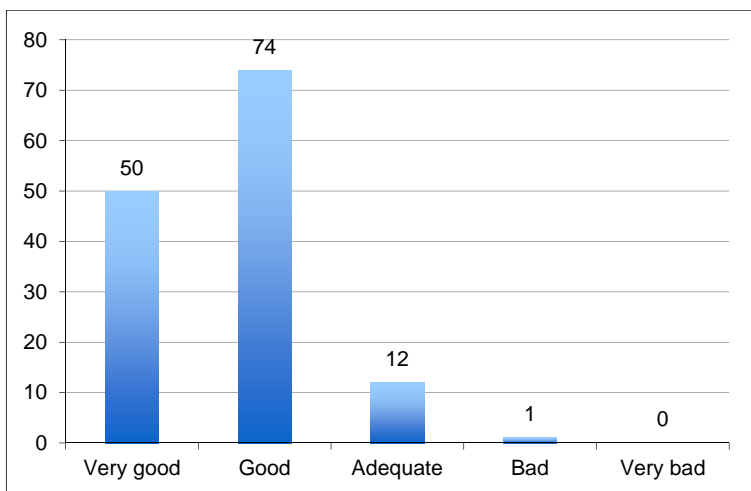
1.7 Paris (137 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

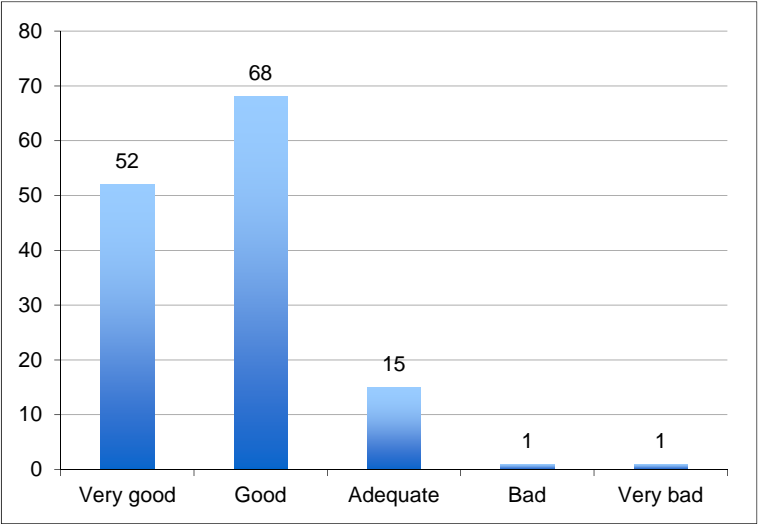
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



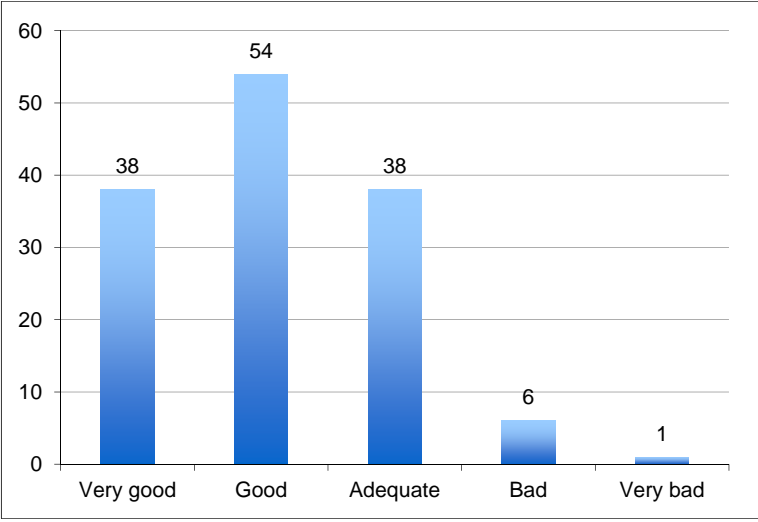
Identification check



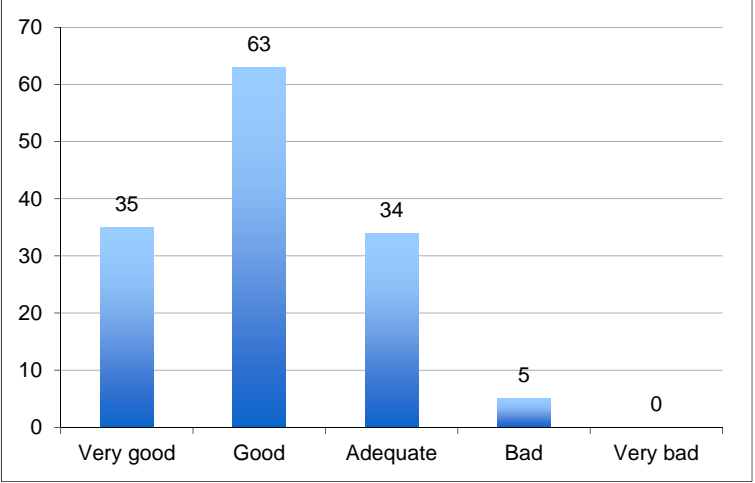
Lighting conditions



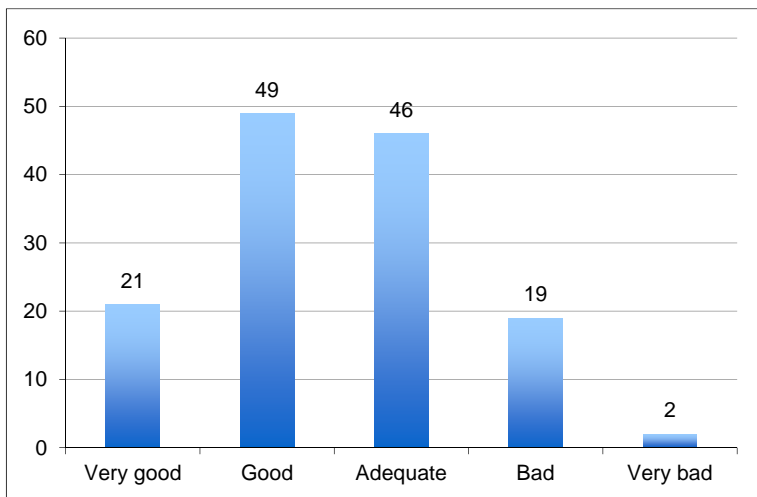
Space for candidates



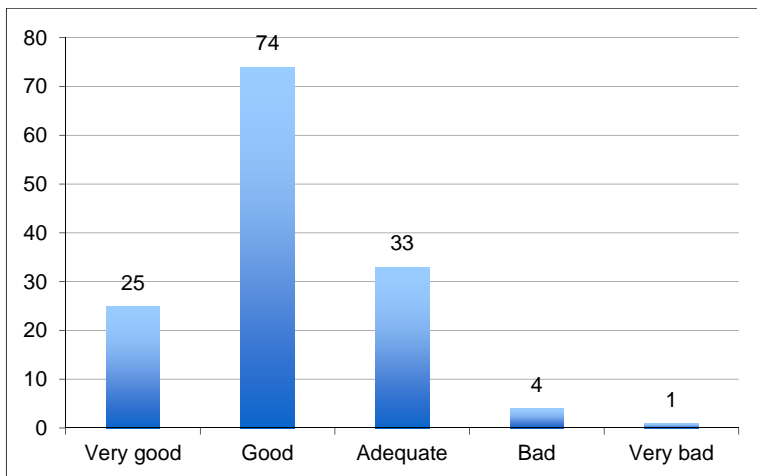
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



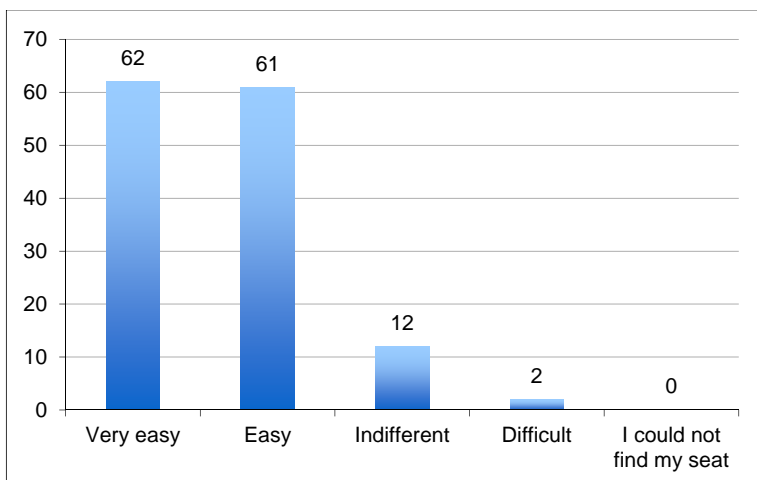
Restroom facilities



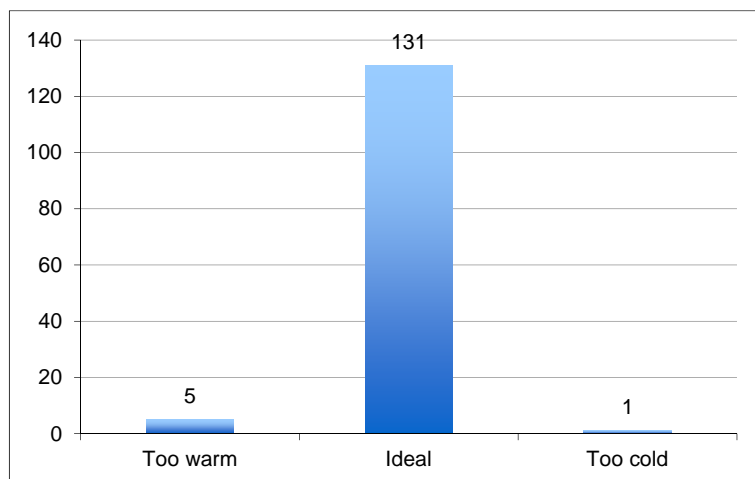
Suitability of the examination hall



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.

- Saint ouen centre is really poorly located, no metros or bus around and the only metro available is the "13" which is the worst and more crowded metro line you can find on earth.; Also one men bathroom stall for 200 people is far from enough...
- Paris - St Ouen. ; ; Please open the windows each day! ; ; After 3 days it just... stinks. ; ; Slightly bigger tables would be great. ; ; Only one toilet available for men: bad.
- The Paris examination hall is adequate, but that's it. It's served by one of the worst Paris metro lines (line 13), and not even close to the metro at that. Even some candidates from Paris prefer to sleep at nearby hotels just in case.
- The coffee/thea is very appreciate
- Les tables grinçaient beaucoup, c'était désagréable pour soi et ses voisins.
- Staff offer to me coffee and tea with sole cake. I really enjoy it; ; Pass A and B the same day is not good at all!; ; I prefer to pass onze exam by day!
- Nothing to add.
- The temperature was too hot for paper D; Sits were not comfortable enough for a 5h30 paper
- A little far from the city.
- The situation of the hall is not ideal. Far from the center of Paris, 10 minute walk from the station, line 13 crowded...
- The examination hall facilities themselves are quite good, but their location leaves much to be desired as they are neither particularly close to a Métro station, nor is there adequate parking, nor is there much in the way of amenities nearby for lunch on Wednesdays (considering the number of people present). Bus stops are present but traffic in the areas during the mornings make these a non-option. Construction in northern Paris at the time complicated the matter further. I would change the site to one which is more accessible.
- I have been disturbed by the creaking of the table just behind me
- Not accesible AT ALL and prone to any and every transportation issues. Parisian inhabitant consider booking a hotel close to the examination hall (and several do so), which is absurd.
- Saint Ouen - Ligne 13, cela implique d'arriver tôt afin d'anticiper d'éventuels problèmes.; La distance entre le métro et la salle d'examen n'est pas excessive (850m), mais si il pleut il vaut mieux être bien équipé et avoir des chaussures bien étanches eu égare l'état des trottoirs (j'ai eu les pieds très humides durant tout l'examen et bien après!); ; Les portes de la salle d'examen n'ouvrant que environ 30 minutes avant, le hall d'attente

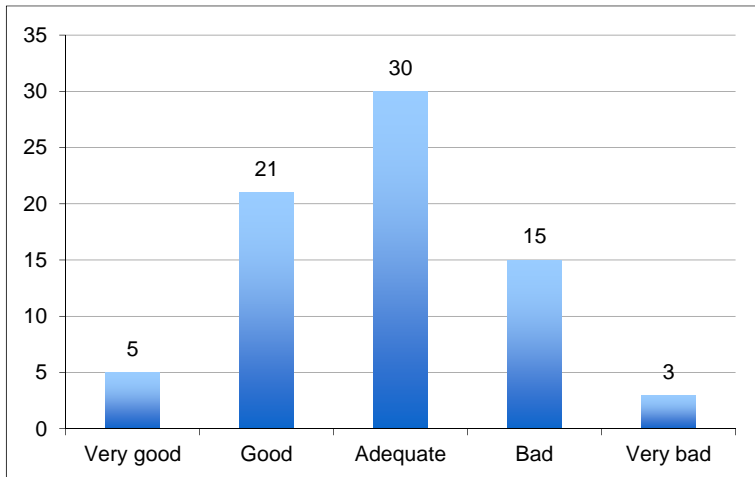
est vraiment inadapté (surtout si il pleut à l'extérieur).; ; Si l'on souhaite acheter à manger en sortant du métro, le choix est loin d'être vaste.

- A bigger table could be better
- Clocks were too far from my seat so I couldn't easily read time - my watch was necessary.
- People were very nice. Offering coffee was a really good idea.; ; But examination centre is located in a bad area so I am lucky to be a man. I would be scared if I were a woman.; ; I do not understand why another location within Paris cannot be found...
- Examination centre far away and difficult to access.
- Air could have been renewed in between exams by opening briefly the windows
- Everything was correct.; ; Kind Regards
- It would be easier and less stressful to have a centre inside of Paris.; The invigilators kept chatting between themselves : it was really disturbing !
- The seats were fold up seats and that was very uncomfortable.
- The location of the examination center in Saint-Ouen (suburb of Paris) is not convenient at all, mainly due to the lack of suitable transportation. Special thanks to the examination staff that was very professional and helpful.
- le centre d'examen n'est pas facile d'accès car en banlieue parisienne et éloigné des transports en commun, ce qui rend le trajet éprouvant car en général, nous passons les examens en apportant avec nous beaucoup de documents (et qui sont donc lourds à porter).
- Squeaking desk
- The clock was too far from me, luckily i had taken a watch !
- Too far from PARIS and not easy to find

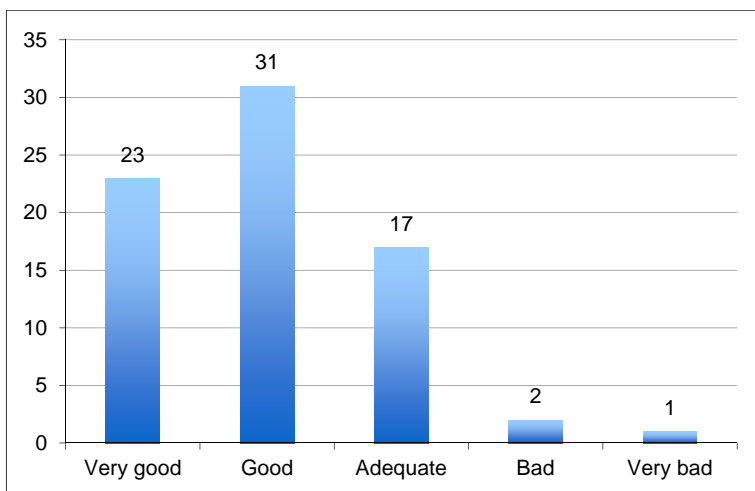
1.8 Rome (74 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

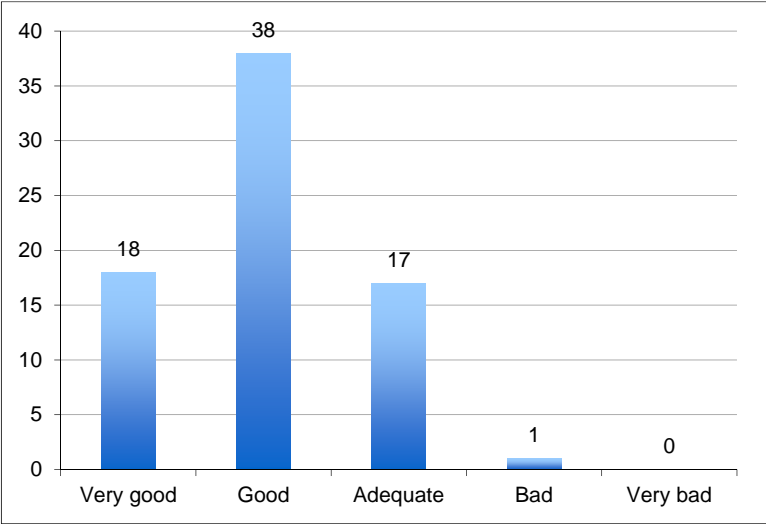
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



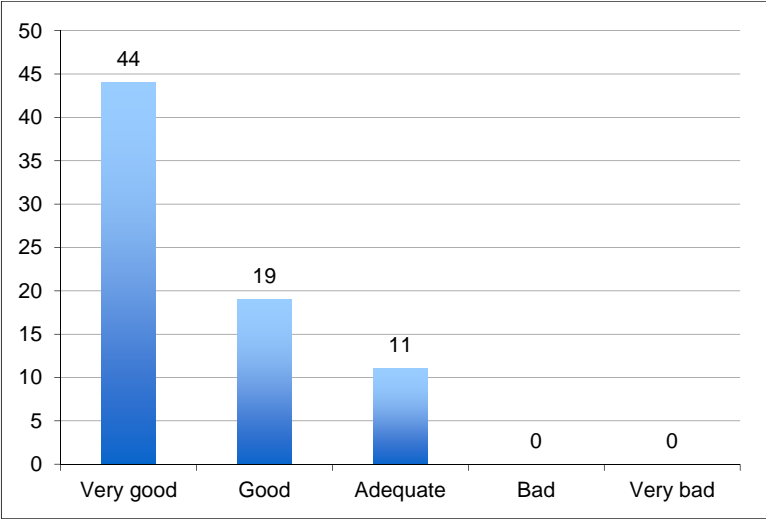
Identification check



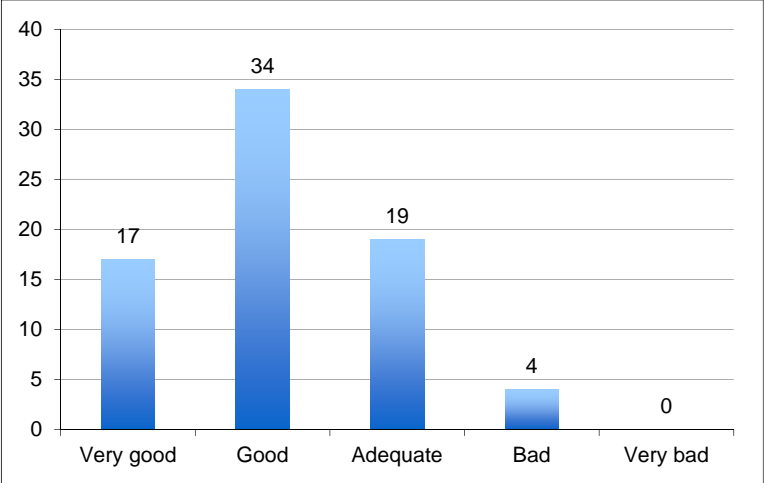
Lighting conditions



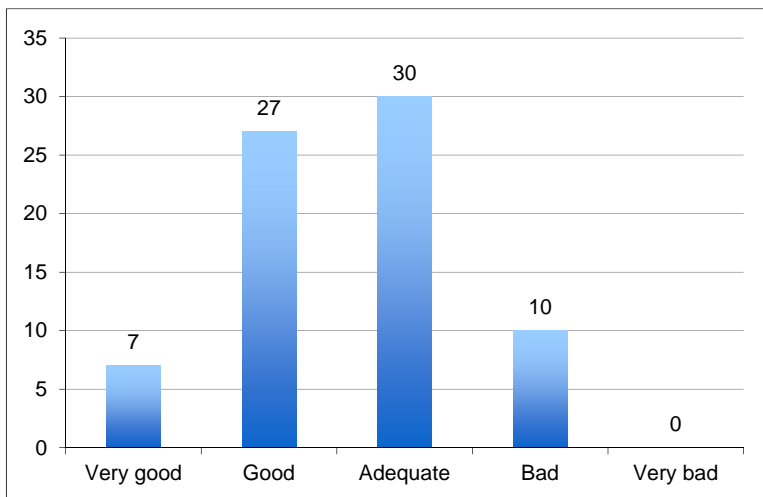
Space for candidates



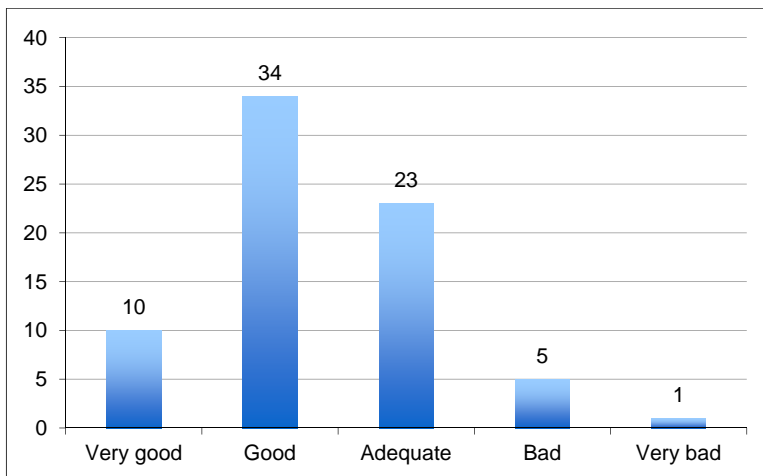
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



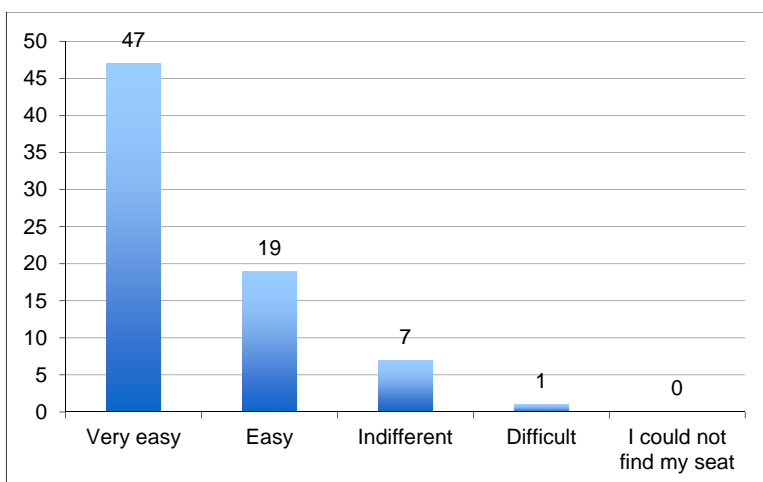
Restroom facilities



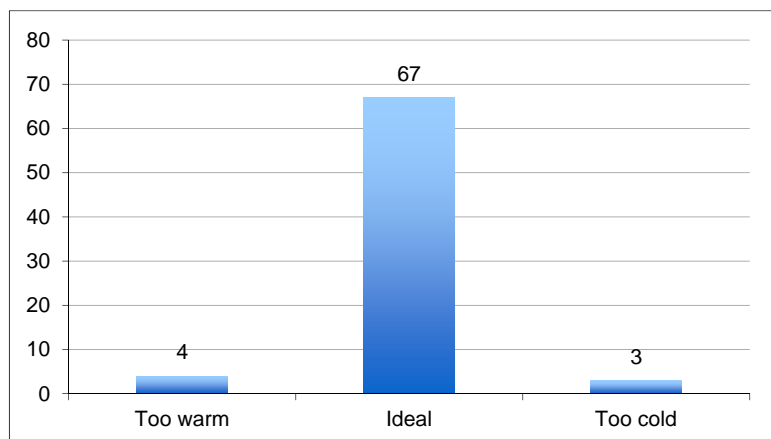
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



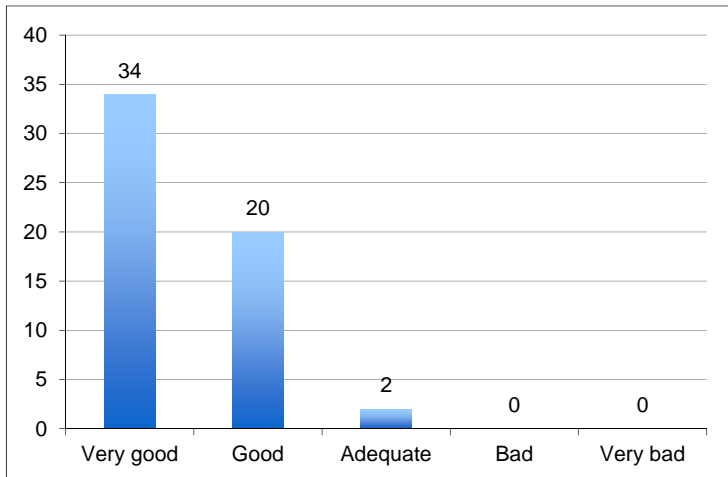
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- no specific comment
- the access to the examination hall is through stairs, hence it is uncomfortable with a trolley which is full of books.
- No elevator and a heavy suitcase full of books to be carried for 3 flights of stairs. That's the only problem with the venue.
- It is a rundown building, I suggest to change examination hall. Toilets were not working as you would expect.
- As everybody always notes, there are only stairs to reach the hall, which is quite uneasy carrying the books for the examination.; Also, I wonder how can people with disability cope with that.
- Too many stairs to reach the room with suitcases and books.
- The tables were adequately large and the seats very comfortable, thank you.
- No comment
- The places near the vigilantes were a little bit croudy
- The examination center has been improved in respect to two years ago (e.g. no flashing neon or papers in the toilets). Anyway an underground location with all the curtains closed, no solar light, does not seem to be an appropriate examination hall. Indeed I hope that any EPO representative usually does not work in a similar place. Please note that all these conditions negatively impact on people who wear glasses.
- only one thing: the workers of the Hotel hosting the exam were very unpolite.
- spacious hall and large desk were appreciated
- The main problem is that the examination room is 3 floors under ground level with uncomfortable stairs as the only access way
- The accessibility of the examination room was not so good. I'm pregnant (I was on the eighth month at the moment of the exam) and the only access to the room was through the stairs.
- too much stairs for arriving in the examination hall
- - The identification check is in Q3 of this survey. This operation should be done BEFORE the exam, not during!; ; - I am a smoker, and think that smokers should have the possibility to smoke during the exam - of course not inside the examination hall.; This possibility must not be denied, bearing in mind that being a smoker is an handicap. (I am writing this here because I'm not sure there is a section after)
- Too many stairs to access the hall, not easy to walk with books

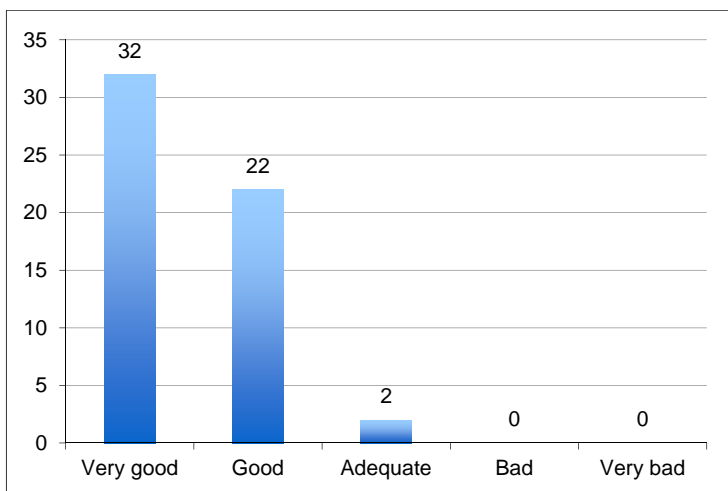
1.9 Stockholm (56 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

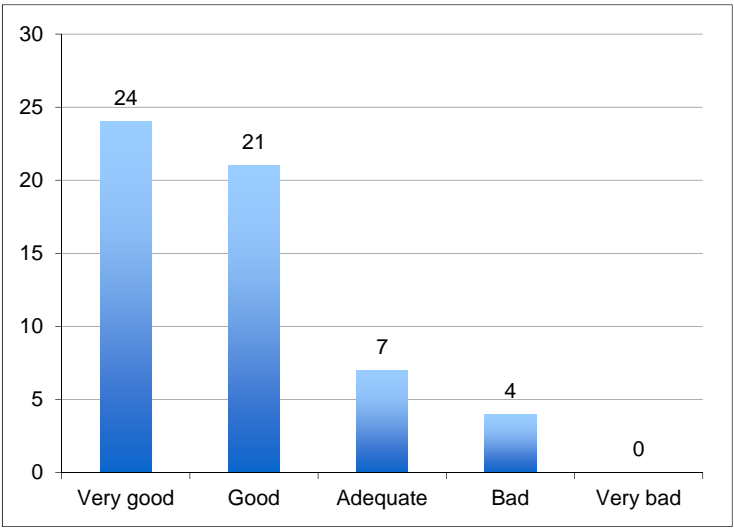
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



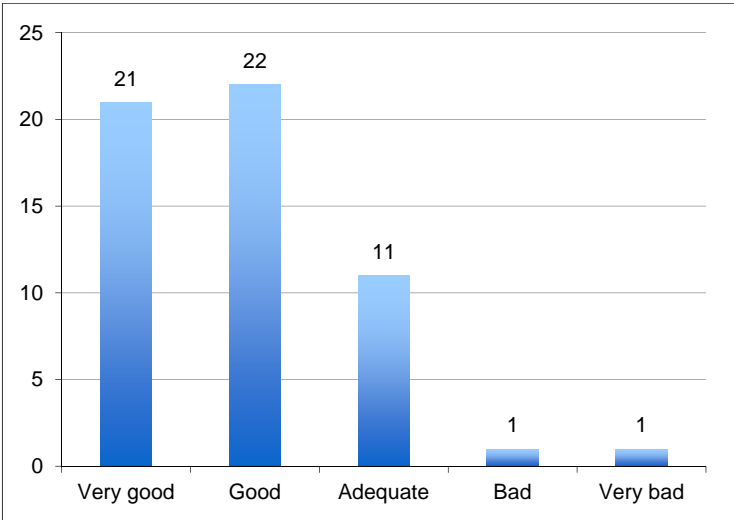
Identification check



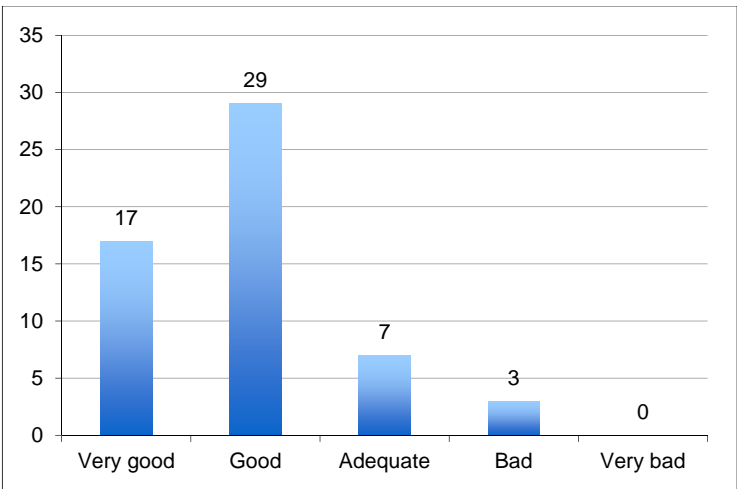
Lighting conditions



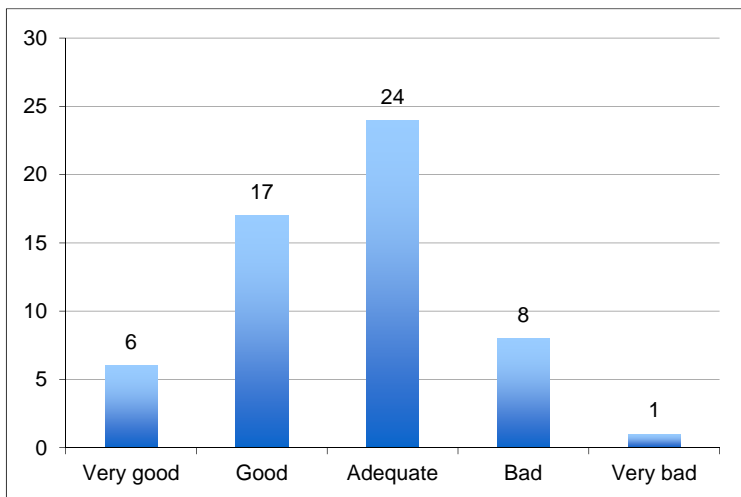
Space for candidates



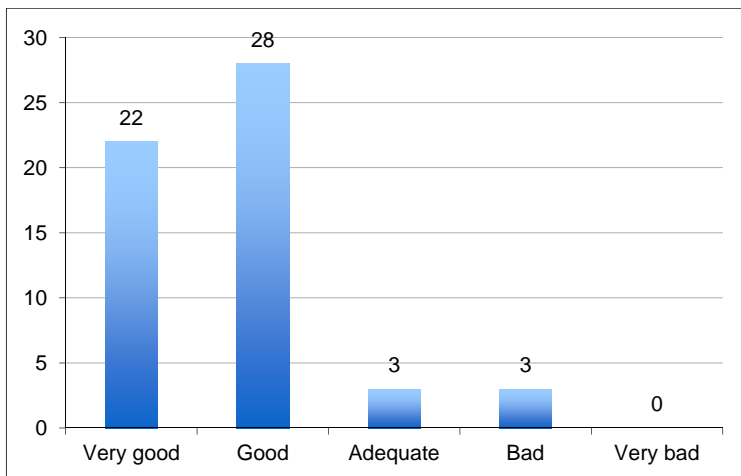
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



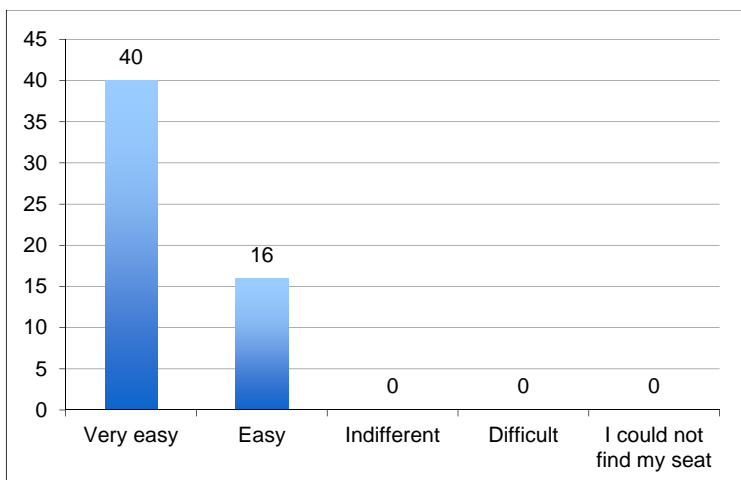
Restroom facilities



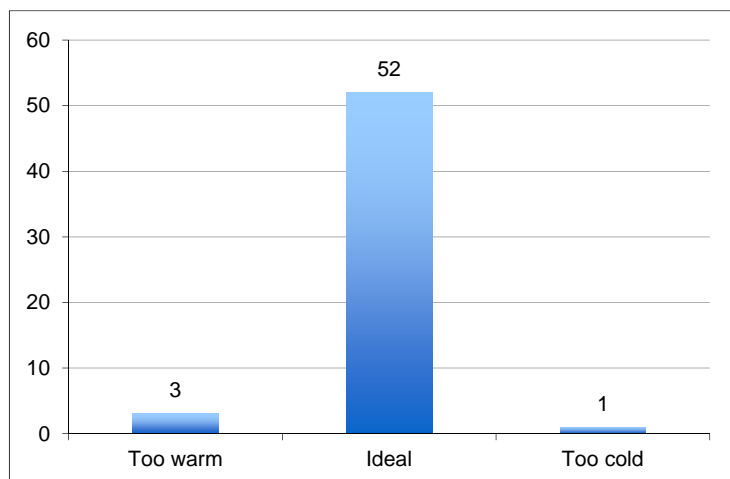
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



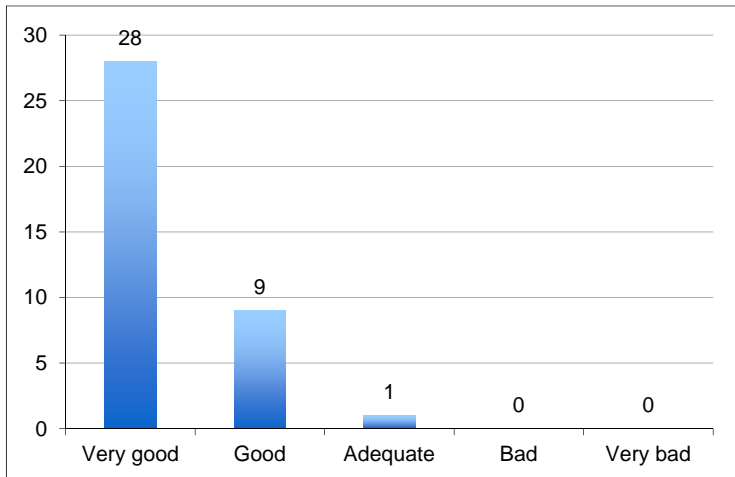
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Too high table tops vs. chair seat height
- I sat in the front row, undisturbed, close to the pile of fresh writing paper. Very good.
- The new room used this year was much better than previous years.
- Improvement since last year
- I have been to exam in Stockholm before and there has been many improvement since last time (2 years ago) which was very positive.
- This year premises was better than the premises used during the pre-examination. During the pre-exam I sat in "Storrummet" and this year I sat in "Läsesalen".
- Only one toilet was easily accessible. The others required a key, which was missing for sometime.
- Too few toilettes in the closest surroundings.
- I was placed beside the radiators and it was therefore too warm. I just don't understand how one can place tables beside radiators. It didn't help to try to sit as far as possible from the radiators. Moreover, I had no possibility of removing my shirt since I didn't have a t-shirt underneath. On the second day of the examination I put on a very thin t-shirt which helped slightly but it was still very warm. This of course affected my performance.
- 1) The desk is plastic with two parallel X form supporting legs. Its construction makes it very unstable. It shivered all the time when I wrote anything on the paper. Very annoying.; ; 2) The huge windows made the examination hall bright until around 15.30 when it was totally dark outside. Each desk was provided with a tiny desk light capable of lighting up only an A4 paper area. A desk light with higher lumen and can light up at least half the desk surface would be much better. The light from ceiling was basically decorative, no help with reading.; ; The room temperature and air condition was good.
- The clocks on the walls were not visible from all seats due to pillars in the hall and also to the large distance to the clocks. This could easily be solved by putting up extra clocks.
- Much better than previous years when it has been in the cafeteria.
- The tables had velcro bands attached at several places where the clothes got stuck. The tables did not stand still, it was a bit unstable.
-

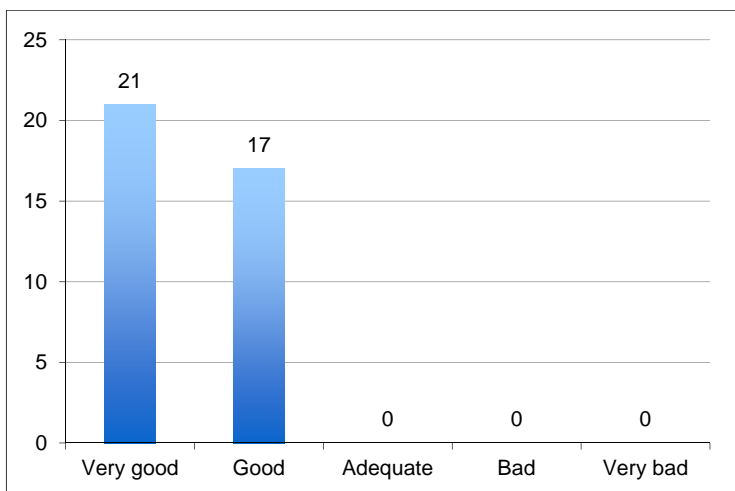
1.10 Taastrup (38 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

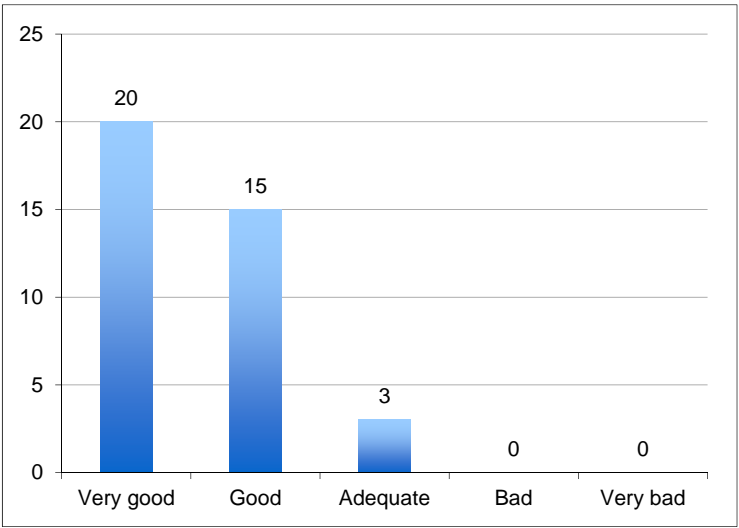
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



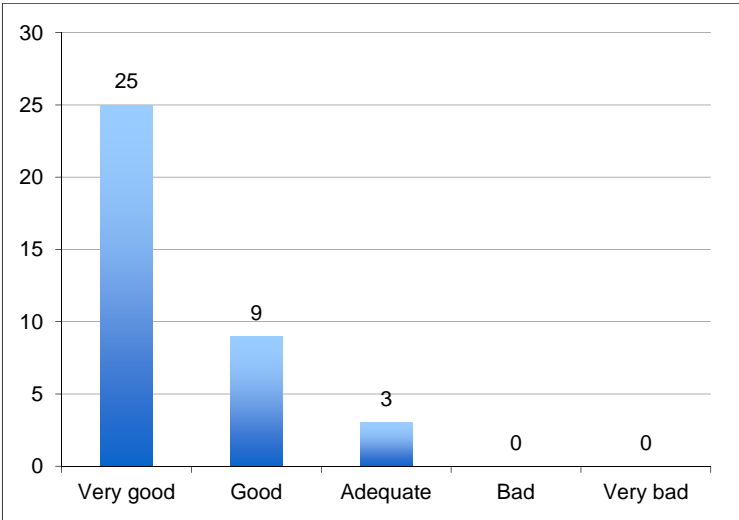
Identification check



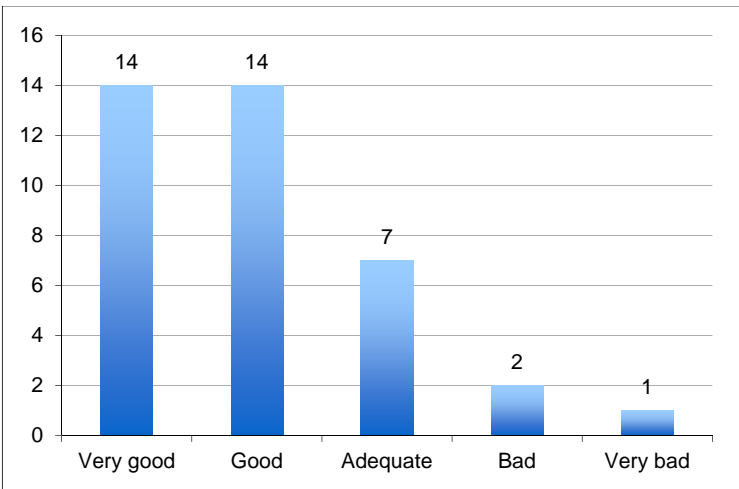
Lighting conditions



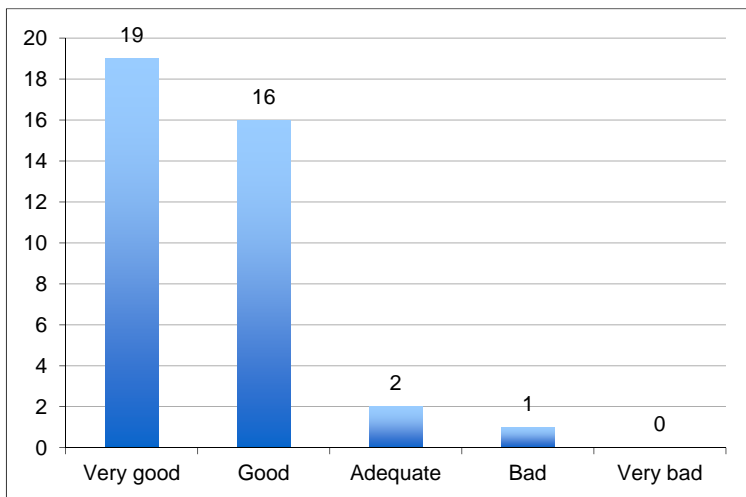
Space for candidates



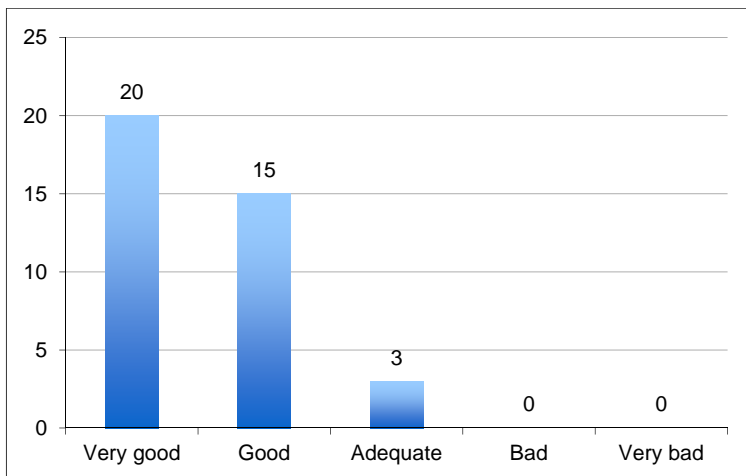
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



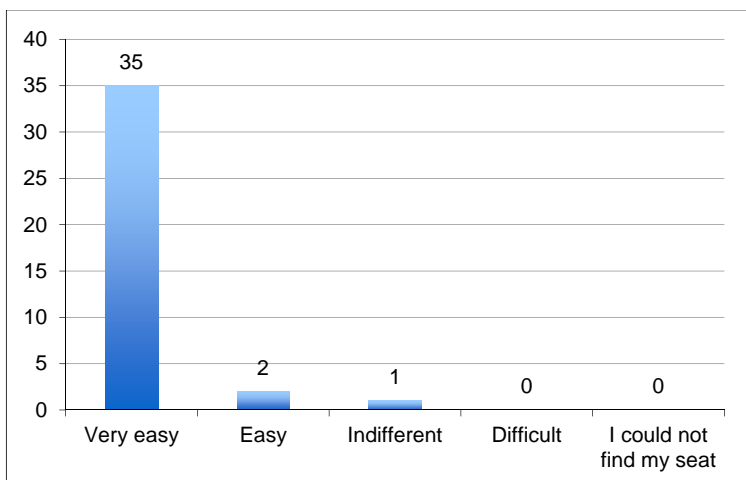
Restroom facilities



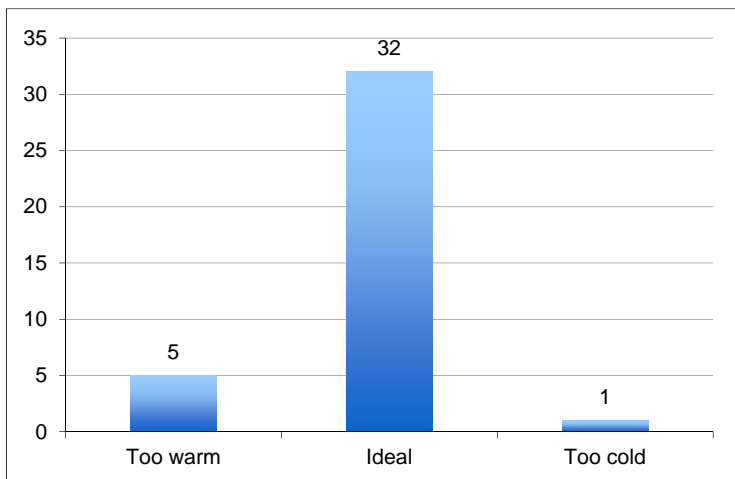
Suitability of the examination hall



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



Q5) Hall temperature



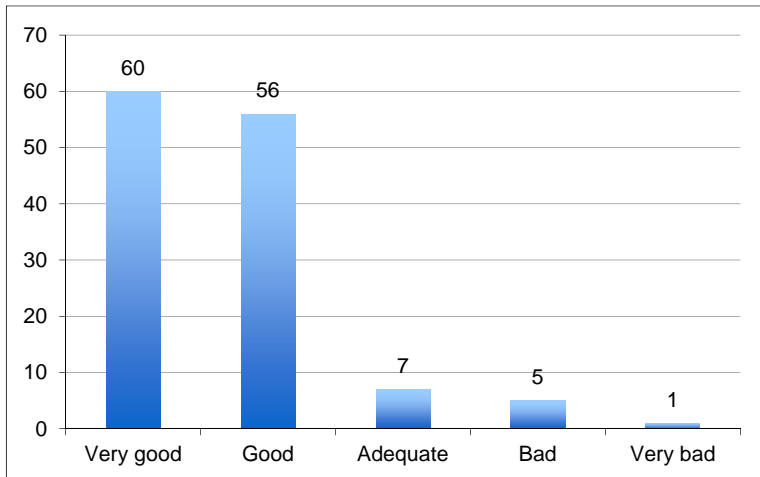
Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.

- Our hall was a dining hall so there were people in the kitchen behind....Which during an exam is not the best!
- For the first exam the invigilator spoke very softly and at the back we didn't even notice that he had started given information.; At the second exam, after I informed about the problem, the invigilator walked around meanwhile reading out the instructions, again very difficult hearing what was said.; This was certainly not intentionally by either of the two.
- Too little oxygen, ventilation was unsatisfactory
- Too much noise from outside of hall
- Would have liked to use a computer for typing
- The invigilators were very kind and on the contrary to two years ago did not stand and stress the candidates prior to the finishing time.
- Due to pillars in the hall, the invigilators are easily hidden and thus difficult to contact
- Generally very good
- There were only armchairs for rest and eating lunch. Thus my little stomach stress caused really troubles after having been sitting eating in such a position. Proper chairs and a proper table should be provided for eating lunch.

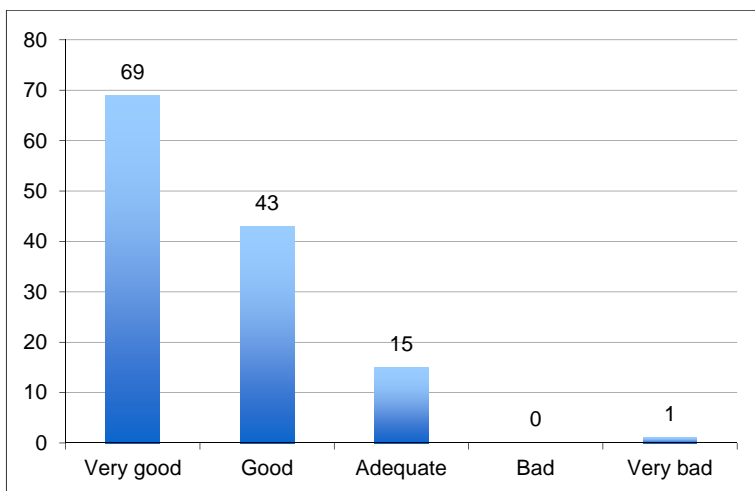
1.11 The Hague (129 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

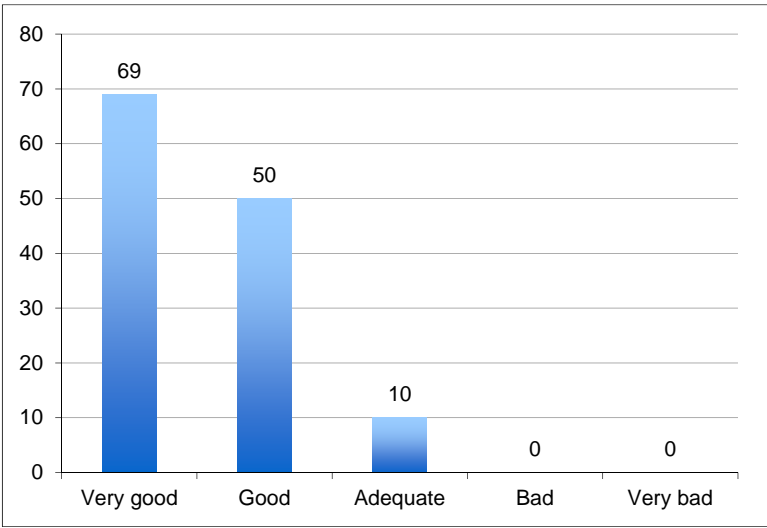
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



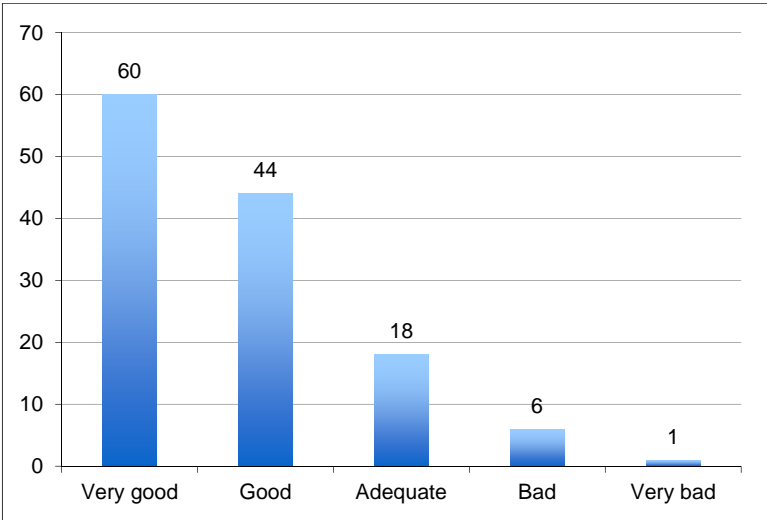
Identification check



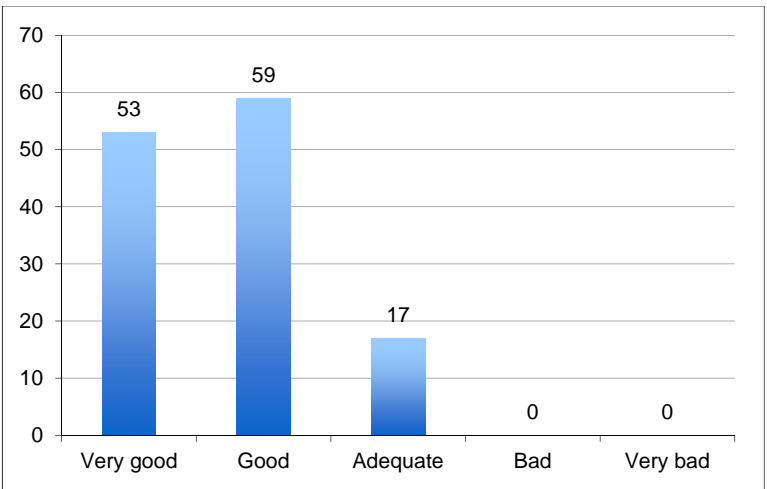
Lighting conditions



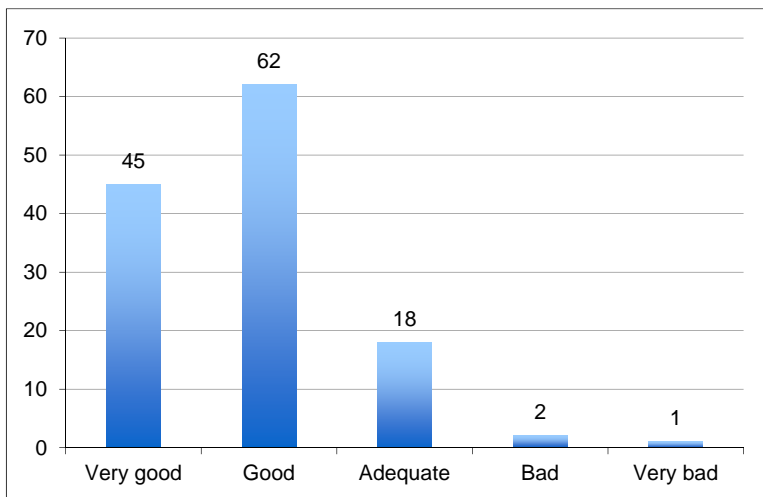
Space for candidates



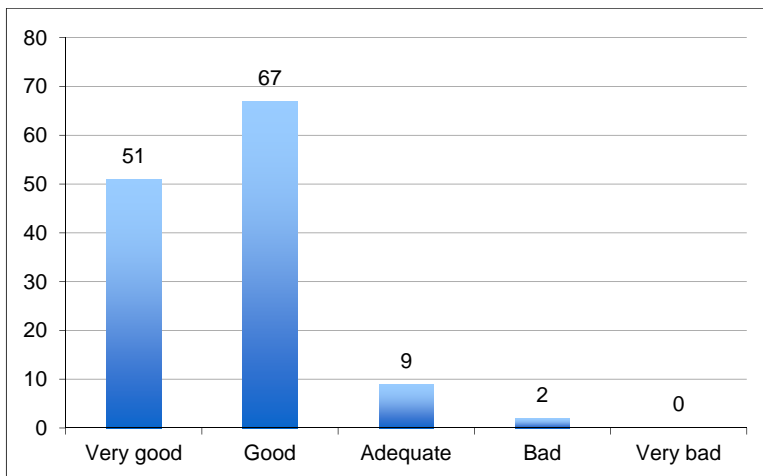
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



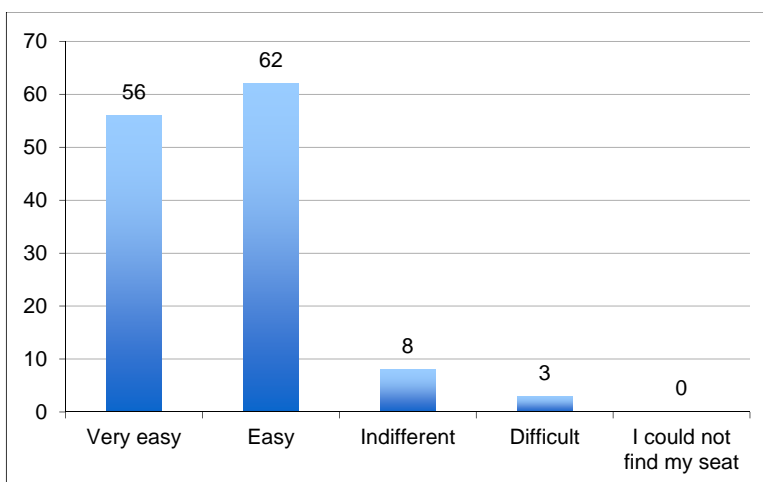
Restroom facilities



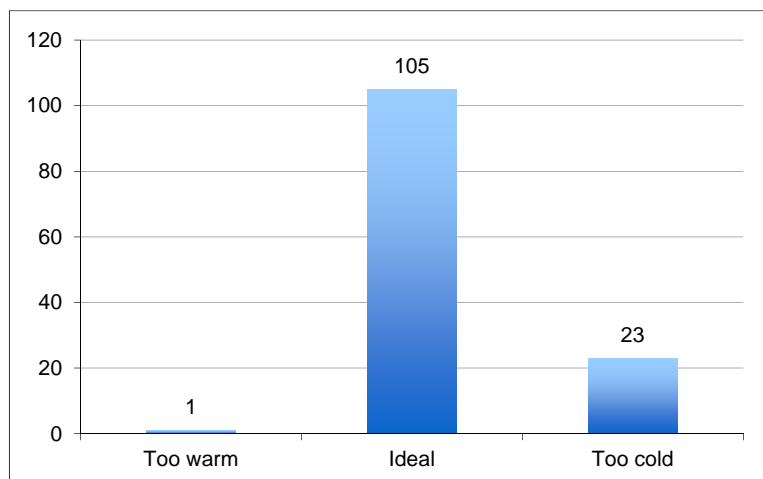
Suitability of the examination hall



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.

- According to my notion the precise room identification (eg room number or name) was never disclosed in writing beforehand in any of the letters or emails by the ege secretariat. Of course, the location could in fact be found, but it would be nice if it wasn't by a "I will just go there and look if it actually is there" procedure.
- PS First Seating of paper (not EQE in general)
- Ich hatte Sitzplatz 66. Mein Stuhl war exakt vor dem Tischbein, hätte ich also genau da gesessen, wo meine Sitznummer war, hätte ich nicht ordentlich mit dem Stuhl unter den Tisch rollen können, was ergonomisch ziemlich bedenklich ist, besonders wenn man stundenlang mit der Hand schreiben muss. Glücklicherweise ist der Teilnehmer, der eigentlich rechts von mir hätte sitzen sollen, nicht gekommen, so dass ich mich nach rechts hin ausbreiten konnte. ; ; Außerdem fiel mir auf, dass alle Sitzreihen ziemlich dicht besetzt waren; Teilnehmer mit benachbarten Sitzplätzen hätten also ohne Schwierigkeiten voneinander abschreiben oder miteinander kommunizieren können, was sicher nicht den idealen Prüfungsbedingungen entspricht, und mussten aufpassen, dass der Sitznachbar nicht versehentlich nach anderen als seinen eigenen Büchern oder Dokumenten griff. Lediglich die Einzelschreibtische, die in der Mitte des Saals aufgestellt waren, hatten einen deutlichen Abstand voneinander. ; ; Falls zukünftige Prüfungen wieder in demselben Raum stattfinden (Auditorium im Shell-Gebäude in Rijswijk), wäre es gut, zunächst die Stühle günstig (also NICHT vor einem Tischbein) und mit möglichst großem Abstand zu den benachbarten Prüfungsteilnehmern aufzustellen und dann erst die Sitznummerzetteln auf die Tische zu kleben.
- We received instructions to come to the examination centre one hour to one hour and a half before the start of the exam. Luckily, I only had one exam to do, but for participants that take all four exams this becomes an undue burden. At the end, the security check went very fast and arrival half an hour before the exam was sufficient. However, shifting the responsibility for getting through the security check in time to the participants, is not nice. I think that guaranteeing a swift entrance (within 15 minutes for example) can be expected from the organizers. Apart from this, I think the auditorium in Den Hague is a really nice place to conduct the Exam.
- In exam C, I could not get paper enough.
- Loved the chairs.
- Sometimes it appeared that the air condition got a "boost" and it felt slightly colder but nothing (very) serious; better like this than warm.
- I did not have enough room. My neighbour was making noises and we were so close that I

could hear him.

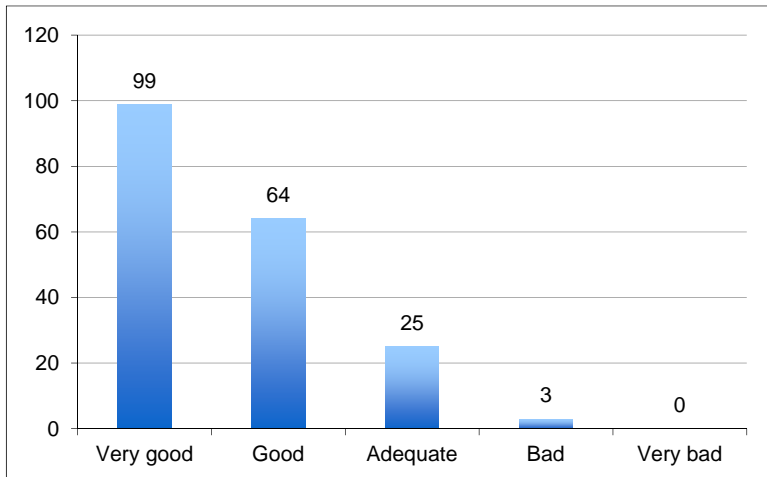
- Much much better than the M.O.C in Munich, where I was sitting the preEQE last year!
- Invigilators were friendly.
- As The EPO in The Hague is my working place, it might have been easier to find for me than for other candidates.
- my back hurt because of the chair
- The security checks at the entrance of the EPO venue cause delays and an unnecessary stressful situation. People were refused to bring essential items into the building (eg scissors) which causes serious problems while bags with taking soda cans could enter without the bags needed to be opened to check whether the cans were not a treath. Some people whose metal detector alarm went of could just continue after merely showing that they were wearing a belt. So it is not that the security truly works for the best; the people who were responsible are amateurs.
- General conditions of the examination hall were good, I would have appreciated however some natural light, after almost 20 hours sitting the four exams my eyes were a bit tired of the artificial lighting.
- It was not entirely clear during the instructions that only the answer sheet should go back into the plastic envelope at the end. Other than that, everything went off without a hitch, in my opinion.
- A bit more space for all the papers in the C-exam would have been nice.
- Please provide the table numbers with information about the candidate on the seat. Since electronic devices are forbidden, and since the seat information is only sent via e-mail after the confirmation letter, it is hard to find the proper seat.
- The room was almost too cold. ; Restrooms are a bit far from the examination hall.; We received an email 1 week before the exam that an "airport security check" would take place at the entrance of the building, and thus candidates were recommended to be there 1h30 in advance. I think this was miscalculated because even if all the people were to arrive at the same time, the line would not take more than 20 minutes. It was stressful to head there thinking of a potential line and delays and as I got there - it was no big deal at all. And I had to sit there for 1h30 extra waiting for the exam to start, with other candidates, which increased my stress levels.
- The auditorium got noisy during the last half hour of each exam, and for D this started around 45 minutes before the end of the exam. By noise I mean frenetic shuffling of papers by the candidates, but I guess this is inevitable. This interfered greatly with my D exams as I was not able to focus during that time and could not keep answering the question I was working on (question 3 of DII).; ; The EPO has many building in The Hague, it was not clear to me which building I should go to. Even if the building is identified by name, I was not sure which location it was. I first went to the wrong building, costing me significant time and effort as I was lugging a heavy suitcase full of materials. Thankfully an EPO examiner helped me out and then explained to me where to go. There perhaps should have been a sign at the tram stop. There was a sign outside the actual entrance but this is on a side street and impossible to see from the tram stop. I called the Secretariat- after searching online for directions unsuccessfully- on Monday 6 (before the start of my exams on Tuesday 7), but alas, I received the message that the Secretariat was closed that week.; ; Thank you.
- some exits were closed, but this could only be found out by trying the doors; disturbance and annoyance could be reduced by visibly indicating that a door is closed
- Invigilators should check the answer forms for autographs.
- very helpfull to have time clock all over the walls. Thanks!
- I got cold after 4 hours but it was still sustainable. It seems difficult to set a proper temperature in the auditorium in the Hague which would suit every candidate
- I was lucky to have a long table but some candidates had much smaller tables, which would have been insufficient for me had I sat there.
- The examination hall was very adequate to concentrate and work. The atmosphere was very good and I had plenty of space to put my books, etc. It was a very inspiring environment.

- I got a number but NO ROOM assigned. There were no signs up where the exam is. I asked the porter and he said it's at the shell building . . .
- Because of the layout of the Auditorium you have to come to the center of the room to be able to see all the seat numbers. A seat overview before entering the Auditorium would be helpful.

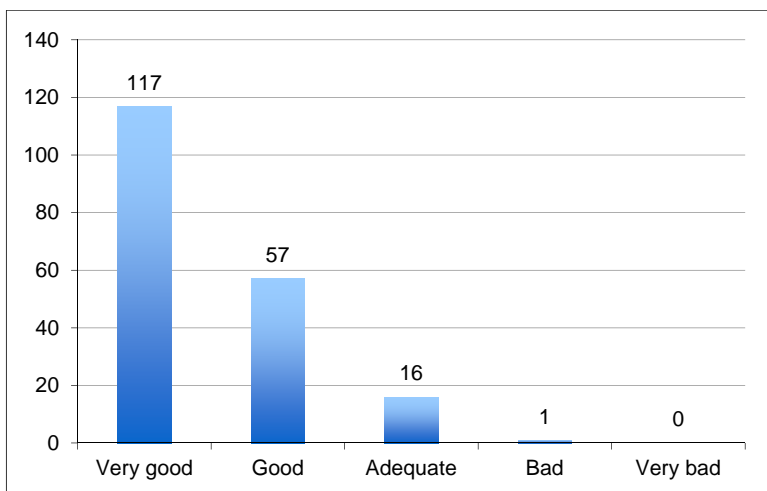
1.12 Walsall (191 answers received)

Q3) Please rate the following aspects:

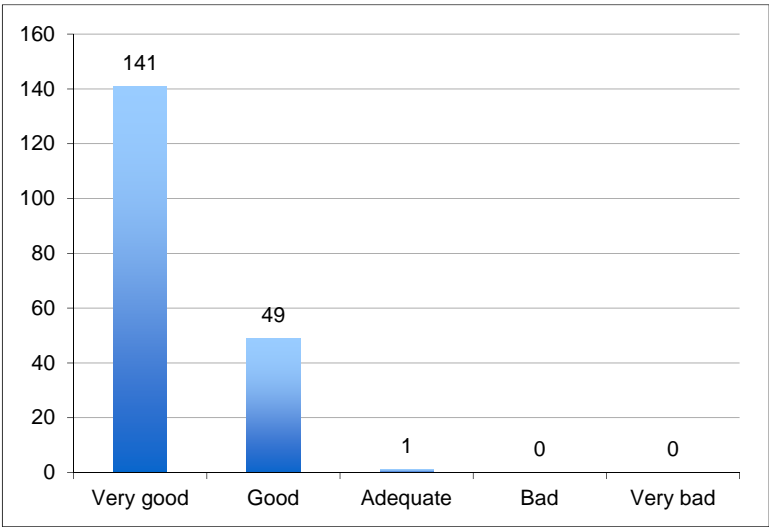
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



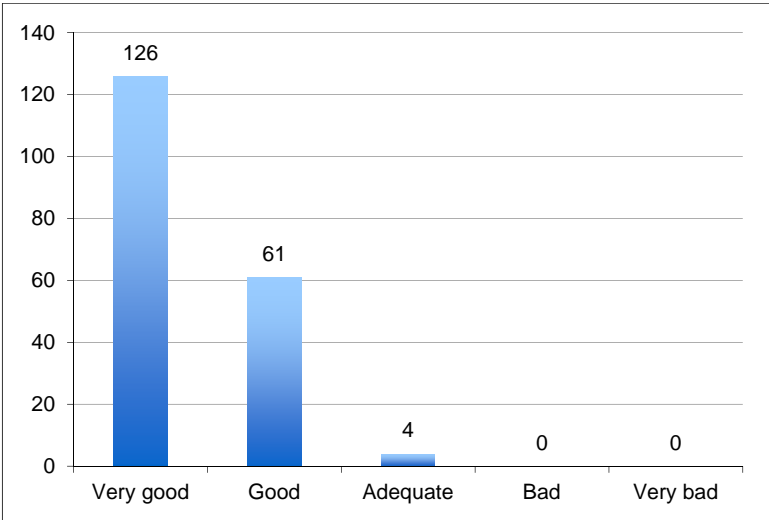
Identification check



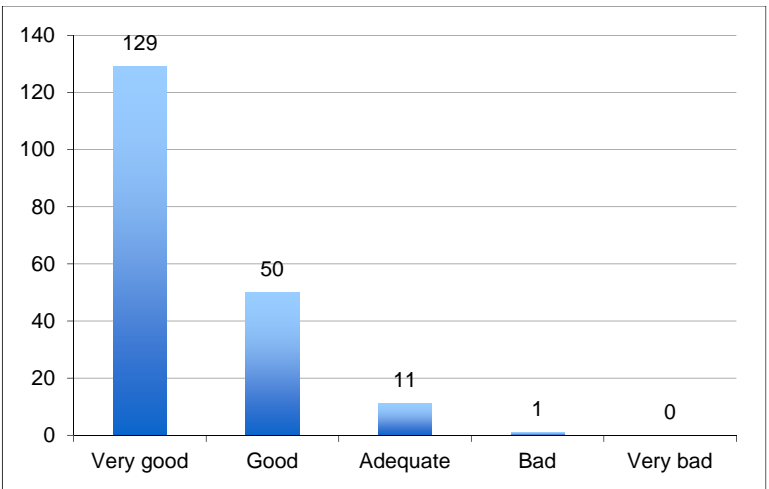
Lighting conditions



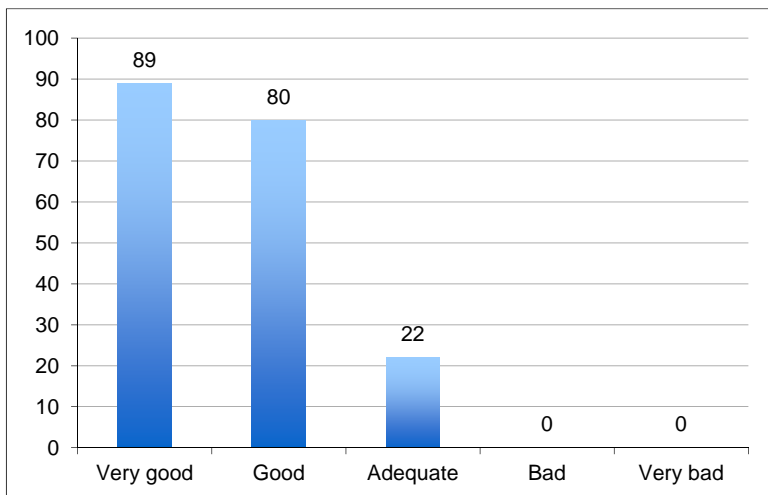
Space for candidates



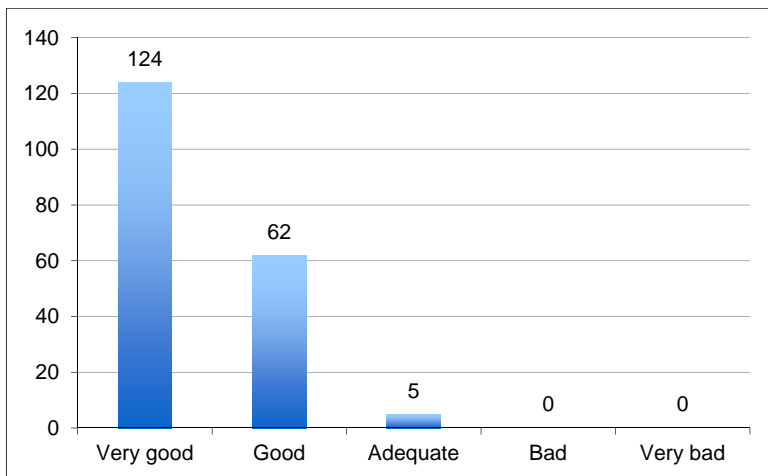
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



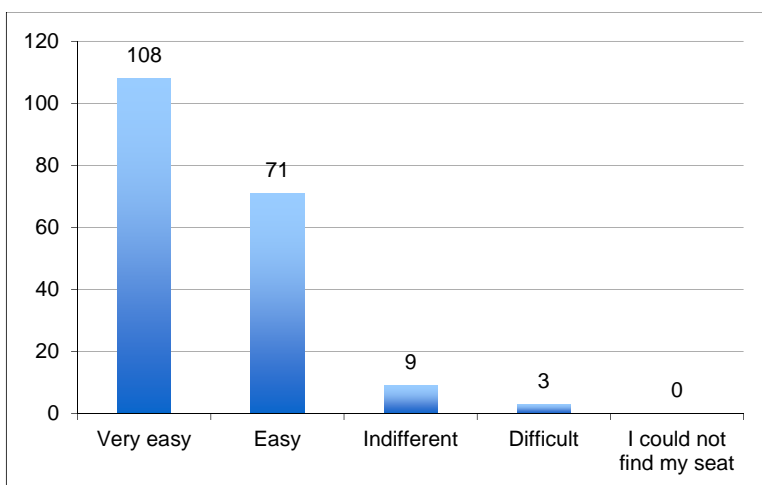
Restroom facilities



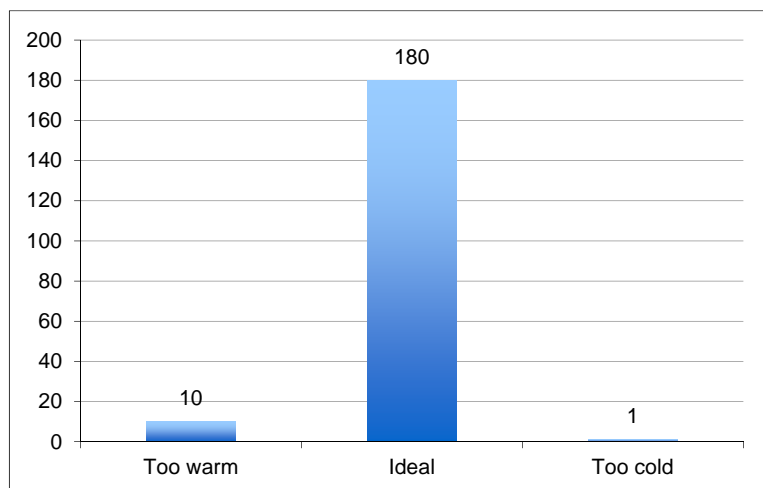
Suitability of the examination hall



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 exam hall this year was a vast improvement on last year's venue. It was easy to get to, located in the middle of the country and a good temperature.
- Excellent room - couldn't fault it. ; ; Good lighting, good temperature and quiet. Toilet facilities close. Hotel was close by and easily accessible by road and train.
- Very good. Much better than the Bristol cold place.
- Please use again, free parking / much better signage and access than before.
- The venue was suitable for the exam.
- The Walsall venue is a massive improvement over the 2016 Bristol venue. The lighting was particularly good and I very much appreciated the significantly improved visibility of the clocks.
- Steps up to hall were a bit annoying with a bag full of books but otherwise fine.
- Much improved over last year's centre.
- Comfortable and excellent lighting
- It would have been hard to get my bag upstairs for paper D but someone helped me
- Walsall is not a convenient place to access at rush hour, as it is close to the worst motorway junction in the UK (M5/M6 interchange)
- Very well situated, next to a hotel, major motorway and railway station. Good venue.
- A big improvement on last year in Bristol. My only complaint would be that Banks' stadium is a little bit stuck out in the middle of nowhere - it would be nice just to have an exam venue in the city centre. This is only a minor complaint and overall it was a pretty decent venue, I thought.
- Much improved over 2016's Bristol venue!
- Perfect.
- Much better than last year (Bristol)!
- I have sat exams in Bristol before, and Walsall was much better. Plenty of free parking spaces. The temperature was perfect, no noises and easy to access to.
- This was a substantial improvement comparing to the pre-EQEs in Bristol. It was generally a good venue. Food options around the venue were not great however. A slightly wider break between the tables at the venue would have been beneficial, but this was not critical. It was great to have time shown on a large electronic display - clearly visible.
- There was a draught when you sat at certain places within the exam hall (e.g. I was near the side next to some doors) and it got slightly chilly after a while.
- I find it quite interesting that the examination centres in every state apart from the UK and Denmark are in major cities - Walsall is a good exam venue, but is it really not possible to find a venue in London, where the bulk of the UK profession is based?

- Problems with identification raised after the event and could have corrected at the venue had it been mentioned then.; ; Caused unnecessary stress.
- Walsall was a vast improvement on Bristol and would be a good venue for future EQEs. Staff were friendly and everything seemed To run smoothly. The only downside is the limited hotel and restaurant facilities in the area, but the close-by hotel is ok.
- Considerably better than last year's examination hall (Bristol).
- Much better than Bristol in 2016! The one thing that was less than ideal was the lack of any shops etc. near the exam venue. The exam venue itself was very good
- Nice examination venue.
- Good quality environment and building, however location could be improved - somewhere with better transport links and more central within the country, or in one of its major cities such as Manchester, Leeds, London etc
- Good venue - would recommend for next year
- Really excellent examination hall - but no lift Lugging my suitcase full of books up a flight of stairs just before an exam was not ideal. Had I known that there was no lift I would have been more ruthless with my packing.; Similarly, the local train station also has no lift, instead there are 30 steps up to the footbridge then 30 steps down.; This aside, Walsall was infinitely better than Bristol in 2016.
- Perfect venue.
- The exam hall was absolutely excellent. Having heard about the atrocious conditions last year and being told that there has never yet been a year in which the exam centre was not so cold that one literally could nit move one's fingers to write, my expectations were not high. However, I found the venue to be outstandingly good. The room was temperate - perhaps a little chilly toward the end, but still perfectly acceptable. And the most impressive thing was the size of the desks which I was quite astounded at - how you managed to organise for 200 or so full sized professional desks I have no idea but they made the exam process very much easier and more comfortable as there was plenty of space to fit all of my reference books, plus the various parts of the exam paper I had torn out and the answer sheet all side by side.; ; The invigilators were excellent, attentive and quiet. No distractions - the room was silent. Toilet facilities were excellent and close by. Very well organised. We were well warned in advance that we would be interrupted at 5 minutes to the end and told to organise our papers.; ; I honestly couldn't think of any way of improving the exam venue. I only hope you are able to maintain these standards next year so I can benefit again when I take my finals!
- Excellent venue!!!!!!
- Not immediately clear how to reach stadium entrance, fine otherwise.
- It was excellent, much better than Bristol. Was a comfortable temperature. And it was good to have a hotel on the same site, I was able to get more sleep because I didn't have to leave time for finding my way to the centre.
- The centre generally fine. Occasionally I heard people making phone calls in the corridor which was slightly distracting, but otherwise I was happy with the venue.
- Walsall was much better than Bristol in 2016
- Very accessible venue but signage outside venue non-existent.; ; Vast improvement on last years terrible conditions. Should use this venue again
- A huge improvement over last year's pre-EQE venue.
- More signs needed. Uncomfortably hot, but certainly an improvement on having to wear gloves last year!
- Some space before the exam would be helpful; ended up using the nearby hotel lobby!
- This was a really good place for the EQE, temperature was perfect, facilities excellent. Thanks for taking our concerns last year into consideration, this years' venue was perfect!
- i sat the EQE Pre Exam at Walsall. The venue was ideal and I would like to sit the full exam there next year.
- I sat the Pre-exam last year in Bristol, this was a huge improvement. A really good venue. Please don't change again!
- A vast improvement on last year's venue in Bristol

- The desks were a very good size and the carpet on the floor helped to keep silence as invigilators walked around and when candidates got up to use the toilets.
- Was worried about the exam venue, since last years was so disappointing, but this year the exam venue was good. There were plenty of screens showing the time, and the venue was overall very good. It was also convenient to get to
- A big improvement on Bristol last year!
- BRILLIANT!!! Don't listen to any negative comments - you will ever please everyone. This hall was entirely suitable, please book it again next year.
- From a transport perspective it was good because there was a railway station and a large hotel right next door.; ; Minor suggestion: the toilets at the front of the exam room were clearly signposted, but the toilets at the back could have been marked much more clearly.
- The venue this year was much better than last year!! The temperature was just right, there was no excess noise, there was plenty of space to work, and overall it was just very comfortable. I was able to relax and concentrate with minimal disruptions. I would be quite happy if the exams were held in this venue every year.
- I sat the pre-exam in Bristol in 2016, the venue in Walsall 2017 was far superior.
- Good venue - will be happy if this continues to be the UK venue.
- Massive improvement over Bristol last year! Although personally the heating was too high for me, it was bearable and don't think it had too much of an adverse effect on performance. The large screen digital clocks were really helpful. The desks perhaps could have been slightly larger if possible but they were fit for purpose. Location was much more central for those outside Bristol so travelling there was much easier than the Bristol venue and plenty of places to stay close by. Chairs were a little uncomfortable after four hours so could be improved on.
- Much better conditions than expected, given anecdotal evidence regarding previous UK venues. ; ; My only criticism of the venue was location. There was only one hotel within walking distance from the venue. I was lucky enough to get a room in that hotel, however I can imagine that my experience would have been a lot more stressful if I had been required to stay further afield and use public transport (or a number of expensive taxis) to commute to the venue during peak rush hour with a small yet heavy suitcase filled with EQE reference material, such as annotated versions of the EPC and the PCT.
- No lift at railway station - hard to get heavy bag to hotel.
- Substantially improvement from last year. Also very good choice in that there was a reasonably priced hotel within a short walking distance - this was very useful given the early start time of all the EQE examinations, as the need for a rush-hour taxi ride could be avoided.
- There was nowhere to get a cup of tea or coffee or some food nearby. So if you hadn't bought food prior to the exam, you had no opportunity to buy it. Similarly, most people need some caffeine during the day - you couldn't even buy a can of Coke.
- The examination hall itself was very suitable. The table space was sufficient (of course with an open book exam more is always better, but the space was enough for me not to be inhibited). The organisation seemed to be efficient. A minor complaint was that the invigilators were audibly whispering to each other during the exam, which was only a minor distraction but also clearly not acceptable.; ; Walsall itself was not an ideal location, due to travel inconveniences, but I understand the need to compromise on cost and so if a similar venue would not be possible in a better location I think Walsall is a reasonable choice for future years.
- Much better than last year's venue, thank you
- Door out to the toilets was squeaky - I was right next to it so it was distracting at times
- Very easy and accessible. Good exam venue.
- Well thought out and suitable venue
- I thought that the examination hall and the conditions in the hall were very good.
- Great venue. Easy to get to. Plenty of accommodation nearby. Temperature was perfect - warm by not too warm. Lighting conditions more than adequate. Room did not feel crowded or cramped. Toilet noise was well-insulated from the examination hall and did not cause a

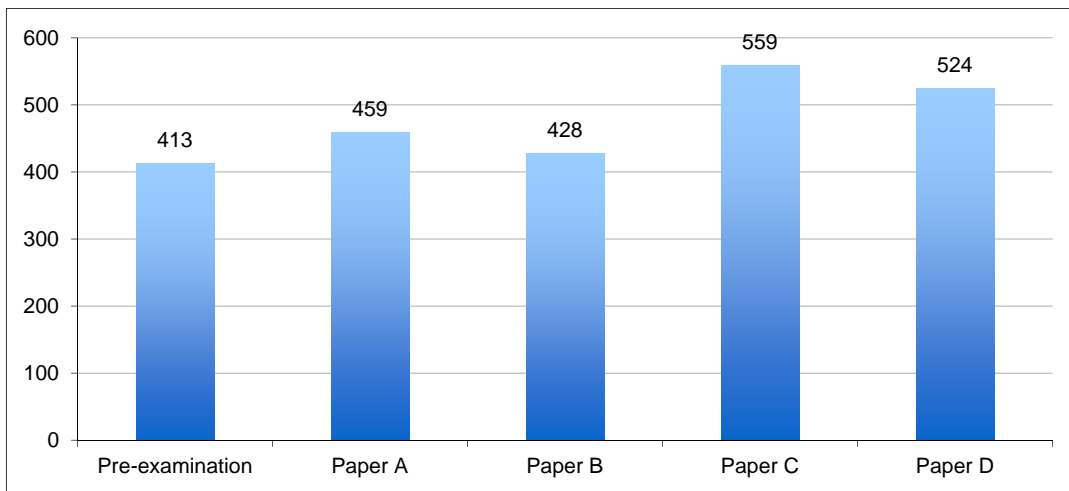
disturbance. Examination timer clearly visible from all angles and suitably sized. Strongly recommend that this venue is used again in the future.

- This examination hall was a huge improvement over the hall in which I sat the pre-exam (Bristol 2016).
- Great exam venue
- I was generally happy with the hall. It was a bit of a maze to get to your seat and not much space in between but there were people on hand to help.
- Having read the report for the Bristol centre last year, I (like many people) was sceptical about using another football stadium location. However, while Walsall is not optimally located for public transport links (it seems you probably have to go via Birmingham), I was very happy with the examination hall itself.
- Venue itself was fine. Location was poor.
- The Examination Hall was in a good location and had good temperature, lighting and facilities. Having a large venue, but multiple rooms, was a good solution in this case.
- Very good desk space. Only criticism would be the lack of a lift which is not ideal considering the number of books we had.
- There was plenty of space at each desk and I was very comfortable during the exam. The toilets were very accessible even during the exams. There was plenty of parking and reasonable places to stay nearby. I found it an excellent venue for exams
- It was slightly too warm for me, but that is probably personal preference. At the beginning it was noted that one of the heating units was pushing out too much heat and the invigilators swiftly arranged for it to be turned down.
- Much better than last year
- Centre was ideal
- Leaps and bounds better than last year!
- You had to climb stairs to get to the exam room, which was the only downside really. As we all had a lot of books this was a bit tricky and unsuitable for disabled candidates
- The venue was absolutely fine. My only complaint would be the lack of a vending machine to grab something to eat during the exam.
- I thought the exam centre was a significant improvement from Bristol last year. The large digital clocks were extremely useful and highly visible to all candidates. In addition, the restroom facilities were nearby but far enough away that you couldn't hear any noise from them.
- Both the train station near the examination venue and the venue itself did not have a lift so given that we are carrying heavy bags of books it is not ideal to go up the stairs- this would be unsuitable for people with reduced mobility. Other than that the venue was much better than last year's one in Bristol.
- Generally good.
- The venue was ideal, please keep it for next year.
- Exam hall seemed very suitable and I would happily sit exams there again. The temperature fluctuated during the exam from very warm to slightly chilly, but at no point was this problematic, just inconsistent.
- Good venue. Plenty of space and good working environment. Easy to get to from most of the UK. Staff were excellent and very helpful.; ; It would have been useful to have more information regarding storage of valuables. Your email concerning mobile telephones was useful, but it would have been useful to have a bit more detail available about the storage available - I brought a laptop with me and I was unsure whether I would be able to hand this in.; ; Some information about the availability of food at the venue (even vending machines) would have been useful
- Very good facilities once inside but in a poor location
- One of the exam invigilators kept on pacing up & down right next to me, which was very distracting. I had to ask him not to do that, and that in itself further distracted me just when I was trying to start on the Claim Construction part of the Pre-exam.
- I really like the exam hall. The desks were a little close to each other in the larger hall, but the smaller hall was perfect.

- So so much better than the conditions in 2016!
- Much improved on last year! good venue!
- No issues with the Walsall venue.
- Very good venue, light, temperate, spacious, easy to reach by road.
- Much better than Bristol in 2016
- Excellent Venue; ; It would have been useful to have information about the form of cloak room facilities available. Many of us had brought laptops with us, and we were unsure whether we were going to be able to store these. The staff were very helpful and looked after these for us, but information in advance would have been useful
- The venue in Walsall was much better than the Bristol venue (which I sat pre-EQEs in last year). I would highly recommend using it again. Thanks to the organisers for making such a big improvement compared to Bristol the previous year.

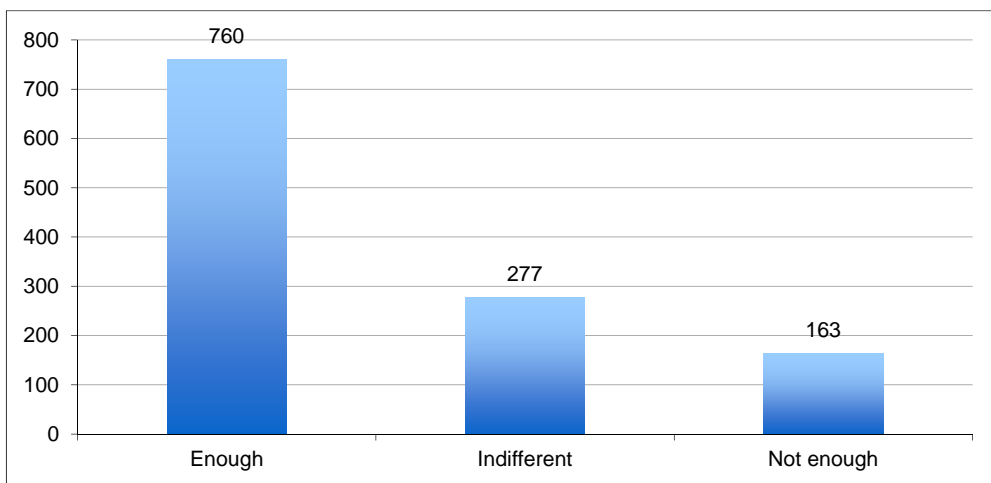
Chapter 2 - Preparation for the EQE

Q7) Which examination papers did you sit?

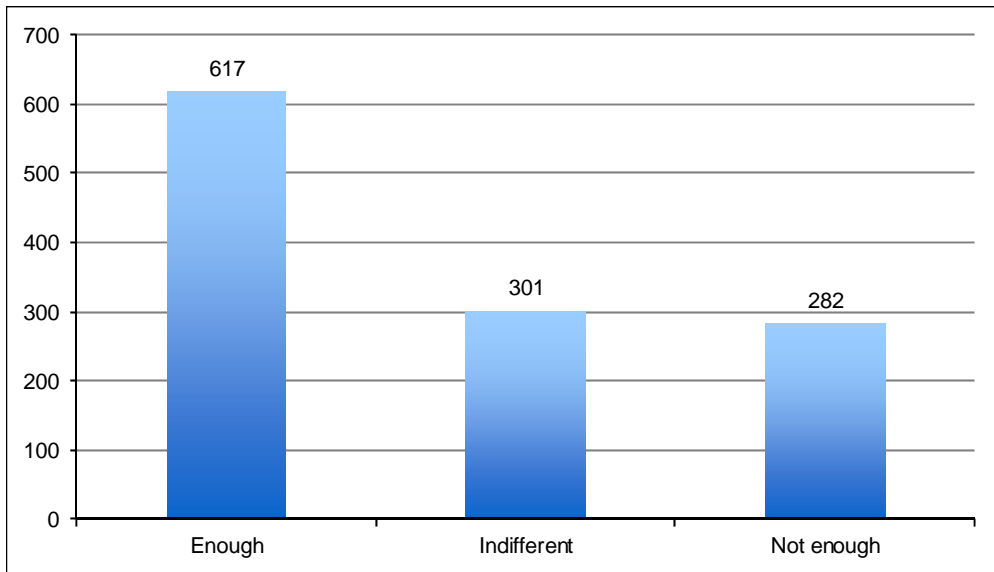


Q8) Examiners' report in the Compendium – rating

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



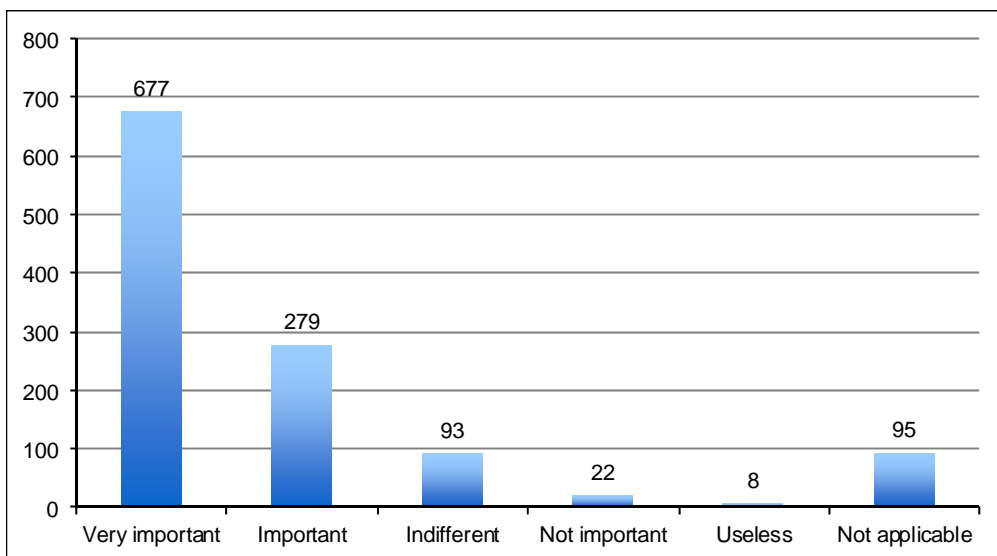
Does the examiners' report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how the papers are marked?



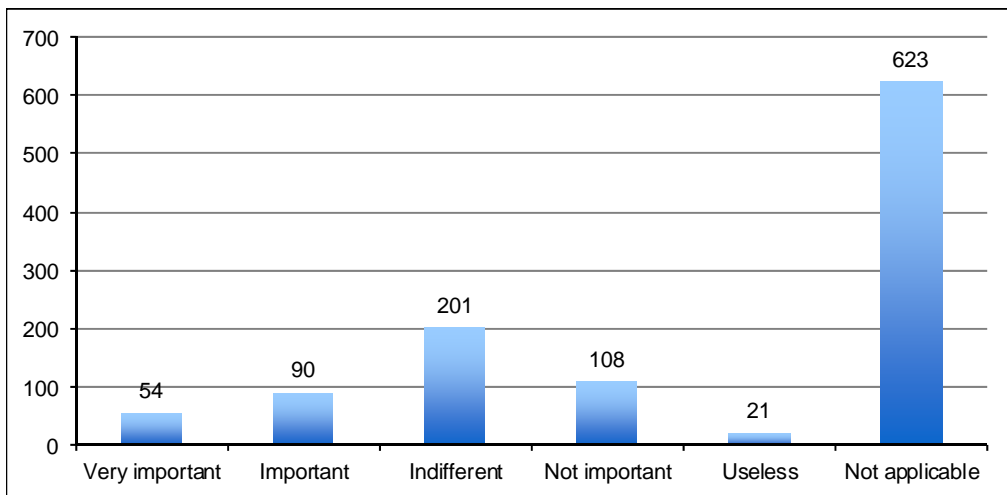
Q9) Elements of your personal preparation

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

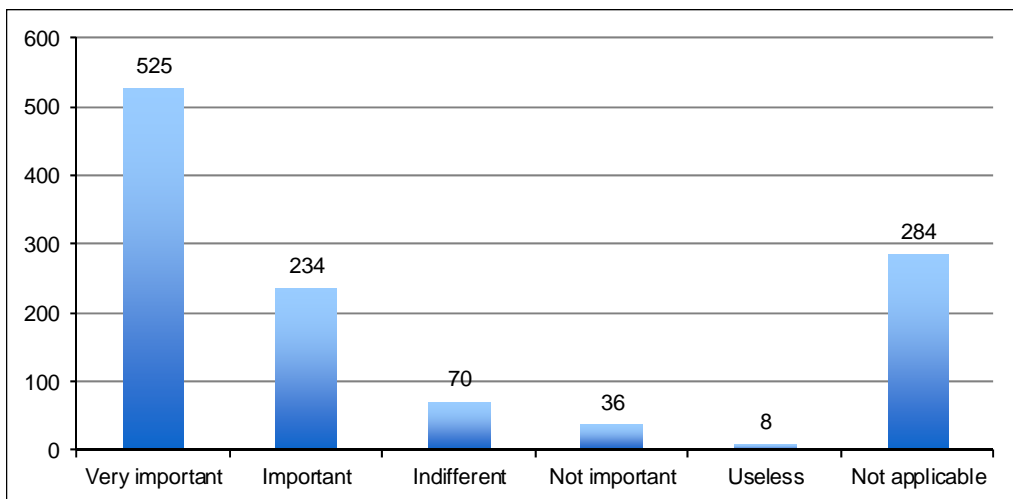
Compendium



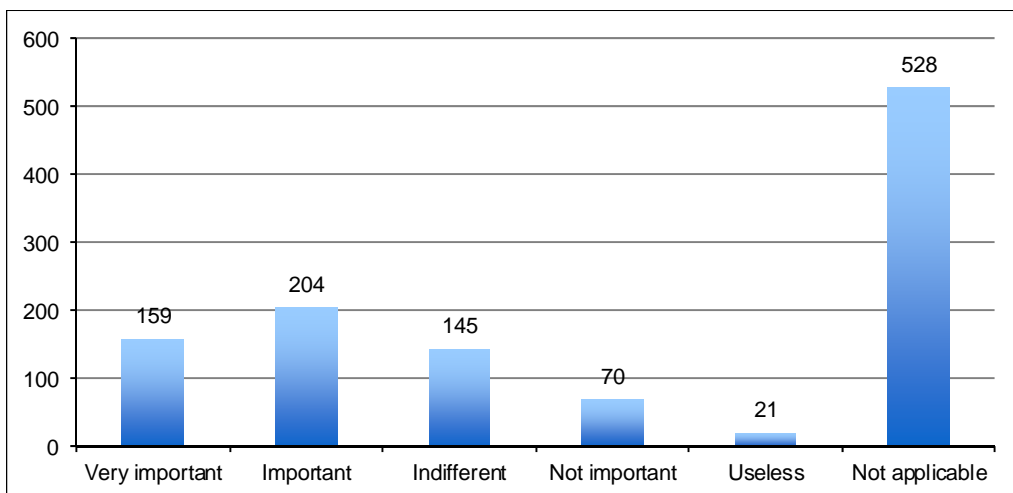
epi studentship



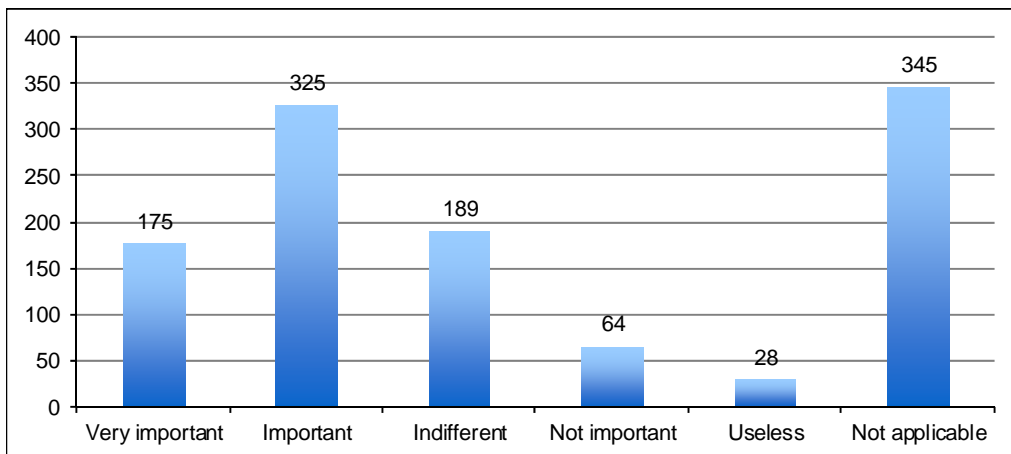
Specialised courses for EQE papers



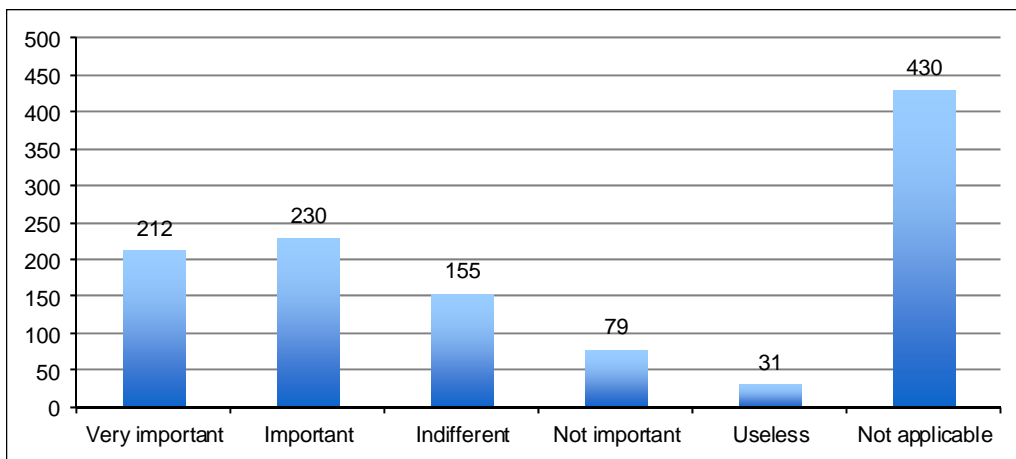
In-house training organised by your company



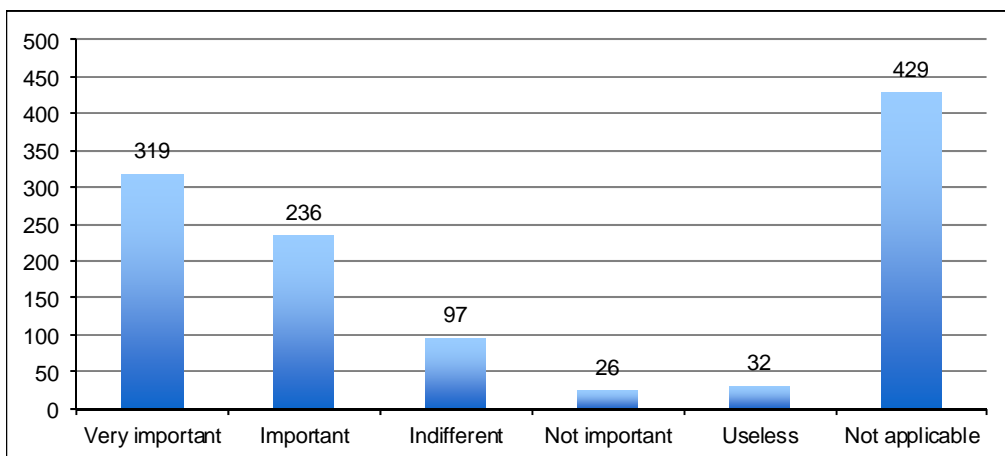
Dedicated training given by your supervisor as mentioned in the Art. 11(2)(a) REE



Study in small group with other candidates



Mock pre-examination on EQE website



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

- a book for EQE
- A Tutor provided by EPI
- A-Book, How to pass the European (only Part B)
- Adequate books
- all of the above

- An anoted EPC
- Annotated EPC
- annotated epc and pct, deltapatents book w questions
- Annotated EPC Visser
- Annotated EPC, EPC Guidelines, PCT Applicant's guide
- Annotated EPC, EPC Guidelines, PCT User Guide
- Annotated EPC/PCT
- "Annotated EPC; specific tutorials with other students"
- "Annotated guides to EPC and PCT; technique guides"
- asked colleagues who previously sat this paper
- bachotage questions juridiques
- Baque
- Baque book
- Baque booklet on EPC (in French) mainly, and guidelines.
- BAque et Deltat patent
- Baque, ceipi
- Baque's book + 3 cabin luggages full of useless stuff.
- Basic Legal questions for pre-exam
- BoA decisions
- "Book - ""Verfahrenspraxis EPÜ und PCT"" von Gruner/ Großmann aus Heymanns Verlag"
- "Book ""Annotated EPC"" , Visser"
- book by Delta patents: Basic legal questions
- Book from G. Baque (CBE-PCT)
- Book of baque
- books (CEIPI, Delta patent)
- Books (Visser), Courseware (Delta Patents)
- Books and comments/teachings from colleagues
- books dedicated to the EQEs
- books for eqe
- Books from deltapatents
- Books sold by Deltapatents
- Books, Daily D questions
- books, e.g. Delta Patents Paper D
- Books, old questions.
- Brian Cronin YouTube channel
- C book
- C methodology book Delta patents
- Candidate Support Program with coaching aid
- Candidate Support Project organized by the EPO
- Cases and Basic Legal Questions at Deltapatents
- CBE-PCT Grégory BAQUE
- C-Book
- Cbook dbook
- C-book, d-book
- Cees Mulder D and C Books
- CEI
- Ceipi
- CEIPI and ASPI
- CEIPI C book
- CEIPI course
- CEIPI course Straßburg
- CEIPI Course, C-Book, A-Book
- CEIPI course, Kley commentary, PCT/EPC table book

- CEIPI courses
- CEIPI courses, BAQUE
- Ceipi courses, Strasbourg
- Ceipi Kurse
- CEIPI materials
- CEIPI seminars
- CEIPI training courses
- CEIPI-Tutorium
- "Chat with colleagues; Coffee Break EQE questions"
- Coaching through the CSP Project
- Coffee break questions, Basic Legal Questions (DeltaPatents), former exams
- Coffee Break Questions, Daily D Questions
- coffee break questions, own notes
- "Coffee break questions; many hours of self study."
- Commentaire personnalisé
- commentaries, Delta Patents Paper D
- Commentary on EPC
- commentary singer/stauder, salted patents by delta patents for PCT, Köllner PCT commentary, EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- commented CBE
- Commented EPC
- CSP
- CSP candidate support mentorship
- CSP program for EQE training
- CSP tutor
- CSP, CEIPI pre-exam, CEIPI basic course
- D question book - very important
- Daily D questions
- "Daily D questions on epo website; Delta Patents course material; textbooks eg Visser"
- daily job
- Daily Questions
- Daily work
- D-Book by CEIPI, Study material by Delta Patents, C-Book by Delta Patents, Visser's Book
- D-Book, Delta Patents Materila
- Delta C-Book & D-Book, very good
- Delta Course
- Delta course material
- Delta Paper C
- delta patens books
- Delta Patens Study Guide and Pre EQE Training Course from the EPA Patent Academy
- Delta Patent
- Delta Patent - Pre Exam Book (very important)
- delta patent book
- delta patent book- basic legal questions for pre-EQE and D
- Delta Patent book, Daily questions
- delta patent books
- DELTA PATENT BOOKS AND COURSES
- Delta patent books, Kley
- Delta patent correction paper
- delta patent course and booklet
- Delta Patent courses, self study, every-day work practice
- DELTA Patents
- Delta Patents + Past Papers

- Delta Patents and CEIPI books.
- Delta patents and chandler meinders c book
- delta patents and related book
- "Delta patents answer book for Part I; Visser"
- Delta Patents Basic Legal Questions
- Delta Patents Basic Legal Questions and Delta Patents Pre Exam Book
- Delta Patents Basic Question
- Delta patents book
- Delta Patents book & Visser
- Delta Patents' book D
- delta patents book for C
- delta patents book, commented EPC
- Delta Patents Books
- Delta patents books and discussion with very capable senior colleague
- Delta patents books and visser
- Delta Patents Books for Paper D
- Delta patents books of questions and model answers
- Delta Patents Books, Guidelines, EPC
- "Delta Patents books; discussions on learning methodology with successful candidates"
- Delta Patents C book
- Delta patents C-book
- Delta Patents Compendium
- delta patents course
- Delta Patents course books
- Delta Patents Course C and Delta Patents book for A
- Delta patents D book
- delta patents D questions/Cronin youtube video toturials
- Delta Patents D, C book
- Delta Patents D-Book, CEIPI C-Book, Delta Patents C-Book, Delta Patents Methodology for paper B
- Delta patents L question book
- Delta Patents legal questions
- delta patents material for paper C
- Delta Patents P book
- Delta Patents Paper D book
- Delta patents paper D questions
- Delta patents papers
- Delta patents pre exam study aids
- Delta patents pre-exam and paper D questions
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam Book
- Delta patents pre-exam book 2013
- Delta Patents Q&A
- "Delta Patents Question Book; Past Papers"
- Delta Patents question books
- Delta patents questions and answers book
- Delta Patents questions book, visser, rudge
- Delta Patents Questions for D
- Delta Patents revision guides
- Delta Patents Solutions to the exams D
- Delta patents study guide
- Delta Patents Text Books
- Delta patents workbook
- Delta patents, CEIPI, tutoring

- "Delta Patents; Verfahrenspraxisbuch (DE)"
- "Delta Patents; Visser"
- Deltapatent
- "Deltapatent ; CEIPI"
- DELTAPATENT BOOKS
- Deltapatent C-Book
- Deltapatent course
- Delta-Patent-Fragenbuch
- "Deltapatents Basic Legal Questions & Preexamination Books; Rudge D-Book; Visser"
- Deltapatents basic questions book. Dirk Cusser's annotated EPC and past papers
- Deltapatent's books
- Delta-Patents Bücher
- Deltapatents C and D books
- Deltapatents C book
- Deltapatents C methodology book
- Delta-Patents C-Book
- Deltapatents CBook, Ceipi C book, Smart in C
- Deltapatents Compendium
- DeltaPatents Courses
- deltaPatents D Book
- Deltapatents D questions
- "Delta-patents D-book; A,C,D-Books ceipi"
- Deltapatents EQE pre-exam book and basic legal questions book
- DeltaPatents L and P book
- DeltaPatents material
- Deltapatents model solutions
- DeltaPatents Paper C
- DeltaPatents Paper D book
- DeltaPatents Paper-C Book
- DeltaPatents practice question books for D and Methodology for C
- Deltapatents Pre-Exam and basic legal questions book, The annotated EPC (Derk Visser)
- Deltapatents question books, Smart in C book
- DeltaPatents Questions
- DeltaPatents resources
- Deltapatents specialized training
- Deltapatents study books
- "Deltapatents Study Material; Books, Cross referenced books"
- deltapatents, C-book, Visser
- Derk Visser
- different books and comments
- different books, as Delta Patents, Smart in C (Mulder), CEIPI C-Book
- Discussions with candidates who passed the exam in previous years were able to pass on their knowledge.
- Doing past papers
- Elearning class from epo
- EP and PCT conventions and rules.
- EPA on line Course for pre-EXAM
- "EPA Pre-EQE Online Course; DeltaPatents books"
- EPC
- EPC & Speich
- EPC commentaries
- EPC reference book (Kley)
- EPC, PCT

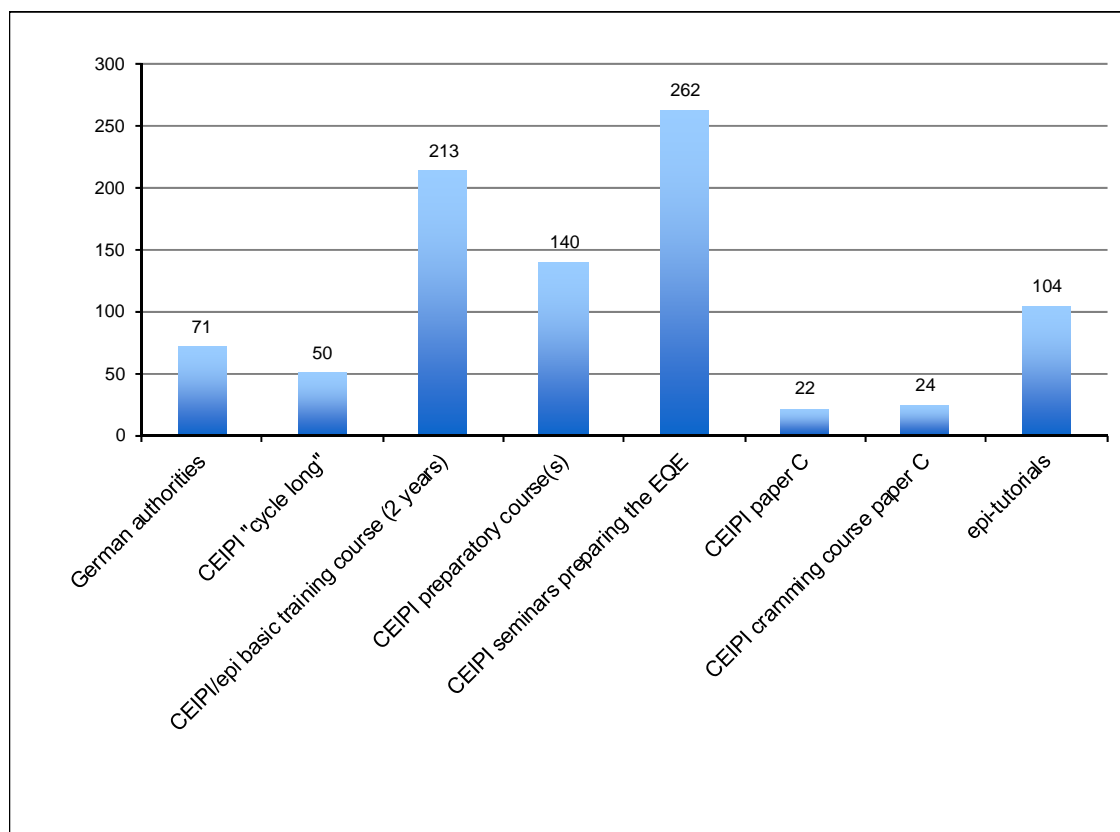
- EPI Online Training Course
- epi Tutor
- Epi tutor. Compendium
- EPI's pre-exam online course, Delta Patents pre-exam textbook, attempted all past papers and reviewed model solutions proposed by Delta Patents book and EQE mark scheme comments
- EPO Acedemy prep course (through CSP programme)
- EPO course
- EPO e-learning center's Daily D questions and Time limit questions which are very good and important to have
- EPO EPI pre exam module.
- EPO GL, DeltaPatents recources
- EPO learning website
- EPO online course
- EPO On-line course
- EPO online course pre-EQE, CEIPI course pre-EQE
- EPO online course pre-examination
- EPO Online Course.
- epo online training
- EPO online training courses
- EPO online-course
- EPO pre-EQE online course
- EPO Pre-examination course, Kley
- epo questions, annotated EPC, EPO guidelines
- EPO website : timelines calculation questions
- EPO-CSP, the coach's and tutors' dedicated help
- "EPO-Online Course; other books for preparation"
- EPO's time limit questions and daily questions
- EPÜ + Richtlinien
- EPÜ PCT Tabellen
- EPÜ und PCT Verfahrenspraxis
- EQE Candidate Support project
- EQE coffee break questions
- "EQE Coffee Break questions; EQE Daily D questions"
- eqe csp
- EQE Pre-Exam Course
- EQE pre-examination online training course (EPO)
- EQE pre-examination online training course 2016-2017
- eqe training books
- EQE Website Questions and previous Pre-Exams
- European patent Academy online training
- exterior tutor
- Fern Uni Hagen Scrips
- Fisser
- Google
- Gregory Baque Book
- guidelines
- Guidelines for Examination (EPO)
- Guidelines, BOA Case Law book
- guidelines, commented EPC
- Guidelines, Delta Patents
- Guidelines, EPC, PCT, several EPA information materials
- Guidelines, Visser Annotated European Patent Convention

- Guideliness, comment Visser
- Hoekstra
- Hoekstra and other texts
- Hoekstra book. Paper C book. Mulder for PCT
- Hoekstra textbook
- Hoekstra, EPO online for Pre-Exam
- "Hoekstra's Reference to the EPC; Basic Legal Questions for Pre-Exam and Main Exam; Past papers on EQE website; Coffee break questions"
- In-house training at previous employer (National Office)
- In-house training by myself
- JDD revision course
- Just going to the library after work, and making previous exams thoroughly with time, and then checking the answers with the model answers and the Examiner's reports. This was my strategy in my 4th try in the D paper.
- Kley
- Kley Kommentar, EPO Pre EQE Online course
- Kley, DeltaPatents books and courses
- "Kley; Köllner"
- Kommentar
- Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000 (Hansjörg Kley), Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- last years exam papers
- Learning group is highly recommended
- legal questions book
- Legal text books and study guides
- legal texts and comments
- Mainly past papers: B & C
- Material from DeltaPatens + Visser
- Mock and previous exam papers for practise
- Mock B paper on EQE website
- model solutions of last 4 years paper D
- Old exams
- Old exams, Chandler/Meinders' C-book
- old papers and reports
- "old papers; Delta Patent"
- old pre exams
- Online course
- Online course provided by EPO
- Online PreEQE course and Delta patents books
- Own notes
- Own, personal training
- Paper C book
- Paper C book Chandler/Meinders
- Papers in chemistry and mechanical field
- Past exam papers
- past exams
- past papers
- Past papers (may be considered part of compendium)
- past papers and
- Past papers, CEIPI course materials
- Past papers, coffee break questions
- Past papers, deltapatents d exercise book, visser, mulder pct book
- "Past papers; Delta Patents legal questions"

- past pre-exams from eqe website
- PCT-Tabellenbuch
- Personal study with books/legal texts, on-the-job training
- "Practice on real cases; UK examinations (previously taken); EPO online course; Visser and Guidelines"
- PRE EQE COURSE EPO ACADEMY
- pre exam online course epo
- Pre-eqe course offered by EPO academy
- Pre-EQE online course
- "Pre-exam online course materials; Delta patents books"
- preparation books
- Preparation/ study guides
- Previous exams
- "previous exams as published on EPO website; books of Cees Mulder, CEIPI, Brian Cronin"
- Reading the Guidelines and the EPC.
- Reading the law
- Reference book
- Reference Books
- Richtlinien, Tabellenbuch EPÜ/PCT, Kley
- RiLi
- Ritalin
- Self study
- self study and Delta Patents Questions
- self-study
- Selftraining
- several books
- Smart in C
- Smart in C book, Delta Patents book
- Smart in C-book, Delta Patents C and D methodology book
- Smart method for C (Maastricht method)
- solving old papers
- Specialized books
- specific book directed towards paper C (Delta Patents)
- Study books: Smart in C, Tactics for Paper D (both Cees Mulder), other textbooks
- Study Guides
- Study myself with reference books
- Summaries from previous students.
- "Tactics for D; Smart in C"
- textbooks
- The Annotated European Patent Convention - Derk Visser
- The Annotated European Patent Convention by Derk Visser
- the guidelines of course
- The guidelines.
- The 'how to get' books
- the video of interview of the chairman for the examination preparations.
- Time limit questions EPO website, guide for applicants, Delta patents book with legal questions for pre-exam
- timeline questions, coffee break questions
- Training with older exams papers
- Various books (Hoekstra and Mulder in particular), EPO online course
- "various DeltaPatents Methodology and Q&A Books; Comment books by Kley, Köllner; PCT Tables;"
- Various study books written to help with the EQE exams

- Visser
- Visser - Annotated EPC, Guidelines
- Visser + Guidelines
- Visser and Delta Patents L
- Visser annotated EPC
- Visser book
- Visser, annotated EPC/ PCT
- Visser, Annotated PCT
- Visser, Delta patent D, Cee Mulder (PCT)
- Visser, Delta Patents books
- Visser, Delta Patents books for pre-examination.
- Visser, deltapatent guide
- Visser, DeltaPatents D questions book
- Visser, EPC, Guidelines
- Visser, EPO Guidelines
- visser, GL
- Visser, Guide to the EPC, EQE online webinar, past papers
- Visser, Guidelines, Cross-Referenced PCT, PCT applicants guide
- Visser, Hoekstra, PCT Applicants Guide, Guidelines for Examination
- Visser/ Reading the Guidelines/Delta Patents Books
- Visser/Hoekstra
- Visser/past papers
- "Visser; Mulder; free EPO literature..."
- Visser's Annotated EPC Book
- Visser's Guide, Delta Pat. Paper D main exam questions
- "Your online time limit training;"

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.

- EQE pre-examination online training course 2016-2017 of the European Patent Academy
- 2 day in house course
- "2-day Delta patent introduction to ""D"""
- 2day-Paper-D-Delta-patent-course
- A free seminar organised by a law firm
- ASPI
- ASPI formation
- Bournemouth PG Certificate in IP
- C & DD course by Michalski Hüttermann & Partner (Düsseldorf)
- C paper course organised by and at EPO by delta patents
- Cees Mulder in Maastricht, C & D
- CEIPI - 1 year
- CEIPI (accéléré), bachotage par le CEIPI et aspi
- CEIPI (cycle court)
- Ceipi cycle accéléré
- CEIPI cycle accéléré brevets
- CEIPI cycle court
- CEIPI for paper D
- CEIPI last minute
- CEIPI Seminar Pre-Exam and Intensive Seminar Pre-Exam
- celta patent training
- csp
- CSP program
- CSP programme
- CSP training, Delta patents and online course
- D.U. brevet (cycle accéléré) with CEIPI in Strasbourg
- Dalta patent
- Dedicated EQE Mock camp in a small group
- Dedicated short courses by my company
- Delta

- delta c d
- Delta C paper
- delta d
- Delta EQE preparation courses
- Delta EQE Training
- Delta for courses A, B, D
- Delta methodology for paper d
- Delta paper D preparation course
- Delta Patent
- Delta Patent 3 course paper D - EPO in house w/e course (by Delta patent)
- Delta patent books
- delta patent course
- Delta Patent Courses
- Delta Patent courses dedicated to parts C and D of EQE
- Delta Patent Courses for Papers A, B, C and D
- Delta patent D methodology, CEIPI paper D courses
- delta patent D-methodology
- Delta Patent EQE training
- Delta patent for C
- Delta Patent methodology courses for papers A, B and D
- Delta Patent Pre-exam Course
- Delta patentes C&D
- delta patents
- Delta Patents - Guide and Questions
- Delta Patents + EPI mock exam
- Delta Patents 12-day pre-exam
- Delta patents 2 day course
- Delta Patents 3-day course
- Delta Patents A&B, C and D methodology, C guided exam
- Delta Patents A,B,C,D
- Delta Patents A+B, C, D
- Delta Patents and CSP coaching
- Delta Patents B-course
- Delta Patents C + D
- Delta Patents C exam training
- delta patents C+D
- Delta patents claim analysis
- Delta Patents course
- Delta Patents Course C and Delta Patents book for A
- Delta patents course C-paper
- Delta Patents Course D
- Delta Patents course for EPO Examiners at the EPO (very valuable course - appreciated by all participants!)
- Delta patents course for paper A
- Delta patents course for Paper C and D
- Delta Patents courses
- Delta Patents courses A, B, C and D
- Delta patents courses for examiners
- Delta Patents C-Paper
- delta patents D course
- Delta patents D paper course
- Delta Patents EQE trainings
- Delta Patents for C-part

- delta patents legal questions
- Delta Patents Paper C
- Delta Patents paper C and D methodology
- Delta patents paper c course
- Delta Patents Paper C for CSP students
- Delta Patents papers C and D
- Delta patents Part D 3 days
- Delta Patents Pre EQE
- Delta Patents pre-EQE course
- Delta patents Pre-exam
- Delta Patents Pre-Exam course
- DELTA PATENTS TRAINING
- Delta Patents trainings ABCD
- Delta patents week-end course at EPO
- "Delta Patents; CEIPI paper D"
- Delta Resitters Paper C
- Delta training Pre-exam
- Deltapatents' claims analysis course
- Deltapatent
- Delta-Patent
- DeltaPatent C course for EPO examiners
- Deltapatent course
- DeltaPatent courses
- Deltapatent courses on C and D
- Deltapatent D course 1 week,
- Deltapatent methodology A+B
- Deltapatents
- DeltaPatents - Paper C Training CSP
- "DeltaPatents ""Pre-Exam Distance Learning"""
- DeltaPatents + EPO online training
- deltapatents 2 day provided by EPO
- DeltaPatents 2days and 3 days C training plus correction of 3 papers C
- DeltaPatents 3-day Methodology Paper D
- Deltapatent's 3-day pre-exam training, VO/CEIPI pre-exam training in the EPO premises
- DeltaPatents 3-days course D
- Deltapatents 9 days course 2013
- Deltapatents A and B course
- Deltapatents' A and B course
- Deltapatents A, B, D
- DeltaPatents all courses
- DeltaPatents A-seminar
- Deltapatents B course
- Deltapatents books
- DeltaPatents C and D
- Deltapatents c and d training
- DeltaPatents C- and D-methodology
- DeltaPatents C course (5-day) and D course (5-day)
- DeltaPatents C Methodology
- Deltapatents c seminar
- DeltaPatents C&D
- Deltapatents C+D-course
- Deltapatents course
- Deltapatents Course D and C

- deltapatents course DI and DII
- DeltaPatents Course for Paper C
- DeltaPatents course paper c and paper d
- Deltapatents course paper C, paper D
- DeltaPatents courses
- DeltaPatents' courses
- Deltapatents Courses (C and D)
- DeltaPatents courses C/D (previous years) + DeltaPatents Correction of Papers program 2016-2017
- Deltapatents courses for A, B, D
- Deltapatents D
- Deltapatents EQE courses (modules C and D)
- Deltapatents for paper C
- DeltaPatents full A/B/C/D course + extra D week
- Deltapatents methodology course
- DeltaPatents Methodology course for Paper C
- Deltapatents methodology courses for papers C and D and IP aheadmeins methodology courses for paper A and B.
- DeltaPatents Methodology for Paper C and Methodology Paper D
- deltapatents paper c training
- DeltaPatents Paper D Methodology
- Deltapatents pre exam training
- Deltapatents Pre-exam course (7 days)
- deltapatents pre-exam training, EQE pre-exam online course
- Deltapatents training
- DeltaPatents, IP-akademin
- Deltapatents, Maastricht University course
- Deltapatents, methodology course for A, B, C and D
- DeltaPatents: Courses for paper a, b, c, d
- deltat patent
- Deta patnets course
- EPA eQE preexam course
- EPA Pre-EQE Online Course
- EPI coffee break questions
- epi on line course for pre-exam
- epi online course
- epi On-line pre-exam preparation course
- EPI/EPO Academy online training
- epi-tutorials: in earlier years, not really this time. I have participated DeltaPatents D paper course earlier: absolutely great in this regard!
- EPO Academy (CSP programme)
- EPO course
- EPO courses
- EPO DeltaPatents
- EPO in house
- EPO in-house
- EPO inhouse Course 2-days
- EPO online course
- EPO On-line course
- EPO online course and Delta patents course
- EPO online course and Deltapatents 1 day legal 2 days claim analysis course Eindhoven
- EPO online course for Pre-EQE
- epo online pre exam preparation course

- EPO online pre-exam course
- EPO online training
- EPO online training course
- EPO Praktika Intern 2013, Maastricht Univ., C and D
- EPO Pre EQE online course
- EPO pre examination course
- EPO pre-EQE online course
- EPO pre-examination course
- EPO pre-examination online training course
- EPO/epi on-line pre-exam course
- EPO-CSP, DeltaPatents' seminars
- EQE pre-exam online course
- EQE pre-examination online course (PD01-2016) by European Patent Academy
- EQE pre-examination online training course
- EQE pre-examination online training course 2016-2017
- EQE pre-examination online training course 2016-2017 - European Patent Academy
- EQE pre-examination online training course 2016-2017 organised by the EPO
- EQE pre-examination online training course by European Patent Academy
- EQECANDIDATESUPPORT
- European Patent Academy Pre-EQE online course
- excellent deltapatents C- and D-courses
- Focussing Bootcamp of Paul Rosenich
- French ASPI exams corrected by professionals. I expected more detailed comments. Useful to train in real conditions + get answer on a few points of law, though.
- Hagen Examinatorium Pre-EQE
- I also attended ASPI course (2 days spaced by two months time interval)
- "I used DeltaPatent's books, read discussions at EQE blog (I have a solid background actually: LLM IP from MIPLC with GPA ""very good"", foreign patent attorney license, 8 year experience in first tier firms (according to Managing IP))"
- In house
- In house course D at the EPO (weekend)
- In house Delta Patents
- in house epo
- In house training organised by Deltapatents
- In house tutorials and course at Queen Mary university, London
- In-house training
- in-house training organized by in-house EPAs
- Internal training in my company
- IP Akademin, Stockholm
- IP courses at IP Akademin, Stockholm, Sweden
- IPKM 2015 + DeltaPatents pre EQE training.
- IPKM Maastricht
- JDD
- JDD C and D course
- JDD consultants
- JDD consultants (UK) papers A, B, C, D
- JDD consultants EQE course and inhouse courses.
- JDD Consultants UK
- JDD Course
- JDD course for pre-exam
- JDD course paper D, Delta Patents course paper C
- JDD Course Pre-Exam (UK)
- JDD courses

- JDD courses in the UK
- JDD courses in UK
- jdd for paper c
- JDD in the UK
- JDD in UK
- JDD paper c and d
- JDD paper C course
- JDD pre exam preparation
- JDD pre-exam course
- JDD revision course in UK
- JDD, Delta Patents
- Kurs Kanzlei Michalski Hüttermann
- KVIV Europees octrooirecht en octrooipraktijk
- Legal basics for pre-exam and paper D, Delta Patents
- Maastricht C-course
- Maastricht Course, Cees Mulder
- Maastricht University C and D
- Maastricht University Course
- Michalski Hüttermann
- Michalski Hüttermann EQE-Seminar
- No course
- no courses this year
- none
- none, for this year
- one year of CEIPI basic training course
- online course
- Online course for pre-exam
- online epi course
- online EQE EPO training
- online preEQE course
- Online pre-Exam course from the EPO
- Online pre-examination course
- Online training by EPO
- Online training by EPO for Pre-exam
- on-line training course of EPO for pre-EQE
- Paper C- Delta Patents
- Paul Roubier
- personal courses
- Pre-eqe course offered by EPO academy
- pre-EQE online course
- Pre-EQE online training course
- Pre-ex course EPI/EPO
- Pre-examination course from EPO
- Preparatory books
- Preu-Kurs
- private courses
- QM EQE course
- QMUL EQE prep course in London
- QMUL EQE preparation course
- Queen Mary Certificate of Intellectual Property
- Queen Mary EQE course
- Queen Mary london
- Queen Mary UK

- Queen Mary University EQE course
- Selbststudium
- Self study
- self-studying
- Special course on paper C
- study group
- "The ""Diplôme d'études internationales de la propriété industrielle"" (cycle accéléré), obtained after completing nine-weeks study with CEIPI in Strasbourg"
- the D weekend course at EPO
- This year I studied by myself with books
- two-day in-house course by Deltapatents
- UK-based course organised by Queen Mary University of London
- UK-based JDD pre-EQE course
- University Maastricht
- University Maastricht (C&D) and Deltapatents (A&B)
- University of Maastricht
- VESPA/VISP EQE training course
- weekend seminar organised by the EPO
- weekend training offered at the EPO

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

- "- Derk Visser: Kommentiertes EPÜ;; - Delta-Patent- Lehrbücher;; - Malte Köllner: PCT-Handbuch; - Düwel: EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen; - Altklausuren"
- "- Guidelines for Examination in the EPO; - PCT Applicant's Guide"
- "- practising as many past papers as possible also in ""simulated"" test conditions, i.e. doing them in one sitting; - organizing material for the exam, preparing template sheets; - practising handwriting with proper pens"
- "- Read the EPO Guidelines; - Learn the most important ""G"" decisions"
- ""Daily D questions"" per email"
- ""The European Patent Convention"" - Derk Visser; Online course EPO pre-EQE"
- /
- "A Book and C Book given in CEIPI courses; ; Annotated EPC; ; Guidelines for Examination EPO"
- A good guide for the EPC and PCT besides all the other suitable documentation
- A good understanding for what marks are given. I assume that a lot of candidates fail because they did not realize what they get the points for.
- A lot of practice of old exams
- A lot of reading and personal study. I used the delta patents paper D book for most of this.
- a lot of self study
- a lot of time with the books
- A structured personal plan for how to prepare for the exam, which literature to read, time Schedules, following the plan, revising the plan during preparation for the exam, having study time enough, being able to study not only on spare time but also on working time.
- Access to all online information available at the EPO and related to the CBE
- "Amtsblatt EPA; Richtlinien für die Prüfung"
- Analyzing and solving EQE past papers
- "Annotated EPC (Hoekstra); This time also the ""Smart in C"" and ""D tactics""", trying to understand how to get the points (which is not easy even if you know the answer); The Daily D questions was good to again refresh the various parts important in the exam."
- Annotated version of the EPC
- Answering many questions on different patent situations.

- Asking more senior attorneys for advice
- Attempting past papers and reviewing the corresponding candidate's answer plus examiner's report. Spending a significant amount of time reviewing the PCT, regulations and applicant's guide helped enormously because I was much more familiar with the EPC.
- Baque
- Be in good health (I had fever and bronchitis)
- Belgium KVIV course on EPC and PCT
- Book: BAQUE
- Books on EPC and directives like the one written by Gregory Baque
- Books: Visser, Singer/Stauder, Kley
- "Both applicant guides; Guidelines"
- C book for Deltapatents and exams with answers from them for C part. D-part is the book with questions.
- "C-Book; Baque"
- CEIPI preparatory courses are very well done
- chance
- Coffe break questions
- Compendium is most important.
- "Compilation of EPC by Hoekstra; Cross-reference by Mulder"
- Completing many past papers.
- Completing past papers.
- Cooperation with tutor
- courses from DeltaPatents
- "D.Visser ""The annotated EPC"", EPO EPC, EPO Guideline, C. Mulder ""The Cross-referenced PCT"", PCT Guideline from DeltaPatents;; DeltaPatents ""Pre-exam book"", DeltaPatents ""Basic legal questions for pre-exam and paper D"", good overview from EPO ""How to get a European patent, EPO ""Euro-PCT Guide: PCT procedure at the EPO"", reading material of EPO on-line course is not enough for preparation, but for answering questions this is very good, because it is necessary to answer a lot of questions. Also on-line lessons are very good and help very much."
- "Daily D Questions, ""Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000"" Kley/Gundlach"
- Daily D questions, Time limit questions, Deltapatent D-Book, EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- daily EQE coffee break questions
- Daily self-study, deeping of cases seen at work
- Daily work experience
- day to day practical experience
- dedicate enough personal time for individual studying but ALSO to preparation of personalised materials - tables, overviews, annotation of EPC, PCT, GL, AG....
- dedicate enough time to make past papers
- Dedicating a significant amount of time over more than a 6 month period to practising past papers, taking part in in-house tutorials, reading and understanding legal text books and study guides, and reading and understanding Examiner's comments in the Compendium.
- Defining precisely the methodology to implement for each of the papers.
- delta patent book + BAQUE
- Delta patent book and Visser
- delta patent course
- Delta Patents
- Delta Patents book.
- "Delta patents courses were very important as well as Caes Mulders books ""Tactics for D"" and ""Smart in C""."
- Delta Patents paper D questions was of great help for providing a structure about how to best optimize answers.
- Delta Patents Per-Exam and Main Exam Questions for EQE
- Delta patents question books

- Delta patents worked questions
- Deltapatents' claims analysis course
- DeltaPatents
- DeltaPatents book of Paper D questions
- DeltaPatents book with Paper D questions
- Deltapatents books and explanations of the answers - more detailed than the Examiners' reports and explained some of the logic behind answers
- deltapatents D questions book
- Deltapatents guided exam and courses
- "Deltapatents Materials; Daily D Questions"
- DeltaPatents Questions
- "DeltaPatents Training Material;"
- "Delta's question book, ; Claim analysis examples from Epo-Online training; Mock and old pre-exam papers"
- DeltaPatents Basic Legal Questions book.
- Delta Patents Courses / Examination papers and model answers prepared by delta patents for A/B/C
- Demut, Fleiß und eine hohe Frustrationsgrenze
- Derk Visser's book & Delta Patents.
- discussing with people who have passed the exam
- Discussion with colleagues
- Discussion with colleagues and coaches from the CSP.
- Discussion with very capable senior colleague who provided guidance as to how to apply the Delta patents' strategy
- Discussions with colleagues.
- "Doing all available past papers; Doing as many past paper questions as possible"
- Doing as many past-papers as I could - particularly EM and CH papers since this year the subject matter was combined. I discussed my answers with my in-house tutor and took their feedback into consideration. I also read the Delta patents paper A and B books and made notes to take into the exam with me.
- Doing last papers by myself.
- Doing mock exams and getting feedback on these from a tutor is for me a critical aspect to understand areas to improve and also whether one's methodology and style are appropriate. I had also prepared templates based on the guidelines and important points that were raised in the examiner's report of past exams. For papers A, B and C, I find that reading and understanding the Guidelines are instrumental.
- "Doing Mock pre-examination (part of the Delta patents course); Studying ""References to the EPC"" (by Jelle Hoekstra); EPO GL; PCT Applicant guide"
- Doing old exam papers and reading the Examiner's reports
- Doing old exams.
- "Doing old papers; Delta patents course"
- "Doing papers on my own and correcting them through Examiners reports and Delta Patents Model Solutions; Discussing with colleagues"
- Doing past papers off compendium.
- Doing previous exams
- Doing questions from the Main exam book from Deltapatent.
- Doing the job since 2014, labelling books with my own index system
- Endurance and denying myself a life for at least 3-4 months
- epi tutorial
- EPO Guidelines
- EPO Online course. Very good.
- epo online training
- "EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen; Gradolph - EPÜ Kompakt; Richtlinien für die Prüfung im EPA"
- Ege Coffee Break

- EQE Pre-examination course, basic legal questions book (Deltapatents), Kley, practicing previous exams
- être reposé et gérer le stress et le temps
- "examiners report; compendium"
- Exercise on my own
- Exercise, time management
- "Experience - very important in claim analysis.; Help/tasks/feedback from the CSP tutor - forcing to stick with the study schedule!; Pre-exam online course (+quizes)."
- Experience from day to day work activities
- Experience of candidates submitting the exam in the previous years
- Experience, time, Visser, Delta Patents Paper C
- "extensive study based on the legal texts and the commentaries; extensive study based on the old exam papers"
- Finding time and getting time off to use the compendium as preparation.
- "First it is important to understand how to tackle a paper and how the papers are ""composed"" --> Special courses or good CEIPI Tutors, which explain how to structure the papers, where to find the information needed to get the right solution; Second is practice using the compendium to (~ 10 papers each) to get good confidence in how to tackle the paper and optimize the structures given in the courses to your needs (tables, additional charts, ...); For DI is basically the same, but here knowledge of where to find the answer fast (or know it right away) is essential, so here also practicing is more important, than what literature you use (selfmade or ""of the shelf"")"
- Forcing oneself to do Module C in real time due to its very stressful nature and the rather large amount of paperwork to be produced in relatively short period of time
- Former exams with answers and explanations
- General day to day EPO practice
- "get an insight into the exam conditions; I asked some colleagues who previously sat the paper a few questions, e.g. if all documents would in fact be given printed single-sided to avoid uncomfortable page turning back and forth; or if the documents/annexes would already be sorted (where I learned that everything would be stapled together in one big piece, including the letter and the opposition form); ; from printing out the previous papers from the compendium page, I got the impression that the annexes would each be given in two languages, none of which necessarily was the same as the language of the patent-to-be-opposed; therefore I was afraid that if I chose to sit the exam in my preferred language, the prior art documents might actually not be in this preferred language. Luckily, in the exam it turned out that all documents were provided in all three languages. But it would have helped to know that from the start."
- "getting good materials on EPC and PCT; getting the materials into a good shape for printing; having the materials printed as books (using an online print-shop)"
- Going through past papers
- good familiarity of Visser
- good sleep the night before
- "Gregory Baque; EPO webinar courses"
- Group discussion
- Guidance, own notes
- Guidelines
- Have the time to do past papers and get to know how to answer them
- Having a good understanding of where different areas of patent law are located in the references you take into your exam.
- Having a solid background within patents, much more than 2 years when starting the EQE training.
- Having a well rested and sharp brain on the day is the most important.
- having read and annotated the Baque reference (my biggest source of information)
- how the question are marked and more practise to answer the question in short time

- I did a lot of old C papers, which is essential in my opinion.
- I did try the mock pre-examination available on EPO site - Practising for the EQE pre-examination paper, however I have noticed that some of the answers are different from what is answered by the examiner so you get the wrong idea what is the right answer.
- "I had an EPI tutor for A, B, C and D, and it was extremely useful. ; The Maastricht course is also extremely useful for C and D with Cees Mulder and Nyske Blockhuis."
- I have a law degree, so hitting the legal books was the main study form
- I only used the Guidelines and the compendium.
- Individual work
- It is important to have time to practice old subject in condition. For the new version of A and B I had to practice both exam in Chemistry and Physics to understand the differences.
- JDD revision course and trainee arranged tutorial sessions going through past papers.
- Job practicing
- Just to have the motivation to get that hands-on training in the library after the workdays! After just starting the session, everything gets easier because the understanding of a specific situation in the question motivates really, and gives fulfilment after each completed question.
- Kley Kommentar, Richtlinien für die Prüfung
- Kley, Guidelines, PCT Handbook
- "Kley; DeltaPatents trial run for paper C"
- knowledge achieved during my normal job as patent examiner
- Knowledge of Articles and Rules of EPC and PCT, Knowledge of Guidelines for Examination, Knowledge of where to find the Information needed
- Learning by doing during normal work in the law firm and focused self study on a regular basis.
- Learning the law, preparing summaries and indexes, and reference materials to facilitate finding the correct law
- "Legal texts and comments;"
- Lesen der Gesetzestexte, Richtlinien etc.
- Like caffeine? to study at nights.
- Long work history with patents
- Lots of reading of the EPC and any other materials you could get to try and understand it.
- Luck, valerian and a light clothes
- Making own notes
- Management of time
- Material from Deltapatents to specifically prepare the test.
- Meet people having sat the EQE
- More of the personal training with successful EQE candidates/patent attorneys
- Most important is the real-work experience and then practicing past papers to assess what examiner's are looking for. Those are the main things.
- Most important to practice old exams and to learn the answering technique.
- Most Important: Working previous exams from the EQE website.
- "Mostly: sitting old exams under ""real-time conditions""."
- My preparation for the EQE consisted of my own personal study. I do feel attending external preparatory courses would have been extremely beneficial. Especially when it came to working out how each paper should be answered. The company I work for offer no training nor do they enrol us on external courses so I had to develop this skill myself. This is where I feel the examiner's report could have been more beneficial.
- N/A
- no further comments
- None
- OJ
- Old exams, Chandler/Meinders' C-book
- Old exams, to get used to the way questions are being asked

- One should base the preparation on one single document in which all necessary references are noted so it's not necessary to look up different sources of information which is a loss of precious time. This holds not only for D but also for the other exams.
- Online course, Delta-Patents questions for pre-EQE
- "Organising how to manage the time.; Practising how to write."
- Our communication and support by our tutors
- our partner should have a big understanding for this exam
- Own willingness to study
- Participation in several oral proceedings before the opposition divisions and boards of appeal
- Past EQE examination papers (perhaps the most important element)
- Past exam papers. Epo website time limit questions
- "Past exam papers.; Delta patents books.; EPC commentary books."
- Past exams (Pre-examinations 2015 & 2016) + Visser (Commented EPC)
- Past paper questions
- Past papers
- Past papers and knowledge of the particular books taken into the exam.
- "Past papers from the compendium; Daily D questions; time limit questions; questions from Delta Patents books"
- past papers with answers
- Past papers, Delta patents questions, online course materials
- Past papers, study materials.
- Past papers, EPO Guidelines, Fox, Visser/Hoekstra,
- Past papers.
- Past papers/ study of past examination materials
- past pre-examination papers
- Past pre-exams, quizzes from epa course
- "Pct course by Brants and patents; Forum course on formalities; Support from my wife and 4 young kids"
- "PCT Handbuch, Köllner; EPÜ und PCT Tabellen"
- Perform old tests on time.
- personal commenting the EPC and Guidelines
- Personal notes on the Convention Book, indicating important Case Law (whenever any decision number occurred within studying) and relevant part in the Guidelines. Also explanatory notes and schemes in complicated rules such as R.51
- PERSONAL PRACTICE
- Personal reading and study time cannot be underestimated and extensive practice with past papers
- Personal study, past paper practice
- Personal work
- Practical training
- PRACTICE
- Practice book with legal questions
- practice in day by day work
- Practice on real cases
- practice papers
- Practice papers. Difficulty this year preparing for A and B. Mock papers not helpful for actual exams.
- Practicing past A and B papers
- Practicing past papers and going through the Examiner's comments/model answer
- Practicing past papers.
- "Practicing the questions and answers with help of Basic legal questions for pre-EQE and paper D from Delta Patents; ; Studying the Pre-exams questions and answers 2011-2016"

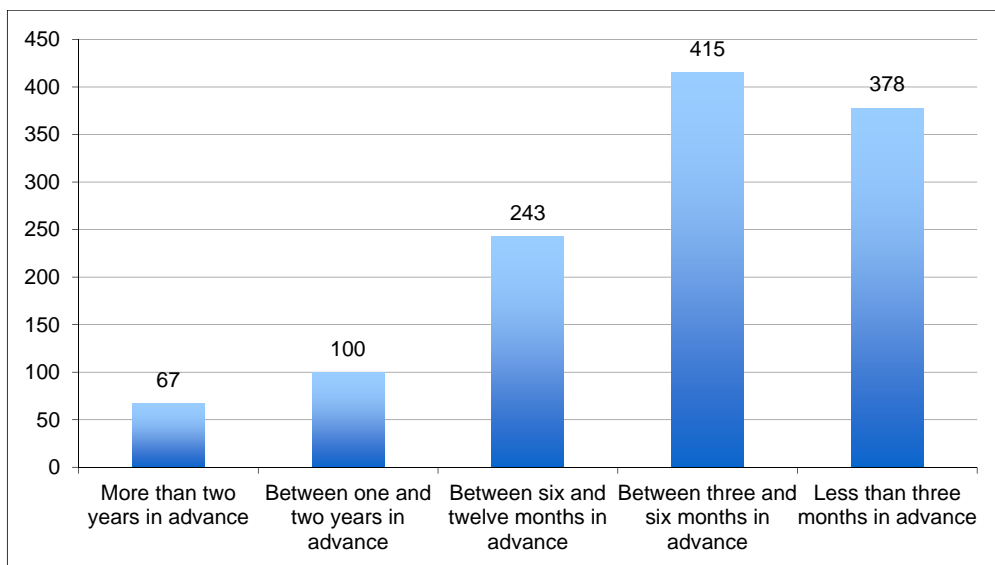
- Practise exam papers. More mock papers to practise would be helpful.
- Practise on previous exams.
- Practise...
- practise... a lot of it...
- Practising
- Practising paper-specific workflows and time management
- "preEQE exam and preEQE course (DeltaPatents); CEIPI mock A exam, mock B exam (since there was hardly any training material available, apart from the DeltaPatents/Jelle Hoekstra mock A exams and mock B exams, as provided during the DeltaPatents A and B courses)"
- Pre-exam books by Delta Patents
- Preparation and review of past exams
- previous exams
- Previous Exams, working a bit with other candidates
- previous Pre-EQE exams
- "Print out index to guidelines and condensed PCT material;; Familiarize myself with where to find what"
- Professional experience in the day-by-day work
- Quizzes of the pre-examination course in combination with Reading the VISSER
- Reading Veronese and guidelines, Delta-Patents D Book exercises, Daily Questions
- Real training on past years exam
- Reference to the EPC
- Regular inhouse EQE training sessions
- Regular learning and practicing for the D part.
- Regular studies.
- Self study
- Self-education with delta D books
- Self-study
- Self-study with specialised materials from Delta Patents and study with CSP colleagues and coaches.
- Self-study. Past exams.
- "self-study; Delta Patent courses; EQE pre-examination online training course"
- Set up of real Opposition cases working for the company.
- Several books: Visser, Cees Mulder (PCT), D book (Delta patents), Speich Guide.
- Since only one exam per year is offered one has to be healthy. But even ill people have to attend since it is their only chance. Due to the time pressure candidates have to perform highest rare. If you are not 100% healthy you have no chance to succeed (but have to take part since it is only once per year)
- Sitting past exams
- solving old papers, which increases speed of analysing and being presented with variety of problems/cases which may occur. I think writing down the full answer is necessary to get used to proper timing and speed up finding proper wording for argumentation
- solving previous exams
- Specialized books such as Visser, Delta Patents EPC reference book, among others.
- Speeding up my writing and documents assessment
- Spend a lot of time to study whole material
- study continuously
- Study enough to create a relatively sound basis for most of the topics. You won't know all the details, and certainly not the answers of the very specific questions they've been doing in the past 2 years. However, you will be familiar with your material which will be essential to find your way through and get the answers as quick as possible.
- "Study guides such as ""Smart in C"" and the C-Book"
- Study! Used visser
- Studying alone at home

- Studying case law, training being fast in analysing and solving patent problems.
- Studying old exams
- "Sufficient time to study.; Use the right books."
- Taking personal structured notes for reference at the exam (for instance schedule of actions in an EPC filing).
- The Annotated European Patent Convention, by Derk Visser.
- The Baque Book
- The CEIPI courses were very important and very good.
- The collection of all actual books, guides and documents necessary for the exam.
- the compendium and its best copy
- "The exams are long and D and C run through lunch time, it was important to determine the type of foods that would sustain me while not triggering discomfort.; ; It is important to sleep well, which is difficult due to anxiety. I spent considerable time in the 3 weeks prior determining a bedtime routine that would work. I still struggled to get enough sleep for D, but for subsequent exams I was tired enough that it was not an issue."
- The legal texts (EPC, rules and guidelines) are a vastly underestimated as study aids.
- "The sole most important preparation material for part D, part I, is ""The Annotated EPC"" by Derk Visser. ; ; In all other respects EQE is rather artificial system, in many points remote from the actual practice. Hence, Compendium is very important, for all parts, as well as DeltaPatent's books and CEIPI materials."
- "The study of a lot of material such as EPC, PCT, US, JP law ; Previous papers and above all trying not to use the professional knowlegde and expreience, because if you use that it is not possible to pass the exams"
- The use of cross-referenced books is a major help for training, and also for taking the exams.
- There is not much documentation for candidates who can not attend/afford any courses. Even the online course is expensive for some candidates who don't have any support from their company.
- "There were quite a few trainees at my firm who were also sitting the pre-exam. We helped to motivate each other and to advise each other. ; ; It was also very helpful to speak to qualified EPAs and main EQE exam candidates who had already sat and passed the pre-exam in previous years. They had lots of useful advice to offer.; ; The EPI course, although thorough, was probably the most useful tool for my intensive focused study period.; ; I have been using my chosen annotated EPC text since I entered the profession, so I was very familiar with it. This probably also helped a lot."
- This year was not optimal for preparation, for personal / work related reasons.
- Thorough reading of the guidelines for examination.
- time
- time for preparations, which is usually short during working at the company
- Time limits questions
- Time management
- "Time managment ; Flowcharts ; Reading Visser"
- Time mangement.
- Time on the job
- time to practice questions and previous paper DII
- Time to study also at work
- Time to study during working hours
- Time-limit questions
- Tips from colleagues
- To follow good courses combined with work at home
- To have a PDF copy of the text to study everywhere with only the PC and not having to carry books everywhere
- To have a small groups of good friends to prepare with.
- to have all laws accesible and have a good preparation of the epc and the pct.

- to me, the compendium has been the most important tool for the preparation
- TO PARTICIPATE IN CSP
- To practice previous papers under exam time limits
- To understand how is the marking of EQE. A more specific marking in the reports would give candidates more information about what details were more important.
- Took 4 weeks off before the exam to practice with as many past papers as I possibly could
- training
- Training and practice for the Claim Construction section of the Pre-exam.
- Training of claim analysis
- Training on specialized IP manuals everyday and training on EQE Papers from previous years
- Training with older exams papers, especially to train a good time management, use of information and argumentation style for novelty and inventive step attacks.
- training with actual patenting jobs
- Travaux Préparatoires EPC 1973.
- Trust in myself
- Try to understand as much as possible how the exam is marked and what are the clues towards the right solution that are located within the exam paper.
- Tutition by an epi tutor
- Tutoring by a EP representative under CSP program
- "UK patent examination preparation,; Mentored study,; In house courses provided by consultants."
- understanding the old papers and corresponding reports
- Unfortunately it is very important not only to understand the laws and regulation. About half of the preparation time is necessary to prepare for the fact that you have to solve the papers in a given time limit. Therefore the EQE is in my point of view very theoretical. In everyday practice you would never read and understand 7 documents (even if they only consist of a few pages) and draft an opposition based of this knowledge in about 5,5 hours like you have to in paper C.
- "Update all your Paper D relevant resources and Guidelines; Do a lot of old Papers and acquire a routine for approaching Paper C; Do as many mock papers as possible under exam conditions ; Focus on one or max. two reference books"
- Use of commented EPC like Visser and Hoekstra
- "using holidays for studying; working in the field; Delta patent book"
- "Verfahrenspraxis EPÜ und PCT; Gruner/ Großmann"
- Very important for me is a contact with practical issues of the proceedings before the EPO in every-day work.
- Visser
- Visser - the annotated EPC
- Visser, EPO Guidelines, PCT applicant guide
- Visser, Gall
- Visser's Annotated EPC
- Visser's book
- Visser's book on the EPC
- Working with reference books, doing old exams
- Work experiences in my Company
- Work on patent related cases.
- Working experience
- Working in a firm of patent attorneys
- Working on the job and DeltaPatents preparation books. Completing past papers
- Working through the wealth of questions by legal topic provided in the delta patents pre-exam books and thoroughly understanding the answers after cross checking in Visser, the Guidelines and guide to EPC2000 was extremely good preparation - after first familiarising myself with all the materials including the abridged PCT guide, Euro-PCT.

- "Working, having to deal with EPC related issues in daily work, and having to find out the right way of doing things using the (online) resources of EPO. ; ; Also, familiarizing myself with the EPC & GE, PCT applicant's Guide also in the print-out form, and marking important passages to be found when needed."
- "Write as many mock-exams as possible; Try and Test approach for Paper C; Focus on one or at most two reference books"
- Writing strategy. Main obstacle, specifically for non-EPO language candidates, is to endure writing 20 pages. Must be spread over all the 5,5 hours
- yoga
- You got to know your stuff you bring to the examination hall
- Zum Einstieg waren die Leitfäden I und II für Anmelder sehr gut.

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?

- Absence of preparation time and unpredictability of the answers expected by the examining committee
- By practising more old exams in real time
- "Time management - keeping a high enough pace so as to be sure to be able to deal with all questions within the time allowed for the exam.; Could possibly have been overcome to a certain extent. But time is scarce. Good thing though that an extra 0.5 h was allowed for the exam this year.; ; Applying problem-and-solution approach correctly.; Could be overcome by practising PSA more."
- "Weakness.; How to present answers in D2-paper.; Overcome.; Study examiners reports of previous D2-papers."
- Too much work, instead of studies.
- Capability to understand the text. Difficult to say how to overcome.
- "time to study; I should have done the exam years ago"
- Gathering all the necessary documentation, define a study plan, and actually assess the correctness of the answer I provided to various questions found in various course material.
- I was not quick enough, no idea how this could be improved in a suitable manner
- Argumentation problem-solution-approach. My Tutor was very helpful.
- "not enough time during the paper D; i would do more mock exams."
- have the time to work more it is not easy when you have your regular job to find time to

revise

- Quite well prepared I think. Perhaps doing more papers in real exam conditions.
- Finding time to read the sources in my private and professional life. I couldn't overcome yet
- Spending more time doing part papers to practice answer structure and timings in the exams (difficult for me with family commitments)
- Answering in a required format to score points
- "Knowing EPC is far from enough. More important just to "learn how to pass" than to really know what you are talking about. That the pass rate for 27-year olds, which probably have more time to just do mock exams, than for persons who has been working with EPC in over maybe a decade is higher supports this."
- The time constraint made it difficult to manage part 2. Questions for part 1 were different than previous years and there was overall more information to consider in the questions.
- "See above Q12. I really think that I invested a lot of time answering one issue that later was not so important for the result. It would be good to have a specific marking. Just "use of information" or "argumentation" is too broad to understand what was in every exam more important to the markers and the final result."
- "I was concerned that legal questions would come up in Paper C when I passed Paper D two years ago. The legal information was not as fresh in my head. ; ; I could have prepared better for the legal aspects, but in hindsight this was not necessary."
- "My greatest problem during all exams is lack of time for contemplating on different interpretations of the question, prior art, if used, and other materials referred in the task; and lack of time for contemplating on various possibilities for response. Even with marking schemes generally well-understood from the Compendium, it is very hard to accelerate in exams like B, C, and D, Part II. Hence, preparation makes a lot of sense for D, part I; for other parts, preparation mostly consists of learning what can bring more marks and what can bring less marks. All the tasks, except part D, part I, are doable in reasonable time with knowledge of the marking scheme and typical Candidate's practical experience, but the time afforded is unreasonably short."
- Understand how the exam is marked and time management
- don't know - ask me again when I receive the outcome of my exam
- Time permitted by employer.
- Family constraints - overcome: divorce (well, not an option).
- "Forcing myself to do past papers under exam conditions.; ; I could perhaps have overcome that by taking study days at work, and using a meeting room to do a past paper."
- "Go to much in depth reading such as Trips, case law book, that was not asked at the exam....; So i should put more focus on finding fast the wordings to formulate the answer in not my native language..."
- "Re-sitting A, there's a lack of training materials, as the compendium only has a certain amount of old exams and if they are already 'used' in the first round - their value in the 2nd is diminished (one remembers critical elements of the paths to the solutions).; ; Joining of Ch and EM did aggravate this, as the "closely relevant" material comparable to the new style was only the single mock exam.; ; The examiner reports of earlier years >2012 are not very detailed which made an assessment of ones performance and overall pass/no-pass difficult if not impossible. It would be helpful to re-do this old reports of the examiners adapting them to new more explicit format and style; ; I didn't have a study group available this time as I was the only one to re-sit A, therefore there was also a lack of discussion of new chemical subject matter"
- "I had already taken Paper D previously so I was aware of my weaknesses (principally missing key information or just making stupid mistakes) when retaking paper D. ; ; The way to overcome this is to make yourself aware of the tricks that the examiners use to hide marks away. In certain cases you need to use buzz words, e.g. in priority questions make sure you mention "same invention", "same applicant" and "12m priority period". Doing the past papers and reviewing the "ideal answer" is the best practice - making notes is generally a waste of time."
- Could and should have practised more old D exams

- lack of time
- Time. Work and EQE are incompatible.
- I don't think I could really have done anything differently that would have had any significant effect on my performance.
- Lack of motivation to practice. It's very depressing to have to re-sit C, particularly when the appalling conditions in the exam hall last year were a major contributor to my failure. Studying in a group helped with this to some extent.
- I felt I prepared ok.
- Time management and energy level.
- Time pressure
- No dedicated course for B exam
- plus grosse difficulté : prendre son temps
- Having a baby six weeks before the exams. This was not an obstacle which could be overcome.
- don't know - ask me again when I receive the outcome of my exam
- Probably focusing on understanding the D1 questions more quickly. I spent a lot of training on C, D2, A and B to get routine and I did a lot of general legal learning. However, for being super fit in terms of D1 questions, one has to focus on e.g. the D book of Deltapatents, which is time consuming.
- Time pressure
- I did not follow my learning schedule strictly enough, so less repetitions than I hoped for.
- Not enough time for studying, it is better to take some days free from job and focus only on eqe studying.
- Reading carefully the material in the exam....Hidden dates in the C paper :(exam pressure makes you do stupid things
- Change in examination format and what would be expected by the examining committee in an answer.
- "Not allocating time based on how many marks are awarded per question in DI ; Not managing time well."
- Mehr Zeit zur Vorbereitung einplanen.
- "I am slow with respect to papers timing (NOT IN MY WORK); it is possible to improve my speed making a lot of examination exercise but it is not possible to overcome completely the ""weakness"". Is the timing of the papers that is not adequate."
- "Time for mock exams in private. ; ; Splitting in analysing and writing opposition"
- I became too nervous when I realized how much time had gone by, and I almost became paralyzed. I should learn to control my nervs, and I think it is very important for candidates to learn how to keep calm.
- I didn't read properly in C the docents due to stress. I could not finish D due to lack of time.
- More dedicated training of the EQE papers
- Paper D - learn more rules.
- I was not fast enough and had no time to plan and review my answers.
- Not enough past paper A and B for new style of 2017 examination.
- Take a more in-depth methodology course in D. Discuss answers of mock questions with others.
- Weakness : the way to compose answers
- I simply didn't start intensive, focused study early enough. There is so much to cover for paper D that you need to study continuously for several months.
- Boredom
- sometimes, but not crucial, to have not enough time to focus on the preparation due to the daily busieness
- Time
- Lack of time to dedicate to the preparation.
- It was hard for me to complete the papers in the time allowed.
- Silly mistakes, it is hard to eliminate them given the time pressure.

- Personally, concentration/focus has 2hr limit after which a non-analytical mind-set is used. I therefore struggle with paper C - alas exams have to be tailored to the majority !
- J'aurai voulu commencer à réviser plus tôt et plus régulièrement.
- more time (days) off work to be able to practice more and spend more time in understanding mistakes and solutions.
- New style A and B we're hard to prepare for without an idea of subject matter - 1 mock paper is insufficient and for B especially would have been poor preparation for candidates with a chemical or bio background.
- Time management
- La notation du QCM peut vite nous faire baisser la note, une question à 0 ou 1 point est très dure à remonter.
- Preparing Paper B, C and DII
- I am really not used to writing by hand any more. I trained by making previous exams, but my handwriting on the third day was absolutely affected. I don't really see a way to overcome on my part - but in this day and age it is hard to believe that it's not possible to arrange for the exam to be done electronically. In particular, all my work is done on a computer, and the exams would more closely correspond to how I - for instance - draft claims in real life if it were possible to insert things, correct things, etc.
- Time management in the exams. I could have improved by doing more past papers to time.
- Time (4 hours) is very often not enough.
- Not reading the questions carefully enough. Practise more using past-papers.
- Still the main concern is the language skill. Although I am able to read, write and understand english, it is quite difficult for me (impossible?) to achieve the needed written answer's details in the available time.
- I wasn't sure how to interpret some of the questions in the claim analysis part - some things do not come up often in my daily work. More practice questions and reading the explanations of the solutions more thoroughly would probably have helped.
- None are obvious.
- Claim analysis. Difficult to say, as there is a limited number of old exam papers
- Lack of adequately representative past papers.
- Combine personal work With my job
- Understanding how D exams are assessed.
- Relying too much on previous exam papers
- "Problem: Maintaining concentration during the entire time. ; ; Retrospective solution: Working under exam conditions for four hours straight; not believing I would be finished after 2.5 hrs."
- I didn't know how to structure the answers. The tutor helped me.
- "Sometimes I had to overcome a lack of motivation.; In the beginning I had smaller problems to give my preparation a good structure."
- I have no weaknesses, my brain works like an over-engineered precision tool.
- Doing papers to time.
- Doing more past papers to time would have been helpful. I really needed the extra half hour for papers D, B and C (I had more time for paper A).
- Given some of the abstract points of the legal questions of the pre-eqe, unless these topics form part of your daily processes it is unlikely one could memorise all of these points. It therefore became a race to find some form of reference to aid providing an answer.
- Understanding the questions really. I found this year's exam to be much harder than previous and the questions appeared ambiguous in parts.
- Start earlier to focus on the exam - at least 6 months before the exam
- I tend to follow the instructions in the client letter. It is necessary to be brave not to follow some of the client's instructions.
- "Legal part, Time management, Language problems.; Improved by practicing past papers"
- Time management has been underestimated significantly. Performing more papers under real time conditions would have been a solution to overcome this weakness

- I was well prepared and could only have made more questions prior to exam to due better I believe
- Lack of practical experience drafting
- Especially for paper A and B it is not that easy to develop a methodology how to tackle the papers. I could have spend more time for the preparation
- I didnt got enough time to study, my employer decided on that I was to important at work (with filling in economical systems, I am really bad at it too, but I am well payed- as employed for patent work) didnt even let me use my own vacation weeks and I didnt had the courage to call in sick, which I now regret.
- Stress the day of the examination and the night before but not much to do to overcoming it.
- Prendre le temps de lire
- "I apply a realistic approach, i.e. I answer the paper as I would work in real life. For instance, paper B requires thorough analysis of prior art documents, such as stating features the prior art does have in common with the claimed invention. This is utterly contrary to practice in real life, where as least as possible is preferably said when arguing in favour of the patentability of the invention so that as less information as possible is left on record. The more you say during prosecution, the more can be used against you in other jurisdictions or post-grant proceedings.; ; The EQE is said to test candidates' ability to be fit to practise. Providing concise answers without entering elaborate discussions on the prior art is a CRUCIAL ability patent attorneys have to learn to master. However, EQE papers require that prior art is always thoroughly discussed. This is unrealistic."
- Spent more time
- "Too little time for preparation.; Start earlier!"
- Available time to prepare due to too much work.
- Hard to say at this moment because I do not have the results of the papers yet.
- Some weaknesses on the legal part due to missing time for preparation
- Some legal part questions on appeal and opposition...more discussions needed with experts on these subjects
- * spent too much time with too old exams, which do not prepare for the working method necessary for the current exam
- Time management - drafting
- "Learning to ""read"" what effectively is being asked (which nevertheless is not 100% effective)."
- Legal aspects. Could have been overcome with allocating more time to study and earlier start
- "Doing papers C and D under timed conditions and writing out full answers. ; ; This could have been overcome by being more disciplined when doing past papers."
- I would strongly recommend to myself and also others to start really early with reading the Guidelines - completely from beginning till the end, and to annotate the references of GL to the EPC.
- Not focusing soon enough on compendiums
- I wish I started earlier because I was stressed that I will not finish to go through all the learning material in time.
- Lazyness. Solution is to study more !
- Claim analysis part. Honestly, I don't know how to improve that. It's difficult for me to identify a clear teaching how to solve these questions as they are a bit guessing but one cannot apply experience from real life.
- "toddler; ; renting a place dedicated for studying; real-time rehehearsal"
- "Too much demand at work during the year between pre-exam and now main exam. Only after serious discussions at work, time and energy became available, but this was only very late (January 2017).; Perhaps mentors could be reminded centrally to free up time for their trainees?"
- Too few questions answered, so answering technique was inefficient. Having done more and having them reviewed would have given me more time in the exam.

- Finding time to study
- I should have started earlier.
- "I sat paper C only this year.; Main weakness during exam was linked to the ""mechanical"" side of the paper, including some claim interpretation with which I'm not familiar (more involved in chemicals in day to day work).; I consider that I was well prepared and I was not surprised by paper C."
- Had difficulties in bringing the answers to paper D1 to paper in a crisp and concise way (like the answers in the Examiner's report). Could probably have trained this aspect in more detail.
- Greatest weakness remains claim interpretation and overcoming to complex thinking in assessing the questions. Especially the German language allows far more interpretation possibilities compared to the English version of the questions. For the coming exams, I will directly go for the English exam.
- Sleep deprivation because of sick kids. Not avoidable :-).
- I could have had a more precise overview of procedures employing more study time to schematize them
- "- Time-management in the exams (this time, especially in part B); No idea to overcome this; it seems to me part of the exam's special challenge"
- Balancing work and study
- Missing structural approach how to tackle paper A, devoting time to analyse the examiner report and your solution. Critical third opinion is very important to identify errors and an approach on how to overcome them
- More time to gain a better width of knowledge
- Understand chemical exams.
- "Train to systematically retrieve the answer and stick to it; don't take shortcuts"
- Too much to study, i would have starter before
- Understanding the organisation of the reference materials
- Only one mock since the chem and mech papers have been combined so would have been useful to have multiple practices.
- I did not reserve enough time to do old exam papers in 5 or 5,5 hours. What I should have done: Starting very early practising exam technique and then early enough doing exams in 5 hours and noticing that it is far too little time for me, and concentrating in finding a exam technique, which suits me. (As such, in my opinion there is something wrong with the exam, if there is huge business around courses on exam techniques, i.e. training on how to do the exam in the given time). I have no problem with Part II /D and C paper, if I may use more time than 5 or 5.5 hours.
- "Not enough time dedicated - need to stick actually to the suggested schedule (for the Pre-exam - from September: every other evening during the week + full Saturday).; Not realizing on time the importance of the Guidelines - used mostly F-G parts, but appeared very handy for the legal part too. Did not dedicate sufficient time to read through."
- "PCT; Time management"
- No clear overview of the paper D requirements. Having a CEIPI teaching course.
- Lack of time
- Lack of sleep due to faulty air conditioning unit in the hotel room meant I was exhausted before starting Paper C
- More time is needed for practicing with the previous papers
- More interaction with other candidates would have been helpful.
- Preparing PCT, should have spend more time on it
- Time
- I could not have done more past papers - more than 70 total including Paper A E/M & C, Paper B E/M & C, Paper C and Paper D. For four weeks before the exams, I did practice papers in the same format Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday. I participated in multiple courses. I did all the questions in the Delta Patents D book. I read Hoekstra, Visser and the Guidelines twice along with EPC Articles & Rules and PCT Articles & Rules many times.

What I could not prepare for, though, was the stress the exams bring on the days - I had less than 2 hours sleep each night before the exams. Even on Thursday, after I had finished the exams, I did not sleep at all. I don't know how to overcome that. The pressure to pass is very high, especially because the exams are only once per year.

- "Difficult to say. Time pressure and stress are the main issues with paper C. But this time I knew the problem-solution approach ""inside out"", which helps a lot."
- The greatest weakness was too short time I secured for preparation - necessity to combine professional work and studying makes it difficult to prepare properly, especially when you reserved such a short time as I did. If it would be possible, I would definitely start studying earlier.
- Not enough past papers with the right level of difficulty
- I was happy with my EQE preparation. In the UK we sit the UK CIPA exams in the October before the EQE and so we have a concentrated 8 months or so of full on study before taking the EQE, taking the preparation for the UK finals into account. I couldn't have studied any harder than I did.
- Not enough time for preparation due to workload. Practice more, would have helped.
- Weakness: Assuming that I need to know everything by heart. Overcame it by finding and getting used with a combination of materials which I can work with.
- Spending more time on paper D
- "The EQE closest prior art part is unclear whatever the number of times one can read the guidelines and the compendiums.; ; The D-I part is about guessing what is not in the question. Pretty unusual. Daily D questions are useful to understand to what extent you can get points."
- Trying to handle my day job during the final months of training. It is probably better to study full time the last weeks.
- The extra time granted for exam made it possible to not make it into a fast writing competition, but at least get to the end of all exams.
- Finding the useful information and the right argumentation for the Article 56 attack. Training with other candidates.
- Time management. I could have done more past D papers to time.
- I prepared just a few days for the pre-eqe which was too little time to become acquainted with the principal book (Visser) and the PCT guidelines.
- language problems, need to read and understand faster than a native
-
- Formulating an answer and where to give legal citation
- Drafting claims was the greatest weakness. Training courses and solving multiple EQE papers helped to study this part of papers.
- "In DII I should have had more consistent approach for checking what can be done for each application/patent in the ""improvement"" question. That would have helped to recognize all different possibilities."
- Difficulty to finish the paper within the assigned time limit.
- Not any real compendiums for the new format of the A and B papers. I could not have done anything to overcome it, but it was hard to prepare for an exam not knowing what it would look like.
- Relying on Mock/previous exams as an indication of what may come up in the current questions
- did not make enough past papers Under exam conditions (time pressure)
- "I did the 8 Months training with German authorities and finished that in November. So there was not much time left to study for the EQE, and I had to work as well.; For paper A and B there was not much to work with, especially the 2 mock exams had several errors in it, so preparation was more like a shot in the dark"
- My focus was too much on legal questions and therefore too less on claim analysis. Reason: there is more learning material available for legal questions than on questions for claim analysis. This could (retrospective) be overcome by studying A-, B- and C-parts from old main exams.

- Time management in solving Paper D. I'm not able to solve it in time.
- Claim analysis part of the pre-exam.
- "Time Management for preparation of Claim analysis part. ; Due to Family issues not enough time for Repetition.; next time 2 weeks of vacation from Business & Family intended."
- To set up a sensible timeplan. This was easy for the pre-exam, but for the A and B I would have needed the same.
- no idea, since it is not predictable and it does not spread real knowledge
- up to date case law
- Would have liked to start earlier with Daily D questions. I found my own way into C strategy late, earlier course would have been better.
- "Honestly, I think I did everything I could do to have good chances of passing papers D, A, B.; Due to the 'double' effort required in preparing A and B (I decided to train same numbers of papers from the mechanics and chemistry) I realized that I did not have time enough to properly prepare C.; There is nothing I would change in my preparation strategy. ; Ideally, I should have done a mock examination, but well, this would have cost additional time, so I decided to rather attend preparation courses."
- See Q12. Better allocation of time for studying and learning how to answer (technique) would be required to manage to answer in the given time period, for obtaining sufficient amount of points.
- I would have appreciated a compendium for Paper B.
- I've started too late following the Guidelines and checking the articles in Visser's book... it's a bit of a waste of time. It would have been better to read the guidelines long ago, and starting with Visser during the last months/year.
- "Due to personal reasons not enough time to prepare.; No way to overcome."
- Most difficult is writing and finding right words.
- More focus on DI before engaging into DII learning.
- Lack of study in group with other candidates
- low speed of analysing documents. I improved it greatly by solving and writing down ALL available old papers A and C
- I didn't know what to expect for new style A and B, and it was quite different from the mock
- Finding enough time to study when work situation really not allows the time.
- Claims analysis. Difficult to practice since it is important to get used to the exam style questions.
- Practice even more exams to learn the answering technique better to become faster, since I always run out of time.
- "start earlier with preparation;"
- It is very important to know how to answer the questions to get marks. It's easy to believe that if you know the answer to a question you get the marks.
- "For part C I knew that I had to train to write faster, hence I wrote several old exams fully...which was really hard, since you develop an aversion against them. Not sure, if I can overcome this aversion if I did not pass.; For part A I should have checked what is graded worse, namely not covering all embodiments or maybe not being inventive...I considered both options in the exam, but had (than) the impression - based on old mechanical papers - that it is a major mistake if not all embodiments are covered...still confused what was expected, hence no clue...I guess I have to wait for the examiners report to assess my weakness..."
- "Time management: be even more fluent in English to increase reading and writing speed, practice writing even more; ; PCT and Euro-PCT: not enough focus in my courses taken, should have taken a dedicated PCT/Euro-PCT course or at least read more about it"
- Time spent / planning
- Think I prepared reasonably for the Pre Exam
- Free time for learning was very limited. D questions could have been spent more time on. However, I had an elaborate and efficient plan for studying and practising which I hope paid off.

- When preparing, i thought the claim analysis part was my greatest weakness based on the old exams, especially the questions about inventive step and objective technical problem. I always scored very good for the legal part. At the exam itself, it was the other way around (compared to answers from delta patents). I misjudged the level of the legal questions.
- I find paper C very difficult, and also I notice that in the last two years the text is written in a different way from the other year, a lot of text is not used in the examination and for the attacks and this renders the text very confusing and I find more difficulties in looking for the right attacks
- Paper D, part I, not knowing when an answer is complete and thorough, but not unnecessarily long. Still don't know, sometimes the question is not clear and one does not know whether complete procedure should be described or just a part of it.
- it was very difficult to use the past papers mark schemes to assess how well i was doing on past papers.
- To know which material to use, I asked around but got different answers. At first I got all the books/compendiums/material suggested by people, but during my studies I got to know which ones to use and how, and took away a few.
- Since I work full time as a patent engineer at a private company with a very tight schedule and no one really to assist me, the time aspect for preparation is the most critical one. This is the main reason for why I failed two out of four exams last year.
- "I have a chemistry background and the B paper of this year was electro/mechanics therefore it was quite difficult for me.; I prepared using many past electro/mechanics papers but still I felt not sufficiently prepared. The mock exam which should have represented the new type of B exam was much more easy than the real B paper we got.; So I could overcome my weakness only improving my knowledge in electro/mechanics."
- Legal questions.
- I have difficulty with the time pressure - difficult to overcome.
- "At first I was overwhelmed by ""it's all so much"" but in the end, after systematic study, it turns out that it all meshes together and that it's rather grokkable if you simply make the effort"
- I think I was well prepared in doing the papers. Of course, more preparation in order to write faster could have been useful.
- Intensive focused study started too late. Time management to be improved.
- To maintain concentration and energy throughout the whole three days
- Limited number of past papers for the pre-exam, this will improve annually.
- Time for preparation
- "Time management, organization of work in my job. Personal side of preparation, like health and lifestyle considerations, mental preparedness, physical shape of the body.; I narrowed my preparation to EQE topics and I let myself focus too much on my job, leaving aside my personality and forgetting that I am a complex human being, who needs to exercise (physically), relax (mentally) and live a (social) life full of love.; ; In retrospect, I would not sacrifice my happiness and well-being for the mere cause of passing EQE and becoming the ""best employee"" of the year. This happened to me and I burned out. When allowing all the complex factors of your personality participating in the equation (lifestyle, diet, physical exercise, reading something else than EQE study materials), surprisingly your performance improves in each individual area of your life (including preparation for the EQE). This I only re-realized after a year of struggle at the beginning of year 2017..."
- "Reading guidelines, articles and rules is simply boring and was almost useless for me. I wish I had spent this time solving more questions in the preEQE style.; ; My weakest point was the claim analysis part. It is difficult to prepare for. I did all the previous exams and mock exams in my preparation and still did not feel confidently prepared (and still do not see how I could have prepared better...)."
 - Relying too much on the pre-EQE course and realizing, after doing more recent pre-EQE course that a much deeper understanding was required, by reading through a textbook such as Hoekstra.
 - "I wasn't good at the cases at the beginning. I thought they were too far of every day work.

In every day work it never works out that well (idea compared to prior art). The common knowledge I would usually assume bigger than it was in the studies.; To overcome that problem, I tried doing as many cases as I found. And then I did them more often."

- Intense stress and anxiety which led to me going a little blank at times in the exam. I didn't feel prepared (but I think I was more prepared than I realized). I had very little support in and out of work. The EPA course was a life saver.
- Considering the examiner's reports on the old exam papers it is difficult to really access whether the answers one gives fall within what is required. Does another reader can follow the way of rationalizing one puts into words?
- "One must do papers from earlier years under ""exam-like"" conditions to learn how to time manage the exam."
- My greatest weakness was the connection from the EPC's articles and rules to the Guidelines for examination. I should have focused more on preparing my annotations.
- The key factor is the performance on the exam day: concentration, ability to manage the stress condition
- I have difficulties in reading a EM type claims
- Finding legal basis. Did all the basic legal questions in the delta patents books.
- I did not study in a group
- My greatest weakness was tiredness during D exam due to poor sleep, which - in combination with the noise I mentioned previously - really affected my ability to finish the DII part well.
- Lack of time
- Reading the question carefully.
- I was not enough fast, but this is mainly fault of a pre-exam that was much more difficult respect to other years, and it was impossible to prepare properly for it.
- Cannot yet assess preparation methods as I am unaware as to their effectiveness.
- "No idea on what to expect regarding the assignment of points, i.e. when time runs short if it is better to focus on one question by providing exhaustive legal basis and disregarding another one or else to provide the right answer for both question but with little or no legal basis.; The compendium gives model solutions that scored highly but not full marks but does not explain why and where these points were lost.; The grading of the paper itself appears to be to a high degree arbitrary whcih should not be the case."
- As a resitter, former papers were already known, hence, preparation always was influenced by known facts for each paper.
- a negative social and work environment in Germany -> get more interesting job outside germany
- In particular for paper A it was not clear which solution was expected. Thus, from all papers, paper A was at least predictable.
- Efficiently handle the stress of the exam.
- "Obtain all relevant documents in ""paper form"" as soon as possible, to get used to finding the relevent elements in reference books (and adding lables etc.) as fast as possible. I waited until the latest reference books were available and than started labelling, the faster you are used to finding your way in the books the better (instead of looking it up in the online service from the epo, which is excellent by the way, but there remains a difference between knowing the right Rule number instead of ""googling the right number"" which also gives the answer when ""near""). So work from paper as soon as possible as it is on he exam."
- to manage your time especially for paper D, where you have to be very quick. So you need to train yourself in real condition of the examination with the last papers from previous years.
- Drafting chemistry claims according to the new format of paper A. I was and still am strongly searching for a course regarding production process, use and methode claims. The mock paper did not help me at all. I'll read claim drafting books and will do a course if I find one.
- Not relying on being able to look things up in the exam, as the paper took me longer than past papers did.
- Too few knowledge about DI questions. However, this is not compensable since it is just too much to learn.

- "I am not sure if this section is very useful for pre-EQE candidates as the examination, in principle, is not difficult. ; ; What remained unclear was the way I scored the marks remained more or less constant from all the past year papers. And in some cases, I could not agree to the Examiner's report. Apart from that, I think my greatest weakness was in managing the reference material properly. For instance, the time I took to reach the relevant portion for answering a question must have been shorter, in retrospect. ; ; I am planning to greatly improve in managing my reference materials for the main-EQE."
- I struggled to find enough time to sit down during the week to complete a past paper - I only really had the weekends, and I find it quite difficult to study at home. In retrospect, I should have found somewhere more suitable to study (such as at work, or in the library) one morning during the weekends. I also found it difficult to switch off from work and focus on studying. In retrospect, I should have been much stricter with myself and not checked emails etc... in my evenings and weekends.
- Doing all four papers at once, managing the different topics was difficult. The stress of the exam week would be helped if A+B were not on the same day.
- I think that my greatest weakness is the methodology to use during the EQE papers. Best training should be the solution.
- This year was the change of paper A and B with one common subject. Drafting claims in the mechanical field is not easy for a biologist! Training with compendium only is not enough to feel confident.
- Perhaps could have started earlier and done more past papers, although the format for Paper B was less helpful because of the way the amendment part has changed only recently. Also was a little unsure what to expect with the new format of only one A/B paper, so would have liked more information on that element.
- "Reading too fast, overlooking a "not" (in the clients letter of a paper B), which lead me to do the opposite of the clients wish. So I tried to read slower."
- Too little time to prepare the last months.
- Practicing more papers under exam-like conditions
- "At the very beginning: too much reading in books and raw texts of PCT, EPC, TRIPS, etc.; Mock-exams would have been more efficient"
- Not enough time to practice enough. The employer should let time specially for training.
- "Detailed knowledge of all legal issues examined on the pre-EQE. ; Use of the EPO online course for the pre-EQE has helped me a lot to cover and study all these legal issues."
- Lack of time in parallel to a full-time job and other commitments.
- "Timing and selection of the proper annexes in Paper C was weakness.; For latest exam : I have trained on this to write in a more concrete manner (not writing a novel, but an exam). Improved the selection skills by practising old C exams."
- "Understanding of what is to be tested on new A and B exams, and understanding marking system for new exams. Knowing what is a good-enough level, and what areas to focus on, as time does not permit to write to perfection, and write a complete response in legible hand writing (B-exam). ; To a degree, it is a weakness to have too much real-life experience, as particularly A-exam conditions has very little similarity with real-life conditions. ; ; Further, the more "generic" the technology areas become, the less the exams test reality, unfortunately. I tried to prepare by making both kinds of old exams, but I just can't decipher the chemistry subject matter quick enough, as the words are very close to semantic noise for my eyes. ; Hence, chance decides if you get a topic that you can browse quickly, and, sadly, people working in the fields of mechanics and/or chemistry have an advantage compared to communications/software people."
- I studied Vissar and did pre-exams. My only regret is that I should have made myself more familiar with the Guidelines for Examination.
- "Perhaps I started intensive study a little late. I had signed up for the EPI pre-exam course in August 2016 and had then put it to the back of my mind. I started reading some of the course material in mid to late January 2017 and realised that if I was to study the necessary material in that much detail, then I would need to put in a lot more hours than I thought.; ; I overcame this by coming into the office 1.5 hours earlier than usual each day. This allowed

me an extra 7.5 hours of study per week. In addition, I made sure to study for most, of the day each remaining Saturday prior to the exam. I made sure that I kept Sunday, or most of Sunday free to relax and unwind. I think it is important to schedule some "free time" in order to make the most out of intensive study sessions. There is such a thing as "overdoing it". Breaks are important. Finally, my employer allowed me one day of study leave and I also used a further two days of annual leave for studying. I took this time off from work on the days immediately before the weekend prior to the pre-exam the succeeding Monday. This helped me to switch off "work mode" and allowed me to focus all my efforts on a final push. I used this time to attempt all past papers and both 2011 mock papers. When attempting the papers, I made sure that I noted my reasoning that had led me to arrive at true or false. I made sure that I checked each answer AND whether my reasoning behind it was in fact a correct/appropriate/relevant line reasoning. This was a lot more helpful than just awarding myself marks for simply awarding myself marks for true or false, because it forced me to look up relevant parts of the law, particularly parts of the law relevant to questions that I had got incorrect. This helped me to identify my weaknesses."

- il n'y a pas assez d'exercice et de cas divers pour s'entraîner.
- Planning and scheduling study time into my life. In retrospect it would have been much better to have a more concrete plan for preparing.
- This is not my first time sitting the exam and sometimes it is hard to stay motivated. Exam nerves are also an issue.
- "time: could be overcome by well organized structure ; hand writing: could be overcome by using keyboard"
- Lack of experience
- Time to spend should be 2 days per week in full. I had only one day and it is not enough :(
-
- Could use more study groups with other candidates
- My greatest weakness was the psychological weakness of knowing that I have failed this exam twice despite the fact that I do it perfectly well at home.
- I couldn't fully complete paper D in the time given. This was, from my point of view, not an issue related to time management or practical limitations e.g. in sufficiently fast hand-writing but rather dealing with the wealth of Information and topics involved in this paper.
- It is difficult to get enough time to study when having a family with small children.
- It depends on which exams I've passed/failed. If I failed D then my biggest weakness was writing legal basis for answers that I know - it takes too long to confirm legal basis for each statement. I could have overcome it by focusing more on memorising, or summarising legal basis whilst doing preparation questions.
- PCT matters - More focus on PCT procedures outside the regular or common procedures.
- Binarity within the claim questions of the pre-exam - some questions were ambiguous, even after consulting the guidelines
- Restricted volume of past papers
- Had difficulties with paper D: It requires extensive study which I was not in the position to do since I have work/ family duties at the same time.
- time-management, lack of experience from EP cases
- The stress at the Exam influences my thoughts and due to stress I make mistakes that I should not have done normally.
- "Paper D: not enough time to do more DII mock exams due to work load in job; Should have taken holidays to get more time to prepare for Paper D"
- Finding enough time for study under the work pressure and family life.
- Pressure and time.
- Finding time for past papers - mostly an issue of other parts of my life happening at the same time.
- PCT - by even more time to study
- "The greatest weakness is that I do not prosecute European patents on a daily, weekly or sometimes even a monthly basis and as a result I am not as au fait with the EPC as those who work in a patent law firm might be.; ; It is also not helpful that I have not had any form of

support or training directly from the European Patent Attorneys where I work."

- "-live stream of the e-tutorials was at an unsuitable time; did not have time to watch most of them later; -took too many notes, should rather have underlined passages in the course material and started earlier with practising based on previous exams"
- to start my own motivation for fighting again
- Spend more time on past A and B papers that you are not familiar with, hence, chemists should do more mechanics paper and vice versa.
- more detailed knowledge would have been helpful to save time, but it was still doable when having to look things up to be exactly sure
- "Answer questions in time; solution: time-limit training"
- "examination time pressure was not part of my preparation; do a mock exam somewhere, imitating exam conditions as good as possible"
- time, I am a mother with two small children... difficult to overcome it.
- Finding the time for studying. It is very difficult to find time for studying when you are full time employed and have small kids. I could have taken the EQE before I got kids.
- not enough time
- Greatest weakness for preparation - strength of company: much work for clients -> less time for preparation.
- understanding the questions and Background of questions. partly, needed more time to come to that.
- Due to the time pressure and relatively long and unnecessary complicated terms (e.g, CHINABEAM, SHAPE-B, etc) used in the papers, not only the initial assessemnt took longer but also during writing I had to spend more time not to mix them up.
- Well basically I think since none of the languages of the EPO is my mother tongue I think this is my greatest weakness since it's hard to focus on understanding the question and what is asked of you in such time pressured environment.
- My greatest weakness is the stress at exam conditions because of the time - 4 hours. For me, as a non native speaker, 4 hours are not enough for this exam. I'm resitter, probably I failed again and obviously I haven't overcome my greatest weakness.
- "- in the exam: spending too much time deliberating on the solution (paper B) as it seemed too easy to be true (which it probably was). --> would have just trusted my knowledge and started writing sooner as then would have had the time to write a full, proper argued answer; - DI questions surprised a bit -> need to practise even more and do even more older questions; - did not practise enough in pressure situation although I knew that when sitting the exam it will be a pressurised situation -> would practise more in quiet environment (as I often need background music/noise to be able to concentrate better). Also, would take a few days off before the exams and trust the studying has been enough. It was not good to try to go through old D questions right until the beginning of the exam. It's better be well-rested."
- "I'm owning my own firm and it is a boutique firm with limited number of patent engineers. In the period between November- February it was very difficult for me to handle both office work and study EQE.; ; To overcome it I really studied/worked too much in both aspects with less sleeping."
- "Se motiver à travailler,; et surtout dégager du temps entre le travail et la vie de famille."
- to little time....possible solution: split up from partner
- D questions and mock-exams in January-February. Daily D questions took place the last months of the year, when normally there is a great working charge, but nothing in the first and second months of the year, just prior to the exams. This is clear that everything is available for consulting, but the freshness, and in some manner the motivation, are lost.
- I wish that I would have had far fewer dramatic events in my personal life during my preparation for the EQE.
- I got bored, writing so much, I overcome it by just forcing myself to continue writing.
- "Part D; could have been improved a little bit by doing more examples of past paper D"
- Speed in D paper: I think I know how to move within the EPC but it was not fast enough for the exam

- Probably should have started revising a little earlier
- My greatest weakness was TIME! I could have overcome it by practicing more often with a stop watch.
- Lack of time.
- I should have studied earlier the previous examinations.
- "Got Visser's book earlier; Motivation to start studying again after sitting UK exam in October"
- I had no great weakness, I am very satisfied with my preparation.
- Not knowing how parts A and B will be composed under the new regulations. However writing A and B parts both in chemistry and electronic/mechanics turned out to be very important.
- "I may have prepared better for the PCT part.; and also I could have spent more time understanding my mistakes in ""claims interpretation"" from past year papers."
- Greatest weakness is the writing ability since nobody writes that much in that amount of time.
- time pressure
- lack of time to prepare. stress, pressure and workload at work.
- i could have spend more time for training under exam conditions
- "I did not know that materials such as conventions and rules were allowed.; But there was actually only a pair of questions where I would have checked the applicable rule."
- Nervousness.
- careful reading of the questions is extremely important, in some cases it helps to cross-check the questions in another language
- Practice time
- "use of too many study aids; improvement: focus on two or three study aids"
- We have relocated and moved houses in early Feb 2017. The move was planned for early December 2016. Thus I feel I did not have enough time to focus on the exam preparation.
- Lack of time. More support from employer needed
- New Style of Papers A and B, because only very few information available
- Not reading the question
- "greatest weakness: slowness; ; overcome it: timing my training as if I was taking the exam"
- "The lack of ""new style"" Papers A and B to practise my exam technique, although I understand that this would not have been possible since 2017 was the first year to introduce the neutral subject matter in these two papers."
- "For the D-part I still have trouble with time management.; I would need to find a way to understand how to write shorter answers and still get the points, and to understand how much must be referred to legal basis (which is time consuming).; So maybe I should have not spent so much time trying to learn all areas, and instead have focused on training how to write short answers , and then not tired to answer all questions in the D. I also learned from others after the exam that they had participated in courses that told which areas to study and to not waste time on other that would (most certainly) not be in the exam.; ; For the C, I this time used a tactic with less filling in tables with facts, which gave more time to actually write the answers :-)"
- Finding enough time beside work and family for preparation - one weekend for preparation one weekend for the family
- New papers A and B. I should not have used E/M papers A and B for preparation only. Training with a mix of papers A and B from E/M and chemistry would have been helpful.
- I am a little slow and I do not have any experience in true life Oppositions. I should have asked to participate to one Opposition during my practice but I did not.
- Claim analysis. More practice should be needed.
- I should have started earlier with answering the questions from the DeltaPatents book for Paper D
- The greatest weakness was that I started the intensive preparation too late, which may have been overcome simply by starting earlier.

- Simulating the time pressure of the exam and understanding how long I should spend on each section. When taking the exam, one always takes longer to make a decision than when doing past papers to time. I never felt time pressure when doing past papers to time and so did not ever get a good idea of how long I should spend on each section. I would pay more attention to how long different sections take so I know, for example, to spend 2 hours on drafting the independent claims for Paper A etc.
- "First year I had a very good idea how to tackle, but due to lack of "practice" the confidence wasn't there.; This year for DI even more practice and better preparation of the literature used would have helped."
- work work work
- Allocate time from duties at work.
- Time management. Just training in real practice.
- Setting up exam conditions at home to tackle paper papers, due to family commitments
- Should have started earlier with practicing the compendium pre-exams.
- Insight into how papers are graded is very important to tailor strategy. I would have started practicing more exam papers earlier, although a balance between burning recent papers and practicing in the beginning with them it is hard to strike.
- Reliable correction with adequate points.
- Hard to say, but not to neglect the more tricky parts of a problem. Take the time to really understand the problem, and dig for the solution without giving up on it.
- too many documents or reference. did not where to start.
- Lack of time for studying. I could overcome it by starting earlier, however this has the disadvantage of getting tired and bored too soon.
- Not enough time for preparation. Not enough time during examination. Marking scheme not clear.
- Time management as it's a rather time extensive preparation difficult to handle with a normal family life. Difficult to optimize.
- slowness in preparing the notice of opposition
- "daily workload; study for the exams late in the evenings with limited concentration; the daily business requirements are a "given" which cannot be modified or adapted; finally try to start as early and as consistently as possible"
- "greatest weakness: PCT due to its felt complexity; overcome by more practice in PCT applications during work at Company and earlier begin of learning details of the PCT for getting more used to it"
- Time management was again a major issue, The extra half an hour in each paper seemed to disappear without trace in all of the papers
- Lack of time, and the need to perform normal work during the intensive training. I did not study the recent decisions very well. Of course more time would help, or some organized support group in our office (which I did not really have because of the smallness of our office).
- One of the big problem is the professional experience which is strong but which is not a good point for passing EQE
- My greatest weakness was the study of the claims analysis part of the pre-examination, especially the questions related to the inventive step and the conformity of the amendments with the Article 123(2) EPC. The questions were quite ambiguous for me.
- Understanding how EQE organizers want me to answer claim analysis.
- I felt uncertain during my preparation of paper B because of the change in the model of the exam joining both specialties.
- motivation
- start training of claims analysis earlier
- More intense reading of the guidelines
- "my weakness were about topics I did not meet during all day job; to overcome I may had study more"
- "Unsure how to best prepare for an open book true-false exam paper. ; I find the true-false

format leads to second guessing, changing answers, over interpreting the questions, or not understanding what they're getting at due to the true-false format during the exam.; The time limit was tight which can lead to panic and time loss.; Filling in the form is more difficult than you think it would be! ; In retrospect, the hardest part is I have no idea what I could have done differently. I really had no idea what the best method to prepare for such an exam format should be.; My greatest weakness was panic at unusual subject matter and oddly worded questions. Had I been calm I no doubt would have got more marks."

- Started quite late. Ultimately did very well so wouldn't change anything.
- Claim analysis - I have been drafting claim sets too much from a 'maximal scope!!!!'- perspective, not focusing enough on the small technical intricacies of every word (thinking that will follow during prosecution)
- Relied too heavily on past exam papers for legal questions. Therefore, gained over familiarity with the type of subject matter quizzed and under familiarity with as yet untested topics. Should have practiced more topics that required checking in the reference books.
- "Contrary answers in the examiners reports. No possibility to ask the help desk about the correct way by email. They did not help and told us to ask our tutors. Our tutor said himself there were contrary answers by the examination board.; ; There should be a real help desk!"
- "starting the delta patents course earlier ; using the delta patents course to answer practice paper questions"
- I was pleased with my performance. It would have been helpful to have more (in fact any at all) exam focussed training at work, but there are no other trainees. My supervisor is excellent in terms of supporting my work as a trainee european attorney but I have no interaction with other trainees. I am working out how to overcome this.
- I could have checked more of my answers.
- "chance; handwriting : we use computers"
- Supervision and aid from a ssupervision at my job
- I dont know yet
- No formal prep courses taken, only self study. Formal courses would refine my approach.
- At the beggining, I tried to know all the stuff, without requiring any book or written information during the test. It is definitively impossible.
- "fatigue of the wrist; physical exercise"
- Practice on practical cases of legal aspects.
- Begin of preparation was too late.
- Overwhelming amount of knowledge to be acquired. In case of a full-time job and family with children preparation is particularly hard. Starting too early would lead to forgetting things again, starting too late will lead to knowledge gaps. Practicing exams is hard to integrate into every-day life.
- Time management. I could have overcome it with even more practice.
- Too much work, personal stuff, like death of a close relative, I could have done nothing about it!
- Need too much time to solve paper
- Familiarity with PCT applicant guide - more time going through guide.
- "Computing the limit date. I did not prepare sufficiently.; Drafting a proper timeline for paper DII was also very difficult"
- Not focusing enoughconsider time on the latter half of the exam. I would have spent more time practising claim analysis with my supervisor.
- ENGLISH LANGUAGE, SINCE MY MOTHER TONGUE IS OTHER LANGUAGE THAN ENGLISH
- Work - preparation balance. Begin earlier with past papers.
- Apart from the regular intensive homework exercises as provided for A/B/C/D during the last year, including about 200 D-I questions, I could have made more D-I questions on a regular basis, in addition. Perhaps, I could have taken more days off, such as half a day per week, for dedicated D-I time.
- More courses

- Practice and practice and practice
- Time, time, time.....must be much faster, especially in hand-writing.
- "I answered at least 5-6 older exams but I should have maybe answered 5-6 more exams. ; ; A further weakness is the problems I have with my hand. I have trained martial arts for many years and my hand is therefore partially damaged; hence it is very painful to write with my right hand for several hours. This affects me not only when I am studying but also during the exams since I have constant pains in my hand when I am writing. Maybe EPO should consider the allowance of using computers for person with physical impairments."
- Starting intensive focused study too late
- Too much work and too little time. A longer preparation period would be advantageous.
- "I have problems with the type of claims for paper A as I work in electronics/mechanics domain.; I also have problems with the time to make both examinations. I feel it is not enough.; The only way I see to overcome these two problems is to train with the compendium examinations but there are not a lot of examples for the new format of the examination of paper A and I already made all the B proofs since 2012."
- Time to practice
- Time pressure
- The biggest issue for me was the forced true or false and the claims analysis. The only solution is to do all the previous examinations to understand what is wanted.
- I concentrated on learning for D and left practicing for A, B and C too late. I would start practicing these other parts earlier. Crucially, I would try to do at least one or two of each of these papers before the respective CEIPI courses to have a better idea of the difficulties posed by each of the papers before going to the courses.
- Study was very intensive, and I didn't complete as many past papers as I'd have liked to. This could have been overcome by starting preparation a month or two earlier.
- The timing and the way the papers are written, which can lead to misinterpretation
- "knowing the way the EQE preparation is prepared and evaluated by the staff the responsible for the preparation of the exam papers.; ; See the video with the interview of the chief of the preparation of exam papers on EPO's homepage. It works like a CE-certification organ."
- "Lack of concentration and energy, easily distracted; Could have worked harder."
- "Greatest weakness is available time for finishing the papers.; ; No way of overcoming if no more time is added for the papers, as in real life there is no situation where an office action or a draft can be done in less than 5 hours.; ; Additionally, knowledge on every field is required and that is not possible. Drafting of chemical inventions has nothing to do with mechanical ones and there is no possible training of that, given that there have been not enough mock exams published and the only one published was not correct"
- knowledge of some general notions
- Brain too slow in finding answers. More intensive question / answer training
- Taking adequate time to answer questions. It has been overcome by training with past papers and mock examination.
- understand the questions, because there are sometimes questions, which are not clearly formulated
- "The major issue is not knowledge of the EPC or PCT, but reading and understanding the questions under time pressure.; I think there are quite some "pitfalls" if you are too hasty and not careful you fall into the trap.; ; In retrospect I would do more focus on answering legal questions under time restrictions."
- I had problems with the time in all previous C examinations. In 2017, it was the first time that I was able to finish. I am not very fast in handwriting. I am very glad that we had 30 minutes more this year. This was very important.
- "Working and at the same time studying. ; ; I took time off from work to dedicate to preparing for the exam."
- "Limited time; Start preparation earlier"
- understanding the structure of the required response. The study of the Examiners report was very useful.

- Finding large chunks of time to take mock exams.
- "Too little time to write the paper.; Do not know how to overcome that."
- "Speed and time management.; Repeated (almost ""mechanical"") solution of previous years papers in real examination conditions."
- So far, I tried to pass the C-paper several times. At the Moment, I do not know what I could further improve to pass the C-paper. Perhaps, you have to wait until a year, you quickly understand the case. Furthermore, I believe, that you also have to have a lot of luck in order to pass the C-paper.
- "Answering everything in time.; ; I did a lot of past papers from the compendium but I found it very difficult to finish all the answers of the DI questions and the DII on time.; ; My mother tongue is Greek and thus since I passed the exam in English it was much more difficult for me to handle the time pressure."
- stress and getting impressed by the pressure it supposes to sit such an important exam in my career
- this question can only be answered after receiving the results of the examinations
- language
- "- take more care of my physical form(sports!) and take more holidays - I was already exhausted as the holidays ; (I had to take holidays for all preparation courses); - more focus on the paper D. ; - perhaps I took the exam too serious, so that I ended up to be very nervous and did not have a free head.; - I still chanced methods very late"
- I didn't know how to start learning. At the beginning, the advices from other successful candidates helped me the most. Then, it was a little bit easier to learn by myself.
- "The time.; Under exam conditions you work much faster as when exercising at home. Still you must not longer too Long at a fact you can't solve."
- Maybe a better time management.
- The knowledge for which parts of the answer are awarded.
- how to study for part D1. Don't know
- the usual, have more study time available along side working hours and taking care of a family. It will always be difficult to overcome this.
- can't say exactly
- Time
- "Working time; used Holidays just before the EQE for intensive focused study"
- I spent too much time verifying that I had the correct solution and had thus too little time for drafting the argumentation.
- The most difficult was to assess how an answer should be composed and what should comprise, which articles/remedies are important and necessary to mention in the answer. I need to learn more and practice more.
- time management
- learning to cope with a lot of information in an organized way at the exam
- "Time management is for me the biggest difficulty in the EQE. There is no space for the slightest hesitation or to think about options which generally happens in real life. It is unfortunately a very artificial and 'formatted' exam which for me does not necessarily reflect one's knowledge of the EPC but rather one's speed and conciseness of execution.; in terms of preparation, I think therefore I should have spent even more in developing my style and methodology, instead on focusing on studying the substance."
- Did not study guidelines and PCT well enough
- "Should have started a little earlier ;-)"
- Lack of time due to job
- Better doing more previous exam papers
- My most weak part is claim analysis. Claim analysis part of EPO on-line course has helped. I should take some another course also. Maybe I should take DeltaPatents claim analysis course or pre-exam distance learning course. I should improve my English also. It is important to read and analyse questions very quickly, i. e speed is important.
- Time

- Lack of time for preparing properly. Should have had deeper knowledge of EPC and PCT procedures.
- to get enough time to study due to family and working situation.
- I should have begun earlier to learn and practicing 1-2 hours every day instead of learning intensively in the last months.
- Problem-Solution-Approach: how combine docs dealing with a different problem than the invention. C-Exam: how to deal with dependent claims in the available time
- Spending time thoroughly going through the Examiner's reports for past papers. This year was difficult due to the combined E/M and CH for Paper A, so it was difficult to know how the answers will be marked.
- I HAD DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING THE SEVERAL INVENTIVE CONCEPTS OF THE MAIN EMBODIMENTS, IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO IDENTIFY THE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES
- Too little time to prepare so that DI could be answered within the time available.
- Necessity to study pro the pre-exam in a foreign language
- "Should have paid more attention to the time constraint. ; And writing as fast as possible."
- Focus last 2 months before exam
- time management
- I did not put a lot of energy and time for the preparation
- Time factor, not enough time spent for preparation
- Not applicable
- "Being not familiar enough with the ""soft"" aspects of the PRE EQE. Meaning for example the strict applicability of the guidelines regarding controversial aspects of e.g. feature analysis without keeping a potential client in mind. (When an embodiment with a connectable toothbrush is shown and is only claimed as a connected toothbrush this claim will most likely not cover the very important and highly profitable sales of replacement toothbrushes - therefore potentially losing millions of euros for the client). Other than that the exam was pretty much as expected."
- "Paper C - currently nothing comes to mind.; Paper D - speed of working was too slow, could have been overcome by more mock papers"
- "Earlier training on previous examinations and the special kind of how the questions are asked / pitfalls; ; Passed pre exam"
- time management during the exam - improve: train 2-3 times under Time-constraints
- Getting from the outset a good understanding of how papers are actually marked
- The routine practices in my work as an examiner in my field are different from what is expected by for the EQE papers, I had to adapt my mind set.
- "Despite having done several past papers under examination conditions, I found the time constrain very difficult, especially in papers D and C, despite the extra 30 minutes. I wish I would have practiced more an approach of moving on to the next question to ensure I answered every section of the paper.; ; This year it was hard to prepare for papers A and B because there was only the mock papers to prepare with. I had done some Chemistry and some E/M papers for both but I didn't find the mock that useful because I had already read the text in the papers in which they were based so it gave me a false sense of security in terms of time management that I did not have in the exam. I found paper A very chemistry oriented and paper B very E/M oriented rather than a mixture of both accessible for all."
- "- Extremely focused on time issues in general: worked out precise time plan for every step within EQE part A+B (will take part C+D next year); - worked hard to secure novelty by specifying independent claim(s) systematically just a bit to narrow (EQE only)"
- "In addition to a full time job preparation is very hard. Without at least three weeks of final preparation ""of the job desk"" a meaningful preparation is useless"
- The Timing issue in the real examination is totally different to the situation at home.
- "Mainly for Paper D, it was difficult to figure out how cramming shall be organized.; In retrospect, I would spend more time studying the PCT."
- Defining the closest prior art document for claim attack. The Delta Patent's tutor has shown

us some hints how to overcome this.

- not enough time for deeper personal preparation beside Job and family
- The claim analysis part of the pre-examination is very hard to prepare for
- "It's not possible to know what is your real level during preparation. ; ; 3-4-day courses (CEIPI, epi) not always are usefull (generally, speakers do not stop or address in complex subject-matters, they give the class very quickly to finish ASAP). Please review this issue."
- "I should have bought the ""Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000 (Hansjörg Kley)"" earlier - it is well structured and extremely helpful!!"
- I was too nervous, and thus I lost my confidence during the first paper, i.e. paper D.
- Time-management. Practising more papers under timed-conditions may have helped in theory, but not when you are a biologist/chemist and the format of Paper B changed to generic subject matter, which was in fact mechanics subject matter
- Lack of stress management & problems with exam anxiety
- Look at more examples of A123(2) reasoning in the exam setting.
- Time! I could have overcome it by practicing more with a stop watch.
- legal part, particularly PCT
- Being able to finish the paper in time. Additional 30 minutes did not help much
- Time management when answering the questions.
- "Greatest weakness: legal questions; How to overcome: start earlier with preparation"
- sticking to the time limit and navigating fastly through the materials
- time not enough, but if you start too early for preparation, you are exhausted during the exam
- Claim Part should be more understable
- Das größte Problem ist die fehlende Zeit! Neben einem Vollzeitjob und einer Familie ist es keine große Freude sich auf diese zusätzliche Prüfung vorzubereiten. Die Lösung? Prüfung drei mal schreiben... und die Familie vernachlässigen...
- "claim analysis praxis; training by EQE paper of the last years"
- To start preparing in time. Plan your study time/days. Reserve time in your (personal) calendar.
- Familiarisation with the references to be taken into the exam.
- I get confused by questions that I perceive to lack clarity and/or precision. I overcame it by feeling confident about my gut-feeling.
- Not starting preparations earlier.
- "Knowledge about appeal proceedings; Claims analysis; ; Getting more detailed information about appeals; Doing more old Pre-EQE questions regarding claims analysis"
- Daily workload in industry not relevant to the exam. As a solution, take several more days off?
- To be able to Access the information at the speed required. Must be able to find the answers very fast.
- start earlier
- "More Legal questions training.; Should have read through the whole ""References to the EPC"" (by Jelle Hoekstra)"
- Too little routine to write the answer > train more
- Time management while also completing your daily work. I should have started earlier
- not enough time for preparation due to workload
- speed (lack of time, even this year), overcomen by training and better focus
- the race against time!
- Not to have given myself about 2 weeks off from intense studying prior to the Pre-Exam, which would have let all the knowledge settle in my head, and would have enabled my mind to be free and more aware of the traps in the questions.
- Find time beside my job. Training in short portions after work and some months before the Examination
- Inexperience in actually sittting at the exam-table. One thing is sitting at home testing past exams, a totally different thing is to sit at the actual exam.

- few mock-ups available
- Relying on earlier pre-exam papers. Only look at previous 2 years in the future for true indication of exam.
- Some old A-papers were misleading regarding current expectations, so it is better to focus on younger papers
- Study more for the legal part
- "Time pressure, even with the 30 minutes extra; ; Paper D was too long; ; Paper C was more adequate"
- The time I had for studying. It was difficult to combine the study with work.
- More time on part II
- Practice of papers - would be nice to have more mock examinations available. Further time between UK exams and EQE exams.
- The new scheme (combined mechanics / chemistry) had nothing to do with the mock paper. Therefore, there was no suitable material to practice for this new scheme. A proper mock paper, even better more than one mock paper would have been of great use.
- "1) Handwriting - long and persistent training - without much of success; 2) Using paper books instead of electronic documents; 3) Legal advice in part D - writing past papers"
- PCT - I could have spend more time to make myself familiar with the PCT
- Last year i failed due to lack of time. I had all attacks right, just not enough time. This year are completed almost everything: i fine-tuned my efficiency.
- The lack of time
- Lack of time available for preparing for the EQE, The situation at the time did not allow more time for preparations, job and family takes time, so free time is luxury.
- Lack of clarity regarding new papers A and B. Could have waited a year before sitting them to see what an actual paper looked like.
- Time
- lack of examples in order to have training
- Spent longer studying for it
- Lack of Time, I should have started a little earlier
- no time - 2 children (1 baby) - I'm the mother
- Lack of Time for D paper
- Concentration for paper c in terms of exam and past papers is challenging.
- I should have studied the past papers in more depth.
- "Greatest weakness: lack of time to manage the study of 4 papers at once; ; Overcome: by starting the study even earlier."
- "Workload is high, time to recover is short, insufficient energy and lust remains for studying.; Difficult to find studying partners for enhancing motivation."
- Too little time - making more exercises would have been usefull
- How to write the correct answer, but not so long.
- Due to workload no preparation possible.
- "My weaknesses were:; 1) Not starting immediately a possible attack after finding the relevant information.; 2) I lost time finding the nearest state of the art for starting inventive step attack."
- time management. I underestimated that you need much longer to take decisions how to proceed in exam conditions. Try to finish the papers at home in at least 1/2 hour less than the total time given in the exam.
- Zusätzliche Belastung in der Arbeit. Mehr Lernurlaub nehmen.
- I just had changed the job I did not have internal support for preparing for the exam.
- Not having enough real practice in patent law firm.
- commercial aspect of IP
- Unsicherheit bei der Beurteilung der eigenen Leistung bei der Bearbeitung von früheren Prüfungen.
- Motivation
- "sick children too little sleep; to overcome this: wait one or two more years and situation gets

more reliable"

- "Zunächst musste ich die Sprache des EPA verstehen. Bei den ersten alten Prüfungen, die ich durchgegangen bin, habe ich die Fragen teilweise nicht richtig verstanden, u.a. weil ich nicht genau gelesen habe.; Durch die Übung mit den alten Prüfungen habe ich aber gelernt, die Fragen und die Antworten GENAU zu lesen.; ; Außerdem ist es mir manchmal schwer gefallen, den nächstliegenden Stand der Technik zu identifizieren. Meiner Meinung nach gibt es da teilweise mehrere Möglichkeiten, je nach Argumentation. Hier habe ich versucht, die Denkweise des EPA zu verstehen."
- "Arranging enough time in parallel for studying, work, and Family.; Especially if the ""real job"" does not allow a break for studying.; ; Some People cannot afford taking a year's holidays for studying as the kids' daycare are closed over school Holidays.; ; It would be a big help if the EQE would take place two times a year instead of just one time."
- "claim analysis; ; make previous exams"
- In the beginning I didn't realize how important it is to be prepared especially on EQE papers.
- Too much material and not much time in real life
- Being English not my mothertongue.
- Stress. More time spend on preparation
- Part D, I have been not fast enough during examination.
- time management, maybe with more training
- providing the same argumentation as in the examiner report when using the same facts.
- Paper A was my weakest. I have read the theory again and practiced almost every old paper A.
- The greatest weakness was that I had to realise that I had to give up accuracy in answering questions so that I could stick to the time limits given. Therefore it was necessary to practice papers under real time conditions.
- "My greatest weakness remains finishing the exams in the time given (with the exception of Paper A, which remains ""hit and miss"" for me as I am never really sure how narrow or broad I can be without being punished for it).; In respect of the other exams (B and C), I sat various papers under mock conditions several months in advance and no matter which technique I tried, I very often could not finish in the time given The content of my answers, however, was not the problems as I often seemed to be on the right path when comparing my incomplete answers to the proposed solutions given by the Examination Board.; Thus, I do not think that my own assessment of my preparation was poor. I already knew there was a time problem I struggled to overcome. The problem is rather how to approach this problem."
- I would have started earlier to give myself more time to cover the syllabus
- I had not enough time to do previous exams in exam conditions (time!).
- "Not enough time for preparation, because of my work as a German patent Attorney.; There's no way to overcome the time-problem."
- I underestimate how fed up you can get and it is really just torture to get yourself start studying again. When you have received a certain amount of knowledge it is less painful and sometimes joyful. I think all preprepared answers I underestimated how much time it would save to have 100% in order not just 70% as I have had. Even if you know the material, that I can say now I know from really trying hard at least the last 3 years, I still underestimate the timepressure and that you have to be sloppy, less careful which is very hard as it is not the normal way of working. Also to be more thoughtful about which questions you answer instead of trying to answer all that you never have time for. You feel a bit lost that it is the way of doing the exam, not having time to answer all the questions. Before I thought it was because I was not prepared, but now I am very well prepared but still there is not enough time.... why have an exam in this way I ask?
- Working in a full-time job during preparation (except the last two weeks which were free)
- Getting a feeling for the desired sets of claims in both A and B papers. Difficult to overcome, since compendium seems to suggest different solutions to similar problems (esp. breadth of claim/depth of abstraction vs. client wishes/suggestions for deliberate restrictions).

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

- Try to have less work beforehand so that you have the energy and time to study at the Office and at home
- Study focused, a lot as well as study previous papers.
- Please, do not add more time to the exam. It seems that the extra time (30 min) was given in reconsideration of a sufficient long exam. On the contrary, 1 more question was added, so question
- Find a Tutor. Relax during the examination.
- make more and more mock exams
- train each day one hour if possible of more than 6 hours per week end
- Start early enough to practice papers and questions - don't wait until after Christmas (but don't get sick of it either...pace yourself)
- "Do exams! Try to be prepared for ""the situation"" (sitting the exam). Even if you have done exams and passed with good marginal (Note: correction papers, DeltaPatents) does not mean that you will pass the real exam. The stress and pressure when sitting the paper is enormous. I guess people respond differently, but for me personally this is far biggest challenge."
- Probably to take a methodology course.
- "Find a personal method even if other candidates recommend a classic one. CEIPI, Delta Patents does not work for everybody. ; ; Read the guidelines for EPO Examiners the last days to keep fresh in memory where the required information to find is necessary. At the exam you do not have the time to look at every book you are carrying.; ; For resitting Paper C, I read the GL F, G and H again the day before."
- There is no need to prepare many months in advance if you have a good foundation through experience while working.
- "bring a STAPLER!!! and something to remove the initial staple, because you will want to sort the annexes and staple their respective pages together properly and not together with the other documents;; ; and bring more than one writing pen, because none will be provided in the exam, and when your only pen stops working you'll be in trouble.; ; use one extra sheet as a table-of-contents, where you note down on which pages you have written which attack. This will help you keeping an overview of the attacks against the claims you have already written (and help to find passages you can refer back to, in order to avoid writing the same stuff twice). It will also help you see if you maybe overlooked an important attack, e.g. when there is one annex document that you haven't used at all yet.; ; bring something to eat - 5.5 hours can be a looooooong time when you're hungry."
- Every situation is different - so my advice is not to blindly copy the preparation habits of others but to adapt to your personal situation.
- Don't panic.
- If exam. secretariat say you have to be 1,5h in front to avoid the waitings at the security check dont believe them.... i found this very discriminating vs other enrollers who didnt sat there exam at the Hague. But this of course my opinion: waiting 1,5h after the check is a little bit too long...
- Study group with at least 3 members for discussing and challenging solutions
- use electronic tools
- Start well in advance
- Visser, Visser, Visser
- Would recommend the ceipi course and doing past papers from the compendium then 'marking' your past paper.
- do past papers
- Do the previous exams
- Good experience with delta patents c and.d courses

- Practice a lot.
- "1) Prepare / index your material such that everything is readily available. There is no time for searching a reference in the exam. ; 2) Try to exercise as much as you can in order to automate the more elementary steps (reading, marking, recognising ""alarm phrases"", creating tables and indices). You need all your mental energy to gain oversight and find the subtleties under exam conditions."
- "Do not give up and keep studying;)"
- Depends on what my results say....I can't give advice if it didn't work out for me!
- "Alte Aufgaben lösen, ggf ausschreiben.; Die Systematik verstehen!"
- Start early.
- MostT important thing is to train exams in real time.
- Don't stress out too much - being able to use your brain competently in the exam has a much bigger effect than hours and hours of preparation (once you understand the core principles required to pass).
- Composing with previous exams/papers
- Prepare documents such as typical answers with pre-established sentences in order to automatize the process of writing.
- 1) Start studying early. 2) Seriously, start earlier than you thought. 3) Actually, start even earlier. Also, usual examination tactics (get lots of sleep, eat well, practice handwriting, etc.)
- get out of the office - perhaps to a shack in the mountains without internet or mobile phone connectivity - and prepare your thing!
- Prepare your own materials, don't use the commercial stuff. You dont learn from this.
- I prefer longterm extensive study over intensive start-on-Xmas-style. As many compendiums as possible and get a short crash-course by Delta Patents (or other) and Methodology.
- Aim high, as you never know how hard the paper is going to be. Prepare own notes, they are very helpful in the exam.
- If your mother language is english, french or german the exams and all the hard studying behind it will be much easier, even though that is totally unfair for all the other candidates.
- "Strongly advise future candidates to prepare with both chemical and E&M papers in A and B until sufficient past papers are available for meaningful preparation.; ; Also, really familiarise yourselves with the EPC and PCT. There is not enough time to look up answers to more than a couple of questions in D - you need to know the answers and only use textbooks to confirm what you already know."
- "Start preparing for Paper D early by doing 'a little and often', perhaps a handful of the Delta Patents legal questions a week in the year before the exam. ; ; Find a method for tackling Paper C and stick to it. Sit past papers to time because time pressure is the main difficulty with the paper."
- Know well the Guidelines and even better the Visser
- Take at least one full year taking papers progressively and, if possible, attend to CEIPI seminars
- Start early
- Don't try to memorize - learn how to look up things quickly and efficiently. Precise reading is also key.
- Start with the past papers.
- Read read read. Make the old papers under real exam conditions
- Use online resources as much as possible, also ensure materials are up-to-date.
- "Do not rely on certain topics being present on pre exam ; Instead correctly 'tab up' the Guidelines"
- Stick to basic EPO materials e.g. Guidelines, OJ, Euro-PCT, EPC..
- Get an early overview.
- "For the Pre-exam a good basic knowledge is mandatory. But in this exam in my point of view it was very helpful to have a good overview on the guidelines. That made it easier to finde the chapters concerning the ""unusual"" questions."
- do old exams.

- Focus on the fundamentals!
- do as many past examinations as possible
- "Start early. Do papers to time if you can, it is incredible how fast 5.5 hours goes by. You MUST know where to find references because there is no time to search for them, every second counts. In a way, it is better to have fewer books so that you don't waste time searching for a piece of information.; Bring ear plugs - even if you don't use them in the exam they are useful if your hotel has noisy air conditioning!; Bring paper for note-taking as Walsall was running out of official EQE paper."
- Print all relevant guidelines (EPC, PCT applicant guides etc.), choose one good additionally EPC guide/source for Germans e.g. Kley. Stick to it and learn your way to navigate through all the material e.g. by using it in your daily work t. Mark relevant passages if you stumble upon them. Take a few days off before the Pre-Exam. Practise one exam a day under actually exam conditions with a timer and only printed material to be used.
- "Start early; Study all papers although you sit only part of the papers because topics of D-paper also appear in for example C-paper"
- Prepare templates for arguments of e.g. amendments such as intermediate generalization and removal of features.
- Just read Visser
- Delta patents legal courses.
- Keep strict time management for DI and DII parts and go to the next question in time.
- Make a plan for every paper and follow it. Know all books you take with you into the exams - all books that you cannot carry under one arm are anyways useless since you do not know these books good enough to find what you need in the time you have.
- Plan for lots of time to prepare, I couldnt find any shortcuts. Its an interesting subject, so enjoy it, lack of time doesnt enhances any positive sides of studying.
- Be aware that the EQE is not a law exam such as a German Staatsexamen or the German Assessorexamen. It is a purely administrative exam that has nothing to do with a law exam.
- Do the compendium tests and prepare your documents to be able to retrieve the answer to any questions fast.
- Start early!
- * taking test exams older than 5 years should be avoided
- Do plenty of past papers, and go back over the pre eqe course notes when first starting paper D revision.
- Even for pre-EQE, start latest in September. It takes some time to discover your own system of organizing the materials and to find the right way of thinking.
- Focus on compendiums and read carefully examiners reports
- For the pre-examination, the online course of the EPO ist very useful and sufficient.
- Accept that it is a necessary hurdle one needs to take even if it is very artificial and has not much to do with the real education you need to become a good European patent attorney.
- You really need the last 5 minutes to order and number the pages of your answer. When the 5-minute signal is given, start doing that.
- Solid knowledge of the law is the basis. Many seem to focus on answering old questions, but I think that does not give the overview that you need to really apply the law.
- Do as many mock-exams as they can and then evaluate it by their tutors. DeltaPatents' training courses are very helpful also.
- Choose past papers as much as you can
- Do a lot of past papers (some 7-10 each)
- "Know your literature very well. It allows you to find quickly the answers needed. A recommendation for the exam would be ""EPÜ und PCT-Tabellen"" by Düwel / Gabriel / Renz / Teufel for instance"
- Try to make the older exams and read examiners' comments carefully (I know, this is not very inventive)
- Start earlier
- If in house support and guidance is lacking or insufficient for ewe preparation (as in my

case) I found it is very important to review solution to past papers and discuss topics of relevance or where one has difficulties together with another candidate

- Use working hours for studying if possible. Especially if you have children.
- Do. Or do not. There is no try.
- Stick to the information provided and look up the answer in your material (guidelines, PCT material), don't overthink it, don't spin too elaborate arguments
- Start in good time
- Develop a complete and combined index for Visser, Hoekstra and the Guidelines
- Candidates should start their preparations well before the date of examination.
- Do as many legal questions and claim analysis exercises as possible. The Deltapatents Pre-exam book was indispensable for the legal part - I got many items explained through the answers (did 2 to 4 questions every day starting from January).
- Find someone who has done it and can give you advice on: what books you need, what is the coverage of paper D, what to study, how to study.
- Start early with Paper D, which needs quite some time for preparation
- "Take enough time for preparation and have some rest before sitting papers. 4 in a row is very intensive and 2 in the same day is the worst...; If your time is limited, it is better to do less compodia and take the time to correct them well"
- Do not overestimate the contribution of specialized courses. Start early and use the compendium.
- Start doing exams in beforehand early and do many of them
- Do as many practice questions under test circumstances
- "Learn to quickly navigate through the books (Convention, Guidelines and PCT Applicant's Guide); manage your time between claim analysis and legal part."
- "Get the paper D book from delta patents and work through it. Ask lots of people who have *recently* sat the exam about their technique for DII and paper C.; ; Take at least 2 evenings and preferably a full day off in the week leading up to the examination and don't feel guilty about this! A clear head is critically important. As is being relaxed before the exams. ; ; Make crib sheets of key things for each exam so you have those handy."
- Try to exercise as many papers as possible.
- "Start as soon as you can. It will not be lost.; Practice as much and as early as you can with C and D compendium. The bar is high and you'll know how deep you have to learn.; ; You generally need a mentor or experienced colleagues to efficiently discuss points of law or practice. That pathetic rabbit raising boss of mine I used to have (starving employees in information-proof hutches), I should have left way earlier. Don't expect people with blinders to change. If you are willing to work and learn, just leave and get yourself a proper leader as a boss to turn 1+1 into 3 and €€€€ for both.; ; The white book (Case law) and Ancillary Regulations to the EPC are useless for the exam. Waste of time and money.; With regard to the first one : no time to get in that depth (even associates in patent firms say so). The important decisions are in the guidelines. With regard to the Ancillary regulations, half of the EPO decisions and communications you do need in view of the EQE is not in there.; ; What I would recommend to work with : ; - a good cross-referenced EPC (Baque for French speakers - I heard but can't comment about the Visser); - the Helze X-ref PCT book which is great too as the US-style wording of the PCT makes a labyrinth with riddles out of it.; - applicant's guides (PCT inter- & national phase, Euro-PCT, EPC); - the guidelines for examination, obviously.; - compendiums.; - daily D questions.; - G summaries are to be found online (like on eqetools, sedlex.fr or cyberepc), useful in view of the exam. It is useful to skim through the most important decisions, though.; - a talisman for the D-lottery."
- Start studying in good time. Do not try to take the EQE too early in your career. It is not as difficult as they say, but learn to write fast.
- Start preparing on time.
- practice, practice, practice
- Do all the past D papers in the compendium to time
- Practice using the compendium, preferably various times, to get used to unusual format of the exam and working under time pressure

- Legal knowledge is important, much attention and time should be dedicated for studying for D paper.
- "Start in time! ; ; Consider to skip a paper if time runs out and there is no time to prepare properly for one or two papers. Better to not write two papers, and pass the other two, than go for all four and miss three of them..."
- Always start with DII
- Start early, practice under real condition, start with D2 D paper
- start early.
- Write a couple of full papers under the same time constraints as the EQE. Very difficult to arrange time for this, but it would have helped me.
- "start preparing earlier rather than later, maybe with ""easy readings"" - like the EPO Academy pre-exam readings. try to follow up the case law as it comes out"
- "Think about D strategy. Everybody I spoke to who think failed the D part started with ""some"" DI questions, got nervous and flunked the rest. I think it is best to start with a fresh mind on DII and don't look at DI first, and practise that."
- "Start early enough!; Prepare the pre-examination, as it would be the main examination (referring to part D)."
- Try to get an overview of the prosecution process as early as possible (colleagues, EPO Guidelines...), and then select a main reference to work on it, and prepare it for the exams.
- "As most important I consider choosing the correct prior art. Otherwise one will end-up realizing after a few written pages that this document will lead nowhere and everything has to be re-written bringing a lot of time pressure.; ; Also I think that any time I spent on preparing a structure and draft wording including citations of the relevant GL references was time well spent."
- "Learning material ""Tactics for D"" shows a nice way on how to analyse the DI questions and find hints to the answers, even if not knowing the answer yet (hidden indications).; ; ""Smart in C"" shows nice ways of saving time in claim feature analysis - ""don't write something down if you can not use it for scoring marks."" - some notes are ok to write down, but no complete sentences unless you can use them in your answers."
- "- Individual work; - Study in group with other candidates"
- do at least some old papers, and write full version of your answer
- "Contrary to what was said by the EPO, one must train on other technical fields, ; a physicist must understand chemistry to some extent; a chemist must understand signal conversion and so one (especially B-2017 was not doable in the given time for chemists/biologists because the time consumed to understand the technical part could never be recovered and no time remained to the inventive step)"
- Start early to study
- Practice old exams and learn to write very very fast.
- "Find a way to tackle the papers, that suits your way of thinking & working. ; Don't be afraid!"
- start early, do lots of question adn mock exams
- Try to learn what is needed in an answer.
- "For part D: Really sit down and make at least the 100 main exam questions (Delta Patents) and several DII parts (Prepare for DII a template with the most common sentences, e.g. priority issues, novelty, same applicant...)...Don't think to much, just write the expected way (no coulds or woulds), that takes too much time; For Part A: No clue; For Part B: Be fast, so that you can tackle the Problem-Solution-Approach (there are in my opinion the points); For Part C: Buy a pen with which you can write fast, read the Guidelines for Examination regarding priority issues and state of the art"
- "The amount of time required to correctly prepare for the EQE should not be undervalued, at least four months of intensive study are required to reach the level of knowledge to face the exam and have any chances of succeeding.; I would recommend to sit the four papers in one go, there are many synergies between them, so the amount of study necessary for sitting the four exams at the same time is less than the amount of time needed for preparing them separately in successive years."
- Time managment is crucial!

- Never underestimate the time needed to study all the topics in depth.
- "1) Assess the available time you have. 2) Analyse the demand you have for each part you want to sit. 3) Make a schedule to follow strictly by allocating the available time to each paper. It is very important to train handwriting and previous exams (compendium) under real time conditions. I recommend buying an old-school ink pen. Much better for extensive writing than roller-pen or such. 4) For myself, it was very helpful to form small groups with other candidates to follow the same learning schedule. Like this, corrections can be done by other people, and a beneficial social "peer pressure" helps following the learning schedule. Also: discuss not well understood concepts in groups, such as by using google docs or similar ways of communicating in writing or by conference calls. From this, all participants profit a lot. Suitable candidates for study groups can be found in CEIPI or other preparatory courses, which by themselves are very helpful and well done. This is absolutely worth the (time and money) expense."
- "For the legal questions also expect questions on more "exotic" topics"
- Practice with past papers (writing the answers!), many of them, and read the examiner's report afterwards.
- Start early, work continuously and have time to go over the questions again.
- Start preparing in time.
- For the B paper candidate with chemistry background should do as much as possible B paper of electro/mechanics of the past years.
- Start preparing in time and practise doing the old papers during time pressure.
- Do compendiums in exam conditions at least twice.
- Write at least two old full exams under realistic conditions before sitting the EQE
- Yes. Be yourself. Write down ten things, which are important to you in your life on a piece of paper, and read this paper as the first thing you do every morning. And... have passing EQE as one of those things (one of ten!).
- "Do all the previous pre-EQE (at least the claim analysis part, since the legal questions have some different answers with the current applicable law). Also do the claim analysis part of the mock preEQE relating to an egg shell breaker and DO NOT do the other mock one (simply too complicated and not representative of the exam as is).; Do and re-do preEQE 2015 onwards, since till 2014 the level was lower than currently required. I also did DI papers of the 3 past years."
- Use Hoekstra and bring copies of all texts - PCT, PCT applicants guide for national / international phases, National Law relating to the EPC, EPO Guidelines for Examination, etc. as there will be some obscure and uncommon law to look up.
- Practice as many questions as you can to understand the logic behind them. It highlighted some misunderstandings I had. I highly recommend the EPA course to structure learning, because the scope of the exam is so huge that it's hard to know where to start. Start preparation as early in your training as possible, and get as much practical experience of cases relating to European patents as possible - the context is very helpful.
- Insulate yourself from noise: read the raw text of the EPC now(!) and never accept any answer from anyone, unless you(!) clearly see the legal basis for it.
- "test previous years papers in similar conditions.; Analyze in deep the examiner's report"
- Start preparing for the legal questions well in advance.
- It is a reading exam, read in high-resolution. Take some weeks off prior to the exam, not only to study, but to forget about work and have a clearer, more relaxed mind come exam time.
- Read the question carefully.
- Consider the Pre-exam a real exam
- practice the old Paper
- Really try to study with other candidates - it really helped me a lot !
- Be well organized and prepared. Do not underestimate any of the papers
- you need to do as many old papers as possible and in real condition (with a time limit).
- "C and D: Don't get defocused by the tons of advice and available material for papers C and D. Read C-Book and Visser. Do the CEIPI courses and do about 5 previous exams each.

Not necessary to do other expensive courses or even buy the model Solutions of previous exams. Compendium is fully sufficient for C and D.; ; For the new format of paper A: Pray! And let me know if you find a more reliable way."

- Don't marry, don't move, do not become parents! If possible move into a monastery for three to six month and study for 18 hours a day. After that you can MAYBE cope with what is expected by the EPO, knowledewise.
- "I'll never downplay the importance of guidance from the supervisor(s) and the support required by your employer to clear such an exam. They have to actively participate in your training. Unfortunately, it may so happen that some of your supervisors not really care whether you're upto the speed required for this exam. In my opinion, you have to notice such a lack of attention in the beginning and take a corrective action, whatever may that be. I remember, for instance, one of my supervisors strongly discouraging me in taking the exam this year. ; ; I would like to think, there is a lot of fun in proving people wrong, immaterial of whether they're your supervisors or not. :) Enjoy the process of preparation, it is indeed rewarding."
- Draw up a revision/study timetable and stick to it. Schedule in enough time to do past papers undisturbed, and if necessary find a suitable quiet and comfortable environment.
- Start studying as soon as possible.
- I recommend following DELTA PATENT courses
- Just practice the papers and work hard! Arrive early and make sure you're clear on what you need to do in the paper.
- "Especially mark words like ""not"" or ""dont""", and also ""special, important, etc.""
- Just make sure to clear your agenda for at least 6 months before the EQE, if possible.
- Start early doing mock exams in real time.
- training in time condition
- "Start of intense preparation: 6-8 months before the pre-EQE; CEIPI course highly recommended; Make several mock exams, within the time limit of 4 hours."
- The EQE is a game with it's own rules which does not match in all aspects with the practise outside the EQE world. To understand this principle is from utmost importance to pass the EQE/ the game respectively..
- Wait for correct answers/model solutions for 2017 proper A and B exams, The mock-exams were not helpful.
- Do EACH prior C paper available on the EPO website + correct EACH C paper done + study EACH ExRep for each C paper done + take notes of ALL problems encountered and of the respective solutions in due consideration of the EPC, the case law and the Guidelines.
- See above re: my specific method of intense study and preferred materials. However, what worked for me may not necessarily be the best option for another candidate
- Practice old papers.
- "tout passer en meme temps pour avoir la chance du débutant. quand on ""redouble"" c'est quasiment impossible d'avoir l'examen."
- Practise past papers to time and ask someone else to mark them.
- Stay positive and believe in yourself.
- Practising the compendium papers of at least the last five years in real-time in the weeks immediately preceding the EQE is as essential as procuring a solid knowledge base on the legal provisions beforehand. Just knowing your books well is not enough.
- Learn how to answer the questions in the way that the exams are marked.
- Study the guidelines and previous exams
- Have an EPI tutor.
- "Work through GL and make summary of most important Parts G and A; Do as many mock DI and DII questions as possible; Revise your mock exams to find where you can improve and where you made mistakes, take your time for these revisions"
- Past papers are by far the most useful preparation.
- Training with past examinations.

- "- Don't lose yourself in too much detail of the EPC. Don't try to memorize too much. Trust that you'll find all the information in the annotated EPC text book of your choice (Visser in my case); - Use the Delta Patents experience for understanding where to collect the easy marks. Attending their courses is hardly ever a mistake!; - Apply this knowledge of where to collect the easy marks onto various old exams. Force yourself to write the easy stuff on the paper. Don't be too easy with yourself and don't just note down the sketch for the solution. Do the whole thing! Repeat inventive step, inventive step, inventive step and inventive step!; - Accept that paper A has some aspect of a lottery.; - Accept that also other papers have some sort of arbitrariness. But for the other papers you should be able to collect enough marks even if you disagree with some aspects of the marking."
- Do not underestimate the level of difficulty for the pre-EQE exam.
- -start early, practise with as many previous exams as possible using the reference material you will take to the exam
- if you write in German -you will get 44 points - if you write in English-you will get 45 points- isn't it? YES IT IS
- Take specialised courses for the preparation
- Do at least 4 past papers under real time pressure for each ABCD
- Ensure that you will have time to study. Make a plan which is confirmed both by your company and by your family.
- focusing more on questions
- Please use short terms and shorter questions. In general, I found the time for the papers a bit short even though this year it has already been increased.
- Every detail is important so keep that in mind. It's not a problem if you don't know all the answers by heart but study your literature carefully so you know where you can find the answer.
- "- start practising past papers and questions early enough. Do daily D questions and time limit questions on epo's e-learning site. Even a single question once a week for a year can be better than last minute practising.; - rest well before the exams, do something else for the few days before the test so you are well-rested and your mind is not too much on the test; - do practise papers in one-sitting -> you'll then know how long it takes time to write the answers and won't be surprised at the exam"
- I think attending to courses (especially for non native speakers and for the countries where there is not enough co-operate study possibilities like in house trainings, courses adapted for EQE or other coachings) and studying is very important in EQE.
- practise time management
- Overprepare, as early as possible during the 12 months ahead.
- Just do it and don't be too lazy.
- "find your own way of preparation for the exam;"
- D paper: Prepare in advance answer elements with adequate law reference. Even if you know how to move within the EPC, there is not enough time to do so. So you to prepare in advance solution to very small questions. Then in the exam you have to mosaic those elements depending on the question.
- Practice with stop watch.
- Starting preparing for exam D in time, it is a lot of literature to study.
- Prepare for parts A and B by writing old exams in chemistry and electronics/mechanics in order to get used to the different styles of exams.
- Personally I mainly read book from Mr Baque on EPC. I think that's a very helpful and I would recommend using it for French readers.
- begin early. find your reference book early and start using it early, also at work.
- "time management is very important !; you can use examiners reports/solutions of previous papers to get an idea of how you should answer. for B and C this can be helpful."
- I have too long work experience to suggest a strategy for younger candidates.
- Find a suitable reference text book to use and practice answering questions, both DI and DII
- Regular daily/weekly learning

- "Honestly, with a full patent docket at work next to the preparations for the EQE, I would recommend to split the sitting of the Papers, i.e. sitting in one year Paper D and in the next year Papers A, B and C. In the last years, D has become so complex in preparation (e.g. you have to prepare EQUALLY the requirements of the EPC AND the PCT, there's no space to leave a ""learning gap"") that I personally got a bit lost during my preparations for the first sitting, meaning the D preparations took so much time, I could not handle to properly prepare A, B and especially not Paper C."
- Take 2 papers per year
- To dedicate a significant amount of time to practising exam technique, learning the EPC and learning from your mistakes. I would recommend preparing for the EQEs at least 6 months in advance of taking the exams.
- "Practice time management.; Do the EQE before you get children."
- Use E/M and chemistry papers A and B for the preparation.
- "Find your personal balance between courses and personal study on the basis of available resources.; Look at real cases surfing on the register."
- Do not fill in the bullets 10 minutes before the end of the exam. Filling in 80 bullets takes longer than you think.
- Do not start too late with the preparation for the exam
- "Try to understand the way how the papers (DII, B, C) are composed - all answers are more or less obvious in the paper itself.; Make ""Summaries"" on the typical situations on Priority, Disclosure, Art 123 - Test, etc for B,C, DII; Pick your literature for DI and learn where an answer would be found the easieast (EPÜ, Guidelines, Application Guide, National Law, ...) - Dependend on how your learning style is, a selfmade ""Situaion Based"" EPÜ would probably help, but it is alot of work"
- There seemed to be mistakes in the mock exams (online).
- Dedicated seminars are a big plus. Make as many mock exams (or former exams) as possible so that you can iron out your common mistakes such as how to read a question of what type of logic is expected in some questions.
- work work work
- Analyze past papers.
- Start working with the compendium early enough.
- For pre-exam and paper D use Delta's study guide to structure your studies. I discovered it a bit later in the process, and as soon as I started using the guide, it became the backbone of my legal preparation. Also, Delta's C book is really helpful and comprehensive. I suggest to read it, it is big but it is also helpful for A and B.
- Allow lots of time on preparing for paper D. Consider all elements and find your own flow.
- "Open mind. Self-confidence. Once your are sitting your Exam, do not judge and do not try to guess. You will pass!! and if not... it is just an exam, nothing else, there are more important things in life: Family, friends, travelling, health,etc ;-)"
- Start preparation early.
- Read the questions, read only the question, don't read what you would have liked to be the question, answer the question and only the question. If necessary read as often as needed to understand the question.
- Start early and practice DII.
- Well, start early, find a peaceful spot, and negotiate free time from your regular work responsibilities. Do previous exams and maybe perform them against the clock as well. Do not believe the colleagues' comments on the horribility of the task ahead! This exam is still possible to get through, even for a Finnish candidate. Read the question very accurately, because in a hurry you might misread the words, and answer a bit wrong -> which is usually totally wrong regarding the obtained marks. Also: concentrate on the PCT law as well (I did not do that very well for my first 2 tries in the D paper).
- Same problems with reference to the professional experience as not useful
- focus only a little number of books/documents
- I have no idea what to advise.
- Start early.

- Practice the past papers
- Do not answer as you would do it in practice, but as they do it in the examiners report.
- start before Christmas just reading and doing the summary questions of the delta patents course then use the P book to do questions
- The coffee time questions are great, and it is important to practice questions. The delta patents guides help a lot by supplementing the past papers available and also updating the answers to past papers to match current law.
- Yes, some questions seem to ask for following solution paths, which are not viable, but still are important to gain points. The preparatory questions sometimes had arbitrary answers. This particular EQE was improved in that respect, though.
- Practice as many timed past papers as possible. Know the law don't rely on looking it up during the examination
- I think it's key to start the preparation well in advance and to have a schedule and a plan.
- Get the right mindset and strategy is most important, i.e. Understanding the examination as such, what is expected and what gives marks.
- "For D: There's no much time for searching a solution. If allocated time is over, go ahead with the next question.; ; For C: practice, practice practice. There's no time for filling feature tables. Start writing the final response and work on it on the fly."
- The EPO Online training course is really great, because you get used to the multiple choice questions!
- Cooperate with someone who can check ur answers
- Time management
- Start early with the preparation
- Choose your methodology according to your type/ skills.
- "I read and screened many different methods and books and reference books, applicant guides, forms, case law, OJ's, from which I selected the set of information that I felt to be adequate for the exams. Books of Jelle Hoekstra (reference book), Cees Mulder (cross-referenced PCT guide; C book; D book), Brian Cronin, Marcus Mueller, Nicholas Fox, Stephane Speich, Singer + Stauder, Derk Visser, Gruner + Grossmann, CEIPI (A book, C book, D book) are all read and analyzed and used. I thought that it was indispensable to check and (briefly) read the original G decisions, T decisions, J decisions, EPO and PCT forms, OJs if any book or reference guide referred to such document. In addition, the EPC guide + INDEX(!), the PCT appl guide (int.) and the selection of PCT tables prepared by Pete Pollard (DeltaPatents) were very valuable. It is a pity that the national law tables are not available in printable form anymore. Now, I had to manually update the 2015 version. Now that Deltapatents is providing a full D course and additionally a D week in January, I felt that the CEIPI D course in January is superfluous for those who have the opportunity to take the Deltapatents courses, which I value higher. The very same is true for the C course of Deltapatents when compared to the CEIPI C course of lower quality."
- Try!!
- Don't trust EPO when they send you an e-mail stating that you will receive 30 extra minutes. It is not because they are being nice, it is because the exam will be much much much harder.
- Start practicing A, B and C early.
- Make a realistic revision plan scheduling in all the study and past papers you would like to do. Things always take longer than you think, so schedule in some spare days in case certain bits of study overrun. Don't forget to leave time for marking the past papers. It's important to also schedule plenty of breaks/days off.
- "I followed the following studying plan;; 1 - try one or two previous exams using Guidelines and EPC to get a taste of the examination;; 2 - do the online time limit course - take some notes, looking for the relevant information in Guidelines/EPC/ an annotated EPC;; 3 - study carefully an annotated EPC;; 4 - study carefully the Guidelines;; 5 - prepare all your documentation;; 6 - with this knowledge and this documentation, finish (e.g. last week before examination) by doing all the previous exams from the compendium in examination's conditions."

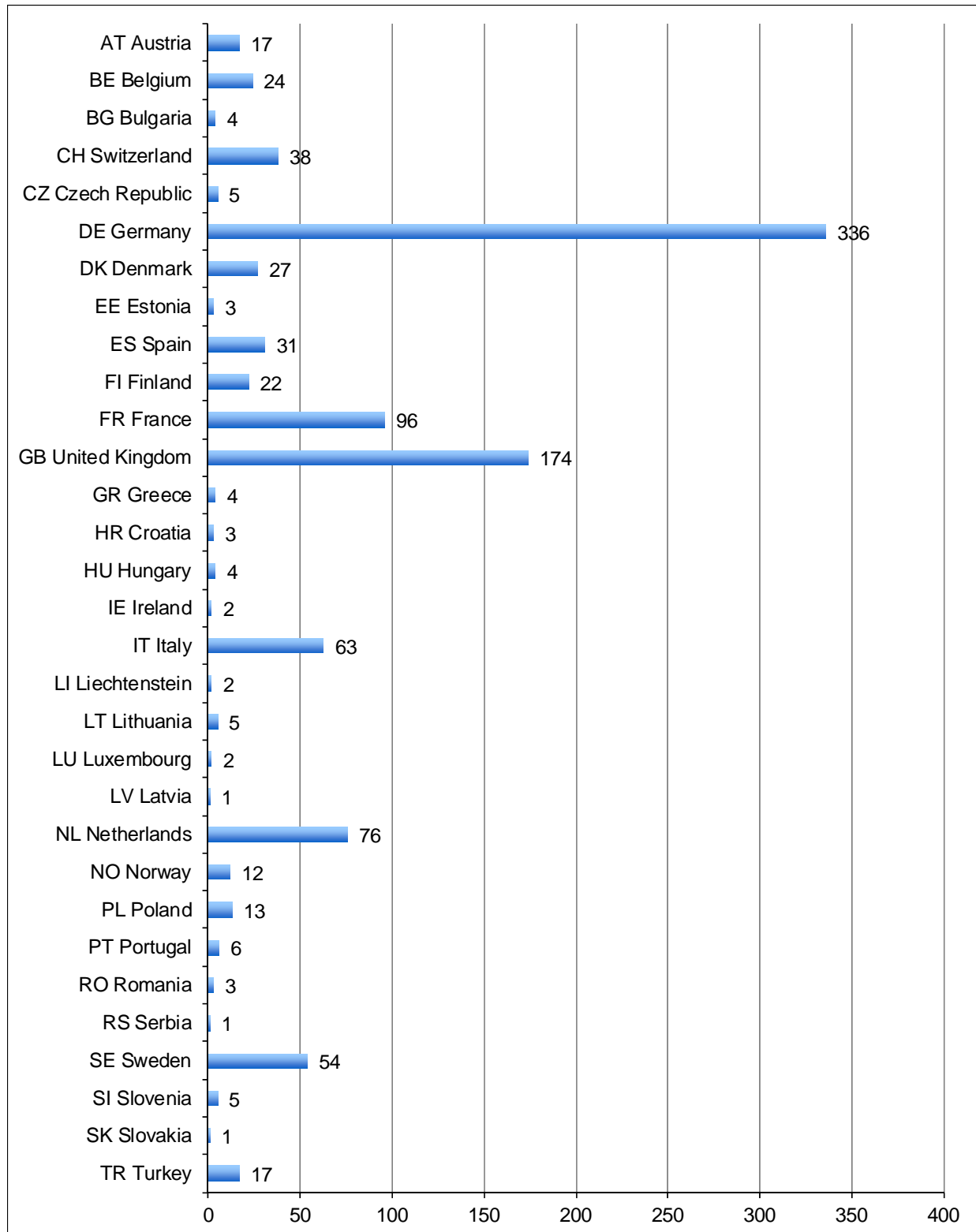
- See the video above.
- Work hard. Try to understand the old papers. Prepare a specific strategy for each paper.
- to create their own guide/index in order to find promptly answers
- Start studying early and make a detailed study plan
- Do not focus on the pure knowledge alone, make exercises, exercises and exercises.
- "Actively think when they read something; Having understood something is not enough for passing the exam, active knowledge to some extent is required"
- "Prepare a lot! ; I wish the European Patent Academy would organize online courses for the A,B,C and D exams as well."
- Start revising early. At least 2 years before the exam and practice a lot with past papers of the compendium.
- patience and good mind+body health
- begin preparation earlier
- - If you do not succeed the first time, you get another chance. ..
- Start earlier than I did.
- Know what your are great at and focus on that
- start early enough with the training to write with your hand
- Practice, practice, practice
- study hard
- "Do mock exams and mock exams and mock exams ...Read thoroughly the Examiner's reports and based on that develop your own methodology, style and templates.; Get feedback from tutors on mock exams.; Start early so as no to have last minute pressure to cram everything in."
- Study guidelines intensively
- Papers A&B: work through the compendium Period.
- "Try to attend at least one course from an external provider (e.g. Deltapatents) to get an idea how the exams are graded by the examination board and what aspects are important to gain marks; ; Start early, but do no exhaust yourself. Stick to 1 or at most 2 different reference books for Paper D and mark it up while doing past questions.; ; Do as many past exams as possible and get the a book with Main Exam style questions."
- "I recomend to use EPO on-line course, DeltaPatents questions books, D.Visser ""The annotated EPC"", EPO EPC, EPO Guidline, ; C. Mulder ""The Cross-referenced PCT"", PCT Guidline from DeltaPatents. Reading the EPO on-line course materials is not enough for answering the pre-exam questions. It is necessary to read EPO and WIPO guidlines, because some answer are only in guidlines. This was so also in this year. I do not know, how much could help J. Hoekstra ""References to European Patent Convention"". ; I suggest to make short summary concerning basic steps of EPO and PCT procedures. Then you can look quickly from this table, where you will find answer to question."
- Schedule your training
- start preparing in time and spend enough time.
- I should have started learning a bit earlier. Maybe 6 months before the exam and not 4 months.
- To prepare the pre exam as if it was for the real D paper, to be sure to understand the EPC instead of just being able to answer multiple choice questions
- Answer the questions and the questions only.
- "Paper C - have a strategy ready for quickly analysing the documents and preparing the attacks; being organized and having an overview of how to combine the documents is important"
- Be aware on the special kind of how the questions are asked / pitfalls
- "Have a plan and adapt it along the way; Have supervisor and/or EPA colleagues who are willing to discuss; Make presentations on topics you find difficult - addressed to your colleagues and get discussion and feedback"
- Start doing past papers early on to practice your technique and do not change the technique at or close to the exam.

- Start without family and full time job
- Most candidates I know found that the methodologies for paper C discussed in the CEIPI C-book take much too long for the exam. Also the methodology proposed in the D-Book for DII takes too long for many candidates. One has to elaborate their own strategy.
- "Read the C-Book.; Bring a file box to order your answers sheets.; Read the ""Little Prince"" before falling asleep, sleep well before each of the papers, and have a good breakfast at the morning."
- Luck, valerian and a light clothes
- For chemist, I would say that they should be careful with functional features vs. results to be achieved in particular for new paper A.
- Practice chemistry and mechanics papers A and B.
- take it seriously
- Start studying at a reasonable time before the exam at least 4-5 months
- Study hard. The pre-exam is not a joke.
- Study EQE papers very intensively
- For the Pre-EQE focus not so much on the content of various topics, focus on being able to retrieve them quickly.
- Do all the past papers and as many additional true/false questions as possible
- Practice a lot on old Pre-EQE questions
- "Start early with doing old/mock exams and prepare accordingly to the results; learn using your text books in those mock exams."
- Do a lot of exercises. You need to look up relevant information very fast.
- do as many papers as you can
- to focus on the short and directed answers in paper D1. do not try to explain everything because you will lose a great amount of valuable time.
- "Start with establishing a good overview of the EPC and the PCT - I would recommend starting with reading thoroughly the 2 free books available from EPO on ""How to get a European Patent"" and ""How to get a European Patent Euro-PCT"" - these at first sight may look to be 'too simple', but actually they contain substantial detail and section number, time limits etc., and provide a good study guide to spring off to more detailed texts such as 'Visser'."
- Early starting, CEIPI courses if feasible
- Practice writing fast and understandable. Practice considering the facts presented only.
- Ensure you have thoroughly annotated/'tabbed' up your texts that you will use for pre-exam
- make yourself familiar for what marks are given and what is expected in the EQE. I believe that a significant number of candidates fails to pass the EQE because they focus on the wrong things which may be interesting, but which are not part of the EQE.
- Je suggère de suivre une formation spécifique de quelques jours pour préparer l'examen (préliminaire dans mon cas) et de la compléter en faisant tous les examens et mocks précédents
- "Start early preparing, 12-9 months at latest. Participate to EPO EQE Pre-examination Online course.; Pre-examination:; 1) Practise a lot of mock exams, old exams, exercises. Keep score and at some point, take time not to be too slow; 2) Make time schedule for exam, at least dividing the time for both parts of the exam. Make mock runs; ; Exams: ; 1) Practise a lot of mock exams, old exams, exercises, - Keep score and take time; 2) Make time schedule for exam. Prepare answer structures in advance and make them routine; ; If possible, try not to marry or get children before finishing the EQE. Time for studying is available only before those events."
- More help on the EPO website for candidates with no in-house training and with no other trainees in their firm. I understand even candidates who have other trainees in their firm are not fully supported for study. So whatever the EPO can offer is greatly appreciated.
- I would recommend any external tuition or courses that you are fortunate enough to be enrolled on. Everyone I spoke to at the EQE found these courses to be a fundamental part of their study.

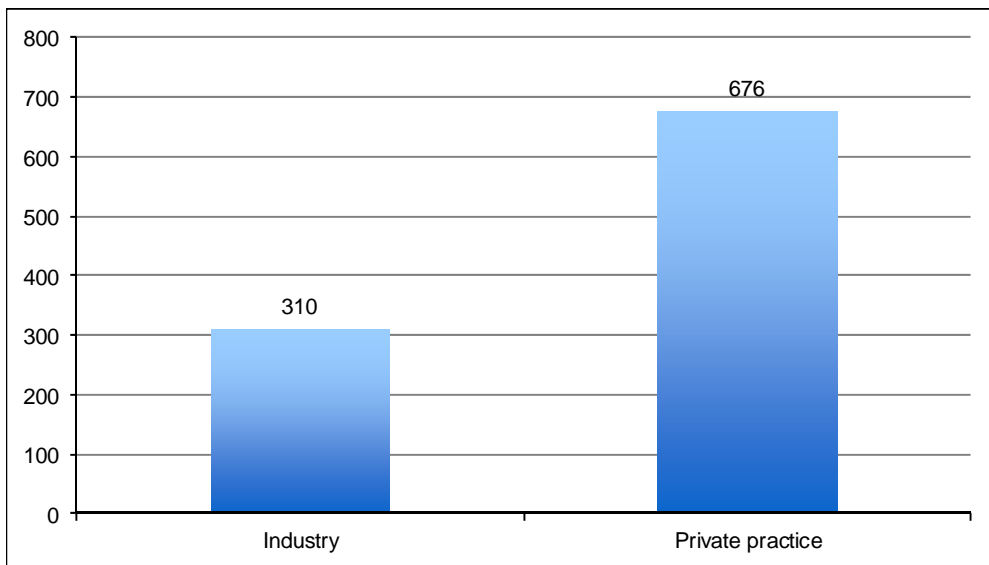
- Create groups and study in accordance with a Gantt scheme.
- study the last eqe questions, especially the last two years editions and the comments on them. try to understand what the questions wants from you.
- understanding the grade marking is crucial. the EQE is not only about giving the right answer but also about explaining it thoroughly, within a given marking system.
- Prepare older exams papers, especially to create your own time management, your own process to find relevant information and prepare standard argumentation style for novelty and inventive step attacks.
- prepare well in advance, at least two months in advance. The Deltapatents material is certainly helpful and provides further in-depth knowledge. In addition, find yourself a useful syllabus with schemes/tables to work with. This at least points in the correct direction. In addition, use personal comments in the EPC or said tables to guide yourself towards the correct answer.
- Compendium durcharbeiten, mindestens die letzten 5 Jahre
- Spend more time with materials and start earlier...
- "start early on; read books early on regarding commercial aspect of IP"
- If preparing for the exam with small children - it could be of great help to have reliable persons to take care of the children outside daycare (because of the high risk of sicknesses) for at least two weeks in advance of the exam.
- Do as many pre-exam past papers and basic legal questions as possible
- Tip für Kandidaten: Alte Prüfungen testweise schreiben!
- study in small groups with other candidates (first write older preexams, then discuss about it and especially the mistakes you have made)
- "Don't procrastinate learning.; ; Repetitio est mater studiorum."
- Sit the exam before having Kids :-)
- Be prepared in EPC first, then in solving EQE papers as well.
- start early to learn
- Starting early with the preparations and repeat frequently to get routine.
- Practice old exams
- Take enough time for courses.
- Do previous exams in exam conditions, in the given time.
- If there is a chance to learn for and take part to the EQE BEFORE following a full time job - take it!
- Take a Deltapatents course
- "In the D part start with part 2. The ""administration"" of reading and orginaziation of the material can calm you down and you do not waste any time if your brain is not working properly the first day, the brain adjustment of the stress. Finnish part 2 first then you are into the exam and the brain can answer the questions in part 1."
- For D paper, concentrate preparation on D-II, at least at the 60%-level of the overall D preparation time.

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

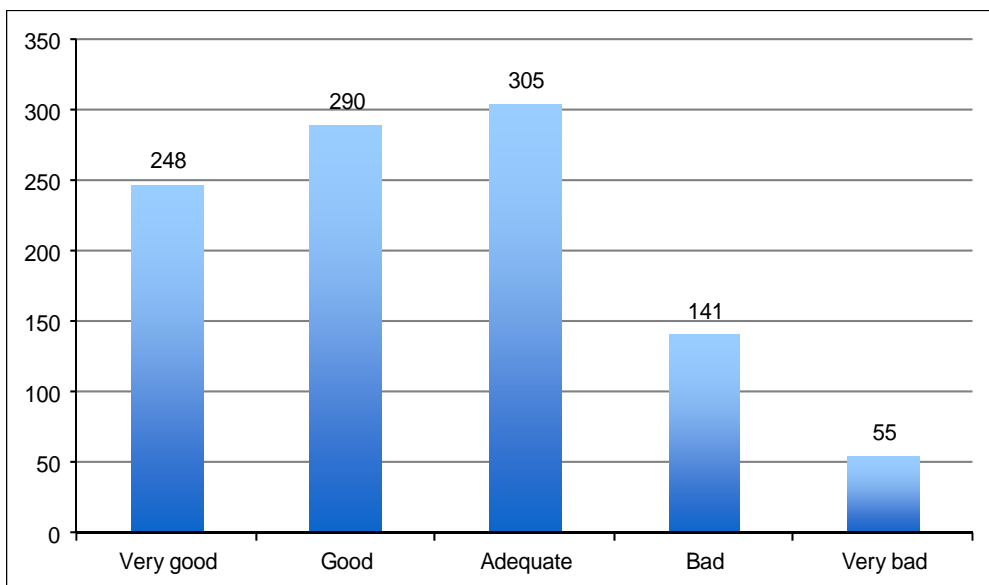
Q16) In which EPC member state did you complete most of your training according to Art. 11(2)(a) REE?



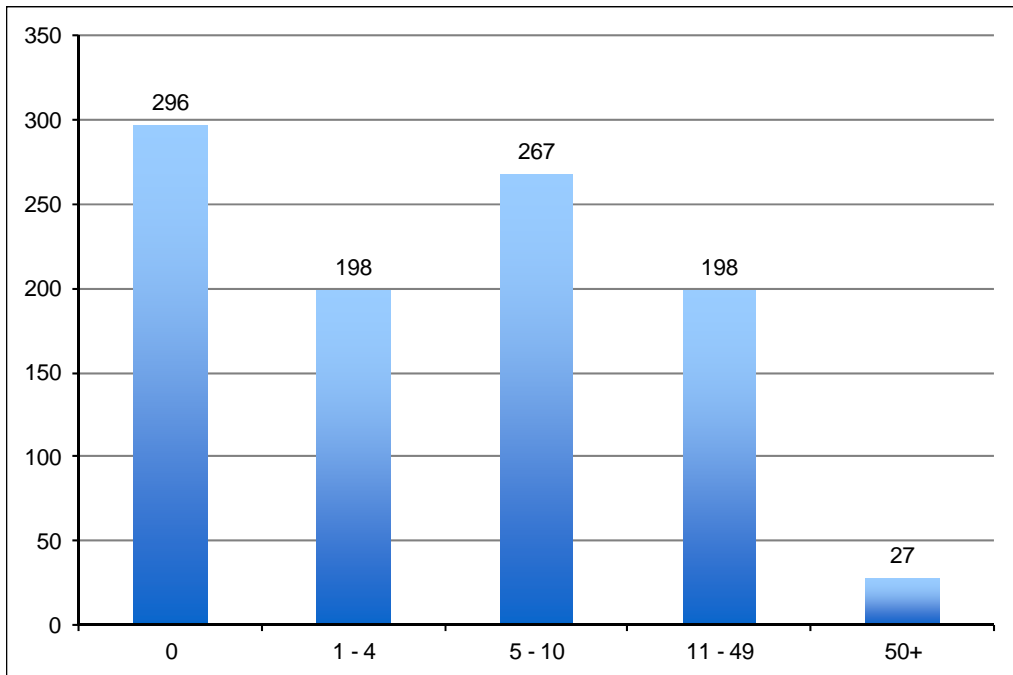
Q17) I completed most of the training (Art 11(2)(a) REE) in



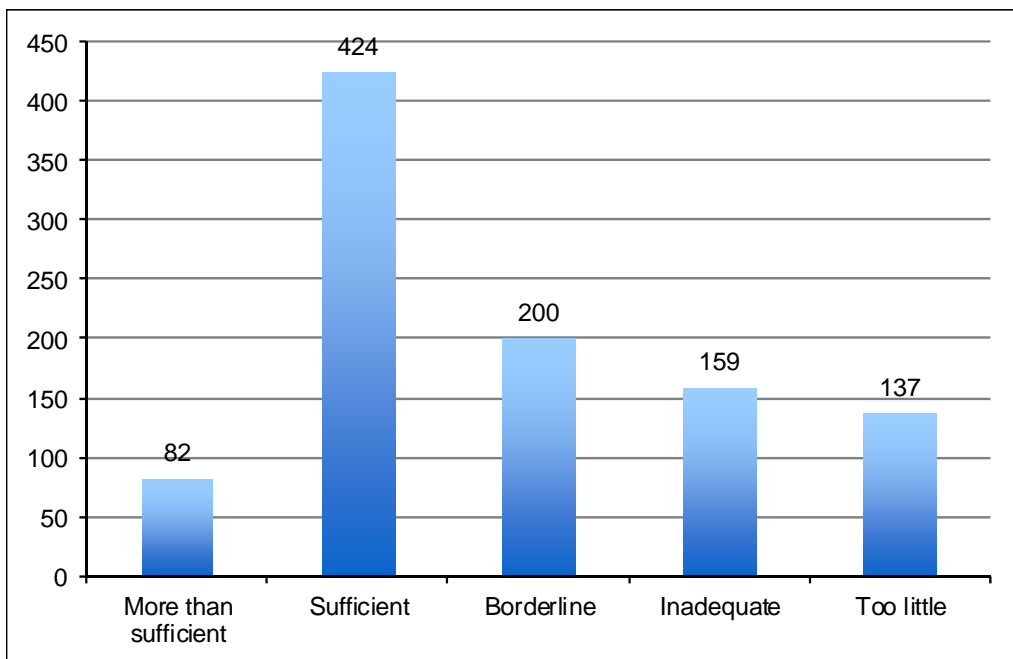
Q18) How would you rate the support of your employer in view of your preparation for the EQE?



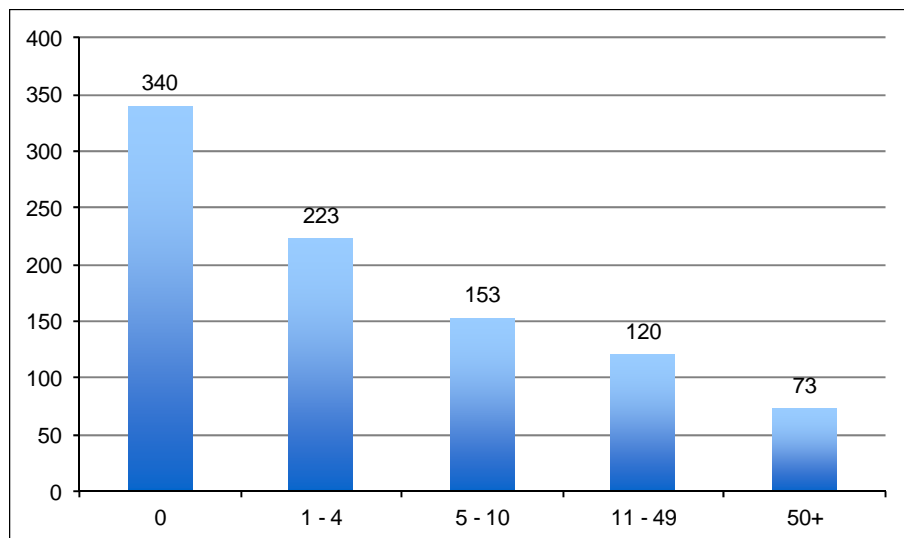
Q19) How much time did your employer allow for attending courses for your preparation for the EQE?



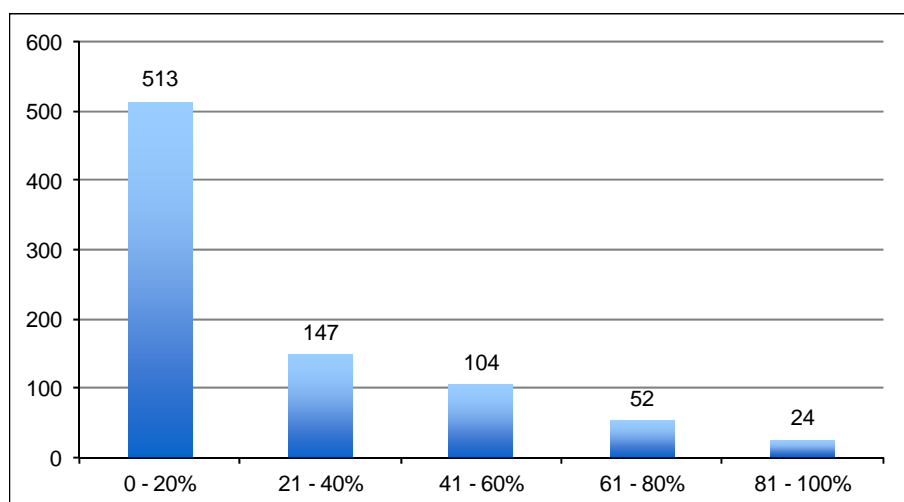
Q20) How would you rate the amount of time allowed by your employer for participation in courses?



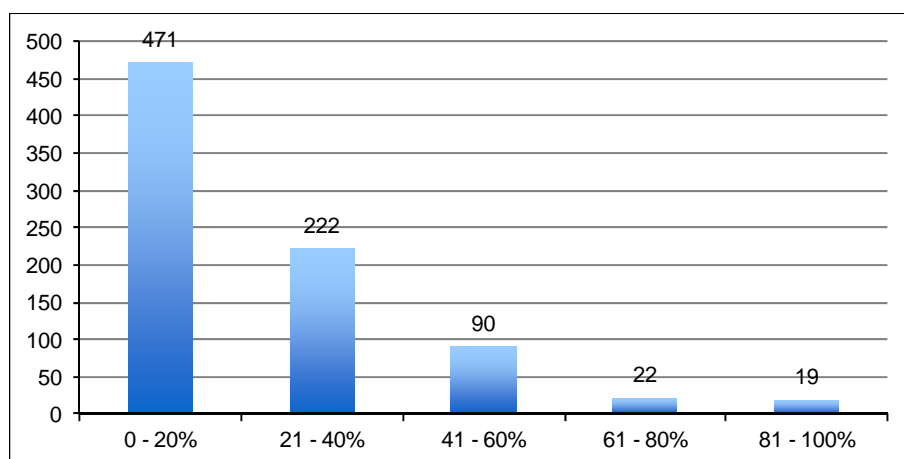
Q21) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art.11(2)(a) REE (i.e. the person who signed your certificate of training or employment) (working days)?



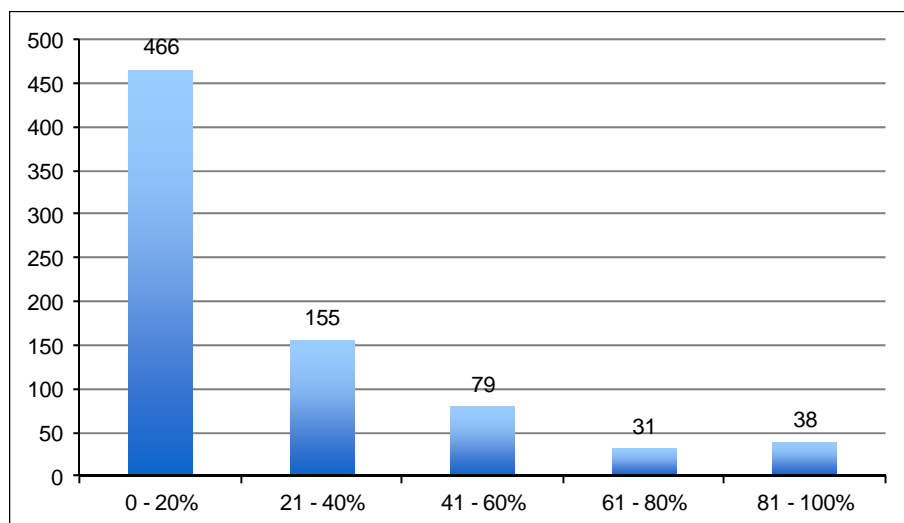
Q21a) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 21a) did you spend during the first year of training?



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



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



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

- Clean their desks and give them also time during working hours to study
- answers above are messed up, not suitable for epo employees, button not applicable is missing....
- Create study groups.
- give some time to study during working time
- Hold focus on EQE. It's different from working practice.
- nothing more they try to do their best
- Not Applicable
- Recognise that they are difficult and time consuming papers - supervisors seem to quickly forget how tough the exams are. Allow for a reduced day-to-day workload/caseload in the run up to the exams so that the candidate is not exhausted in the evening when it is revision time.
- I had no help from any supervisor.
- the EPO does not have any dedicated supervisors to help people train for the EQE
- Try recent past papers themselves.
- Trigger the candidates with special situations which rarely happens. The questions of the eqe are far away from reality.
- Do past papers and look at the ideal answers
- Point to the right sources: Visser, Guidelines, WIPO Guide, Euro PCT guide etc
- Providing internal tutorials.
- more study leave and tutorials
- Discuss more about formal EPO procedures.
- Actually discussing the draft applications and draft responses instead of just amending and then filing them would be helpful.
- Let them have practical experience of real cases, otherwise, teaching is just abstract.
- They should teach basic strategies for facing an exam with little time, and yet keep calm and making good use of one's time.
- Leave plenty of free time, and provide for as many training courses as possible.
- teach how to find the critical keyword, i.e. what is the subject of the question and where are corresponding the articles, rules, guidelines...
- My employer is the EPO: 1 day per week should be granted for 6 m

- Exam is dynamic, supervisors should remind the candidates that things might have changed, not only due to changes in law, but also the way the questions are put.
- Give more time for studying during working hours in connection to real working cases.
- "Most of the training is of course needed in the first year. Suggest a one-to-one sit down ca 2 months before the eqe for a "no question is too stupid" session to clear up any areas where the candidate is confused or has questions which do not arise in daily practice."
- Focus on making sure trainees understand the core concepts well - priority etc. Most of the syllabus is peripheral detail that rarely comes up in practice, and you can familiarise yourself with ahead of the exams.
- Actually talk to your trainees about the exams..
- Allow for time (including making sure the work burden isn't too high) well in advance, and not just a week or two beforehand.
- Give them diverse assignments in their daily work
- "Less focus on practical aspects ; More focus on how to pass the exam; These 2 are sometimes in conflict"
- Grant a vacation request two weeks prior to the exam, even if staff is low.
- Make them do past papers
- Exam papers, focus on how differently questions can be asked etc.
- do previous papers on a regular basis
- Know what you are talking about, if you are not sure do not say anything (wrong) just to say something. Explain why something is important and what are the legal consequences.
- Tell candidates that the EQE is not a law exam.
- Let them do work relating to all aspects of pre- and post-grant procedures.
- Give them time to prepare for the EQE
- More time for personal training
- Get a 2-week full time course right at the start and do not leave everything to the candidate. It will pay off pretty soon.
- Suggest to your trainee that they sit old papers under exam conditions, at work, and mark and discuss these with them.
- An overview of the EPC system should be given as early as possible, on the job training easily goes communication by communication
- Let them attend special courses held by e.g. CEIPI or DeltaPatents. (In Hungary mainly grandfathers are available who cannot really help in preparing for the EQE.)
- They have to learn first and follow the recent changes and refresh their knowledge.
- Donner quelques jours de congés pour révision.
- Start earlier with claim analysis in Pre-EQE style
- Analyse individual strength and weakness of your candidate and help him to understand these,
- sharing with candidates their own experience with EQE, provide suggestions on how to organize their study, provide comments on mock and compendium examination papers solutions.
- maybe, do a few A/B/C/D exams in the 3rd year and talk about it with the supervisor
- More inhouse training on specific topics and detailed analysis on past papers
- Give training
- Take time to properly teach and explain..
- My supervisor did not have to sit the pre-EQE, so he couldn't really help in the exam-specific preparation. This is probably the case with most supervisors. All the more important the compendium / old exam sheets!
- Clarify better how points are given for D1 and D2.
- Tell them what to study, how to study, what books they need, give the candidate an overview of the procedures of the EPC without going into details
- More time for preparing the EQE
- Pay CEIPI training
- At least they should know that the eqe changed a Lot since they took it

- "Give billing a break for a bit and stop assuming HR have got it covered. ; Note: I am no longer in private practice."
- Our firm provided tutorials, 2 for each exam, with different people. These were invaluable.
- Learning by doing
- Monthly Workshops
- "1. Stop losing time in useless professional clubs.; 2. Work with your team, not against."
- Use old exams and discuss the way of solving the puzzle.
- Allow them more time to read materials
- allow more free time
- Send candidates to DeltaPatents
- Wrap up of the last 3 years of EPO OJs in relation to G-decisions. Introduction to examples and Interpretation of G-decisions as add-on to self-study.
- try to make sure the candidate has the whole variety of work from formalities and renewals to oppositions (or mock-oppositions) and appeals
- Reserve time slot. Open discussion.
- Try to stay update with the EQE style and changes
- I am an examiner at the EPO, so I was not supervised for my EQE training, I did it on my own.
- "Take responsibility of the student, arrange time together to discuss such that the information may ""sink in"".; Reading and understanding are two quite different matters."
- Gaining experience by getting involved in European Patents prosecutions as early as possible
- "In industry: Give the candidate at least half a day/week ""off "" for preparing EQE."
- External courses are very important
- reduce work load to allow time for exam preparation.
- In my opinion the writing of real life application shortly before the EQE messes up the expected claim writing of Part A (since it is a different approach since you have to write a patentable claim and not the broadest possible claim, which you can later reduce), hence one-two months before the EQE no application writing should be done.
- "1) Give them time to attend specialized courses for EQE. This is most efficient and up-to-date training; 2) Encourage them to start early with the training. Maybe give them a couple of hours each week dedicated to personal training."
- To grant some time budget to prepare the EQE.
- None of my training was dedicated to EQE. My supervisor taught me how to do the job and I attended courses for EQE specific training.
- Review the papers that the candidates prepare for the EQE exams to evaluate which are the recurrent mistakes and involve the candidate in on-going cases with which he can practice further avoiding recurrent mistakes.
- discuss Questions and Answers of the DeltaPatents Preparation Books.
- To schedule re-occurring meetings so that the candidate has a good pace in the progress of preparation.
- To reduce candidate's workload a little bit.
- Some do not have a clue over the shape of the current exams...
- spend more time with us
- Encourage familiarity with legal texts.
- Let them get off study leave otherwise they will have to use holiday where they do not exactly rest from work
- I didn't receive dedicated training per se, but gained practical experience. It would have been, and would be, very useful to have a day or set times set aside for training specifically towards the examination (with or without supervisor help).
- You are not a teacher. Focus on providing practical information, eg on how to reach the contents of the EPC, which books/documents may be useful, or improving the documents that are available to the candidate. Anything else is noise that the candidate can easily get from somewhere else, eg Derk Visser's book.

- Give sufficient time to the candidates to prepare, not doing so may cost you in more time later if there is a need to repeat an exam.
- Discussion of interesting, real cases.
- Consider more important the preparation during the day, because using only the nights and week ends is too little.
- "Talk to them on their training needs and identify the areas of improvement. In my case, I am a foreigner in Germany. Everything in the beginning was strange. I was never told anything specific to EQE, except for download the questions from the EPO website and practice. ; ; At one point, my trainer came to my office and said to quit applying for pre-EQE and that I should not be surprised if I fail in the Exam. This is the result or the pat on the back I received, despite working on quite a number of opposition cases within my second year. I was clearly one of the top performers in the team. You slowly get sucked into the system which not only shows disinterest but actively discourages you in getting better at work. I am not sure how to characterize this lack of support from the employers. Guess what, it only motivated me to get better at what I do. I became fast and efficient in reading (and sometimes skimming through the text) the documents and reaching the relevant parts for creating arguments. ; ; So my suggestion is - even if you cannot support, just do not walk up to them and say that they will fail. Some of them can get better and put the pass marks on your face."
- Spend a lot of time with your trainees making sure they understand what is expected of them in the exam, and helping them with the preparation by holding tutorials, giving feedback on papers and just generally being there to answer any questions.
- To give a method to understand how to do the papers
- Keep up to date with how the examinations have been changed so that they can let candidates know what to expect. This is often a problem with supervisors who have been qualified more than 10 years as they do not always appreciate how the approach to passing the exam has changed.
- More time for preparing for courses and exam (self-study during working hours)
- give free holidays to practice at home before EQE (instead of week-end). EQE is not a hobby and candidates have families...
- "Comment to the above questions Q21: I have been working in the field of patents for well over 20 years. Deciding exactly how much time on what year is not possible to assess in any meaningful way. Hence, I will not answer. ; ; Regarding the below questions: ; I have never attempted the C-exam, so questions Q23-25 are premature."
- Keep informed
- I think they should give enough time to study and share their experiences with candidates.
- Give them more time off work to study.
- "je n'ai pas vraiment aider par un Superviseur car n'ont pas nécessairement leurs connaissances à jour pour passer l'examen EQE qui a un formalisme très particulier et assez loin de ce qui peut se passer durant la vie professionnelle. ; Le meilleur moyen pour réussir l'eqe c'est de bosser par ses propres moyens ou entre candidats EQE"
- Act as a tutor and work with your trainee to prepare for the exam.
- "Obviously, it would be great if the supervisor took the time to prepare the candidate in ""private lessons"", however I believe that attending courses and preparing with in study groups with other candidates is also a good setup."
- Focus on the exams as they are now. Not how they were. Focus on the candidates' challenges. However, it's good to discuss what challenges the supervisor experienced as a way to discuss what the candidate expects his/her challenges to be.
- "Most of my training was during my free time, not working hours. It is difficult to judge as I am trained on the work, working on cases with my supervisors, thus it is impossible to quantify the ""training"" time."
- I do not believe that any additional training is necessary on top of on-the-job training
- I just did the Pre-EQE. Lunchbreaks and after work courses are sufficient preparation for the legal section. Ordinary work and the past papers are sufficient preparation for the claims section.

- Designate specific days for past papers, and provide a room to do them in without distractions
- Do real papers with them. All of them - ABCD
- Support of continuous in-house training and other external EQE trainings
- Take the pressure of the candidates and give them support and understanding. This exam is not easy and even if you fail this doesn't mean that you are not cut out for this job but you need to relax, take it easy and not panic.
- Go through questions with the candidates, and go through past papers with them. That often helps when you get someone explaining how something is interpreted etc.
- All candidates are not the same, so forcing in a manner like rigid teachers does not work for everybody. Studying too much is the first key for EQE so, supervisors should guide the candidate to do so in the manner (psychology) of the candidate. And not making this dispiritedly. Therefore the candidate would be trusting the supervisor and track all the ways that supervisor offer.
- Make sure that the candidates receive plenty of exposure to all the different tasks that a European patent attorney may be asked to perform.
- "stay updated with the epc/ptc;"
- They need to stay in shape vis a vis the EPC. Their knowledge is somehow outdated and never tested again after EQE. Also most of them do not know how to teach their knowledge. They believe that what is obvious for them is also obvious for everyone else.
- Give the trainee a wide variety of EP work to do including Opposition and Appeal
- During the last three months, it would be great to have one study day/week. The work load in the work was too high.
- To take the time to supervise, to see the time as well-spent time.
- Help you candidates, have a program for training and supervise your employee for the first 2-3 years
- more training regarding recommendations to clients
- Learn how to train your trainees!
- Review the basic strategy for each exam and explain more the compendium
- To encourage candidates' to do as much European case work as possible.
- "As being in the industry I spend all time evaluating Invention Disclosures and writing applications (or handling such being written by outside counsels) and prosecution (e.g. respondign to Office Actions).; ; That takes more than 100% working time, so not much time for EQE training on the job (apart from participating soem days at external course). Study is done in evenings and weekends.; ; Also being in the industry means that part A and B is familiar. Part C and D is not part of daily work (you need to have already passed the EQE to participate in hearings or do opposition) and thus harder to learn.; ; My advice to the supervisors would be to take a global grip within the company and facilitate so that employees participating in the EQE globally would know of each other and could benefit from studying together. We do have means/tools to collaborate globally. I have sometimes found colleagues at the examination center who I had no clue were going to the same examination/part."
- "Make resources available to the candidates; discuss at least two past exams."
- "Fokus on how the EPÜ is structured and how EPO ""thinks"" ist most important at the beginning. --> Going through the EPÜ based on DI questions is a good way (e.g. Delta Patents D-Exam Book); Giving structure how to takle the courses is less important, since this is based on the participant and the way he thinks and there are courses which can be attended, which are more specilised on this."
- Supervisors should give e.g. one question per week and go it through together with the candidate.
- Workload management in build up to exams
- Make sure the candidate sees as many different problems in practice, also procedural details.
- organizing weekly meeting on case law or specific legal topics with exercice to prepare in advance

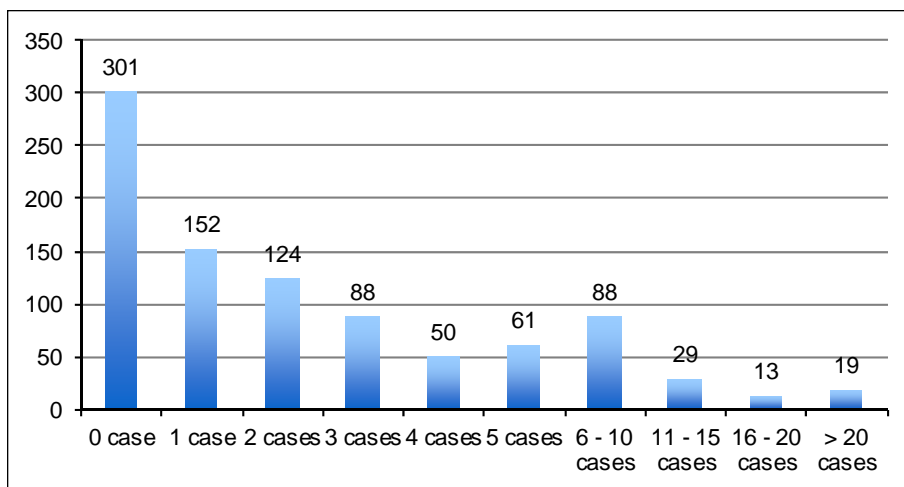
- Spend time on dedicated training. Give the candidate the opportunity to attend courses.
- After having sitted the EQE papers it would have been easier to prepare when you know how the papers look like. A candidates' preparation for the EQE should be started with comprehension of key elements of each paper and addressed systematically which can be efficiently done in line with working experience.
- Please help them in their preparations at least by giving them some off time to study the exam...
- ia dditiion to cases worked on during daily operations, reserve time for practising exams and discussing results afterwrads with supervisor
- more practice with EPC, accepting that candidate can prepare for the EQE during working time to a certain extent
- I have no idea
- Organize a study group with the colleagues. Or make a Q/A system with the candidate at least for some topics, in a regularly scheduled meeting kind of way, for instance.
- share your insights of your own preparation and examination experience
- Monitor the workload of candidates to ensure that they have sufficient time (particularly at the weekends) for study rather than work. Allow sufficient days of study leave.
- "There should be a permanent and really interested help desk/person.; ; There is no real support."
- give them live cases in the more obscure matters
- EQE is way too difficult
- use EPÜ language and citations of applicable laws in daily mail to clients and authorities
- Allow more time for personal study
- Work on the formation of your candidate if you want to have a great professional that stay in your firm.
- Find time to work with ur candidates
- Non applicable as I am a patent examiner
- Integrate topics in work.
- Be a real mentor
- There is no préparation of the candidates from my supervisor
- It is great to give the candidates the opportunity to visit for exampel
- Provide the candidate enough study leave to attend a course for each exam if they want to. Ensure the candidate's workload isn't too high in the run up to the EQE. Be flexible in your approach to the candidate taking holiday or flexi-time in order to do some extra study. Ensure they have access to all the books/resources they need.
- Give more time to candidates and more attention too.
- to exercise (and eventually be wrong) together
- Actively take part of the student's preparations.
- Pass more time for training them.
- Give days not only for studying but for mind relaxing
- give more time for preparation
- "To make a detailed program.; My supervisor had some lack of knowledge in patent law."
- I had no supervisor
- The early preparation by external service providers and procurement of current materials (comments, guidelines, ...).
- "The supervisor needs to concretely engage with the trainee. Simply allowing the trainee to attend courses is not sufficient. There needs to be a proper training plan in place with regular follow-ups. Feedback is essential.; Hence preparation of the EQE cuts both ways and requires a huge investment for both the supervisor and the trainee."
- Not applicable for examiner
- Let working hours go to training
- "I am an EPO examiner, the question of this page do not apply to me ;-)"
- Supervisors should know examination changes.
- SUPERVISORS SHOULD BE EUROPEAN PATENT ATTORNEYS

- Spend more time training candidates.
- "to give more time for the preparation and study, ; to uncharge the persons that must pass EQE"
- Leave time for attending at least one course during working hours
- Allow sufficient time / reduced workload during studies
- Run in house tutorials (we have organised some of those ourselves with recently qualified EPAs.
- "oblige the candidates to participate in courses early;"
- To reduce the workload at least 2 months before the EEQ.
- No financial compensation for them means no time available to help and improve candidate's preparation.....sad but true.
- To upgrade the importance of adequate training
- mandatory training with a well preparation like in Germany for candidates for the national patent attorney exam
- "I think my case is different from normal candidates; as I had a IP law degree and years of experience in the industry. My suggestion would rather be to allow direct access to the EQE w/o Art 11 service time in such cases."
- Don't let them do only application's and responses to office action's but introduce them to the ECP and give them at least time for self-study
- Simply spend more dedicated time.
- Start looking up answers in f.eks. Visser at an early stage and get comfortable With the content of the book and where to find the information.
- Provide extra study leave
- follow the training and demand information of the steps
- Make a schedule together with the candidate. Especially if the candidate do not participate in any courses. Make sure that the candidate have time every week at work for studies and follow it up
- Stop loading us with too much work just before the exam, so that we can get on with EQE preparations.
- I would suggest to add time for study
- Focus on exams not general patent practice
- It is a matter of the Employer: the employer should allow time for attending courses and prepare for the exam
- Maybe a suggested list of preparatory materials and a suggested timeline for completing certain activities.
- No suggestion - most supervisors in PL did not passed EQE by themselves
- give guidance on which aspects have to be covered by the answer of the candidates in view of the question. What I mean is, how deep does a candidate dive to obtain most of the Points for a question.
- Take the time of organize meetings for the employee to pass an EQE paper under real condition
- Allow more time during work hours to prepare, particularly when kids are involved..presumably they want us to pass the exams so some time would be useful
- In my opinion, the best thing a supervisor could teach a candidate is to how to answer the EQE papers, what key information is required and the structure of a correct answer.
- Hire staff for search etc in order to enable allocation of time to exam oriented studying.
- In private practice there's limited time. However, try to discuss interesting topics at least briefly and point to materials for candidates to work with, in particular topics as languages, deadlines, priority. Basic PCT knowledge and differences are good to mention as well.
- 40-50%
- Die Beteiligung des Ausbilders bei der Vorbereitung der EQE beschränkt sich auf dessen Unterschrift. Praxiserfahrung hilft zwar, allerdings sind die Anforderungen zwischen der Prüfung und der Praxis sehr verschieden, besonders in Modul A.
- No internal training at all, but half day per week for self study. No overtime in the months

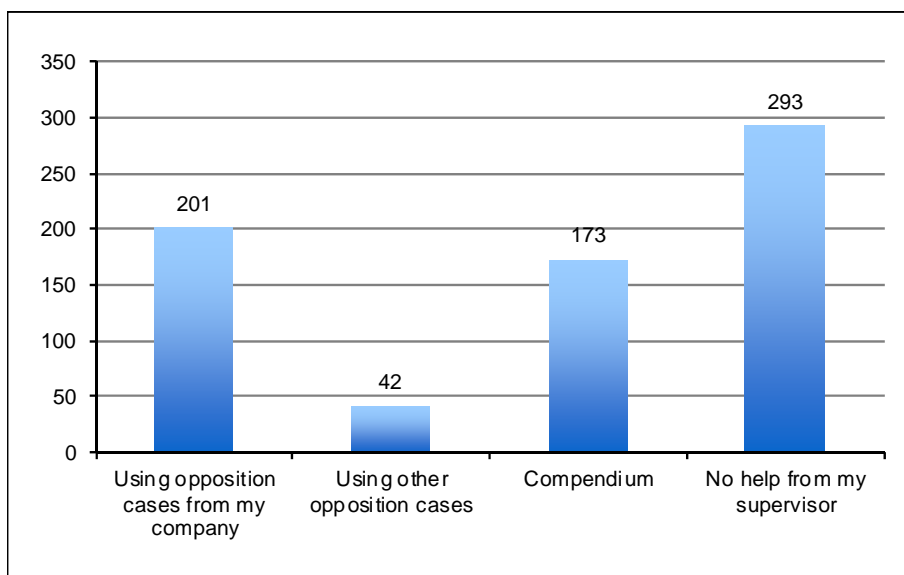
before the exam.

- a better contact to the EQE committee and to recent developments in the exam
- "Bei uns gab es eigentlich nur das ""Learning by doing"", d.h. Ansprüche wurden korrigiert, Bescheide wurden korrigiert.; Außerdem habe ich am Kolloquium teilgenommen, wo Fälle aus den Fachzeitschriften besprochen werden.; ; Eine spezielle Vorbereitung auf die Prüfung (EEQ) jedoch hat bei uns in der Kanzlei nicht stattgefunden."
- dedicate once a week an hour to deal with a topic and make some delta patent questions on the subject
- planning common time bindingly
- Offer more time for preparation

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



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



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

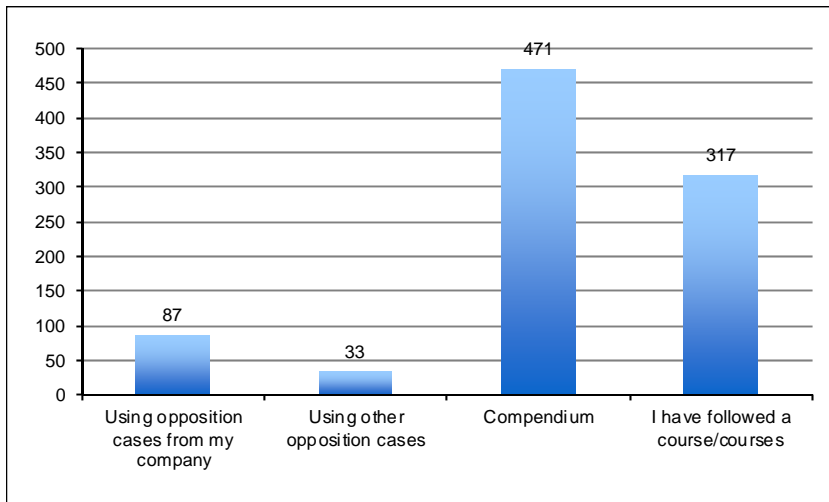
- Help from other colleagues
- work through a methodology book

- not applicable
- C-Book
- Past eqe papers
- asked colleagues
- mock opposition organized by the company
- Books, old C papers
- eipi c-book
- Multiple Resitter Course
- Selbststudium
- not taken yet
- Not taken paper C yet
- Past papers
- CEIPI C Book
- Previous exams
- Old exams
- See above
- Delta C-Book
- Great help from my personal coach (Ms. Rut Herbjörnsen) in EPO-CSP program.
- not applicable
- not applicable yet
- I have not sit paper C yet.
- sat pre-exam
- "do exams; talk about them & strategy with colleagues"
- epi tutorial
- In-house tutorial
- Delta Patents
- not applicable
- ASPI former exams in exam conditions
- did not take C this year
- not applicable - pre EQE
- not applicable yet
- Train old papers
- EPO examiner : not applicable
- Old exams
- I haven't trained yet for paper C, only some hints needed for the pre-exam
- haven't done paper C yet
- Smart in C - learning tool
- solving old C papers
- C-book
- not applicable
- 2-day course + old papers + working with other candidtaes
- Ceipi course
- no training for paper C yet
- Not applicable to the pre-exam
- n/a
- Not applicable
- Not applicable.
- n/a
- did not sit
- n/a
- doing past papers and delta patents books
- Delta Patents Compendium
- Deltapatents C-Course (excellent) and CEIPI-C-Course

- Not applicable
- have not yet done paper C
- Used outside Attorney Firm
- Have not been enrolled for C, so no preparation yet
- "Mock exams; book: DeltaPatents ""C methodology"""
- not applicable, only pre-EQE this year
- I have not made any attempt to sit C-exam
- N/A
- Not applicable, only sat pre-exam
- CSP program
- i did not pass the paper C
- In-house training
- Have not attended paper C
- Did not take the C paper this year
- book - smart in C
- No Preparation Yet
- n/a
- didn't do paper c
- past papers
- N/A
- Delta Patents Course C
- Methodology book from DeltaPatents
- not applicable
- not applicable
- Maastricht method
- Mock oppositions
- no paper C yet
- The C-Book
- "Past papers; in-house training"
- Did not present C this year
- not prepared yet
- N/A
- N.A.
- N/A - I have sat the pre-exam only
- I have yet not trained for C
- Delta Patents Book for Paper C
- FTO analysis & adequate books
- CEIPI Book C
- did not sit this part of the exam this year
- Pre-EQE
- only took pre exam
- Pre-EQE => no paper C attended this year
- n/a
- C book
- Did not sit paper C yet
- Studied with friend
- deltapatents
- Delta Patents courses
- No préparation for C
- Not applicable
- N/A
- Not sat paper C yet
- not done yet

- did the pre-exam
- I sat the pre-exam
- Not yet done
- did not attend paper C
- delta patents C book/Cronin youtube toturials
- Have not been sitting paper C
- not sat yet
- doing past papers with model solutions
- No C this year
- N/A
- Past papers
- not yet started
- not applicable
- No sit
- Deltapatent
- N/A
- not relevant for pre-EQE
- Not applicable
- Not applicable
- i took pre-exam only so far
- did not sit paper
- Not Applicable yet
- not applicable
- Not applicable for me just jet.
- Old exam papers
- Did not take paper c
- Preparation book
- None
- Not applicable
- epi case study (oppo)
- Self training
- did not pass C
- not applicable
- still need to start preparing
- Specialized books
- In-house tutorials
- Deltapatents C Book
- Deltapatents Cbook and Answers for old exams
- DeltaPatents C Book

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



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

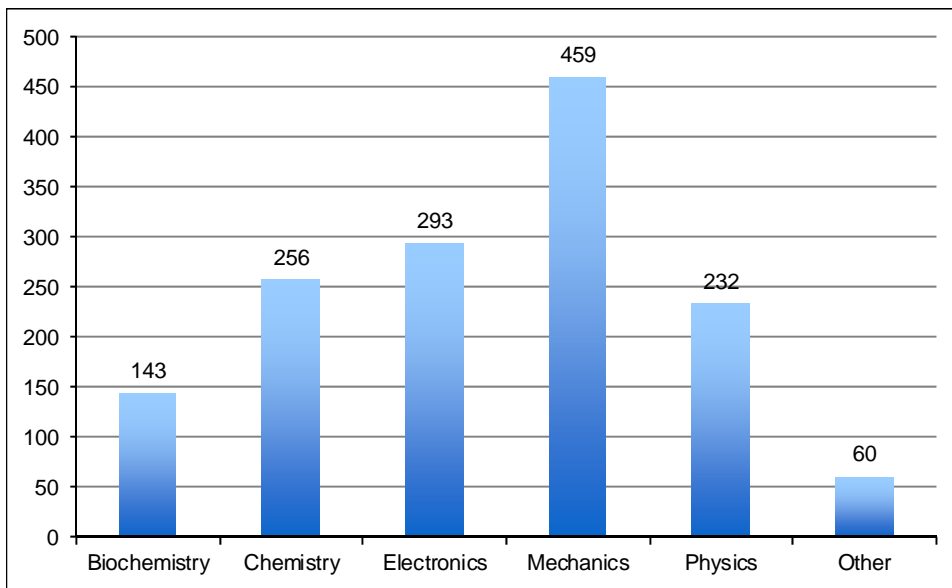
- not yet taken
- EQE last papers
- n/a (took only pre-EQE)
- na
- i did the pre-exam
- C-Book
- I still did not sit in C
- I have not sat paper C
- Did not take paper C this time
- C-book
- not prepared yet
- Not yet taken
- I didn't sit part C now
- Nothing at the moment.
- colleagues' EQE experience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

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

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

Chapter 4 - EQE papers

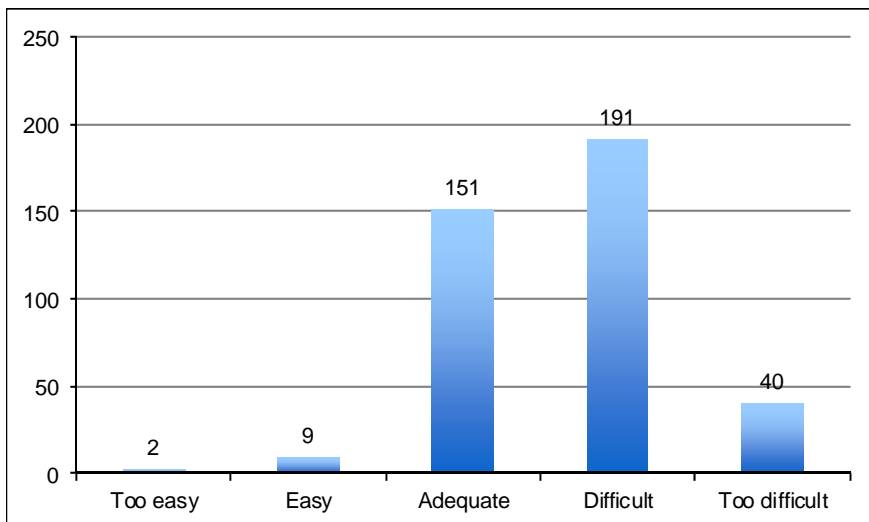
Q26) Which of the following best describes the technical area you are working in?



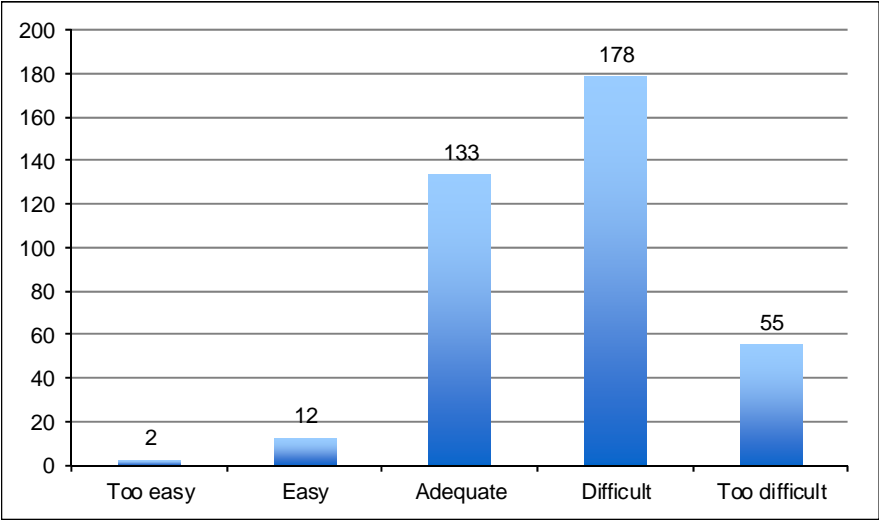
4.1.1 Pre-examination

Q27) EQE papers - Please rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2017

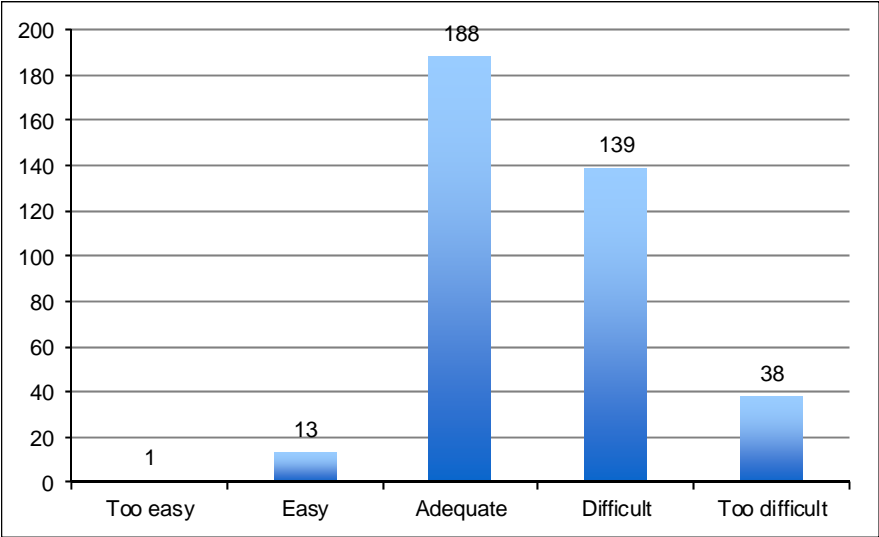
Pre-examination as a whole



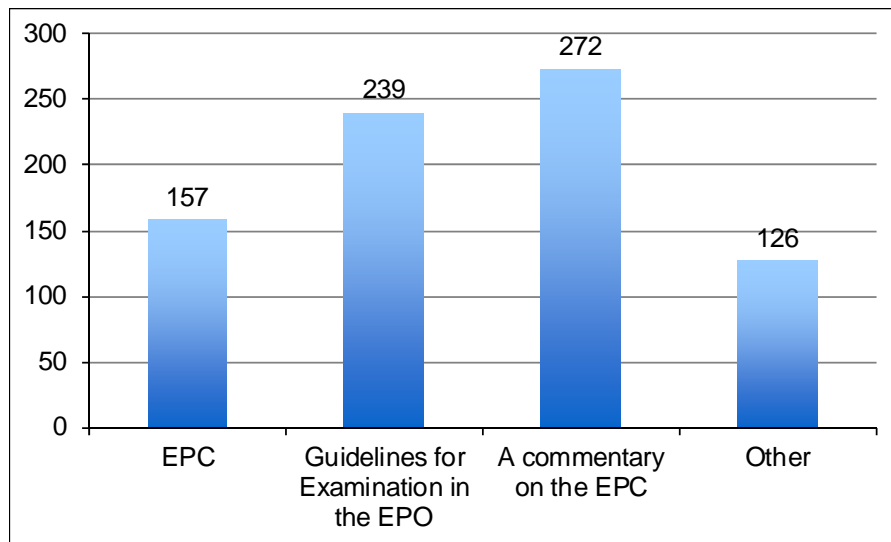
Pre-examination (legal questions)



Pre-examination (claim analysis)



Q27a) What reference book was the most useful for the preparation of the pre-examination?

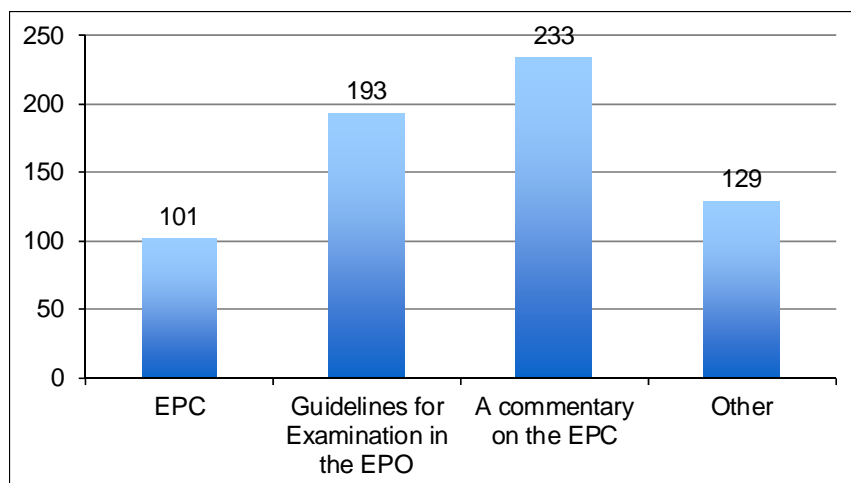


**Candidates were asked to make comments concerning Q27a)
The comments are listed below.**

- Tactics for D
- compendium
- Cees mulder book about opposition
- Kley, EPÜ, PCT Tabellenbuch
- Visser
- Annotated PCT, PCT Applicant's Guide
- Hoekstra
- Derk Visser's book
- EPÜ- PCT-Tabellenbuch
- Cross-reference PCT, ancillary Regulations, Euro-PCT AG, natLawtable
- Euro-PCT
- visser
- Visser, How to guides.
- baque
- EPI material
- Materials of EPI/EPO Academy online training
- How to get books
- EPÜ Kompakt
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- References to the EPC (by Jelle Hoekstra)
- EPI ONline course
- Visser
- Visser
- EPC with comments (Viser)
- kley
- Visser annotated EPC
- Visser
- EPC compilation by Hoekstra / Cross-reference by Mulder
- Visser
- Derk Visser - EPC and Jelle Hoekstra References to the European Patent Convention
- References to the EPC, Hoekstra
- Pre-EQE course by EPA

- Visser, EPO Academy pre-exam prep course
- Modules of online courses
- The Annotated European Patent Convention - Derk Visser
- Jelle Hoekstra EPC reference book
- Düwel Tabellenbuch
- Visser's annotated EPC
- EPO course material
- CBE-PCT Gregory Baque
- Visser
- Visser commented EPC
- CBE-PCT from G Baque
- "Hoekstra; Cross-Referenced PCT"
- Case law book
- Hoekstra and Mulder
- Delta patents book
- Baque
- Visser
- Commented EPC (Baque)
- self-commented EPC
- PCT
- Course material of the EPO online course for the pre-EQE
- EPO online training modules
- baque
- PCT guide
- cross referenced PCT & PCT-Applicants Guide
- PCT, Rules and Guidelines,
- epc annotated- Visser
- Delta patents question book combined with Visser

Q27b) What reference book was the most useful while sitting the pre-examination?



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

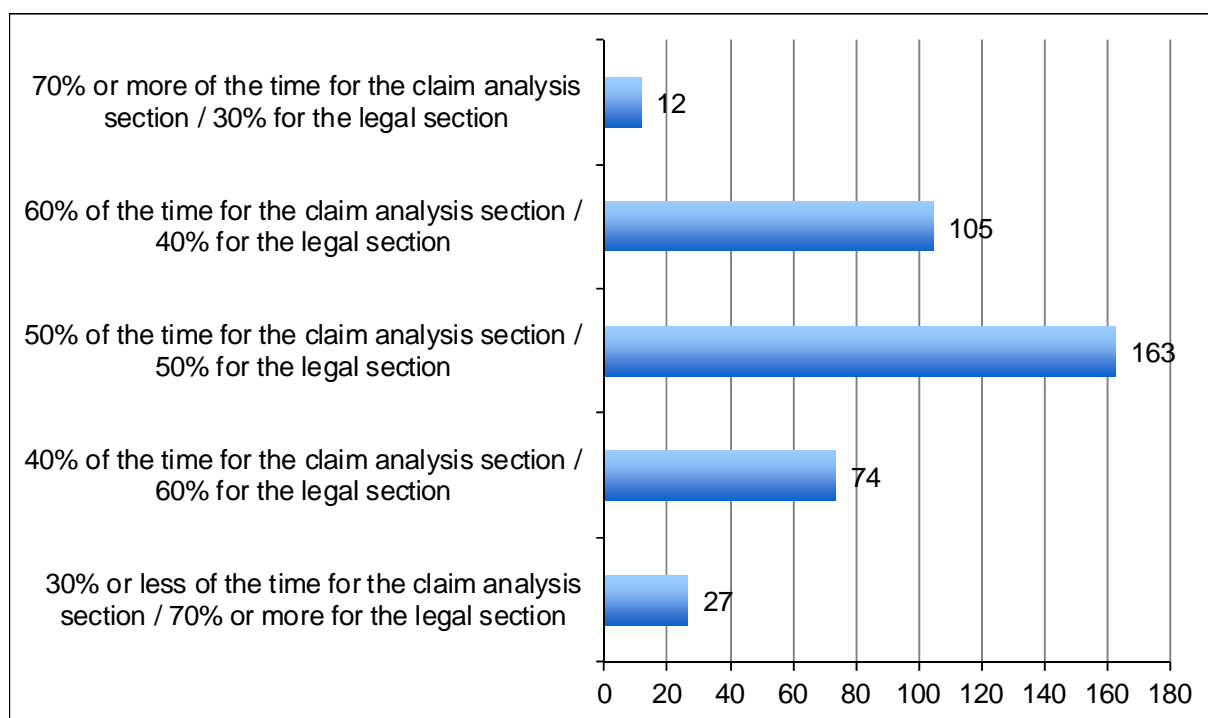
- not applicable
- Kley
- compendium
- Visser

- s vorher
- Visser
- Commentary on the PCT
- Annotated EPC by Hoekstra
- Hoekstra
- Derk Visser's book
- EPÜ- PCT-Tabellenbuch
- Euro-PCT
- Visser
- baque
- EPI material
- Materials of EPI/EPO Academy online training
- How to get book
- Tabellenbuch von Düwel et al
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- References to the EPC (by Jelle Hoekstra)
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- visser
- Visser
- EPC with comments (Viser)
- Visser annotated EPC
- Visser
- Gradolph, epü kompakt
- EPC compilation by Hoekstra / Cross-reference by Mulder
- Visser
- Derk Visser - EPC
- M. Köllner, PCT
- References to the EPC, Hoekstra
- Visser
- The Annotated European Patent Convention - Derk Visser
- Jelle Hoekstra EPC reference book
- Düwel Tabellenbuch
- Visser's annotated EPC
- Hoekstra
- CBE-PCT Gregory Baque
- Visser
- Euro-PCT references
- Visser
- CBE-PCT from G Baque
- Hoekstra
- Case law book
- Hoekstra and Mulder
- Baque
- my own notes/summary
- Visser
- Commented EPC (Baque)
- self-commented EPC
- PCT
- course material of the EPO online course for the pre-EQE
- Reading materials from EPI pre-exam course
- EPO online trainign chapters
- BAQUE
- PCT guide

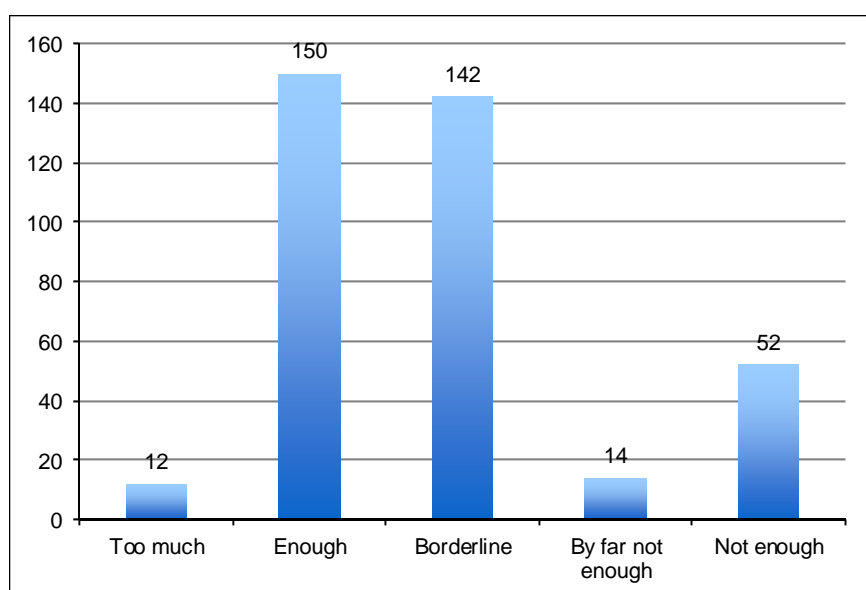
- cross referenced PCT & PCT-Applicants Guide
- PCT, Rules and Guidelines,
- Euro-PCT Guide/ Guide for Applicants
- Visser
- Notes from the EPO webinar course
- CBE-PCT BACQUE
- Visser
- Annotated EPC by Visser
- Visser
- Tabellenbuch zum EPÜ/PCT - Düwel
- had no material
- WIPO AG-IP, Verfahrenspraxis EPÜ und PCT
- G. Baque
- EPI study compendium
- The annotated EPC by Visser
- EPÜ und PCT Tabellen
- Delta Patent Reference Book
- Baque, PCT
- Baque
- Visser
- Visser
- deltapatents course notes
- none, no time to consult
- Epi online training material
- Kley Commentary
- Derk Visser
- Düwel: EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- Visser
- EPÜ-und PCT Tabellen
- Visser
- "Hoekstra" and "The cross-referenced PCT"
- Pct Tabellenbuch
- Hoekstra
- Hoekstra
- References to the EPC, HTG-guides
- Visser
- "D.Visser ""The annotated EPC"", C. Mulder ""Cross-referenced PCT"", PCT Guidline from DeltaPatens"
- Visser
- course papers online training
- EPO Pre-exam course
- Visser
- Baque Book
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen - Düwel
- Düwel/Gabriel/Renz/Teufel: EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- Visser
- own summary
- Baque
- Düwel Et Al epc/PCT tabellenbuch
- EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen
- PCT applicant's guide
- EPÜ Kompakt
- Verfahrenspraxis EPÜ PCT and self-prepared compendium

- Annotated EPC
- Hoekstra
- Visser
- "Düwell et al.: ""EPÜ- und PCT-Tabellen: Workflow-orientierte Verfahrenshandlungen"""
- EPÜ und PCT-Tabellenbuch
- EPO Online Course Notes
- baque
- My study notes
- Mock Exam papers
- Euro - PCT Guide

Q27c) How did you allocate the available time during the pre-examination?



Q27d) What is your opinion about the time available for the pre-examination paper you sat in 2017?



Q27e) Any comment on the pre-examination?

- I never sat a pre-ex
- I did not sit pre-examination
- I did not sit the pre-exam in 2017
- I didnt sit the pre exam
- I sat 2016 Pre-Exam, hence have ignored questions relating to 2017 paper.
- The level of difficulty seemed to have increased significantly compared to previous years. It came as a bit of a surprise.; ; The format/marking of the exam (T or F) and the way questions are phrased leaves room for interpretation. This therefore isn't necessarily a true reflection of a candidate's ability.
- Examiners need to keep in mind that the intention of the exam is to test the legal knowledge and not language skills or even mind-reading skills of the candidates. When asking about a provision of the EPC (or PCT), why rephrase the language so much that the right answer depends upon the way a person interprets it? It is unfair towards the candidate as one can potentially lose at least 2 marks on a question which he/she actually knows the answer to given no ambiguity. The examiners MUST seek help in interpreting the questions.
- Many of the questions are totally unclear, to the point where a case could have been made for either answer. True and false answers to the same question have been awarded marks in recent years. The sad fact of the matter is that most of the difficulty of the pre-examination comes from unclear questions. In my view this reflects very badly on the standard of the examination, and on the EPO as a whole.
- 2017 était le plus difficile de tous.
- Closed book and a 50% percent pass mark would be a more elegant test.
- Was well prepared so have nothing negative to say. If you study you should be able to pass so I find the level to be correct
- The pre-exam was significantly more difficult than past years. In particular, the legal questions required a deeper knowledge of bespoke subjects. Furthermore, whilst it can be seen that significant effort was made to ensure there were few ambiguities, they were still present. I understand the difficulty of translating a paper between three languages, however especially in the claim analysis section where in reality we are trained to interpret the words, this can cause some issues. ; ; I also think the Claim analysis section is unsuitable for simple true/false questions as it prevents any discussion about the reasoning behind the choices and therefore limits cases where we are able to provide our reasonings for the interpretation we have used. This is compounded with the above issues related to ambiguities and translational issues.; ; All in all, I believe that the paper was too much of a jump in difficulty between this year and previous years. If there is a desire to increase difficulty, this should be done gradually over a number of years. As a result I felt blindsided by the paper as the past papers and other material available to candidates did not adequately represent the actual difficulty of the paper we ended up having to sit. ; ; Additionally, the Examination Secretariat should provide the date on which the results are to be released, as it causes some difficulty and uncertainty for candidates as to when they will receive the marks. Furthermore, based on past years 2 - 3 weeks is too long to wait between sitting the paper and the results especially when it is a machine read paper.; ; As one last point, there should be more than one opportunity to sit the EQE Pre-Exam per year (or an opportunity to resit it if failed within the year), as a relatively simple paper to put together and mark, this should be achievable. That way people who resit after failing will still have the opportunity to sit the main examinations during the next cycle without delaying their training for a year.
- Very random topics; Ambiguous questions
- Broad range of questions but clearly worded. Was pretty good.
- Too much to read on the claim analysis part. Gets messy when there are 4 documents to separate from the invention. Hard to be fast.
- Different to previous years, more broader topics and some questions were ambiguous which

I found difficult and messed up on a few questions as a result.

- In my opinion too many questions not in line with the previous examinations available from the previous years. If the message was that the candidates have to prepare more intensively other topics, it could have been done with less out of the usual scope questions in this first step.
- The claim analysis section was poorly written. Many questions were ambiguously worded and could have legitimately been answered either way. The final proposed set of claims were not novel over D2 (in view of the vibrating speaker) but the examiner clearly thought it was, which confused things. Question 11 asked whether the claims 'covered' the toothbrush of each of the embodiments. Here it is not clear what is being asked. In one sense the claims did not - they were clearly directed to a body for a toothbrush. But clearly in another sense they did - their scope encompassed the toothbrush. Why not be clear what you are asking - use language which engages clear legal concepts. The concept of 'covering' is a colloquialism, not a formal legal term so one's interpretation of what is being asked can legitimately differ from person to person.; One question asked whether a toothbrush having a certain combination of features was 'disclosed'. Again, this is ambiguous since, as the examiner knows, there are two disclosure tests in the EPC, one for assessing novelty and one for A.123(2). The embodiment to which the question pertained *was* disclosed for the purposes of A.123(2), but not for the purposes of assessing novelty of another document in view of the application.
- As far as I understood, the purpose of the pre-examination is to prevent unprepared candidates from taking part in the main exam; this seems a reasonable principle. What doesn't seem reasonable in this context, is that a candidate failing 20 questions may fail and one failing 24 may pass.; ; External comments to the pre-exam show a clear increase difficulty level. Is the goal of the pre-exam to converge to the difficulty of the main examination?
- First of all , thank you for giving me the opportunity to express myself about this preexam eqe 2017.; I took very seriously the preparation of this preexam. I studied from September every day during the week 2hours and during the weekend around 6hours per day.; I trained a lot with epo online course, I did quasi all the exercices and the compendium 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Anyway just to emphasis that I put all the efforts from my side to succeed this exam.; However the exam this year was really different from the passed exams. Various subjects was tested in the legal part. The claims analysis was too long to read.; All these factors made the exam difficult and stressful and makes the candidates to fail even easy questions. Unfortunately I have not succeed when compared my answers with those of Deltapatents in and I am very disappointed because I fail not because I did not my material, but because of the factors I mentioned above. In addition compared to other years, the pass rate and the level of difficulty significantly increased. I just want to mention the major people who sitting this exam have about 2.5years not more than that to make the exam so long and difficult. ; ; Thank you and kind regards.; In my humble le
- Too many 'rare' topics in legal. Interlocure decisions and interruption of proceedings are not very standard and toohigh level for a pre exam
- It is not clear what the purpose of the pre-examination is. If it is to ensure that candidates possess at least a basic level of knowledge of the EPC, then the legal section of the paper asks questions that are beyond basic, e.g. specific details in relation to opposition and appeal, especially as candidates sitting the pre-examination are unlikely to have had much experience in either area. In this year's paper there was a question in the legal section on how to correctly formulate a second medical use claim. It is unreasonable to expect those working in non-biochemistry fields to know how to formulate such claims. The knowledge that second medical use claims exist and are allowable under the EPC should be sufficient for the pre-examination.; ; Though it's been said many times before, the fact remains that the true/false format of the claim analysis section is completely inappropriate. Rarely are issues of claim interpretation and patentability so black and white.
- Legal questions far advanced in comparison to the previous pre-EQE papers. Very complex collection of various topics. ; Not a pre-exam anymore but rather an D0 paper.; Some questions unambiguous - despite understanding the situation and knowing the correct reply,

it was not straightforward whether the correct reply is T or F.

- Claim analysis part vague. For example, the term vibrator is not sufficiently defined and may be misleading.
- I found that the formulation of question 13.1 was not clear since the question referred to a tooth brush according to claim one while claim one was not directed to a tooth brush but to the body of a tooth brush.
- Much tougher compared to previous exams. A bit surprised by the amount of new topics to the legal part. Interpretation of the claims more difficult in the unstructured way they were presented.
- Difficulty is the wrong parameter to assess the Pre-Exam 2017 - from my point of view, the amount of reading (4 different embodiments of the invention, 4 state of the art documents) is doable, but unnecessary. The amount of reading to do in the 2015 and 2016 Pre-EQE was sufficient.
- There was a grammatical error in the German version of the exam possibly leading to another interpretation of the case and another answer at one specific question (whether or not D2 disclosed a vibrator). The English and French text said that the loudspeaker produced vibrations, whereas the German text said that the vibrations came from the melody instead of coming from the loudspeaker. (Melodie, DEREN Vibrationen ...) Unfortunately, it was only after the exam I realised that this must have been an error in the German version in comparison with the English and French versions.
- It requires deep knowledge of EPC, of procedures, of management of claims and amendments.; It is more a real examination than a pre-examination
- It was obvious the pre-exam contained areas not covered by pre exams from previous years.
- Not being from a mechanical field, I had some difficulty with aspects specific to mechanics: in particular the distinction between connected and connectable in question 11
- Legal questions: two or three questions are quite difficult, the others are standard; ; Claims: some questions are too subjective for a True-False test
- In claims analysis, unclear whether connected implied fixedly connected or adapted to be connected
- Regarding Q27e, borderline means that the 5 minute to end announcement was made the second I checked the last circle on the answer sheet. There was no time for double-checking question marks.
- Confusion regarding shall vs must in one question which was not apparent in other languages.
- I felt we could use an additional half an hour time in order to finish without haste.
- Less ambiguity in claim analysis in 2017
- According to Strasbourg prep course guidelines Not necessary to read. After Ex: no chance without guidelines; No need and sense for time limit at Ex
- Within a Seminar / at home would be a very good tool for practicing and test of one's knowledge. In real life useless additional hurdle
- This was a tough but fair exam. The Examiners of the Examination Committee have clearly made a big effort to remove all the ambiguities in the paper, especially compared to a terribly written pre-exam from 2016.
- Tricky Topics (e.g. 2nd medical indication, Opposition, mixture of different fields in one question,...) made decision for individual yes/no become a time limiting factor.; Claim Analysis part was felt to be way more intense regarding amount of reading and analysis than last years.
- none
- Compared to the exams of the previous years, it seemed more difficult.
- I've found this year's exam harder than the ones in the Compendium, with trickier questions, but the main problem is that there are very few reference exams to practice, so you still don't know what you could expect.
- did not sit pre-examination paper
- ambiguous questions rather irritate during exam; not sure they test the legal knowledge

- challenging but fair, less ambiguities than in previous papers
- There was in general no ambiguity in the questions, well done.; The level of the legal part was probably a bit too high, not because of the difficulty of each question individually, but because too many different, very specific topics were covered by the legal questions.
- Seemed quite more difficult than previous exams
- It appears that the pre-exam is still getting more difficult every year
- It was a little tougher than the years before, but I think that if you have prepared enough it shouldn't be a problem to get 70 marks. if you cannot score 70, I think it will be very hard to pass the other exams the following year.
- Due to 3(!) new topics which were not content of the previous pre-examinations (interruption of proceedings, 2nd medical usage and swiss claim, plural list system) one needed much more time to look up the articles and rules than thought before. This led to a big problem of time management.
- That it was too much time does not mean I didn't use it all!
- Claim analysis is too focussed on mechanical subject matter. No regard is given to the fact that at least 50% (if not more) of students will come from a biotech or chemistry background. Therefore, this raises the argument of whether the claim analysis section is suitable for testing candidates having such backgrounds.
- Ridiculous testing of very specific topics in one single exam compared to previous years.
- reduce the time of the exam; put less tricky questions
- The exam may be made in a different times (for example morning and afternoon, two sitting) about Legal section and claim analysis section.
- It was reasonable this year; more complex and exotic legal questions were balanced with a fairly clear claims analysis section with less scope for misinterpretation and ambiguity as in previous years. Just managed it in the allotted time.
- The pre-examination paper is out of touch with reality.
- Claim analysis section was fair. Legal section tested many unfamiliar topics that are not encountered in day to day practice.
- Tougher this year, but not too difficult with the time available
- The legal questions were really difficult respect to the standards of past years, and no additional time was given. ; Claim analysis was not so difficult but there were 2-3 ambiguous questions that were, in my opinion, not suitable for an exam where you can just choose between true and false.
- Found it very hard. The legal part contained several questions on unusual procedures (interlocutory revision, interruption of procedure, ...).
- I found that too much questions in the legal questions part were 'exotic' and not so easy to answer compared to past pre-exams. Besides, the claim analysis part was sometimes ambiguous, a little bit confusing.
- Took the 2 full hours for me.; ; I just hope I TRANSPOSED my answers from the papers to the ANSWER SHEET correctly in the last 5-10 minutes as I rushed to get it all done! This has been keeping me up at night all week!!
- The legal questions in this year's (2017) pre-exam was considerably more difficult than previous years. I attempted all of the past papers and both 2011 mock papers and not one of them took me longer than 2.5 hours to complete (both legal and claims analysis questions combined). The 2017 paper took me almost the whole 4 hours. I appreciate that under exam conditions things may change and indeed I was a lot more thorough in triple checking my reasoning in the EPC/guidelines, but I don't think that is the only reason that this paper took me so much longer. I spent around 65% of the time on the legal questions. Questions in the past paper were on much simpler topics/legal situations. In all of the past papers, I could answer at least 65% of the legal questions without having to even refer to my reference materials, because the statements were so much simpler. For the 2017 paper, I was only able to answer maybe a maximum of 20-30% of questions from my own knowledge without having to consult the EPC. ; ; Although much more difficult/time consuming, perhaps this (2017 style) is a better test of a candidate's readiness to sit the main EQE examinations.; ; The claims analysis section was reasonably consistent with past papers in terms of difficulty,

clarity and complexity. If anything, the claims analysis section in 2017 was a little clearer than usual, with fewer ambiguities than previously.

- In general pre-exam format is fair. However - the scoring method can be improved. Because I think it is not fair enough to take 0 point if one answer is correct and only 1 point if 2 answers are correct.
- Q7 to Q10 were more difficult (because of their novelty) and contribute to destabilize me before entering into the claim analysis (because I overexceeded the time I expect to spend on the legal analysis)
- Question 10.2 was not entirely clear to me. ; ; The statement read: A handling fee is due for requesting the international preliminary examination of PCT-A before the EPO.; ; To me that could be understood either as: ; 1. A handling fee is due for requesting the international preliminary examination of PCT-A when the EPO is IPEA.; 2. A handling fee is due before the EPO, when requesting the international preliminary examination of PCT-A.
- Questions/answers sometimes ambiguous even after consulting the guidelines for examination
- I was sick during the pre-exam (fever) and luckily I did well on the legal part, and managed just enough the claim analysis part. (2016)
- The new rule about watches or clocks, even mechanical ones being banned was confusing and clearly not followed on the day. I would have appreciated having a watch or a clock on my desk as about 50% of the candidates did.
- The marking scheme is unfair on candidates. It is possible to make the same mistake and be deducted marks multiple times, and/or in multiple different questions. I see no reason for awarding marks according to the [0 1 3 5] scheme, as I do not believe that the component parts of questions are sufficiently related in order to penalise candidates for multiple mistakes.
- I felt the amount of reading for the claim analysis section was far more than any previous Pre-EQE paper, yet there was no more time allowed for reading and processing the extra material and consequently answering the questions.
- too many ambiguous questions!; the examination does not test the real knowledge of the candidates.. the pre-exam is merely drafted to put candidates in uncomfortable situations where what is requested is not clear, giving no way of explanations.; legal question too deep for a trainee.; claim analysis very very ambiguous... ; claim analysis was too long.; relating to the claim analysis.. please note that when A is connected to B in a connecting section, does not automatically means that A can be reverseably connected to B. connect and connectable have 2 different meaning.; I found ambiguous the use of this expression in the documents... and too many questions were focused on this aspect.. too many points could be lost on these stupid aspect.; in this way no test of the real understanding of the claim analysis is made but merely try to misleading candidates.
- Candidates whose mother tongue is not one of the official languages of the EPO should be given more time to answer the questions since we have to read everything at least twice to be sure that we got the question right.
- I think that the questions were either very difficult or very easy. I wish that more medium level questions had been included.
- It would be reasonable to have the pre-examination twice a year.
- This year was significantly more difficult than the past papers that I did. There was very little material to prepare candidates for the more difficult questions.
- During training at home with pre-exams from previous years, I usually completed the exam within 3 hours.; Therefore I expected to have time to carefully check all my answers before delivering my answers sheet.; In fact I needed all of the four hours and barely checked my answers at the end.
- some of the questions could have been phrased more clearly in the German version, but altogether the questions seemed to be clearer and less ambiguous than in the previous two pre-examination papers
- I find it difficult too understand why the questions are related to so very complex issues in addition to the time available is not enough. It seems as the bar for passing the pre-exam is

sat a bit too high. In my opinion one should focus on one or the other, either complex questions but with enough time to actually figure them out, or more strait forward questions with the present time available to answer them.

- I find the claim analysis portion to be far too subjective to fit the true or false format.
- I passed all the pre-EQE's from 2012 - 2016, but I am quite sure that I failed this year. In my opinion the time of the pre-EQE 2017 was really less.
- Claim analysis felt reasonable and pretty clear compared to couple previous years. However, I do not know the results yet. Regarding the cable in the toothbrush with replaceable brush: first I thought that reference documents cannot be combined because of the replaceable brush, but then I noticed that even in the application it was disclosed a toothbrush with replaceable brush and the cable running through the connection section. Even though I think I got it right, it felt unfair, because I think that some candidates can answer correct by accident.; ; Based on the blog post by Delta Patents, it seems that I have misinterpreted some legal questions. In my opinion, there were some questions that may be interpreted in two ways. E.g. the PCT entry and the renewal fees.
- there were several Topics in the legal part which were not addressed in the pre-examinations of the previous years;; some questions were not clear enough to understand what should have been considered in the answer (e.g. if remedies should be considered or not)
- The questions regarding the opposition proceedings were quite difficult and, in my point of view, were not adapted to a True/False format question.
- Even with a soft eraser, the pencil (HB) marks were hard to remove and the circle on the paper almost vanished.
- no
- Seemed tougher than previous years, more questions about very particular (rare) situations.
- There are translation mistakes, and if asked while the the exam the examination board sees no need to correct their mistake. Imho very sad.
- It seemed quite a bit harder than previous years
- The wording of some of the questions weren't very clear. I sat the paper in English and it seemed as though the questions had been translated into English by a non-native English speaker, and worded in such a way that it wasn't always clear what was being asked.
- The above is for the pre-examination 2016.
- some questions were more general than I expected
- This years's pre-examination had a lot of non-standard topics. Though each of them was itself not too difficult, it was a bit of a surprise. Futhermore it took time to find the solutions, and due to the unfamiliarity to double-check the answers. The claim analysis part was fair and better formulated than in last papers.
- No required preexam
- Legal queations more and more focus on very detailed topics rather than on the global understanding of the EPC. It is questionable if this strategy provides a better assessment of candidates' EPC knowledge. ; Questions of claim analysis becomes more and more ambiguous, so that much time is required to understand the question itself (even in one's mother tongue).
- For me some question were difficulte, so I had not enough time
- As time is a factor there is a certain pressure during the exam, which leads to making mistakes which would normally not be made as the knowledge is there but it is not applied during the exam. And afterwards you wonder how you could have missed and could make certain mistakes.; Although sufficient practice for the claim analysis part, with colleagues, did allow this candidate to finish just in time, I still feel that the pre-exam is a bit too harsh and surpasses its purpose => check the candidates (basic) knowledge of the EPC/PCT.; Candidates inabilities (dyslexia, non-native official EPO language speaker) are not taken into account, and as said some candidates with some training can improve their performance specially to gain on time, the handicap will still cause a lesser score. Half of the mistakes I made where ones where I did not answer the question, this is also hard for

myself to accept as it confronts me with my shortcomings. I need to spend more than average time in reading carefully not to miss words or misinterpret them, and I need to make up with insight and knowledge. As said I can cope thanks to the claim analysis practice, but I fear for the main papers as also time is of the essence there. So my question to you is what do you wish to test with the pre-exam and is this achieved for ALL candidates.

- I did not sit pre examination in 2017
- Did not participate in pre-examination
- When doing pre-exam in foreign language, then additional 30 minutes would help to get better result.; It is possible to study all terms used in legal part. We never know, what invention will be in claim analysis part.; Therefore it is not possible to study these words. This time I needed dictionary for legal part.; In the pre-exam 2015 there have been technical terms, that have been not in dictionary, that I use every day.; In the pre-exam 2017, there have been only some words, that I found from common dictionary.; I did not need technical dictionary.
- I have not seated 2017 pre-examination.
- For a person whose mother language is not ENG, GER or FR there is not enough time for the pre-exam. It is a great disadvantage not to have English, German or French as a mother tongue.
- It is very nice to be somewhat used to study again and hopefully better prepared for the main EQE (esp. legal questions).
- Information for the claim analysis was very bulky
- Did not take part at pre-examination.
- No.
- It would be better not to assume that the person filling out the form necessarily sat the pre-exam in 2017 as done in the Q27 complex.
- Better than earlier years, but still some ambiguities that should have been caught at an earlier stage. In particular, in my opinion, the question whether anything that vibrates is a vibrator simply isn't solvable if you're bound by R22(3) IPREE.
- The papers get harder and take longer every year.
- The legal part was dedicated to some special topics which were usually not asked
- It should be at least 4 hours and a half
- It seems that the focus of the questions is more on the complexity of the question itself rather than the topic.
- It should be a computerbased test.
- The non-linear point attribution combined with the random distribution of general questions slipped into case specific questions and overall high requirements for passing grade contribute significantly to high frustration regarding the pre-exam, since often the question whether one passes depends essentially on the distribution of mistakes.; It is possible to fail with 80% of correct answers (1 wrong answer in 16 questions = 16 mistakes), as it is possible to pass with 70% correct (6 questions completely wrong = 24 mistakes).; Also the binary answering scheme is inappropriate for interpretation questions such as claim analysis which depend often on the interpretation of words.
- Too much to read for the claim analysis part. Also too many difficult questions on the legal section.
- the negative marking scheme is disproportionately punitive - one 'off' question can make the difference between pass and fail. Please either reduce the pass mark, or introduce a 'straight' marking scheme.
- Some legal questions formulated in a different way with respect to the previous editions. A couple of questions were misleading. The amount of documents/pages in claim analysis section is constantly increasing over the years.
- Too many random topics in legal questions.
- The results should be published earlier, or at least the answers.
- Nowhere on EPO website it is said that documents are allowed for Pre-EQE.
- The glue used to close the plastic bag is super strong. It almost erased some lines of my answer sheet as I unintentionally put said sheet aside on the plastic bag before it was

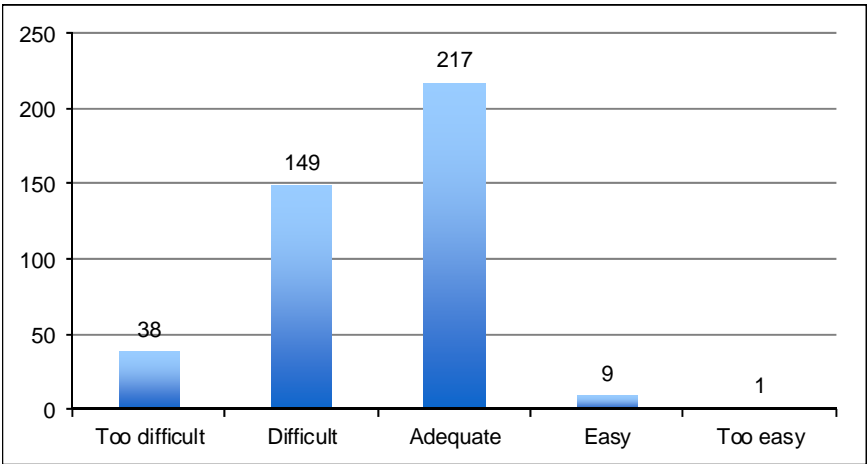
collected.

- This year the legal section was really different from the previous years and really tested us on a wide range of topics never tested before... it was quite surprising and some of the topics were quite difficult to interpret on such a small amount of time.
- difficult
- i did not sit pre exam in 2017
- too much paper to read and understand and to compare to the tasks ; especially for chemists it is difficult to get through electronic stuff and understand which part of the construction can have which functionality.
- I thought the legal questions were on the whole good. There were, however, some ambiguities in the questions which made it difficult for a good candidate to answer. For example, the correct answer for 4.3 is true. Rule 6(1) EPC says that a translation should be filed within 2 months. However, if a translation is not filed within 2 months, Adrienn will be sent a Rule 58 EPC communication, giving him two more months - it is not therefore correct that Adrienn must file a translation within 2 months. In a written exam, a good candidate can explain these details and still get all of the marks. However, in a multiple choice exam you basically have to guess, which is unfair. The examination secretariat needs to take greater care in working out whether there are such ambiguities in questions.; ; The claim analysis questions were far too ambiguous. When using a multiple choice format, subjectivity in questions should be minimised. It is perfectly possible to test candidates' knowledge and understanding without resorting to questions which are highly subjective. Many of the answers to the claim analysis questions could be true or false, and if the same questions were being answered in a letter to the EPO, the answers would need to be justified by several paragraphs of reasoning. In some cases, both answers could legitimately have been correct. For example, question 19.2 basically asks that you perform a full inventive step analysis (other than selecting the closest prior art). Even with the problem-solution approach, this is still inherently subjective.; ; As mentioned in the context of the legal questions, subjectivity and ambiguity is a greater problem for a multiple choice exam, as you are unable to justify your answer. I believe that examination would be significantly improved if more work were invested in reducing such ambiguities.; ; When you set the next pre-exam, please think really carefully about
- Some of the questions have been difficult.; However, all together I think it was adequate.
- didn't sit the pre-examination
- a lot to read for the claim analysis part; due to lack of time it is nearly impossible not to miss details; I answered several questions without checking again what was written exactly in the paper.

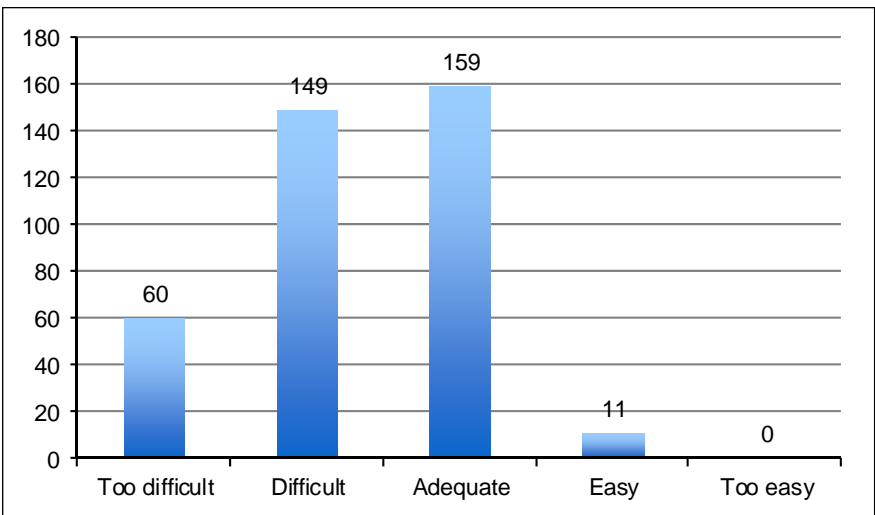
4.1.2 Main-examination

Q28) Please rate the difficulty of the main examination paper(s) you sat in 2017

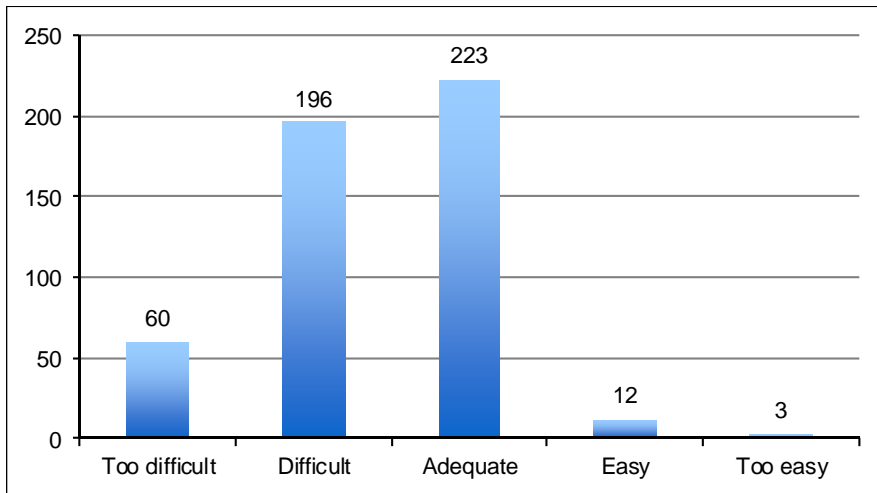
Paper A



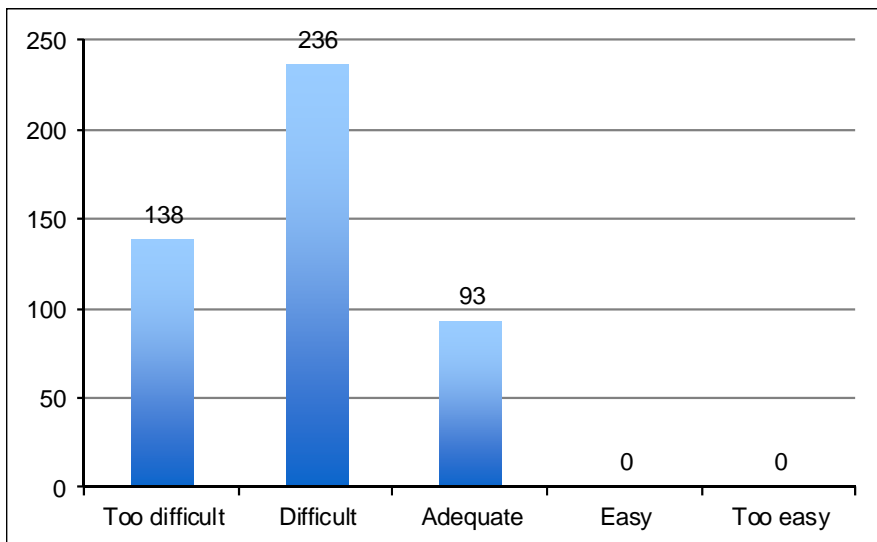
Paper B



Paper C



Paper D



Q29) Additional comments concerning the difficulty of the main examination papers

- DI came to a surprise with many open questions which looked like DII questions
- 3 prior art documents are to much
- need more time for the exam
- Paper C in 2017 despite it was as usual difficult was this year more than 2016, accessible and feasible. Paper C should always be like this one of 2017.; D was too long and to tricky, not enough time and D1 was more complex this year. Depsite D2 was accessible and too long this year, to many information too much.
- OK, we had 30 minutes extra: but six questions and a), b), c) analysis as well as a D2 with a priority transfer was lengthy. Having open Di questions (applicant wants fas grant / applicant wants to wait for two SR...) and DII like analysis (TELI and TELII) was unexpected and despite possibly a fine answer from my side, not reassuring.
- Seemed to be time-pressured even though there was the extra half hour of time. I feel that the scenarios (paper C and part 2 of paper D) were a little more involved than in previous years. Perhaps that's only because those are the ones I sat in the actual exam with the exam pressure.
- I do not understand while time has to be the biggest problem. Are you a better attorney just because you can write a one solution opposition in 5 h?
- The 30 minutes extra were not helpful as the level of complexity of the questions increased

and there was more text and information to consider.

- Paper C was longer than usual (8 attacks), but the difficulty felt about the same as previous years,
- The changes to papers A and B that have been made this year have been woefully under-explained. For example, it was really unclear whether the claims to be drafted for paper A are supposed to be new and inventive, or simply new over the prior art. For paper B, it appears that the examination report was actually wrong in asserting a lack of novelty over D2 - it is not clear if this was intended and was supposed to form part of the answer, or unintended.
- really don't know.; I only did C this year.; The topic (corkscrew) was technically easy to understand, I believe for most people. ; I liked it that the two inventions (corkscrew with differently-distanced windings and corkscrew with anti-friction coating) of the non-unitary claim set were clearly distinguished and not mixed.; I found it difficult that two possibilities for the closest prior art selection for claims 1-4 were given (A5 and A6; which was the best differed a bit for the claims, therefore just to be on the safe side I wrote both attacks against all these claims - without the extra 30 minutes I would not have been able to do that), while it was good that there was only a single choice for the second document (A2) and for the 3rd (against the flower shape of claim 4).
- The substantial subject matter (corkscrews) was easy to understand. However, a lot of interpretation was possible this year compared to previous years when selecting the right attacks. For example, the fact that the seller at the fair is the patent owner could be interpreted by the opposition division as strong indication for validity of Annex 4. On the other hand, it would be difficult if not impossible to get an affidavit from this person confirming the friction layer on the corkscrew so A4 could have no value. So it would be better to use another combination of documents for the IS attacks (i.e. A5 and A2). This all depends on unknown factors, so choosing the right attack seemed a bit of a chance this year.
- We had an .5h more with the notice that this should influence the exam questions... still at D I there was a question more and C had some specific topics so the half hour was more than needed.
- Handwriting is not used anymore since many years - also burdening the correctors; Also, re-writing erroneous paragraphs is add'l effort.; ; Splitting paper A and B into individual parts (like D2 into 2 almost independent sections) might make the lever of one mistake by a candidate less severe.; ; In general, that EQE is only offered once a year increases difficulty for re-sitters. A year is too long a time gap, particularly for paper A and B, which cannot be prepared for over many months and coming back into the preparation mode is hard after over half a year.
- The extra half hour seemed justified by the complexity of the C and D papers.
- Part 1 seemed more difficult than normal - took longer at least than past papers
- Very inventive step heavy paper C this year.
- Paper A was tricky. As an E.M candidate there has never before been a case where an embodiment of the applicant's invention was excluded from the claim. Because of the type of description provided for the invention it was not possible to clearly differentiate between embodiments.
- Paper D difficulty level felt much higher than previous years and much longer. ; Exam timing over usual lunch time and length of the exam made it difficult to finish the entire exam at a high level.
- The new combined style for Papers A and B seems to have made things more unpredictable and unclear.
- Time pressure
- It was said that A and B are going to be _mixed_ mechanical/chemical papers. However, while A was maybe mixed (but mostly mechanical at least at the crucial points), B was exceptionally mechanical. Not that I had a real problem with it, but why is it proposed in length that it will be a _mix_, if it is not going to be? I was (maybe) lucky that I prepared A and B for chemical and mechanical content (using the old paper). Anyhow, I was rather

disappointed from a chemical viewpoint.

- Too much to do in time
- It is not that the tasks are too difficult - it is just the sheer mass.
- Paper A and the requirements are a total unknown given the change. More should have been done to communicate the expectations of the committee particularly when the exam is a compromise between drafting techniques and also carries such a high penalty for (most of the time) logical decisions that lead to a slightly different conclusion.
- D1 was really difficult and really different from the previous years. It was unsettling.
- The papers are expressly prepared to suggest wrong solutions.
- Even having increased the time in 30 minutes, I find that 3 hours and a half is still too short time for Paper B. A lot of time must be spent for reading. Some people need more time for reading, and that does not mean they are not well prepared. However, if too much time has passed without having started to write, it is extremely easy that one becomes seriously stressed and therefore the result will be bad, even if your knowledge is good enough. I absolutely think that the result of an exam made in too short time and under such pressure conditions does not reflect your level of knowledge, because nerves can distort the results drastically.
- Paper D was much longer than past papers in my opinion.
- Paper B was very difficult, especially since the communication from the EPO was arguably wrong (claim 1 seemed to be New over D2 - the correction based on the motion was taking place on the camera in D2, not on the evaluation device (telephone)). If it was intended that incorrect novelty objections were ALSO being tested in paper B, (i.e. it would have been possible to argue for an unamended claim in an amendment paper) which certainly hasn't been the case in the past, this should have been made clear.
- Apart from D which was waaaaay too long to answer (very bad ratio time spent/point earned for D1 and lots of things to consider for D11), the rest was of average or slightly above-average difficulty.
- - I ranked paper A as too difficult not because the subject-matter was difficult to grasp or distinguish from the prior art, but because I found it very tricky to 1) to determine what was actually expected (product claim? method claim?) 2) cover both embodiments with a single independent claim and in particular 3) figure out which features were regarded as essential (I prosecute mechanical applications). If paper A had been an actual case, I would have not hesitated to draft separate independent claims for the two production methods and argue that Rule 43(2)(c) EPC applies.; - Paper B was doable, but not easy. Plenty of Article 123(2) EPC issues to cover.; - Paper C was just as I expected, felt much in line with previous C papers. ; - Paper D is never easy.
- The additional half hour was essential at least for papers C and D. Consequently, I feel that there was too much subject matter in these papers in this round of exams.
- The A paper, in particular with regard to the new type, was a complete mess. So many misleading and contradicting info in the client's letter!
- whether it's been too difficult I can say after I got my marks
- Paper D was too long even with additional 30min. Paper A was too complex.
- Both A and B were theoretically accessible to all candidates. The subject matter of A and B was however very different with B being far less accessible than A, and I suspect will have caused some difficulties to non-engineering candidates.; ; D1 seemed significantly harder than questions from recent years.
- I felt a bit sorry for the life science candidates on Paper B - despite the change from two separate A/B papers to a single paper, Paper B 2017 seemed like any other Electricity/Mechanics Paper B from previous years.
- A had some unexpected elements - I think this was the first A exam I did where I spent time thinking about which document was the CPA - and inventiveness was unexpectedly important, but it was fairly clear. B was a little muddled, again with CPA being a more important factor than expected. C was as I expected. So was D, even if it ended up taking me much longer than the exams I did in preparation - perhaps because I took more time writing things out in (potentially unnecessary) detail.

- Paper D part I was very difficult and it seemed like it was longer than previous years, despite the EPO saying that no extra content would be added when half an hour was added to the exams.
- It takes a lot of time to write the answers and study the case. The final solution though is not very complex.
- I as chemist found it unfair that the new paper B is nothing else as a continuation of the mechanichs paper. Where is all of the chemistry paper format/contens/strategy gone? It was - in my view - a pure mechanics paper.
- D II was adequate, whereas the D I questions were sometimes unambiguous and hard to understand (what do the examiners want to hear from me?!)
- I found paper B a little confusing, some comments in the description seemed to contradict others (i.e. relative position of sensors improves signal quality; but then relative position of sensors is unimportant). Maybe I read this wrong.; Paper D was very hard time-wise.; Paper C - A1 did not appear to have any purpose, other than to open bottles. This made choosing CPA tricky.
- questions unclear - no clear what information are asked
- Time available especially for paper D.
- D11 took to much time!
- There is no reöationship between real-world responses with the EPO and oppositions and papers B and C, respectively.
- Choice of closest prior art very difficult and confusing.
- Without +30min, Parts A, B, D impossible to solve in Time
- Questions from D1 were of no practical interest.
- In part C, I had the impression of many sub-claim attacks being of the same kind (using another citation of a prior art document I already used for inventiveness attack on the main claim) (separate effects can be attacked by combining more than two documents), so the repetition just seemed like a waste of time.
- I think the time was now right. The old shorter time would have been too short, even if the candidate knows what he/she is doing. That would have put too much weight on the preparation for the EQE strategy, not for actually becoming a qualified EPA.
- The extra half an hour didn't really make up for the increased difficulty.
- Time was bot enough even with the extra half hour
- To me, paper C was very classic this year.; Usual topics on priority, prior art and added matter.; I didn't identify specific difficulties in paper C.
- Even with additionnal 30 min it seems that examination papers (all of them) were longer and harder than the ones of the compendium.
- Paper A some more hints would have been useful in the text.; Paper C i first combined the wrong documents and lost time for the dependent claims.
- Paper B required more time to find out who, when, what than I expected
- I had exercise 4 past chemistry papers. This helped me to get a feeling of what is a chemistry paper style. This helped me tremendously to feel more in control at the exam.
- Not enough time available to provide a complete answer to all questions, specially for D.
- The paper was to long for 5 1/2 h.
- Paper B of this year is unfair for candidates of chemistry background. And it is not well designed, in particular with respect to the disclosure of D3.
- Paper B was too long, and the invention technically difficult for non specialist. I don't mean not understandable but with too many details to integrate and not all useful in the end so it leads to a loss a time.
- The extra 30 minutes was essential - not a bonus. The exams were longer than in previous years. D Part 1 much longer. A and B were unknown exams. 3 pieces of prior art for B makes the exam much longer - especially for inventive step. There were transcription errors in the papers e.g. paper B - last claim used the word partly while the description used the word partially. In paper C, one piece of prior art used the word originating instead of exerting or applying - completely different meaning. The word garment in paper C was a problem for

non-native English speakers, as was the word tailored in paper A.

- All papers seemed more difficult and took longer than past papers from previous years. In particular, papers A and B were both considerably more involved than the mock papers provided by the examination secretariat.
- The time for paper D is not enough or its content should be reduced. I would prefer to be able to use all the information given in that paper, but this is impossible due to time constrictions. Furthermore, the legibility becomes very bad.
- papers a and b (as regards the combining of mechanical and chemical aspects) were very fair and well drafted! Thank you!
- With regard to C, it took me really long to find any information to attack claim 1 => see you next year.; With regard to DI, it is just so ridiculously hard and unrelated to the daily practice. But I guess you have to set a level somehow.
- D1 questions were not clear - it was not easy to guess what the question was.; C paper was not possible to do in 5.5 hours!; Too complex prior art documents.
- Part I of paper D took much, much longer than for the past papers. The balance of time need for the different sections of the paper did not correspond to the distribution of marks.
- Much longer D compared to 2016
- It was supposed that although the time for paper B was increased by 30 min, the difficulty will remain the same.; This was not true for paper B 2017, since the difficulty was increased proportionally.
- It was hard to prepare for papers A and B due to the new format, thus both of them felt difficult since I am not sure what was expected for the answers.
- DII was too long and too many questions, I could not finish the paper in time; A had too many prior art documents
- Difficult to assess difficulty before knowing the result.; I found myself being in severe time constraint.
- There could be many ways to amend the claim, which one is meant to be ?
- The combined paper B was very heavily weighted towards the electronic/mechanical fields, meaning that it took longer for those in the chemical/biotech fields longer to understand the invention than it would have taken others. The subject-matter did not seem to constitute a combination of the technical fields. The mock paper provided also proved to be entirely unrepresentative of the type of subject-matter tested.
- I have not taken any of these papers yet, please make a questionnaire with proper choices
- I think paper B was too hard for non-mechanics/engineers. I had a very hard time understanding the invention and thus lacked time to apply general knowledge of the law (123(2), 84, 56, 54). I never had any problems with the chemistry papers, so this 2017 paper took me by surprise. I also think that the Mock Exam did not reflect the difficulty. There were multiple 84 issues and 123(2), and then additionally extra time necessary to understand invention to assess Novelty and Inventive Step - this combination was too difficult. ; ; I found the R164 to be in an unexpected format. It would be nice to have similar questions for preparation, where its applicability is more hidden.
- DI, was too difficult, too little time was available for at least three of the questions. ; B, was not complicated, in terms of the required amendments, but the subject was rather complex for people working in the chemistry field.
- A was different from previous years (re-sitter), and the use of words in the examination paper was not consistent - it was therefore harder to consider what was the main features that were expected (see how the features 'component' and 'composition' have been used in connection with effects). ; ; Also, I found it a bit contradictory that the 'claim' instructs to protect 'everything' in the letter,
- Despite the 30 mins extra the main difficulty is still the time.
- Difficult in DII to bring all the strings together in order to formulate a sound opinion. ; ; Take down nervousness in C, if not evident from the first reading what attacks are possible
- B was so different, I didn't think the mock helped at all
- Contrary to what was said by the EPO, one must train on other technical fields, ; a physicist must understand chemistry to some extent; a chemist must understand signal conversion

and so one (especially B-2017 was not doable in the given time for chemists/biologists because the time consumed to understand the technical part could never be recovered and no time remained to the inventive step)

- Paper C was difficult for a chemist this year, especially when English is not your mother tongue and you are under a lot of pressure (as always in the exam situation). I had to look up several words in a dictionary, which took extra time and made me nervous.
- Es wurde zwar eine halbe Stunde mehr Zeit für die Bearbeitung der Prüfungsaufgabe B gewährt, jedoch war diese mit 3 Entgegenhaltungen umfangreicher als in den Vorjahren. Der Zeitdruck war demnach vergleichbar hoch. Ich bin mal wieder nicht fertig geworden, was sehr frustrierend ist.
- Paper D: there was too much time pressure; the extra 30min, supposedly for decreasing time pressure, did not help; it felt as if the D paper was longer than last years (especially part I), so that the extra 30min were in fact needed for solving the longer paper, rather than that they served to alleviate the time pressure; ; Paper A: the paper seemed much more directed to Chemistry than to E/M; coming from an E/M Background and having trained paper A based on the old E/M papers, this year's paper A was not easy since it was not clear what one was expected to Claim.; ; Papers A and B: for some parts of these papers it was not clear how much marks were maximally available, and so it was not clear how much one was expected to write; when comparing old Chemistry and E/M papers with each other, one notices that different types of answers are expected, with different marking schemes; e.g. a discussion of Novelty in the old E/M papers B may be very short: it suffices to name, for each prior art document, a single feature which is not disclosed (and not many marks can be gained in the novelty section); in contrast, the discussion of novelty in the old Chemistry papers B should be longer and more marks can be gained. In the present 2017 exam, it was not clear which approach would be followed. I wrote an extensive novelty discussion, but this left me with little time to write the inventive step discussion.
- First time that I had time to attack all claims.
- Too big time pressure, language difficulties
- Paper D seemed to me by far the hardest of the four papers, needing a very high level of concentration during the five and a half hours, and excellent time management to be able to effectively tackle both DI and DII.
- B-exam: So little time available in paper - hard to read all material. Difficult to choose CPA since very technical and close fields; ; D-exam: Too much of PCT and Euro-PCT questions
- I find paper C very difficult, and also I notice that in the last two years the text is written in a different way from the other year, a lot of text is not used in the examination and for the attacks and this renders the text very confusing and I find more difficulties in looking for the right attacks.; ; I think that in the year before 2015 the text was more clear and all well written.; in the courses they teach us that all what is written must be used, this year there was a lot of description and attacks not to be used, this was very confusing.; furthermore, it seems that this year you have to use the same closest prior art for the first four attacks and another one for the other three attacks, so if you do not understand the first attack you are wrong for 4 claims and, of course you do not pass the exam. I was told that examiners' do this in 2007 but it was a mess and they promise that they do not do anymore. But this applies this year.
- Difficulty resides often in that it is not clear from the question what is expected from the candidate, and thus when to stop an answer in paper D.
- The subject matter of the B paper was hard to understand for a non-mechanical candidate. Too much time was required to understand the electronic system.
- A, B and D papers seemed to have standard format.
- Despite the half hour that was added for the exam, my impression was that in particular the DII part was too difficult and that there was again a lack of time during the exam.
- With respect to Paper D I think that these years Paper DI-part was much more difficult than the ones of the past years, while the Paper DII part seemed to be inline with the past years difficulty. ; ; With respect to Paper DI I would have preferred to have an easier entry question. I do not understand why on the one side the Examiners known for

years/generations that PCT questions are the ones with which students are less comfortable with, but the first question is related to PCT. ; ; The Exam should be organized such that the sitters should get as much comfortable as possible with the exam paper in order that the results are not too much influenced by the nervocism of the sitters.

- Subject matter of paper B was not very accessible for people of biotechnology background. I only found the difficulty adequate because I prepared using E/M papers from the compendium.
- Paper D Part II does not contain sufficient information to evaluate freedom to operate opinion effectively. Under Art 54(3) EPC, it is a requirement for the prior art to be pending. However, for the question this year we were required to assess novelty against a PCT application which had not entered the national phase. Furthermore, there was a comment regarding the use of the invention in UAE. However, no indication of the equivalent patents was given in UAE apart from the PCT application. The paper was a little better than previous years in that we were given information that the pending national applications had lapsed.
- Generally paper C was not so difficult from a patent technical viewpoint; it becomes difficult because of other factors, indicia particularly hidden (e.g. the exposé was the inventor, so I know understand he will not be available as a witness).; It depends on how will be evaluated.; I have doubts it was appropriate for exam conditions.
- This year's paper A was supposed to be for both Chemists and Electro-Mechanics, but was, in my view a chemistry paper requiring a completely different mind set and a very flat thinking.; The beauty of the abstraction skills necessary to previous papers A-E/M is completely gone. This is most irritating.
- B seemed very difficult with 3 documents and perhaps some technical insight needed. DeltaPatents have just posted their answer, and even they seemed to have got it wrong!; ; C was not difficult but seemed long.; ; D Q5 (about TEL1 TEL2) seemed out of place for DI.
- Even though it's been extended 30min, there is still not enough time. ; Sometimes it is necessary to write down the first things in one's mind as there is no time to elaborate on any thought as it would be in reality.
- From my point of view Annex 2 was totally misplaced in C. No sane person would have considered that in an Art. 56 attack. ; ; Moreover, you got to introduce different papers for chemists and engineers. No chemical company would employ an engineer on a chemist' position and vice versa. ; Another example of a European institution being detached from reality and acting against the job market. This has to change. ; Thankfully voters have options nowadays.
- in Paper C claim 2 was difficult for me
- It felt like Paper A was designed for Chemists and paper B for Electronics instead of designing both papers adequate for all areas.; I find this a pretty bad solution for common papers!
- Not applicable.
- I think the worry was that I didn't know what to expect because this year the subject matters were combined into one paper. The approaches taken in EM and CH exams are slightly different, and there was very little guidance beforehand on how exactly the papers should be structured. I think this made the papers slightly more difficult than normal. Other than that, the subject matter of the papers were easy enough to follow.
- Paper B was too ambiguous because there appeared to be a number of possible solutions. Considering this was the first combined ChemBio/Elec/Mech paper, I think the technology was too complicated and the solution was not entirely clear during the exam or even now. This was also the view of many candidates I asked after the exam.
- For paper A, even its subject is easy to understand, it is not easy to draft for a biologist despite training with compendium in mechanical field.; For paper B, being not used to read papers in mechanical field is clearly a disadvantage for biologist and disturbing.
- During preparation for paper B this year (and paper C before) I still felt doubtful if I cited correctly. Same in the exam. In some Compendium solutions the citation is just a reference to a (large) paragraph, in some others a very specific citation with a certain text-line mentioned. Also in the examiners report, sometimes it was mentioned that the citation were

not specific enough. As a candidate who spent much time on preparation with the Compendium, it is still unclear for me how the examination committee wants to see the citations. ; I would appreciate if you would publish a statement regarding citations (especially for papers B and C), how a candidate should write the citations. Preferably with examples.

- B and D were not only difficult but covered relatively much subject matter, requiring a lot of time in answering/writing
- TIME, TIME, TIME
- Difficult to answer Q28 when I do not know if I have passed yet
- Not easy to know what was expected for A and B as it is the first year of the new version. Difficult to choose what to protect. Long exam even with the 30 min added...
- I was wondering about the technical field of Paper B and the level of technical information needed. First it was very hard to understand the technical issues. Then secondly the Client raised a number of wishes and amendments in his letter which all had to be dealt with. Thirdly, 3 State of the Art documents had to be read and understood. 3 Documents means that you have to prove and argue novelty in respect of all of the three documents, which also means that you need more time to write a proper response to the Office Action. Fourthly the first Claim was long, so that the candidates needed more time to analyse it and also needed more time to argue novelty in respect of the mentioned three documents. ; I am very astonished that this is the result of putting Chemistry and Mechanic/Electronic together and also that this paper was originally drafted for an exam of three hours!!! Not even 3,5 hours were enough to write a proper and full response to the Office Action.; Which sense has this time limitation? I thought the EPO examines if the candidates have the ability to write a full and proper Response to an Office Action and to check if they understand the principles of patentability in respect of the EPC. Or is it the sense to set a record in fast writing? In practice (so outside the EQE world) nobody would write such a response in such a time, especially not in a technical field he does not know before. Wouldn't it be constructive to draft a paper for e.g. 3h and give the candidates 5 hours to draft their response? ; I am pretty sure that most candidates would write a proper response and would also pass the papers only if they would have more time.; I am raising the question again: what is the sense of the EQE? To examine the knowledge or to check how fast the candidates are able to write? ; All the foregoing apply also to the other papers, particularly Paper C.
- N/A, not yet sat main examinations
- Paper C had 7 claims instead of 6 and more inventive step attacks which once again added to the time pressure.
- gérer le temps et le stress lorsque le sujet impose un choix à faire
- I felt that both papers D and C were fair papers in that they weren't wildly different from the past papers in the compendium.
- As mentioned above: At least for me, paper D was a bit too rich to be finished on time. But I have heard this opinion also from other participants.
- Papers A and B were supposed to be accessible to everyone. The mock papers provided on the EPO website were indeed accessible to everyone, so was Paper A. ; However, the subject of paper B was not easily accessible to chemists and biologists. The subject was completely based on a mechanic/mechatronics invention, the claims were drafted accordingly. This type of wording is never used in the chemical/biological field. This represented a major difficulty/ loss of time for non-mechanic/electronic seaters. ; The chances of passing the exam clearly differ from one candidate to another depending on his speciality: this is not supposed to be the case for the EEQ!
- Compared to the previous years, the DI questions were not well balanced, required too much writing in view of the available time and were excessively focussed on exceptions and the knowledge of very particular provisions. Question 4 should not have been part of paper D but C. Question 3 awarded too little points for the required amount of writing. DII seemed too fair.; ; Paper C was fair and corresponded to my expectations.; ; Paper B was confusing, insofar as I was not able to recognize a clear direction contrary to the B papers of the previous years.; ; Paper A was ambiguous as to the desired scope of protection and I felt to be a guinea pig for this new combined chemistry/mechanics paper A. I would have

preferred a clear mechanics OR chemistry paper.

- Paper D part DI 2017 was drafted very differently from past questions. Took very long to read the DI questions. DII was long and rather elaborate.
- - the papers were way longer than the previous one. The extra half-hour was much needed.;
- paper B was not designed for chemists AT ALL.
- In spite of the extra time (30 min), there was too much material to be read. There was not enough time to answer the questions.
- In paper A was not clear at the end of document D2 if some information was a real disclosure or just a future research intention with no disclosure value
- not more complexity - it was a joke
- The balance between D1 and D2 was not well set up. D1 put a lot of time pressure on the candidates, while D2 was fair enough
- many questions, little time
- Paper C had too many claims and documents and was very complicated to attack them in the available time
- Paper B was extremely time consuming. During the preparation I used to finish a set in about 2 and a half hour. For the exam I did not finish within 3 and a half hour.
- The difficulty of papers A, B and especially D was mostly due to time issues. Paper B was further difficult due to the fact that Paper A had already been sat on the same day.
- - I probably got paper B totally wrong as the solution seemed too easy to be true...
- unclarity of interpreting some technical features
- C paper is long in text for candidates of mother tongue other than English, French or German.
- Paper B 2017 (CH+EM) was much more difficult than the mock CH+EM paper B provided on the EQE website. It contained no chemistry at all, and some strange electrotechnical features instead. These new B papers are not fair for people with CH background.
- Paper B was too difficult in the sense that it was clear the amendment wanted was wherein the attachment means is a garment but the arguments in support of inventive step were difficult to see. I could see a reasonable argument that it wasn't inventive. As an allowable claim set is necessary, I went for the attachment means is at least partially made of Optitex which is definitely novel and inventive but which I'm pretty sure is not what the Examiner's want to see. Therefore I suspect I have failed. I hope the mark scheme is flexible!; Conversely Mock Paper B had a clear amendment which was obviously novel and inventive. Thus the actual Paper B came as a bit of a shock
- Paper C was very mechanical. Many of the terms in the paper were difficult to understand for a person whose area of work is not mechanical. I think that people working on mechanics have a big advantage.
- Paper B was a Mechanics Paper, extremely difficult to understand for chemists etc. AND not enough time for Paper B
- I have studied Chemistry at the University. For me, it was unclear what was actually meant in para 06, description of the application in examination paper B. It took a lot of time to understand the technical content of paper B as a whole, therefore I had a time rush to finish the paper since I had to use so much time trying to understand the technical aspects.
- Although the legal questions have been removed from Paper C since 2012, the complexity of the matters tested has increased slowly since 2012. The most recent papers have tested issues around priority, added matter, availability of public disclosures as prior art, witness and experts.
- Paper B 2017 was far too complex for the following reasons: First of all, as a candidate I was faced with a paper B in a new style (combined Ch and E/M). Additionally, Claim 1 was in terms of mere words very long including many reference signs, i.e. very much in the mechanic style, which was very unusual for me as a former Chemistry candidate. Furthermore, candidates were faced with a potential (!) diagnostic method practised on the human body- Problem AND a potential (!) computer-implemented invention. Of course, both were not asked for and both were not the Problem but this first had to be assessed and found out. Again additionally there were three Documents of the Prior Art, which had to be

assessed properly in term of novelty and inventive step of course and last but not least, the letter of the Client and his Claim set had to be analysed and brought into conformity with the EPC. Taken together all these Facts, Paper B was far to complex for the time that was given. Unimaginable what would have happend, if we wouldn't have been give the 30 minutes extra time. Hopefully comments like this will lead to a more straight Forward Paper B in the future

- Especially for paper A, where many marks are easily missed when missing a feature, it was difficult to guess what would happen during the exam. Only one Mock-Exam was in my opinion not enough since there was neither much similarity to old chemistry nor to old mechanics papers.
- I found the subject matter of Paper A and Paper B to be challenging and difficult because my practice area is Biochemistry. However, I understand that this is the first year of the new style papers. I practised past papers for A and B in both the E/M and Chem categories. I also thought that some of the D1 questions in Paper D were challenging and difficult too. I thought DII was adequate. I found the Paper C subject matter to be slightly more accessible than Papers A and B and thought that the level of difficulty of Paper C was adequate.
- I think the difficulty knowledgewise was adequate. I think I knew the answers, but did not have time to write well formulated answers and legal references. So the difficulty is not to know the answers, but to have time to write down all answers.
- Papers A and B were more difficult than usual as the information of what was expected was not sufficient.
- This year the papers seemed to be adequate concerning timing and content.
- There was a slight stress due to the fact that papers A and B have changed. However, it was ok, but still many aspects to consider and some changes especially in paper A.
- Paper C: I appreciated that the invention was a corkscrew. Its use in real life was very useful for understanding all the documents. Normally, in other C-Exams, this was not that easy to follow (e.g. snowboard).
- Even though there was half an hour additional time, time was still too short for the exam. Hardly possible to finish in time. Besides, it is very difficult to be focussed for 5,5 hours, was totally exhausted after the exam.
- The rating of difficulty includes already the fact that without the extra half hour it would have been even one case worse for each rating.
- Having no novelty destroying prior art for claim 1 is like a trick question.
- D1 is difficult then other years. It is my first time that I spent 2,50 hours for D1. I sat 4 times to D paper and in some years I have 15-30 min spare time. But this year the duration of the exam is increased 30min more but I can hardly finished the exam and I still had uncomplete questions in D1 part.
- Paper A seemed to favour chemists. Paper B seemed to favour mechanics. Thought Paper B was more mechanics than paper A was chemical. Paper B was unusually difficult - hard subject matter for chemists I would say, wasn't easy to chose the closest prior art, and all recent chemistry papers, there were only 2 pieces of prior art. The third added some complexity for some people.
- Part I of Paper D was very difficult. Paper B was difficult because the subject matter was not accessible to someone with a biochemistry background.
- The difficulty is mainly the time management: In comparison to previous years 10% (+30 min / 300 min) have been been provided;; In 2016 the D part comprised 5 D1 question provided in 5 pages and D II problem provided in 2,5 pages, in total 7,5 pages (w/o questions in D II); In 2017 the D part comprised 6 D1 question provided in 5 pages and D II problem provided in 4 pages, in total 10 pages.(w/o questions in D II); Comparing part D for 2016 and 2017: $(10 - 7,5) \text{ pages} / 7,5 \text{ pages} = 33,3\%$, means the problem description in 2017 is approx. 33,3% more comprehensive than in 2016; if the problem description is more comprehensive, more aspects need to be cosidered for an adequate answer. Comparing the time difference (+10%) and the the complexity of the paper (+33%), it feels that the time management in 2017 even harder than in 2016. The announcement, that difficulty and complexity in 2017 what not be increased, seems to be not adequate.

- Part 2 took 30 minutes extra time compared to what I planned. Therefore, two smallest marks' questions were not answered because of the exam time expiration. Part 1 questions were quite expected situations; very special cases which none would have done in their regular work. I think the difficulty was quite the same than last year, though the extra time was absolutely needed this year, and still not enough for me personally!
- I found the papers more articulated and difficult and with paper D (part I) with an additional question with respect to 2016
- Paper B was full electromechanics, I could not find the chemical side in the paper. Further, I believe that engineers could feel more comfortable with the subject of the invention than biochemist or chemist, and that feeling could help them to find the solution to the paper easily.
- Time was an issue even with the extension. In paper D particularly.
- The additional half hour was compensated by too difficult questions, e.g. two time consuming required partial problem approaches in part c compared to usually one such approach in the years before.
- Far too many facts which make it hard to find the core problem(s). Time extension of 30min did not help.
- I was surprised with IS attack on claim 1. Was time consuming to elaborate attacks on claims 1 and 2. Because of that I have not gone fast enough to rest of attacks, because I wanted to finish with topic first. This time vocabulary was possible to understand.
- Question of DI were almost like questions of DII; For DII, I had to two attempts before drafting the time line of events
- Paper C very time pressured, more so than previous years even with the extra 30 mins. Same for paper D- part I questions more difficult and involved than in previous years
- The D-Part had too much text to read. The additional 30 Minutes were not sufficient compared to the amount of text in DI and DII, the number of dates in DII and broad and text intensive questions in DI. In my opinion the D part was unfair.; ; The C-Part was fair.; ; For A I cannot tell, because I do not know what is expected in the end. B seemed fair.
- Please erase answer q28 C. I didn't present it
- Papers C and D were more difficult than prior papers. The extra 30 minutes did not help. EPO should have considered giving 1 hour extra time and warned participants that the Paper C and D exams were going to be more difficult.
- You see the pieces of the puzzle but it is impossible to compose the complete puzzle in the time available. You manage to somehow put them together but knowing qualification standards, you know you have failed. If an independent claim, claim 1 in 2017 C, is giving you some difficult time, all dependent claims attacks are affected and you know during the exam that your going to fail.
- Too short time to make the examination
- Time is still a major challenge!
- DII part was very long with a lot of applications and with many different strands. DI questions were a bit concealed I found i.e. It wasn't immediately evident what topic was being asked. And which direction to go in. Due to the fact that DII was long it left not much time for DI
- I found the feature regarding the change of pitch of the corkscrew in A2 of paper C very unclear. As I recall, it only stated that there are fewer turns higher up without defining the length in which there are fewer turns. I therefore did not recognise this feature as being disclosed in A2.; Regarding part B, it was extremely difficult to decide which document should be the CPA. The purpose of some of the documents appeared to be closer to the purpose of the application, but the structural features did not match. From past papers it appeared more important that the purpose be the same but in this paper the documents with the same purpose could not really be used as closest prior art because it would have required too many structural changes to arrive at the invention. I spent a lot of time trying to decide which should be the CPA. I then did not have sufficient time left to properly justify my choice and do the PSA.; Finally, it appears that all the papers are now E/M papers, which makes them harder for chemists/biologists/biochemists than for physicists and engineers.

- One does not approach a system with sensors the same way as an antibody. Therefore even though the principle is the same, a biochemist will require more time to understand the underlying concept and figure out how to deal with it than an engineer.
- It was difficult to know what to expect from the EQE paper at this year due to the change. I completed the mock paper and watched the video about the changes and tried past papers from both chem and mechanical, but it was difficult to prepare without there being a body of relevant past papers to try.
- I did not sit the main exam
- perhaps it was just as difficult as the exams of previous years, but stress made it worse
- Lots of documents for paper B. Would have run out of time if not for extra 30mins.
- Additional difficulty in studying the papers and writing the answers for candidates not having as their mother tongue the three EPO languages.
- This year, paper B (chemistry/mechanics) was more about mechanics, and that was difficult for me. In my opinion, the content of the invention of paper B should be similar to inventions described in papers C - i.e. more about simple mechanics or simple chemistry than about electrical signals and sensors.
- The most difficult is time management, by far!
- Too little time
- The additional 30 minutes was still not sufficient to maintain the response to all questions in time.
- This year was the first time there was the new format for papers A & B. I found it more difficult than the mock exams that were proposed on the website. Paper A could be tackled in different ways whether you were a chemist or mechanics, which made it a bit confusing if you had trained for both as you were not quite sure which angle to choose.; Paper B given that it was related to a device was difficult in my view for chemists especially to argue inventive step.
- Short questions in Paper D worded completely different than in past years. Did not get into the questions due to this.
- In paper D, there were some first part questions that required a very long answer but very few marks were assigned for those questions. D paper was definitely too difficult compared to time available to answer it.
- difficult to give precise answer without knowing the official corrections - anyway B looked reasonable and had no difficulties with the technical stuff, D was certainly much longer than any previous D since 2012 - with D2 requiring a great deal of technical knowledge which rather surprised me
- The change in format for Paper A and B was very hard to revise for, given that there was only one mock paper available and not much solid information about the structure of the new papers.
- For A and B difficult to concentrate from 9am to 18:30pm
- The main difficulty for me was knowing what the Examiner's were looking for in the answer due to the combination of E/M and CH this year.
- I HAD DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING THE SEVERAL INVENTIVE CONCEPTS OF THE INDEPENDENT EMBODIMENTS
- It is not clear why there is such a time constraint. On top of that, some of us are not able to write down all the answers even if we know what to write. The fact we are no longer used to writing so much must be taken into account.
- I'm not sure the change in format to Paper A and paper B was handled well. In addition the extra 30min was needed for all 4 exams, particularly paper D in which part 1 seemed more vague than previous years.
- toooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo LONG!!!!!!; there is no need to give extra time while the examination duration will be as long as it was this year
- Paper B was fully EM paper and quite difficult for chemistry people, while paper A was very understandable chemistry even for EM people.
- Very little time in D
- Paper A in 2017: mock-paper not enough to prepare for the new paper-A exam - candidates

are in the dark of how much M/E and Chem aspect is inside: functional features in M/E are unknown (wrong) in Chem-papers so far.

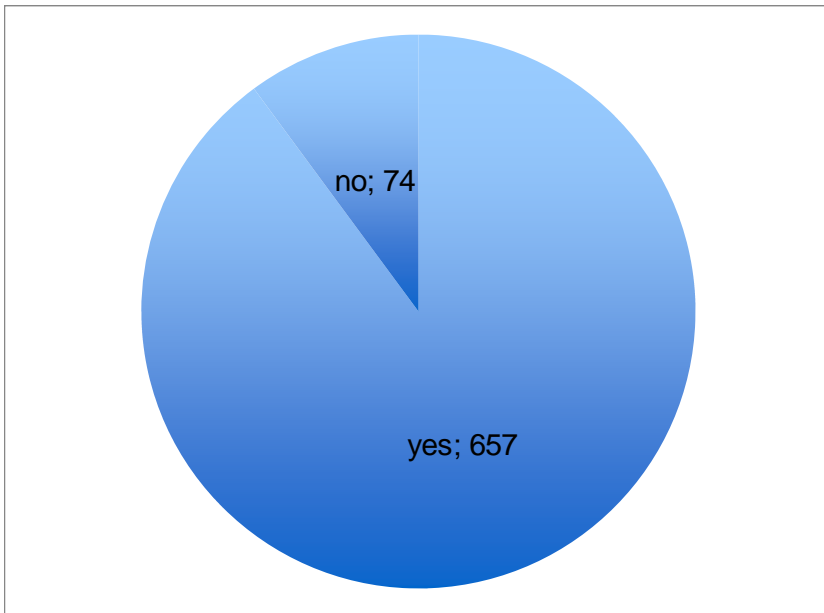
- See the comments re papers A and B above. ; ; Paper D was very long, complex part II question, with many issues involved to discuss with no clear outcome (depending on whether PCT enters EP regional phase....). There were many issues to comment on so it was very time consuming. It was not clear in part A what examiners were looking for. We could have written many different points but if we do not get exactly what the marking scheme establishes, we will not get any mark. A clearer definition of the questions would be appreciated.; ; Paper C was again complex, not in terms of technology but in terms of the issues. Several inventive step attacks, 2 partial problems, many issues to discuss made the paper very time constrained despite the extra half hour.
- Did not take part at C + D.
- Difficulty is proportional in the amount of information to handle. Time pressure only occurs if there is too much information to handle.
- - Some questions of DI were not clearly unclearly posed.; - Some aspects of DII were formulated such that inadequate conclusions could be easily made. ; ; I have prepared well and intensively and already do have quite some experience in European patent law, but some of the questions were written such that it was not clear how detailed the answers to the questions should be. This is what causes time problems. If the answers provided in the examiner reports were more equally detailed, I could much more easily have determined how many details were required to obtain full marks.
- Too long, too difficult and too warm in examination hall...Three-in-one!!; ; Maybe I prefer the previous system (5h) if this new system means more difficult and complex issues. Five hours of suffering are enough, thanks!!
- Paper A was difficult for Chemist. I am of course waiting for the results and the correction but I am afraid that I will lose some point because of lack of functional features. Indeed, for chemistry it is unclear -> result to be achieved.; So I am confused. The product by process with paper D, that was difficult, and the paper was too long.
- The change to the format of paper B was rather unfair. The subject matter, the claim format and the issues raised were all mechanics-based. However, it was announced that the paper would involve elements of both chemistry and mechanics.
- Paper C remains a challenge, year after year
- I was surprised by the difficulty of the D1 questions in this year! The D2 part was OK.
- Not enough time for paper C and D
- Very very bad translation into German language, I was looking up the English version in order to understand claim 1 of paper C written in German language
- some of DI-questions were complex
- N/A
- Exam was easy, only problem was lack in experience actually sitting at the exam
- Paper D was extremely long. Time extra did not help at all! just to be sat 30 min more...; ; Paper C was also long, but more similar than other years
- Although this year we had more time, the amount of time needed for finishing (in good conditions) paper D it wasn't enough.
- Paper A used inconsistent terminology which made it difficult to assess what was intended by the drafters.
- The difficulty of papers A and B came from the unfamiliar layout and subject matter. In particular, Paper A was very different from expected particularly in regard to embodiments / examples. Part I of Paper D was far too difficult and I still firmly believe that no amount of preparation would have afforded me a better chance at answering the questions, it is only with hindsight that the topics covered would have been studied for.
- papers were unclear and poorly drafted
- IT's hard to assess the difficulty when we have no idea how we have done!; Still time pressured despite the extra 30 mins. I feel like I'm actually pretty good at my job, but the exams under exam conditions do not allow anyone to do justice to themselves.
- Paper B was too difficult for a chemist

- I found paper B to be surprisingly difficult. ; ; Part I of paper D was also far more difficult than I found the past papers to be.
- Papers A and B were not, in my opinion, proper papers for both fields (mechanics and chemistry).; ; Paper B could have been paper B 2106, because having a single dependent claim with a composition does not make paper B a mix between mechanics and chemistry.; ; Paper A was maybe more a chemistry paper. However, the examiner's report will, in my opinion, contribute to the final decision if the paper was more a chemical or a mechanical one depending on the proposed set of claims.
- D was relatively difficult mainly since my preparation was insufficient.; C was a little difficult since undue time pressure continues even with the additional half hour.; A and B seemed adequate.
- time time time
- Paper B was too difficult to understand and analyse for someone with chemical background. Although I had been involved with patent applications from mechanical area during my professional life and in addition had no problems with understanding 5 old mechanical papers from compendium, I spend a lot of time analysing the claims and many features during the exam. ; It was a case where there were many features and many relationships between these features. Also it was very difficult to decide and find the feature with technical effect for the inventive step argumentation.
- To many inventive step attacks in 2017.
- The time allowed is still too short - despite the extra half hour this year. It appears that the speed is still preferred over quality. The questions can and should be challenging but they are pointless unless one has enough time to consider the answer and moreover time to write the answer in a legible way
- The D1 questions had sub questions. This is too long to answer.
- Eine der Hauptschwierigkeiten war die körperliche Belastung für die schreibende Hand. Ein guter Füller, Voltaren-Gel und ein Kompressionsstrumpf für die Hand konnten eine Sehnenscheidenentzündung zwar bis Freitag nach der Prüfung hinauszögern, trotzdem muss man sich fragen, ob das in Zeiten moderner Technologie wirklich sein muss. ; ; Würde ich morgen die Module A-D noch einmal schreiben, wüsste ich auch nicht, wie ich eine Sehnenscheidenentzündung verhindern könnte.
- As regards Paper C, I am missing the aspect of the two list principle, when it comes to novelty. In the Examiner's Report, lack of novelty of a claim of the opposed patent is often derived from features which are disclosed in different parts of the cited prior art documents, nonetheless this could be understood as a selection from different lists as well and thus, not resulting in a lack of novelty. This has always been confusing for me, as such misunderstandings might lead to a loss of credits.
- I felt confused with the new paper A.
- The difficulty may be alright, but there is too less time especially in paper D.
- This year we had 30 minutes more for each part however I felt harder pressure of time, not sure why...
- À travers différentes formations, on m'avait expliqué que l'épreuve A serait plutôt orientée chimie et l'épreuve B plutôt mécanique. On a été servi pour l'épreuve B. Le libellé de la revendication 1 ne pouvait pas être plus mécanique.... un moyen de maintien ??! Sérieusement ?!! En tant que chimiste et ne pratiquant que ce domaine dans ma pratique quotidienne dans un cabinet parisien, je suis sceptique quant à la pertinence de l'épreuve B que j'ai passée... cette épreuve B permet normalement d'évaluer mes compétences sur le sujet d'une réponse aux objections soulevées dans une lettre officielle. Mais je suis évalué sur une épreuve portant sur un sujet dont mon employeur n'attend aucune compétence de ma part. Mon employeur m'attend sur le terrain de la chimie. Quand un tel dossier (rev à coup de moyen de maintien et de capteurs etc.) arrive au cabinet, il est automatiquement envoyé chez un ingénieur mécanique. Donc cette épreuve B n'est absolument pas pertinente pour évaluer mes capacités en tant que mandataire et/ou conseil vis à vis de ma pratique quotidienne. Le sujet est donc à revoir.; ; Côté épreuve A, je ne trouve pas qu'elle ait été tant orientée chimie. Un film ayant plusieurs couches relève du domaine des

matériaux.... là encore, j'ai des doutes quant à la pertinence de cette épreuve vis à vis de ma pratique au quotidien. Je dois reconnaître néanmoins que l'épreuve A était plus accessible pour un chimiste que l'épreuve B.; ; Autre point, j'ai été désagréablement surpris de voir à quel point les mock exam, qui étaient censés nous donner une idée de ce à quoi on pouvait attendre, étaient très éloignés des sujets des épreuves A et B. Les sujets des mocks étaient beaucoup plus généralistes, et c'est ce vers quoi les sujets devaient tendre.; ; Sinon, j'ai trouvé l'épreuve D1 très dure. L'épreuve D2 était plus classique. L'épreuve C était une épreuve classique, dans la continuité des épreuves précédentes.

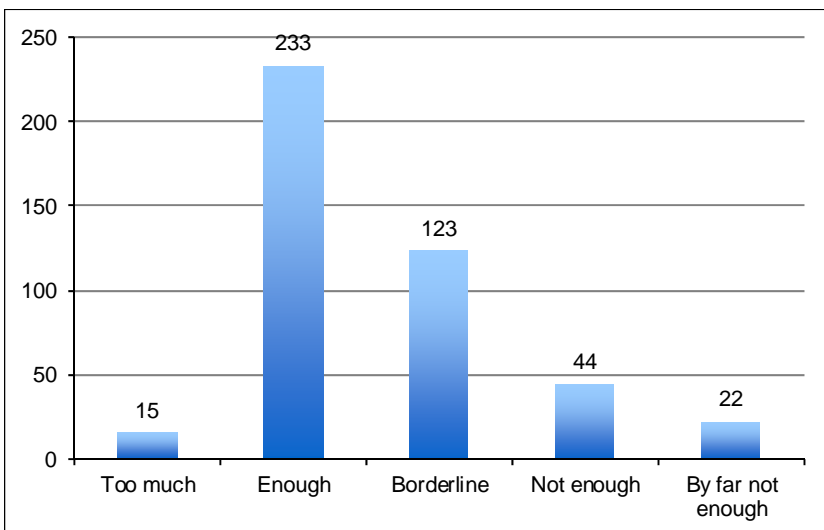
- Too much information and too many inventive step attacks in not enough time of exam.
- first time sitting paper B in mechanic. Other way of thinking and perspective to assess inventive step
- this examination was particularly difficult compared to the previous years
- In my opinion the legal part (DI) was harder than other years because of the exotic situations which were created in the questions. In the older exams I usually knew the answer or knew where to look the books, but this year I had trouble with this.
- The main examination paper C was adequate, but I had a blackout regarding finding a feature in independent claim 1. I found this relevant feature after the end of the examination.
- It was difficult to anticipate the new papers A and B as there were new papers with no specific technical background. Paper D was also very long this year, leaving it difficult to fulfill all the questions properly.; In a general manner, the quality of my given answers was not in adequation with what I expected.
- All papers seemed to be at a level I was expecting
- Difficult, not because of the complexity, but because of its length. There was not enough time to finish it.
- MAJOR time pressure for B
- The difficulty of Paper B was exacerbated in the Rome venue because the invigilators were speaking with each other during the exam itself. This made it very difficult to concentrate on the exam even from the 3rd row of the hall. At some point, someone from the first row apparently asked the invigilators to stop speaking and they were much quieter although by this time over an hour of the exam had passed.; ; The exam is difficult enough without having the invigilators talking with each other. Indeed because Paper B is only 3,5 hours, being distracted for 1 hour was difficult to overcome.
- Still not enough time. I feel especially sad for B part as I know it by know and this time no difficult strange things.
- Too little time available.
- The amount of time available was too little, keeping the number of features to be attacked in mind.
- Paper D-II was probably adequate, but D-I was difficult due to subject matter that was simply hard to find in the guidelines/applicants guide etc. under time pressure.

Q30) Did you feel time pressure during the examination?

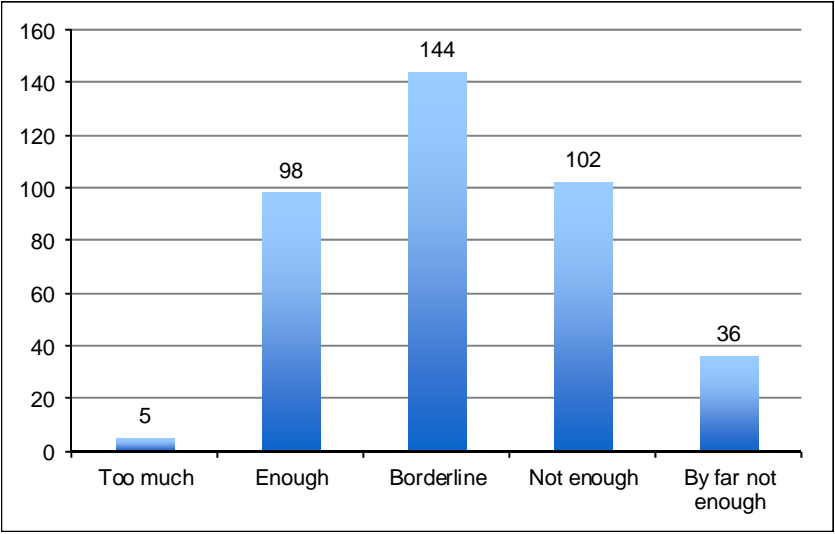


Q31) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the main examination paper you sat in 2017?

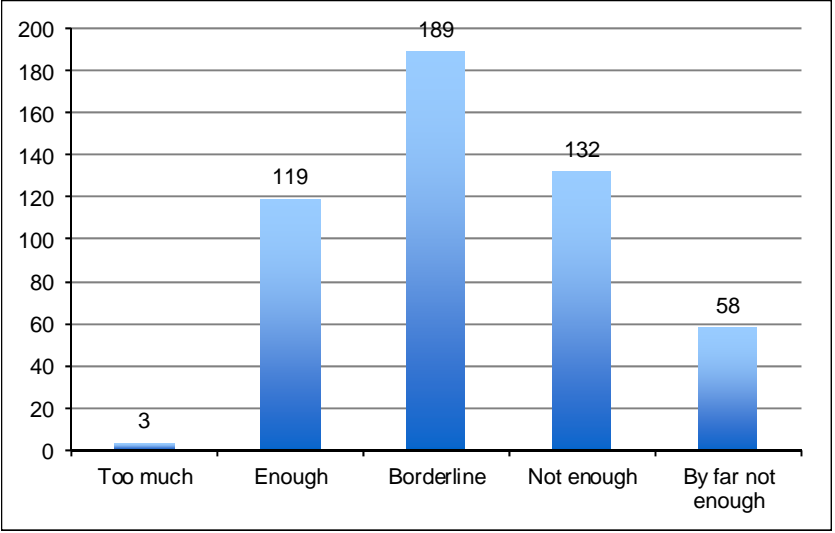
Paper A



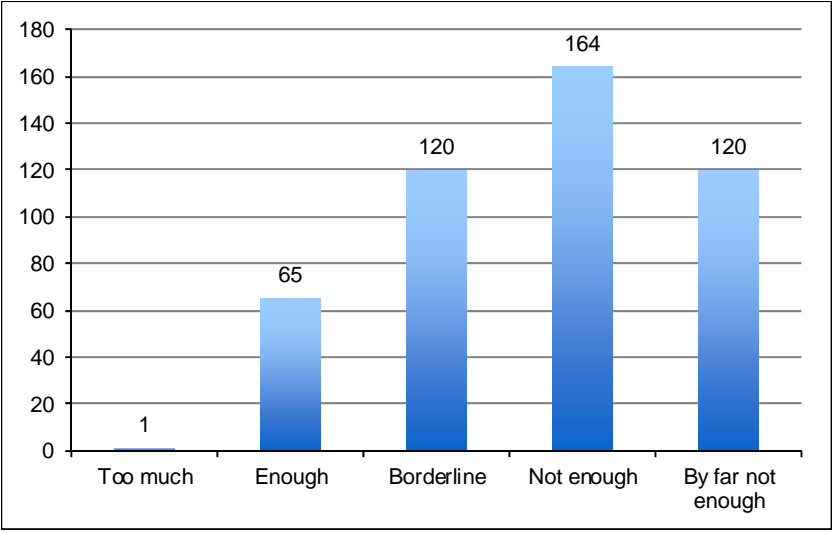
Paper B



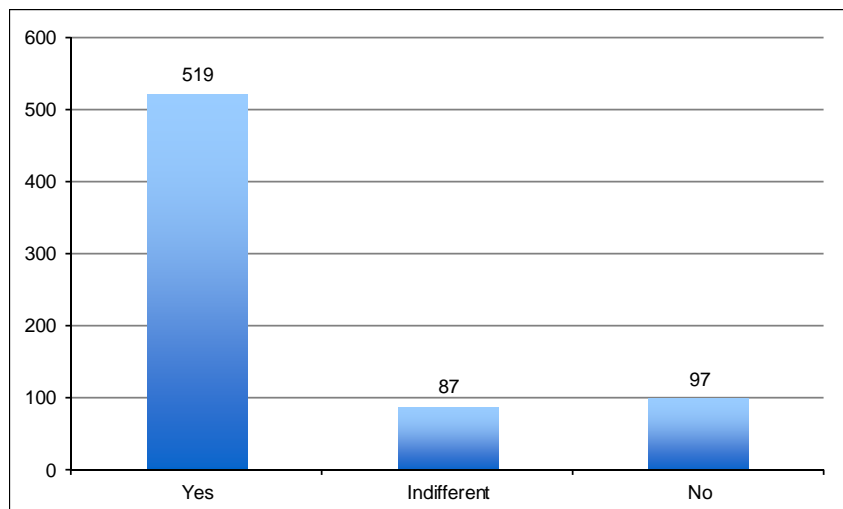
Paper C



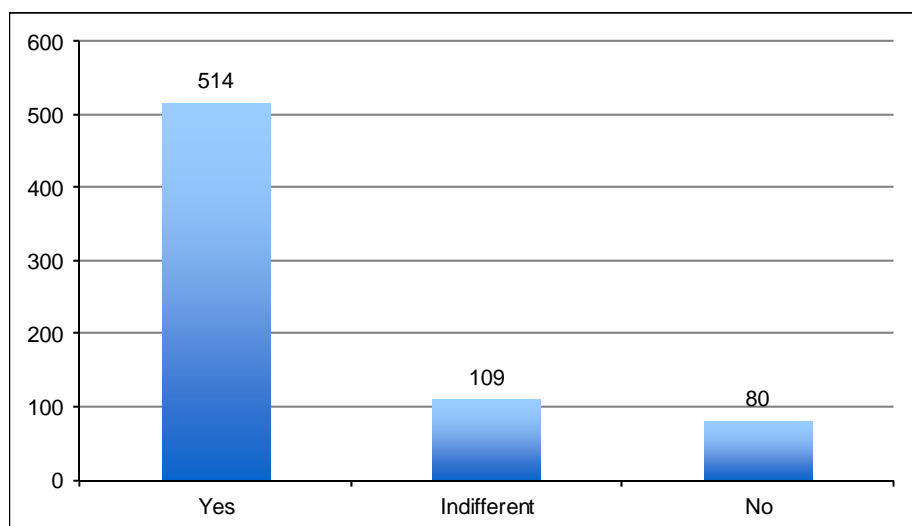
Paper D



Q31a) Do you think that the additional thirty minutes have improved your performance in the main examination paper(s) you sat?



Q31b) Do you think that even more time would have improved your performance in the main examination paper(s) you sat?



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

- the time available is not enough. During my work i need more than 3 hours and half to issue a legal opinion involving 5/6 patents/patent applications.
- More time but more information and attacks
- See above, the 30 minutes with six questions in D1 and multiple subquestions were not a present, but badly needed.
- I think that paper D felt time pressured, but that a lot more time wouldn't have helped so much, because there's only so much more you can add to an answer before no more marks are going to be awarded.
- See above. Time is still the biggest issue. Of some reason it is important to cite A.87(1) each time priority is mentioned. Since, in order to score good, you have to write down all these facts everyone knows. Since stuff like A.54(3) can just be used for novelty.... should be written down every time it makes time the biggest issue.
- See comment above.

- While the email from the Examination Secretariat said Candidates may rest assured that the ... difficulty of the papers will not increase as a consequence of this measure, the difficulty level of Paper D appears to have grown substantially (the difficulty level of paper C also has grown, but not so substantially).; ; For Paper B additional 30 minutes were not at all sufficient: a lot of marks are given for the inventive step analysis, but this can be done only in the end. Hence, those candidates, who found it necessary to think on different interpretations and possibilities in the task, and have not finished the paper, are very heavily penalized. ; ; For comparison, in paper D, part I, different interpretations also play a role, but they often come from different interpretations of the EPC and described in books. Hence, it is possible to prepare for paper D, part I; ; Also, this year marking principles in the Mock Paper B are different from the marking principles in the Compendium. In order to satisfy both, more time is needed.; ; In particular, the Examiner's Report 2016 for the E/M Paper states In order to obtain full marks, it was sufficient to mention a single technical feature of the independent claim that clearly renders claim 1 novel with respect to each of D1, D2 and D3. However, if it was arguable whether the identified feature is known from the respective prior art document, an argumentation explaining the ; difference was expected. In particular, as the communication includes a novelty objection against original claim 1 in the light of D3, the difference identified with respect to D3 should have been carefully examined. The section was worth 6 marks.; ; In contrast, the Mock Paper mentioned the summaries of prior art documents were needed, and the section would be worth 15 points, if I am not mistaken.
- Candidates will always fill the time provided and continue writing to the end. Increasing time will always lead to better work. ; ; If the aim is to reduce the time pressure, the amount of questions / work expected in the exam should be decreased without increasing the overall time. E.g. fewer claims to oppose in Paper C. E.g. fewer questions in Part I of Paper D. Increasing the amount time for A and B meant that there was too much work on a single day.
- I think that the time provided was sufficient to enable the exams to be completed without feeling excessive time pressure.
- Although we had more time this year, the DI questions were too many and more difficult than before in my opinion. I felt I needed more time than last year.
- I think with this extra 30 minutes it was just about enough to write the necessary attacks - provided one is used to write fast by hand. I wrote some 34 A4 pages and finished last minute, so I didn't have any time left to read through it again. I would have felt better if I had had that possibility.
- Extra 30 minutes welcome, but not if the exam papers will start to expand to fill the time.
- See answer above.; Also it should be fair to provide the most import prior art at the beginning... i heard that a lot 'of candidates got some stress abd hopeless before reading A6
- Timing for paper A is difficult, as there's no separate sections for which you can allot time. E.g., when you identify a mistake after having done the claims and started with the introductory part, then previous time management might be rendered inadequate
- Having sat the 2016 EQE I totally understand why there was deemed to be a need to give candidates more time - the 2016 papers were just too long. There is a definite trend to require more of candidates so inevitably there is a need to give us more time. However, why is this necessary? Why not just accept that there is too much to do in the exams and decrease the amount of work required? Paper D was fine in terms of time but it was definitely necessary to have the extra half hour - without it I would have been screwed. Also, part I is worth 40 marks but takes a lot longer [i.e. 3-3.5 hours] than part II (which is worth 60 marks) [i.e. 2 hours max]. There seems to be something amiss in terms of the allocation of marks relative to the effort required in each of the parts of paper D.
- The time available for paper C seemed reasonable.
- For D there can be even more time I think.

- 5.5 hours was not enough for this year's paper C because there were too many lengthy inventive step attacks, and only one quick novelty attack.
- Paper A, a little bit too much time.; Paper D, not enough time this year due to the questions of the exam paper.
- An additional 30 mins per Paper would have made the time per exam sufficient.
- I finished all papers without needing the additional thirty minutes
- The amount of reading (three prior art docs in paper B!, rather complex pa docs in paper C of which A3 seemed rather unnecessary ...) was not in a good relation to the time available to answer the papers in a SENSIBLE way so that they may be read and corrected adequately, especially with regard to Paper B, C and D. ; ; ; The Client's letter in Paper B was confusing and comprised too many request to be met. ; ; It would be nice if future Paper D would start with an easy question which is clear with regard to the extent of the answer. This year, it was not clear if all R159 requirements were to be dealt with so that lots of time was spent for this without knowing if it really was necessary! ; ; Paper C was difficult to tackle because the Last feature of claim 1 was only to be found in A2 (was it?), so this A2 had to be used in every single inventive step attack ?? requiring extensive argumentation.
- It is okay. Some time pressure will always be there. In the end, it is an exam. The extra half an hour, however, should be kept.
- Not enough time
- Just like to emphasise: the additional 30 minutes was an IMMENSE help. Time is always too short in such an exam, but it is an psychological relief that you can afford to spend a second thought on some issues, helps you to stay calm. This was just GREAT, albeit 18.5 hours examination in a week pushes the physiological limit too.
- It is too much work for this amount of time, i.e. quantity instead of quality (in particular, for paper C), and it seems the EPO does not examine the candidates' knowledge but simply their ability to adapt to streamline examination schemes. Isn't it a pity ...
- The papers were way too long so I didn't feel that the 30 minutes changed anything... since you've just made the paper longer.
- As already told, the time available is insufficient to make it possible for a candidate to work in an adequate manner.
- Yes, see answer to question Q29.
- I only just managed to finish paper B in time. So I'm not sure, maybe an additional 30 minutes would've been quite helpful.
- The current amount is about right. Any more time and the main exams would be too tiring and drawn out, resulting in poor mental state for candidates and a desire to stuff my head into a blender.
- Too little time for paper D!. I never had problem finishing D! in 2 hours when practicing past papers, and this year I couldn't finish it in 2.5 hrs.
- Yet, the exams were overall waaay too long. The additional 30 minutes did not help in any way to make it more comfortable. ; Without, it would definitely have been impossible to finish AND answer correctly to all the questions. ; ; Especially D !!!!
- The extra thirty minutes are nice to have (especially for C) but the time pressure is still extreme. In all papers I was writing until the very last moment. Paper B was the toughest in this respect, it even felt like the drafter(s) thought oh, they have 30 minutes more, so we can add one little more 123(2) issue, they'll be able to handle it.
- See above
- It seems to me that the extent of papers b and c increased in proportion to the additional thirty minutes
- In both B & D I had no time left for a review. Rushing through answers inevitably makes one leave out elements that one knows.
- The issue is the length of the paper C exam - information reduction and a shorter exam would be a more valid test
- There was no point in adding more time if the exam is much more long and difficult. Adding more time is only useful if the level of difficulty does not change with it.

- Insufficient time to allow for complexities of a hard paper c
- Additional time is not required in A or B. C and D are time pressured but that is sort of the point - I would not want any less time for the content of this year's exam, however.
- I did not need the extra half hour for Paper A - there really isn't that much to do.; ; The additional time was helpful for Paper B - 3hrs 30 mins seems about right to me.; ; I am of the view that you can adapt your answer style for Papers C and D according to the time available. I finished them with about 15 minutes left, but could have finished them within five hours if I had needed to.
- See above
- I felt (as did many other people) that the exams had been made harder because we had been given an extra half hour. In particular, six questions, covering six different topics (rather than 5) in D1 left not enough time for D2.; Certainly in papers D, B and C I would not have come close to finishing if it was not for the extra half hour. I had no time to check anything in D or C.
- This year paper A was relatively straight forward, thus there was enough time. If paper A is getting more difficult - which will happend most likely in 2 or 3 years - the additional 30 min will be very helpful.
- Unfortunately I am not a fast writer.
- Time pressure is not a result of intellectual failure but rather of the physical inability to write by hand for such a long time. Thus, the EQE evaluates physical abilities rather than intellectual abilities.
- Would prefer not to sit papers a and b on the same day
- Thank you for the additional 30 min.
- B was quite long, time to finish but with missing argumentation.; C and D were very long, no time to finsih, especially D.
- Cf. above
- Time was longer and questions as well... so made no difference
- The time constraint means that our answers may not be a true reflection of our legal knowledge of the epc and our ability to apply it. I particularly don't understand why paper b is limited to 3.5 hours. Inventive step argumentation attracts a lot of marks so it feels I have to rush through the rest of the paper. Does an inability to work to a time constraint e.g. set by a client, affect my competence to be a chartered EPA? To me, in private practice, it feels more like a charging matter.
- The additional 30 min were crucial to all of the papers (maybe in a perfect world I would have been able to finish C in time w.o. the additional 30 min, but then I started a wrong attach which cost me 20 min, so I was very glad to have 30 min more time!!)
- Even with additionnal 30 min it seems that examination papers (all of them) were longer and harder than the ones of the compendium.
- Time on all papers was sufficiant. On paper C another half of an hour would hae helped to finish with the dependent claims if you were on the wrong way in combing documents.
- time pressure seems to me part of the exams
- I really appreciate the extra 30min! For both papers I managed to complete my answer Just on time - 5 min before the end of the exam to number the pages and to check my papers. For paper A, I felt more at ease with the time allocation, however for paper C I still felt under time pressure to complete the attacks within the time.
- Paper D was obviously more demanding than previuos papers in the Compendium.
- Difficulty is adequate, but not enough time to do the papers. I have no difficulties with C or D/part II if I can use more time. Which means that to pass the exam I need to continue practising exam technique, i.e. how to organise the information. Would prefer using time on other stuff that exam technique (!)
- Having the page numbering time after the end of the exam rather than during it would remove a lot of last-minute stress
- More time for Paper B would be better.
- The extra time give the opportuny to answer all the questions even when the paper is in the mother language.

- It's now right, at least for A. Don't make it worse again by adding more prior art.
- See comments above.
- In the exam for D you should find information quickly from different sources and hope that with the hurry analysis of the case you end up with the correct advice to the client. That is very far from the work you do in the real life where you need to consider carefully with time your advice to the client.
- I didn't have time for checking my answers. But if I had more I might just have taken longer to answer the paper. I felt the time available was a reasonable compromise.
- Paper D addresses to many issues. The content should be reduced instead of extending the time, since writing all 4 papers in one week is very exhausting.
- Doing examination papers at home in the same time is not problematic, so its mainly a question of dealing with the papers under real examination conditions!
- Why have professional exams to be always in the middle of the week ??? When you live away from the exam center, you need to take a full week off for traveling and getting to the hotel.
- Even more time for C and D would have given me the time to check my answers.
- For all of the past papers in the compendium 5 hours for paper D was enough but 5.5 was not enough for this year's paper.
- d paper should be 6 hours
- I felt the time pressure and even if the answer was finished, I did not have any time to review it before providing it.
- It was supposed that although the time for paper B was increased by 30 min, the difficulty will remain the same.; This was not the case for paper B 2017, since the difficulty was increased proportionally : the basis of amendments chapter was one of the longest in the history of paper B, there were 3 prior art documents (usually there are only 2).; ; I never understood why the papers of the EQE are conceived such as to put useless time pressure on the candidate. This is an exam where careful analysis has to be carried out, not a Formula One car race.
- I have not had any problems with the time management when doing past papers B, but I ran out of time writing this paper B.
- Split A and B on 2 separate days. 7,5 h handwriting is exhausting and you can not focus well on paper B
- In both A and B I found myself with different options and without time enough to validate which option was the better. More time would probably have helped.
- Again, I have not taken these papers yet
- When difficulty paper B is adapted to an acceptable limit for all candidates, time limit of 3.5 hours should be fine.
- It is amazing that the examination considers time be an important factor when measuring whether one is fit to practise or not. One would expect that correct answers that reflect understanding of the system are more important. Under time pressure different persons behave differently. Not all EPAs are specialized to work in same type of tasks.
- Despite the 30 mins extra the main difficulty is still the time.
- More time is always better :) Difficulty lies, as always, in timely find the (correct) legal basis.
- additional 0.5 hour given this year allowed me to double check my analysis
- For the last 2 paper, I couldn't have written much more because of cramp/back pain
- Left-handed persons should have 20 minutes more, as long as we must do all hand-written
- I have sat paper C four times, including this year. Especially before this year I had studied hard and done many past exams successfully. Last year I would have passed if the 30 more minutes had been available, since the time was simply not enough to finish enough attacks. The last attack I wrote (which was correct) I did not finish, but with 30 more minutes available I would have finished it.; ; The time pressure on the exam easily leads to a panic situation if you get even a little bit lost along the way. Even if you find

your way back and do the right attack you realize that you have lost so much time that you will probably not be able to finish enough attacks, and after that you try to do everything quickly which usually leads to crucial mistakes.

- Es wurde zwar eine halbe Stunde mehr Zeit für die Bearbeitung der Prüfungsaufgabe B gewährt, jedoch war diese mit 3 Entgegnungen umfangreicher als in den Vorjahren. Der Zeitdruck war demnach vergleichbar hoch. Ich bin mal wieder nicht fertig geworden, was sehr frustrierend ist.
- For paper D: see above; ; Also for paper B there was a lot of time pressure. Similar to paper D, this paper also seemed to have been made longer as compared to past years, so that the extra 30 min were needed for solving this longer paper, rather than that the extra time reduced the time pressure.
- The additional 30 minutes were essential to finish the papers in an orderly way.
- Time is the critical issue (if you have studied). As a non-native english speaking it is time consuming to 1) Understand in detail (always some words you don't know exact meaning of) 2) Express yourselves correctly (you get the marks for use of information but very bad for argumentation)
- Far not enough
- Since my handwriting is very slow (and horrible to look at) the additional 30 min really helped me (I hope). I could tackle most of the claims (in C-Part). Sadly I had still not enough time to tackle two claims, which I believe I knew how to attack (at least on my matrix) since I ran out of time again...still better feeling than the approaches before
- All four papers need good time management, but time constraints are especially important for paper D, I barely managed to finish it even with the added 30 minutes. For A, B and C it is very important to practice reading and understanding applications quite fast, since that makes a huge difference in the amount of time left for then answering the paper itself.
- If english/french/german is not your mother tongue language, it is still stressful when there is too much to read. Paper B had very long claims, takes long time to read and write off.
- We were granted 30 minutes more this year but the papers were longer than in previous years (paper D with 1 question more, paper A with two independent claims, paper C with a lot of inventive step and very little novelty), so in the end I do not think that has made any big difference.
- I do not really understand why the DI and DII papers are combined, without a break in between. This surely increases the difficulty. Still, having the half hour additional time surely is appropriate and perhaps compensates for this lack of pause.
- Time available was ok, but preferably spread out the exam over 4 days, since the starting time of papers (A in particular) makes it necessary to get up very early in view of the announced security measures at the exam hall.
- A - I finished 25 minutes early.; B - I finished right on time.; D - I think that no matter what you've written already, there is always much more to write
- I didn't feel that there was an extra half an hour, really. Quite the contrary, it appeared as if the extra 30 minutes had been filled up with additional work load in advance.
- The only paper for which I had the feeling that the additional 30minutes provided for a reduction in time stress was with respect to Paper A. ; With the other papers the impression is rather, that they were already drafted having in mind that there will be an additional 30minutes of time.
- Time pressure forces to be fast; this can apply to routine procedures, not to the complexity of an exam. Do you consider the time required to read word-by-word a paper C of 20-25 pages ? And time required to hand write at least 15 pages ?; This year, my main improvement with respect to preceding year was that I was less stressed so I had the opportunity to work in a more effective manner.; Anyway also this year I omitted some parts due to time shortage. I think the optimal would be 6 hours both for paper C and D
- Sometimes feel that exams fill the time they are given, if given more time, then spend

- more time on answers
- Exam 2017 paper C required 6 hours. There is no time to correct answers if you go wrong way on a solution.
 - It is already a difficult exam. I think an additional 30 minutes (on top of the 30 already granted) would help. I don't think it is the intention of the committee to test ability under time pressure. Attorneys already exercise efficiency in their work (at least in private practice). Add to that that most of the candidates experience sleeping difficulty due to anxiety, and difficulty compounds.
 - I know that I can write fast and read fast and I could write the exam in my mother language (German). This helped me a lot. Otherwise time would have probably been an issue
 - Being a chemist dealing with mechanical subject matter is by nature problematic and time consuming. Hence the time extension was helpful. ; Of course practice helps, but it only goes a certain way. ; Either you introduce separate exams for different fields or you extend time to give candidates more realistic chances.
 - The additional thirty minutes in the main examination paper was very helpful! I had sufficient time to read the paper very carefully and to think about the problem.
 - I think the problem it is not the time, less questions would be positive.
 - Did not feel like additional 30 minutes but just longer exams.
 - Time pressure in such an extreme form DOES NOT occur in real life. Thus it should not be necessary to be tested in order to check whether fit for practice !!! Why not add a further half an hour?
 - No idea how a person not having one of the official languages as a mother tongue should ever pass this exam within the given time.
 - Not applicable.
 - I think the time available for paper A was enough, but the time available for paper B was not enough. I felt quite rushed and I do not think my inventive step arguments were very good.
 - THANK YOU SO MUCH
 - Quite a bit of time this year for Paper A that many had finished in advance of the end of the examination. In the UK exams you also do not have to complete the admin tasks of signing the paper and numbering the pages within the exam time, you get an extra few minutes afterwards to sort your pages out/number them. This could be made clearer so that the time needed to do this can be incorporated into planning/preparation.
 - Lack of time creates stress, stress prevents solving the exams properly. You can be a good professional and lose the title just because you have not seen a technical feature hidden in a document.
 - Even after the additional time, still a challenging exam.
 - NO, I JUST NEED MORE TIME. THAT IS ALL.
 - time limit is a huge part of the difficulty
 - Long exam even with the 30 min added...
 - It is a too long period for one to be focused in such a demanding task. I understand that the EQE intends to be difficult, but I think that the required time with such a high level of concentration is just too much to be required. I felt this especially in C, but also in B and D.
 - see answer to question Q29
 - We are all different. Time management issues is the most important factor for me personally. I know the subject matter, but cannot perform well under exam conditions. The fact that I cannot assess what parts of the exam I should focus on to get enough marks to pass, adds unreasonable and unrealistic pressure to the situation. ; The fact that I have to hand-write, is another factor that makes the situation unbearable. I don't read legibly when I am pressed for time and nervous.
 - Paper D was definitely more time consuming than the years before. ; The rest was more or less ok.
 - Not enough time for paper C.

- Additional time aside, Paper C still feels as if it's testing one's test-taking method rather than one's analytical skills.
- I found the additional half hour this year extremely helpful.
- impression: greater extent than paper of 2016; handwritten: difficult to write more than three hours non stop
- see above.
- Extra 30 mins definitely improved my performance on D, if it would have been the same exam without the extra 30 mins.
- The difficulty of papers B and D was clearly not compensated by the additional 30 minutes given by the Examination committee.
- In almost of the papers I made good use of the additional 30 minutes and so appeared the other candidates to do. I didn't have the impression that paper D was designed for 5h but for 5.5h. In total, I spent 18.5h in four exams distributed over 3 days only. This is a lot and also physically extremely tiring - I don't think it is wise to increase even more the duration of the exams but maybe reduce the complexity of certain papers, so they are feasible in 5h.
- The D paper was the most difficult and long exam. For this exam an additional time would have been useful.
- épreuve D bien trop longue. D1 demandait beaucoup de références pour une réponse adéquate et D2 avait trop d'information à gérer. Impossible à faire correctement dans le temps imparti!
- Time for Paper C was borderline to adequate; Time for Paper D was too short. Very long questions in D1.
- It should be paid attention to the amount of material to be read. The students not working with their mother tongue should not be punished since they obviously have slower reading speed. The exams are testing more reading speed than actual know-how.
- Regarding Q31a&b); For A+C, I did not need the additional 30 minutes.; For B, I was on the edge, I needed the 30 minutes extra but anything more wasn't necessary.; For D, some time was missing in the end. Another 15-30 min might have helped. But in general it was ok.
- Papers are complex. ; To finish most of it time is quite short. ; Some (even essential) points must be skipped to get closer to the end; that's risky as there might have been an essential point overlooked by rushing.
- my Problem in EQE was not the difficulty of question more time and time management
- see above, Q29
- The time for C paper was half an hour more but the paper was also very long. All the attacks (probably except one) was inventive step and some of them was multiple attacks (partial problems) which made the paper very long.
- Paper D, part II was longer and more complex than any of the new format exams. The additional 30 min were not enough.
- Perhaps it is not an issue to have more time but making the exams shorter. For instance, to be a doctor in medicine in this country all the exams are of the type of pre-exam, usually of one hour time.
- More time, but also more claims to attack.
- As outlined above, I have lost considerable time understanding the electrotechnical Features while no chemistry at all was contained. This is not fair: people with experience in the EM field have a clear advantage over CH people.
- I think 6h for C and D would be OK for candidates to demonstrate their skills.; ; It is not normal not to finish an exam. You should have enough time to re-read your paper to make sure you wrote what you intended to write.
- I think it would be better to prepare shorter exams instead of giving extra time.
- Paper A and B on the same day with the 30 min extra adds up to 7.5 h of examination on one day - the 30 min extra are not necessary for passing paper a or b but made me crazy as it ends up in such a long day.. could nearly not sleep the night after the exams

as the brain does not turn down anymore - talking to other candidates they had the same problem. Regarding paper C, there were more claims to attack as the past years.. so the extra 30min ended up in attacking more claims.. completely useless. The 30min extra were only useful for paper D, as it was the same amount of questions but with more time.

- was not enough time for Paper B
- If I had half an hour more on paper B, that would have been good. I would then have had a chance to finish it off in a better way. The technical aspects of the paper were somewhat difficult and consumed time to understand, resulting in less time to write P/S-part of the answer.; Papers C and D are exhausting so I do not know if more time would have helped. I was very tired at the end of these papers. However, maybe 30 minutes additionally would result in some more Points which indeed could be the difference between passing and failing.
- It was not enough time in D - especially D2 - to adequately answer the questions.
- With the new time regime I was able to finish all parts more or less completely, without having the impression that I could not write everything I know.; ; D1 questions were difficult as first 3 questions could only get you few points but seemed to demand a substantiated long answer.
- Much better this year!
- Always too little time!
- Please keep the enlarged time Frame for sitting the exam without extend the content
- I thought that the additional 30 minutes was very useful. I was still writing well into the 30 minutes and had we not been given this extra time, I wonder if I would have fully completed the examination papers.
- I spent too much time on D part I (especially question 1 trying to do the legal refering).; Thus I didn't have time to write full elaborative answers on the rest although I think I knew the answers.; So I do not think I got enough point to pass :-(; ; For the C, I did not have time to write the full reasoning for all the steps in the Inventive step attacks.
- Extending each paper's duration by 0.5 hours is appreciated, because of the length and difficulty of the exams.; However, this results in an extremely punishing schedule. The second day (Papers A and B) takes 7.5 hours, from 8am to 5pm with lunch break (in the UK), then the last day (Paper C) starts at 8:30am. There's hardly any time to rest in the evening after Paper B and to prepare for Paper C. Physically it's extremely challenging to maintain the energy and concentration for 3 such demanding days. It should be spread over 4 days if the length and difficulty of the papers are to remain the same.
- Based on the 2017 exam, I think the time was sufficient to pass the paper with an average level of preperation and nail it with a superior knowledge.; For D1 more time helps, since more time for finding the answer, when it is not available right away would be available.; DII (3h), B and C it is enough time to read, structure and answer all questions, although there is no time for deadends or try and error.; When all literature is allowed to use, timing is the only way to check how good a participant is familiar with the EPÜ, writing a application, answer an office action or writting an opposition.; As indicated DI is the part where more time helps most, A, B, C and DII, you either find the solution right away or you don't, more time will not improve significantly.; The 30 minutes extra this year took the there isn't enough time for the slightest thoughts at all - pressure from the exam. This should be kept for the future - more time is not necessary.
- Time for paper A and B was okay. ; ; But for Paper D my feeling was that the 30 minutes extra time was totally consumed by a higher difficulty of paper D (particularly part I). In sum, the time pressure was higher than during my mock examination of earlier D papers
- I could have used an extra half an hour for the pre-examination.
- D and C are very challenging on time, especially when EN/FR/DE are not your native language. Although, 30 minutes really helped, still was not enough to complete. May be additional 30 minutes for C and D at this complexity will not pressure too much on time.
- For paper D, it was a considerable time pressure.
- Still not enough time to attack all the claims and do it properly, but it helped.

- Even though there was half an hour additional time, time was still too short for the exam. Hardly possible to finish in time. Besides, it is very difficult to be focussed for 5,5 hours, was totally exhausted after the exam.; DII was very complex, took me about 4 hours, so not enough time left for DI.
- As already mentioned above the extra time was necessary in order to overcome partly the high level of difficulty of EQE 2017.
- It is my first time that I spent 2,50 hours for D1. I sat 4 times to D paper and in some years I have 15-30 min spare time. But this year the duration of the exam is increased 30min more but I can hardly finished the exam and I still had uncomplete questions in D1 part.
- Need to balance mental capacity with having enough time to complete paper. Extra 30mins was appreciated for C and D, but I am not sure it is needed for A and B in general. It makes the A/B day very long and candidates could feel drained for paper C.
- Assuming the exam 2017 part D as a standard for the exams to come, a time budget of 6,5 to 7 hrs apperas to be adeqaute to work concentrated through all questions in DI and DII and having the possibility to check the answers and amend or complement them.
- Perhaps shorter papers would be better than more time. More time leads to added fatigue which in turn leads to poorer performances
- Please see earlier comment.
- 30 minutes time were added but the papers were too long and articulated, the surplus of 30 min was not adequate to allow to finish in time
- instead of handling time, decrease difficulty : 3 types of attacks for C is enough. A and B can be simplified. D is waaaaaaaay to difficult.
- As above
- Given that handwriting, alas, is a vanishing art, the examination still has the character of a pure race against the clock, wherein anatomical and physiological stamina, rather than analysis of the substance, is decisive
- Should bei either extended to six hours by maintaining the present difficulty or alternatively reduce the complexity of the test.
- Unrealistic cases with far too many information need to be digested in very short time. Many candidates may be well-trained, but are less efficient under time pressure. Real-life work has nothing to do with exam. While DI questions are more close to real-life, DII is so far away that is leads to many candidates failing - not because they don't know the EPC, but rather because they are simply overwhelmed by too much input. That's the reason for the constant fail rate of ~50% year after year.
- The 30 extra minutes were essential for me in order to being able to finish the papers. Without them would have been a disaster.
- Paper C requires more time than 5,5 hour. I would say at least 6 or 7. Does it really make sense to test speed writing and make people stress to the level that is affecting the content of an answer?
- Again, for the D-Part the time was not enough.
- There is too litle time since the exams are becoming more and more difficult for each year. It appears as the EPO believes that patent attorneys are intellectually evolving for every year. We are not evolving. There is no intellectual evolutionary revolution going on from one year to another.
- More than the time issue it is the structure of the exam. If an independent claim requires longer time to perform an attack, all dependent claim attacks will have less time available for them. Sometimes some claims become a barrier to complete the examination.
- I think there was more time but the exams were more difficult and long
- The time given for each paper should be allowing candidates to finish the paper without excessive stress. With so much time pressure, it doesn't feel like the objective of the exams is to check if the candidate has the knowledge to practice. It becomes more about how the candidate manages stress over a long period of time. Not very healthy.
- The added 1/2 hour for paper D was absorbed by a longer more intricate DII part so was

a major benefit was not felt.

- It could not be the solution to give the candidates more time (A & B at one day: 7,5h exam!). The content and workload of the exam must be reduced!
- It was great to have more time for the papers and that really helped. However, for paper B the additional time was also accompanied by an additional prior art document to consider. The additional time could therefore not be used to try to provide a better answer but was used up by the additional workload that resulted from having to deal with one more prior art document than in previous papers (at least in chemistry).
- The additional 30 minutes unquestionably relieved some of the time pressure and allowed a bit more thinking/reflection about the answer which I feel would otherwise not be possible. This I believe allowed me to put higher quality/more thought out answers.
- 30 more minutes will allow all the candidates to finish their papers, for sure!
- 30 min more , however, more minutes will not help
- The time is by far not enough, in real life Never a draft or office action resolution shall be solved in such time
- I was just able to finish in the last minute, but had no time for a final check any more.
- It didn't help me since I found that the questions required to answer were more than last year.
- The time should be extended by another half an hour.
- It was ok. On the edge for paper B but otherwise ok. I needed too long in paper D to solve a fact, which brought me in great time Trouble, but in general the available time was ok.
- Hand-writing is the most important bottleneck. It is not how people are used to work, it also requires a different way/structure of thinking/building the story than when writing in a computer. Changing the exam into computer typed allows candidates to work in the way they are used to, which will be a big time saver for the candidates and will probably make the exam a better filter on the candidate's capabilities instead of a filter on the candidate's capabilities to work in a methodology they are not familiar with.
- More time makes only sense if the the volume of questions to be dealt with remains the same. In A I felt the volume was the same as last year so 30 min extra is a waste. D was by far more volume to deal with compared to last year, so in that case more time is basically of no use as more volume needs to be dealt with. ; ; My suggestions, make the exams 30 minutes shorter, as was anticipated when introducing the pre-EQE, as more time just puts more strain on the candidate and does not result in better performance. Next, adapt the volume of especially the D exam to suit 5 hours of exam time.
- more time = better result; the main issue in the EQE is the short time
- There was too little time for paper B
- own time management is most important
- if the objective of the EQE is to check one's ability to apply EQE methodology and to be concise then timing is OK. if the objective of the EQE is to test one's knowledge and skills then the time is not enough since there is no room to think the issues through as you would do in real life. hence perhaps the timing is good for 'fresh' students but not for people of have worked for a relative long time in an IP department and have decided to finally sit the EQE.
- For DII time is not enough to prepare a sensible answer and still have any time to think it through once more and amend if needed.
- Paper D was too long. It is true that half an hour extra time was added, but, at the same time, the difficulty and the time required to answer to all the questions was increased.
- Time for paper D is far too short
- Paper B was perfectly tailored to the given time; ; Paper D was too long - I do not think it is a matter of having more time - it is a matter of reducing the length of the paper ; -)
- For non native EN DE FR speaking candidates it is pretty time consuming to understand the technical solutions of Papers A and B
- NO
- Although we had an additional 30minutes for the papers, its clear that this was provided

because the papers WERE MORE DIFFICULT! So the addition time was actually a necessity, and did not do anything to relieve time pressure AT ALL!

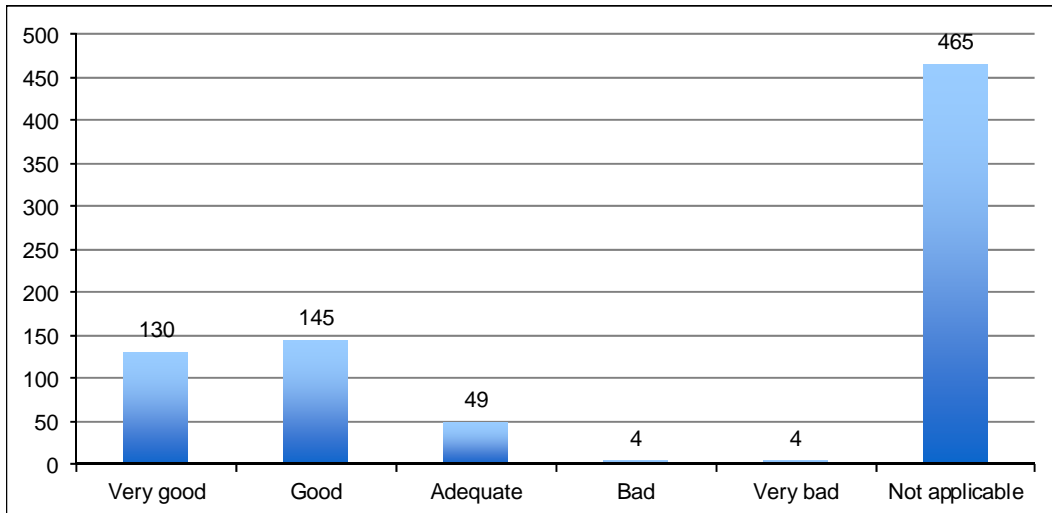
- not enough time, since the paper was written in a way to have more than one ?right?answer ... so a lot of time is wasted to choose the starting point ...
- If extra time must be given, the duration of the examination should be correct and the examiners SHOULD NOT extend the duration of the examination
- I felt pushed for time on all papers, but they are already very long papers, which is exhausting. I think that papers A and B should be split over two days, rather than being on a single day.
- Time for paper C was enough, for D not because I was too slow
- C-paper: although I trained under time constraints old C-papers, the exam 2017 was very difficult and not enough time!!
- If the length and difficulty of the main exams is going to be increased like this year, more time should be given. Alternatively, maybe introduce one or two less issues to discuss so the allocated time (which is already a long exam), is sufficient.
- Stay with the time as it is by now.
- it is useless to give more time, and then prepare the examination more difficult and which requires more time to answer
- Quick thinkers and quick handwriters have a superb advantage. Since I'm a resitter I have to say that from my point of view the time pressure is only due to too much information. Why the hell do you allow 30 min. extra and then compensate this with so much information this year. I cannot understand this. In my industry patent professional job I'm very successful with oppositions and stuff which is comparable to paper D. Why? Because I can take my time.; I was very disappointed because when the extra 30min. was announced it was said the papers were the same in construction then past years. You can't be serious...
- I'd find it more beneficial to more clearly instruct the candidates how many details are expected in the answers rather than further increasing the time. The problem is not the time itself, but rather determining which statements result in credits. This could be overcome by more consistent and direct question wordings.
- Paper D was very long.
- I respectfully consider that 5 hours in Paper D are enough to evaluate the candidate's skills. ; ; It is not a time question, but a better elaboration of a proper Exam by the persons involved.; ; Additional 30 minutes are not useful at all if they mean more questions to be responded. It seems obvious.
- Paper D was too long, I think. The other papers, I think it was rather ok.
- We received an extra 30 minutes, but Paper B had more information to digest (3 prior art documents) than the mock or previous chemistry papers.
- More time was needed for paper D.
- The extended time does not help really, since every one gets more time and therefore the scale of marking might be the same.
- I was able to finish Paper C but unable to finish paper D.
- Paper should test the candidate in the established time.; ; More time to do the papers is not the solution. It is too tiring and physically demanding. ; ; It should be possible to respond to the papers in 5 hours.
- difficult to give a qualified answer here. I would say this year the time was more than sufficient for paper A, but I expect that paper A will get more difficult in future and than I believe that the time will be only ok.
- I think that the additional thirty minutes for exam was very good. I think that this time helps candidates to form better and more clear answers. Not much more information is added during the additional 30 minutes but the answers may be more clearly structured and understandable.
- as above - not long enough if you really want to see how good a job we can do of preparing for example a draft opposition
- The thirty minutes were unavoidable since the time useful for finishing the examination

- papers was much more longer than the previous years.
- People tend to have different clock speeds and quick thinking is only required during oral proceedings, while those who read/think/write quickly have an advantage in the exam.
 - Most of the candidates would be OK with paying higher exam fees for even longer (duly allocated) exam durations (with the same weight/amount of respective contents).
 - This year's D paper was much more time consuming than the earlier exams that I had practised on.
 - With the difficult subject matter of paper B with claims containing many features (especially for someone from chemistry background) time was not enough at all. I had never done a paper where I had to spend so much time for analysing including both chemical and mechanical papers. Time for paper B was not enough although there was the extra 30 minutes this year. Especially for someone of chemical background.
 - C - 6 hours
 - More available time is crucial for candidates which are not native speakers of EN, DE and FR.
 - Increase the time again - but without increasing the length of the paper - it should be a test of what you know not how fast you can write
 - nur Modul D war zeitkritisch. Mehr Zeit hätte nur die Leistung in D verbessert.
 - Pre-EEQ: die zur Verfügung stehende Zeit war genau richtig.
 - In paper DII 2017 there was a lot of text compared with 30 minutes additionally. For every page more I have to read text, for which I need more time as well. This causes time pressure without any sense, I think.
 - Exams are too long in general, and too complex (+time pressing), also not in native language.; ; In real life in case of real order you have at least one night to do the job (and, usually, much more) and what is at exam - something different: pressing time, theoretical situations like never in real life, and long time of exams (during which I even can't drink a water because of stress)
 - Not enough time for so much information and difficult attacks to do.
 - more time is not a solution! reduce the amount of work in C paper!
 - Exam difficulty was increased with respect of the past papers
 - the time was still not enough especially there were more information, more dates, more prior art to deal with
 - For me, increasing the time would only work for D since you can continue to search in your books. For the other papers that would not work.
 - I think giving us more time has been a gift in some way but also a bigger issue, as we were not prepared for this long with the compendium?
 - I think the timing is about right for each paper. I'm not sure as much is needed for drafting. I found that the extra 30 minutes meant that I finished each paper comfortably in time. I think I would have been fine without the additional 30 minutes but would have had less time for checking and review. I expect that the 30 minutes extra makes a big difference for non-native speakers, but is not needed for native speakers.
 - More time would be helpful, however, in that case a break would be necessary. Without break the last our was not very efficient.
 - Why not another 30 minutes and then I would for sure have passed all B, C and D this time.... I am really sad because I know the material now, I have no doubts. The stress make me stupid especially for D.
 - I had to skip two D1 questions because of lacking time.
 - More time was needed for attacking all claims in Paper C. The answers were all there in the documents provided but there really was not nearly enough time to utilize all the information and make proper attacks as per the compendium, in the given time. The email sent before the exam reassuring candidates that even though 30 minutes more are being provided, the complexity of the exam will not be ramped up was wholly misleading.

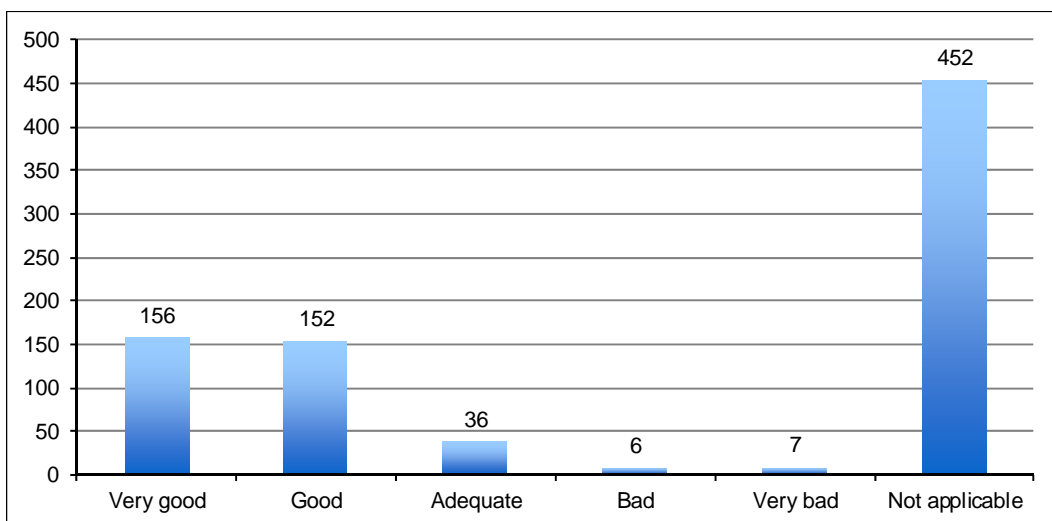
Chapter 5 - Training from the European Patent Academy

Q33) How would you rate the following learning materials provided by the European Patent Academy?

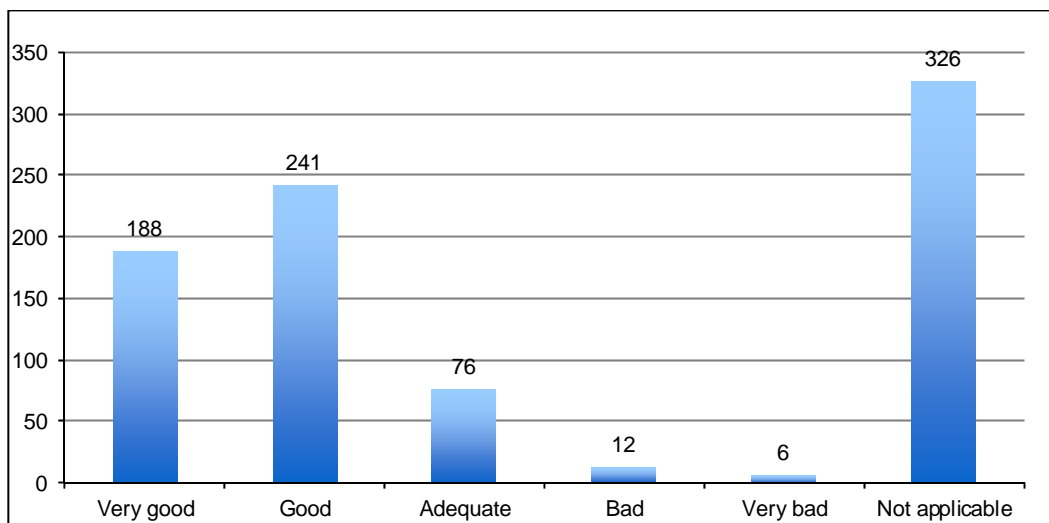
Time limit questions



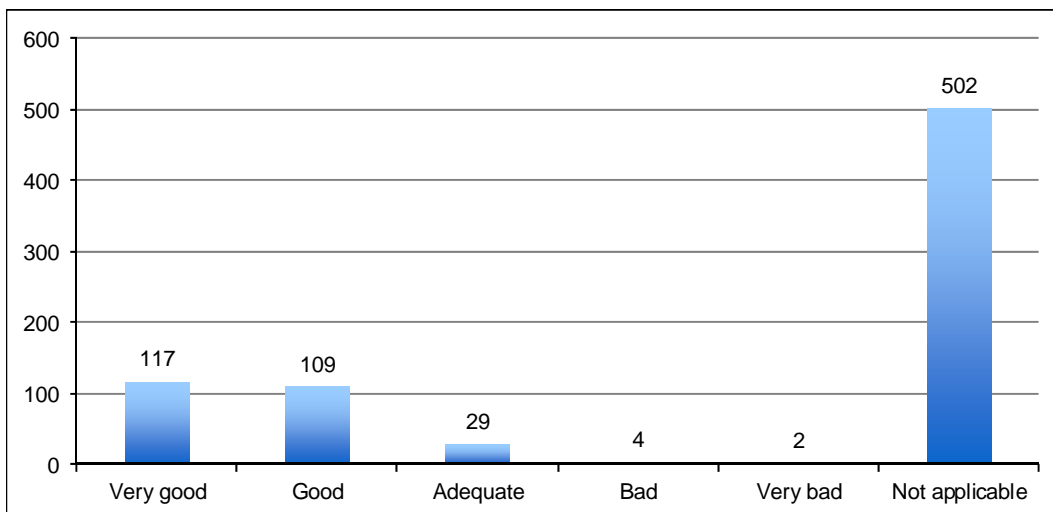
Daily D1 questions



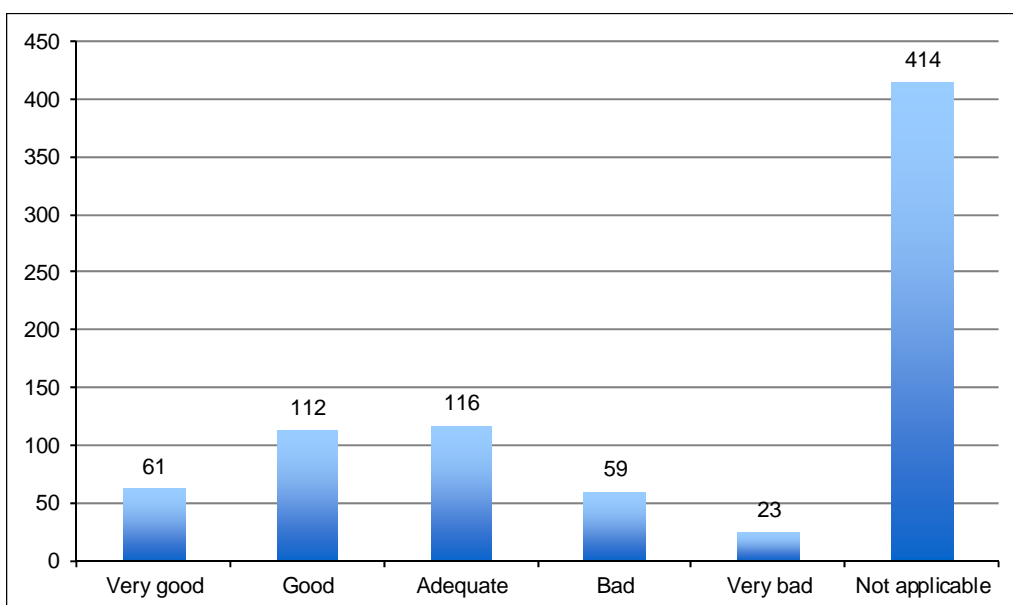
Coffee-break questions



Commented C papers



Video interview presenting changes in A and B papers for 2017



Q34) Please add any comments and suggestions regarding the learning materials mentioned above

- Did not know it existed.
- The video was not helpful at all. It did not reveal anything about how the new papers would be organised. It was not encouraging to hear the people in the video say that the first year will be difficult to set the exam fairly.
- More information about marking system would be useful
- May be more mock exams could help to better prepare the exams.
- Not enough guidance on new papers A and B
- Daily D1 questions: EXCELLENT!
- I didn't use any of these very much.
- Did not use (or even know about all of them)
- I liked the coffee-break question, but only took about a third. I don't remember the coverage of the entire course. But it would be helpful, if there would be one coffee-break format explicitly for pre-exam, which would take one through the main pre-exam curricula i.e. focussing on the most important chapters.
- A couple of questions in the pre-EQE online mocks had incorrect or contradictory answers, which was not helpful during preparation
- It would be useful if the coffee break questions could exist as an archive and can be freely accessed at any time
- More mock new-style A and B papers are necessary.
- I didn't use it.
- Daily D1 question are a bit early for me, and explanation comprises some obvious mistakes
- For me the speed of teaching in the videos is too slow.
- make the coffee-break questions more difficult, i.e. more in line with the legal questions of the pre-examination
- the amount of questions provided is so small that Deltapatents' D-book is necessary anyway
- Would be nice to have a holiday calendar directly available (e.g. linked PDF) with the time limit questions.
- Mock A and B papers, along with video, of no help for exam.
- D1 questions should be available on demand. You can't just take 2 months off to study the freshly issued guidelines, the PCT guides and the daily D questions. What do you mean with commented C papers ?
- keep doing this, please add (more) claim analysis training material
- Daily D1 are 1to1 copies from the year before and from DeltaPatents D-Book
- the video did confuse more than it helped
- none
- Video on B did not reflect the paper B 2017 difficulty
- The material from the pre-examination online-course is still very valuable - especially as basis for PCT questions
- erroneous material from previous year was still not updated and contained the same errors. should have been corrected. some of the video tutors appeared to be not ideally prepared.
- The video and the mock paper for Part A gave a wrong positive feeling, that one could write the new part A without major changes. However, there is now a discussion going on between mechanical background and chemical background, if one pouch would be not inventive or dismissing one embodiment from the client...That cannot be the aim for part A!!!!
- The video only caused more confusion, when asked if the mock papers were representative and the answer was no.
- More claim analysis part training questions, please
- They need to be improved.
- I didn't make use of them
- Material for new format of A and B missing!

- Not applicable.
- It would have been useful if the video for papers A and B gave some guidance on the structure expected, particularly with regard to the drafting paper.
- a new video for C and D
- my colleagues and I love the Coffee Break questions!
- Online training videos should be more fluent
- Have been not aware of the commented C papers. Will consider this if I have to re-sit!
- I didn't take advantage of so much of the above.
- If you prepare mock exams for new A+B, you should leave so many obvious mistakes in them! That was rather embarrassing.
- I was not aware that the commented C papers existed - and only found out about the others by word of mouth
- I did not use any of the above for A and B
- Please recheck the answers in the mock papers available online since the answers since some of the answers are different from what is answered in examiner's report available in Compendium.
- What is very difficult is to understand what the examiner want. So please, try to make it clear what type of answer you expect for a given question. We shouldn't have to reverse engineer the compendium in order to understand that. That is a real waste of time.
- It would have been nice to have the possibility of speeding-up the questions of coffee break - one question every 3 days was too slow for me, as I registered too late to get the 50 questions before the real pre exam.
- It would be good to have had more daily D1 questions to practise with.
- Would have been helpful with more mock papers for A and B.
- Not enough mock papers for combined part B.
- I did not use any of the above.
- Were coffee break questions and commented c papers available?
- Questions are much!!!! easier than in the exam.
- More detailed marking in Compendium Paper C would be a plus
- A nice way to test ourselves easily
- For the time limit, it would be a plus to have a PDF document available
- Some advice how to get familiar with PCT regulations would be useful
- understanding how marking are made or will be made
- Not enough mocks for new version officielle papers a and b
- Coffee break questions have different format with respect of pre examination's ones
- It should have even more material
- I only sat papers A and B this year, so most stuff was not applicable
- More daily D1 questions would be helpful.
- a little more explanation by the tutor would be helpful
- Did not know that commented C Papers are available from EP Academy
- No further comments
- Stuff offered by deltapatents
- It would be desirable to have good and complete training in each of the countries. Some southern countries are clearly at a disadvantage
- even with the video papers a and b, I was surprised by the subjects of each papers. Paper B no chemistry at all. Paper A the same comments as in the foregoing.
- I discovered the time limit question just before the exam
- Coffee-break question no 50 was received on 7. April!!
- 'N/A' entries in Q.33 means that I did not use these, or did not know about them.
- Good help. Availability of more material is desirable
- Would be useful to have access to all future/past daily D and coffee break questions..I signed up late and am still getting the coffee break ones a month after the exam! needed them before!
- video and A and B was misleading compared to the real exam.

- Wenn man sich zu spät anmeldet zu den coffee break questions, kann es passieren, dass man nicht alle Fragen durchhat, wenn die Prüfung schon stattfindet. Es wäre toll, in diesem Fall auf die Sammlung zugreifen zu können, um alle Fragen durchgehen zu können.
- It's a pity that the ege online forum does not work anymore, it was so useful for me.
- I apologize. They have been unknown to me, except coffee-break questions.