

# **Survey**

## **European qualifying examination 2008**

### **User Associations (epi/EQE)**

# EQE Survey 2008

## Table of contents

<b>Introduction</b>	page 1-13
---------------------	-----------

### **Chapter 1 - Examination Centres**

<b>1.1</b>	Berlin	page 14-20
<b>1.2</b>	Bern	page 21-24
<b>1.3</b>	Bristol	page 25-31
<b>1.4</b>	Brussels	page 32-35
<b>1.5</b>	Dublin	page 36-39
<b>1.6</b>	Helsinki	page 40-43
<b>1.7</b>	Madrid	page 44-47
<b>1.8</b>	Munich M,O,C	page 48-53
<b>1.9</b>	Munich DPMA	page 54-57
<b>1.10</b>	Munich Isar	page 58-61
<b>1.11</b>	Paris	page 62-65
<b>1.12</b>	Rome	page 66-70
<b>1.13</b>	Stockholm	page 71-74
<b>1.14</b>	Taastrup	page 75-78
<b>1.15</b>	The Hague	page 79-82
<b>1.16</b>	Vienna	page 83-86

### **Chapter 2 - Preparation**

<b>Q7)</b>	Examiners' Report - rating	
	- Does the Examiners' Report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how an answer should be composed?	page 87
	- Does the Examiners' Report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how the papers are marked?	page 87
<b>Q8)</b>	Elements of your personal preparation for the EQE. Please indicate if you made use of the following and rate it.	
	- Compendium	page 88
	- General external courses regarding intellectual property	page 88
	- Specialised courses for EQE papers	page 89
	- In-house courses organised by your company	page 89
	- Dedicated training given by your supervisor as mentioned	
	- in the Art. 10(2)(a) REE	page 90
	- Study in a small group with other candidates	page 90
<b>Q9)</b>	Which course(s) did you follow?	page 91-100
<b>Q10)</b>	Which other elements do you consider important for your personal preparation for the EQE?	page 100-115
<b>Q11)</b>	How long before sitting the EQE did you start intensive focused study?	page 115
<b>Q12)</b>	What was your greatest weakness if you assess your own preparation for the EQE and how could you have overcome it?	page 116-144
<b>Q13)</b>	Do you have any comments or suggestions for other candidates preparing for the EQE?	page 144-160

### **Chapter 3 - Training/Employment under Art. 10(2)(a) REE**

- Q14)** I completed most of my training according to Art 10(2)(a) REE in the following EPC member state page 161
- Q15)** How would you rate the support of your employer in view of your preparation for the EQE? page 161
- Q16)** How much time did your employer allow for your participation in courses regarding your preparation for the EQE? page 162
- Q17)** How would you rate the amount of time allowed by your employer for participation in courses? page 162
- Q18)** How would you rate the amount of free time allowed for your personal preparation by your employer? page 163
- Q19)** How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE...? page 163
- Q20)** ...during the first year of training? page 164
- Q21)** ...during the second year of training? page 164
- Q22)** ...during the third year of training? page 165
- Q23)** What would you propose to supervisors in order to improve candidate`s preparation for the EQE? page 165-177
- Q24)** In how many opposition cases were you involved by during your 3-year training period? page 177
- Q25)** How did your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) train you for paper C? page 178-181
- Q26)** How did you prepare for paper C apart from the training you received from your supervisor? page 181-184

### **Chapter 4 - EQE Papers**

- Q27)** On how many examination days should the EQE be held? page 185
- Q28)** How would you rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2008? page 185-188
- Q29)** Do you have any comments about the difficulty of the examination papers? page 189-220
- Q30)** What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2008? page 221-224
- Q31)** Did you feel time pressure during the examination? page 224
- Q32)** Do you think that more time for preparing your answer would have improved your performance in the papers you sat? page 225
- Q33)** Do you have comments concerning the time available for the examination papers? page 225-248

### **Chapter 5 - Contact database and computer based EQE**

- Q34)** Did the contact database offered by the Examination secretariat help you in contacting other candidates for training purposes? page 249-251
- Q35)** The EPO currently assesses the possibility of offering a computer based EQE. Would you opt for writing the EQE on computer? page 251

## Chapter 6 - Training activities of the European Patent Academy

- Q36)** Did you use the EQE Online Forum? page 252
- Q37)** How would you rate the following aspects of the Expert Online 2007 service on a scale from 1 (very high) to 5 (very low) with regard to the following? page 252-253
- General usefulness
  - Quality of experts' responses
  - The concept of 24 hours posting possibility
- Q38)** How would you rate the EQE Online Exercises on a scale of 1 (very high) to 5 (very low) with regard to the following? page 253-254
- General usefulness
  - Relevance of the covered topics
  - Ease of use of the Forum
  - Time schedule of the exercises
  - Quality of the model answers and comments
- Q39)** 1) How actively did you use the EQE Online Exercises on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)? page 255
- 2) How actively did you use the EQE Online discussion forum on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)? page 255
- Q40)** Did you discuss the EQE Online Exercises with your supervisor / tutor? page 255
- Q41)** How could the EQE Online Forum service be best integrated into your preparation for the EQE on a scale of 1 (very useful) to 5 (unnecessary)? page 256-259
- Providing last minute help on a broad range of topics
  - Providing tutorial-like exercises with model answers and an opportunity to discuss
  - Serving as a basis for discussion with your supervisor / tutor
  - Time schedule of the exercises Quality of the model answers and comments
- Q42)** Do you have any suggestions for how the EQE Online Forum might be improved? page 260-264

## Introduction

On 10 March 2008, candidates were invited to participate in a survey concerning the European qualifying examination 2008. 888 answers have been received by 7 April 2008.

Please note that a number of candidates have not answered to all the questions and thus the totals are not always the same.

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

---

Please indicate whether this was the first time you took part in the EQE or not.

- ☐ Yes, I sat all papers for the first time.
- ☐ Yes, I sat the first module (papers A and B) for the first time.
- ☐ Yes, I sat the second module (papers C and D) for the first time.
- ☐ No, I did not sit for the first time.

According to question 1, 211 candidates who participated in the survey took part in the EQE for the first time. 94 candidates sat only the first module (papers A and B) and 93 sat only the second module (papers C and D).  
490 candidates re-sat the EQE.

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

Please select

- ☐ Select
- ☐ Berlin
- ☐ Berne
- ☐ Bristol
- ☐ Brussels
- ☐ Dublin
- ☐ Helsinki
- ☐ Madrid
- ☐ Munich M,O,C
- ☐ Munich DPMA
- ☐ Munich Isar
- ☐ Paris
- ☐ Rome
- ☐ Stockholm
- ☐ Taastrup
- ☐ The Hague
- ☐ Vienna

**Q3) Examination Hall - Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects**

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

	Ideal	Too warm	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

(max. 1000 characters)

**Q7) Rating of the Examiner's report**

---

Please rate

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

**Q8) Elements of your personal preparation**

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

	I didn't make use of it	Very important	Important	Indifferent	Not important	Useless
Compendium	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General external courses regarding intellectual property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialised courses for EQE papers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-house courses 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 mentioned in Art. 10(2) (a) REE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Study in a small group with other candidates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q9) Which course(s) did you follow?**

Multiple selections possible

- ☐ The full eight months' training with the German authorities
- ☐ The "Diplôme d'études internationales de la propriété industrielle", obtained after completing the one-year period of study with CEIPI in Strasbourg
- ☐ The "Master of Science in Management of Intellectual Property" at Queen Mary and Westfield College
- ☐ The "Nachdiplomstudiengang Geistiges Eigentum" at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
- ☐ CEIPI seminars preparing the EQE
- ☐ CEIPI preparatory course(s)
- ☐ CEIPI special course on paper C
- ☐ epi-tutorials
- ☐ Other, please specify

Comment (max. 1000 characters)



**Q10) Which other elements do you consider important for your personal preparation for the EQE?**

---

Please add comments

(max. 1000 characters)

**Q11) How long before sitting the EQE did you start intensive focused study?**

---

Please choose

- ☐ 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

**Q12) What was your greatest weakness if you assess your own preparation for the EQE and your performance, and how, in retrospect, could you have overcome it?**

---

Please describe your experiences

(max. 1000 characters)

**Q13) Do you have comments or suggestions for other candidates preparing for the EQE?**

---

.

(max. 1000 characters)

Q14) In which EPC member state did you complete most of your training according to Art. 10(2)(a) REE?

---

Please select

- ☐ Select
- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czech Republic
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Iceland
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Liechtenstein
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Monaco
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Slovak Republic
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sweden

- ☐ Switzerland
- ☐ Turkey
- ☐ United Kingdom

**Q15) 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"/>

**Q16) How much time did your employer allow for your participation in courses regarding your preparation for the EQE?**

Please indicate the number of working days

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1-4
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 11-50
- ☐ 51-100

**Q17) How would you rate the amount of time allowed by your employer for participation in courses?**

Please rate

	More than needed	Sufficient	Border line	Just too little	Inadequate
Amount of time allowed by your employer for participation in courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q18) How would you rate the amount of free time allowed for your personal preparation by your employer?**

Please rate

	More than needed	Sufficient	Border line	Just too little	Inadequate
Amount of free time allowed by your employer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q19) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE (i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)?**

Please indicate the number of working days

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1-4
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 11-50
- ☐ 51-100

**Q20) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE (i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)**

**a) during the first year of training?**

Please indicate the number of working days

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1-4
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 11-50
- ☐ 51-100

**Q21) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE (i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)**

**b) during the second year of training?**

Please indicate the number of working days

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1-4
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 11-50
- ☐ 51-100

**Q22) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE (i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)**

**c) during the third year of training?**

Please indicate the number of working days

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1-4
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 11-50
- ☐ 51-100

**Q23) What would you propose to supervisors in order to improve candidates' preparation for the EQE?**

Please add comments, suggestions...

(max. 1000 characters)

**Q24) In how many opposition cases were you involved during your 3-year training period?**

Please indicate the number of cases

(max. 1000 characters)

**Q25) How did your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE train you for paper C?**

Multiple selections possible

- ☐ Using opposition cases from my company
- ☐ Using other opposition cases
- ☐ Compendium
- ☐ No help from my supervisor
- ☐ Other, please specify

Comment (max. 1000 characters)

**Q26) How did you prepare for paper C apart from the training you received from your supervisor?**

Multiple selections possible

- ☐ Using opposition cases from my company
- ☐ Using other opposition cases
- ☐ Compendium
- ☐ I have followed a course/courses
- ☐ Other, please specify

Comment (max. 1000 characters)

**Q27) On how many examination days should the EQE be held?**

Please choose

- ☐ Three days
- ☐ Four days

**Q28) EQE papers**

Please rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2008

	Too easy	Easy	Adequate	Difficult	Too difficult
Paper A E/ M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper A Ch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper B E/ M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper B Ch	<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 D1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper D2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q29) Comments concerning the difficulty of the examination papers**

Please add comments concerning the difficulty of the EQE papers

(max. 1000 characters)

**Q30) EQE papers**

What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2008?

	Too much	Enough	Borderline	Not enough	By far not enough
Paper A E/ M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper A Ch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper B E/ M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper B Ch	<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 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper D 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q31) Did you feel time pressure during the examination?**

Please choose

☐ Yes☐ No

**Q32) EQE papers**

---

Do you think that more time for preparing your answers would have improved your performance in the examination papers you sat?

Yes   Indifferent   No

Please choose   ☐   ☐   ☐

**Q33) Do you have comments concerning the time available for the examination papers?**

---

Please add your comments

(max. 1000 characters)

**Q34) Did the contact database offered by the Examination secretariat help you in contacting other candidates for training purposes?**

---

Multiple selections possible

- ☐ I didn't make use of it
- ☐ I communicated with other candidates on the contact database
- ☐ The contact database helped me to establish a study group with other candidates in my area
- ☐ Other, please specify

Comment (max. 1000 characters)

**Q35) Computer based EQE**

---

The EPO currently assesses the possibility of offering a computer-based EQE in addition to the hand written EQE. If the computer based EQE would be easy to use and safe would you opt for writing the EQE on computer?

Yes   No   Maybe

Would you opt for writing the EQE on computer?   ☐   ☐   ☐

**Q36) Did you use the "EQE Online Forum"?**

---

If no, you can skip the remaining questions and send the questionnaire.

Yes   No

☐   ☐

**Q37) Expert Online 2008 - Rating**

How would you rate the following aspects of the Expert Online 2008 service on a scale from 1(very high) to 5 (very low) with regard to the following

	1	2	3	4	5
General usefulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of expert's responses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The concept of 24 hours posting possibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q38) EQE Online Exercises - Rating**

How would you rate the EQE Online Exercises on a scale of 1 (very high) to 5 (very low) with regard to the following

	1	2	3	4	5
General usefulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relevance of the covered topics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of use of the forum	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Time schedule of the exercises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of the model answers and comments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q39) EQE Online Exercises/Online discussion forum**

Please choose

	1	2	3	4	5
How actively did you use the EQE Online Exercises on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How actively did you use the EQE Online discussion forum on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q40) Did you discuss the EQE Online Exercises with your supervisor / tutor?**

Please choose

☐ Yes

☐ No



**Q41) EQE Online Forum**

How could the EQE Online Forum service be best integrated into your preparation for the EQE on a scale of 1 (very useful) to 5 (unnecessary)?

	1	2	3	4	5
Providing last minute help on a broad range of topics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing tutorial-like exercises with model answers and an opportunity to discuss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serving as a basis for discussion with your supervisor / tutor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Time schedule of the exercise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of the model answers and comments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others, please specify	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment (max. 1000 characters)

**Q42) Do you have any suggestions for how the EQE Online Forum might be improved?**

Please specify.

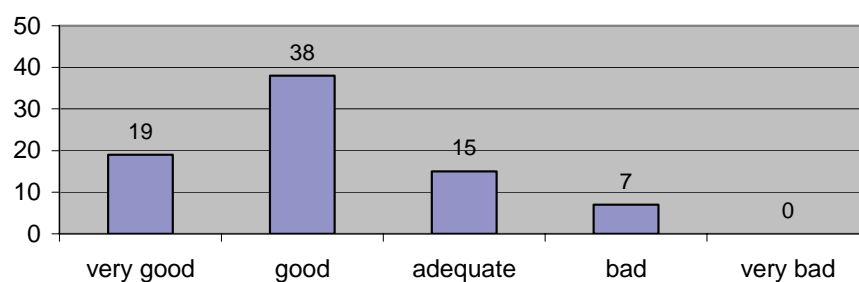
(max. 1000 characters)

## Chapter 1 - Examination Centres

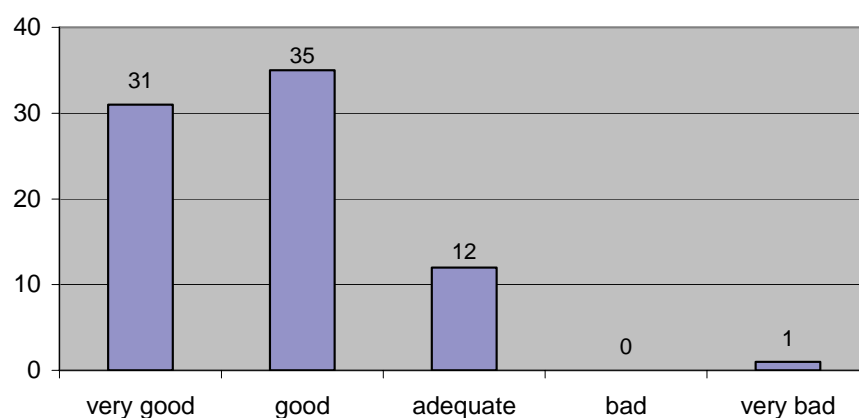
### 1.1 Berlin (79 answers received)

#### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

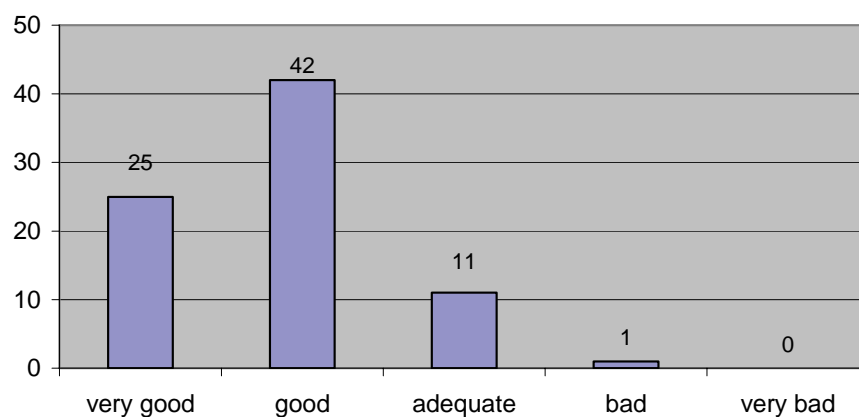
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



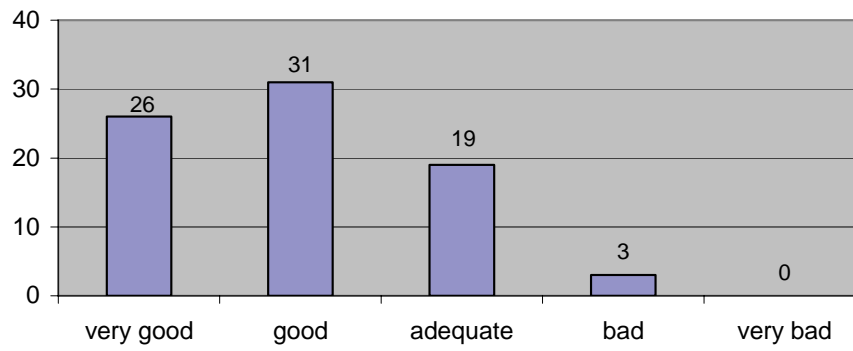
Identification check



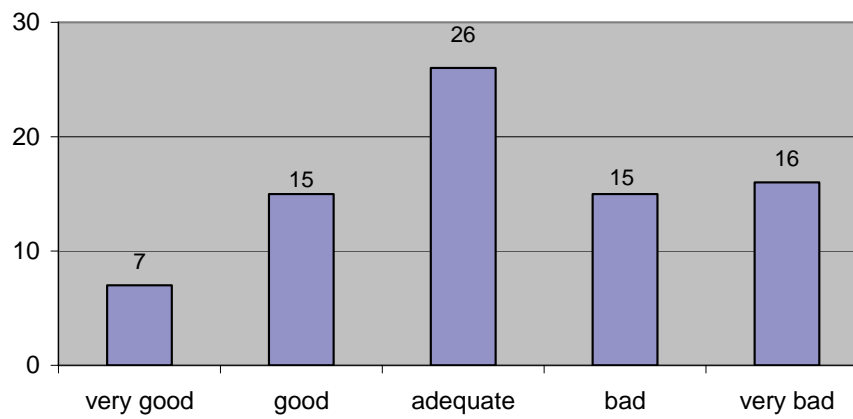
Lighting conditions



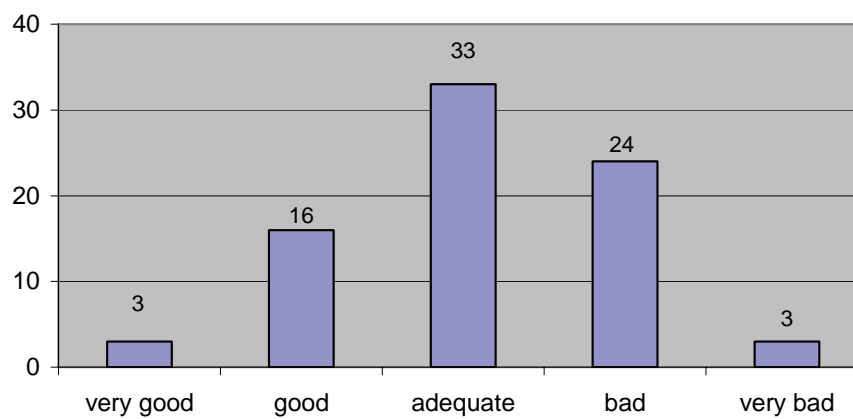
### Space for candidates

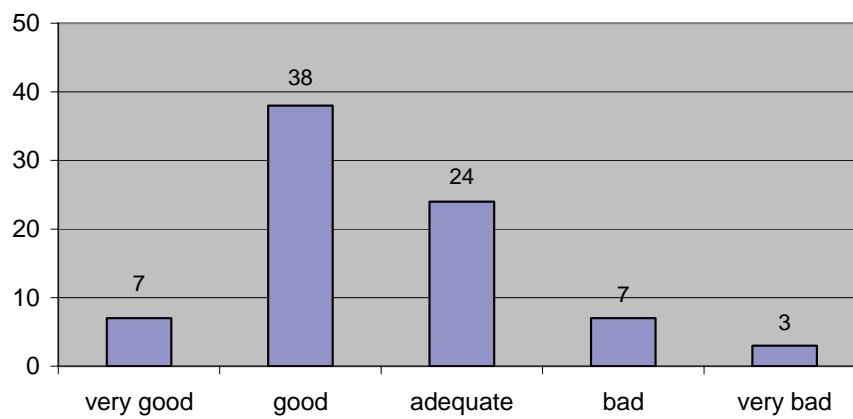
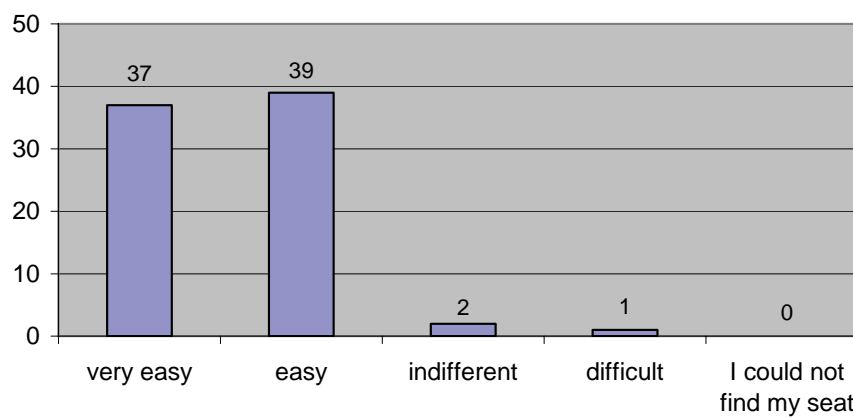
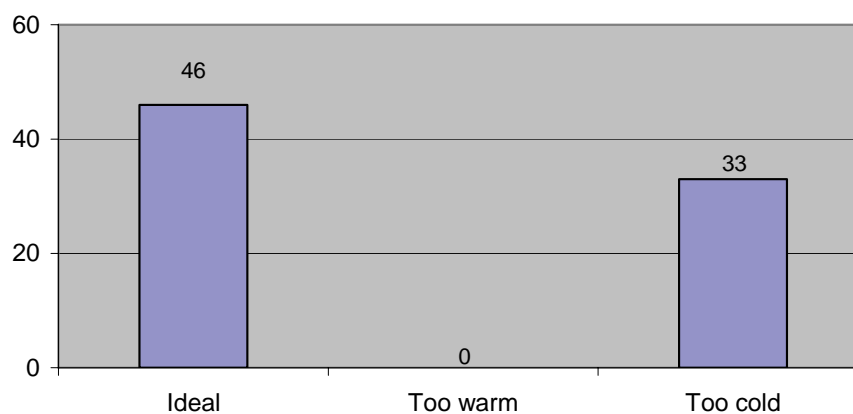


### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### 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.**

- Ab und zu ist mal ein Handwerker zufällig in einer Tür oben rechts rein gekommen.
- bad accessability because of strike of the busses, taxis were not availabel, verry noisy, especially on day 3 because of loud music plaied in an other hall of the komplex
- Disturbing noise on Thursday due to preparations of a concert in the same hall.
- during one of the sessions an a music group played in the parallel rooms - very disturbing
- During the exam there was a problem with a noise coming from outside - apparently some music group preparing its concert; there is only one toilet quickly available, the others require longer walk which means waste of time.
- During the last 30min of the last day, there was annoying noise from the neighboring hall, where a musical band tuned their instruments and seemingly did some measurements on room acoustics. This kind of disturbance should be excluded by appropriate negotiation of the room renting contract!
- For those candidates who sat in the last few rows - like me - it was very disturbing that in a room beside the examination room there was a disturbing noise - sounded like someone prepared the room for another meeting or whatever. It sounded like someone moved chairs and tables with the accompanying noises. And not just a few minutes.
- I was in the Max-Schmeling-Halle in Berlin. It is clear that the operators of the Schmeling-Halle intend to gain money by renting the hall for cultural events etc. This let to a great disturbance of the EQE: on Tuesday, some artists played folk songs in the late afternoon, preparing themselves for an evening event. The situation on Thursday (C paper) was even worse: "Cirque du Soleil" had a performance that very evening. From 14.45 to 15.00, somebody played a trumpet, and from 14.30 to 15.30 somebody made a sound check. The rising and decreasing basses really disrupted concentration. I would like to emphasize that Mr Hass, Mr Herrmann and the whole EPO team did everything they could to stop the noise. Many thanks to the Berlin team for their excellent organisation! The musicians didn't care much and continued making noise a few minutes later. If the operators of the Schmeling Halle cannot guarantee silcence during the EQE, it might be useful to go to a different place.
- In Berlin there was a band doing a soundcheck on the day of the C-Paper. This was very disturbing and must definitely be avoided next time.
- In the afternoons there was disturbance by noise from neighbouring areas of the Max-Schmeling-Halle due to preparation for evening events (furniture being moved, "sound check" at full blast, brass instruments rehearsal).
- It could be helpful when taxis would be ordered from the organisation at the last day of the examination. This is a problem every year: no taxis available ...
- It was very noisy during the exam because of load music being played from tenants of other parts of the site. The invigilators tried to stop them, but the music started over and over again after a certain break. I could not concentrate for a long time and lost at least 30 minutes of valuable time of the

exam.

- it was very noisy, people were having loud music outside, some sort of a concert. that was very disturbing. it was also hard to concentrate.
- Location is fine, but a bit noisy outside and a bit too cold inside
- many disturbing factors from outside the hall
- music during part D II was not ok
- Noise disturbance
- noisy activities in neighbour-rooms were not good
- nuisance noises (in adjacent rooms, other participants)
- On the last day, there was some noise from other rooms (someone playing the trumpet, some music) which was disturbing.
- On the third day some noise ("music" in other halls) during the last two hours of the exam, a little bit difficult to concentrate.
- Orchesterproben in den benachbarten Räumen waren außerordentlich störend.
- Public transport too far away, no taxis available in front of examination hall hall was partly used by other groups, therefore it was sometimes very loud (music was played in particular)
- Restrooms were too far away or, if close by, very limited
- sometimes it was a little bit too noisy from the outside (building something for a concert)
- The bathrooms are a bit far away. It was too cold at times (perhaps it is sufficient to tell candidates to bring warm clothes).
- The room was VERY NOISY !!! During the C-EXAM it was people playing music (trumpet, bass...) in the room next to ours, so it was really disturbing and noisy
- the way to find the WC could be better signed, especially to the WCs in the changing rooms
- There were music tests all the time. EPA should next time assure that no music test will be performed
- there was a lot of noise during the examination, because a music group was preparing for a concert and we can hear how they tune their instruments. This situation was not acceptable for candidates who try to concentrate on their papers.
- There was repeatedly noise from a neighboring hall, where there was build up a stage for a concert or so. This resulted in really distracting music especially during the end of the C-paper. Nothing was done about that and I know that several candidates have complained about this. By the way, exactly the same happened last year, when I sat the exam for the first time, but this year it was worse.
- too noisy because of musical tests in adjacent rooms very good fresh air a little bit too cold
- too noisy, because of working activities in other parts of the building
- Too few toilets. Same toilet could be reached from the mens entrance and the womens entrance..
- Unfortunately, the examination was interrupted because of a musician playing trumpet. Altogether, the noise in the hall was completely unacceptable!
- Während des C-Teils fand eine Probe eines Trompetenspielers in einem Nachbarraum statt. Während der Zeit dieser Probe konnte ich mich - und

andere Prüflinge berichteten entsprechendes - nicht konzentrieren. Es sollte im Vorfeld abgeklärt werden, dass tatsächlich keine Lärmbelästigungen während der Prüfungsstunden auftreten!

- Was fine with me.
  - Berlin/Max-Schmeling-Halle: on Tuesday, March 6 2008 there was some disturbance from a music rehearsal in one of the other halls in the mids and at the end of Paper C, which distracted my concentration.
  - During the C-part ( ~ 14.00) a rock band started their sound check in the neighbouring hall (the Berlin facility has many halls). This was very badly organized! Lack of canteen or other possibility to easily get access to food during the break: Bad Otherwise the conditions were okay.
  - EPO should have made sure that noise disturbance from neighbour halls is minimized.
  - In der Halle war es viel zu laut. Bereits am 4. März 2008 kam es zu Störungen durch Musikproben. Am 6. März 2008 wurde in einer Nachbarhalle der Soundcheck für eine Rockband durchgeführt, ein konzentriertes Arbeiten war dadurch zeitweise unmöglich.
  - It was extremely disturbing in the C-examination on Thursday that music played in the background. Examination hall is not very easy to be reached by public transportation (15 minutes walk from station). During the A examination on Wednesday, it was very cold in the hall; many people had even coats on. The temperature was fine on Thursday.
  - Not acoustically isolated from outside / at times noisy
  - sound check by a rock-band at the adjacent hall - disgusting conditions. no public transportation near-by -disgusting quality of examination papers as always containing errors - disgusting
  - The hall is very suitable, but there has been extensive noise (music) due to soundchecks of other events taking place in the hall. The hall managers should be contractually obliged to prevent from producing noise until the referring EQE part is finished in the evening.
  - The rest rooms are too far away or too small
  - The restrooms were too far away from the hall.
  - too much noise came from neighbouring halls (music, instrumental testing). some of the writing desks wobbled.
  - too noisy at the third day because of other events in the hall
  - Unfortunately there appeared to be some sound check going on in a neighbouring hall at the last day, which was rather nerve-racking. All in all it could have been more silent, that would have helped concentrating, and a bit warmer next time please, as with two pullovers it's harder to write in a comfortable way. Otherwise fine. The toilets were just about enough...
  - Unfortunately, starting from day two, there was a lot of noise from the neighbour hall, where workers tried to build up a stage for a concert.
  - Very, very bad conditions!!! - Much too cold and draughty! - Very much too loud and noisy! - Desk, which was not stable and creaked, while writing on it - Only one toilet for all candidates, no soap, no toilet paper, no check of the toilet conditions by cleaning personnel - Too many people present around the examination locations, which were not concerned by the EQE - Sport event in the same building causing noise and trouble around the examination hall
- Conclusion: I would never ever recommend it to any candidate!

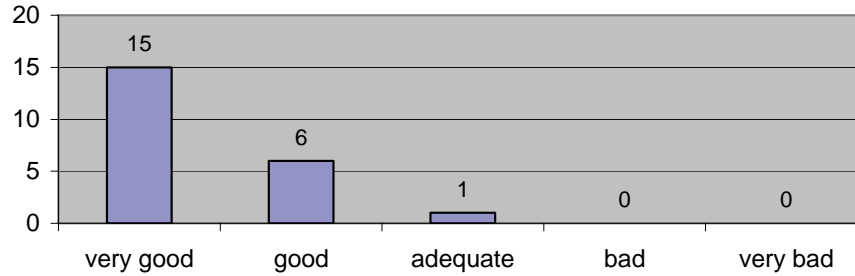
- Zur Akkustik: Während des C-Teils zT inakzeptabel laut durch Musikproben in der Max-Schmeling Halle im Zeitraum von etwa 13.45 - 14.10. Dies sollte für die Zukunft abgestellt werden. Ansonsten ok



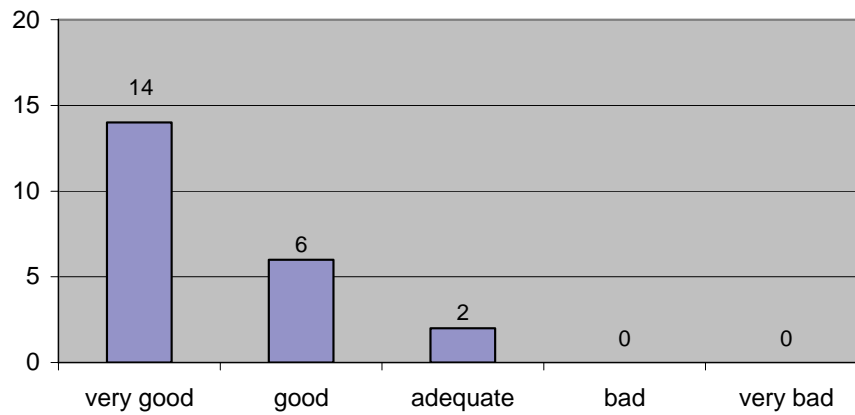
## 1.2 Bern (22 answers received)

### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

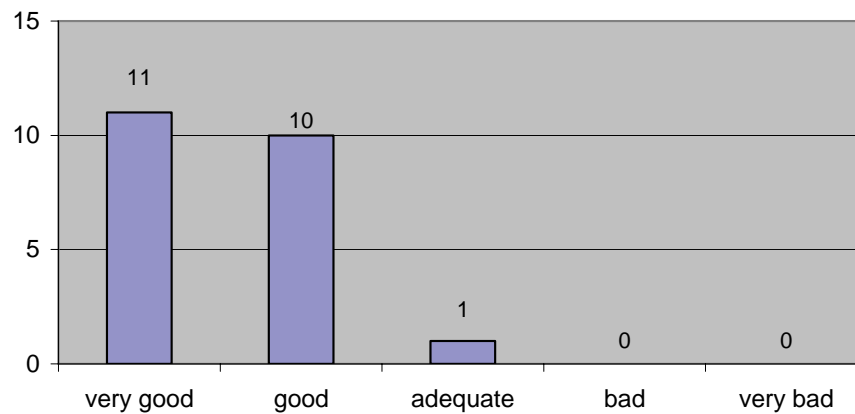
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



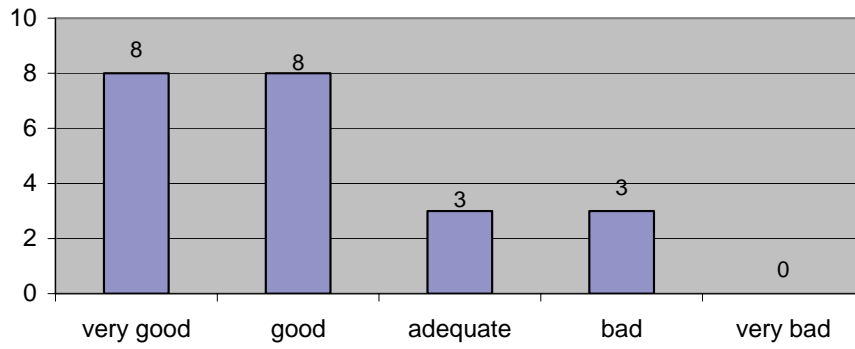
Identification check



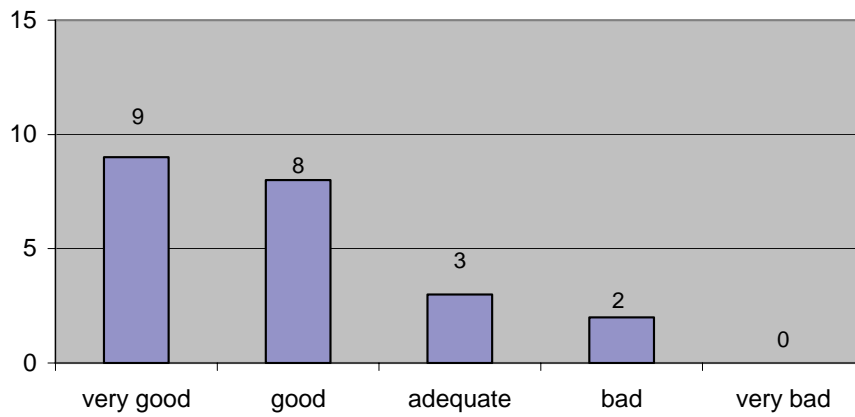
Lighting conditions



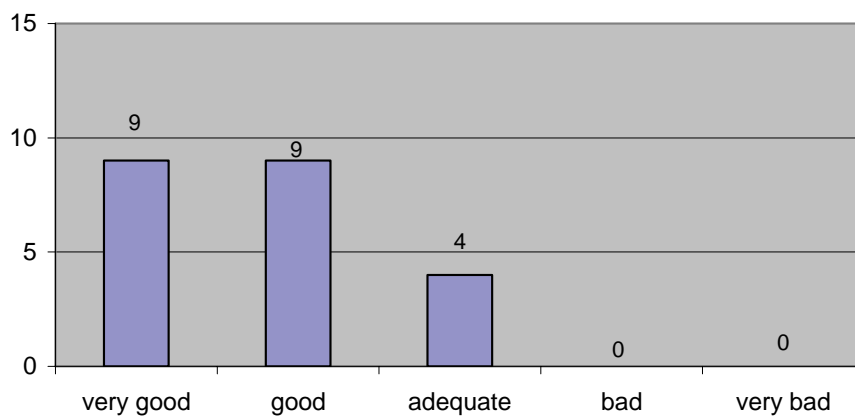
### Space for candidates



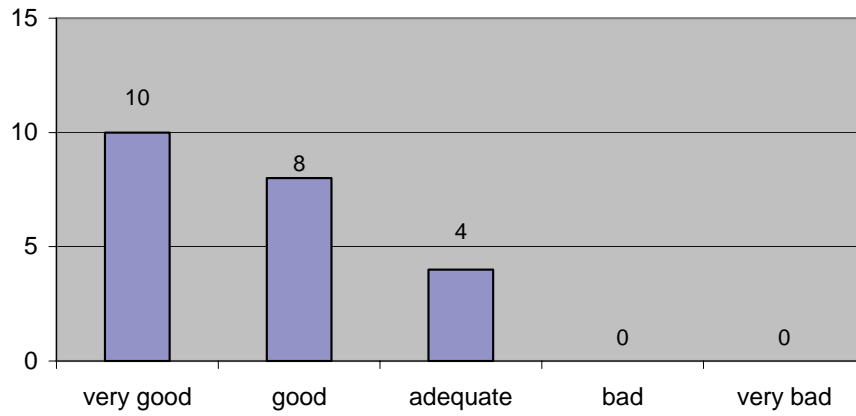
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



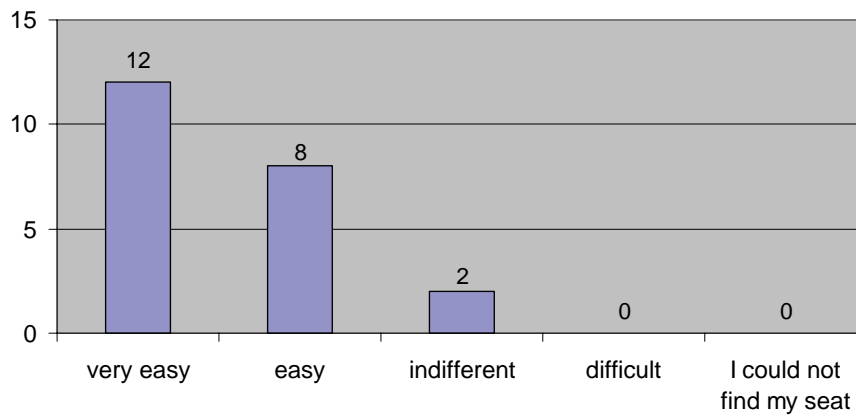
### Restroom facilities



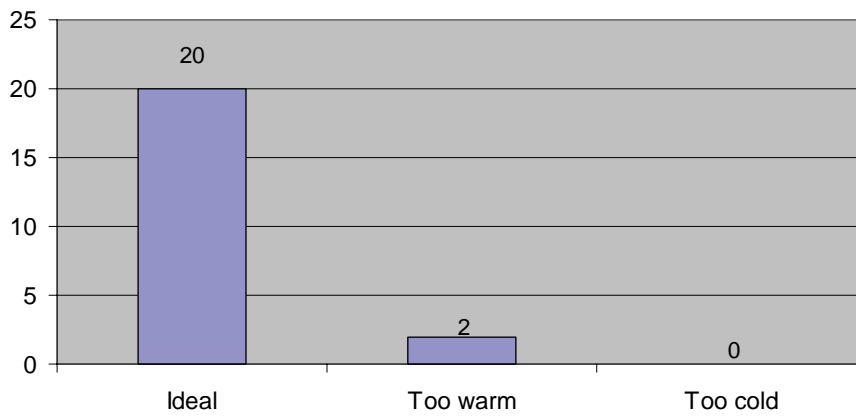
### Suitability of the examination hall



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



### Q5) Hall temperature



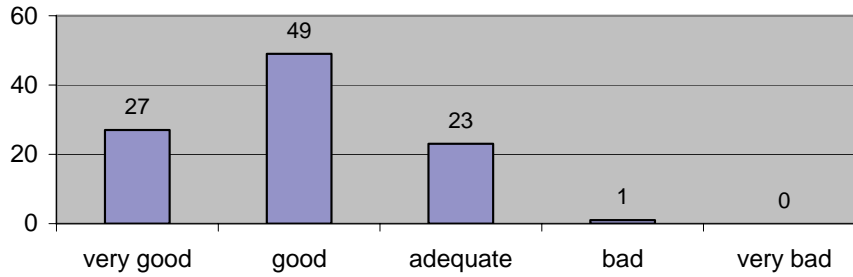
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- a bit more space (broader tables ) would be helpful
- I liked the examination hall in the hotel and also the hotel rooms. It was a very nice location for sitting the exam.
- It was very difficult to understand the authorized personel giving additional advice and comments on the exam. However, this was mainly due to the silent voice of the respective person.
- On most of the tables, there were plucking old hook-and-loop like fastener, adhesive tapes or the surface of the tables was rough, so that the clothes plucked to it.
- smoking area was missing
- Some desks were old and "squeaky", but as the hall was not completely full, it was easy to replace them.
- Tables have been too low for persons with a size of more than 2 metres.
- The clock was not well visible from the sides of the room.
- Venue is fine for the EQE.
- door closes very loudly
- Lighting conditions were strongly dependent on the place within the examination hall.

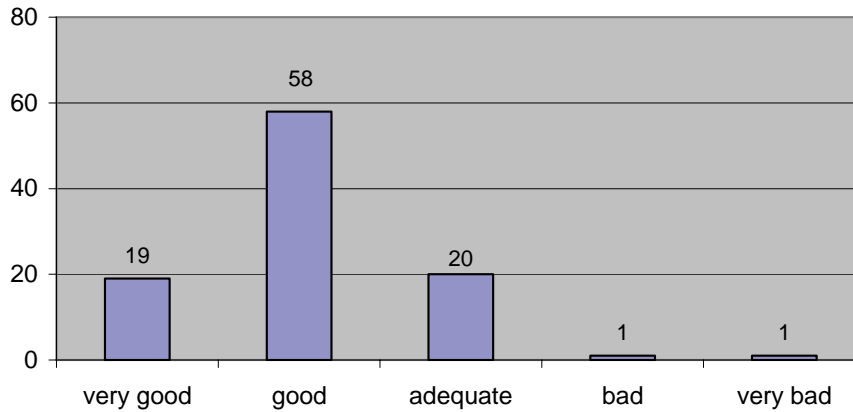
### 1.3 Bristol (100 answers received)

#### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

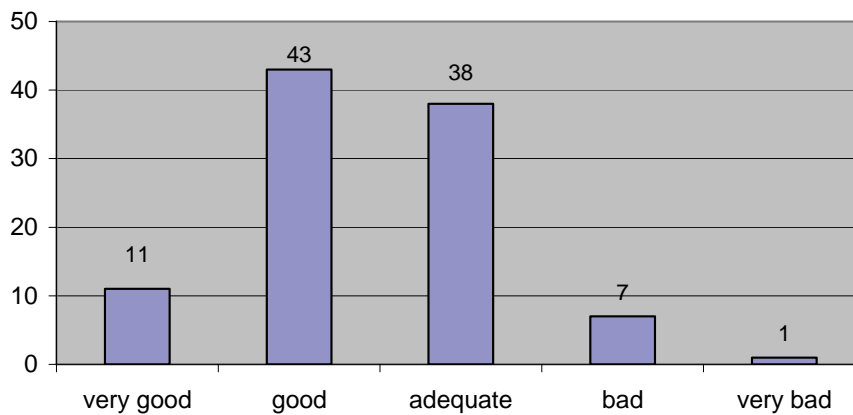
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



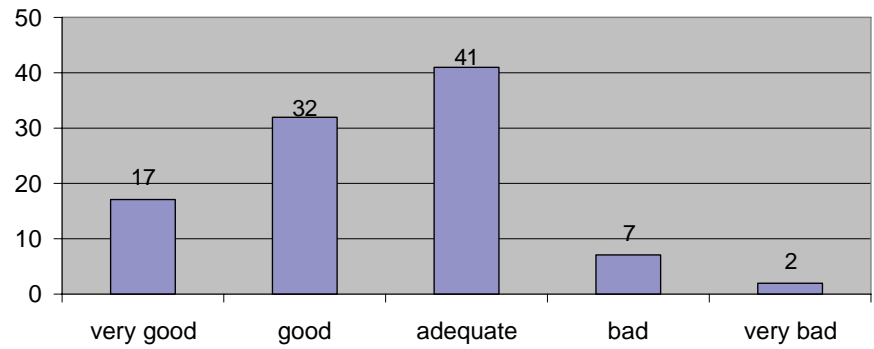
Identification check



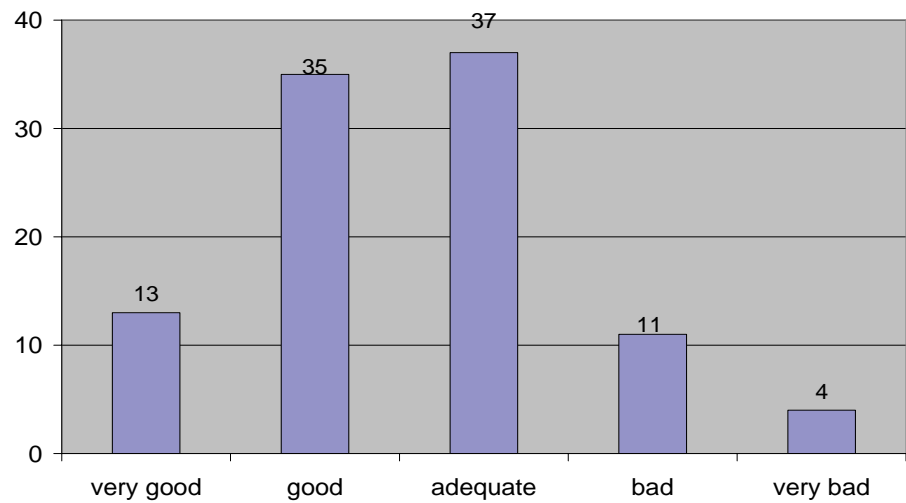
Lighting conditions



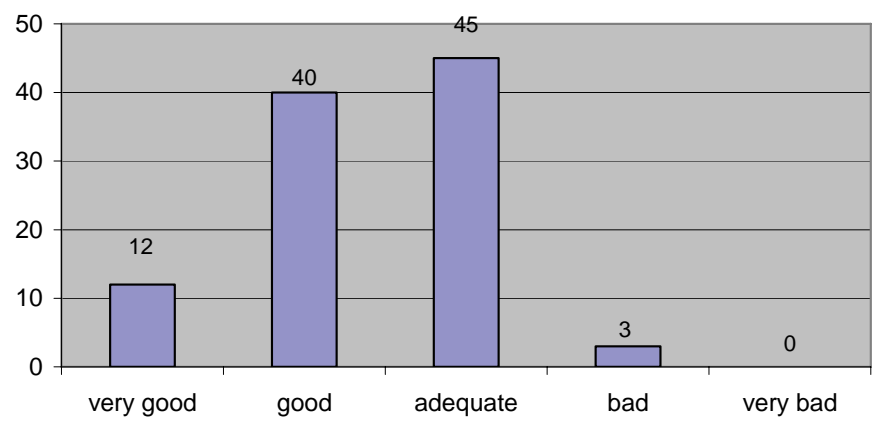
Space for candidates



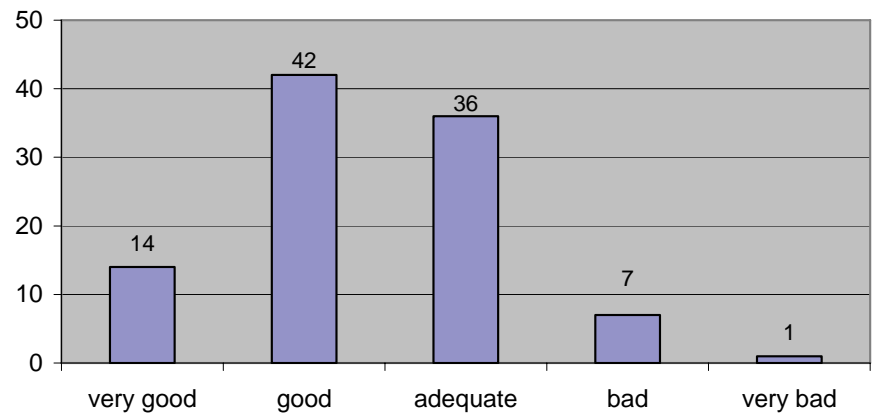
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



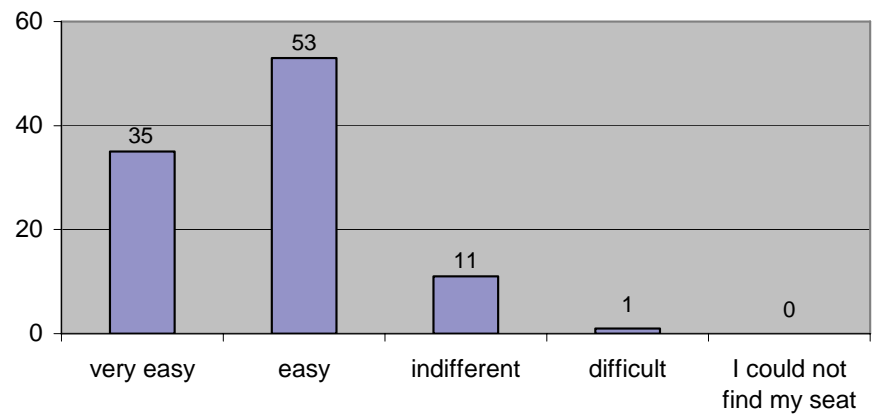
Restroom facilities



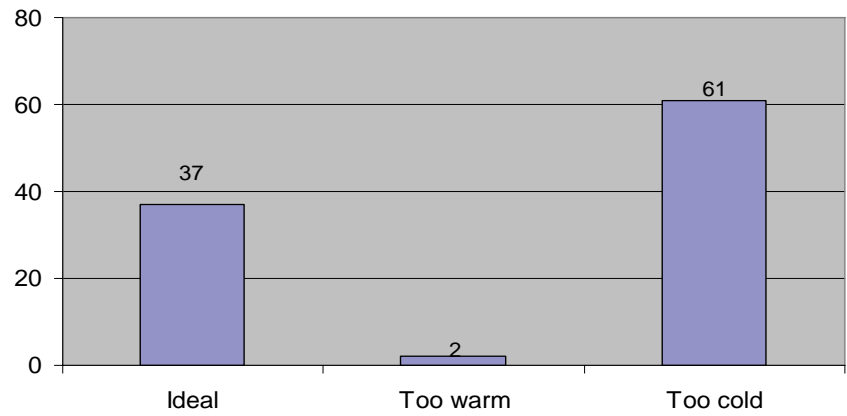
**Suitability of the examination hall**



**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.**

- Please provide: - larger desks, because although the ones provided were made up of two smaller desks there was not enough space to spread material out; and - clocks were not easily visible, a large countdown timer would be preferred.
- Accoustics very poor. Not enough space at, and around, desks.
- cold on first morning, ideal temperature for A+B papers, and a little too hot on paper C. Quite large and echoey could be offputting and a little intimidating at times
- Far too cold
- First day was too cold. Second and third days were fine.
- First morning - paper D. At the end of the exam, my teeth were chattering.
- For Paper C, in part due to the large number of candidates, there were insufficient clocks making it difficult to determine the correct timing for the examination. The hall in Bristol was, for me, a good location but could have done with better heating - many candidates had to put on jackets and jumpers during the exam as it was too cold.
- Hall was fine but temperature very variable
- Hall was too cold on the first day. The invigilators had not had a trial run with the heating, on the last day the temperature was fine.
- Hall was very cold indeed for the first part of Paper D. I could barely hold the pen.
- I was sat next to a speaker, and when it was swtiched on the interference noise was distracting. Also, the room was very cold, which made it uncomfortable.
- Instead of two small desks, one larger desk would have been easier to work at. On the paper C day, my desk was difficult to find because of duplicated row numbers in different areas of the hall (partly resulting from the extraordinary number of candidates having to be accommodated).
- Insufficient number of waste bins for rubbish. If candidates are expected to leave the examination hall tidy, it would be helpful if waste bins can be easilly located and are not already full.
- Invigilators were very friendly and helpful, which was much appreciated.
- It is unlikely that you could find a better suited exam venue for this many people.
- It is very easy to get to, and is an ideal location due to hotels and station very close by. A little more space around the desks would have been good. The exam hall was too cold - this should be addressed for next year.
- It was very cold in the hall, particularly in the morning sessions. My feet were numb at lunchtime on Tues + Weds. However, I simply put on a hat and extra socks and that was better. The location has good transport links, and I think this is more important. I would NOT want to sit in London (too busy, decent hotels are expensive, you are at the mercy of public transport to get to the venue - if there was a bomb there would be severe disruption.) I would also NOT want to sit in Newport (very difficult to get to by train). Overall venue fine, but perhaps the heating could have been on for the whole of Monday to warm the place through.



- It was very difficult to see the clocks at the front of the room.
- It would have been useful to have one big desk rather than 2 little ones placed next to each other. It rather restricted the space you could use and how you could use it.
- Lighting could have been better.
- OK. Probably difficult to find a better venue.
- on first morning the exam hall was very cold but this was rectified by the afternoon
- Please provide clocks half way down the hall. The clocks at the front are very difficult to see unless you are sat near to the front.
- poor lighting is its worst feature. the desks should ideally be larger
- slight noise from traffic outside, but other than that it is an exam hall. Would prefer to travel to London.
- The best thing about the exam hall was it's location. It is very convenient being close to a main line railway station and close to many hotels.
- The exam hall was VERY cold on the first day. A heat blower was turned on for the rest of the exams at the back of the hall and made a difference - I was comfortable for the remaining days
- The examination hall was very cold. I have rheumatoid arthritis and had to take pain killers because I was hurting so much with the cold. I had to wear gloves so it was difficult to write. During paper A the invigilators were whispering loudly for at least an hour after the exam started which was very distracting.
- The hall was close to a building site, so it was noisy.
- The hall was far too cold given that candidates are required to sit for in excess of six hours for Paper C.
- the hall was slightly cool at times, but acceptable generally. This seemed to be more of a problem in the mornings
- The hall was uncomfortably cold for 2 out of the 3 days.
- The heating was not on for the first day, so it was too cold. It was warm by the last day. Perhaps the heating should have been on for 2-3 days before the exams in order to warm the large hall.
- the lighting is poor
- The lighting was poor. The temperature was very cold - I had to wear my coat during the exam - especially during paper D. Was also cold during paper C. The acoustics were poor - often not able to hear the invigilator.
- The room needs to be warmer. Also, it would be good if the tables were slightly bigger. It would also be good if the table was one table rather than two tables pushed together.
- the sun was very bright and coming through the windows and made it difficult to see. I had to turn my desk away from it.
- There was a great deal of background noise outside the hall: sirens, construction work and so on. Regulating the temperature inside the hall was also difficult.
- There was a lot of outside noise during paper D1 caused by building work nearby and traffic.
- There was a repetitive external noise on paper D which was a distraction.
- There was very disruptive loud banging going on during paper A. There was building work going on directly behind the examination hall. Surely these

things can be checked prior to the examination?

- Two small desks joined together does not work. They do not line up properly and the legs in the middle make it uncomfortable to sit in the middle of the desk to enable best utilisation of the desk space.
- very cold conditions for DI and DII
- Very very cold ( I wore my coat and scarf during the exams, and was still shivering).
- We had heavy bags full of books to drag up a cobbled slope. The desks looked like school - no room for A3 matrix and answer paper so had to use floor for books . Plus desk was on a slope so anything in plastic covers kept sliding off . All the girls were utterley freezing. I had to visit the hand dryers during the exam twice just to warm my hands up. I wore my coat throughout the exam and should have brought gloves. Heating fan unit at the back was turned off because it was blowing peoples' papers around. The bathrooms were prewar civic ammenity and didnt flush. When one girl went in I was told I had to wait. After about five minutes they let me in at the same time as her anyway. What was that about? It was still much better than the P1 CIPA venue in Clapham. Don't even think about going there. Surely we could have hired a proper business venue rather than a neglected civic amenity. Only countries with civic pride can get away with using their public facilites for business.
- with Papers such as D I where you are expected to refer to textbooks the space allocated is adequate at best. The examination hal was absolutely freezing on at least two occasions, such that writing was detrimentally affected
- would be better to have bigger tables. I had two small ones which wobbled.
- Heating was switched on too late - so hall was freezing for the first day, then nearly too warm at end of exam. The heating system was a single, enournous hot air blowing tunnel - very dry air, srong air current, noise - not nice to sit in front of (as I did). Was sort of ok once a screen was set up in front of it during the examination. Tables: could have been bigger. Noise: the hall was virtually not screened off at all to outside noises. Some very loud, very repetitive and wierd noises from outside, especially on the first day, were quite disturbing.
- I would prefer a more central location. Bristol is not easy to get to unless you live in South England. I had to travel for hours, changing trains with my a heavy case full of books - I was exhausted before I have even taken the exam! My opinion of the examination hall and its conditions varies depending on the position of my desk for each exam. I only sat one paper this year and was at the back in the middle. This suited me because I was not distracted by invigilators or people going to the toilet. Last year I was not at all happy when I was sat on the far left edge (left-hand side when facing the front). It was very disruptive having invigilators pacing up and down right next to me, especially as there is hard flooring down that side (rather than carpet).
- It was far too cold in the examination hall, and I often had to sit wearing my coat. The biggest annoyance for me through the exams was the fact that one of the invigilators was speaking on the phone at times during DI, DII, and Paper A. I spoke to another invigilator before paper B began about this issue, and I don't believe the man in question did it again but it was distracting on at

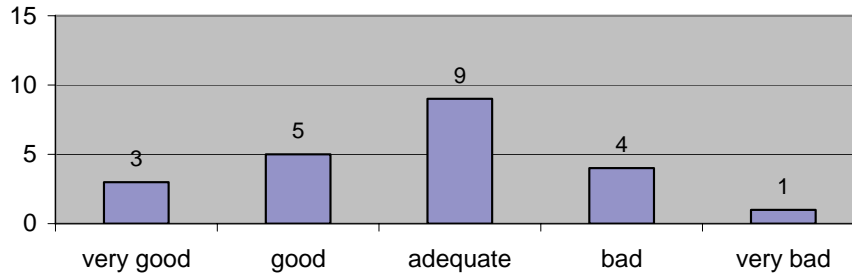
least three occasions for me and other people sat near the front of the exam hall. This is an abomination and I was actually dumbfounded that the man in question would think that no one would be disturbed by his actions. His whispering was audible enough to make me look up from my paper and that is not excusable.

- Overall the venue was good, in particular the close proximity of the train station and the hotel was appreciated. The invigilators were very kind. Due to unusually bad weather it was very cold in the hall, especially on the first day. I found it difficult to actually write because my hands were very cold.
- Some candidates had a table and chair arrangement that allowed the chair to be pulled under the table (helpful) whereas others including myself did not (unhelpful).
- The cold exam hall temperature was really problematic for the first 2 days. Better on the third day. There was not enough room beside the desk for putting a large suitcase for easy accessibility of all books without getting in the way of the aisles. It would have been better to have one large desk rather than 2 smaller ones, as I lost materials (pens, etc) through the gap between the 2 desks on a number of occasions.
- The hall was absolutely fine for the exam and great in terms of light and space, but due to the cold weather last week it was very cold on Tuesday and Wednesday in the hall. The heaters at the back did appear to make a little difference on the last two days as they were left on all night. The signage wasn't great and more, larger, signs could have been put up on the way up to the exam hall.
- The room was much too cold for the first two days, which made it difficult for me to write legibly, as my hands were cold. The lighting was quite poor, with strong shadows. The tables were small and quite rickety.
- The temperature was fine apart from D1 - by the end, the hall was freezing.
- There was not enough space and the tables were split in two which makes it a bit awkward. More table space would be great if possible.
- Very cold - especially on the first day

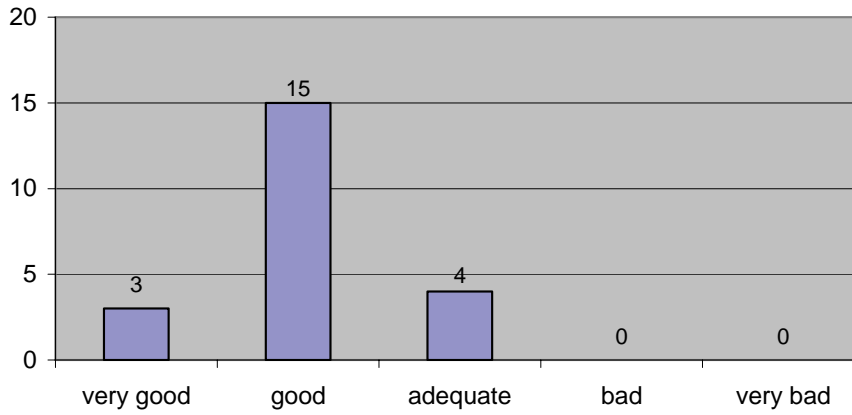
## 1.4 Brussels (22 answers received)

### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

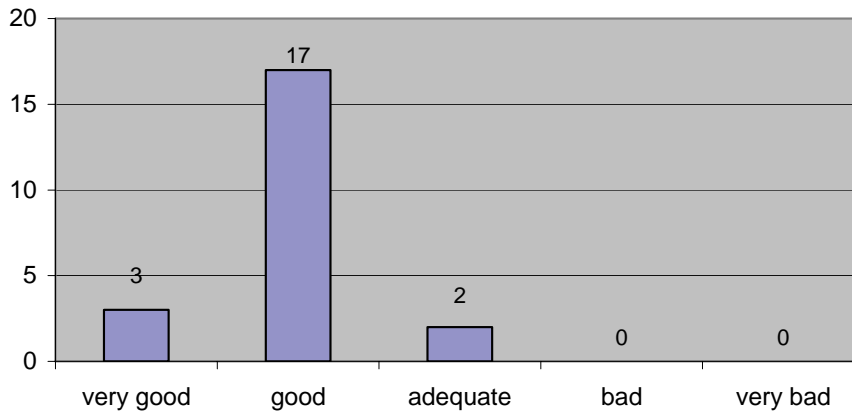
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



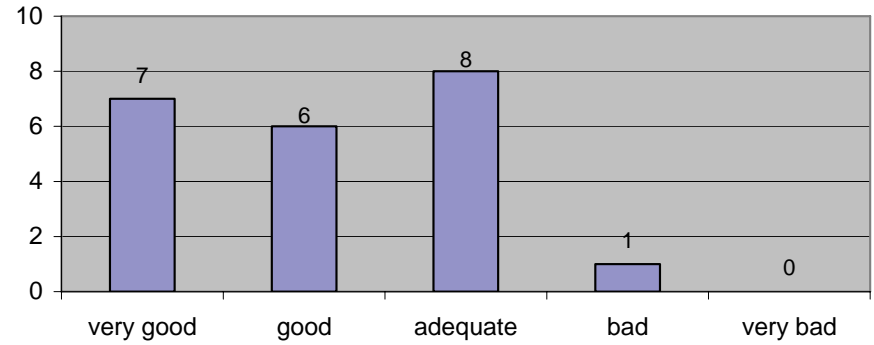
Identification check



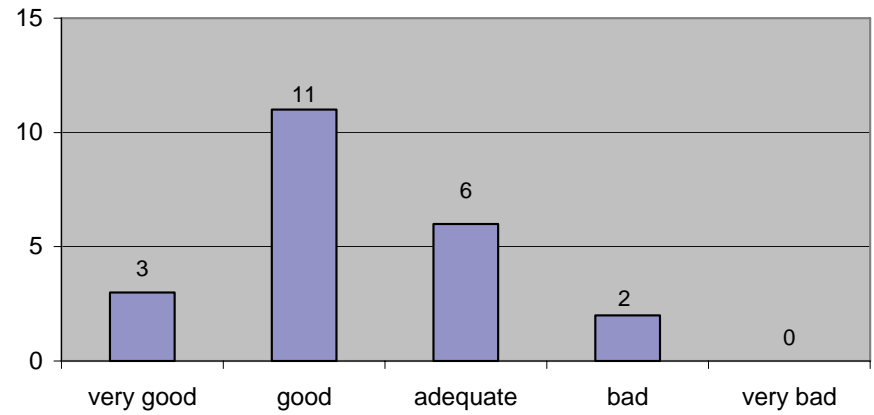
Lighting conditions



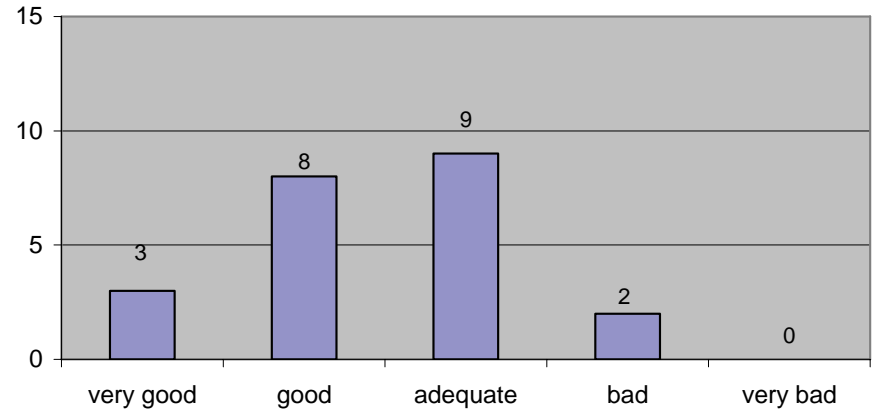
Space for candidates

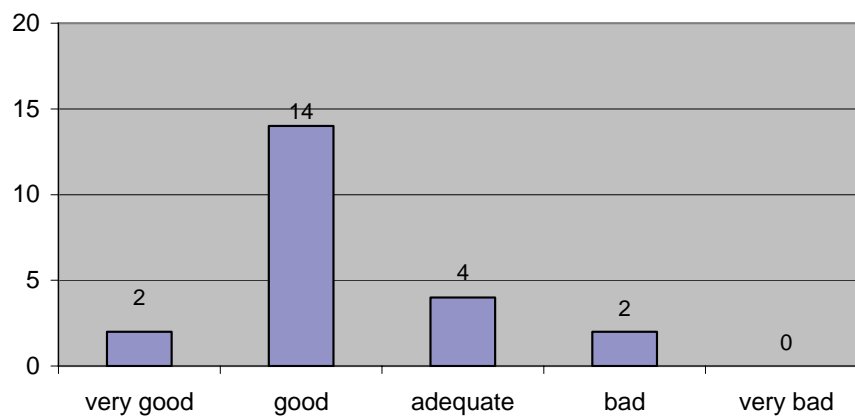
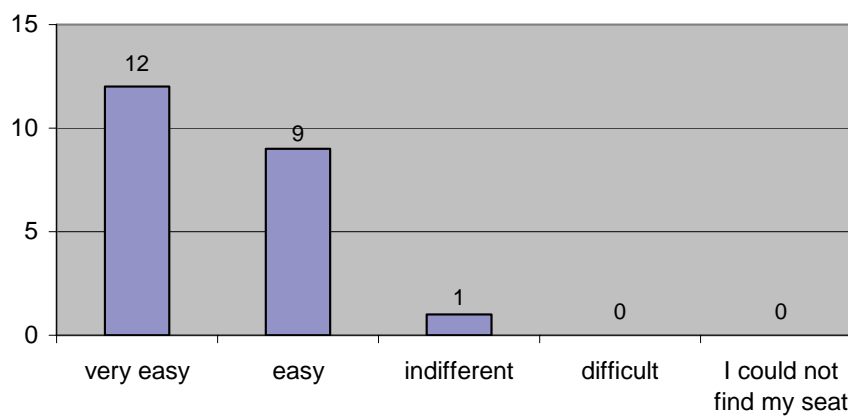
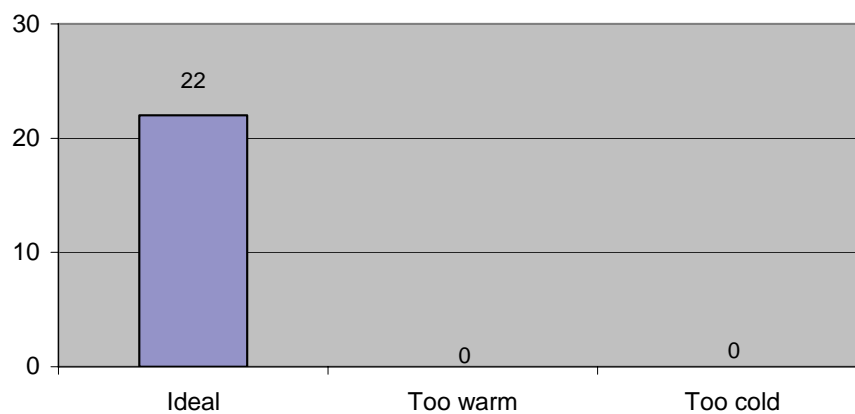


Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



Restroom facilities



**Suitability of the examination hall****Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?****Q5) Hall temperature**

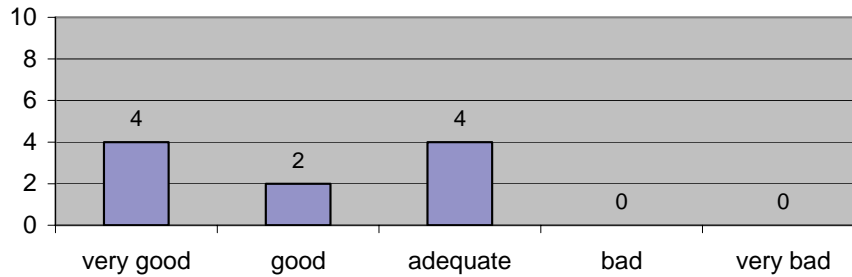
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- Very good accessibility (near the nord station in Brussels). This was a very big advantage because it was stressless and relaxing to arrive at the examination hall. Examination hall and its conditions are OK except the quality of the table and the available surface on the table (most books and documents are beside the table on the ground; risk to damage my clothes on the edge of the table).
- A central clock would be helpful
- A larger desk would have been welcome
- an exam centre in brussels is certainly desirable, but the wtc tower as such is old building with long corridors and complex routes to the exam hall. In my opinion, it may not be right place to have such professional exam.
- Complicated to find it back. Maybe better indication is necessary.
- It was a long way from the building entrance to the examination hall.
- Nice initiative to have the EQE in Brussels. Everything was nicely organised, a big thank you to the organisers.
- Nice to have windows, but policy/ambulance sirences could be heard too much and were too many. Fire alarm test during the C-exam should have been shifted.
- Rather noisy due to police sirens, the way to the examination hall was quite far. If you arrived somewhat late, this cost you some time;
- The available desktop area (table size) could have been somewhat more.
- The room as such was ok. Since it had outside windows and was a corner room, there was a lot of street noise (police cars and sirenes). During exam C the fire alarm went off. There was some concern what to do, but soon there was a speaker telling something (I couldn't understand though). I think it was an exercise. For the first day (exam D), we only got our seat 15 minutes before the start of the exam! This was really not allowable. You first had to check in at the balie of the WTC itself. Then you had to check in for the exam at the ground floor. There we waited until I guess 45 minutes before the exam would start. Then we went up to the second floor in group through I think a 1000 doors! Then we had to stop at a much too small hallway for coffee. People were stressed and had a lot of luggage with books. We couldn't enter the room yet. I had to really press to get all my books ready on the table, go to the toilet and have some time mentally to prepare. Standards too low vs. The H
- to provide a micro for the organizing people
- We could only enter the examination hall 5 or 10 minutes before the start of the examination. I prefer to have access at least 30 min before the start of the examination. Also a central clock would be preferred.
- It would help to let the candidates access the examination hall more than 15 minutes before the start so as to give them enough time to get organized. Otherwise very well organized.
- Noisy floor: when someone passed to go eg to the toilets, it was disturbing. the desks were too close to each other

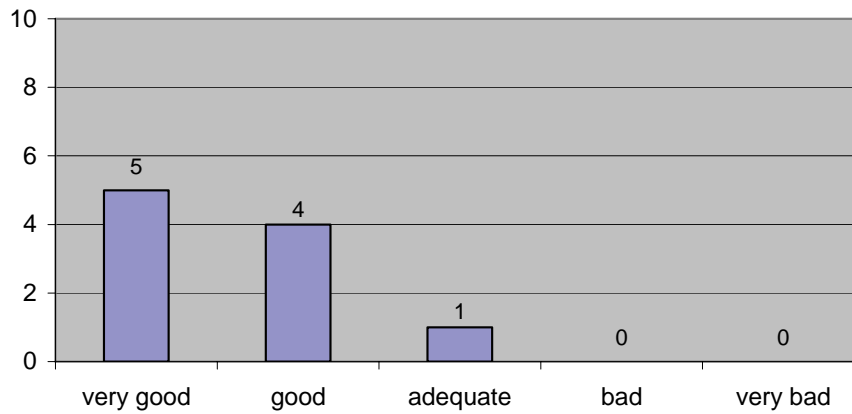
## 1.5 Dublin (10 answers received)

### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

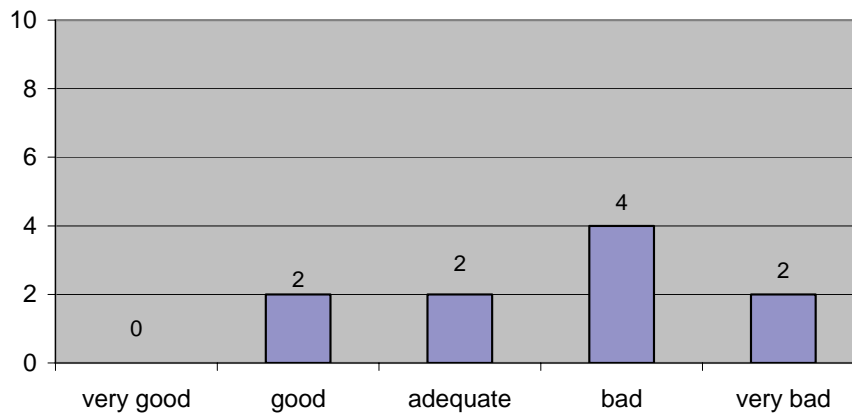
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



Identification check

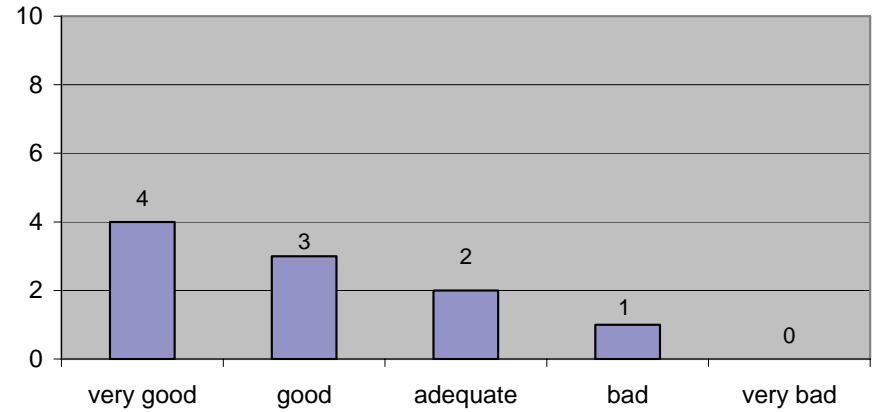


Lighting conditions

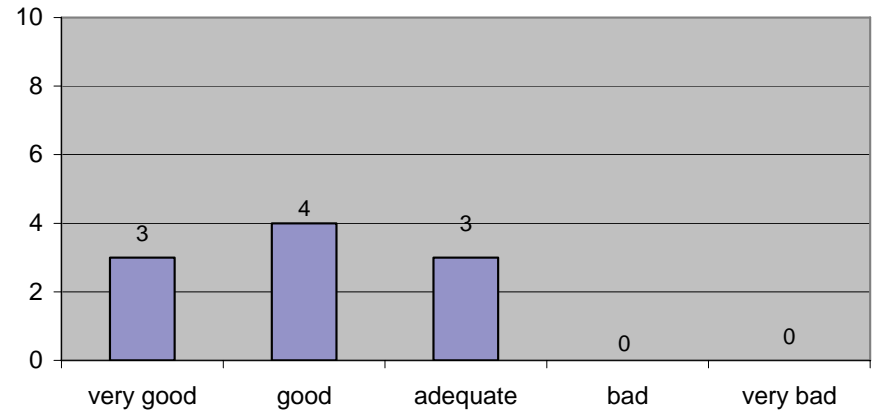




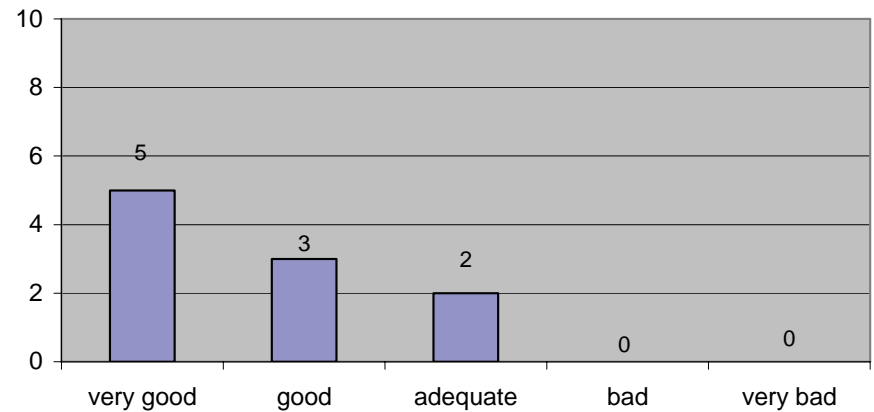
Space for candidates

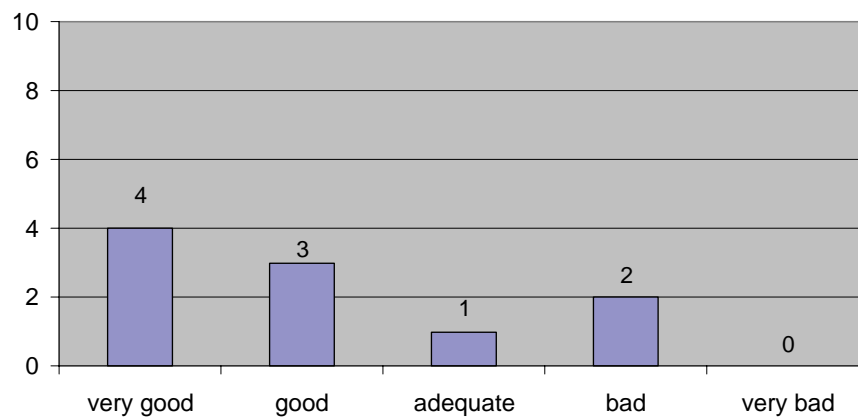
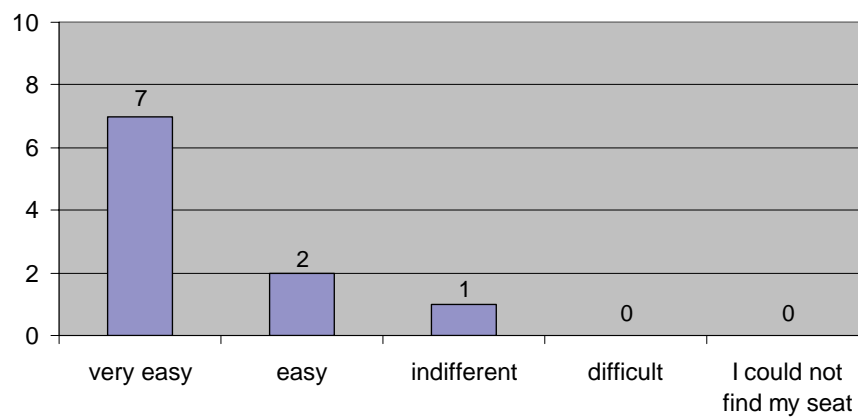
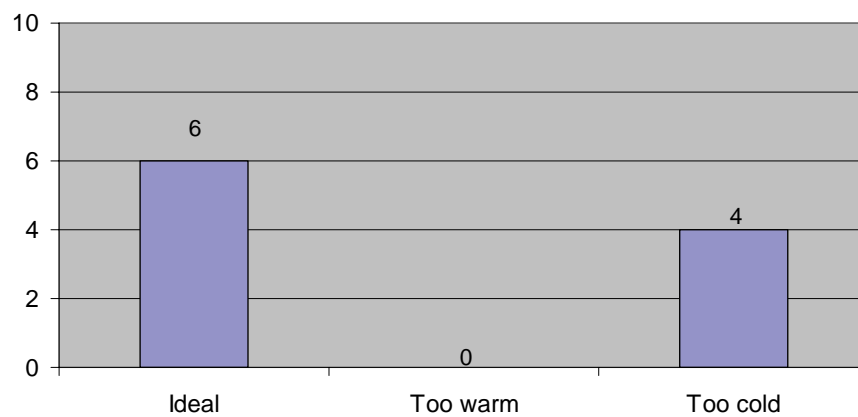


Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



Restroom facilities



**Suitability of the examination hall****Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?****Q5) Hall temperature**

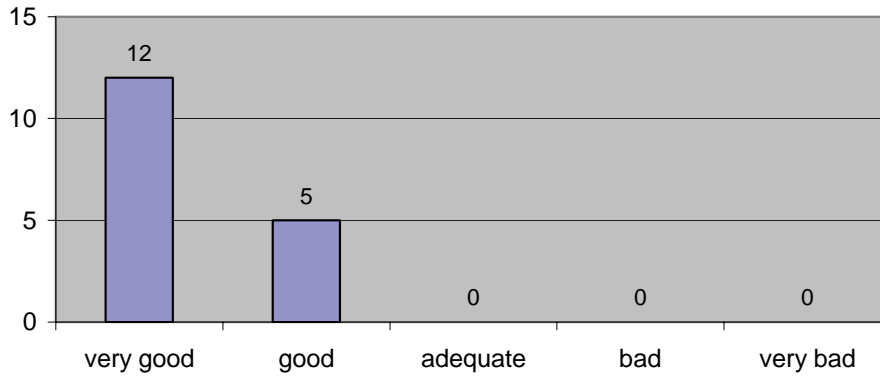
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- A halogen light was flickering during the entire period of the examination.
- I sat paper D and paper C. Tuesday (Paper D): the hall was freezing cold, and we were told that "It might be warmer tomorrow" when we asked if something could be done regarding the temperature. Thursday (Paper D): the hall was far too hot.!
- In general it was sufficient, little to comment on.
- The exam hall was in a very convenient location, close to plenty of public transport including buses and the luas (tram system). It was very quiet.
- The lights in the hall flickered throughout the exam
- there are no parking facilities near the hall
- There was no clock at the front of the hall until someone asked for one to be moved to the front
- Lights flickered, Desk should be bigger,
- The lighting was poor - at least one of the lights was flickering which made it difficult to focus, I had a headache at the end of the exam day

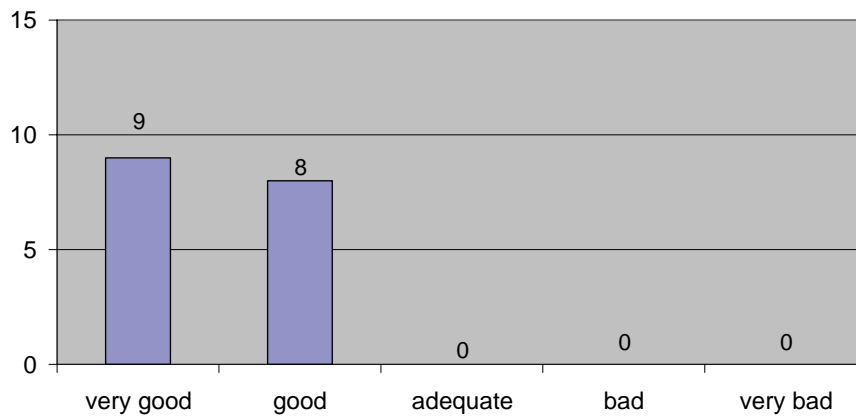
## 1.6 Helsinki (17 answers received)

### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

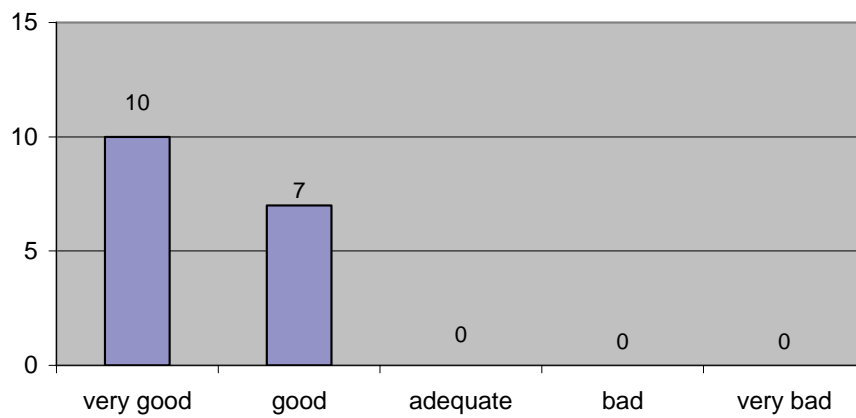
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



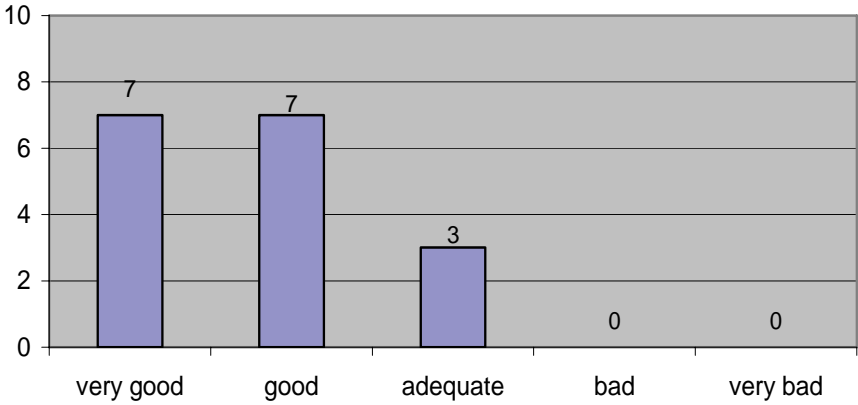
Identification check



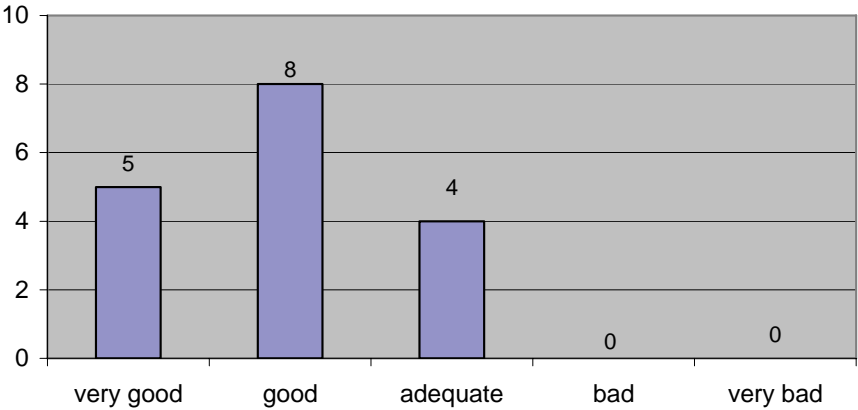
Lighting conditions



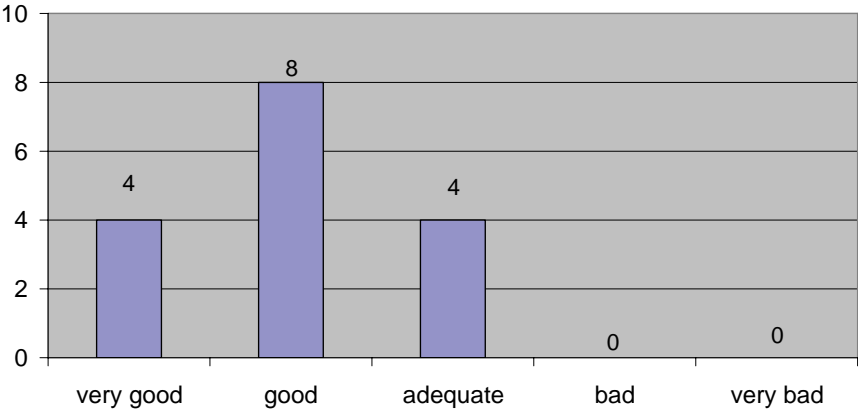
### Space for candidates

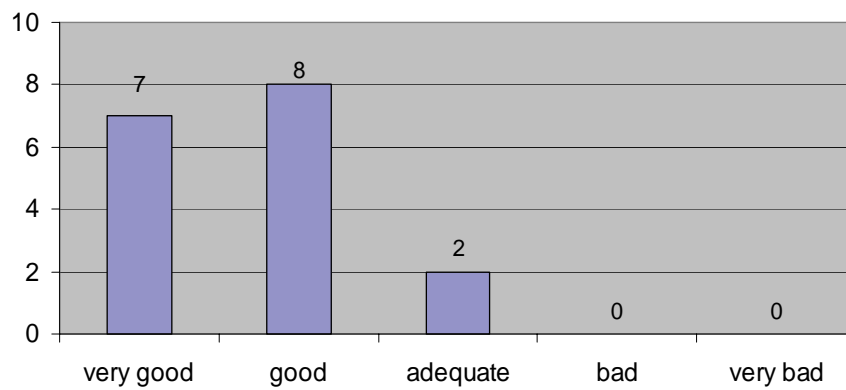
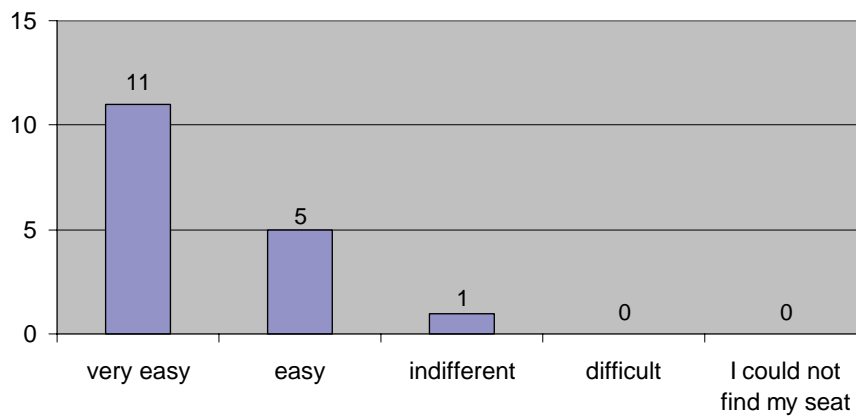
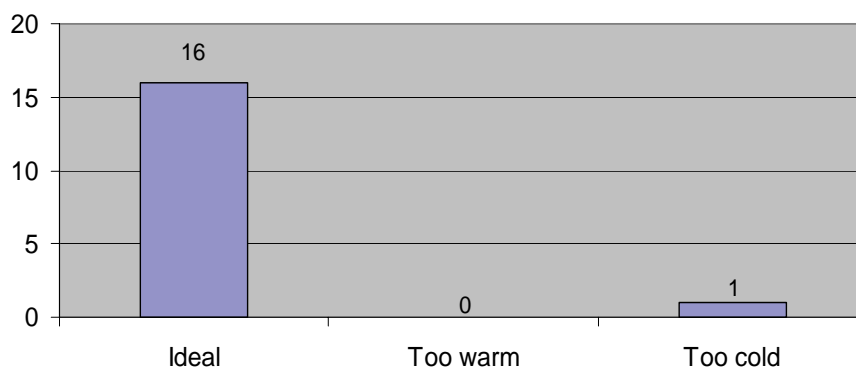


### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities



**Suitability of the examination hall****Q4) Was it easy to find your seat in the examination hall?****Q5) Hall temperature**

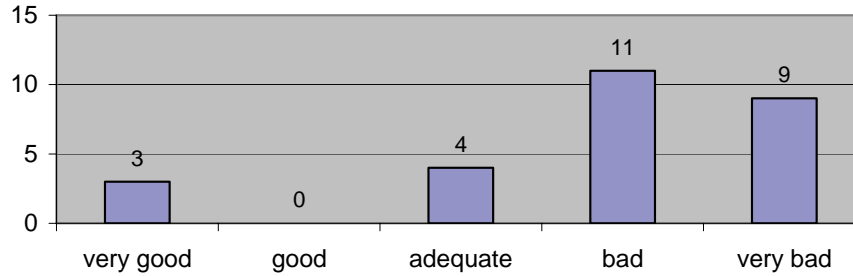
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- Everything was well organised, the parsonnel of both EPO and Finnish Patent Office well prepared and committed. Questions posed in Finnish (outside the hall) were answered.
- I sat "in front of " the doors and the "traffic" to the restrooms was quite disturbing. Sometimes people had problems with the lock and they really tried to be quiet, but ...
- Quite reasonable. The clock should be viewable from any points if someone has forget his personal clock to home. There are some columns in the hall which prevent to see the clock on the wall.
- The ventilation shut down on 18:00.

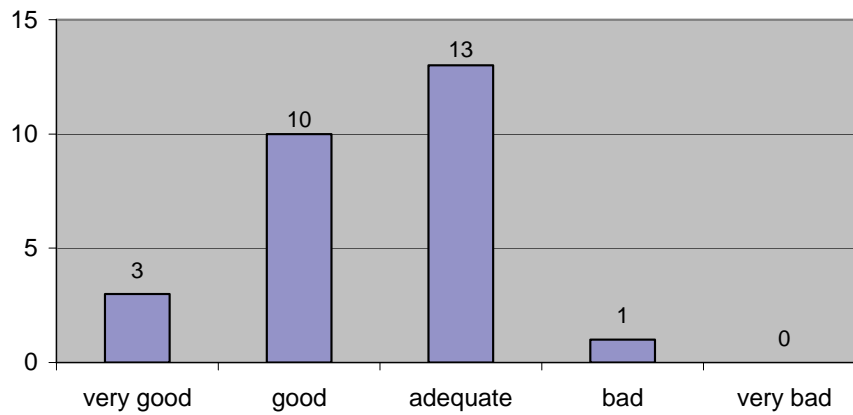
## 1.7 Madrid (27 answers received)

### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

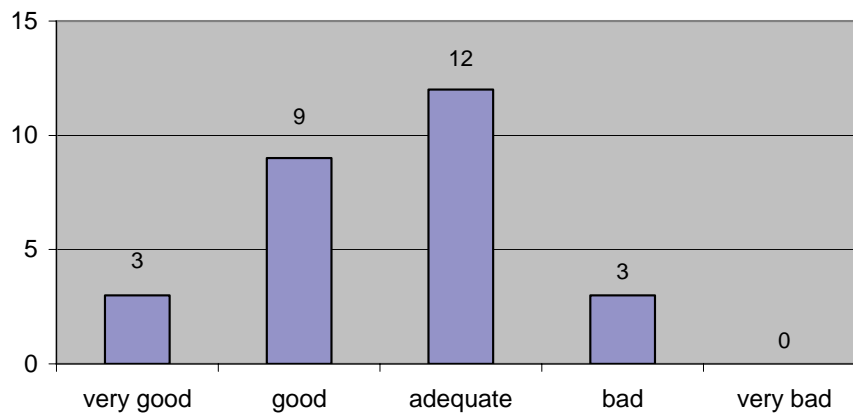
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



Identification check

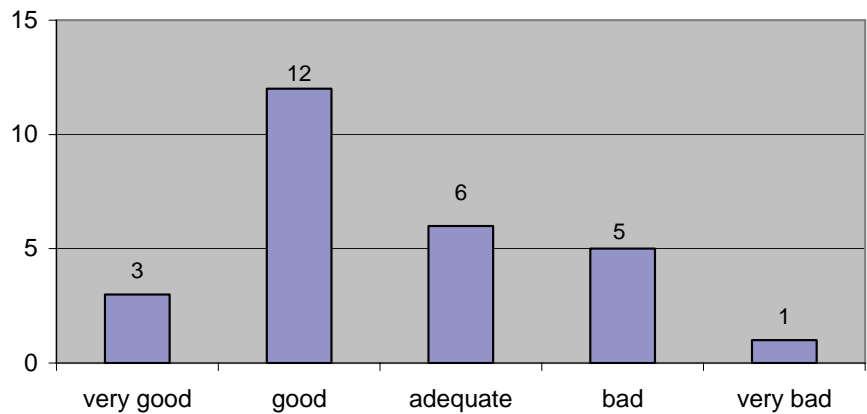


Lighting conditions

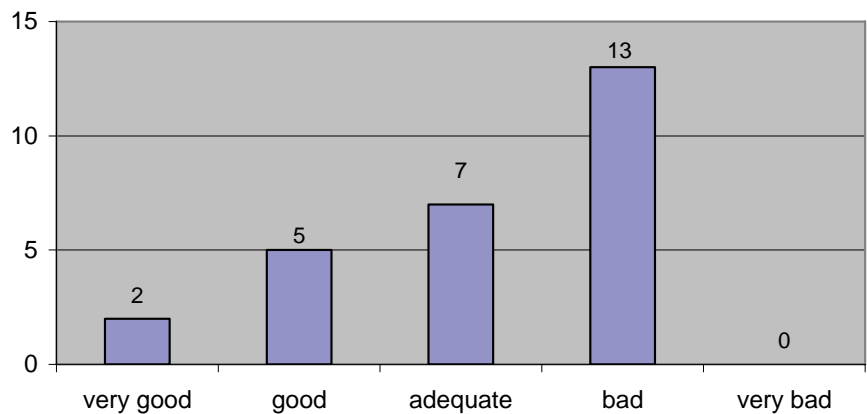




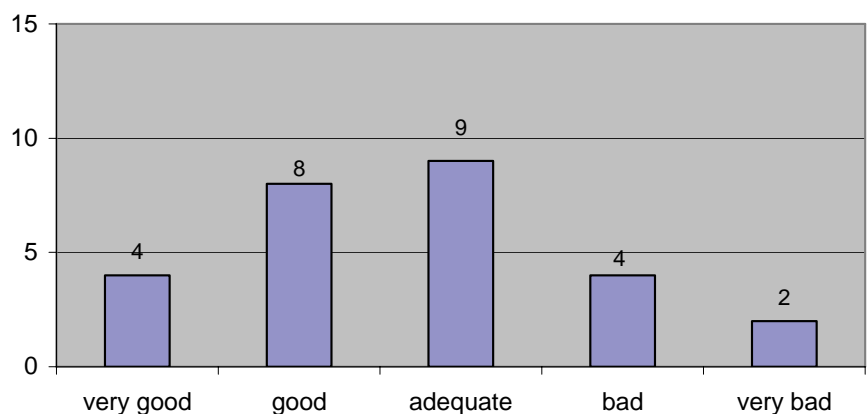
Space for candidates



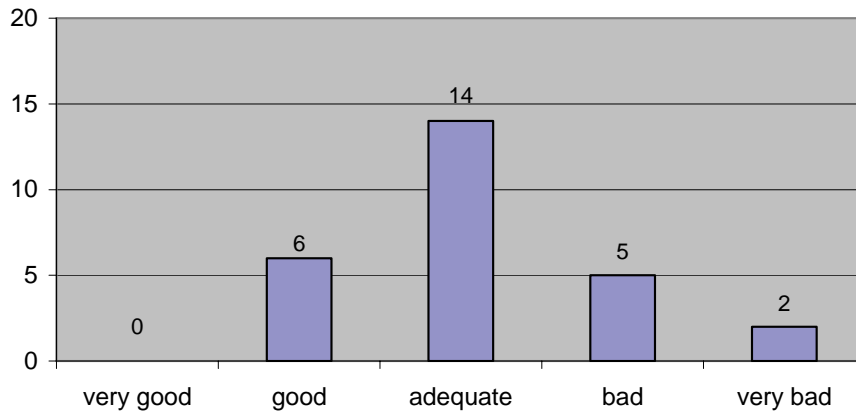
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



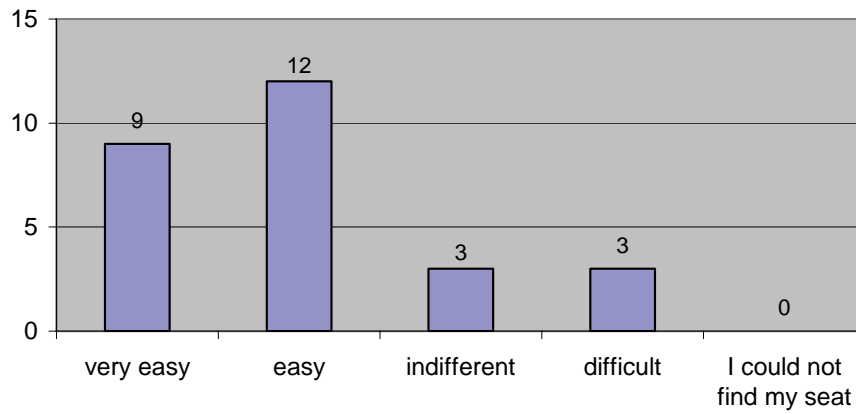
Restroom facilities



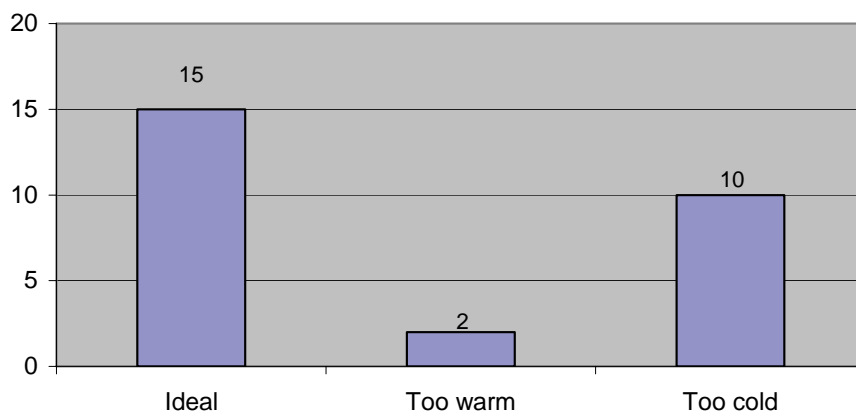
### Suitability of the examination hall



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



### Q5) Hall temperature



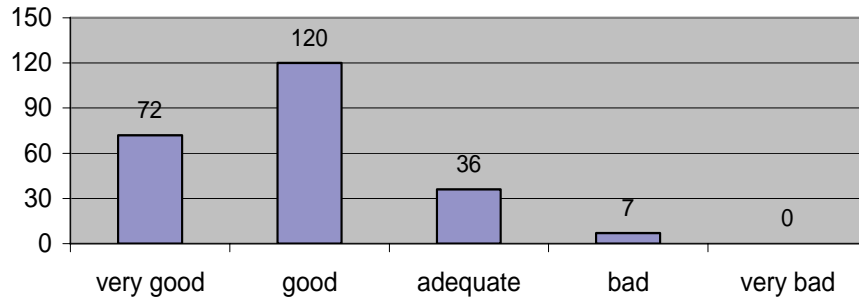
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- A bit cold at the beginning of the Examination in the mornings
- About the temperature: the temperature was changed during the exam, no good regulation. Some moments was cold, some moments was ok, and again some moments was cold and some moments was ok
- Cold in the morning of paper C.
- Difficult to find in a big fair complex. problems with the light and it was not possible to avoid the light to come in.
- EQ2007 hall was better to access, this year, outside the city centre, harder to get to, within the huge convention center finding the hall when not even the information desk knew about the event was stressfull.
- Even though I took a taxi to get there, I had to walk for about 1 Km to reach the examination room because we did not have the precise information of the actual place.
- far away to the closest hotel
- In my opinion, the Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones in Madrid is a place better than the IFEMA place with relating to the examination hall and its conditions.
- The examination hall was inside the Fair of Madrid but the hall itself was in the entrance of the Norht, just the opposite side to the entrance which is closer to the hotels of the area. The candidates had to walk with the heavy suitcases full of books and material almost 1 Km from the main entrance to the Fair (South door) to almost the North door where the hall was. Although it is not related to the examination, it was difficult to find somewhere to eat between papers DI and DII, at last we found a self-service in another pabillion but it was not easy to find it, no one care about where the candidates were going to eat.
- The information received from EPO was not clear about the location of examination hall. Once in the fair space it was not easy too get the building where the hall was. Also it was complicated to find some place for eating/drinking something between papers.
- The room was not very well acoustically insulated.
- The seats were uncomfortable, and the room too cold.
- There are no hotels close to the convention center and the convention center is difficult to drive to from Madrid city center. Additionally, the room within the convention center was as far from parking and as hard to find as any that I have been to.
- During a part of the examination the hall was too cold in my opinion, what did not help me to concentrate specially after a couple of hours durig the first morning of the examinatio, when one begins to feel tired. And the place for candidates should have been a little bit larger. The second and third days the temperature conditions were better. There were not many places for lunch near the hall.
- It was better the "Palacio de Congresos" of the previous years.
- The chair was not very comfortable. In general, for me the facility room (table and chair) in EQE 2007 that took place in Madrid (I think it was on "palacio de congresos") was much better

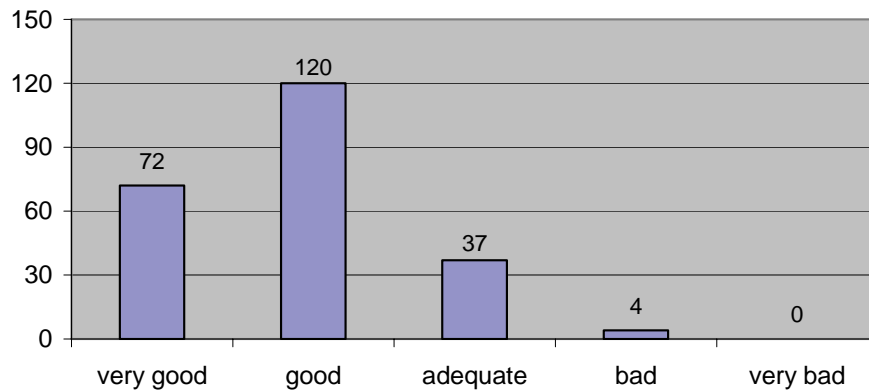
## 1.8 Munich M,O,C (235 answers received)

### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

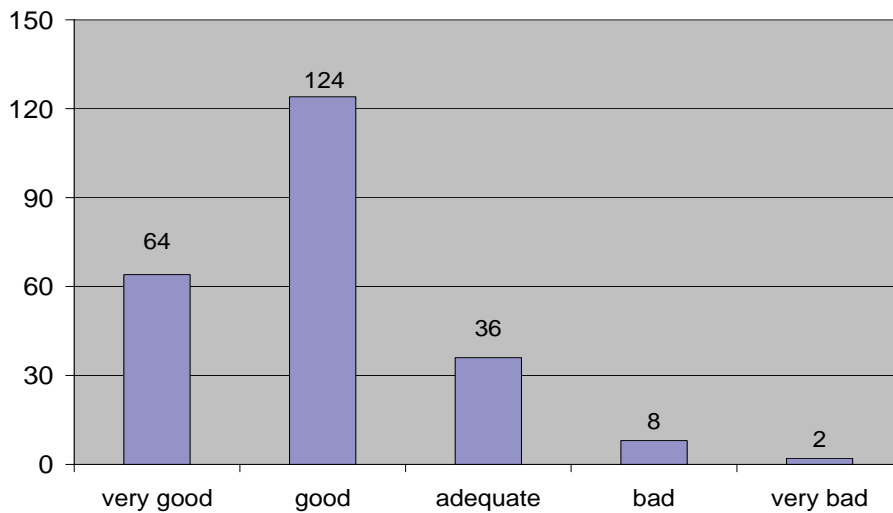
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



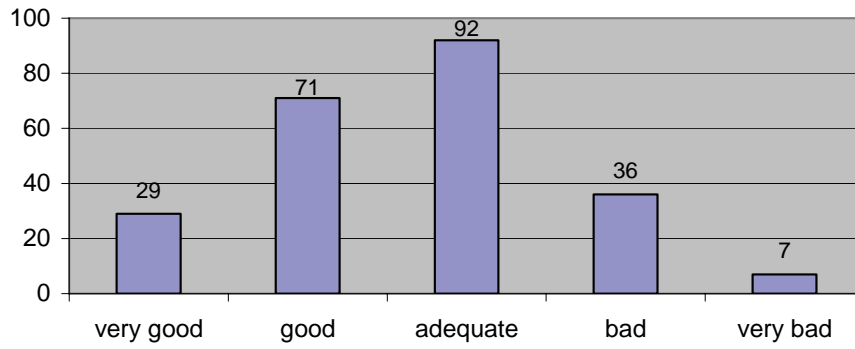
Identification check



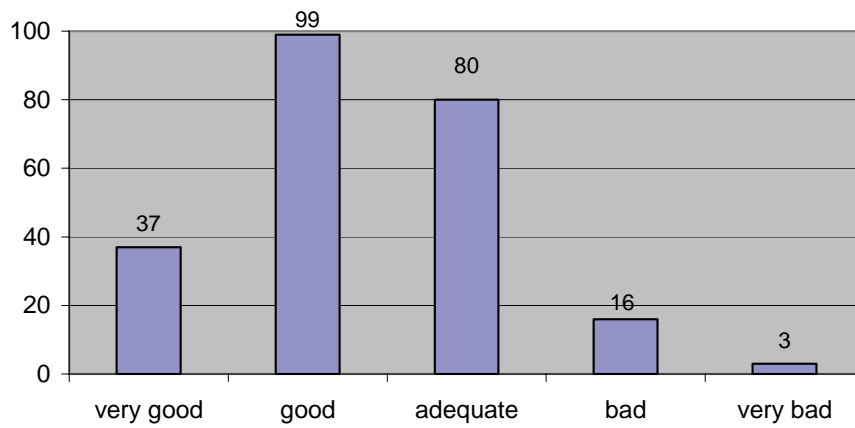
Lighting conditions



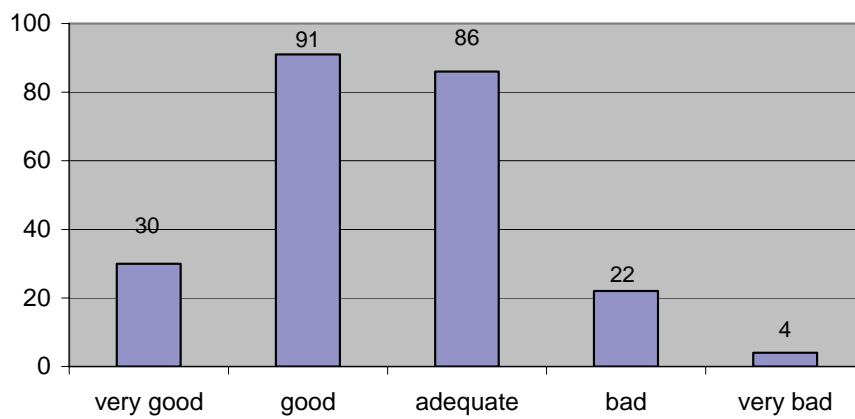
### Space for candidates



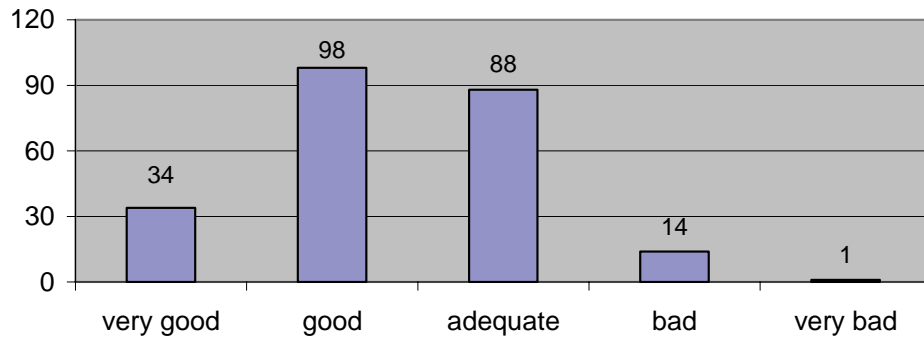
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



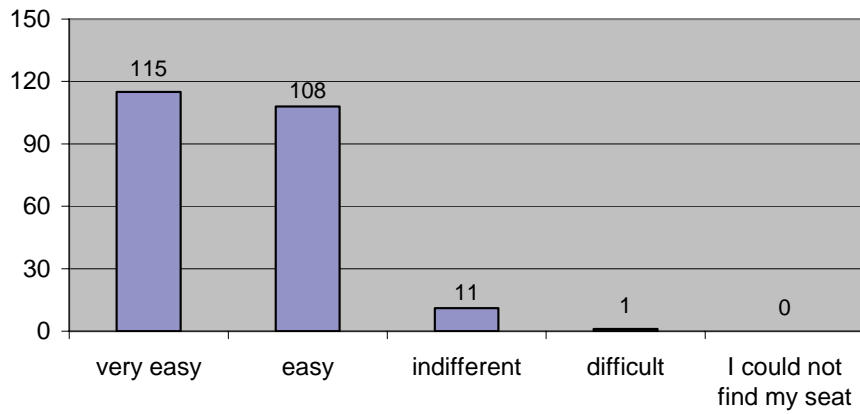
### Restroom facilities



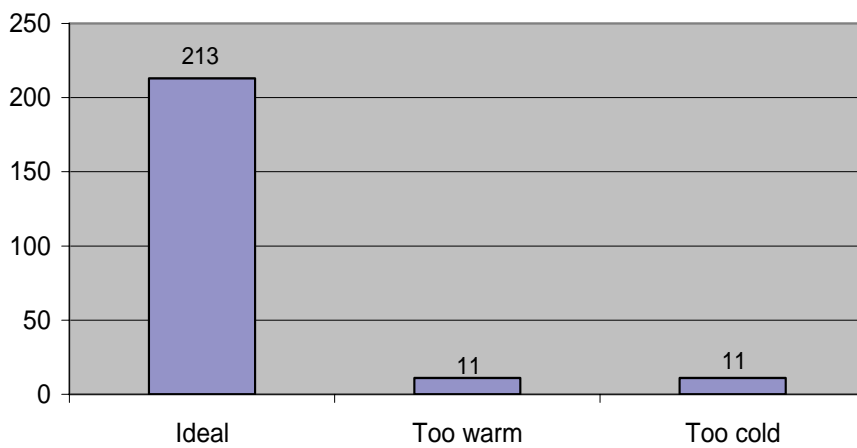
### Suitability of the examination hall



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



### Q5) Hall temperature



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

- a little more fresh air would help
- a lot of people were walking in and out of the hall, which resulted in the doors banging every time - slightly disturbing
- After about 2 hours one get cold feet and this resulted in headache the first day (following days I used a cushion of newspapers under my feet to isolate from the cold concrete floor). Passing EQE with headache is really not pleasant exam conditions.
- Although there was enough space available in the hall, the candidates were placed rather close to each other.
- always problematic is space for several hundreds of candidates has to be provided; improvement: more fresh air, better chairs
- An verschiedenen Stellen gibt es Bleche im Boden (unter dem Teppich), die sehr laut sind, wenn man auf sie tritt, was störend ist.
- as always very well organised
- Da offensichtlich nur etwa 40% der Hallenfläche genutzt wurde, hätten die Tische zumindest mit etwas mehr Abstand angeordnet werden können, um den Kandidaten mehr Möglichkeiten zu geben, ihr Material zumindest um den (sehr begrenzten!) Arbeitsplatz herum anzuordnen.
- Dazzling lights and bad air produced headache. Table was too small - time loss due to handling of many papers on small table.
- desk and surrounding space are too small to spread out all the documents and books
- Die Plätze sind zu klein und zu dicht aufeinander.
- Die Stühle waren für die Tischhöhe zu niedrig. Ich musste die Richtlinien auf den Stuhl legen um eine gute Höhe beim Sitzen zu erlangen (Meine Größe 174 cm).
- Good organisation
- hall is too big
- I always feel to be in a big railway central station...
- I was surprised how good it was considering the size and number of participants
- I'd prefer if you could find an examination hall which is closer to the centre of Munich. The distance between the tables of the candidates should be slightly increased so that it is easier to place the suitcases, backpacks, bags etc. between neighbouring tables. Especially on the 3rd day (part C) I found that the air quality was getting worse and worse (> 500 people sitting in room for 6 hours). How about a ventilation break after 3 hours?
- In Bauteil VIII haben wir eine Sporthalle, die als Prüfungsort um ein Vielfaches geeigneter als das MOC ist und uns nicht kostet!
- Indication to take all items out during the lunch break might have been useful as I left some documents in the room and was not able to enter during the break.
- It is not enough place on the table
- It would be good to leave a bit more space between tables.
- it's OK. Conditions in the DPMA (last year) were better because of the lower number of candidates, though).

- Lack of indications in the first MOC Building, for people coming from S-Bahn. The Exam was actually in the last one.
- noisy from without
- not easily accessible by public transport
- On the way to the restroom one had to cross cable-channels under the carpet, which had noisy lids, disturbing the other candidates. Problem-Solution: Put a stripe of foam under the corners of the lids. Restroom was sometimes crowded. Problem-Solution: Access to a second restroom.
- only one clock, difficult to see
- surprisingly good atmosphere in the MOC
- tables too near hall to far away from subway and hotel
- the doors entering the hall were very loud when closing
- the examination hall was suitable, but there were no restroom facilities in the breaks. Not good for candidates with health problems etc
- The hall was adequate for the huge number of people sitting and working there. The noise of some hundred people can not be stopped nor compensated. Air and temperature was good.
- The restroom access procedure was not clear. I was surprised that when I was on the restroom I met somebody else. I feared to be accused willing to cheat.
- There is nowhere to sit during the breaks between exams. You spend 1 hr standing outside the hall and are more tired at the start of the second exam. Even just a second waiting hall with some normal chairs would be great, particularly since most people bring some sandwiches with them for lunch.
- There should be a cafeteria or a room for taking lunch
- Tiefgarage ist sehr teuer Preis/Leistung der Kantine ist schlecht
- to have more space between each table
- Too big, too many persons...
- Too less space between two neighbouring tables (e.g. for the suitcases)
- too many people cause too much noise which disturbed me, the tables were too close to each other so that I was disturbed by movements of my neighbour and I had not enough space to right and left of my chair for books etc.
- Too many people in a single room
- Way to toilet is too long
- zu enge Platzverhältnisse erschwerten Konzentration: zu kleine Tische und zu eng zueinandergestellt. Halle wäre groß genug gewesen, für größere Tische und größere Abstände dazwischen.
- Atmosphere is a little bit "anonymous", but I think there is no way to change this considering that there are 500 and more candidates each day of the examination
- Bad air exchange/refreshing: After paper D I the air had become used and smelly, which was especially noticeable after re-entering the hall for paper D II! Solution: At least before starting with paper D II, i.e. during the break of 1.5 hours the hall should be completely ventilated with fresh air from outside. Of course equally applicable to the second day. Third day: Difficult to achieve this way, but perhaps improved air conditioning facility might help.
- Der Weg zum M,O,C, ist sehr schlecht beschildert - das ist zwar Sache der



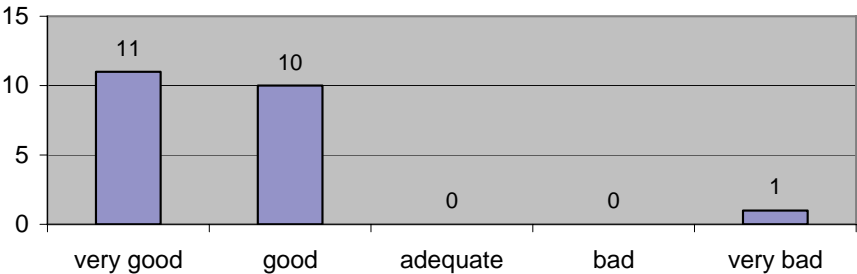
Stadt München bzw. des M,O,C,-Betreibers aber es soll hier erwähnt werden.

- Everything was fine.
- Examination hall was in my opinion bad because the connection to the public transport is not very good and the lighting condition is bad.
- I had cold feet and there was very little daylight
- improved air supply and larger desks would be appreciated
- It has been very pleasant, that the examination room provided daylight, which made the exam less exhausting (especially for the eyes). Please make sure that in coming examinations the same room is provided.
- It is impossible to go to the restroom without making noise, due to the presence of metal plates on the floor which cannot be avoided.
- it would have been great if the height of chairs would have been adjustable; height of the chair was somewhat too low
- Metal plates on floor ground should be better isolated such that they do not make so much noise when stepping onto them.
- more clocks at the walls would be useful
- poor air quality
- Slightly too warm, but better too warm than too cold. A central location would be better.
- Such a huge hall like in the MOC is in general not ideal for concentration
- table was "swinging" a bit - irritating in the beginning
- The air was not so good. I suggest to increase the change of air during the break in Tuesday and Wednesday.
- The desktop is too small....
- The hall was draughty.
- the loos stink, the vicinity of the hall is dreadful, but everything else is more than ok.
- The space was adequate, however, a bit bigger table for the examination would have been better. During the examination, I had to put some of my folders on the bottom nearby my seat.
- The surrounding of the MOC is a bit poor. There are only a few possibilities to get food and beverages around lunch time.
- The temperature was too high in the afternoon.
- There were metal plates on the ground which produced disturbing sounds, when a chair was moved
- Too big, one hall should host max. 100 examinees.

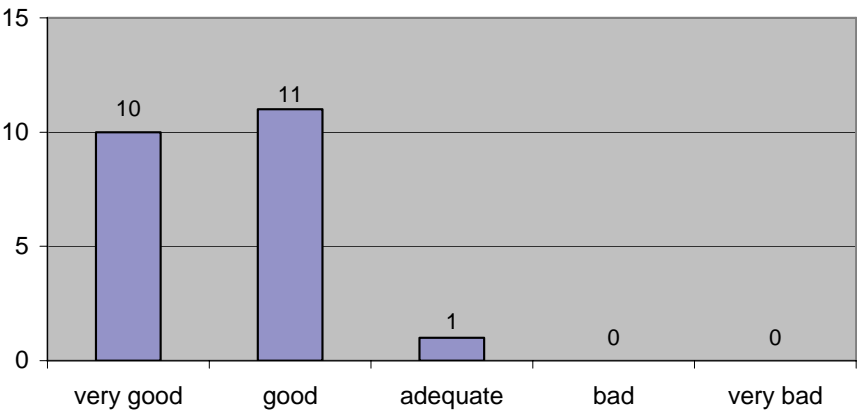
# 1.9 DPMA (22 answers received)

## Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

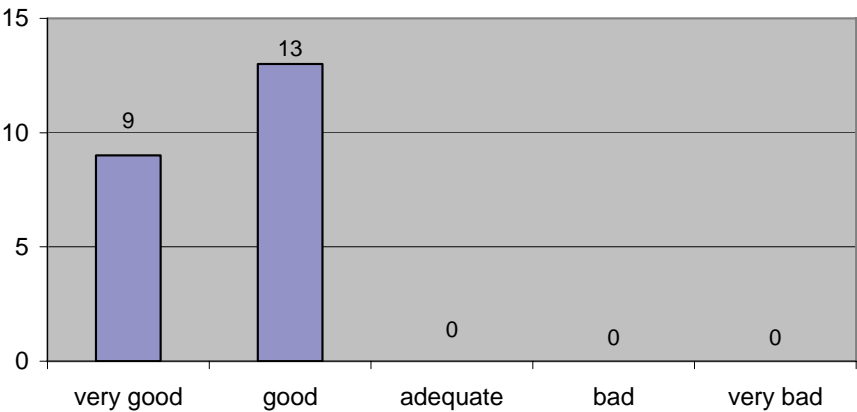
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



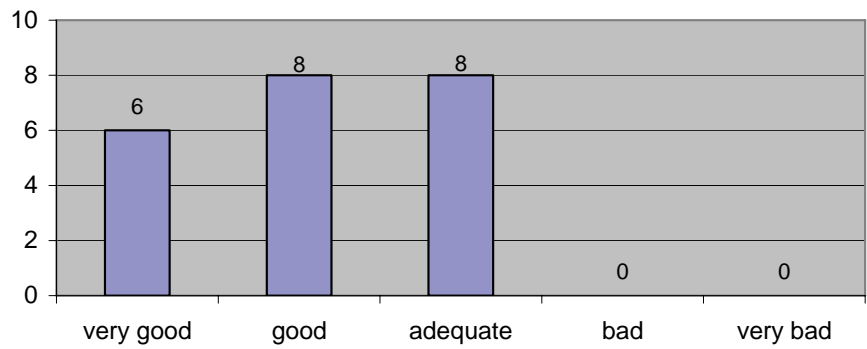
Identification check



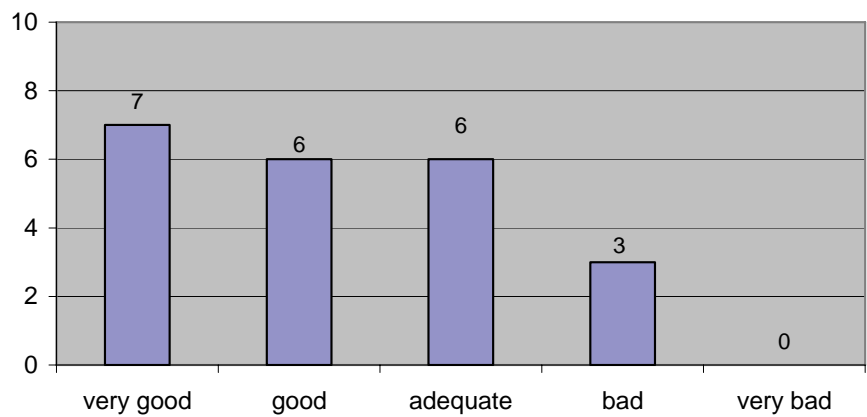
Lighting conditions



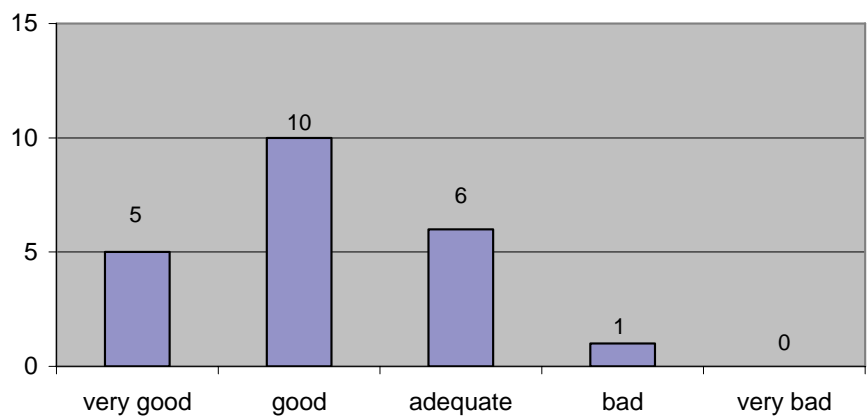
Space for candidates



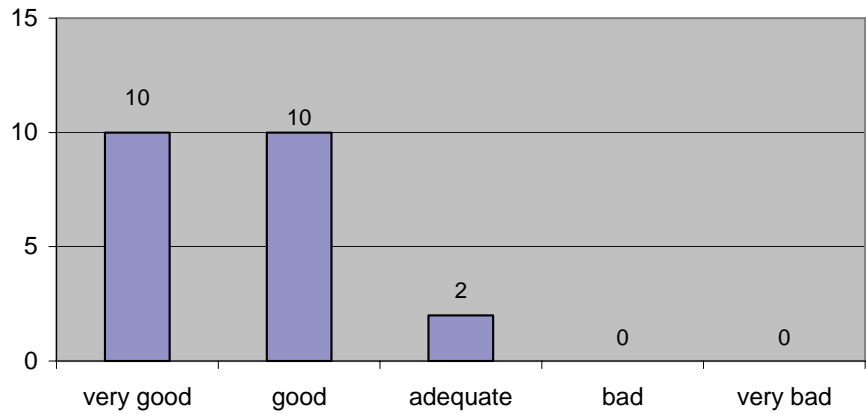
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



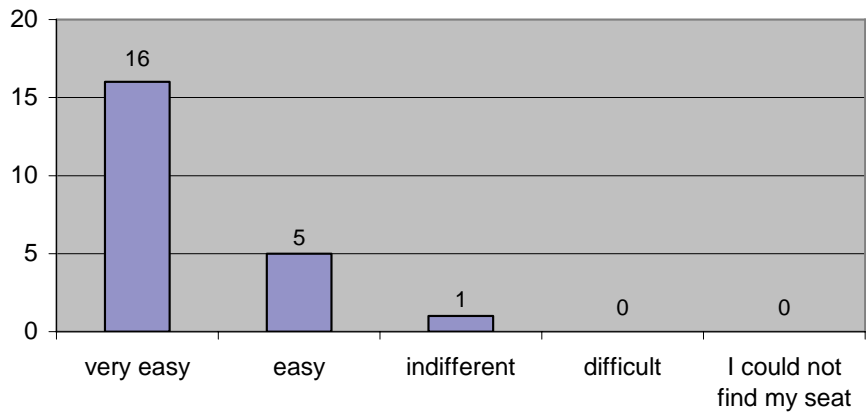
Restroom facilities



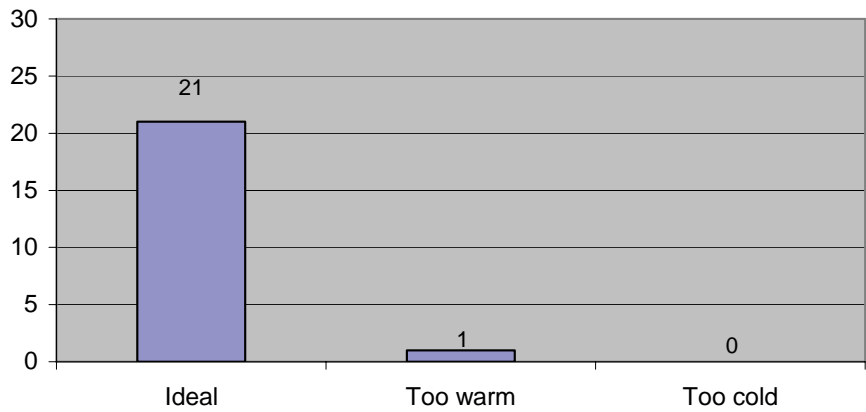
**Suitability of the examination hall**



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



**Q5) Hall temperature**



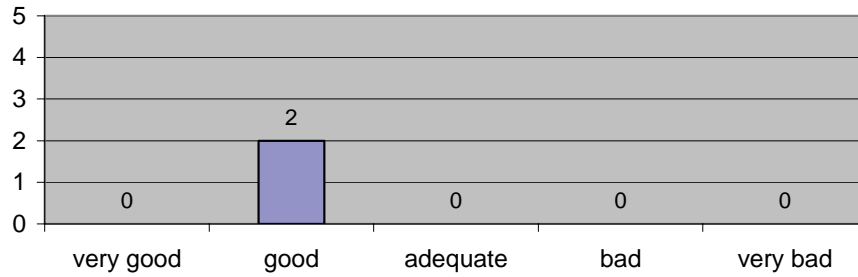
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- I know it is difficult to organize but I would always prefer a hall with a maximum of 50 candidates as it is otherwise too loud.
- moving chairs made a loud noise in that section where there was no carpet
- The rest rooms smelled bad, the temperature was ok not too hot, for some people there was much sun, but they closed the jalousien, some candidates were noisy, if there are not so noisy scissors this would be a good information. I would allways recomend ear plugs as I used it to have it quite.
- Waste bins insufficiently sized (too small).
- Everything was very good and I was very happy about it.
- If I had not arrived at the same time as someone who had been there before, I would not have found the hall. Even the person at the reception did not seem to know where it was. Just before the start of the exam, it adds a lot of stress.
- It was comfortable that not so many people wrote the examination there.
- size of the examination hall was very comfortable; good atmosphere, adequate for examinations
- The DPMA could use the main reading room which provides a quieter environment

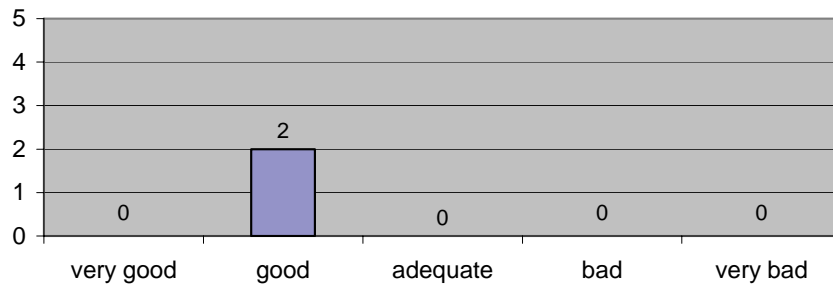
### 1.10 Munich Isar (2 answers received)

**Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:**

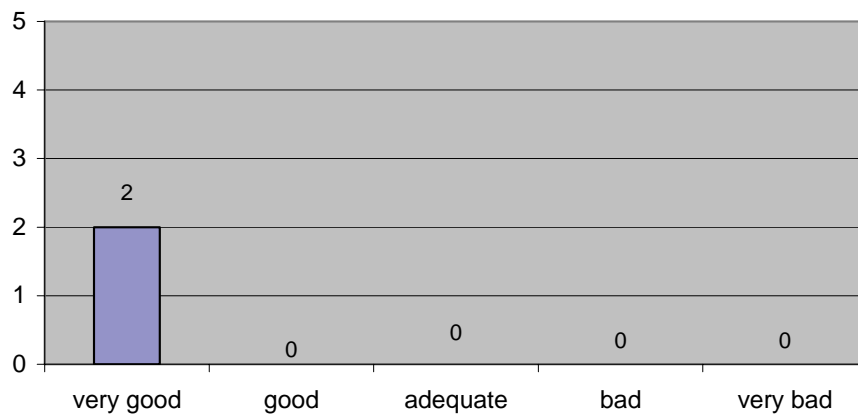
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



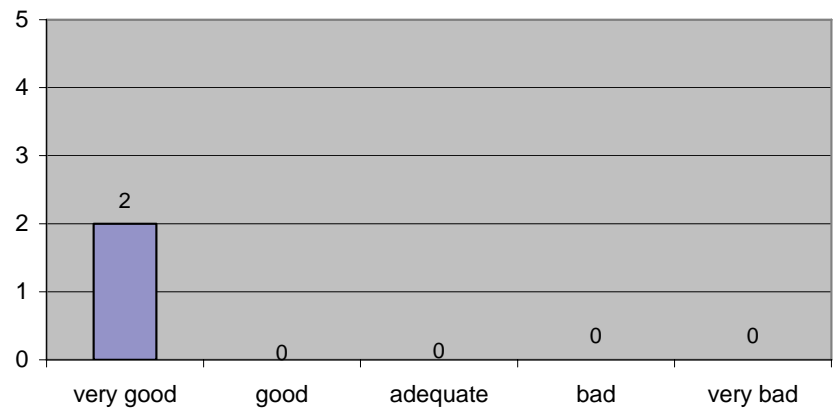
Identification check



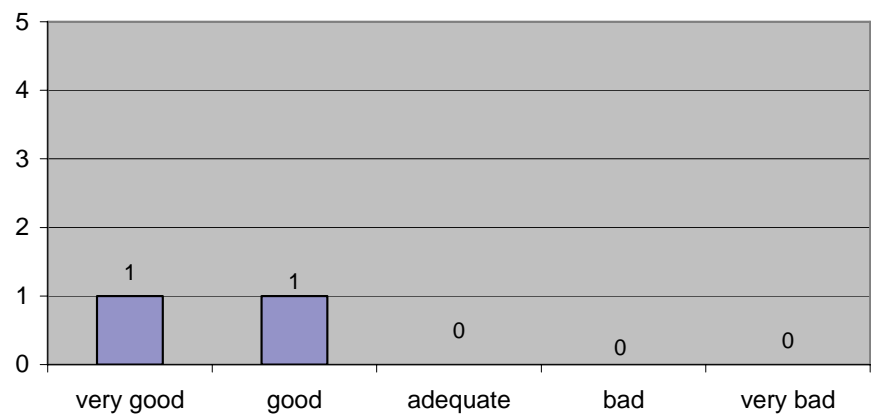
Lighting conditions



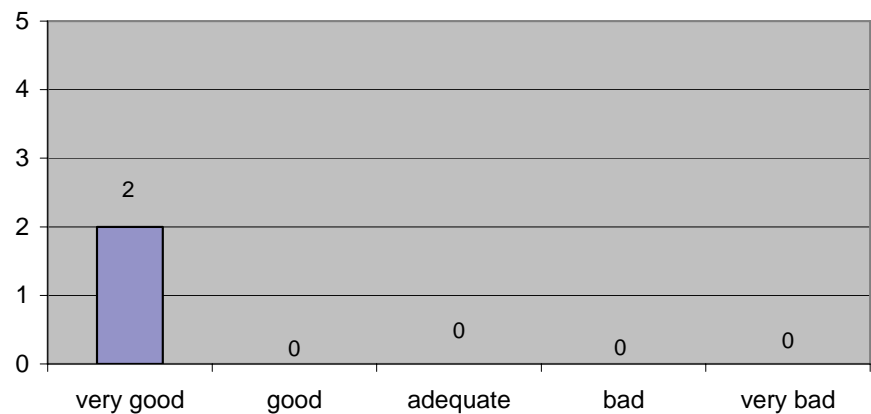
Space for candidates



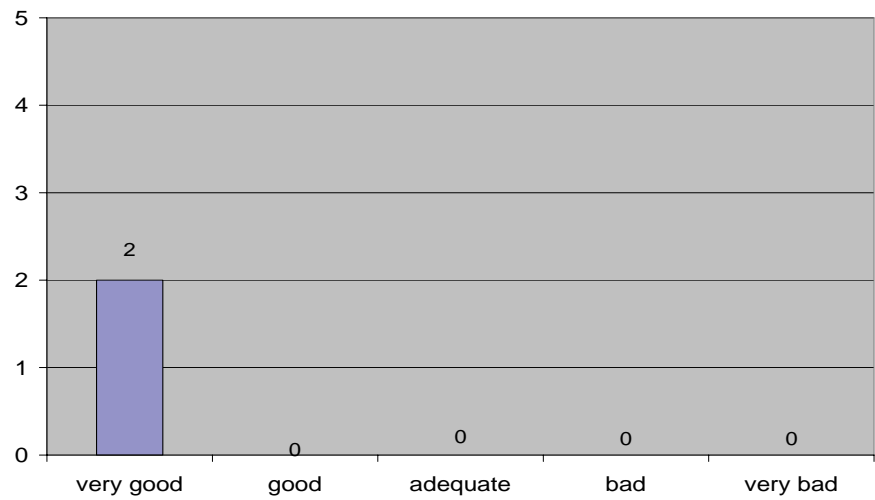
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



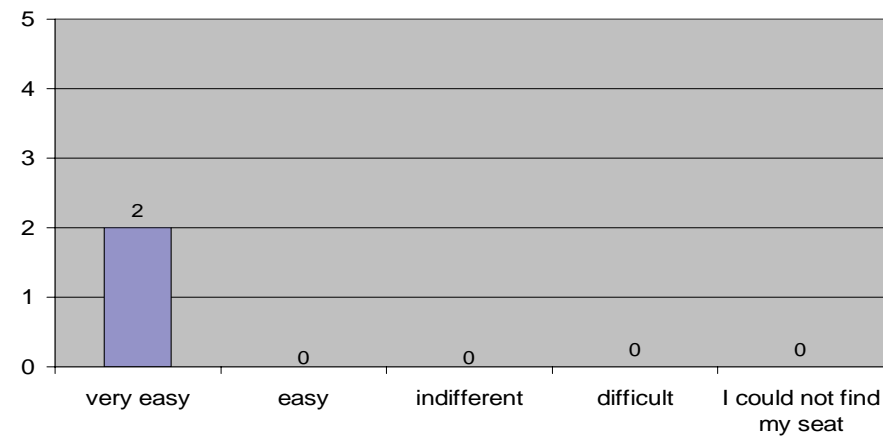
Restroom facilities



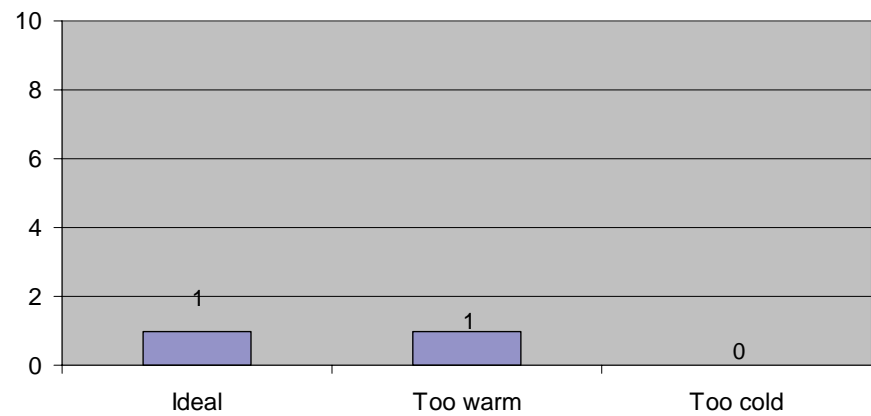
**Suitability of the examination hall**



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



**Q5) Hall temperature**





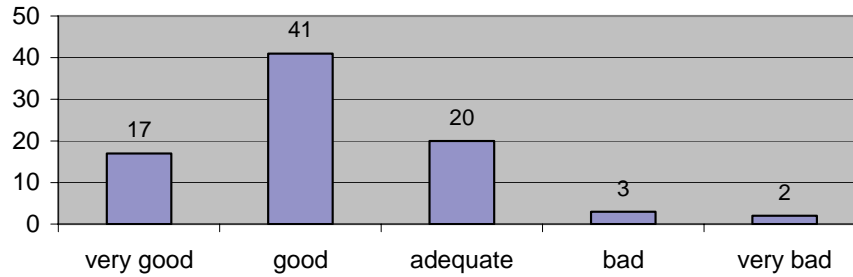
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- I sat the exam under special conditions having had the misfortune to suffer major abdominal surgery 6 weeks before the exam. I am currently under medical instructions to drink a lot of fluids. I was allowed to drink as much water as I needed during the exam and to visit the rest room facilities as often as I needed. This was ideal. The carpet was thick and soundless and the door opened and closed quietly so I could come in and out without disturbing the other 3 candidates in the room. Also, I have difficulty lifting post-operation. My partner was allowed to bring my books into the exam room for me and after the exam the two invigilators very kindly helped me and my books back to the front door to await the arrival of my partner. I thought my needs were catered for well.

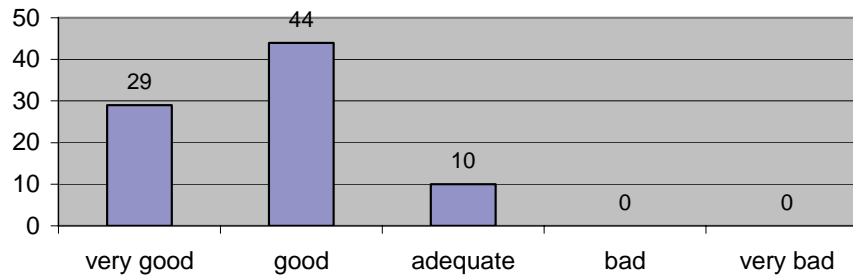
### 1.11 Paris (83 answers received)

#### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

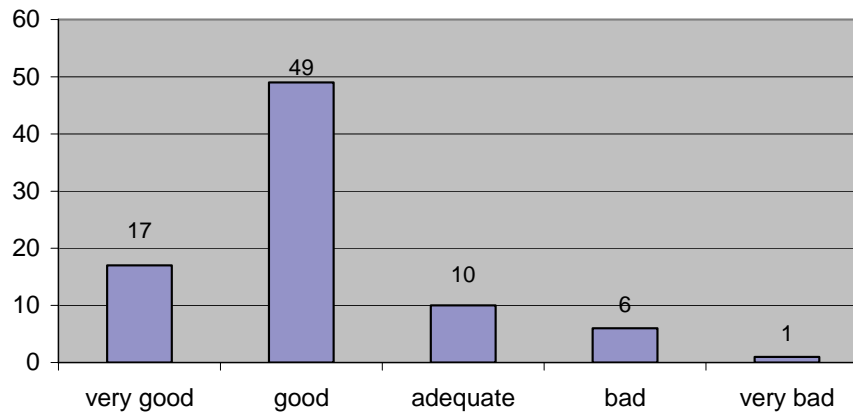
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



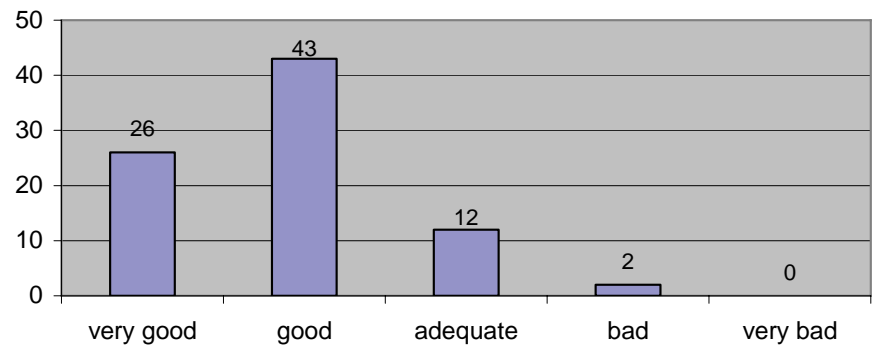
Identification check



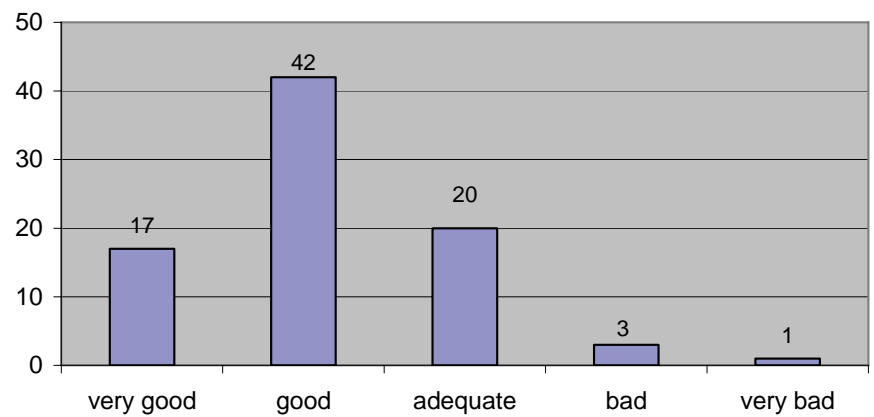
Lighting conditions



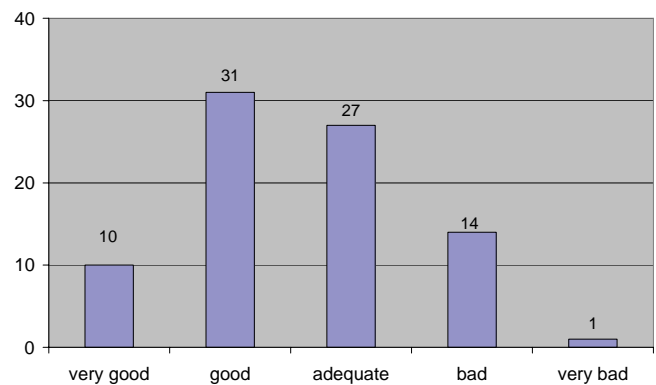
Space for candidates



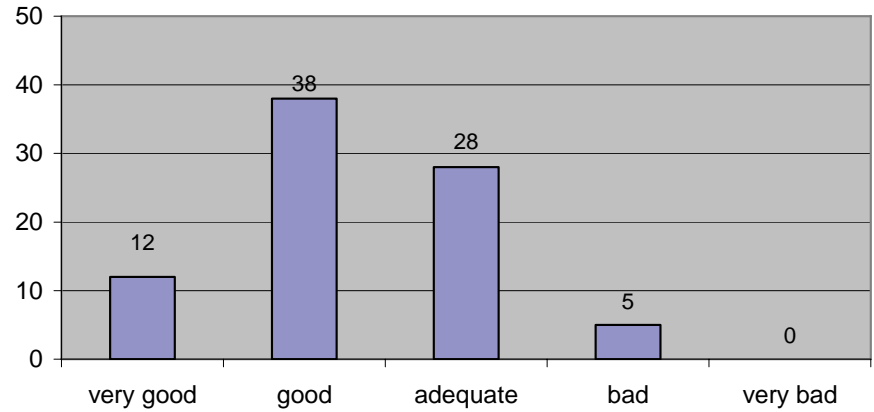
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



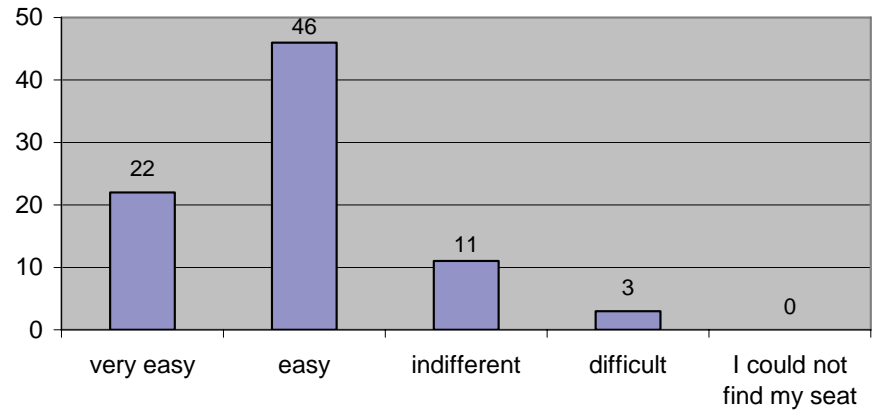
Restroom facilities



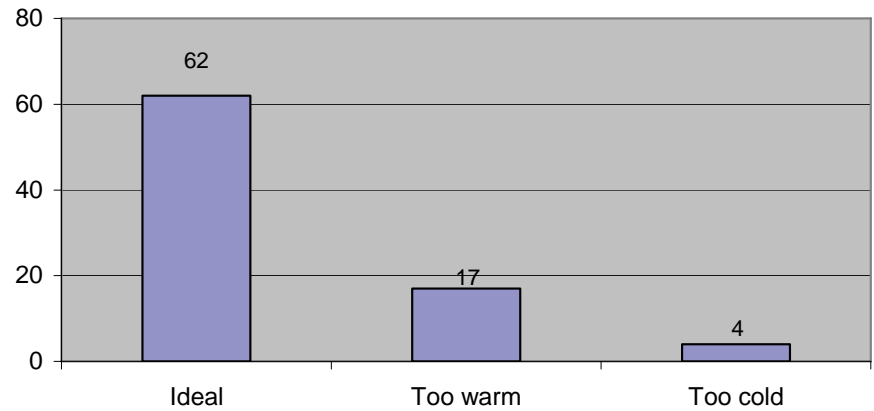
# Suitability of the examination hall



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



## Q5) Hall temperature



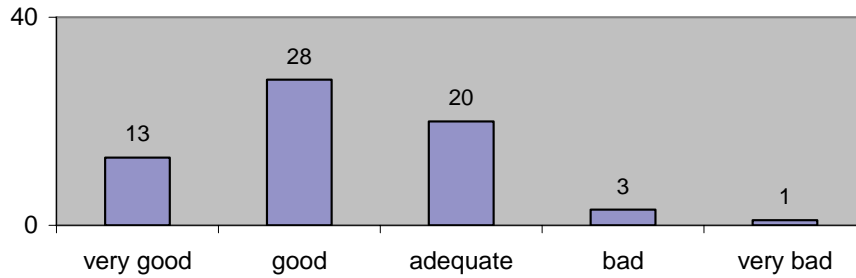
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- At the beginning, it was too warm. But, as I was seated near an exit door, it became colder and colder : so, at the end, I was "frozen".
- create centres in other cities or, if stil in Paris, not so far from the city-centre.
- desks not very stable and noisy
- I appreciate the presence of the clocks in the hall
- I was pleasantly surprised by the ideal temperature, large desks and helpful attitude of the invigilators
- it's in a bad part of paris (dangerous in the evening specially for a woman?) and not easy to find a restaurant in the evening
- La table grinçait! C'était assez énervant...
- Le centre d'examen est trop excentré, difficile d'accès en transport en commun, dans un quartier presque dépourvu d'hôtels
- My table was unstable and madde noise each time I wrote, it was a little bit unsettling for myself and perhaps for other and I had no time and no mind to deal with that technical problem. Please check the equipment (tables and chairs) before next session
- Not enough light and "talkative" invigilators
- NOt well situated in paris (plaine saint denis !!!)
- regarding the temperature, I remembered that it was just a little bit too warm in the morning (but acceptable) and too cold in the evening (or the contrary, I do not remember precisely)
- tables had a tendancy to creak
- The clocks in the hall were very useful!!
- The examination center is not placed in a pleasent environment(Saint Denis). Saint Denis is one of the worst (in term of criminality)town close to Paris, in my opinion, La defense seems to be a better place to find a examination hall.
- The examination hall is a bit too far from public transportation.
- The examination hall is fine, but there is too few sits where candidates can await for the examination before it starts.
- The location of the examination hall at St denis is not ideal
- The people who check your identity could wear no high heeled shoes. it makes a lot of noise in a further quiet room.
- the table was shaking when I wrote
- Very bad localization with difficulties to access in the subburbs of Paris
- Good in general
- I see no particular problems
- It's a bit far from Paris gare de Lyon
- The place of the examination is not well served by public transport, especially when there are strikes (thank you, the french)
- There was some tables and chairs which are noisy.

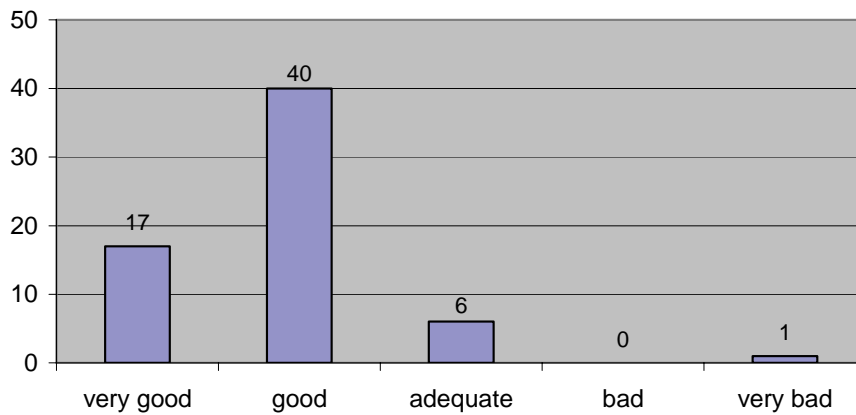
## 1.12 Rome (66 answers received)

**Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:**

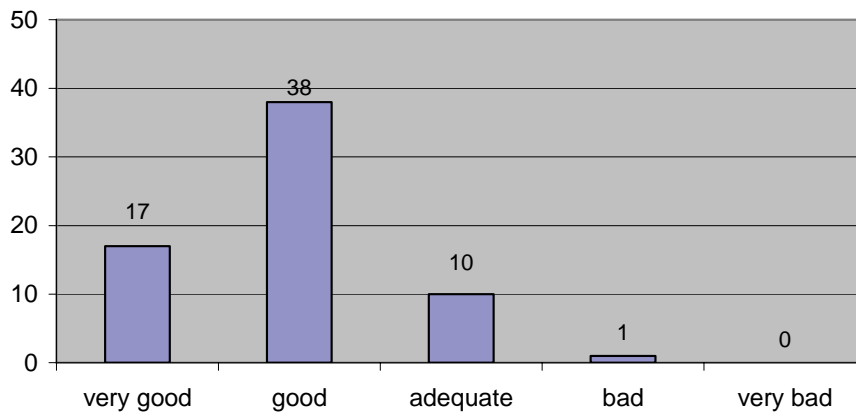
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



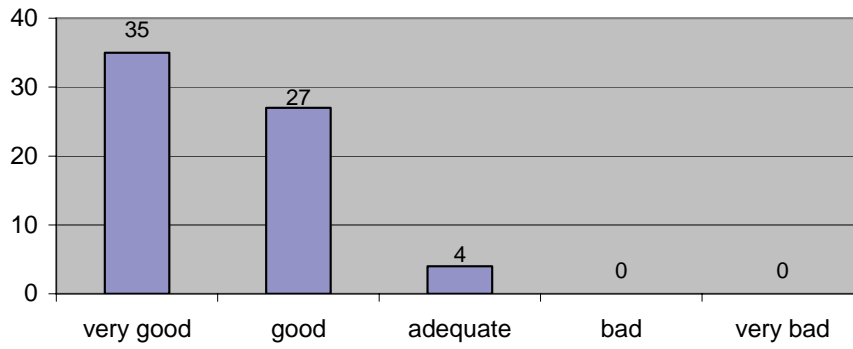
Identification check



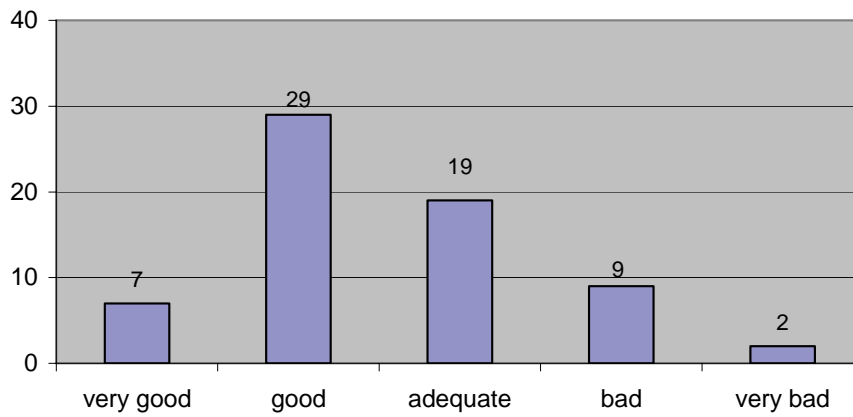
Lighting conditions



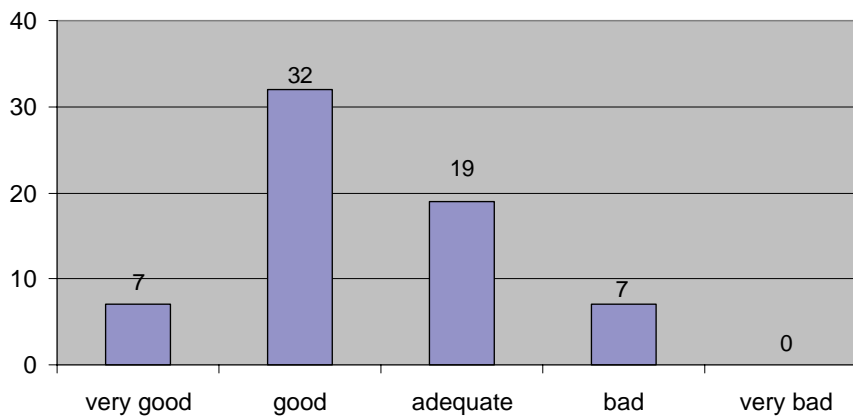
### Space for candidates



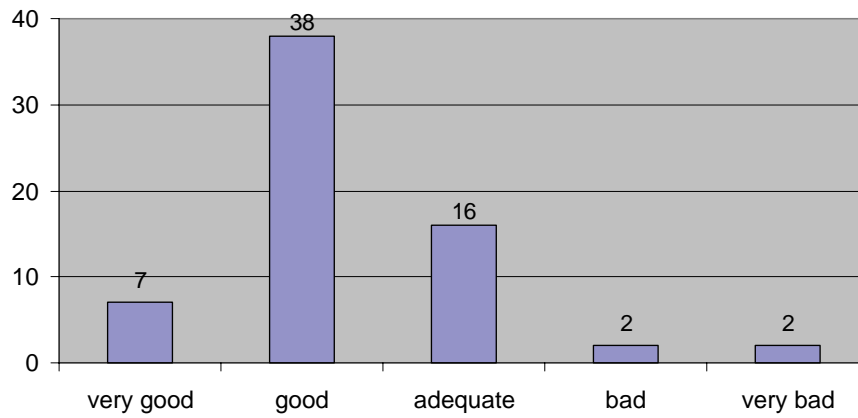
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



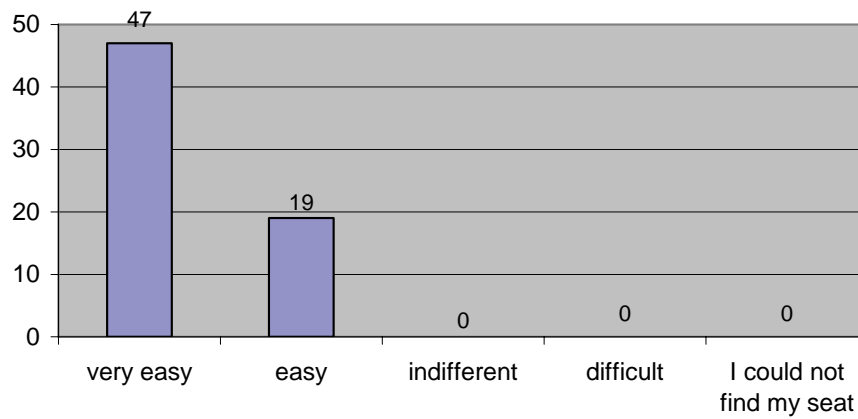
### Restroom facilities



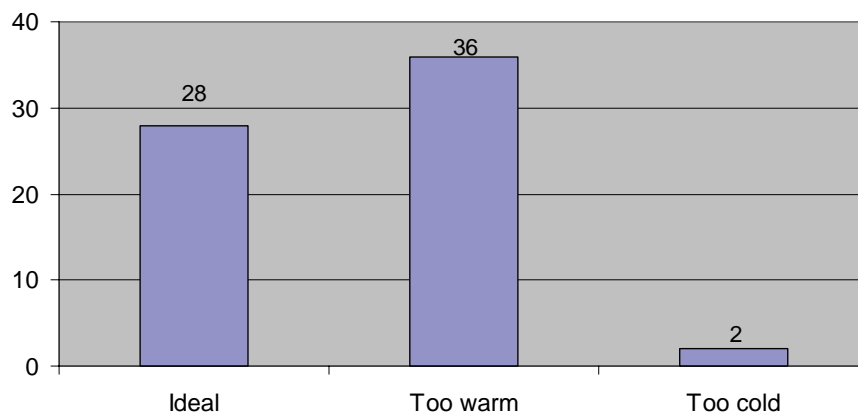
### Suitability of the examination hall



### 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.**

- bad acoustic, microphone not functioning, air-conditioning system too noisy
- Difficult to keep an ideal temperature. Heating was switched on and off to this purpose.
- difficult to reach with heavy bags full of books since 3 floors down and then up with no elevators.
- During Paper D1 e D2, there was some noise, amplified by the loudspeakers, which was probably due to some mobile phones.
- I think that the hall was suitable for the exam. Nevertheless, in my opinion, it had a problem with the temperature regulation (too cold or too warm).
- In order to maintain an ideal temperature, sometimes a sudden passage from a too warm temp. to a too cold temp., and viceversa, occurred. A background noise of the microphones and/or air conditioning was present
- It was very noisy! Big problems with the loudspeakers and mobile phones of invigilators.
- it would be better having the examination hall inside the Ergife Palace Hotel (it was raining) and a lunch break a little longer (about two hours)
- microphone was noisy
- No possibility to close the main door, therefore conversations outside the hall could be heard !!! Heating system on and off so the room was becoming extremely hot (and noisy) and then cold.... One microphone stayed on for 1 hour creating background noise !
- Temperature conditions out of control, if turned on too hot, otherwise too cold. Also at the beginning of the examination there was an annoying noise from the centralized loudspeaker, this later issue was solved within the first 1/2 hour.
- temperature difference between the restroom and the room was too high (rest room too cold) . Moreover the table , adequate for what concerns the area, was a little too tall compared to the chair for me (I am just 1.60m tall)
- The air conditioning was a little bit noisy
- The air system was too noisy
- the hall was extremely appropriate for taking the exam
- the hall was good but the place (Ergife hotel) is far from town center and it is quite difficult to get there by public transport
- The room is located 5 levels underneath the ground floor and there are no elevators which makes the carrying of the books and heavy material up and down from the stairs very difficult.
- There was no way to control the temperature of the hall. It was only possible to switch the temperature control system between "on" (too hot) or "off" (cold)
- too far to be reached, even though well connected
- Too many stairs to reach/leave the room.
- Too many steps in the building to reach the examination hall with our baggages
- Too warm hall but sometimes too cold due to difficulty in regulation of the central heating system
- Yes, actually I have to say that it was a bit too warm
- Although I very easily found the examination hall, I couldn't see any clear sign

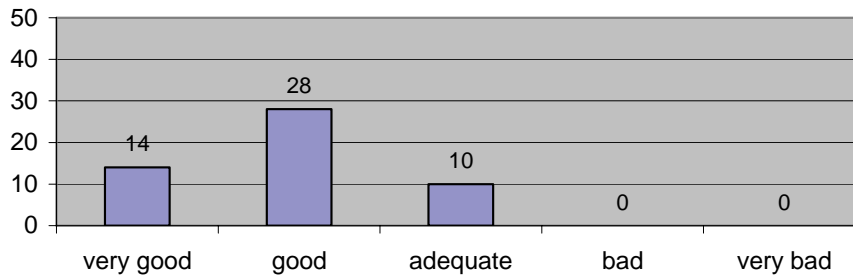
(however I just "followed the flow" of candidates and found it without problems).

- In general comfortable conditions. Some problems (for limited time) met due to electromagnetic noisy interferences into the microphone/speaker system
- Invigilator's cell phone rung. Was disturbing
- There are two long ramps of steps to reach the examination hall. I studied with a pregnant friend, and another one was present. It is not easy to reach the examination hall with a big belly and a big case for the books.
- there were problems with the amplification of the microphone

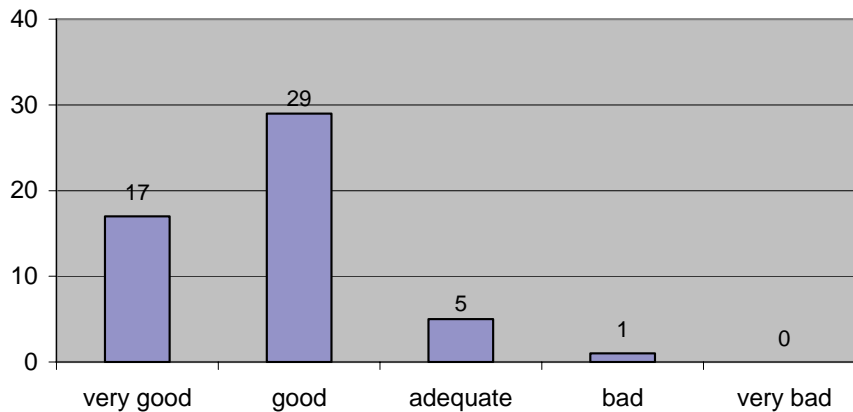
### 1.13 Stockholm (52 answers received)

#### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

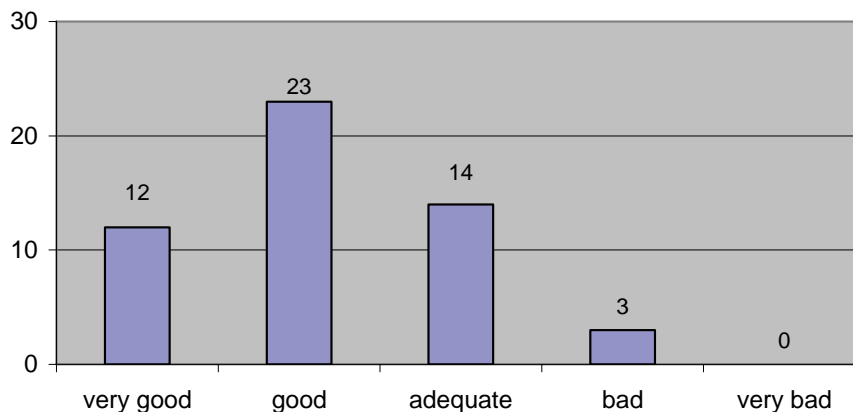
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



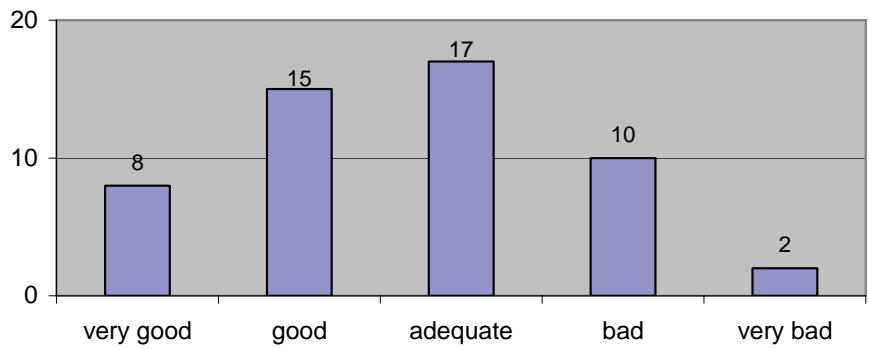
Identification check



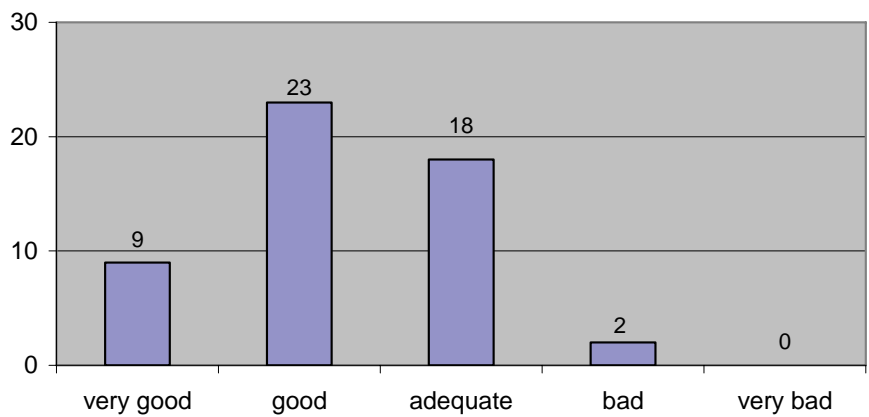
Lighting conditions



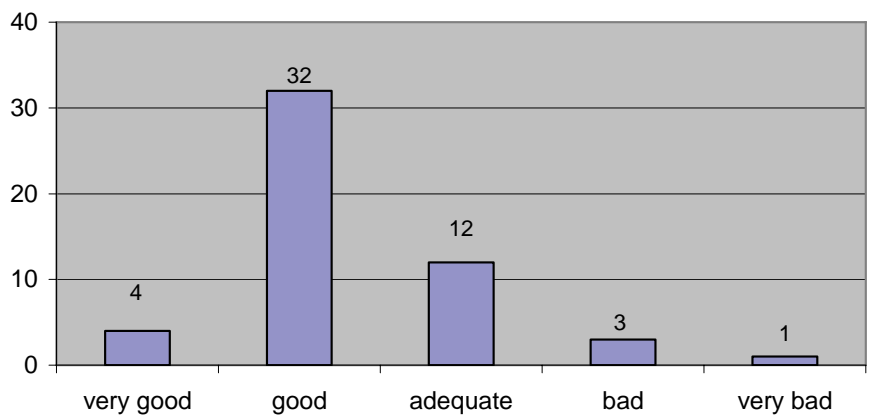
Space for candidates



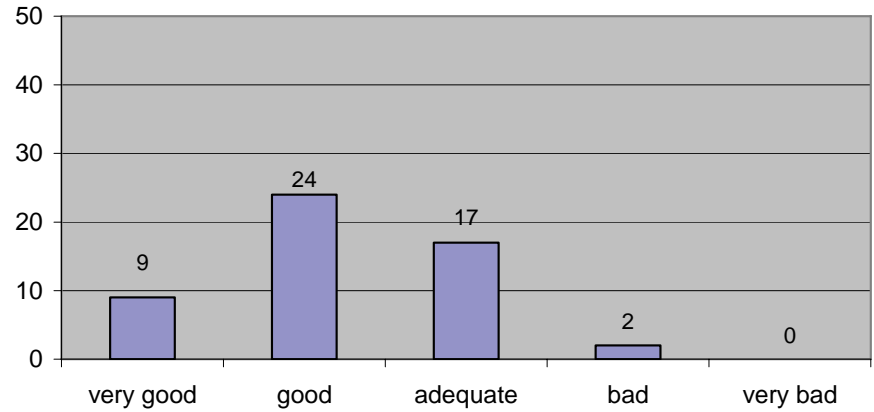
Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



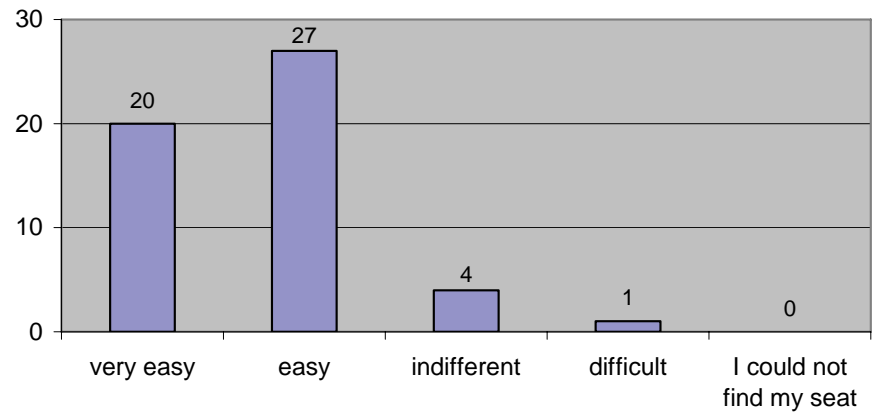
Restroom facilities



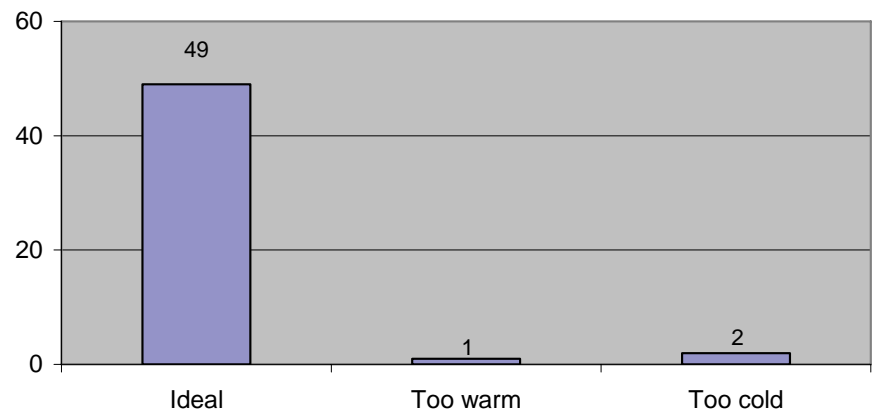
**Suitability of the examination hall**



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



**Q5) Hall temperature**



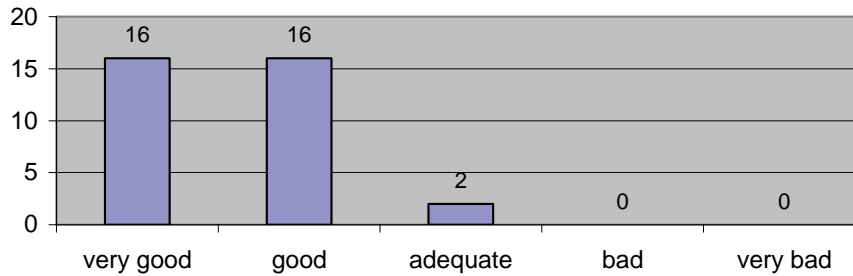
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- Apart from the size of the desks, which are slightly on the small side for paper C, I am quite happy with the hall.
- Disturbing noises now and then from next room facilities.
- It would be good if the restrooms were situated in the hall so that not only one person could go at the same time.
- Larger tables and more space around them would be appreciated.
- No additional comments. Very suitable hall.
- nothing that i come to think of
- The desks were very old and not that stable. The chairs was not that comfy.
- The examination hall is as good as can be expected.
- The table was to unsteady.

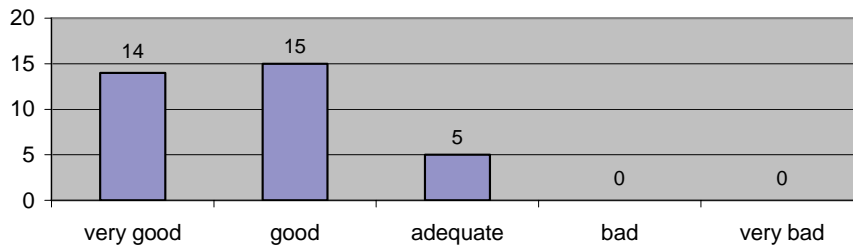
## 1.14 Taastrup (34 answers received)

### Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

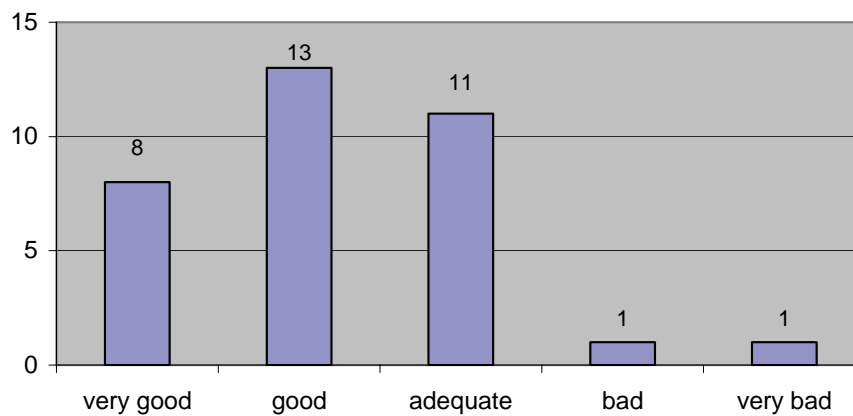
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



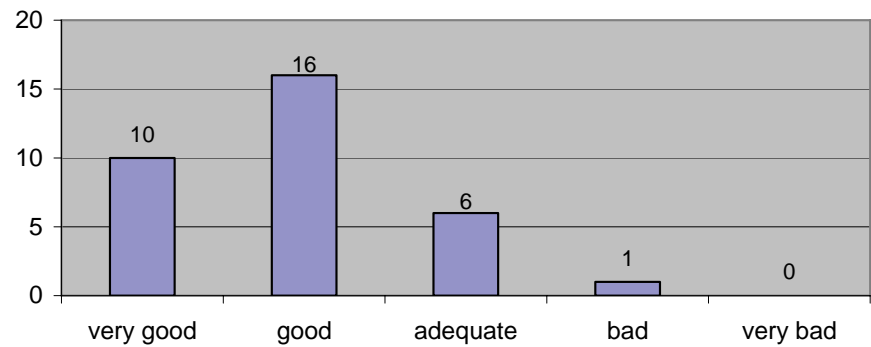
Identification check



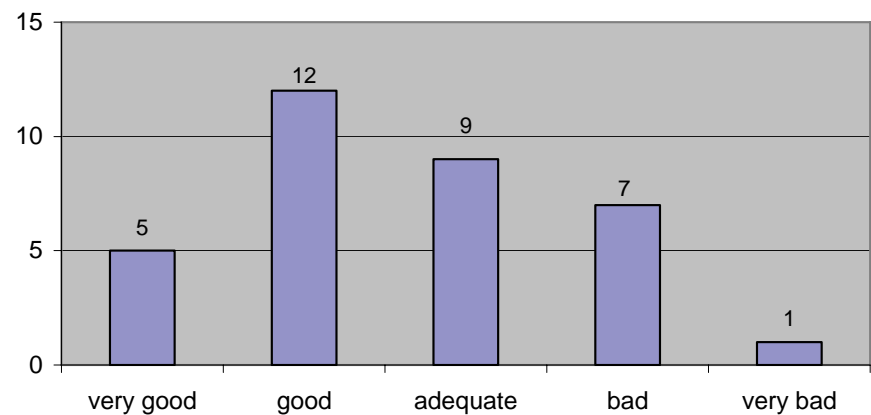
Lighting conditions



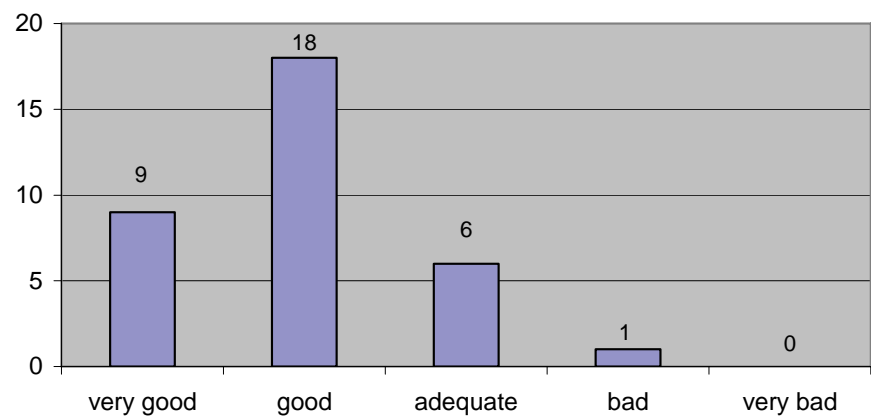
Space for candidates



Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators

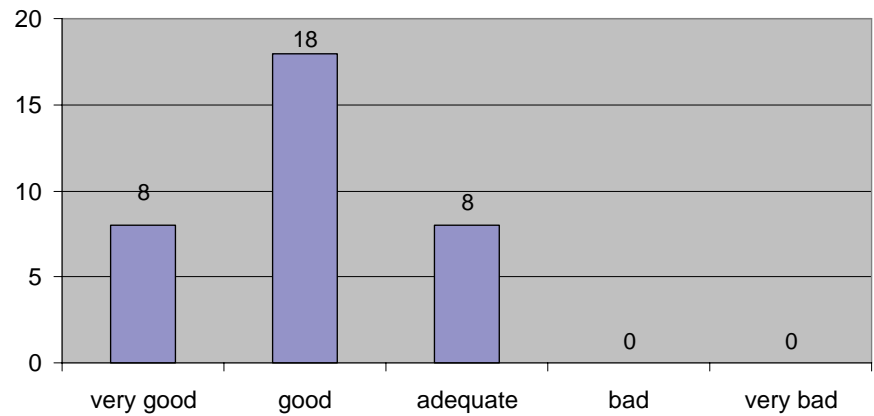


Restroom facilities

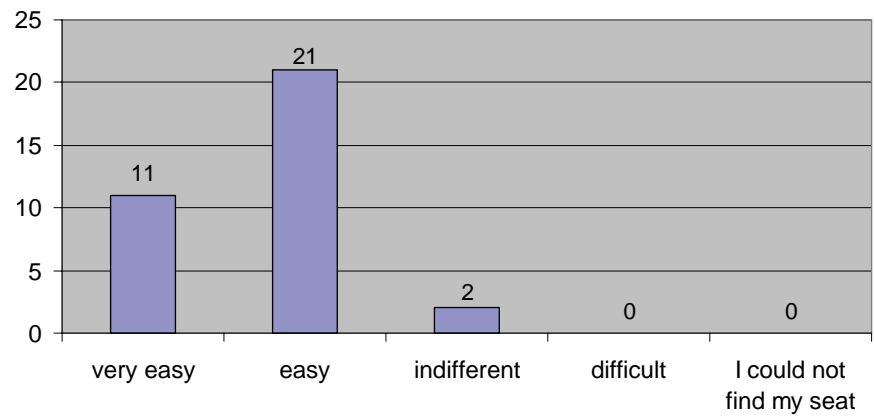




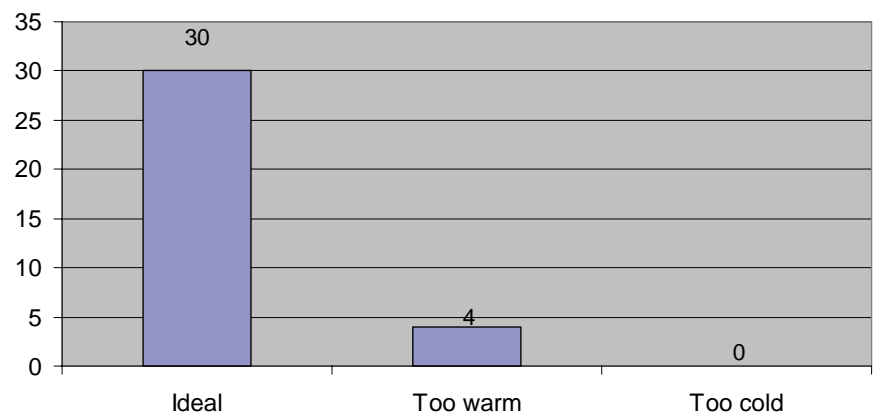
### Suitability of the examination hall



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



### Q5) Hall temperature



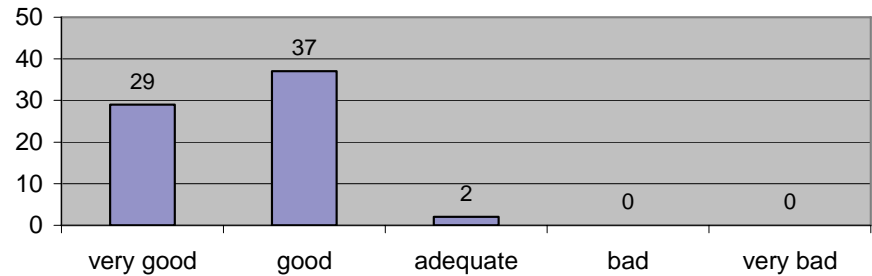
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- After two days my back hurts from the uncomfortable chairs not fitted with the table
- automatic closing of shutters to exclude sunlight was noisy and sometimes plunged the candidates into the dark
- I was one of the unlucky few that got to sit in direct sunlight during the C paper. One of the invigilators did draw a curtain before the window, but it did not offer complete shade, but an irritating flickering light.
- It was difficult to hear the person speaking in the room. Not a big problem since it was possible to have the information repeated.
- It was very hard (almost impossible) to hear the invigilators talking. The drinks and fruit were good and very welcome.
- Perhaps a little more clearer (louder) announcements before the exam begins.
- There were an examination guard and he started with the rules of the examination, I think. It was impossible to hear what he actually said. Likewise it was impossible to hear the 5 minutes warning before the examination stopped. He could have spoken louder and chosen one direction instead of turning around and standing at the end of the room only.
- With respect to lightning conditions, the sun was shining through the screens and onto the tables, which was very disturbing. With respect to place, the tables are simply too small, at least for paper C, where one needs to have a lot of documents quickly available
- In the examination hall, one wall consists entirely of windows facing south. The outside automatic blinds are very noisy and what is worse, does not cover approximately 1/5 of each window section, where doors are present. It gets extremely uncomfortable to sit in direct sunlight, both due to light and heat. The invigilators and the candidates sitting at the window "controlled" the curtains, which left candidates, such as I, in direct sunlight for part of the exams.
- Not all tables had adequate lighting - I was permitted to switch table to a better-lighted one for paper C

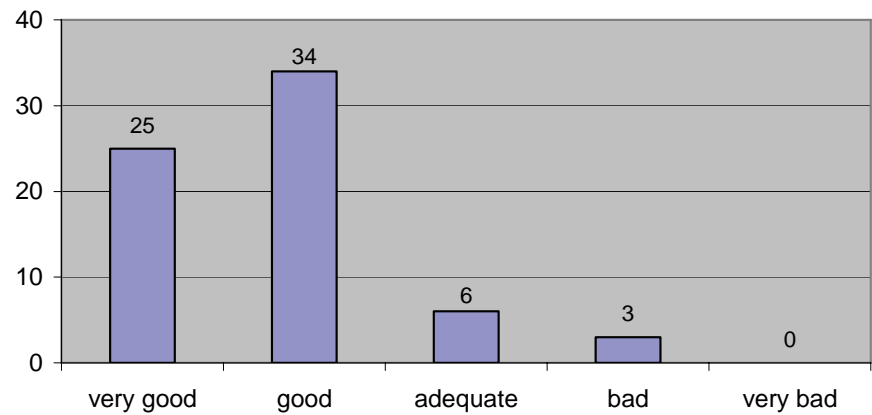
# 1.15 The Hague (68 answers received)

## Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:

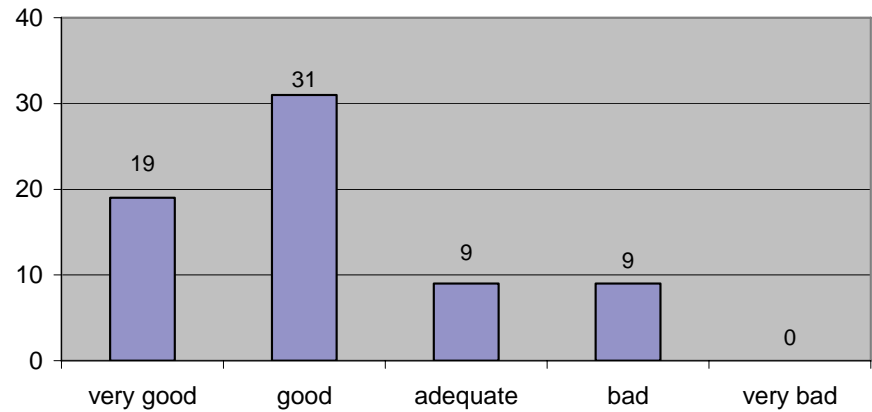
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



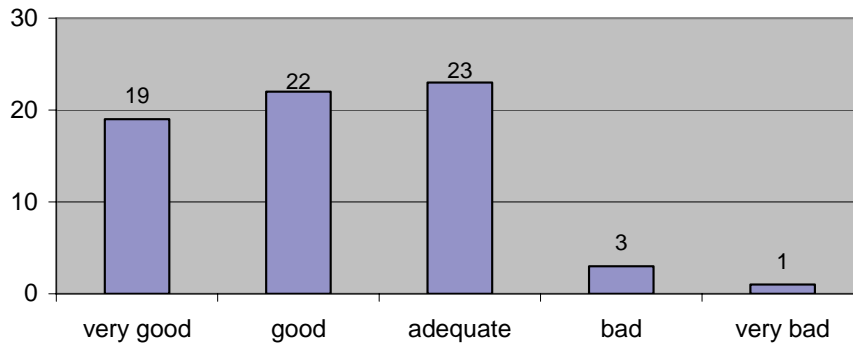
Identification check



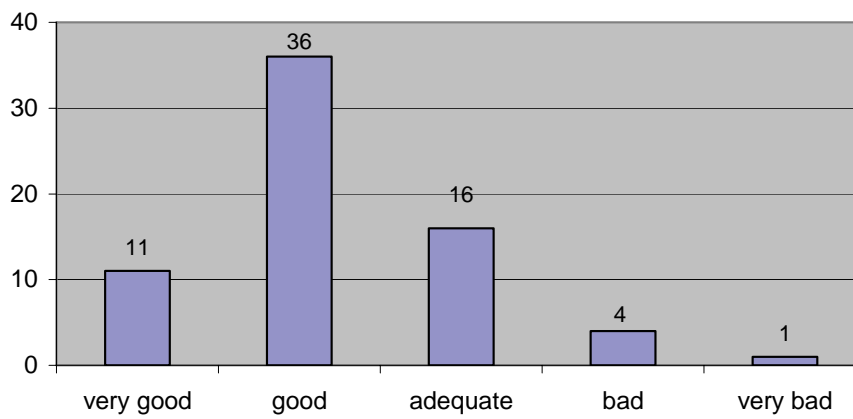
Lighting conditions



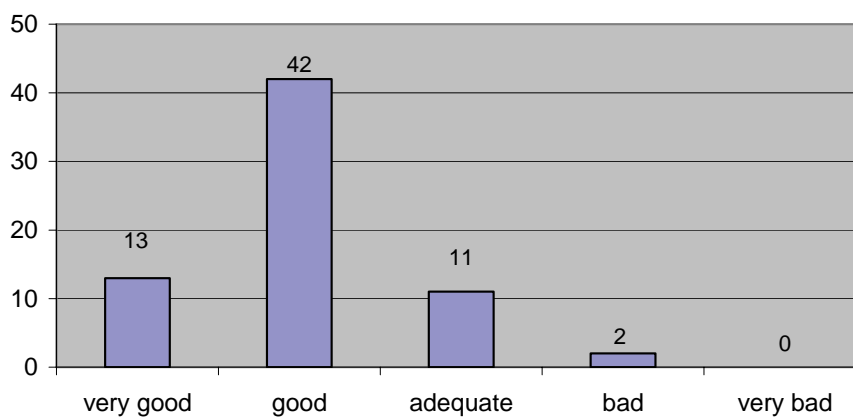
### Space for candidates



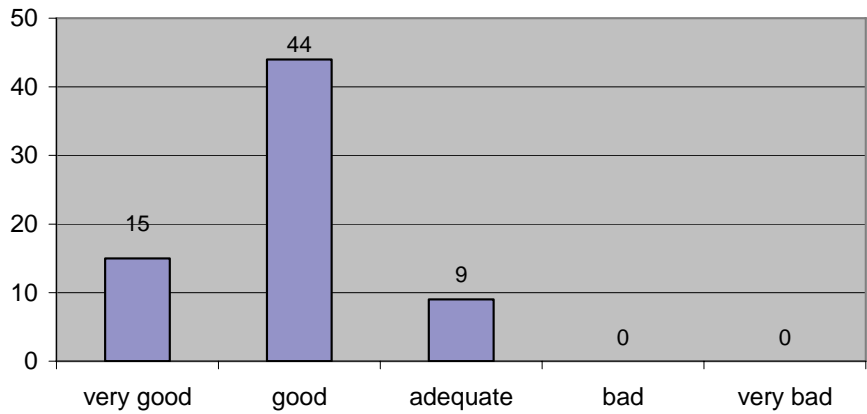
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



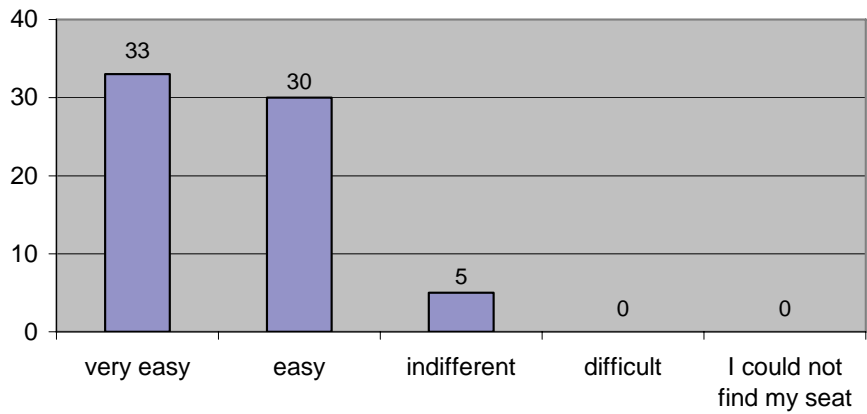
### Restroom facilities



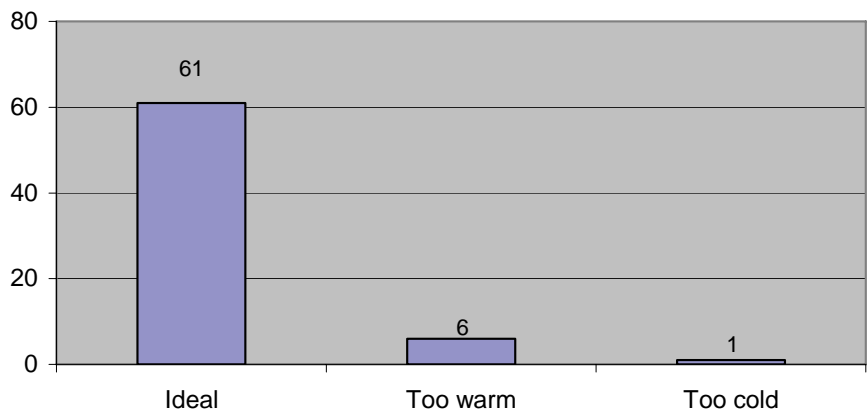
# Suitability of the examination hall



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



## Q5) Hall temperature



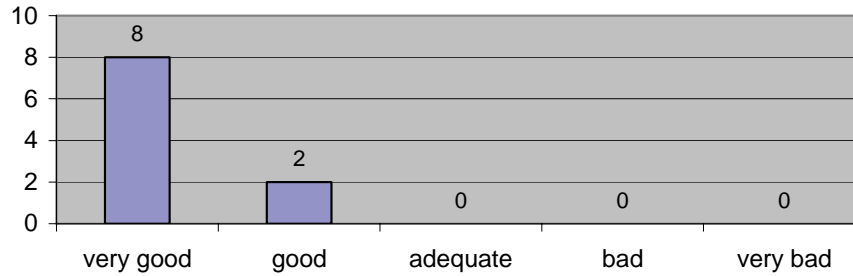
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- Conditions were excellent, no complains. The most attractive improvement would be an increase in table surface (very relevant for papers C and D), but I understand this is not so easy to improve
- Hall was ok
- In spite of rules and regulations it was noisy. People used erasing tapes with rattling noises and the fluttering of papers was loud. Even the invigilators while making announcements during the exam were a pain.
- Just like last year the light level was too low.
- Last year I had a desk in the middle of the auditorium which was far better than being sat on the "benches" on the periphery.
- Light on the seats in the outer rows was to low.
- Lighting was not perfect for reading and writing during 6 hours
- only somewhat too warm
- Possibly more desk space where to place the books (the microphones were in the way), otherwise everything was as perfect as I can imagine it to be.
- somewhat more light could be helpful
- sound system was not optimal: voice of chairman was not loud enough but still understandable
- The hall was good and very suitable for the exam. The air quality was above my expectations as was the lighting.
- The invigilator was not always easy to understand, the PA system or how it is used could be better. Toilets are too far away from the exam room!
- Overall, the auditorium in The Hague was very comfortable. However, the introduction talk before each paper was difficult to hear.
- The airconditioning seemed to have problems coping with so many stressed out candidates and their food items at the same time. At the end of each paper, the hall smelled of sweat and food (especially after paper C where people brought much more food and worked for longer).
- The waiting for getting permission to go to the toilet was very frustrating. The C-paper is 6 (!) hours, restroom facilities have to be more flexible.
- toilettes were too far away.

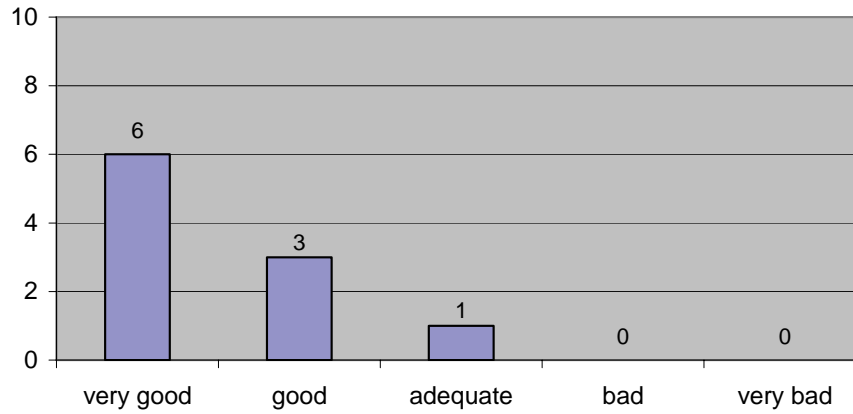
## 1.16 Vienna (10 answers received)

**Q3) Candidates were asked to rate the following aspects:**

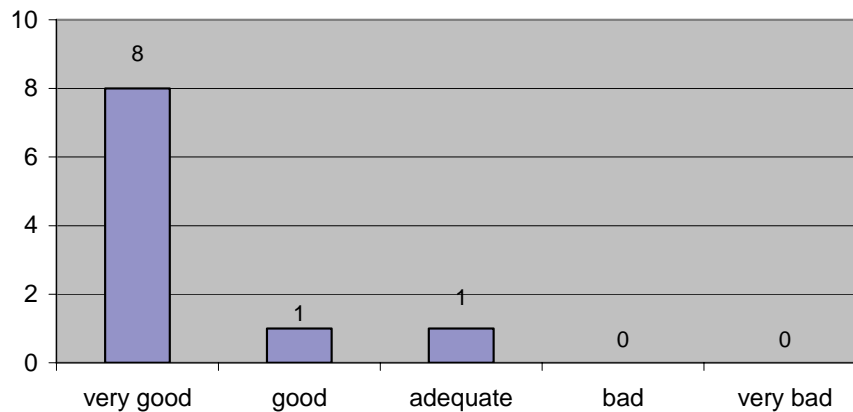
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



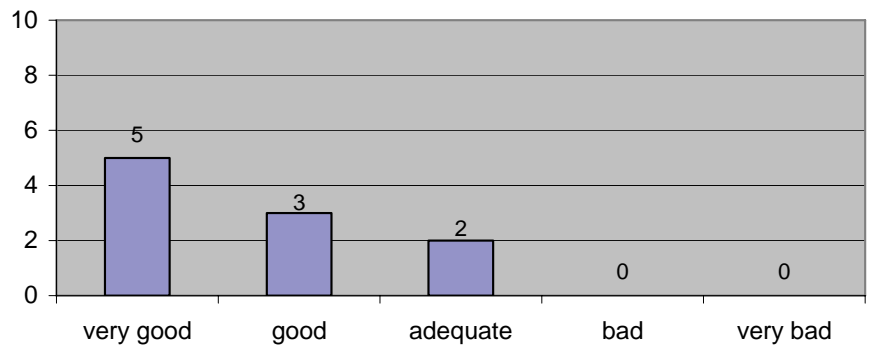
Identification check



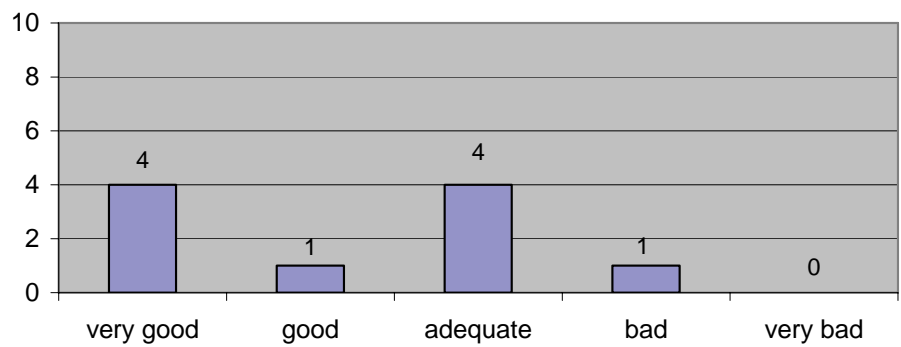
Lighting conditions



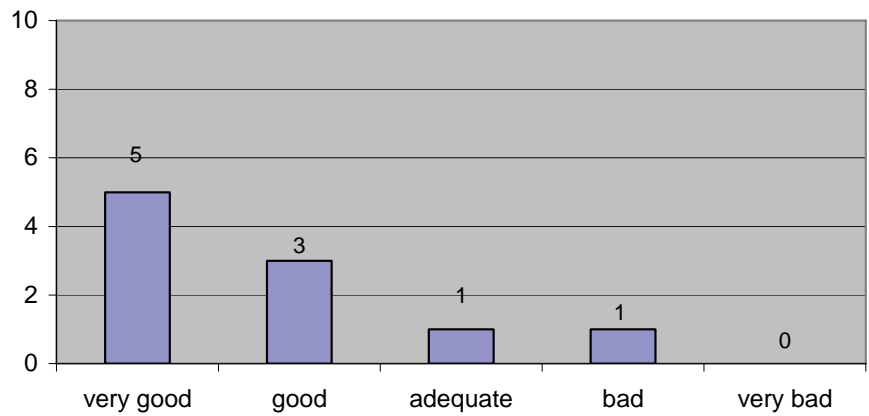
Space for candidates



Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators

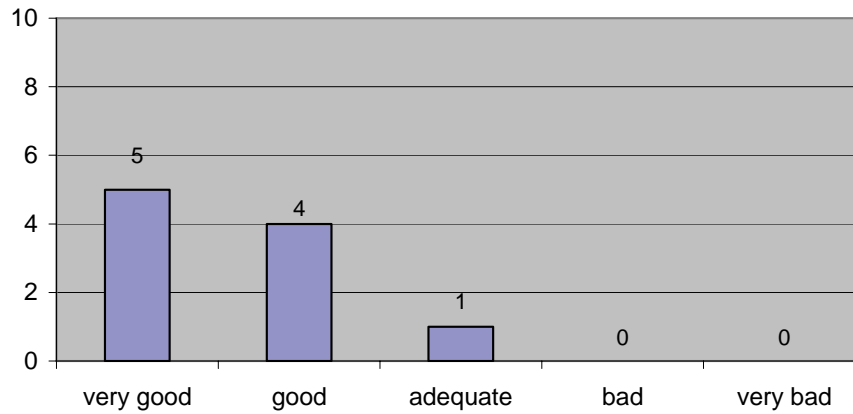


Restroom facilities

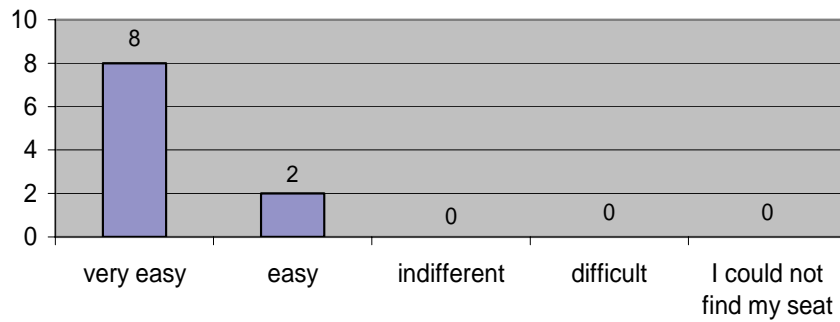




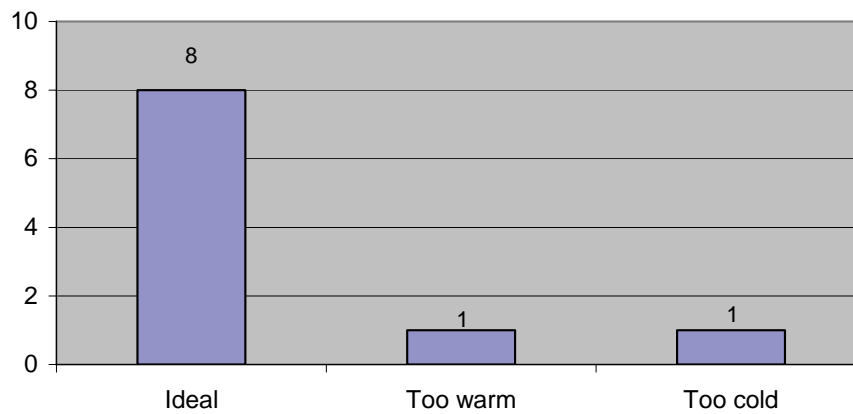
### Suitability of the examination hall



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



### Q5) Hall temperature



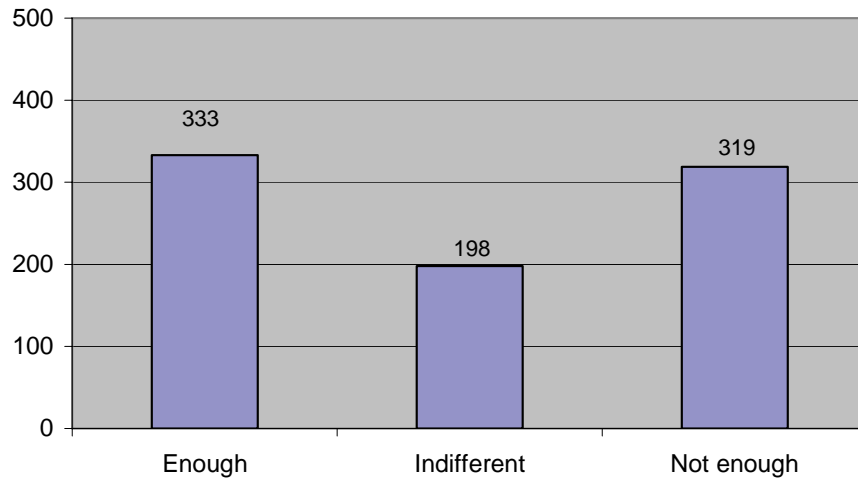
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- hall was really ok
- no availability of parking space for the day; only short term parking area around. The garage of the building is apparently not for the use of visitors.
- some noise from the hallway. Specifically, staff moving heavy equipment
- Seats were a bit uncomfortable to sit there 3 days
- Silence at noon is affected in the examination room due to noisiness caused by staff in the entrance hall

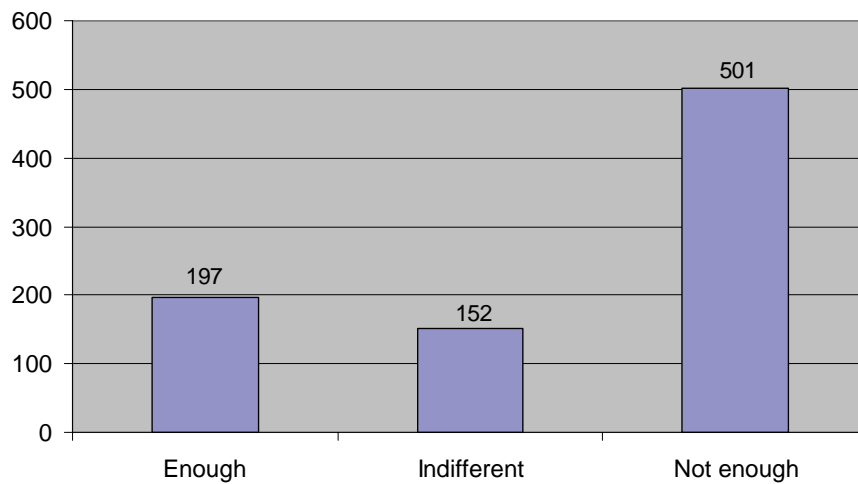
## Chapter 2 - Preparation of the EQE

### Q7) Examiners' Report

**Does the Examiners' Report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how an answer should be composed?**



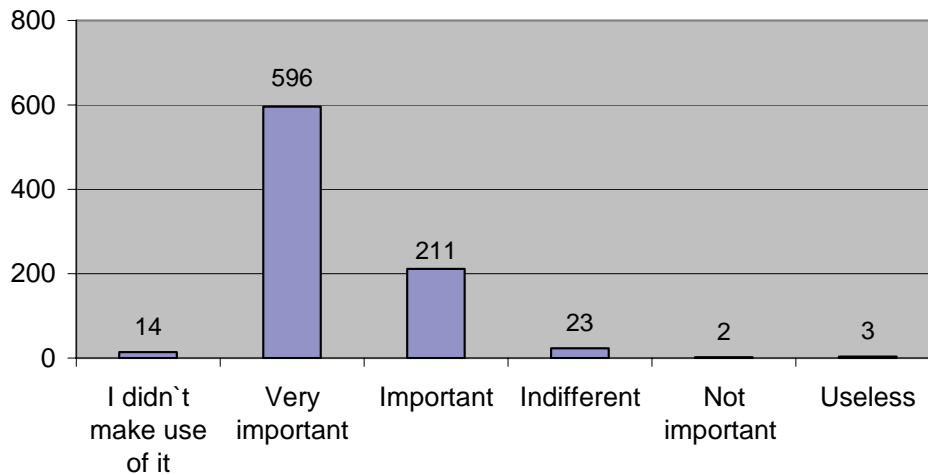
**Does the Examiners' Report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how the papers are marked?**



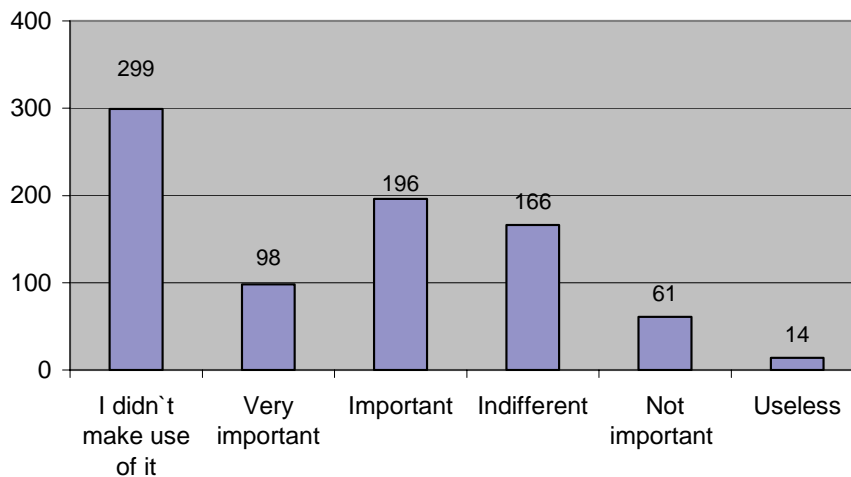
### Q8) Elements of the candidate's preparation for the EQE.

Candidates were asked to indicate if they made use of the following preparation tools and rate them.

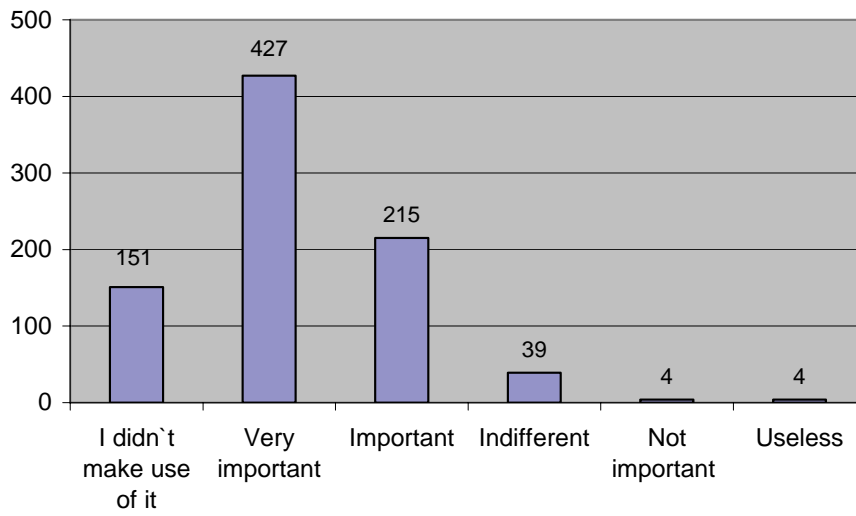
#### Compendium



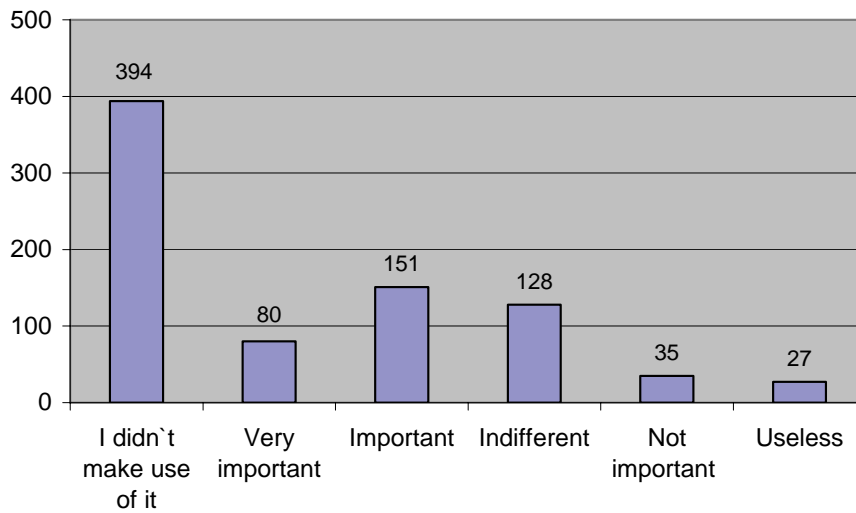
#### General external courses regarding intellectual property



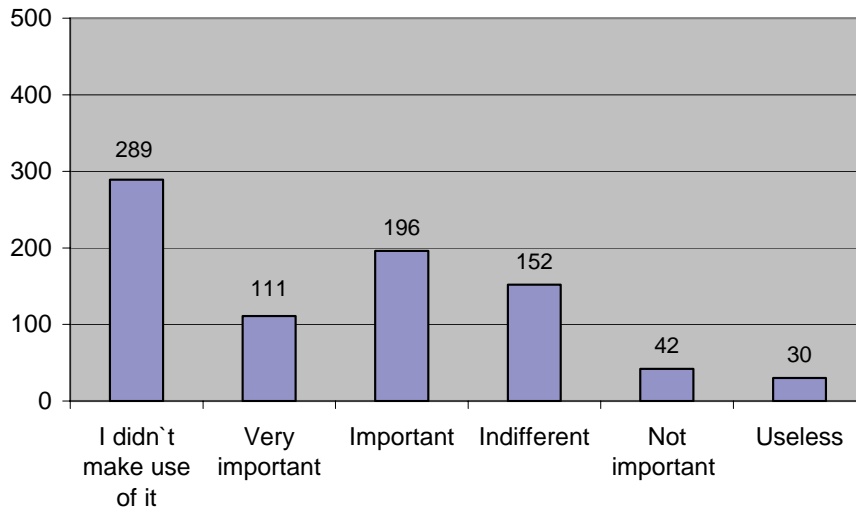
### Specialized courses for EQE papers



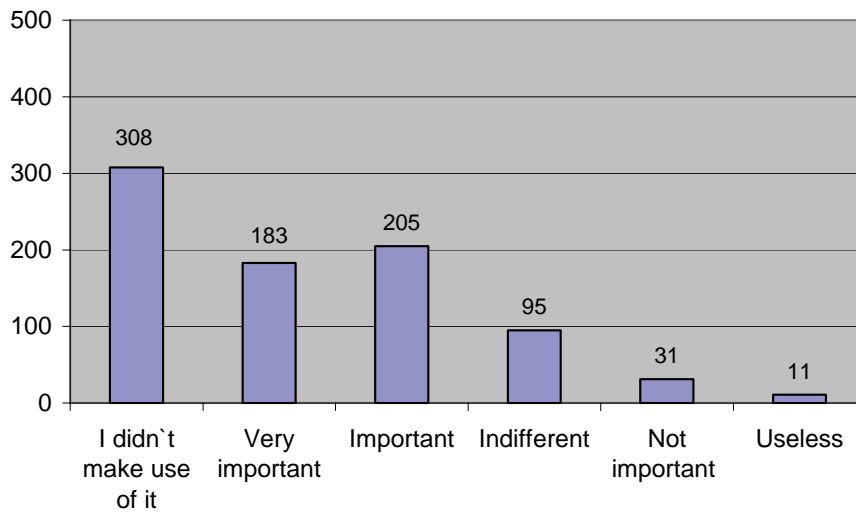
### In-house courses organized by your company



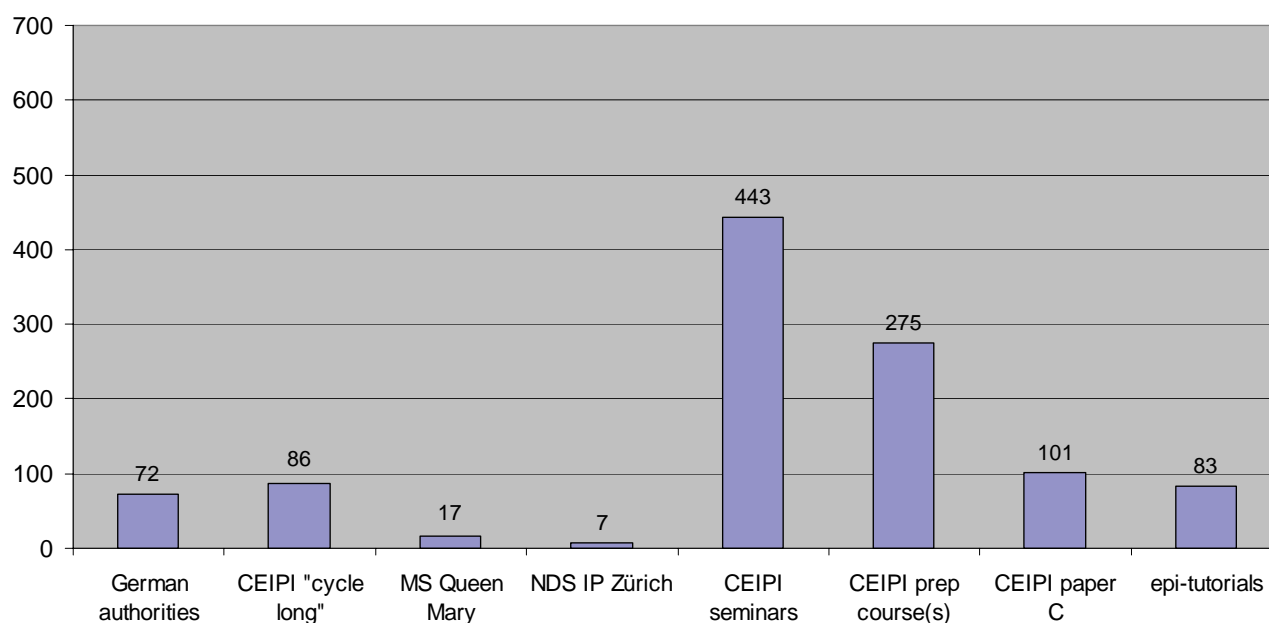
### Dedicated training given by your supervisor as mentioned in the Art. 10(2)(a)REE



### Study in a small study group with other candidates



### Q9) Which courses did you follow?



#### German authorities:

the full eight months' training with the German authorities

#### CEIPI "cycle long":

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

#### MS Queen Mary:

The "Master of Science in Management of Intellectual Property" at Queen Mary and Westfield College

#### NDS IP Zürich:

The "Nachdiplomstudiengang Geistiges Eigentum" at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich

#### CEIPI seminars:

CEIPI seminars preparing the EQE

#### CEIPI prep course(s):

CEIPI preparatory course(s)

#### CEIPI paper C:

CEIPI special course on paper C

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

- "Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Patentanwaltskandidaten" as required for preparation for german exam
- "Forum" training on EPC 2000, "Forum" training "PCT update"
- 2-day seminar on EPC2000
- 2-year ceipi course
- 2-year CEIPI course in Antwerp, Belgium
- A and B courses for EPO examiners
- A, B & C passed without courses. Management Forum course for D.
- All courses attended in past years
- ASPI
- ASPI
- ASPI courses
- ASPI courses in France
- ASPI preparation
- ASPI preparatory courses and mock exams
- ASPI preparatory seminars for EQE
- ASPI seminars in Paris (for the 2007 exam, my first sitting)
- ASPI training for A to D ; Cronin courses for A and B
- Brian Cronin (patskills) course on paper C
- Brian Cronin courses
- Brian Cronin Delta Patents Inhouse
- Brian Cronins part C and DeltaPatents part D (each for resitter)
- c-book delta patents D, Part I and II
- ceipi 2 year course
- CEIPI 4-day course in Strasbourg for paper D only
- CEIPI A, B, C, D courses followed in 2007
- CEIPI Basic European Patent Law Training Course
- CEIPI Basic IP training course
- CEIPI basic law course
- CEIPI basic training course in Milan (2 years)
- -Ceipi C cramming course -VIPS/Vespa (CH) course, old exam under exam condititions with evaluation of the papers -Course on EPC2000
- CEIPI course for C resitter was too early in view of the exam date
- CEIPI general extent course
- CEIPI pre-prep two years ago
- CEIPI resitter course for part C
- CEIPI special course on paper C : mußte wegen Krankheit abgesagt werden.
- CEIPI two years course, self study
- CEIPI-based training run at the EPO in The Hague, both the full training course and the exam preparation courses.
- Centre de Patents Barcelona
- centre de patents, barcelona spain
- Centre Patents Barcelona



- CIPA (UK institute) organised tutorials
- CIPA (UK) Tutorials; and JDD Revision Course (Papers A, B and D)
- CIPA EQE tutorials
- CIPA organised tutorials January QM course on papers A,B,C,D
- CIPA tutorials
- CIPA tutorials
- CIPA Tutorials
- CIPA tutorials
- CIPA Tutorials and lectures
- CIPA tutorials, EQE preparation course at Queen Mary
- CIPA tutorials, in house tutorials.
- completed foundation examinations in the UK, followed training books by DeltaPatents & eqe forum questions, and extracts from CEIPI C-book, and How to Pass EQE book Roberts et al...
- Core Skills course (GB)
- course in queen mary is not much relevant for EQE rather for the british attorneyship.
- courses from DeltaPatents
- courses from Forum Verlag and Preu, Bohlig and Partners
- Courses internal to the EPO
- Courses organized by law firms
- Courses provided by Deltapatents for paper B and D
- Cronin C
- Cronin course on Paper C
- Cronin Courses (PatSkills) in Geneva
- Cronin Geneva
- Cronin Paper C course
- Cronin Patskills Courses A,B,C,D Crash-Course to Paper C by P. Rosenich (Forum)
- Cronin, Patskills course at Geneva. Not great He hadnt updated his literature to reflect changes in CBE 2000. Aspi, France. Correction of 2 papers A and B very useful.
- Danish CEIPI I and I courses
- Dedicated course from DeltaPatents (NL).
- Delta patent
- delta patent 3 days seminar on paper A+B
- Delta patent course on EPC2000
- Delta patent preparation courses
- Delta Patent, Paper C
- Delta Patents
- Delta Patents
- Delta patents
- Delta patents
- Delta Patents
- Delta patents
- Delta Patents
- Delta Patents : course to prepare for A & C

- Delta patents A and C courses
- Delta patents Basic D-course, D-II course and C-course
- Delta patents C and D
- Delta Patents C Course
- Delta Patents Course
- Delta Patents course
- Delta Patents course for C and D
- Delta patent's course for D,Ceipi Seminar for D.
- Delta Patents courses
- Delta Patents courses
- Delta patent's courses on EQE 2008
- Delta Patents courses.
- Delta patents D course
- DELTA patents Eindhoven, NL Queen Mary College, London, UK
- Delta Patents EPC 2000 course
- Delta Patents EQE paper D
- Delta Patents' excellent courses
- Delta patents paper C course this year. Previously I took the Strasbourg paper D course and passed last year.
- Delta patents Paper C revision course
- Delta Patents preparatory course for paper D
- Delta Patents refreshment course on paper A
- Delta patents seminar on paper C (3-days) Delta patents seminar on paper D (3-days) Swedish IP-academy seminar on paper D (1 day)
- Delta patents seminar on paper c, preu & bohlig seminar, also on paper c
- Delta patents short courses
- Delta Patents training course for papers C and D
- Delta Patents, Cronin
- Deltapantens cours for part D
- Deltapatent courses
- Deltapatent courses
- Deltapatent Preparation for examination courses in paper C and D
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents
- DeltaPatents
- DeltaPatents
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents
- DeltaPatents
- DELTAPATENTS
- Deltapatents

- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents
- Deltapatents
- DeltaPatents - 3 Week Integrated Training for Papers D and C
- Deltapatents - EPC2000 course Peter O'Reighly (Management forum) paper D course
- DeltaPatents - Paper C for resitters
- Deltapatents (paper C)
- DeltaPatents 16-month EQE training
- DeltaPatents 18 month course for all papers
- Deltapatents 3-day C course and 3-day D course
- Deltapatents 3days Intensive training
- Deltapatents 3-week course in Helsinki
- Deltapatents 3-week course on paper C+D
- Deltapatents 3-weeks integrated training C+D 2007 (the best) CEIPI seminars in Strasbourg A+B in 2007 and D in 2008 (not C) Cronin A+B 2006 CEIPI basic training in European patent law (2nd year only, 2004/05)
- Deltapatents AB
- Deltapatents additional preparation
- Deltapatents C and D course + EPC 2000
- Deltapatents C and D courses
- Deltapatents C; D, DII
- Deltapatents course
- Deltapatents course
- DELTAPATENTS Course
- Deltapatents course
- Deltapatents course C Revision course C, Management Forum, London
- DeltaPatents courses
- Deltapatents courses
- DeltaPatents courses
- DeltaPatents Courses
- Deltapatents courses DI, DII, C in-house B
- DeltaPatents courses in Amsterdam
- Deltapatents courses on A and B.
- DeltaPatents courses on paper A and B
- DeltaPatents courses on papers A&B and C.
- Deltapatents courses, for re-sitters and the intensive D-training
- Deltapatents D course extensive Deltapatents D course intensive Deltapatents C course intensive EPO in house courses for A, B, C, DI and DII
- deltapatents D,C (3 days); Cronin C (2 days)
- Deltapatents EPC2000, paper C, paper D2 and paper D intense. Patskills paper A and B
- Deltapatents EQE
- DeltaPatents EQE courses
- Deltapatents EQE training for resitters A,B

- DeltaPatents full 16 month training
- DeltaPatents full EQE training for A,B,C,D
- Deltapatents full training for EQE 2008
- Deltapatents paper D basic
- Deltapatents scheme for correction of papers
- Deltapatents three week course. Unfortunately, I did not have the time to study after the course.
- Deltapatents Training for paper D
- DeltaPatent's training for Papers C & D, EPC2000
- DeltaPatents training program for paper C and D. Patskills training program for paper A and B.
- DeltaPatents, Cronin
- DELTApateents, NL
- Deltapatents, that is the only one that is actually good. I was not a first time sitter, earlier years I have tried Ceipi and self studying from compendium. Didn't have good results because those do not give you the information what is actually required in the examination. Especially Compendium is crap.
- EPA internal courses for Papers A,B, very good
- EPA-interne Schulung je paper am Freitag Nachmittag und Samstag
- epi online q & A -- very good
- EPO courses for A and D. Last year ceipi in strasbourg for D.
- EPO courses for modules A and B
- EPO courses for preparation to EQE
- EPO in house
- EPO in house courses
- EPO in-house course
- EPO in-house course for pater C
- EPO inhouse courses
- EPO inhouse courses
- EPO inhouse courses for EPO-patent examiners
- EPO in-house courses.
- EPO inhouse Part A, B (1.5 + 1.5 days)
- EPO in-house seminars. CEIPI seminars only for paper D.
- EPO inhouse training for paper D
- EPO internal courses for examiners
- EPO Internal EQE preparation courses
- EPO internal seminarum
- epo preparation courses for examiner
- Eprep
- EQE at EPO
- EQE Course by the Patent Centre of the University of Barcelona
- EQE courses regarding paper D, held by Stiftelsen IP Akademin, Sweden
- EQE Examination Preparatory courses held in Barcelona at Centre de Patents (Parc Científic University of Barcelona)
- EQE repititorium organised by Forum

- EQE training for papers A, B, C and D by Deltapatents 2 years national training for Dutch patent attorneys
- EQE2000 seminar
- EQE2008-Forum-Seminar
- EQE-Forum
- For paper C, general training (or general intellectual property courses) are useless, because paper C does not reflect a real life situation, but is a special puzzle situation which can only be specifically trained for - as well as possible according to the papers /examiner's reports of recent years.
- Forget all of the above, it's just cashmaking ! DELTA-patents is standard, candidate groups are better ....
- Forum course on preparation on paper C
- Forum course Preparation EQE C+D
- FORUM courses
- Forum How to pass paper C- Focussing Method
- Forum Institut C, D
- FORUM Kurse
- FORUM Management 2-day course Part D and C FORUM Management Repetitorium for part D and C
- FORUM Management Course "EQE C" (Frankfurt/M) EPO 1-day seminar "EPC2000" (Munich)
- Forum Seminar Crashkurs EQE Teile C und D
- Forum seminar on paper C
- General courses on IP items and, in particular ,Convey preparatory course for the Italian qualifyng Examination.
- held by Mr.Cronin (Patskills) in Genevre
- I attended the CEIPI basic course in Munich which is rather useless. However, the course for D at the CEIPI Strasbourg is very good.
- I attended the CEIPI Strasbourg course for paper D (not sure whether this counts as the "CEIPI seminars" or "CEIPI preparatory course(s)") which I found probably the most useful aspect of my training.
- I attended the so called Preu--course in Munich in July 2007 where you get a handout about most importend facts of the EPC and the PCT. This handout is introduced by a trainer on three days. In the end of october i participated on a three day examination course where you write all papers of the EQE under examination conditions. This course is also organized by the law-firm Preu.
- I do not know whether I ticked the right box. The course I have taken is the two year CEIPI basic training course. It was very good and important for me.
- I have earlier attended courses by Delta patents and Brian Cronin. I have also studied the "C-book" this year.
- I have taken courses provided by Albihs, Cronin, CEIPI and Deltapatents. (Not everything the same year).
- I only prepared the examination studying and making exercices from different years using the Compendium. I did not have time for attending special courses although I was aware thereof.

- I participated in six tutorials organised by CIPA in the UK (2x A/B; 2x C; 2x D). This involved sitting one old paper per tutorial under timed conditions, having it marked by a tutor, followed by a tutorial with the tutor and ~6 other tuttees. I participated in the 5 day CEIPI D course, and Brian Crohnin's A/B and C courses (2 days + 3 days, respectively).
- I participated the basic ceipi course.
- I took also the ASPI training program (France)
- I wanted to do the CEIPI paper c course, but could not enrol for it due to administrative errors
- I went on the CEIPI course for paper D in Strasbourg, which was excellent
- I'm not really representative for this survey in terms of training as I had to look after the companies department on my own for four months while they replaced my boss. Thus I didn't really get a great chance to revise or study for these exams.
- In house tutorials, CIPA tutorials, JDD revision course
- In-house & CIPA advanced lecture series downloaded as mp3 from [www.cipa.org.uk](http://www.cipa.org.uk)
- in-house course EPO
- In-house courses offered by the EPO
- Inhouse special seminar on part C.
- Internal course organized by the EPO for modules A and B
- IP Academy (IP Akademin) Stockholm
- IP Akademi in Stockholm
- IP akademin EQE A+B
- IP Akademin in Sweden had an 2 year EQE course that deals with all parts of the exam
- IP-academy course in Stockholm
- IP-akademics course D (10 days training)
- January 2008 QMW course in London.
- JDD Consultants
- JDD Consultants courses relating to the EQEs - very good
- JDD Course for Papers A, B, C and D
- JDD Course in UK CIPA tutorials in UK
- JDD courses for Papers A, B, and C
- JDD Courses in Milton Keynes, England
- JDD courses in Milton Keynes, UK
- JDD courses in Milton Keynes, UK, Advanced lectures arranged by CIPA, UK.
- JDD courses on EQEs (held in UK)
- JDD courses, UK
- JDD EQE Course CIPA Tutorials
- JDD EQE Course, in-house tutorial
- JDD revision course
- JDD Revision Courses
- JDD tutorial
- JEB course

- Kursangebote zu Teilen C und D im EPA für Prüfer
- Management Forum in London on Paper C and D by Peter O'Reilly
- Management Forum part D course in London
- Manchester certificate in IP law JDD consultants' external training courses
- Meeting with studygroup and tutor to discuss papers and general issues. Epi-tutorials was scheduled, but due to lack of time, never completed.
- No course
- None, there is no compulsion for an employer to provide anything.
- only private groups and discussions
- Other: Various Management Forum IP-courses. None of the above were used for the 2008 exam.
- PatSkills (Brian Cronin, Geneva)
- PATSKILLS-CRONIN in Geneva, ASPI (France)
- personal work and ASPI correction of EQE 2007 plus special set of DI questions specifically related to CBE 2000
- Peter O'Reilly's course on C and D papers
- préparation ASPI
- Preu
- Preu Bohlig eqe course by Stephan Gruber, Munich
- Preu Bohlig Klausurenkurs 2007, GDCh-Kurs "Das Recht am geistigen Eigentum"
- Preu Course
- Preu&Bohlig Delta Patents
- q9addcom
- QM course, London JDD CONSULTANTS, Milton Keynes
- QMW EQE Revision Course Deltapatents Paper-D for re-sitters Course
- QMW EQE seminars
- Queen Mary 3-day preparation course for the EQEs
- Queen Mary EQE course
- Queen Mary seminar for papers C and D.
- Queen Mary Westfield EQE training course, London
- Queen Mary, University of London, EQE revision course and CIPA tutorials
- Seminar for examiners at the EPO
- Seminar zum D-Teil und C-Teil von Paul Rosenich und Ulrich Kreuzer im Auftrag von Forum Institut
- Seminars provided by EPO for examiners
- Sonderseminar des VPP "E-Prep" Teil A+B; C+D
- special preparation on paper C
- special tutorials with an individual trainer
- The compendium, the eqe forum and the "C"book for paper C
- the courses above were followed just this year, but several other courses and seminars were followed by me in the past 10 years and more
- The EQE course for papers C and D organized by the Centre de Patents of the University of Barcelona

- This was a re-sit; I simply went over past papers and made sure that I completed answers in time. I have previously been on the Strasbourg course.
- two in-house 1 day courses for C and D
- UK Qualifying Examination Courses JDD Paper C course Queen Mary Course for the EQE
- Used EQE Forum but ,like the CEIPI DI course, unless you know the material pretty well the questions are too difficult to do and you end up just looking up the answer. I'd have preferred to have a set of easier "EQE class 101" type online orientation questions on each topic in November building up to the advanced level in January rather than drowning people in masses of detail when they are just beginning to get to grips with it all. If other trainees are anything like me we hardly have to deal with any of the formalities, priority, rights, oral proceedings, appeals, etc issues in our everyday working life. I don't even get to file as we mainly deal with taking PCT US applications into EuroPCT phase. There is also not enough training available for paper D2. I signed up for the EPI tutorials and two clashed with my CEIPI course. We have no inhouse training as I work in a small private practice so I rely on these course. CIPA stuff is too little too late.
- VIPS&VESPA-Kurs, Kurs der Kanzlei Preu & Bohlig
- Visser and Delta patents exam-related questions
- VPP
- VPP course on A/B
- VPP E-Prep
- VPP training course
- With "CEIPI preparatory course" I refer to CEIPI "Basic Training Course".

**Q10) Candidates were asked which other elements they consider important for their personal preparation for the EQE. Their comments are listed below.**

- - EQE-type training questions and model answers - practising handwriting
- - make sure there is sufficient time available for studying and mock exams; require this time from your employer or your clients - work through the questions compiled by DeltaPatents (Jelle Hoekstra and Cees Mulder), find the mistakes in their model answers and report them to DeltaPatents - Prepare your own references or adapt the ones available to your personal needs - develop your own best strategy for each paper and lay it down in brief memos and schemes to take with you to the exam
- - preparing your books - mock-exams and discussion of results with studying colleagues in light of examiner's report
- - specialized courses for sitting the EQE (especially CEIPI) - experiences and advices of successful candidates
- - The EQE Online Forum was very helpful, especially the D questions. Many thanks to the tutors which spend tremendous time and efforts! - The preparation of the documents used in the exam is crucial.



- - Try to find the right updated versions of the books, guidelines, case law, decisions of the president, etc. This was a problem due to the fact of the introduction of the EPC2000 and the changes in the PCT. - Prepare your own annotated version of the EPC/PCT. - Participate to the preprep and prep course at Strassbourg. - Test your knowledge with questions of Delta patents. - Test yourself frequently under real examen conditions, especially time pressure.
- - Visser's annotated EPC - Delta Patent's scripts
- lots of reading and re-reading (Guidelines, Visser handbook etc...)
- Practicing past papers and reviewing the Examiner's comments. Preparing/checking look-up reference tables for quickly finding information during the exam. Practice under my supervisor in my day to day job.
- A better solutions (a fully right solution) and detailed examiners report in the compendium would be helpfull to understand the 'rules' of the examina.
- A clear documentation. However, here the messy structure of EPC / PCT legal texts appears: there is no structured documentation on question like fees, that game of labyrinthic search into Decisions of the President + EPC + + + raise questions as far as insurance quality is concerned. How such a documentation 'structure' fits with insurance quality requirements ???
- A good commented EPC
- A legal text with EQE articles and rules with added references to Guidelines, Case Law, Rules relating to fees etc. made by your own A good and comprehensive compilation for PCT
- A lot of speaking and discussing with other candidates (only for the D-part). The c part could also be discussed with other candiates. Furthermore, ot os impossible to discuss the A and B part with other candidates as in my opinion each candidate has another opinion and the solution from EPA is sometimes very strange!
- A model solution or a candidate's solution for C-2007 would have been VERY helpful.
- a personal trainer
- A set of EQE-like questions with commented answer, as the EQE forum
- Acceptance from my employer
- access to past papers and examiner's comments; these need to include a marking schedule Candidates' answers to past papers as published; this ought not to be discontinued.
- Access to texts designed for helping students to pass EQEs such as those by Visser, Hoekstra and Roberts & Rudge
- ACROBAT
- additional courses on line for the preparation of paper DII
- Advice from colleagues who have recently sat the exams - absolutely essential
- advise on how to tackle the papers from teh Exam point of view and not what you would do in the office
- Allocating enough time, well in advance of the exams, to do the necessary reading and also past paper practice.

- An annotated EPC
- Analyses on papers sat in EQE or mock exams in the presence of a qualified tutor
- Annotated EPC by Derk Visser
- Annotated EQE of Visser Guidelines of EQE Questions on Forum Courses Cronin Geneva Applicant's guide PCT A complete guide to passing the EQE
- Annotated guides to the EPC
- Annotated guides to the EPC and PCT.
- annotating own copy of EPC, organisation of information for easy lookup
- As a re-sitter, I have previously attempted answering all available previous exam papers. Therefore, I would like to have more unseen questions to practice.
- Availability of time to study
- Availability of UP TO DATE text books or scripts such as for example the Kely script.
- Baque
- Beta blockers
- Booklets with questions. Old exams
- books (c-book)
- Books with questions for Paper DI and it would be good to have more models of examination other than those of the Compendium. I think courses are very important but I did not have the chance to attend to them.
- books: annotated European Patent Convention (Baque and Visser) Guidelines...
- Books: Visser Guidelines, PCT, OJ, Web pages on EQE, WIPO web pages, ...discussion with people
- Case law, in particular most recent, Visser's Annotated EPC, Hoekstra's EPC, Mulder's PCT, time - begin a few years ahead with studies on a regular basis.
- Ceipe courses should be partly earlier before the EQE to give more time for training after having participated in the training courses and partly short before the EQE as help to remember the material .
- CIPA tutorials
- commented EPC (Visser!!); legal questions (DeltaPatents!!); EPO wiki page; Official Journal; Guidelines
- comments to legal texts
- compendia
- Compendium
- Compendium and practise on past papers are most important.
- compendium questions D I of the society delta patents nl
- completing a lot of past papers to time
- Completing past papers
- completion of past papers to time
- Contact with colleagues having written the exam previously.
- Contacts with people having already passed/tried the exam
- daily practice

- Delta patent - Questions + Model answers
- Delta Patent Questions
- delta patents
- DELTA PATENTS
- Delta Patents Booklets
- Delta Patents booklets with questions concerning D1.
- Delta Patents books for D1
- Delta Patents books Hoekstra annotated guide to EPC EPO Examination Guidelines
- Delta Patents Preparation books for DII
- Delta Questions - Part II Exam Style
- Delta-Patents (Training on answering D1-Questions)
- Deltapatents Basic & Examrelated Questions C-Book Kley - Kommentar zum EPÜ
- Deltapatents Basic and Exam Related Questions for Paper D C-Book for Paper C
- deltapatents question book
- Deltapatent's Questions and Answers
- Detal Patents books/Questions
- discussion with colleagues who sat the exam several years before
- Discussions regarding certain issues that arised when training using previous Exam papers.
- Doing a lot of responses and applications with feedback from different EPAs.
- Doing papers
- Doing past exam papers
- Doing past papers to time
- Early collation of documentation to allow study of legal texts and then pratice exam papers to begin as soon as possible.
- Enough time to read and study (for which no help at all is given at work)
- EPO publications (Guidelines, Case law..)
- EQE Forum was useful.
- EQE online exercises
- EQE online Forum
- EQE online forum, Paper D booklets by DeltaPatents
- EQE-Forum
- Every day work and keeping update from epo OJ and web site
- Every day work conducted in a "EQE approach" manner.
- Exam preparation and technique. Past papers and EQE online forum questions for D1.
- examin papers from earlier exams
- Examiners report very important; Sample answers of candidates very important (unfortunately missing in the 2007 compendium)
- excessive self-studying
- exercises in paper with modul solutions, Modelsolution could be better if you could see were the mark was given
- Feedback on my previous examinations. From errors one can learn, but

then somebody must tell you where it went wrong. My tutor at work could not indicate my errors from the past.

- finding enough time to study when working full time
- Finding enough time to study, generally
- Following a specialised course is fundamental to find out REALLY how the eqe works in the mind of the Examination Committee, what is expected, how it is graded, etc. (not in compedium)
- For paper D, study, study, study whatever good materials one can find (commentaries, EPO and PCT Applicant's Guides, Case Law of the EPO BoA, etc.). For paper C - good luck (and the EPO Guidelines, since the exam now seems to be styled to test, in particular, candidates' knowledge of the Guidelines). Years ago, the compendium was an expensive aid available only to few. The compendium didn't start to be truly helpful until it was released on CD and included example solutions. The first example solution was effectively only helpful for showing what wasn't necessary for passing paper C (e.g. analysis of all documents' relevance). The second example solution allowed a slight bit of interpolation. It gets better with every year. Study these in depth!! Note their reliance on the Guidelines in recent years. The old candidate's answers are more or less worthless since they don't focus on the essentials (only the exam committee knows where the points are!)
- For passing paper A and B, which I already passed in 2002 and 2004, the job at the company where I work (private company) was an essential step to learn basis for passing these 2 papers. But when I noticed that a colleague passed at first sitting both papers A and B, and he never drafted any patent application nor replied to any Office action, I changed my mind. I would advice ophther people to study well the compendium. For what concerns papers C and D which I sat this year, I find essential the time management, more than any other things
- - Getting your documentation up to date (which with the new EPC 200 was a time consuming item). - Start early!!!
- good books (Visser, Hoekstra)
- good preparation of official texts, Q&A of Delta Patents
- good reference materials e.g. EPC with Comments, such as Visser
- group discussion after having train with past EQE exams
- Guide de la CBE 2000 et du PCT, author Stephane Speich
- Guide to Passing the EQE + other books were very helpful, and an important part of preparing for the exams
- having access to a complete updated library of relevant papers
- having enough time
- Having the right books.
- health conditions
- High level of patent law, great practise with exercises. Stay calm during examination.
- Hoekstra and Mulders books and Deltapatents exercise books
- Home studying !
- homework essential, approximately 6 months perpartion for C-Paper (alone) will give excellent chance to pass

- I also found it useful to go through the Guide to Passing the EQE book by Simon Roberts and Andrew Rudge.
- I had no help from my supervisor who is not a trained patent attorney, I think that this would have helped a lot. I took A and B for the first time. I was very surprised by A this year and I feel that my lack of experience on working on different cases let me down.
- I mainly used the "C-Book" and "Deltapatents" on my own. If these two count as courses, I took two CEIPI courses. These two books were the important information sources for preparation. Plus the old EQEs from the compendium.
- I studied very hard, spending a very long time and felt that I was let down by the people who talked during my exam and were responsible for the lack of heating.
- I think my daily work with patent applications and with office communication are important preparations. Furthermore, working with old exam are valuable.
- Improvement of the two year CEIPI course. Learning groups and german comments on EPC and PCT.
- In general, I consider solving past papers most important, not only for gaining practice but also for improving time management and handwriting skills.
- In the courses, more technique should be learned, i.e. "small" papers, e.g. one teaching how to write novelty attack, one for inventive step so that the candidates do not get confused in the beginning which papers to combine, but just to learn the method.
- Individual study
- In-house courses by our company
- Interesting discussions with a co-worker, who is a EPA, where we discussed some Board of appeal and enlarged Board of Appeal decisions and how the articles and rules should be interpreted on basis of those decisions. Hands-on work where I have dealt with office actions from the EPO, and drafting of patent applications, have given me a good understanding of the "craftsmanship" relating to paper A and B. "The C-book" has given me some very valuable understanding of how to draft an opposition. Which types of attack to use etc...
- It was very important for me last year (when I sat all exams for the first time) not only to have the examiners' report, but also to have a candidate's solution for the exam in the compendium. I do not appreciate at all that it was decided not to publish the candidates' solutions anymore. It would be even more useful to have a candidate's solution together with the marks obtained for the answer. The candidate's solutions help to estimate whether my own solution might have been sufficient to pass the exam or not.
- It would be useful to have special tutors for EQE preparation, for example for answering questions which arise on working with the compendium (of course, to some extent, the tutors of the CEIPI courses are available for that).
- It would be very, very helpful to 1. have the examining board explain more about how they expect the papers to be answered and what they

award marks for 2. it would be a very, very big help if the marking of papers would be detailed enough (at least for those who failed) to enable the candidates the possibility to find out, where (which question, or especially in Paper-C: which claim, attack and legal question) marks were lost. The examiner's report allows to find out what was expected, but it does not allow to find out what was missed.

- JO OEB Discussion with a successful EQE 2007 candidate, about how to manage the information.
- Just lots of hard work!
- Just practising papers and questions
- Kley, Kommentar zum EPÜ Delta Patents Questions
- Kley-Kommentar zu EPÜ 2000, Malte Köllner-PCT-Handbuch personal training of old eqe exams
- learning with other students
- Lehrbücher + selbstzusammengestellte Unterlagen
- Lots of practice - past papers, and practice dealing with the EPO
- luck
- Made use of the C-Book.
- mainly self-study and exercise
- make sure to be fit and healthy on the exam days
- Making my own tables and standard clauses.
- making past exams under exam conditions is the most important aspect.
- More personal work.
- Most important - to find the necessary time. Having a job to do and small children at home it is most difficult.
- my own prepared EPC 2000, delta patents books from CEIPI, Kley Kommentar zum EPÜ, eqe-online forum (with question which should start 4 weeks earlier because the last questions I could not answer as I was in Strassbourg), the Singer Stauder, The Guide lines, the AG for PCT, a home made PCT commentary, the rechtsprechung book, the OJ EPO online, the PCT newsletter ...
- My work entails a lot of Paper C requirements, for Paper D, the Delta Patents books and Hoekstra were invaluable. The CEIPI A and B course was very useful too.
- Nicht zu vergessen: Eigenes Studium der relevanten Rechtstexte!
- None Just a note: The last examiners reports were much more helpful than those in the past and gave really good help in sorting out mistakes and better prepare for the next exam
- Notion of how papers are being marked in detail.
- Old exams
- on-line forums
- online preparation Part D Questions and solutions, discussed by tutors
- Organizing the information and adding references between the different information sources
- Own simulation of the exam, hints from colleagues
- own studies
- Own time, old exams
- Part-time work 3 months prior to examination in order to allow for a

systematic and constant self study of at least 6 hours a day. Begin well in advance with a very organised study plan and follow it in a very disciplined way.

- Past examination papers.
- past papers sample exam scripts Simon Roberts EQE book Annotated EPC -- Visser
- Personal commitment
- Personal feedback from tutors during courses
- personal study by using the legal texts and the Visser
- Personal study, practice past exam papers, analyse past exam papers.
- Persönlich erstellte und preparierte Unterlagen Schreiben alter Prüfungen unter realen Zeitbedingungen
- personnal time and dedication
- Practic work
- Practical trainig of the exam itself, it is stress test.
- Practice Exam papers Additional 'mock' exam papers for papres A, B and C would be useful, expecially for repeat sitters who have already attempted all previous papers for earlier attempts.
- practice of past papers, familiarity with EPC
- Practice of previous exams.
- Practice on previous exams and receiving feed-back from an experienced tutor.
- practice questions on the forum
- practice with the papers of the previous years
- practicing "old" exam papers
- Practicing papers and sample questions
- Practicing past papers and analysing to improve methodology
- practicing the papers and have them marked.
- Practicising with previous papers and comenting them with EPA
- practise past papers
- practising as much as possible under examination conditions (time)
- practising timed papers
- Practising. Trying exam papers. Have time for studying.
- Preparation and annotation of materials, practicing papers to time.
- preparation of own EPC/PCT-Law-Comments
- Preparation of own reference materials especially with respect to the PCT since - regarding the PCT - almost no useful information/ reference book is available on the market. The PCT itself has been written by bureaucrats for bureaucrats but not for practioners.
- Preparations with old exams
- prepare exams at home
- Prepare in small group with fellow candidates ideally with a tutor where candidates can raise their questions. (I didn't have this opportunity and hardly missed it!)
- Proper preparation for handling time pressure and time management in the paper The papers tend to test a lot the ability to have a proper time management in handling complex issues. ( I wonder if this should be am important par of a fit-to-practice test).

- Putting together the required information. It needs to be clearer what references we do and don't need.
- Questions from delta patents
- Questions from the Delta Patents
- Read OJEPO's, it appeared that in Paper C there was a question on case law published in the OJEPO of 2006
- Reading Paperbook C. Reading and writing old EQE-C parts
- Redoing a failed paper is very important. However, examiners report should mention details on how the points are given (per item/per point), in the event that the examiners report really mentions each item that was needed to be mentioned. This is also to be discussed. Since we do not get our own corrected paper, it is very difficult to learn from your mistakes, especially paper C should be more elaborated in the examiners report, with regard to argumentation and use of information. There the detailed points per item should be given much more attention.
- reference books such as Visser, self study
- regarding compendium for paper A and B, it would be nice to have the allowed set of claims given by the examiner's report. similar to the ceipi solution provided in their training sessions before eqe exam.
- Regular studying from october onwards (specially for D)
- relaxation skills, because the exam is long and the focus intense, timing, knowledge of the language in which you sit the exam is quite important, clean writing because the time for copying is limited
- Receiving the updated legal texts and commentaries as soon as possible before the exam (e.g. EPC, Hoekstra, Visser etc).
- reviewing the guidelines
- Reworking of previous exams (compendium)
- Richtlinien
- Script of hans-Jörg Kley
- self learning
- self study
- Self study with books. I think the Visser book is one of the best (even though I'm a German native speaker and I did the exam in German). Also the C-Book and the Deltapatents books on D-questions were really a good preparation.
- Self-study is key - doesn't matter how many courses you go on.
- situations occasioned by work - study of reference books
- Some useful books, like the C-Book, etc. Overview sheets and "booklets" prepared by myself
- Sorgfältiges Studium eigener Fehler und was will das EPA?
- Special issues of Official Journal, Guidelines for Examination, G-decisions, Annotated EPC (Derk Visser), PCT Procedures [...] (Watchorn and Veronese; partly obsolete)
- Specialized books on the matter.
- Speed writing
- Speziell für die EQE kommentiertes EPÜ 2000
- start early and keep going to the end
- Start early with the preparation and discuss with colleagues!



- Started but did not continue: -doing on my own Delta Patent's questions and answers books. -EPO's EPC2000 e-learning epi's EPC2000 training in my own country (very quick, one day)
- Starting EQE preparation as early as possible from the very beginning of the 3-year training period; reading the full text of at least some G decisions to get an idea of the ratio decidendi.
- Study
- Study delta-Patents Book
- Studying at home - many hours
- studying exams from previous years, case law (chemistry)
- Sufficient time for reading
- Sweat, blood and hate
- the 2 books of Deltapatents - very useful! also the online questions of the EPO
- the C-book
- The CEIPI courses for preparation were very good, however, to further study at home and repeat the D-questions, a more detailed and complete and correct answer set is highly desired
- The compendium and sitting past papers under exam conditions is vital
- The delta-Patent books.
- The EQE Forum questions were extremely useful for preparing for Paper D and for becoming familiar with EPC 2000
- The EQE online Forum - there is nothing like it to stimulate the capacity to think of all sorts of legal questions and situations, even the most ridiculous, and trying to frame an answer is a good way to train on how the law works.
- The examinations are crammed in and there is too much to do on one day. There should only be one exam per day,
- The find a copy of the EPC that you feel comfortable with (the "blue" book, Hoekstra, Visser) and make sure that you can find your way around it. It should be used daily, not only for the exam. In this respect, the PCT Regulations is useless, as the book itself is too small to allow proper mark-up and addition of comments. I also found the part D questions from DeltaPatents useful.
- the forum is a very useful tool, but there seems to be little participation of moderators and only some from ceipi tutors
- The Guidelines, information from colleagues.
- The marking of paper D2 is totally obscure
- The most important factor by far is the length of time a candidate has worked in a patent department. Experience is far better than revision or courses.
- The on-line forum was a lifeline. However, the input provided by the EPO/tutors was far too slow. The list of other candidates was good, unfortunately none of them took up an offer of cooperation in my region, however, that is not to undervalue the good idea.
- The possibility to have more exercise papers or examples (for instance, mock paper prepared "ad hoc" for EQE training)
- The typical questions made by professional, like DELTAPATENT

- There was no "examiner's answer of 2007" for paper C in the compendium and this document is very useful
- Through reading of guidelines and relevant sections of the case law book
- Time
- Time for studying!!!
- Time off to study
- time time time, finding 6 hours in a row to prepare paper C is not easy.
- Time to be able to study
- Time to practise exam papers and analyse Examiners comments
- Time!
- To decide very early with which books you have to prepare yourself
- to find a good up-to-date handbook for Part DI as well as a systematic for DII
- to have a disposal online many examples of the daily practice in preparing claims, replies to Office Actions, preparing oppositions.
- To have a time off from the job for the preparation to the exams
- To have full access to up to date materials and that are easy to find.
- To have more time for learning
- to organize proper and suitable legal texts, commentaries and other documents (eg lists of countries, which already or not ratified particular treaties). Very time consuming and expensive. There is no hint/help what you need and where to get everything or what is useful.
- To study old exams.
- to understand what the question actually is, or might be
- train and mock exams very early 9 months at least
- training in papers from previous years
- training material for the EQE (delta patents)
- Training using the compendium and contact with other candidates.
- Training with the old papers
- Üben unter Prüfungsbedingungen
- Understanding how my earlier failed D2 paper is marked
- v
- Visser, courses, group discussions and EQE Online Forum
- Visser: Annotates EPC 2000 Guidelines for examination Delta patent's questions to EPC 2000
- work experience and the past exams/answers
- work in an IP department
- work, more work and even more work. Cipa also ran some good UK tutorials
- Working experience
- Writing old papers (however, only the last couple of years makes sense, as the rules have changed too much from the older papers (again, this a specific comment for paper C).
- you must practise exams and you must learn to treat the exam as a separate exercise from real patent work.
- \* learning by myself \* Delta Patent Questions \* online questions (from

EPO)

- 1. Delta Patents "Questions" Part I and II 2. C-Book of Chandler/Meinders
- A caselaw book with a decent index. I didn't get the new book how to pass the EQE but I think I should have. Much more help with how to do papers C and D11 in the time available. It took me 2 1/2 hours to get my facts chronologically arranged and draw the time line. Same story with the matrix in paper C. I needed at least an hour more for each paper and English is my mother tongue. How often in real life does one actually have to file an opposition in a technical field one has never seen with no knowledge of any of the prior art in less than a working day?
- A lot of time is required to study (especially for paper D), but this is not possible for the job.
- a self made index of the guidelines
- Actually you need enough experiences. You should offer more courses like VPP "E-Prep" Teil A+B; C+D. Small groups and not too much information to confuse yourself. We could check our level "learning by doing" and the patent attorneys corrected our work with the whole group. It was very helpful and very interesting because we could learn together from all the mistakes we did.
- Adequate support from employers - it is invaluable to have an experienced attorney to mark papers and discuss them
- an annotated EPC
- answering D1-like questions according to the Delta-Patent book solving passed exam papers discussing approach and result in group study material like the C-book, Kley, Hoeckstra, Complete Guide
- Answering short questions from the EQE forum and delta patents book is very useful for Paper D1. Doing past papers and reviewing the examiner's comments is very important for all papers. Candidates answers in the compendium are also very useful, as they are imperfect but of a suitable standard for passing each exam
- Being allowed by my employer to study on working hours. Having a colleague to study with. The examiners report is always easy to follow, in retrospect. When sitting the exam it is very difficult to assess what angle of the answer that should be emphasized. It is a weakness if competent attorneys fail the exam due to improper wording caused by unclear questions.
- Being given time to do papers. Complete understanding of the marking scheme is essential, by both tutors and tutees. For example, receiving zero marks for poor CPA judgement is harsh, but even more unfair if you do not know that there are no further marks obtainable for the remainder of the I.S argument.
- Being sufficiently familiar with the EPC to allow answers to be looked up quickly as required. Practising preparing answers for papers B and C.
- C-book and Visser (If I had had time, it would have been nice to to the Delta patents questions)
- Ceipi C-Book
- CEIPI resitter course: marking of my papers by mr. Meiders
- courses, simulation of papers, eqe forum

- Day to day work.
- Delta patent questionnaire learning in a small group with other candidates
- delta patents exam-related questions very important for D
- Delta patents; CEIPI-Course
- DELTA questions
- Delta-Patent Answered Questions, Kley-Script
- DeltaPatent D-book
- DELTA-patents
- DeltaPatents - Training for the EQE Visser Applicants Guide - PCT
- Deltapatents basic and advanced questions for paper D. I did all the basic questions and about 100 advanced question. EQE-forum is also useful.
- Deltapatents Q&A -booklets Long-term regular studying
- doing lots of past papers
- Doing many questions like in Deltapatent's booklet or the eqe forum.
- EQE Forum, Official Journal
- Es wäre eigentlich selbstverständlich, eine Musterlösung der vergangenen Prüfungen mit detaillierter Punktwertung zu veröffentlichen, um eine vernünftige Vorbereitung durchführen zu können.
- Exam related questions from DeltaPatents. Examiners reports from earlier years.
- Examiner's report is important but a candidate's copy is equally important to know how to draw up in practice a response who may correspond to the Examiner's report's requirements
- Experience and practice
- Filing several past papers.
- First of all, I think I need time to study. in addition, study in a small group with other (veterans) candidates or consult the on line EPO forum should help me to pass the examination.
- For paper D doing hundreds of training questions found in Deltapatents training compendium. Practice using timelines for multiple applications in paper DII. Understand priority! For paper C really practice the problem-solution approach and write down all details, even the ones that on the surface look superfluous to add.
- Full time studies prior to exam.
- good annotations (e.g. Kley et al.). I missed a good annotation for PCT in German during study.
- Guidelines Delta Patents questions
- i CONSIDER IMPORTANT TO HAVE COPIES OF CANDIDATES WHO PASSED THE EXAM, SINCE I FOUND IMPORTANT HINTS FOR THE LANGUAGE
- I found the tutorials organised by CIPA in the UK in combination with the Compendium worked best for papers A, B, C and D2. When I tried using the Compendium on its own I did not fully understand many issues. I believe that the information given in the papers can only be fully understood if it has been pointed out to you. And of course the CEIPI D course is invaluable for paper D1 because it is so intense and focussed.

- I had to devote most of my free time to self-preparation. I don't think that I could have made it if I had a family (i.e. a newborn baby or an elder parent) to look at. And this is not 100% fair in my opinion.
- I resat the C part this year. The most useful thing, having already sat the paper for the first time in 2007 (the experience of taking the exam before was also useful), was doing past papers - I did about 5 in 2007 in preparation and another 5 or 6 this year, including the 2007 paper. The CEIPI course last year also helped but my own preparation work was more useful.
- I used a copy of the Annotated EPC by Visser, which I further annotated for use in the exam. Also, the book "A complete guide to passing the EQE" by Roberts and Rudge was very useful in preparing and practising the exams.
- I used a good comment about the EPC (author Hansjörg Kley).
- I used the Deltapatents books a lot.
- I would have like to have attended at least one of the special training courses, but I coul not do it due to lack of time. However, I found very important to make all the four modules at once to at least have the experience. One can only learn to measure the time for answering questions (part D I) or organising the preparation and draft of an opposition by making a real examination. I was not able at home to remain four hours (much less six hours!) sitting on a chair and thinking on the same subject. This is one of the best experience from the examination. Although I think that it is not very realistic, as nobody prepare an opposition to an EP patent without having the time of leaving the documents on the desk for a couple of hours and thinking again to really be sure that the focusing and the draft are the most appropriate. There was no time for this during the EPO. And not only in paper C, also in the other 3 modules.
- I would suggest that you make the epo e-learning//exam question thing open all year round so that students could begin studying earlier if they wished too.
- It is basic to know how to obtain points from the previous exams. It is necessary to provide the table used by the examiners.
- It is very important to familiarize oneself with the very special mind set behind the questions and cases presented in the exam.
- It is worth investing the whole 1-Year-vacation contingent of 30 days (Germany) just for the final preparation. As discussions revealed not many candidate-colleagues did so. Best book: The C-Book by Chandler/Meinders
- It was most important to learn how marks are obtained, as the requiements differ from what is done in daily practice at the EPO.
- it would be very interesting to have more extended examples following the line of a real paper
- making test examinations under conditions that simulate the exam time and available space
- my own home study
- Old exams, course material and exam-related questions.
- Online EQE forum questions were very useful. Realisation that the

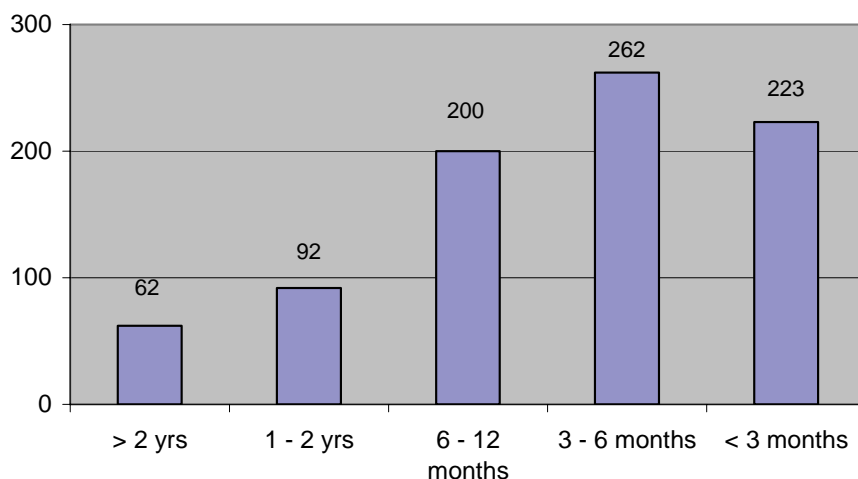
Examiners has an unhealthy and unrealistic obsession with the "problem - solution" approach to the extent that answers do not use this approach seem to be largely or entirely ignored. This being despite the fact that the "problem - solution" approach is merely a preferred formulation of the EPO and is not an essential part of the European Patent Convention and has been considered to be inappropriate by some national courts.

- Personalized gathering and organizing all relevant EPO publications (such as Official Journal etc). Guidelines for examination. Delta patents training material for "EQE D" (Q+A).
- practise old exams
- Practising past exam papers, reviewing my answers with the Examiner's Report Studying the Case Law book
- preperation of material to be used, prepared EPC with all important links to other articles/rules and with integrated information about guidelines and case law
- Previously failed EQE's: study of my answers in view of the Examiner's report.
- Pure reading
- Questions on EQE forum
- Questions/Answers from EQE-Online Forum and studyng the discussions Doing Delta Patents
- Reading and re-reading the EPC2000, and doing the earlier papers
- Reviewing the legal texts and guidelines for examination
- Sabbatical 2 weeks
- Sample questions book(s) for paper D (by Delta Patents). In-house drafting practice
- self training for time management
- Simulation of exams, in particular Part C and D under real time conditions
- sleep well
- Some very good books
- Special C book and answering multiple past papers
- specialized exam-related courses (i.e. on EPC 2000)
- Text books: Visser, and delta patents training booklet for paper D
- The Candidate's answers of the previous year (i.e. 2007) should be available for all, not only for the candidates participating the remote tutoring of the DELTAPATENTS.
- The EQE forum was the most important part of my preparation - without it, my preparation for D1 in particular would have been insufficient. Simon Robert's EQE preparation book was also very valuable, giving clear instructions about how each paper should be approached.
- The Hoekstra Skript
- The result of the exam is directly dependable on the time one can invest for studying. Therefore, the amount of time is very important.
- Time management during the examination
- Time off in the run up to the exams
- To have more time for preparation. I work 10-14 hours a day and I have to look to my children and the household (single parent) and all other

daily things. It is absolutely not possible to learn more than 2-3 hours a week. I have the impression that the successful candidates do have no children or other problems.

- To make my own booklets with notes - based on course material, EPC and all the other legal texts
- training to become a Dutch patent attorney practicing old exams
- Training with colleagues under real conditions
- Training with compendium for writing the introductions (concerning paper A), and for the EPO letter (for what concerns paper B). Physical training in order to have sufficient energies to sit paper A in the morning and paper B in the afternoon, which is very tiring. Make several trials of running two papers in the same day, in order to better manage the effort.
- TUTOR TUTOR TUTOR!! AND NOT GRANDFATHER TUTORS!!
- Updated material, possibly integrating all relevant information
- Using commentaries of the EPC such as Singer/Stauder "EPÜ" 4th edition or Kley, "Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000"; and exercising the Deltapatents question books
- Well prepared documents and exercising
- working on old examination papers / comparison with "master solutions" of the compendium
- working the matters first alone
- Working through previous examinations and discussing those with other candidates.
- write sample exams prepare own "blue-book" with comments

**Q11) Candidates were asked how long before sitting the EQE they started intensive focused studies.**



**Q12) Candidates were asked: What was your greatest weakness if you assess your own preparation for the EQE and your performance, and how, in retrospect, could you have overcome it?**

**The candidates' answers are listed below.**

- - Develop a (personal) methodology for attacking papers and practicing this methodology a number of times on previous papers. - Develop hand writing skills (fast and legible).
- Es ist sehr schwer, neben seiner täglichen Arbeit noch die Zeit zu finden, die EQE-Prüfungssituation zu simulieren eingedenk der Tatsache, daß praktische Erfahrungen im Alltag mit dem EPA für das Bestehen dieser Prüfung eher hinderlich sind!!!!
- Should have studied longer - taken at least 6 months to prepare more thoroughly. But, there is a clash with the UK Examinations which fall in November. After those, you are exhausted and postpone starting to study again too soon.
- - Started too late in preparing my own annotated versions of EPC/PCT.  
- Tested myself not sufficiently under time pressure.
- A course on how to write fast without getting RSI. Allowing people to use different colour pens and paper and issuing the exam papers in more readable colours. Black on white is optically the hardest to read for some people. Even if I could use blue pens and cream paper, I don't think I'm going to pass this exam until you develop a way of testing that doesn't just rely on writing fast with a pen on paper. This was OK 100 years ago when there was no choice but it handicaps people with dyslexia and dyspraxia and I believe there are legality issues with only allowing access to the profession to people whose pen holding and sequential word management skills would have been vital before the advent of keyboards, voice recognition systems, text editing tools and spell checkers but now are not the only way to do this job well.
- a great weakness is the language, which is, I think, the greatest difficulty for non mother-tongue (F, GB, D) candidates: it would be desirable that all candidates can have their whole EQE in their own language, to have the same opportunities and the same chances of success (of course in the ratio of the same preparation). Personally, I'm trying to render my English more fluent
- A lack of time as I have a full-time job, where I do not have the same tasks which should be performed at EQE. A lack of training in EPC (I would wish to have more possibilities for participation in Praktika Intern at EPO, which is a very good training opportunity).
- Ability to adapt to different (new) situations proposed by the Examiners.
- An earlier start and a more continuous approach would have been more adequate, however, considering the personal situation of most of the candidates - demanding full-time/part-time job, family with young children, etc. - this is hard to manage.
- Answering questions from part D1 under time pressure. I could have overcome this by combining questions from Delta Patents to a 3 hours examination.



- As i am re-sitting C and B, motivation to do papers is low, as the outcome of passing is whether i spot the "problems" on the day. Preparation is difficult as with no exam pressure, past papers are fairly straightforward to tackle.
- bad performance due to state of pregnancy
- Being able to stick to a study time table that ensured I spent equal amounts of time on each of the exams. It is easy to distribute effort in an inefficient manner and to lose focus.
- better training (CEIPI) with better training material, also updated in advance
- Boredom
- By sitting the UK exams only 5 months before the EQE, there was not much time to prepare.
- combination of work/private life/studying
- comprehensive knowledge of Guidelines for Examination more emphasis on guidelines in early stage of preparation
- D2 has developed to a complex multi data task (> 20 calendary dates, about 9 patents/applications + 1 Publications, 3 parties and several different matters connected with all these disclosures. This makes it necessary to conduct a thorough analysis, which has to be widely correct. To achieve this enough time is needed. Because I took this time, at the end I had not enough time to complete my recommendations. Maybe it could become better by even more training, but such training only helps for the eqe. In practice other problems have to be solved instead of writing an opinion on a complex issue within 4 hours. This is completely unrealistic.
- Das die Unterlagen bzgl. EPÜ 2000 erst so spät zur Verfügung standen. Z.B. die Rili in Deutsch, da ich dort auch immer noch etwas markieren gab es erst zum Ende des Jahres.
- Das erste Mal war zu früh, besser ist die Modulschreibweise
- Deal with time pressure and the subsequent anxiety
- dealing with EPC2000 and all the new materials coming out rather late (e.g. guidelines, etc - I was looking for German version) - and not really knowing what was asked - hence I had to deal with plenty of uncertainty
- Dedicate more time
- DI and DII taken together in a single day is a major mental and physical undertaking - it is exhausting. Perhaps practice DI and DII papers to time in a single day i.e. fully re-create exam conditions. However, finding such time is difficult for a practicing attorney.
- Did not attempt enough past examination papers.
- Did not get any substantial regular time to spend on studying until later than desirable due to family matters. Did not spend enough time to be efficient on preparing/finding subclaims. The former is hard to overcome, the latter by focusing more time on that.
- Difference between "normal" business practice and the exam requirements. More exercise would undoubtedly help.
- difficulties in how to tackle the questions given in the exam, was solved by excessive training of old exam questions and study of the C-

## Book

- discipline on time allocation in combination with young family
- Do more past exams for getting sufficient fast
- Do not start the focus on the exam already when following the general preparation course. I could have studied during the preparation course (1 year prior the exam) having the exam already more in mind and focusing more already and the important aspects to the exam.
- Doing past papers to time. I ran out of time for Paper C this year.
- don't understand the solution to a particular problem
- Due to the introduction of EPC2000, the needed study material, came only available quite late (Guidelines, Visser).
- During the last years (2005 to 2007), I did not have enough time to learn due to a lot of work at my job. During the preparation for the EQE 2008, I focused on paper D and tried to every single minute to deal with DI questions.
- Ensuring proper time management for paper C. The CEIPI method I used for paper C seems outdated now and if I fail paper C this year, I will not use that method next time. Instead I shall revert to the traditional matrix method.
- EPC/PCT law takes many hours of studying. You have to go through all of it more than once to "keep it in your mind"
- Exam practise. In retrospect, the simple answer is more practise! The exam demands good exam technique which is geared towards this particular exam. This is why the Compendium could be better, and why I used books such as Roberts and Rudge, and the Delta Patents A, B and D books to get a better idea of how to approach the exam rather than as resources for learning the material in the first place.
- Exam technique. More example papers
- examiners report und CEIPI-Lösungen für A und B Teil
- Extra work for EPC 2000. Test own method of working some more, e.g. for paper C.
- Failure to start studying early enough.
- Find the right argumentation
- Find the time to combine work and family life with preparation for the EQE. -> Work in the evening
- Finding time to revise.
- finding time to study
- Finding time to study as must fit in around work. Managing work load is the only way around it - need an understanding manager!
- For A and B paper to practice more with which ones that have long client's letter with lot of information mixed that has to be claimed.
- For paper A/B in 2007 I did not fully understand the case law on disclaimers which caused me to fail paper B. I have felt quite well-prepared for the other papers (A (passed in 2007), C and D). I found paper DII of 2008 very chaotic, and more so than previous paper DIIs which I have practiced. I don't know how I could have prepared better for paper DII 2008, it does not seem very typical.
- Full concentration over the 3-6 hours according to duration of

examination papers.. I trained it by increasing working hours until the examination duration hours were reached and repeated former examination papers as often as possible. However, at the end I was completely burned out and couldn't see the sense behind this strain. I don't think that I could reach better results by training longer. Isn't it possible to provide EQE demands similar to what is required for university degrees and national attorneys examinations and adaptation between demands, preparation and examination papers?

- general work load - cannot affect that time management during tests - do more old papers on time
- getting bored by the thick exam papers from the 90s (online compendiums)
- Giving concise answers, because English is not my mother tongue.
- Going into too much detail - being didactic - trying to explain too much the reason why the answer given is correct.
- Grösste Schwachpunkt war es, seine Handschrift nicht zu trainieren. Nach 5 Stunden Prüfung fällt es überraschend schwer, noch leserlich zu schreiben...
- Handling the time pressure, nervousity
- handwriting is totally outdated
- Have a book in French language dealing with the EQE paper D
- the main issue was to answer the question of D1 concerning EPC 2000, maybe it would be better to start studying a bit earlier
- Honestly, I think my preparation was sufficient. Nonetheless, passing the paper depends to a small amount (~10-20%) also on luck and your personal day-to-day form. Personally, my day-to-day form was not the best. Actually I was a little exhausted already at the beginning. Maybe, I overpowered during preparation a little. This could have been managed better to start more relaxed and with "fully charged batteries".
- How to write down more in the allocated time. Overcome: ??
- I am too meticulous - > too slow I wish there was a way to overcome it but seriously doubt it
- I arrived too tired to the examination due to the intense study (parallel to work) during the last months before the examination. It is better to start in time with studying so that no "extreme" study shortly before the examination is necessary.
- I believe I could have spent more time analysing the examiners comments on past papers, and perhaps slightly less time writing out answers to past papers
- I believe that I was well prepared, although I would have benefited from language lessons.
- I consider myself as having been adequately prepared, but due to exterior circumstances being exhausted and partly inattentive to subtleties of the papers while sitting the exam
- I could have started studying before...but often the working condition does not allow to do it
- I did not do enough previous papers (it influences the speed with which you write at the exam; mental flexibility is greater). I did not

have enough time for a good preparation on all PCT aspects (complex)

- I did not exercise enough PCT questions
- I did not get sufficient "spare time" for studying by my employer. I averaged 50-60 hours of work per week during the autumn 2007 and, then, it is difficult to find time to study.
- I did not know what materials would be relevant for the EQE. I don't know. The only way would be that the EQE offers a package to download of all relevant up-to-date info. Especially there were a lot of changes in PCT during December 2007 and March 2008. I never knew if these changes are relevant or not. I have no chance to control it if I get no marks for the answer based on February 2008 info even if they are right. The EQE correction is very intransparent. In the last test I got bad marks for a solution which from my point of view is correct. But appealing is too hard procedure not worth the effort. But this is not a very good feeling. I did not pass the B-part. But my solution I think is as good as the solution in the examiners report.
- I did not make enough handwriting training.
- I did not practise enough A-papers, especially in writing the description
- I didn't spend long with the case law book.
- I don't know how I indeed performed last week; but: more preparation time of course helps. You need to find a compromise between your job, your family and kids and the EQE preparation - that's sometimes difficult
- I don't know yet! Maybe to practice writing long argumentations thoroughly enough.
- I don't know yet, but maybe in what way to answer the questions
- I don't know yet. I will know what my weaknesses are, when I will get my results and see where I lost marks.
- I don't know, I think I had no surprises during the exam, or at least I feel I performed according to my expectation. The only negative surprise was that I was much more tired than expected for the C paper. More mock papers in exam condition would have helped. Talking with fellow candidates, lack of training in speed-reading and in speed-handwriting is a significant handicap in the exam.
- I found the time pressure the most difficult. I practiced a lot of past papers but I should have been more strict in doing the papers to time.
- I had too much work including quite a bit of overtime during the last half-year before the exams, which made it more than difficult to spend enough time on preparing for the exams. I tried to solve the problem by coordinating my workload with my manager, however the workload within the company was simply too big at the time to get a work relief.
- I have not had enough spare time for focusing on EQE
- I have over ten years experience in IP field - I have found it difficult to take the EQE as "a puzzle" with its own rules aiming to get answers which the examiners have set to be the right one.
- I haven't had in papers for marking before examination, it didn't

know exact were I will receive the marks. If there has to be a next time I will hand in papers for marking and comment before examination. I work a place where it is difficult to study together with others, but if I have to do some of the papers again I will try to find some other students to meet and discuss solutions.

- I haven't made enough exercises on C and D2. The main reason therefore is time. Sometimes it's difficult to find 6 hr (in an already busy week) and to make an exercise
- I lacked enthusiasm after the 2007 C paper and still don't agree with the marking scheme
- I lost too much time with preliminary issues (time line etc) and ran out of time in the end. More training in quick writing...
- I needed too much time to write down the answers. No idea how to overcome it.
- I only really had problems with paper C. The style of paper C has changed significantly over the last few years. Seeking to deepen my understanding of paper C, I studied various materials, including older exams and CEIPI materials. The CEIPI books provide a useful overview of the legal issues pivotal for passing the exam. Unfortunately, the CEIPI techniques are of questionable utility. The techniques I originally learned in Strasbourg were soon outdated - however, I didn't realize that until I had failed several times. I also didn't realize how much the exam had changed over the years. I should have focussed my studies on better understanding the structure of recent exams. I did that this year and felt extremely comfortable during the exam.
- I overlooked some information. In my opinion, this was due to the time pressure and thus probably could not have easily been overcome.
- I prepared my own notes: in the run up to the EPC2000 this was very difficult, and subject to change, various times during the year. On the other hand, it was not clear what texts could be relied on (even the Guidelines are wrong and contradictory, or not updated with the latest decisions).
- I regard my greatest weakness as insufficient speed of working under exam conditions. As I am apparently too slow, I would like advice on how to write incomplete answers that will nevertheless be sufficient to pass the exam. I find it frustrating that, whilst the exam is primarily a test of knowledge and skill, it is also a race against the clock, and in particular a test of writing speed.
- I sat only paper C and my difficulties arose with time management. It would be of benefit to know if the Examining committee's suggested answers in the compendium are suitable for gaining all available marks or if such brief answers do not fully demonstrate that a candidate has fully seen and understood the necessary information. It is possible that I ran out of time because I over answered points that the Examining committee would consider to be clear. The balance required between brevity and an expanded answer is of course very much easier to see with hindsight once it is known where the marks lie in the paper.

- I should have done more real time test papers.
- I should have had people in my company mark more of my practise papers
- I should have started working fundamental aspects of the EPC 2000 before the summer. My personal tools for the examination should have been ready at least 3 months before the exam, in order to practice more exercises with achieved tools than I did.
- I should have studied better before taking mock-exams. Now I first took mocks, made mistakes and studied later. It would have been useful to sit one more mock after intense studies and see the position just before EQE.
- I should have taken more of the courses earlier and I was too nervous at the exam.
- I should may be have thought more about my approach to each paper rather than just practising by doing the past papers.
- I simply did not have enough time for a proper preparation. In the future, I will definitely have to reserve more time just for the EQE preparation.
- I started my intensive training at least a few months too late. I should have started earlier writing mock exams and answering questions from the Deltapatents booklets. I suffered from the late availability of most of my preparation materials due to the significant changes caused by the EPC 2000, which then again caused a delay in the availability of the materials (for example the guidelines for examination were available in German beginning of October, before that the draft version was available in English only, which I did not use too much).
- I started too late with the preparation. The problem is that the normal working day has to be done as well as other stuff...
- I think I started too late with intensive exam preparations. Therefore I ran out of time to practice more mock exams. I should have started earlier with preparations, preferably ca. 1 year before the exam.
- I think my greatest weakness was my system for finding relevant information in the literature I brought, particularly for part D. I think this can be improved by adopting special techniques and by more practice in advance.
- I think this year was the problem with EQE2000 so that I spend a lot of time for the D-part. Also as last year a lot of candidates have failed the C part I also spend a lot of time for this part. Therefore, I have not prepared as much as I wished for the A and B part. But otherwise I don't know how to prepare for these parts. Sometimes I have the opinion it is necessary to have luck to see what you want. Therefore, I don't think that you can really prepare for these parts.
- I was a bit too nervous and that played an important (and negative) role.
- I was during the preparations and under the exam fully aware that the greatest weakness for paper A and B, is - despite a well trained analysis technique - that if one does not realise a crucial "trick" of the paper, then no matter how well prepared, it is difficult or impossible to

pass. I unfortunately does not know how to overcome this, as in half of the prepared previous papers from the compendium, using my analysis technics, I get a very high number of points, as estimated from the examiners reports. In the other half in a situation as above, I get less than 50 points.

- I was slow - I should have practiced more simulating the exam conditions, to speed up in writing down the answers (specially the "standard" ones)
- I was very well prepared for the EQE 2007 and passed papers A,B and D. I failed C. This year the main problem I had was a certain lack of motivation as I felt that the marking of paper C 2007 was arbitrary and I did not really know how to prepare to avoid the "mistakes" I made last year in paper C. Finally I prepared more or less the same way as I did for paper C 2007 and I think that this was ok. I spent a lot of time on transition rules, EPC 200 etc. - would not have been necessary for paper C, but I do not regret it.
- I work in the industry and in the industry it is difficult to get sufficient training in drafting applications and writing replies to Communications.
- I work in the patent department of a major industry company relating to a specific field of technology. Thus, I lack some "broadness" in my approach to different technologies. Another weakness is that I have not drafted that many responses to office actions from the EPO, and therefore have to little training in applying the "Problem - Solution" approach. One of my focus points in the future will be to become better at applying the "Problem - Solution" approach, which is very important in paper A, B and C. One way to achieve this will be to ask my manager to let me handle more office actions single handedly (important with respect to paper B).
- i would have liked to study with a group of other people in the same situation or maybe at least 1 other person. You can then discuss the problems that you encounter. The problem is that there was noone that I knew that studied in the same way as I who was situated in the same region as I and therefore I did not have this opportunity. This I would have liked to change in my preparation
- I would have very much benefited of the possibility of trying more papers in exam conditions (difficult with small children).
- I would have written more of the old exams under exam-conditions.
- I would prepared more papers. And I might reserved ten to twenty long week ends in order to better prepare the examination.
- Ich würde noch mehr alte Prüfungen unter realen Zeitbedingungen üben, um Flüchtigkeitsfehler zu vermeiden, die unter Zeitdruck passieren.
- I'll only my weakness once I get the results! I overcame my prior weaknesses concerning speed of answering already for this year and making tables that made me really fast!
- Improving my time schedule for paper D. Probably possble by doing more old paper D (but in my opinion it was not very useful this year for the introduction of epc2000)

- In sufficient practise of exam papers within the time limit in order to judge how much time can be allocated to preparing analytical matrix of data
- inability to choose and focus on the most important IP aspects.
- Insufficient numbers of papers to practice on (papers more than 10yrs old are of much less relevance to current exam styles).
- inventiveness necessity to have more subjects to treat than only the subjects in the compendium
- It felt good. I could of course have spent more time learning how to write the correct answer (in the correct way) in order to score credits.
- it is difficult to organize your knowledge so that you can find it again easily. German comments e.g. Kley are not sufficient enough.
- It is too early to answer this question since I don't know, how I succeeded. Time to prepare is the most important factor. But this time depends heavily on outer factors such as personal situation, employer etc.
- It is very difficult to assess what is expected for paper C and DII comparing to normal work in patent world
- It is very difficult to find spare time to study for EQE exams
- It takes me too much time for a proper answer
- It was very difficult to practice sitting the 6 hour C paper to time, under examination conditions.
- Knowledge about law, read a commented EPC
- knowledge of case law
- Knowledge on PCT Generally not familiar enough with the conventions etc. Have been able to use more time on my preparation which workload in my daily work prohibited.
- lack of dedicated and specific feedback on appropriateness of answering style.
- lack of formal training pay for a course myself
- Lack of knowledge of the level of the answers, thus, I didn't have enough argumentation. Now I at least know it (because of Deltapatents) and I hope that I have also succeeded to prove it.
- Lack of personal time for study. Could have started training sooner
- lack of practice in formulating an application practice again and again combined with dedicated analysis of results
- lack of proper training material due to EPC2008
- Lack of quality time. I couldn't overcome this problem (family commitments etc.)
- Lack of time
- Lack of time
- Lack of Time (No chance to overcome it with three small kids and job)
- lack of time to prepare all the papers
- Lack of time to prepare enough. I think DII is difficult to prepare. I would appreciate better possibilities to study DII.
- Lack of time, besides a busy job. Be less helpful and rude to clients. Increase the rates charged to clients.



- Lack of time.
- lack of time; take holidays
- Late start of the preparation. Begin earlier !
- Learn alone and not having people around me with EQE exam experience
- limited number of training exams, maybe overcome by waiting more untill the first exam is used
- limited preparation time available
- Maintaining focus on revision. Not sure how to combat problem. The EQE Online Forum provided added stimulus in the latter stages of revision.
- manage the big amount of information and structure it in a way, that I can make advantage of it better.
- management of time experience to take decision in shorter time
- Management of time was not optimum;
- Maybe I could have prepared more of Quick-find tables, for quick reference to relevant articles and rules.
- Maybe trained on some more old examination papers, which could have been done by starting intensive training even earlier.
- Mein größtes Problem war die Nervösität im D-Teil und davor, genügend Punkte in den anderen Teilen zu bekommen, um den D-Teil notwendigenfalls ausgleichen zu können. Die Nervösität stellt sich bei mir ein, da eine große Unsicherheit dazu besteht, welche Aussagen im D-Teil tatsächlich Punkte bringen und welche nicht. Zusätzlich nervös macht der Umstand, dass die Prüfungen 1 Jahr auseinanderliegen und ich - wenn ich erneut den D-Teil schreiben muss - in die "heiße Phase" des Lernens erst Ende dieses Jahres eintreten kann. Lägen die Prüfungstermine näher zusammen hätte man weniger Lebenszeit verloren und könnte den Wissenslevel zwischen den Prüfungen hoch halten. Meinen derzeitigen aktiven Wissensstand konstant bis zum nächsten März zu halten, ist utopisch. Da mir dies klar ist, ist mir bewusst, dass ich vieles intensiver auffrischen muss, als dies der Fall wäre, wenn ich die Prüfung bereits nach 6 Monaten wiederholen könnte.
- missing permanent communication with other candidates
- More predetermined phrases to use in the A and B
- More time dedicated to studying case law
- More training with other candidates
- Much more focus to time managing
- My greatest weakness is the preparation relating the paper D. Actually I cannot overcome it, because the preparation of this paper needs time, and I have unfortunately not enough.
- My greatest weakness regarding the preparation is that I did not have the time; I am 38 years old, have two children, a wife and a house to look after (not to mention a full time employment). It is hard to squeeze in the necessary hours!
- My main weakness is the language, because I am not a english native speaker. The other main weakness is my awfull calligraphy, but I cannot do anything for this

- My own templates for the papers could have been even better prepared with regards to phrases, time management etc.
- My time management was probably my greatest weakness. I could have prepared a more detailed time schedule defining more precisely the different steps of the paper and the corresponding timing.
- My weakest point (I think) is to write thoughts down efficiently - i.e. in such a way as to collect (most of) the marks with short answers. Answering a question, I also find it difficult to decide on how much detail is expected in the answer. The compendia are useful for getting a feeling for this but since the marking scheme for past years is rather rough, it is extremely difficult to train yourself for this. If no detailed marking scheme is available, tutors are not ready to actually mark your test papers because they fear to guide you into the wrong direction. So retrospectively, I could have trained with more old papers but I'm not sure if it would have been efficient.
- My weakness is that I am a US attorney and did not recognize the seriousness with which the EPO takes testing. Quite refreshing to see first hand the EPO's approach. Thank you
- My weakness was for paper DII and the Compendium was not helpful
- Needed to have done more past papers for A & B.
- Nerves... making older papers is probably the best preparation for this.
- No big weakness concerning the matter of the exam. May be some concerns of using a language which was not my first (mothertongue) language.
- No feedback available. Examiner Reports not detailed enough. Problem that reality and examination are not comparable. What would make sense and would lead to success is not apprehensible in examination (see paper C 2007)
- No possibility / too little time to try several mock examination papers under realistic examination conditions.
- No weakness. I prepared myself best possible
- not being able to structure answers enough... I always thought of elements which I had to add afterwards.
- Not being able to understand why I score low in D2 papers; could be overcome by detailed insight in scoring
- Not collecting all legal information early enough to study before practising exam papers to allow sufficient exam papers to be practised.
- Not considering all aspects for correct formulation/amendment of claims Help: checklist of all points to consider for drafting/amendment of claims
- not enough conversant with EPO procedures, case law..., I don't feel enough prepared (perhaps not enough experimented) more training exams, begin sooner
- -Not enough mentoring by job trainer and not enough people to share and exchange views -Too nervous and not enough self confident How to overcome ? -create a network for sharing opinions -relax before the exam !

- Not enough paying attention to detail information in the paper; Not enough time to check and countercheck the independent claim on novelty, inventive step, etc. Concentration problems due to getting tired
- Not enough preparation for paper D2. It is difficult to know how this can be overcome as generally, texts and courses are aimed more at D1. The main difficulty with D2 is the timing aspect. Perhaps more of an indication as to how the marks are divided in paper D2 beside each question would help this problem.
- not enough time
- not enough time at work to prepare anything.
- Not enough time available. I could have started preparation earlier.
- not enough time for preparation due to job
- Not enough time to learn. No solution for this problem.
- not enough time to prepare
- Not enough time to study because of workload
- not enough time, as I was sitting UK finals in November 2007
- not enough preparation time
- Not having a tutor. Impossible to clarify doubts when still hot in mind.
- Not having started intensive study sooner This was due to the UK examinations being held in early November, thus preventing EQE study until they are over
- Not having the correct information sources to hand. To overcome it, the only way would be to talk more to people who have recently sat the exams.
- Not sitting enough past papers and not brushing up on French as the second language for Paper C. Although in practice I am not when this situation would ever occur, that you have to translate a foreign language paper
- not sufficient preparation
- Not timely and not taken enough time for making the D-questions or exam related D-questions from available course material.
- not to know what the examiners board want to know in view of old examinas (compendium)
- Not to train with more compendium.
- not enough time for D 1 and D2 do more exercises
- Not yet in the position to say which the weakness could have been.
- one month to ressit C 6 months for D (+C) last year
- Only started 5 weeks before. The solution is obvious!
- Overlooking details of the papers, or even more annoying, recognizing such details immediately, but forgetting to take them into account due to time pressure or due to the complex situation.
- pain in the arm writing carefully
- paper c needs good time management. i tried to do old exams. However, since the focus has shifted during the last years it is sometimes difficult to work with old papers
- Paper D2 is probably a weakness. If I were to fail this paper again, I would see tuition.

- papers C and D are very long; it is difficult to write the entire answers of the questions in the short time of these papers, above all for the peoples which have not English, German or French as mother tongue. In my opinion, the it is necessary to diminish the number of questions.
- part c: time management
- Part D1 and D2, Learn by script "Kommentar zum EPÜ 2000" learn D2 by using Tables for overview of the full case
- Part DII Information management; many dates + events difficult to get a good overview; being more relaxed during the exam;
- Possibly I could have started earlier. I took all four papers last year and passed A, B and D. With some additional preparation, I might have got C as well.
- Practising past papers to time. Although this is only useful to the extent that the papers are marked in a consistent manner from year to year (rather than, for example, arbitrarily adding on 10 marks as a substitute for fair and accurate marking of papers)
- precise phrasing in a language other than mothers tongue. More training and a bit of luck is the way to overcome
- preparation time dedicated and efficiency
- Preparation: Lack of time to train with old exams. Performance: too much guesswork needed to find out in what the Examiner's intention was. (=finding the desired answers) This seems difficult to solve.
- preparing exams in real conditions
- Preparing for the stress level has suffered and having more time for the preparation I would do a complete mock exam with A, B, C, and D parts as in a EQE examination
- providing sufficient legal basis - From reviewing previous papers Ds I never really worked out what was needed and when - some answer which appeared to be short and give only brief legal basis appeared to gain maximum marks whilst for others, large amounts of basis seemed to be needed to procure the marks available. I guess time will tell if I put enough!
- Quickly accessing information from my prepared materials. I should have started earlier and I should have practised more with the Deltapatent booklet.
- Rapidity - lack of time
- rapidity and managing the plurality of books still in progress for overcoming
- repetitive training and experience regarding D II
- Schedule/plan more time per day for studies.
- see previous comments
- Seeing all the booby traps in paper C
- Should have started earlier - start earlier
- Since I was only preparing for A and B I did not have an overall knowledge of the EPC and so was somewhat blinkered. I could have sat all the papers at once but this would have reduced the time available for A and B.
- slow hand-writing

- slowness in writing the replies
- speed in writing the response. train in writing ?
- Speed is a major problem in the course. Even more training in writing short and quick.
- speed writing, amount of material just practicing, writing relevant info
- spent too less time; did too less exercises from the compendium and from DeltaPatents
- start too late
- Starting a bit too late. Start a bit earlier to overcome it.
- Starting too far in advance of the exams was a problem for me as it was easy to lose momentum with preparation and the relevant up-to-date materials on which the exams were based were not yet available. My greatest weakness was knowing exactly where and how to start. In retrospect I would make use of the Delta patents questions earlier and set specific goals as to the level I would like to have reached and by when.
- Still treating paper C too much like a real-life situation. Write a big sign "It's a puzzle" and put it on the desk ;-)
- stress and concentration during the examination I trained myself by doing the papers of the past year in my office or at home in a limited time, but with stress your concentration is lower and you do not understand the information the same way. I made stupid mistakes. I would appreciate to have more mock exams.
- stress management
- Stress management - no way to overcome this, it is very hard to recreate the exam conditions in a non-exam environment
- Study more, and make more previous papers of the Compendium
- study after work was very difficult
- Substantive workload (12 hours a day). Clients are the primary interest for a patent attorney.
- Summarise in my own way documentation to compensate for the lack of clear legal documentation from EPO / WIPO side.
- Switching between the modules in short time (D1, D2, A, B, C). I have no idea how to improve but it was my greatest weakness
- that I did not join a study group I could have joined some other students.
- That I got my third child in the autumn 2007, that gave me little time to prepare, especially since we here in Sweden doesn't demand that the mother takes 100 % care of the children as in other European countries.
- The biggest issue was the timing. As I have written the papers in a language different from my mother tongue I worked slower and I had to train myself to be able to finish the papers (mainly paper C) in time.
- The examiners reports got more comprehensive in the last years, what is very important to better learn from them. One weakness for part C in my eyes is, that to my feeling the valuation varies from year to year, making it very difficult for students to find a proper way for the solution (e.g. last year only accepting one combination for problem. sol. approach etc.)

- The greatest hurdle to overcome is the double burden of rather demanding work in parallel with the EQE preparations, There is not enough time, at least not continuous time, available.
- the greatest weakness is not understanding how the examination committee for C actually works and thinks a paper should be answered...
- The late arrival of the materials for EPC2000. Would have made better use of the draft guidelines, but was not sure how 'draft' they were so hesitated, should have been more confident in the EPO's preparation.
- The late start for the intensive preparation because of the lack of time next to the job. A break just a few days in advance of the exam would be perfect for me to be more relaxed.
- the level of detail you are supposed to use in answering
- The main problem is the general workload. As I work full time, the only time left for studies are evenings and weekends. I have tried to reduce the amount of work, but all my associates have the same problem. Simply turning down work from clients may cause them to go elsewhere. Our company has decided to start a trainee course to try and solve the problem.
- the marking is really strict. Thought the EPO stresses the fact that there are no tricks, I do not feel that is entirely true. In paper C there are instances were missing to read one sentence in prior art changes the whole scenario from novelty to inventive step. that kind of mistake is very much pausable under time stress. There is still a gap between exam and real life scenario. In my opinion, failing this exam does not make those candidates as bad attorneys in real life.
- The master solution for each examination part, the candidate's solution as well as the compendium are often differing in content and quality. There is no way to understand how to achieve the maximum of points.
- The most problem I realized is the matter around how to interpret features combined with not very precisely terms (small window, completely filled with scale of a thermometer. For example, an interpretation is necessary, and the question is, if it is an alternative or an equivalent, respectively is it novelty or more inventive step.
- The number of papers from previous years is too limited to allow resitters to prepare by writing previous papers. It would be great to have a greater number of "test" papers to train more efficiently. Even after one year one remembers to many details of a certain paper to be able to use this paper for training efficiently a second time.
- The preparation must be done beneath a full time job and family.
- The problem is time keeping. If you studied intensively and if you know the EPC in depth with lot's of details, you cannot keep time. Unfortunately it appears that it is better to know the EQE only on the surface, this is enough to succeed and to keep time
- The time I used to study and prepare
- The work load is high and there has not been enough time to focus on training and preparations, especially this year when the EPC2000

was implemented. The only way to overcome this problem is to reduce the amount of hours you work with client related cases and set time aside for training, which is a difficult to achieve.

- This refers to part DII: The greatest weakness was that -as a candidate- I had not appropriate training on advising clients in such a great context. The only way to overcome it is facing such problems in practice. Unfortunately you need to have passed the EQE in order to get such cases.
- This time I am quite optimistic. If at all I should have worked on my handwritten speed, as the handwriting part I still feel to be a big drawback at the EQE.
- this years biggest problem was the late availability of some of the material. no chance to have overcome this
- time
- Time => Take extra - vacations for preparation
- time factor underestimated (especially paper D)
- Time is the problem : I should have begun earlier : 2 years before is a good period but it's difficult to apply because of work.
- time management
- Time management and handwriting speed. Better annotation of primary sources ("heat of moment" memory lapses were more significant than expected. Hand-writing - wait till typing is allowed!
- time management in paper C - more practicing of papers to time required - translating the foreign language document takes up a lot of time and is not testing any relevant patent attorney skills.
- Time management in the C-part. Actually, I don't know how to overcome that problem... Maybe a good advice would help how to do the problem-solution approach with few words. There is simply too much to write down in the C-part.
- Time management, especially for C.
- Time management. Difficult to study in the evening after work.
- time management. overcomeable with practice
- time management. better planning.
- Time management. Exercising more papers under real exam conditions. Having deeper understanding on evaluation scheme followed (i.e. perfect solution to fewer questions vs. acceptable solution to all questions).
- Time management. I don't know how I could have overcome it, since I practiced a lot under time pressure. However, in the real exam it is still different than in practice.
- time management for finishing the paper in the given time - did not overcome it
- time pressure in stress conditions - no possibility to train
- Time problems, a little bit by writing old exams
- time schedule time management in the examination
- Time to be prepared. Take time off from the work
- time to start preparing eqe start earlier!
- Time. If I would train before, I could make it better on the time

management

- Timepressure
- Timing is the main problem, going into too much detail on one question and then making up time on the others. Also organising the information sources more, concentration levels always weaken throughout the few hours, so maintaining objective focus is a challenge.
- To be familiar with the records (e.g. EPC, guidelines, case law), finding the relevant passages quickly. For overcoming: more exercise (answering questions etc), working with the records
- To be more focus on what are the requirements for passing D2 paper
- To be more regular in studying.
- to get all the information organized and keep the time limit for the test exams: 1.) I scanned my material every now and then and throw out what seemed to be useless, and I put a lot of OJ EPO into my EPC folder which quite big now 2.) I made check lists of what to do and when in the exam and I wrote "Musterlösungen" like CEIPI solutions but without exact details just the skeleton and I checked this every now and then and used them I put the Information into cardboard folders red not, green the solution for the envelope this helped me to organize information and time
- Too much work in the office makes preparation difficult.
- Too short intensive preparation time
- To train efficiently for paper D2
- too less time for preparation relating to the job therefore intensive study started too late regarding several important points for exam which had to prepare more in detail therefore a lack of confidence in to the own abilities
- too less time in C and DII papers, more training regarding legal questions in "EQE-style" using for example the training-questions of Delta Patents. not enough mock exams done during training (only 3-4 of each done, should have done more)
- Too little study time. Is hard to overcome it when you are a mother of a child of 3 and a half years old!
- Too little time, too little understanding by my employer. During the last three months preceding the exam I had to prepare for/ participate in three oral proceedings before the EPO plus full daily routine and some other extra jobs. This is a situation where you cannot adequately concentrate to preparation for the exam. The late beginning with my exam preparations also had to do with my specific work situation.
- Too low a speed when handwriting answers in full. In particular for part C, I don't manage to write down all I want to because of the lack of time
- too much workload. Perhaps, quit working and living on welfare to prepare for the EQE.
- Training of handwriting
- Trop d'outils à utiliser (CBE, JO, Directives...) ? je me suis sentie complètement noyée dans les informations au début de ma



préparation. Et j'ai peut-être mis un peu trop de temps à trouver mon rythme : mon organisation avant de débiter efficacement mes révisions.

- Try to have more time to read the Guidelines and the Cases Law
- Trying to fit workload, family life, EQE studies etc into 24 h days. Only possible remedy would be reduced workload, but that is not always easily achieved when being responsive to clients needs.
- Trying to put very obvious reasoning on paper. I forget often to put things on paper for which points can be scored but they are so routine that it is easy to forget to put them down. By practise a little more on the exam this should be possible to correct.
- Very difficult to practise good for the DII exam.
- Very too much work in company, about 52 to 56 hours per week, so no energy left for learning and preparation in time 2 months before EQE
- Vorbereitung PCT aus Zeitgründen lückenhaft; hätte mit einem etwas früheren Vorbereitungsbeginn verbessert werden können.
- wanted to have 1 complete document containing all info, not having to consult 5 different folders/books, this took too much of my preparation time
- Way of answering questions. I should have practiced more exams in real time and more questions, for example, from Delta patents
- weakness: time management - overcome by training with old papers
- weakness: to have spanish as a mother language. To no have one of the official languages as a mother language is a clear disadvantage, is time consuming and its more difficult to write argumentation. Another weakness is the lack of information to select relevant caselaw
- When taking all papers last year I realised that I would not have time between finishing the CEIPI course and taking the EQE to do past papers for every paper. So I prioritised and focussed only on D. I managed to do a couple of A and B past papers, but did not do any C papers due to time constraints. So not using my time better between finishing the CEIPI course and Christmas was a downfall. that said, the courses for the individual papers organised at the EPO for the 2007 EQE were very late (until end January), which did not give any basis for putting into practice what had been learnt. However, it should have been possible to do some past C papers during the year, once the sections on novelty, inventive step, priority and opposition were covered in the CEIPI course. For me, it would have been extremely helpful for someone to tell me this.
- Writing in English as fluent as my mother tongue. It is not fair, although my English is not that bad. Too much work at the firm, and being too old for this type of "university studies", i.e, motivation.
- writing out the argumentation while taking mock-up exams with friends was usually done writing a quick draft only and discussing orally, could have been overcome by sitting a true mock-up exam for the full length of the real exam
- writing speed

- Writing speed, reading speed Just a matter of practising.
- Zeitmangel; intensiveres Training unter Zeitdruck.
- No enough simulation training, ie doing previous papers in exam conditions so as to have a full automated behaviour and avoiding loss of time that cost a lot the day of the exam
- -> not enough focus on what the Examining Committee expects: especially in Paper C (C2007 - only paper I failed at 1st sitting, was a complete mess and corrected on the basis of a quite arguably incorrect model solution), paying more attention to the Compendium, I could have avoided a "real life" approach that makes many candidates fail... -> time management, except DI and A I could not finish the answer to any paper under Exam conditions (trying to write very legibly and providing too extensive answers) - being more concise and to the point would have helped
- 1. Leserliche Schrift - habe mich bemüht, aber besser ging es einfach nicht. Kann sein, dass das mir viele Punkte, ggf. Bestehen kostet. 2. Teil A und B ist zwar "leicht", dafür kann man leicht einen fatalen Fehler machen: In der Praxis versucht man möglichst viel möglichst breit zu bekommen - und das ist in der Prüfung tödlich (z.B. mangelnde Einheitlichkeit) Ich werde Teil A deswegen vermutlich nochmal machen müssen und mich mehr zusammenreißen müssen, um die gewünschten Spielregeln einzuhalten. 3. Teil C und D ist mehr Training und weniger "Glück", verglichen zu A und B
- 1. Work-Learning-Balance. 2. Separate preparation of PCT and EPC. 3. History of PCT and EPC I should have started earlier, spending more weekends and evenings learning. This, however, implies the risk of losing strength while learning. (3.) Some time for studying the changes to PCT and EPC in the last decades would have been great.
- 1. I made too late a decision to write C and D part and did not have enough time to get prepared. I was going to do but had not enough time: to go through my old exams or do some exams of compendium and go thoroughly through the mistakes or minning information vs. examiner's report. Should have also continued with Delta Patent's questions and answers. Sould have done two papers of each paper under exam conditions at home.
- A lot of work in my company!
- After 4 times taking the EQE, there no weakness left.
- All past papers done previously, so unable practice "blind" using compendium
- All the handwriting and the time pressure
- Allowing more time to solve training questions (e.g. Delta Patents) and mock exams.
- An appropriate systematic approach for Paper C was not available at that time, as well as an appropriate annotated EPC was missing. Therefore, initially, a lot of time was spent (many weeks) in preparing documents like an annotated EPC and a subject index for the EPC. Time which in the end was missing for practicing for the actual examination.

- answering in the available time - especially D2
- As I took the exam only 4 months after sitting my UK exams I probably did not start focussed preparation for the EQE as early as I would have liked. Furthermore, I did not obtain all the necessary resources (books, guidelines etc) for personal use early enough. I possibly should have made more use of available help such as tutorials.
- As mentioned earlier when I tried using the Compendium on its own I did not understand which points I had missed out on and how to improve. The tutorials organised by CIPA in the UK were as mentioned above were excellent but in my opinion very late (1-28 February 2008, because I attended the CEIPI and Crohnin courses in January). I did not have an opportunity to sit mock papers again after the CIPA tutorials, which I would have liked to do to build up my confidence.
- By having more time to study (I was working 12 hour days up to January which only left me 6 weeks to revise after Christmas). I plan to start revising for next years exams now to give me plenty of preparation time. In addition, the exam training isn't just to pass the exam, its to be good enough at your job so it will be helpful for me in that way.
- Case law of the EPO. - Could have been overcome by doing more past D papers and reading relevant parts of the case law book.
- Cope with time pressure.
- Despite doing many old exams over and over again (also under time restrictions) , I did find the time available during the exam the most difficult task to tackle. I found that the analysis part for the A and B this year was more difficult than ever, and for me it took too long. I need to focus on deciding on a strategy earlier during the exam for next year.
- DI is my weak point, and more study specific to this and more delta patent questions would have helped.
- DII , more study and training with a specialist
- Document preparation; important topics not retrievable with for EQE necessary reliability without thinking;
- Doing past papers to time.
- Don't know. If I did I would probably be qualified by now. I passed 3/4 exams first time but seem to be a sequential A-failer. I got high marks for B and C so it's not a matter of intellect and passed D first time so it's not a matter of not doing the preparation. I can honestly say I have absolutely no idea what my problem with A is and I've failed it for a different reason every time. This time I have yet again drafted a claim I believe to be novel and inventive, which is clear, which claims the technical features of the invention, I've submitted a full set of dependent claims and have written an introduction with problem-solution..... and I still won't be surprised if come September I've failed yet again. Seriously, can't help you with this question, sorry, I have no idea.
- Drafting Paper DII Training, training and training

- Even with good preparation only weakness is completing C paper in desired time. Writing faster is the only possible solution.
- Getting pregnant 3 months before and feeling to miserable to study. I leave it to your own imagination how I could have prevented that...
- greatest weakness: not enough time to prepare (i.e. no time to sufficiently train A and B papers) also, it would have been better to have the commented EPC 2000 earlier. Having to switch the legal texts (and amend the preparation of these texts twice) didn't make things easier. need to do more of the "apparently" easier A and B papers as training and need to study also the content of the guidelines more seriously and make sure you have realised every article of the EPÜ and know where to find it.
- greatest weakness: time management during most EQE papers overcome: sit more mock papers before EQE
- Greatest weakness: The time required for answering the paper. How to overcome it: Training with the compendium.
- I am too lengthy in collecting all information from paper documents. I should have made more practice by reading and checking the information obtained.
- I couldn't get rid of or extend clients deadlines and time-limits before the various patent offices, with which the eqe has been interfering.
- I did not do enough work in real-time conditions
- I did not had enough time to be prepared for the exam. The change to EPC2000 requires a lot of additional work.
- I did not have so much eperience in writing an opposition. I have tried to practice it.
- I didn't devote time enough to practice D-questions
- I didn't have enough time for preparation and this won't change in the near future. It is an inherent problem of the EQE being always "berufsbegleitend".
- I do not fully understand the question.
- I felt very well prepared and I believe I did well. I do not think I could have done more that what I have done (1.5 years of sacrifice). Unfortunately I cannot cope with some strange marking systems of the Examining committee which allow very little space for alternative solutions which differ from that in their mind.
- I focused too much on preparing parts C and D. Better time management would be a solution.
- I had no chance to take free time of my regular work before the examine. I would strongly recommend to learn two years parallel to the two years CEIPI course. However for repeated attempts motivation is a problem. Especially with C and D not enough time, as soon as there is uncertainty in one aspect one has lost.
- I had not the neccessary discipline to learn continuously and to solve questions and excercises. I overcame this disadvantage in regulary meetings (in the first time weekly, later daily) with another candidate. We met at a library, so we are not distracted by other things.
- I have no time for studying.
- I have taken this paper a number of times, so comments are not

consistent with the first time I took the exams. My general downfall is lack of time to make adequate preparation, particularly finding enough 6 hour time slots to tackle past paper C questions

- I made a plan and adhered to it - no great weaknesses.
- I needed more preparation time in doing papers to be able to apply the high tempo at the examen
- I should have better practical knowledge of legal aspects such as EPC 2000, PCT, Guidelines, Case law and Ancillary regulations. This weakness should be easily overcome by careful study of these texts.
- I should have spent more time on preparation of paper B and C.
- I should have started earlier to prepare very consise summaries with key legal references which are usable under time pressure in the EQE. I should have practised hand-writing earlier...
- I should have studied and trained more
- I should have taken at least 6 months in advance doing exam-related questions from Delta Patents, in a regular schedule.
- I started studying for papers C and D after I passed paper A in 2004, or better, I know the EPC since 1994 but I started focused study for the Exam just from the EQE 2005 onward. My main problem this year (and not only this year) was the time management. I am a little upset that even this year I could not finish my papers, especially paper C and DII, even if I knew the answers. I am really thinking to stop sitting it again. I will never pass, even if I knew all the EPC by heart. Considering also that my emotional stress is increasing year by year. If I could just a keyboard instead of a pen I could be surely better to speed up the answer ( considering also that during the last two years the secretariat had to send me back paper D because it was illegible)
- I started too late with preparations for all four papers and had to switch to modular sitting afterwards.
- I still have questions regarding the exact meaning of legal interpretation given in case law. I lack precise and reliable answers. To overcome this problem, I should spend more time in identifying exactly what every word means in such legal interpretations and principles, in trying to apply such legal intepretations in different contexts. And I should find some reliable people to discuss, explain and complete such meanings.
- I think that in a question before this one, I already described quite well my experience. I was surprised to see how many people re-sat one or more exams. I had little time to prepare the examination as I would have liked to do it and my first thought was: all these people cannot be idiot, and this must mean that I will be here most probably for at least one or two years more. Or, should this mean that people are not well prepared for the examination?. Since I knew some candidate, that are drafting and interacting with the EPO for at least twelve years, and the only thing they cannot do is to sign the documents they prepare. Therefore, I also thought whether the examination - or better, the marking system - is to some extent unfair.
- I was basically left to my own devices, i.e. without much structured

help on how to prepare and determine what was truly important. It might have helped to attend more outside courses earlier in the preparation.

- I was much too stressed from my daily work, I could have overcome it by quitting my daytime job and left my kid to social workers
- ich kann nicht schnell genug leserlich schreiben
- If I would have known earlier what exactly is required for each separate paper, this would have been useful.
- If you mean a searing pain after the starting signal, "oh NO! You should really not have procrastinated on XYZ, now the mess is all yours..." - fortunately that did not happen. At the moment I am aware of nothing (short of a major DNA upgrade) with which I might have further improved my chances.
- I'm not sure about it yet.
- I'm not used to write. I'm too slow
- In general: lack of understanding what is requested was my most important issue. This might have been overcome depending on papers as follows: For paper D, lack of mock exam preparation (and lack of possibilities to correct own errors); Hoekstras preparation books were of help. Paper C: The "C-Book" (Hoekstra again) was very helpful to understand and correct errors made during mock (and real) exams. Translations of the above-mentioned books in German would have been helpful for me; a summary of books regarded as useful might help all participants. Paper A/B: The Examiner's report was basically sufficient to understand the key issues.
- In my opinion, I was well prepared
- In-house workload. Possible solution: 'Brute force' approach to sweep my desk well in advance e.g. by requesting a stay of my contract.
- Insufficient focus on PCT material, too much focus on EPC material
- Insufficient suitable training exams available that match the current focus of the EQE? Could be overcome by having more suitable training exams available...
- It was the new EPÜ 2000. It was not very easy to work with all the examinations before 2008 because they worked with a different EPÜ.
- It was tough beside the normal working load. A special difficulty was the mixture between EPÜ 1973 and EPÜ 2000 in the epi-tutorial, which was not clearly marked, but had to be identified in a "reverse approach" by an interpretation of the given articles and rules. That caused losses in preparation-time.
- It would have been helpful, to have more exercises e.g. homework, which would have been marked by tutors in order to get more feedback on my own knowledge level during preparation.
- It's difficult to re-do the papers alone, in the condition of the examination. And alone, it's difficult to find what's wrong in your way to deal with the information, ... My personal problem is how to manage my stress together with my fatigue. Whenever I doubt on something, I get into a panic. In addition I am very sensitive about noise, when I am stressed. This year in paper D2, when there has been an announcement for an error in the German paper, I found it

very loud and deconcentrating. Later on when many examiners came back in the room, all together and speaking, (I was at the back of the room,) this deconcentrates me and make me very nervous.

- I
- Lack of overview on case law. Start preparing earlier.
- Lack of time to do past papers to time - my workload is intensive, I rarely get home from work before 8:30pm and most weekends are also taken up - I cannot see how this will change - as I become more experienced my employer will only rely on me more. Having said that - in the exams my experience was very valuable largely making up for deficiencies in preparation.
- Lack of time to study for the EQE due to the workload in work. Need to start study earlier and wait for more suitable time and workload for passing.
- law-related questions for DI - do even more questions
- learning for PCT. There is no comprehensive learning material for the PCT. I had less interaction with other candidates. This exchange would have been very helpful I guess.
- less time regarding the parallel full job. no chance for overcoming.
- long-time period concentration, check everything with calm...
- Ma weakness was to prepare a patent application. I needed a lot of practice.
- Managing time : difficult to prepare this exam when you come back home exhausted after a day of work and when you have kids to look after.
- Maybe start a month earlier
- Mein größtes Problem war, dass ich nicht wusste, wie gut meine Lösungen der vergangenen Prüfungen waren - wegen fehlender Musterlösungen mit detaillierter Punktevergabeinformation. Der examiner's report ist zu knapp gehalten und ohne Punktevergabeinformation.
- Memory
- more time needed to prepare
- More training material in the sense of the exercises provided in the Compendium
- My choice of Handbook was not really fortunate. 1. It was perhaps good a few years before, but I was waiting for a renewed addition in vain. 2. I was too much fixed on this book and didn't pay enough attention to EPC and the Guidelines.
- My greatest fight is against time. You'd better memorize the articles and rules than try to find them.
- My greatest weakness is that I am a biologist and having therefore not enough special knowledge neither in electro-mechanics nor in chemistry itself. I decided to write in mechanics, but this year I really had no real chance passing the exam, because of the very specific theme and words used in the examination questions. It is in my case not possible to reach such a high knowledge in the electronic field to show the examination committee that I'm fit for practice and passing the exam. It would be very helpful if a technology

background was chosen, that is understandable for a majority of candidates.

- My greatest weakness was probably my handwriting. Typing would have helped.
- My greatest weakness is that I write slow, and found it difficult to complete the exams in the time allowed. I practiced as many papers as possible writing bullet point answers.
- My knowledge in PCT was not sufficient. No good comment about PCT is available at my knowledge.
- My preparation was adequate, but I underestimated the excitement in the examination situation and I had problems with the time limit. How to overcome? With more training, probably.
- nervousity Not enough preparation for paper A and B I focused on papers C and D. more time for preparation to get to the point where one feels one has done all that seems necessary and is "ready" for the exam. During at least three months prior to the exam the employer should recognize the need to invest a lot of time in EQE preparation and give the opportunity to take time off for studying. This is not feasible with a 150% job. The work load should not be increased during this time but rather decreased. Employer should actively support the studying by dedicating room to it and possibly organize assistance by qualified employees.
- New study material had to be prepared due to EPC2000 which took away a lot of time from actual studying. There appears to be an advantage for the English speakers since Guidelines 2007 and other materials were available more early.
- Not being sufficiently familiar with another written EPO language, which cost me time in paper C. I could have overcome this by reading more French.
- Not enough time because of just born twins at home
- Not enough time dedicated to preparation for papers D and C, due to workload and family. Study confined in the week-end and every evening from about 10 p.m. to midnight. The only way to overcome this is to start studying as earlier as possible and try to obtain from my employer at least two-three weeks of holiday before EQE.
- Not enough time for reading. Start reading earlier.
- not enough time to concentrate on the exam because of other professional tasks. will be difficult to overcome.
- not having prepared a detailed working plan for D II
- Not knowing what information must be learnt. Asking other participants or attending short courses. Not having a good method for answering DII. Starting earlier and learning together/from other participants.
- Not mother tongue. No tutor or any other kind of help: no discussion about topics, interpretation of articles and rules. Any proper text.
- not sufficient time among my daily work, how to overcome?
- not to have solved more C-parts
- Not to understand, what is important in the examination committee's opinion, particularly EQE 2008, the correction of which was against



all odds, and when specific topics are extraordinary. EQE courses on paper C solved many of these questions.

- One of the greatest problems was the time constraint. I don't believe there is any reasonable way to train to overcome this. Another problem for me is drafting claims. This weakness could be overcome by more training. Unfortunately there are not many papers available in the present-day style of examination for this purpose and the training schedule for the full sitting does not leave enough room to practice many more papers
- Overlook some issues, in particular C and D because of time pressure - overcoming depends on whether you "see" the things clear at the exam or not.
- Paper D paper practical advice for clients. Should have made more notes on different scenarios and courses of action to put a client in a better situation.
- PCT There was no training course or textbook for the PCT;
- Penmanship, unfortunately it is quite bad, and make it better writing become too slow for fast writing. BRING IN LAPTOPS!!!
- practising too much questions too early, before I really mastered the subject-matter
- Preparation time is too short because of normal daily working issues.
- Preparation: Continuity in the preparation of the papers and time control in carrying out the compendium tests. Performance: Find but mainly decide the way to follow between alternatives. Remedy: In all cases: Study
- preparing the legal text with more crosslinking information. problem was that some legal texts like the guidelines for examination were only available very late.
- Probably a lack of preparation for papers A and B. In retrospect, I wouldn't try to overcome this weakness - the exams are hard enough work as they are, and working harder wouldn't have been productive.
- Problem: Too little time management training in exam-conditions  
Solution To do more mock exams and get feedback from tutors
- Put a lot of effort into paper D, and maybe should have moved some of that focus to paper C.
- Quality of my Handwriting No chance. Was already so in middle school.
- regarding paper C: the greatest weakness is that one cannot foresee the actual rating scheme, and the scheme always changes, so that the compendium is no great help there.
- Schwäche: Paper C: Strukturieren der Information und Ausformulieren des Einspruchs in der vorgegebenen Zeit Abhilfe: Mehr Üben unter Prüfungsbedingungen
- short time period no supervision no feedback
- Should have read entire paper B examination papers
- Speed of reading and writing is the problem during examination of Paper C. No way to overcome it, since the vast info presented therein always is new. Please allow one more hour in examination time.

- start preparation too late
- Started too late with detailed preparation, but due to job situation I do not see how to improve this in the future (if a next try should be necessary). In future, I will try to keep my document actual at the moment I read the Official Journal etc.
- starting earlier
- Starting intensive Paper D prep earlier, with more structure and more time for complete coverage.
- Strange question, as one does not know the results at this time
- structure of answer, argumentation. Could have been overcome by more written exercise
- Structured and time-efficient approach is very important for the whole EQE. In more detail: - claims-attacks-methodology for Paper C - feature/claims analysis for Paper B - timeline for facts and features for Paper D II - structured answers for Paper D I
- structuring the responses learning to know what is required
- The availability of the ideal solutions and claim sets (candidates answers contain lots of mistakes). The examiners report of 2007 has more or less the perfect claims in it and hence a good evolution
- The greatest trouble was to get sufficient speed in writing down answers. If I would have had 30 mins-1 hour extra (or less material to study) I would have been able to answer the questions at a higher level (I sat paper C). I lacked the time to address all issues that I spotted. I feel it is a bit unfair that speed is apparently more important than quality, as in practice I think my clients would not mind if I needed an hour extra as long as they could be sure I did the job right.
- The lack of time for drafting papers C / D is either due to papers lengths or to lack of methodology of the candidates. Papers C and D are getting away from real life by increasing the number of legal points to identify or attacks to perform. To respond this evolution of the papers the candidates have to focus more on the method and get away from the EPC itself. As the candidate do not know which question will give more points, he try to guess which question should be answered first. If the candidate has chance, he will get good marks, if not, he will spend too much time answering questions that are not ?well paid?. The chance takes too much importance in this exam (supposed to represent the ability to respond real client?s questions). I suggest indicating the number of points given for each question in the papers. For example, for paper C, it would be helpful to indicate the number of attacks per claimed object and the number of points for each attack, for the client's questions.
- The legal approach to the issues
- The main problem in my case was the date in which the results of the previous exams were given since up to that moment I did not begin to study because I had the hope of passing them
- The main weakness of my performance is related to my slowness in producing the answers in English. My writing speed in my own language is at least 50 % higher. If I don't pass, next time I will answer in my own language, even though I use in my everyday work

mainly English.

- The use of a foreign language. I could have overcome it preparing in advance some typical written structures. Also I missed some recent decisions. To overcome it I should have consulted the Off Journal often.
- Three months intensive preparation were just enough to learn for the EQE in a focussed manner. I would do it just the same again.
- time management
- time management
- time management due to hand written paper -> more training under real time conditions reading over important facts due to shortage of time -> more training under real time conditions
- Time management during the examination. Could have prepared better by doing more past papers in exam conditions.
- Time management. The problems are really not that difficult given enough time to sort out the bits and pieces constituting the questions. One has to think in a EQE type of way - what is the answer they are looking for?
- Time mangement in paper D II Solution: Take more time for preparation, i.e. mock exams.
- Time. There is so much case lawm that there is simply not enough time to grasp it all.
- Timing I should have solved more previous exams from the Compendium (in particular D2) under real time conditions
- Too exhausted from National qualification exams in November to start early enough
- Too much focus on knowledge of theory, too few excercises solved beforehand. Leads to time pressure in the exam. Solution: exercise more.
- Using hindsight, my greatest weakness was time management, especially for paper C, although I never got into time trouble when practising multiple papers C. Looking back, I got into trouble because I found this years paper harder to read and to memorise than previous paper. This was because the subject was very chemical (I have a mechanical background). The actual writing of my answer started late and I could therefore not attack the last two claims. Using hindsight, maybe I should have focussed on speeding up my writing of attacks in a short and effective manner.
- we still have no idea of our performance so unable to answer that question!
- weakness: no special courses + no suitable material to study on. Too much time lost on schemes done by myself. Overcome: using material well prepared and distributed in special courses
- Weakness: not able to keep a steady level of motivation during the 6 months period preceeding the examination and not able to have a thorough rythm of work. Performance: quite confident with my capacities I think I could overcome my weaknesses by working in a group of 2-3 other candidates.
- When I started my preparation, I tried to revise everything about a

particular topic before moving on. This is virtually impossible because of the quantity of material. The better approach is to set up a timetable and stick to it. Later in my preparation, I became much better at doing this.

- writing of too long and complex sentences, running out of time to overcome it: training how to make brief statements

**Q13) Candidates were asked if they had comments or suggestions for other candidates preparing for the EQE. The answers are listed below.**

- - Make enough past papers so that the methodology is at your finger tips - Learn to write fast and legible -> practice
- - make use of compendia - take part at CEIPI preprep course to get started - in the examen: think easy
- - start early - make your own comments - doing a couple of exams - study the examiners reports - study all the questions of delta-patents
- - to start working well in advance before the exam ; - to use the compendium intensively
- - Use the Online Forum - Keep your documents actual - try to understand how the EQE is marked (although this is not clear and subject to the weather)
- Do as many past papers as you can. But, deeply understand your mistakes before doing another one. Prepare crib-sheets and look-up tables. Read in detail every question and answer on the on-line forum.
- I did not have enough experience in treating non typical cases and thus was unable to deal with A in 2008 which was untypical . More experience at work would have helped me
- Nein, weil man ohnehin nur etwas Verkehrtes empfehlen kann!!!
- A good hint is to try to find out, especially for DII, which elements of the answer give you marks.
- An excellent knowledge of the EPC must be completed by a specific training to "create the good reflexes" in answering questions
- Answering questions is very important to get familiar with the records
- Attend appropriate courses, study a lot and practise a lot.
- Be aware of the difference of "spirit" between D1 and D2 papers
- Begin to prepare the examination 2 years before the date : for DI part, answer one question from the Compendium each week to assimilate regularly and quietly.
- Beim C-Teil sollte man sich nicht zu stur an auswendig gelernte Abläufe halten, sondern versuchen, einen Überblick über die Aufgabe insgesamt zu gewinnen.
- Beware of information overload. Books such as Visser or Hoekstra have the vast majority of the information you need for D1 in particular
- build small learning groups control the success of your learning
- Candidates often do not realise that this exam requires much more preparation than others. One of the most important suggestions is to start the preparation as early as possible (1 year before the exam) and decide in advance which step of preparation has to be obtained

at given dates.

- CEIPI courses are essential as well as the compendium
- CEIPI courses are very useful and well organized. They teach enough to pass paper A and B.
- Consider using the modular approach and taking a course in the year before papers A & B, or even sitting papers A & B then taking a course prior to just taking C & D. This gives lots of time to take extra courses for the individual papers. Paper C looks similar to the work of an EPO examiner, but it is very different in terms of the answers sought by the Examiners of paper C. Since they are looking for a demonstration of a complete understanding, many things, which would be omitted in a normal communication in Examination, have to be stated in a notice of opposition. If you are an EPO Examiner, don't underestimate paper C.
- Delta patents course is still the best...
- Devote sufficient time to reading Guidelines/Visser to gain a thorough overview of all Articles/Rules and case law, such that you can handle the very diverse problems you are confronted with in DI and DII
- Discussion of claims (real and exam claims) with colleagues
- Distribute the study over a long time, it helps the digestion and avoid stress. Practice and verify the test in small groups.
- Do a timetable for your preparation and stick to it.
- Do as many past papers as possible!
- Do as much as possible the Delta patents questions and the last year questions for DI and DII. Also do as much as possible the last C-parts (I have done till 1995 and I think that I don't have any problems this year). Pray to god that you see at the first time the distinguishing features and the technical effect in part A and B and that you don't change your mind during writing (as you don't have the time to correct).
- do as much mock exams as possible, try to get detailed model answers for these exams from CEIPI courses in Strasbourg from colleagues who attended these courses in several different years - the model answers of the compendium are very far from being enough, and sometimes are almost useless.
- -do compendium past EQE -get as much feedback as possible from experienced colleagues
- DO every CEIPI course!!! Do as much mock-up exams as possible!
- Do lots of different responses and applications assisting in representing before the EPO
- do lots of revision and past papers to time
- Do not get lost into details too soon, but keep focus on the broad picture, especially for papers like A and C.
- Do not sit the exams at Bristol.
- Do not take too many books for the preparation. The most important thing is to know the law.
- Do older exams under exam conditions. Use same pens etc as you will use on the exam. Use a template to follow so that you don't miss anything in the rush. Study examiner's reports, understand them.

- Do past exams as lot as possible
- do the compendiums under examination conditions and train with test questions like delta patent
- Do the preparatory courses
- Do the pre-prep Course of of the Ceipi and all other Ceipi Courses. Write sufficient mock exams.
- doing old papers exactly under exam conditions is a must ! do as many as possible!
- Don`'t be afraid
- don`'t make a mess
- Don't be too scholar, the exam is very particular
- Don't overdo your preparation for D1. In the end D2 is worth more points
- Don't panic!
- don't start too early. 6 months is enough. focus on one relevant book (e. g. visser) and the Guidelines. For A, B, C use compendium. Do not use matrix methods for C, too much time lost in examination
- Don't think that if you are a good attorney means you can pass the eqe. You must be trained for the exam, forget the real world.
- Don't waste your first-sitter bonus (compensation) by not preparing yourself at your very, very best ! Focus on the problems emphasized (hints) in the examination question (D1 and D2) and address them directly and as complete as possible
- draw your own line of preparation and do no let yourself be influenced by third parties
- EQE preparation is a day to day preparation to develop reflexes begin EQE prepration as soon as possible even one or two years before, In firts place with guidelines and annotated convention reading and assimilation, the compendium is for the end of the training (6 to 4 months before EQE)
- Es ist machbar, aber es ist viel Arbeit. Ohne gute Vorbereitung klappt es nicht.
- Everybody needs to find the way of studying best for them.
- exercise the questions prvided by CEIPI and Deltapatents
- fight the problem of time; read the papers carefully to the detail; ask yourself what the examiner wants to see; tackle flawed paper constructions like the C paper 2007
- find a tutor in order not to waste time in searching updated library
- Find someone who has made a noddly guide to the basics like priority and filing and learn the main articles and rules and decision which apply to these issues. Make a flow chart of the major steps in filing in EPC, PCT, EuroPCT and find out which fees will have to paid when. Learn this by heart you havent time to look up any basics (or anything at all if you write slowly like me). Dont try and read the PCT, it is unreadable and written by lawyers to keep lawyers in work. Use Hoekstra's tables. The EQE forum questions are not bad if you don't panic about the level of detail. The Guidelines and PCT applicant's guide are the best place to start if you want to understand what actually happens in real life. Then from December do past papers

and use Visser.

- Focus in DII on the issues which come up year after year and make sure that you not only can do them but do them really fast!
- follow basic training courses from CEIPI!! excellent in Rome!
- follow the special training courses if they can.
- Following a good structured training prepares you well for the EQE.
- For A and B, work through previous Exams, when doubt or uncertainties arise on certain matters/decisions in the exams or examiners report, discuss this with a more experienced colleague, so that you understand the reason behind or realize that it sometimes may be different views upon what is best/correct. (However, try to find a pattern in how the examiners are reasoning for the EQE.)
- For french people, participate to ASPI courses.
- For paper B take care in practice of the problem-solution steps on arguing the inventive step of a new claim. For paper A read carefully the client's letter and try to identify the core of the invention that will guarantee the unity and will facilitate writing the claims.
- For part A and B, do previous exams in real time conditions. Do not "cheat" do them properly!!
- Form a group with co-candidates. Take enough time off to study. Write old papers in real-time. Use the compendium. Do not spend too much time reading decisions or books and rather use the compendium for training. Be sure to use up-to-date legal texts and documents!
- Früh genug anfangen, Modular schreiben
- Get a dedicated tutor (but how? Information is not abundant)
- Go on a CEIPI course.
- Go through Deltapatents Questions Attend EQE preparatory courses Try to have 2-4 weeks time dedicated to learning prior to the exam Try to solve at least the last 3-5 compendium Decide first on the material to use Read the C-Book
- Group working
- half a year out of work for learning and preparation, courses are very helpful if there is a good tutor
- Have discussions with tutors. every time one is available, do not just swallow everything he/she feeds you, but try to reason the logics to yourself.
- I believe Deltapatents offer an excellent preparation. Whatever course you take, be disciplined already when following the course. This will save later time pressure. In the months prior the exam you have to consider time needed to collect all recent OJ information and DG3 decisions. Therefore, the basic law must be already mastered before the start of the last 3 months before the exam. Preparing for the EQE is more a marathon than a speed run. Don't forget that exam tactics are a very important success factor.
- I regard practising of past papers as the best preparation, with detailed marking, such as provided by Deltapatents.
- I would recommend to use the compendium and, for A and B, to write as many former papers as possible, as they are the best way to

prepare for these papers.

- I would say that it is very important to first study Compendium to get an understanding what is required to pass the exam. Then it is easier to find your personal way to achieve the goal.
- if possible work with other candidates.
- If you find there is too much to learn then you are simply not ready to pass the papers. The majority of the syllabus should already be familiar before you start intensive revision.
- If you have the nerve, start studying the year before without sitting the examination. It is not easy to oblige yourself to study without an "immediate" end, but it takes a lot of time to get a good preparation.
- If your employer does not provide sufficient time for training wait until you have worked at least 5 years before attending the EQE exam papers. Read Vissers extensive and prepare through Delta Patents material during this time.
- If your employer is prepared to let you, it probably is best to go to external courses for papers A, B, C and D2 one year in advance to sitting the papers. External course for paper D1 and tutorial and past papers are fine to do just before sitting the papers. I felt I had little time to internalise the information from my 3 external courses and the 6 tutorials, spreading these out more might have helped.
- Invest a lot of time in studying.
- Invest in taking one or more of the commercial EQE courses, they are very good. Also start well in advance (more than one year) with training for paper D.
- It is very important to start preparation early - at least 1 year before exam.
- join the preparatory courses. They were very good. Especially the Ceipi course in Strassbourg.
- Know where you can find the different subjects quickly
- Kompendium der letzten 6 Jahre unter Echtzeit durcharbeiten. Konzentrieren auf je 1 Lehrbuch bzgl. EPÜ / PCT bzw. 1 Kommentar zum EPÜ.
- Learning in groups with other candidates
- Make a plan 6 months in advance of the EQE for doing lots and lots of training questions, the Deltapatents books are highly recommended. Be ready to dedicate at least 2 hours per day for your studies, starting at latest 6 months in advance. Do not start by doing old exam papers, reserve these for the last 2 months. Be careful which old exam papers you do, don't in general do papers prior to 2000. Consider signing up for Deltapatents exam-paper marking scheme, which is extremely helpful. Do not use too many reference books! I found it very useful to add my own annotations to Visser's EPC book and to Mulders PCT book.
- make a schedule what to do in which sequence
- Make all the delta patent questions and buy Baque's book for the french.
- Make enough handwriting training - especially the C paper on the last day is hard to manage.



- Make enough papers of previous years! For paper D: try to find back all necessary information as an answer to the questions in the EPC and PCT as quick as possible
- make exercises - study of theory as such is not sufficient
- Make exercises, read the questions on the EQE forum (very useful)
- Make plenty of previous papers and study the Examiner's report.
- Make sure that the material (books, folders, copies) that you bring to the exam is relevant and updated. If a large suitcase is required, then you are probably bringing too much. From experience I have found that 50% of the material I bring to the exam is not used, mainly because there is no time to read up on things during the exam.
- Make sure you prepare thoroughly for paper D, get all the information in one place. Know where to find the info even if you don't know the specific point.
- Make sure you speak to recently qualified EPAs
- make your own reference guide to the EPC from Guidelines, Visser, etc wherein all articles, rules & caselaw are combined on same page, use it daily in preparing for your EQE
- modular sitting start early to prepare
- Most important advice: - take the EQE and the preparation therefore very serious, be focussed, keep going, do not give up
- Most important is to know how to answer, even if you know the right answer
- Must take preparation courses
- Never underestimate the challenge of the EQE...even if you are well prepared
- No, everybody has to figure out for himself what is the best approach.
- no, In my opinion I'm not in the condition to suggest anything to other candidates (other than to study) which are certainly more prepared than me !
- no, the preparation is very individual
- not just practise question, but start reading Visser in at an early stage. Try to understand before use!
- Nothing specific.
- Participate in CEIPI seminars in the two years prior to the exam, do not allow for a gap between the seminars and the exam preparation. Start early with the D1 stuff, (a year in advance) so you understand the law, then you have more room for preparation of the strategic papers. Do not underestimate the complexity of the exams, you need quite a high level of detail. Practice writing the answer, not only carving out the solution.
- Particularly with paper C, something that I did not really pick up on last year was that it is not just that answer (i.e. which prior art knocks out which claims) that gets you the marks, but how you write that answer that determines whether you pass or fail. Your explanation of why features are equivalent and how you put together your inventive step arguments is a lot more important than I first appreciated.
- pass the exams
- Past papers are the best preparation for paper c

- Past papers, past papers
- patience
- Practice a lot!
- practice and personal feedback are important
- Practice as many Exams as possible
- Practice as many past papers as possible and study examiners comments.
- Practice old EQEs in chronological order, so that your impressions about the current "style" are the freshest
- practice past papers and review the examiner's comments to honestly mark how your attempt compares to what the examiners were looking for.
- Practice past papers.
- Practise exam papers to time.
- practise past papers under exam conditions
- Practise, practise, practise.
- practice as many past papers and read examiner's report closely. very old papers before 2002 must be taken with caution especially for paper C.
- preparation is very time consuming
- preparation of a time schedule for learning. Contact to different people who already passed the exam.
- Preparation together with other candidates is most helpful, e.g. the CEIPI seminars in Strassbourg.
- prepare by solving old papers
- Prepare well for the first time that you sit the papers. Make sure you are involved with other trainees to discuss answers to questions.
- Prepare with time, make groups (small) for discussion
- Read Case Law and Guidelines, - and accept that you will fail.
- Read C-Book, study the guidelines and train on older part C EQE's.
- Read the Guidelines, don't have kids
- Read the Guidelines! However, even though most of the answers to paper D appear to be present in the Guidelines, we are taught that quoting the Guidelines as basis should be almost a last resort - it is sometimes difficult to know which basis is the correct basis to quote!
- Read, study and practice
- Remember to form study groups
- Same as previous answer, sit together with someone else, goes for all parts, and discuss problems and issues that arise. I think this is the best way of getting the most out of yourself. Both to discuss the issues that you self encounter and also to help others, which gives you an opportunity to really think through what you know and how to explain things
- see above. Prepare in small groups: feedback of colleagues is often very helpful, as everybody differs a little bit in his ways of thinking
- See answers 11 + 12 - early collection of materials then study of legal side (or practise papers early to scare one into revising early!)
- see remarks for courses (2 or 3 questions before)

- see the Guide de la CBE 2000 et du PCT
- Simulate as many recent papers as possible to then compare with the official solution
- sit in modular fashion
- sit past papers under exam conditions and make sure to develop and understand your best technique for answering questions, rather than following parrot fashion what it might say in a text book
- sit the exam only if you are well prepared so as not to lose the possibility of compensating
- Spend more time practising DII and C than all the time on DI. DI basically contains "basic questions", instead of trick questions (although you never know), while for DII and C time management and the structure of your answer (e.g. as indicated in the compendium) seems really important.
- Start as early as possible, do spend time learning the additional language if this is not a strong point, and you must sit a good few paper Cs to time to get enough value from your preparation
- start as soon as possible, so you will become more familiar with the EPC
- Start before Christmas.
- Start before Xmas
- start by reading Visser and continue with the Compendium
- start collecting manuals, documents and legal texts till December the year before and test it with some old questions (especially for part D)
- Start earlier than I did. Learn daily. Stop anything else in this period apart from regular physical training to keep your mind in a good condition.
- start earlier the preparation
- start earlier, better start earlier
- Start early and work thoroughly
- Start early enough begin with Deltapatent Questions Exchange with other candidates Crosscheck materials with other candidates
- Start early enough with your preparation
- start early enough, make breaks inbetween and have some spare time short before the examination
- start early!!! It is difficult to give advice or suggestions until we get the results and see whether our preparation was good enough!!
- Start early, but just with relaxed reading to get a good feel of the general structure of everything.
- start early, obtain at least two months time off from normal work before exam
- start early, practice papers on time
- Start early. Focus on the D part instead of the other parts. Do not take part A and B before being prepared to take the D part. The legal considerations are important for A and B as well if taking the Chemical parts A and B.
- start early; prepare your own material
- start early; read Guidelines and Visser-Book intensively; study old

exams and possible solutions

- start in time!
- start preparing further in advance than you think you need to. Don't rely on the books taken in, knowledge must be available in your head. Do lots of D1 questions.
- Start preparing in good time - this year was tricky because of the law change in December, which meant that preparatory materials weren't available before the beginning to middle of December. This doesn't prevent work on the other papers though - and become familiar with the texts that you need to use.
- - Start preparing your own (not a copy of a friend !!!) annotation of the EPC/PCT right now so that a first draft will be ready at August when you need to start intensive study. - Participate in the preprep and prep courses at Strassbourg. - When you started the intensive study at August, plan your next holiday not before Easter (as mentioned in the Strassbourg-course). - Test yourself (via questions in Delta-patents, EPI-tutorial; and from November/December via previous EQE questions under time pressure).
- Start Studying Paper C and D more than one year before the Examination
- Start to be prepared in good time in advance
- Start training soon and intensive preparation six months before.
- Start two years before the exam and study systematically for approximately two hours each day. This way it is possible to cover one topic every second week. Get hold of as many problem books as possible and solve as many problems as you can before the exam. I got up early in the morning, and studied from 7.00 to 9.00 at the office, and then started my regular work at 9.00. This way it was possible for me to be well prepared to each training day at the CEIPI basic training course (once every second week). It is very important to be well prepared for the training sessions so that you know what is hard for you to understand, and accordingly, can ask the tutors about that parts of the subject matter.
- Start well in advance and make a good index for the Guidelines.
- Start well in advance!
- Start with your preparation at least six months before the examination
- starting early with EQE preparation courses
- study carefully the examiner's reports, word by word
- study enough previous exam papers of the compendium
- study examiner reports on older exams
- Study hard!
- Study in study groups (we did Delta patent's questions/answers books: decided which questions each would do for the next time and met every two weeks 2 hours->very good discussion. The same would work for old exams. Study group makes some pressure + it is good to discuss different points of views with other candidates and get inspiration if want to give up:)) A strategy how to do the exams (the one that suits you) has to be clear before the exam). Time management has to be tested before exam. Ask study tips from

different people.

- Study intensely under a short time (3-5months)
- Study the "C-book" and study old exams. Go to some courses.
- study the examiner's comments very carefully. Make sure to read exam paper early and in every sentence you read, consider what significance it has, and write it down. Write down the obvious. Marks are so easily lost for not saying enough, and missing obvious points to make.
- Study the Guidelines!
- take 6 month holiday for learning, which however is unrealistic -> good luck
- Take leave at least one month in advance
- The compendium with "older" EQE papers is the most important preparation if you prepare for A and B.
- The EQE online forum for paper DI was very helpful.
- The exam is not difficult, read questions 2-3 times, filter out what the comitee wants to hear, think about your personal time management
- Think fast, write fast. Take many papers (especially under exam conditions); have them graded by an independent person (check against the compendium is not enough: one tends to be less strict with himself and the detail about where the marks are lost is not available).
- three weeks in advance is to less for preparation; you need at least 2 weeks for the epü, 1 week for the PCT and at least 1 week for doing exercises; CEIPI courses in Strasbourg for papers A, B, C, and D are existential!
- Time management, train for speed reading and speed writing.
- Time organisation
- To adopt the EP rules in daily works and to start preparations early.
- To be fit and concentrate during the exam
- to make a lot of practice in quickly writing the replies
- To make their own anotated EPC and PCT , this leads to a deeper understanding of the matter, specially when used in conjunction with drills like "delta patents" , than worikng with pre-anotaed books (like Baque, Speich ...) i which s , from my point of view, less efficient .
- To pray
- To prepare it well in advance.
- To read the questions very carefully
- To start a little bit earlier, which however it is not easy because the EPO courses takes plac in the last three months before the EQE, and I fnd difficult to start only with compundiums without hints given during the courses
- To start not to short before the EQE and do old EQE's for training
- To start studying about one year before the exam and organize small study groups for stimulating each other.
- tp prepare every day
- Train both physically and with compendia. Analyze deeply the information contained in the Examination Report. train with time

management.

- Train past papers. Attend the CEIPI preparatory courses.
- Train together with other students
- Try as many past examination papers as possible.
- Try negotiating time from your employer, you will need it!
- Try to answer questions firstly only on the surface and if time is available at the end, deepen the answers
- try to evaluate in advance what is the material available for studying - what reference books are actually needed and how to use them
- Try to get at least one week with non disturbed sleep before the examination.
- Try to go to the exam fully rested.
- Try to practice papers to time under exam conditions, especially paper C.
- Try to prepare for the stress so that at the third day the concentration is as high as in the previous days
- Try to start early and try to convince your employer that his consequent and full support of your exam preparation also is in his best interest.
- Üben unter Prüfungsbedingungen
- Use delta paper questions for paper D
- use kees mulder books to train for DI
- Use Sonderseminar des VPP "E-Prep" Teil A+B; C+D and you will be very happy
- Use the Delta patents questions as they are a good guide to get started taking you through the basics and working through one topic at a time. There are many different annotated books available such as Visser and Hoekstra - review them all as early as you can and pick one to use for the basis of your preparation - stick with this choice and don't change your mind half way through your preparation!
- Use the on line forum.
- Use the on-line forum on a regular basis to get answers to your questions and by giving answers to others better refine your own understanding.
- Use the PCT applicants guide for answering PCT questions - it is much more accessible than the PCT itself Start your revision by doing short answer questions, as it is more interesting than simply reading the legal texts
- visit Ceipi and learn the rules of the game,
- visit the ceipi one year in advance to know what ist is that you should be training - 2 months before exam is too late
- visit training courses
- Wait for the legal texts to crystallize a little bit, and filter out the errors. Study from the Guidelines, and check when the Guidelines are supported by case law, or the EPC, and when they give their own interpretation.
- When training on old exams, allow yourself half an hour less than you have on the exam for each paper. Due to nervousity you loose that

half an hour on the exam.

- work !
- Work from beginning on with a good commentary with worked in case law. When training former papers, complete the answer, although time in case of examination would be over. Don't forget to pray!
- Work hard to understand what the Examiner's are looking for - this is often different to what you would do in practice.
- Work hard, and pray.
- Work through the forum questions to familiar yourself with the EPC. Start printing off and organising resources early, i.e. before christmas. Practise past papers and look at the candidates answers/possible solutions in the Examiner's comments. The Exam Secreariat should review their decision not to publish examples of candidate answers, as these are a useful resource.
- Work through the last ten years of the Compendium in detail; However, leave on these papers to treat it under real examining conditions, i.e. the same time pressure, the same books on your desk etc.. When working with books or scripts, during preparation and learning phase, one might use a lot of these. However, for the final phase and the examination itself concentrate on very few ones, ie. select those which appear the most efficient for your personal style.
- Work up speed. Work with exam-related questions to find your way through the EPC. Study examiners comments on old papers. Take dedicated courses.
- Write a big sign "it's a puzzle" and put it on your desk.
- write old papers, talk/discuss with other students about specific issues
- Yes, Do the pappers in due time during the preparing for the EQE
- yes, get used to rolling the dice!
- Yes, go to the courses, but not in strassbourg.
- yes, take professional courses and take the exam while your not having any children (at max. only 1)
- You can use annotated EPC/PCT books like visser. A good thing is to create during studing your own "annotated" version. Quite complex matters can often be visualised in a drawing more easily. Most annotated versions do not have this.
- You cannot pass without help from others.
- zuerst Richtlinien lesen
- \* attend CEIPI Strasbourg course A,B,C one year ahead \* complete Delta patent - exam related questions before attending CEIPI Strasbourg course D \* attend scrambling course on paper C (the discussion with the tutors (BoA member) was very helpful) \* work hard
- 1. Mach die CEIPI-A-B-C- und D-Kurse in Strassburg bereits ein Jahr vorher, nicht erst knapp vor der Prüfung. (Bei D ging das bei mir nicht, weil EPÜ2000 erst mit meiner Prüfung dran kam - habe darum D in Strassburg nicht gemacht) 2. Delta-Patents und EQE-Online-Forum Fragen-Antworten-Katalog, und ansonsten: Compendium, Compendium und nochmals Compendium

- Actually doing the past papers under 'exam conditions' is very important.
- Assuming that they are conversant with the EPC etc it is important to practise exams. Passing the exam cannot be done just with knowledge of the EPC/PCT, you need to have a good exam technique, know what is expected in the exam (this is not at all clear) and have experience in making the judgments necessary, especially in Paper DI and DII where a broader knowledge and experience of legal practise is necessary.
- Attend specific training courses: CEIPI and Deltapatents are good examples. Prepare it very well the first time you sit it: first time right! It is useless to "try" the exam without a good preparation.
- Become familiar with the EPC so that answers to legal questions can be found quickly. Prepare your own annotated version of the EPC and Regulations, with at least references to all G decisions. Know how to do the problem-solution approach for both defending and attacking on inventive step. Learn to recognise what the examiner wants as the answer by practising past papers and studying the examiners' comments. Become reasonably proficient at translating either German or French.
- Begin study as early as possible, and get your supervisor to give you feedback on each practice paper completed,
- Buy an Annotated EPC (or similar book in another language) as soon as possible and use it in your daily work - a lot of learning will be "for free"
- Check the DELTAS and discuss open questions with your mates.
- Débuter les révisions le plus tôt possible. Et surtout être régulier dans ses révisions (et petit peu tous les jours), tout en essayant de se garder des plages de temps libre pour décompresser (il faut réussir à tenir le rythme ! Et arriver en forme la semaine de l'exam !).
- Dedicate a lot of time, especially for letting things "sink in". This I found very important for A and B. Do the old exams not once but twice, practise the time restriction.
- Delta patents questionnaire
- Delta Patent's training courses are excellent because they give you actual and concrete tools to attack the papers and therefore clarify the issues of what the Examination committee expects from the candidate. This has not been clear to me before.
- Do all Compendium exercises under exam conditions. Repeat them then using all necessary time. Compare results.
- Do all Deltapatent questions. Begin to study as early as possible. Read all the text of the G decisions (apparently, it is not sufficient to study the headnotes).
- Do lots of past papers and read examiners comments and sample scripts. Use sample questions on EQE Forum - extremely useful
- Do not always blame the Examination Committee, but blame your employer and all people taking away your precious time for exam preparation! The EQE is doable. Make it your main project for at least two to three months and do not accept it to be a little exercise!



- Do the C-Book intensively and take off the last 30 days in advance of the EQE. Do past papers, at least 15 each.
- Find at least one other person to study with is the single most important item.
- go through Delta Patents questions and mock papers
- good overview of the documents you take with you for the EQE, you need to find things quickly
- Have your answers checked by a tutor (EPI or any candidate who passed EQE with a high mark - preferably recently i.e. less than 5 years ago)
- I recommend to participate at the Ceipi seminary.
- I think that the book called the Annotated European Patent Convention 2000 was helpful. During the exam it was helpful to use the EPC2000 and the Guidelines. If enough time is available I would prefer to prepare the EPC with comments
- I would suggest to make all efforts when you sit the examination for the first time, better wait some years and be well prepared, so as to take advantage of the compensation for paper C and D. And do most of the past papers and study the compendium.
- Insist on 6 to 8 weeks completely free of office/clients deadlines for preparing the eqe.
- Invest in taking two weeks of own holiday before exams week.
- It helped to use the examination papers of the last years
- It is in my view necessary to have regular meetings with other candidates to learn or read EPC or to solve exercises. The group meetings should be at a neutral location to avoid distraction and to make concentrated work possible.
- It sounds boring, but practice, practice, practice...
- It's advisable to "get a grip" on the EPC by taking the time to study the Delta Patent's scripts.
- Join examrelated courses. Exercise, exercise, exercise.
- Just one: take specialised EQE courses, other courses are valuable for learning your job, but are completely useless for passing the EQE (which, unfortunately, has very little to do with your ordinary work).
- Leider nicht - wenn ich welche hätte, dann würde mir die Vorbereitung selber auch leichter fallen
- Make a lot of exercises, try to make them within the timeframe that you have on the exam. Do not focus too much on books like 'the annotated EPC' of Visser; such books are very good to understand the law, but for the actual exam, the answers to the questions are often not to be found in these books, but in the Guidelines or Anc Reg or Case law.
- make a lot of old examinations under examination conditions
- Modular exam mode should be preferred, in order to profit from the option to compensate
- my recommendations for other candidates preparing for the EQE: - start with the preparations early enough - do not underestimate the necessary effort for a good preparation - be self-disciplined
- Of course, I have: 1. try to organise your time as well as possible,

and do not think about the second question (part D I) when you have begun with the third one. 2. Do not trust people who recommend you not to sit all the modules at once. You can do it and you learn a lot. 3. Do not trust people who tell you how difficult paper X is. Be confident in yourself. 4. It was helpful to me to first look at the brochure "How to get a EP patent" since therein I found very quickly the article /rules relevant to a question or aspect

- Papers A and B should not be taken lightly---especially for German candidates---since the required approach differs enormously from German standard practice.
- Practice as many earlier papers as you reasonably can.
- Practice doing the past papers under exam conditions as much as possible
- Practice in exam-like conditions with a limited amount of time to answer each question.
- Practise as many past papers as possible.
- practise as many previous exams as possible and analyse your mistakes carefully!
- Practise at home every exam of the last ten years.
- Practising as much as possible under examination condition; reading and understanding as deeply as possible the compendium for entering the "spirit" of EQE; trying not to be influenced by everyday experience at work.
- Preparation of the own commented EPC is vital for D1, Training with Compendium for D2, A, B and C. Preparatory course in Strasbourg (one week for ABC and one week for D)
- Prepare an individual checklist for each module based on recommendations given for instance during the ceipi seminar in Strasbourg.
- Prepare your own material. Practice old exam question from the Compendium. C-Book. Deltapatents on D-Questions. These are my most important recommendations.
- Read and take DeltaPatents courses
- Read the case law in full - give your self plenty of time to revise.
- Read the Guidelines. When you write tests from previous years as preparation, don't write the tests in the order A-B-C-D A-B-C-D but rather A-A B-B C-C D-D. That way you will easier recognise what is important in each part of the exam.
- see question no. 10
- Separate modules for the benefit of your hand/arm, else too much writing. Avoid sitting the exam with hand/arm suffering from too much exercise.
- Since the EQE's are 'open book', personal cribs are very useful - for example step by step check lists for different types of question and pre-prepared phrases (especially for opposition).
- Start 4 months in advance. Make sure you have the three years.
- start as early as possible
- Start as early as possible with past papers, buy the Hoekstra skript
- start earlier

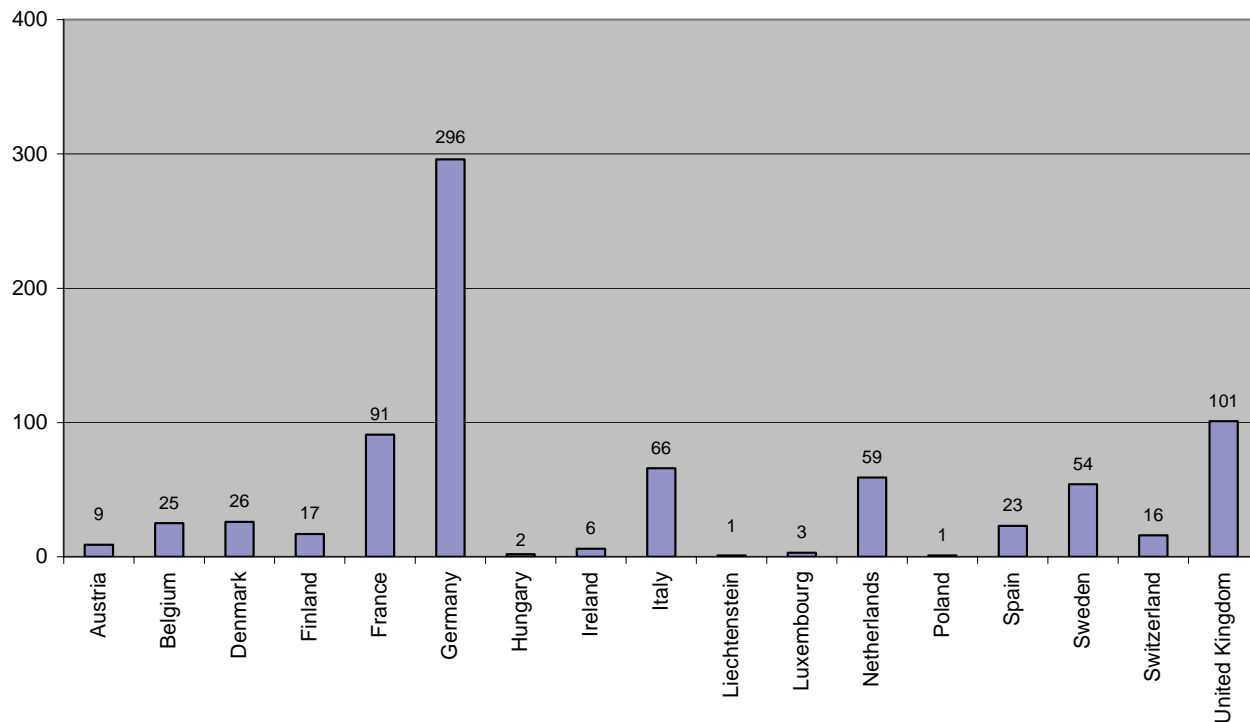
- Start early. Use DeltaPatents or similar program for getting "old" paper marked before sitting the exam.
- Start immediately before having children/elder parents/etc. It doesn't matter how good you are: if you can't devote most of your free time to the EQE, you're not going to make it. On the contrary, even if you're not so smart, you can make it provided you're plenty of free time.
- Start in time!
- Start preparing early for the D part! Do as many past papers as possible for the C part, adapting any methods learnt (eg the CEIPI techniques) to suit your own working style, and write inventive step arguments until your fingers drop off! For the C part, use the CEIPI C Book methods but don't follow them rigidly if you feel you can be more effective by working in a different way.
- Start studying more than six months before!
- Start well enough in advance; Make a plan - and stick to it; Make your own personalized exam material; Study the former exams; Get someone to correct your solutions to former exams in order to get a specific assessment of your abilities and weaknesses.
- Start with A and B as early as possible in your carrier Take the exam modular After passing A and B - prepare three years before taking the C and D exam. I.e do not waste your compensation points. Use much time for real exam like preparation to get used to the time stress
- Statt Detailwissen anzuhäufen versuchen, einen guten Überblick über die Rechtstexte zu gewinnen. Daher nicht zu früh anfangen, sondern zeitlich konzentriert (z.B. Dezember - Januar) sich einen Überblick über EPÜ und PCT verschaffen. Eine eigene Zusammenfassung der relevanten Vorgänge hat sich in der Prüfung als sehr hilfreich erwiesen.
- Stay calm, don't feel the pressure, keep the reasoning as simple as possible.
- Study on official legal text and avoid any commented texts until one/two months before the EQE
- study very much
- Take enough time for preparation. Read the paper carefully.
- The EQE has only a limited resemblance to daily life and so it should not relied that experience from work will be of great help. On the contrary, intensive focused preparation is required to pass, especially for D1.
- The most useful courses are the CEIPI preparatory courses
- There is a specific way in which the Examiners would like the answer for each paper to be produced. It is best to find out what this is very early on and practice reproducing your answers in the suitable format as much as possible. Do not be creative or individual; use the format preferred by the Examiners. For example, the answers to papers A, B and C should make extensive use of "problem - solution", far more than you ever would in real practice.
- They must improve ability and speed to understand what the paper requires as a response, Once started there is no way to change a

response.

- they should attend at a training course like CEIPI and should start as early as possible with their preparation for the exam.
- To start learning as soon as possible. Write personal summaries
- Try not to find yourself in the situation I was.
- try out every tip that you get from candidates who passed the examination and see if it fits you. visit ceipi seminars in strasbourg after preparing very well for the exam papers
- Use compendium prepare individualized learning material for fast consulting of information Do not start to late preparing yourself
- use the compendium and the guidelines first
- Use the EQE practice forum. Don't confuse the EQE's with real-life: so much of the EQEs is about exam technique.
- Use the EQE-studies to improve yourself in your profession, don't make it a complete necessity to pass the exam, learning is what's important. And begin with regular studies, work shops with friends/colleagues in time.
- Use the full three years. Do it like the European moon mission with its small ionic propulsion engine: even a tiny thrust just enough to lift a post-card on Earth will bring you to the moon if you keep it burning for three years. In the final weeks before the exam, brush up on lonely corners of PCT and the sorts of EPC remedies (like interruption of proceedings) that never crop up in your office.
- visit CEIPI courses
- While tackling a problem never rely on your memory but rather read again and again the articles and rules of EPC.
- Work on old exams. Buy the book by Derk Visser.
- Yes.. if they are Italian, start working abroad!
- You have to practice the exams to time and under exam conditions - obvious advice I know but it is essential!
- You need a lot of time and practice.

### Chapter 3 - Training / Employment under Article 10(2)(a) REE

**Q14) Candidates were asked in which EPC member state they completed most of their training according to Art. 10(2)(a) REE.**

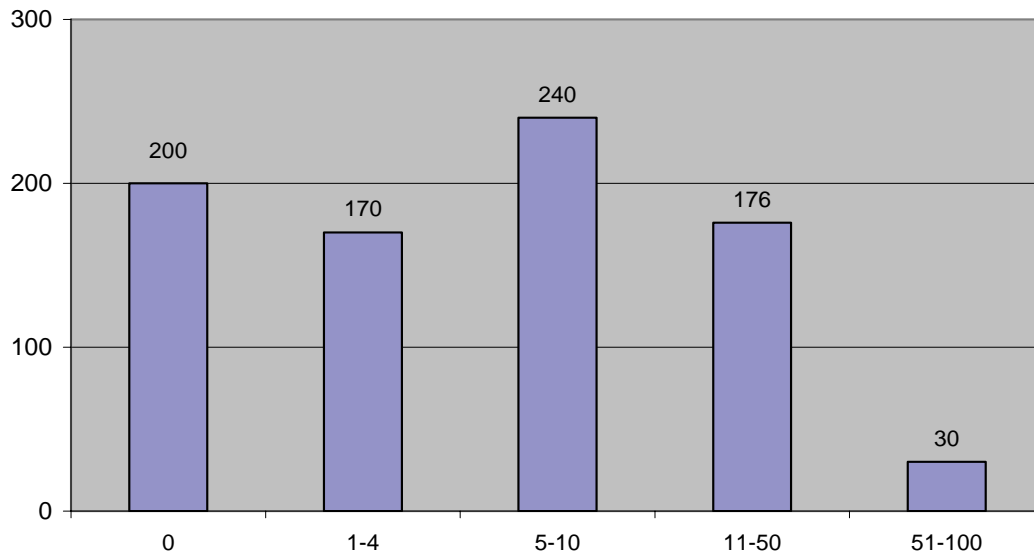


**Q15) Candidates were asked how they would rate the support of their employer in view of their preparation for the EQE.**

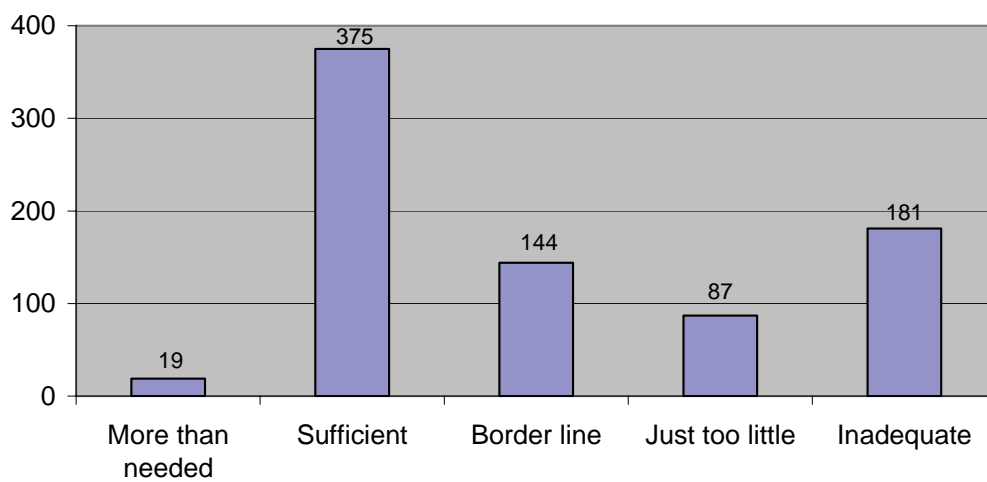


**Q16) How much time did your employer allow for your participation in courses regarding your preparation for the EQE?**

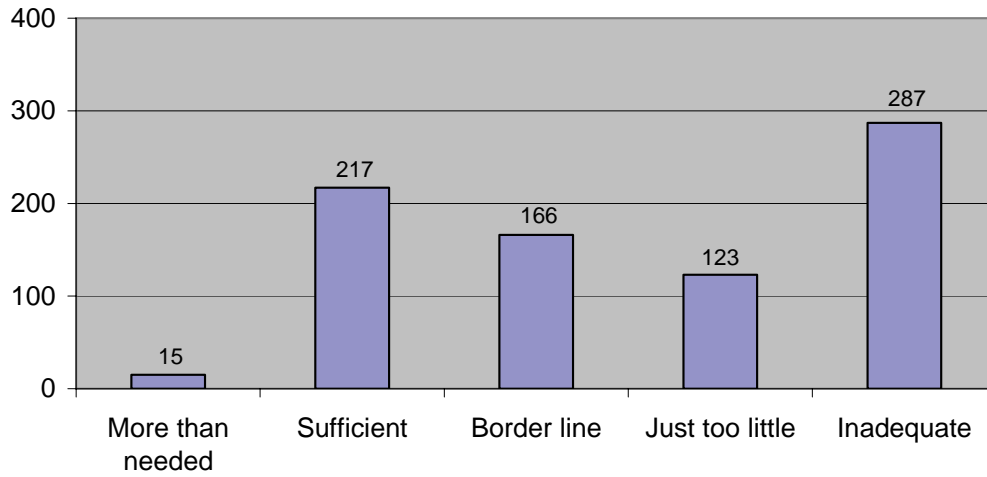
Number of working days indicated by the candidates



**Q17) How would you rate the amount of time allowed by your employer for participation in courses?**



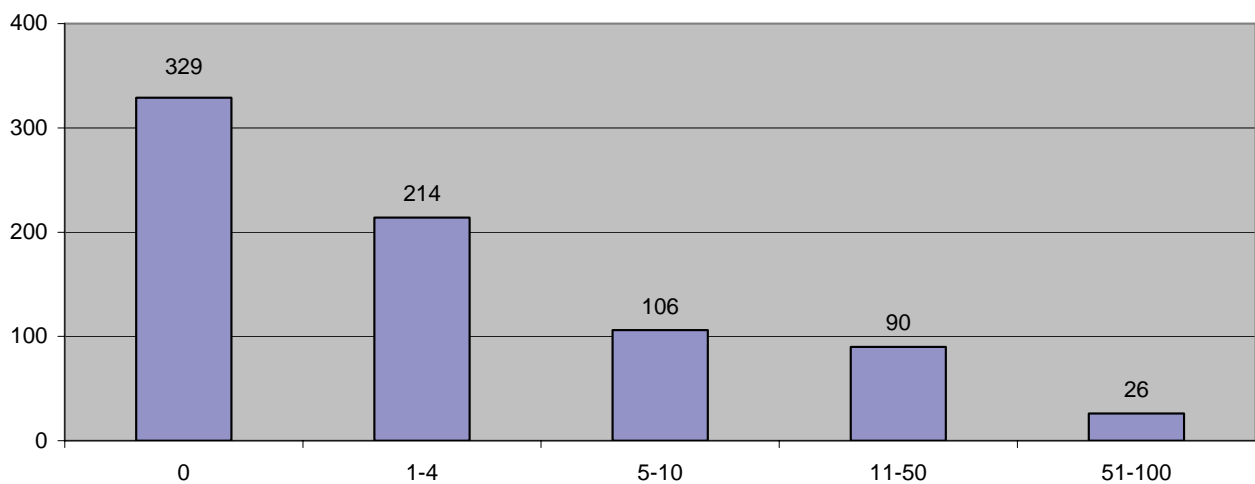
**Q18) How would you rate the amount of free time allowed for your personal preparation by your employer?**



**Q19) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE**

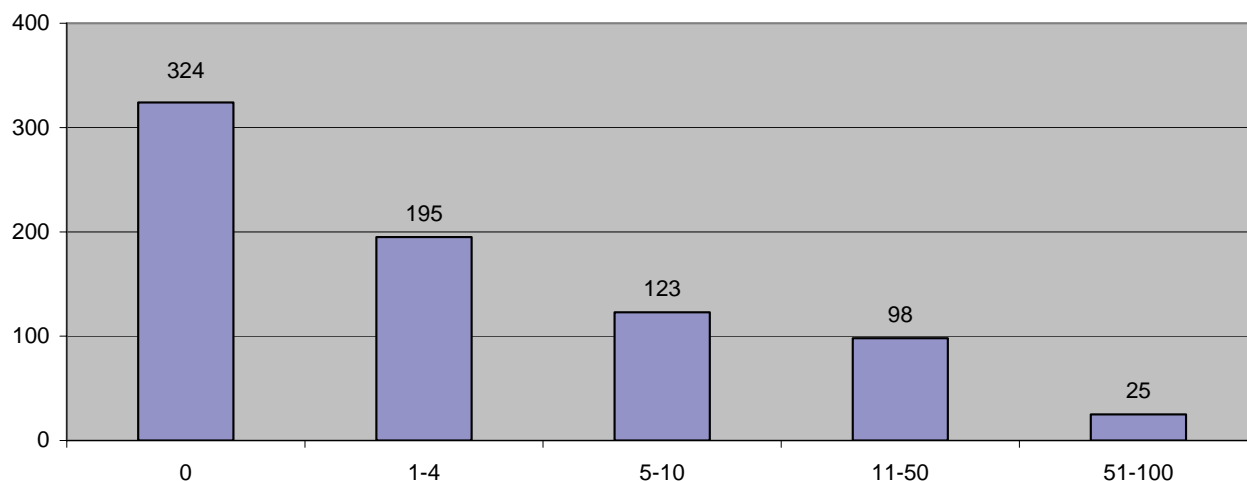
(i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)?

Number of working days indicated by the candidates



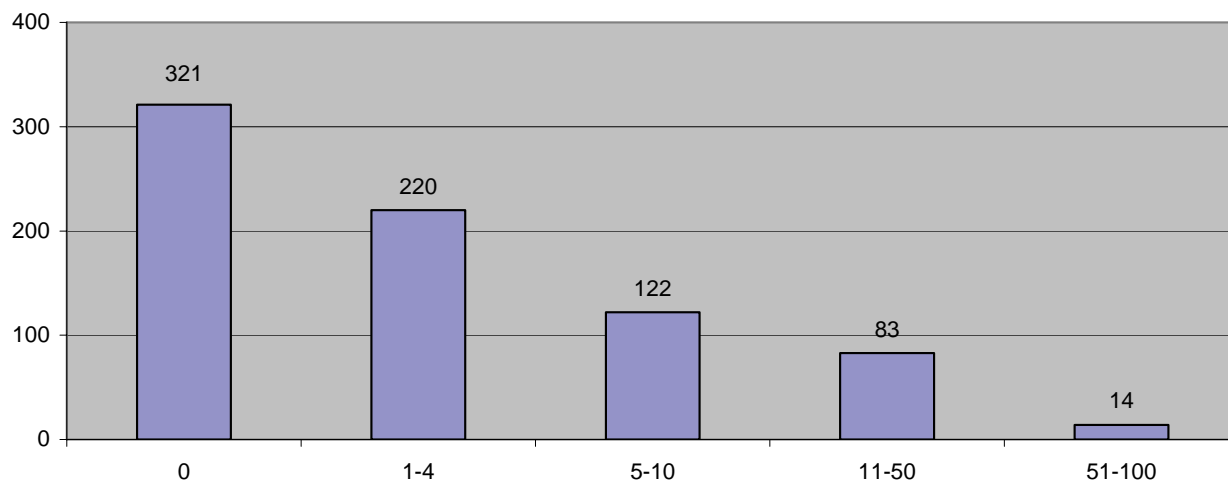
**Q20) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE during the first year of training**  
(i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)?

Number of working days indicated by the candidates



**Q21) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE during the second year of training**  
(i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)?

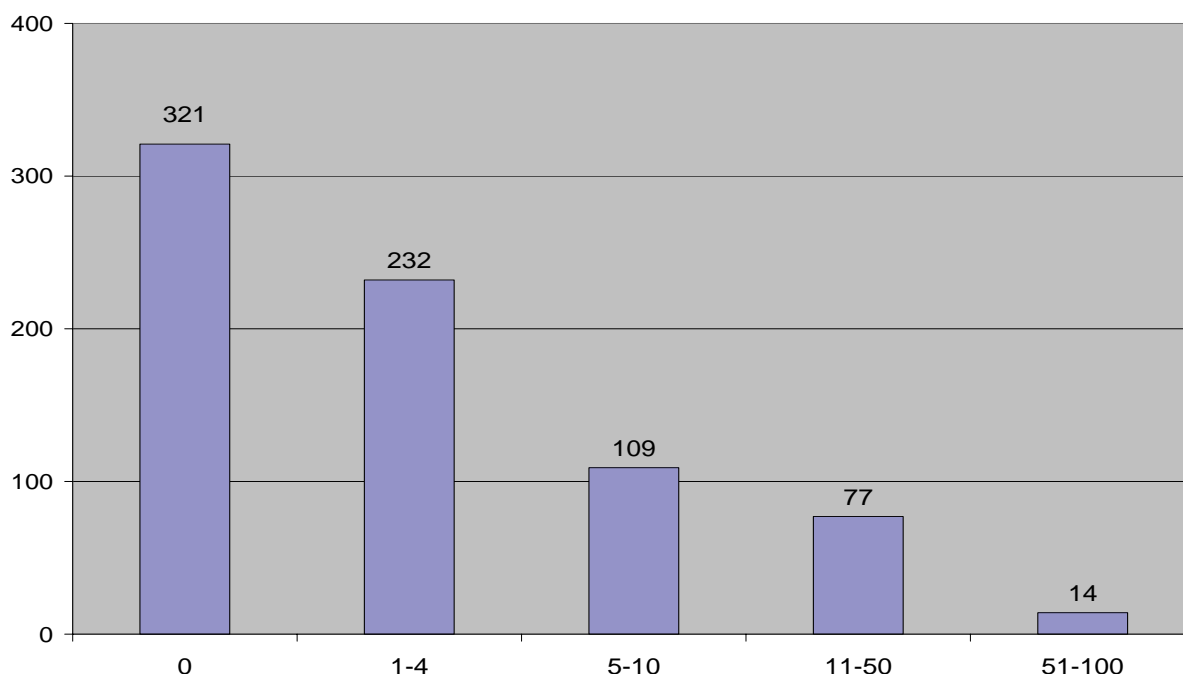
Number of working days indicated by the candidates





**Q22) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE during the third year of training (i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)?**

Number of working days indicated by the candidates



**Q23) Candidates were asked what they would propose to supervisors in order to improve candidates' preparation for the EQE.**

**The answers are listed below.**

- Detailed joint-review of past papers on a regular basis.
- I don't know, it help to have a lot of discussions during work in the office over substantive patentability (52-57 and 82-89)
- maybe have one hour a week to discuss specific questions
- -> correct old exam papers -> allow free time to study regularly in advance, e.g. half a day/week during the entire year before the exam
- about 2 to 4 weeks before EQE free preparatory time
- Accord free time to the candidates for them to take the CEIPI courses and for their personal training.
- Allow discussion and sharing of opinion, freely
- Allow more EQE specific time - my employers are generally supportive and would have allowed more time - but other urgent work always ended up taking priority.
- Allow more study leave Be more willing to give tutorials
- allow more time for study
- Allow them to reduce their workload so that they can carry out some preparation during work hours - if a candidate is expected to continue

working the same number of billable hours throughout, they are not only less likely to pass but probably more likely to leave the company and move elsewhere when they qualify. If a candidate is provided with more support, they are more likely to show their loyalty and stay with the company on qualification in which case the time allowed for training pays for itself!

- Allow them to spend work time on preparation.
- Allow time to study for the exams in work time. Teach the difference between what is done in the office and what is done for the exams (regarding paper B - the only paper which I have not yet passed)
- Always discuss the solution of older paper with the candidates even when they have made them by themselves
- As an EPO employee, I believe a special leave for the in-house courses should be granted.
- As EPO employee it is a disgrace that there is NO time allowance for these courses. Only partial refund is given with a ridiculous ceiling that you break after the second course. A shame for the EPO.
- As I had only my vacation days to prepare (I did get time off for courses, but not for studying), I was oftentimes very tired of studying. I would therefore advise to give students half a day per week to focus on just studying the EPC (EPC/guidelines/OJ EPO, etc.).
- -at the time where we all have objectives each year, that the supervisors have among others objectives the one to spend enough days for that preparation.
- Be aware of the evolving of the questions, especially for D papers and more precisely for D2 paper, which is now quoted at 60 points and which spirit is closer to a legal opinion. Thus, the legal opinion of D2 obliges the candidate to be focussed on a "non binary" solution contrary to responses to D1 questions for example. In that sense, supervisors would have to submit more legal cases to future candidates to EQE, e.g. freedom to operate studies in which many interferences of patent rights are possible...
- be more informed, be more flexible, give time to prepare an application etc., be constructive
- be more active and challenge the candidate
- Be more exam-result oriented.
- be updated and try to explain where the points are collected
- Be updated with the latest exams and examiners reports to be able to answer questions regarding them.
- candidates cannot work full time and have enough time for learning
- Check the work done by the candidate with regard to the EQE
- check them with small tasks and tell them more about your experiences.
- Clarification: I was probably allowed by my employer to use more time for preparation, but workload was the limiting factor.
- Companies should identify staff whose time is partly dedicated to the task of training
- companies should support candidates by giving them free time to study and/or go on courses. Monthly seminars by a partner on some

patent law aspect would have been useful.

- daily discussions with the supervisor how to improve is the basic for further preparation
- Discuss newly published caselaw in view of interpretation and impact.
- don't know - not applicable
- emphasis good exam technique as well as strong patent knowledge
- Encourage candidates to utilise the exam skills also in actual drafted applications and amendments, e.g. adopt the full problem-solution approach for amendments as soon as possible. Dissect candidates' first drafted applications with the eyes of the Examiners' Report.
- encourage them to start early offer a pay raise or a prime for everybody who passes the EQE
- exposure to the widest possible variety of work
- free time to study reduced work pressure during examination period guidelines about the documents to study and in which order (help organising the study)
- get candidates to read the guidelines for examination
- Give at least one working day at week for studying
- Give candidates enough time for their first time sitting to have a realistic chance to pass, and let them take prep. courses for all papers. Consider it an investment! Also try to give candidates tasks in their daily work which will train them, like EP office actions. For subsequent sittings candidates must be willing to accept less (paid) time off or use private vacation days.
- Give candidates some time off work to revise - work pressure plus revision is very tiring
- Give them good time to be prepared
- Give them more time for preparation beneath work
- give work which relates to all the four exams
- giving more time and lighten workload
- Go through what is required for preparing and sitting the EQEs and mark past papers for them.
- Guidance on the content required for an answer, how to objectively and calmly approach a question and the papers
- Have a more structured approach to training
- Have some tutorials or advice sessions well before the date of the EQEs
- have time for questions discuss with candidate different issues
- having a better idea, what eqe is about today, i.e. not a shotgun approach, and which techniques may be used, i.e. not only a feature analysis but also a matrix approach, etc., and to train with their candidates at least sometimes instead of overloading them with work - preventing learning and training. The signature of the supervisor for the first EQE session of the candidate in 99% is given without having trained with the candidate at all, its merely the signature of the "boss", not of a "supervisor".
- Hold as many in-house tutorials as possible and encourage candidates to prepare answers to exam papers for marking.

- I did no dedicated training with my supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE, but everything done in practice is training for EQEs, so specific training was not required in my opinion.
- I don't think it matters if it is the supervisor signing the documents that does the training him/her self, as long as it is sure that training is put into it and the supervisor acknowledge that this is important.
- I learnt the job more through doing the job rather than by directing my training specifically to the EQE
- I suppose that there is often a conflict between the needs of the daily job and the interest of the candidate as well as the interest of his employer that the candidate should pass the EQE: You need time to prepare (and your employer knows that and wishes to support you). On the other hand, everyday's work has to be done by somebody. Very often, you (as a candidate) do not get the relief you need for the EQE preparation just because there are not enough other people who could do the job when the candidate needs to learn. It is not bad faith, but just a lack in the number of staff members. And after 12 hours of work, I cannot concentrate on the C paper any more (just as an example).
- I think that in a company there is no time for dedicated training. The preparation is achieved by filing and prosecution of EP applications. Some EQE dedicated course would be of help.
- I think that it is useful for supervisors to think about which aspects of the work they give you are useful from an exam point of view and maybe to point this out to you at the time.
- I think this survey is going off-topic a bit and I'm not sure I understand the question - what do you mean by dedicated training? - doing responses to examination reports or 1-to-1 discussion on a topic?
- I will give an answer only with regard to part C of the EQE, since this is the remaining part which I try to get over years: Thus, I propose to have a least 4 weeks off before the day of the EQE to completely get distance to the daily work and thus completely concentrate on the EQE. The benefit for the company after passing would be a well prepared EP attorney who will represent the company in goog way. If a supervisor would give more information on how to pass the examination, that would be great. However, mostly those who have passed ignore the others.
- I would propose that an EPO member does an "inspection" once a year...to make sure the trainer is indeed training the trainee !!!!!
- I would propose to the persons designing these questionnaires not to pose this and all the earlier questions to people who crossed earlier that they did not make use of such a supervisor.
- Ich durfte unbezahlten Urlaub nehmen, das war die entscheidende Unterstützung seitens des Arbeitgebers. Ohne diesen unbezahlten Urlaub wäre es aussichtslos gewesen. Andere Firmen gewähren 14 Tage bis 1 Monat bezahlten "Sonderurlaub". Meine Betreuer hat mir keine inhaltliche Hilfe gegeben bzw. prüfungsrelevantes Wissen vermittelt. Allerdings habe ich das auch nicht erwartet - wäre zu unnormal für die Industrie.
- If they do not have time to spend for specific training for EQE (i.e.

regarding matters which are not occasioned by work instances) they could propose to candidate a skedule / layout for the candidate to organize better his own time dedicated to EQE preparation

- In general, more training.
- in my opinion the way of facing normal job activities is quite far from the way of facing EQE papers .. thus I think my supervisor gave me adequate preparation for facing every day job activities but not dedicated to EQE
- In private practice the supervisors are usually busy trying to manage their own workload. Candidates are expected to manage on their own and by attending courses. In order to solve the problem of "multiple re-sitters" our company will initiate specialized in-house training for the 2009 exam.
- In the company where I work there is no European qualified attorney since 1993 when I was hired to date. I had some training with an external lawfirm and some internal training by a non qualified experienced person. A situation like this is not acceptable. Indeed now I am the most qualified person in the dept where I work and I had to train some people who passed the exam first time !!. I know I am not answering but this is not the exam and I wanted also to tell you what has NOT to be done by a IP dept.
- Increase involvement in formal and procedural aspects of the daily practice, not only substantive aspects.
- Individual study is essential thus free time for study would be essential but dedicated time with the tutor (supervisor inhouse) would be also necessary. In my case it is already great : the firm allows you to follow excellent external courses such as CEIPI's. Difficult to change national habit the firms should perceive as an advantage to have qualified attorneys; but one is enough to sing, that's it!
- In-house tutorials
- Involve candidates in tasks vis-a-vis the EPO by giving them responsibility.
- Irrelevant for me, working at the EPO.
- issue logical and easy to understand marking schemes. Mark papers sensibly
- it is not only a signature under the Certificate it is a task
- keep updated with the compendium
- Less focus on support related to payable work and more focus on support related to the EQE.
- let them have more time to study for the exam and also don't give them loads of other work to be done
- make them do past papers. start them on the very earliest papers at least 1 year before 1st sitting of EQE exams and test one paper per week (i.e., one of A, one of B, one of C and one of D per month).
- Make time for your trainee!
- More one to one tutorials.
- more supervision
- More time for dedicated preparation and more practical hints for the

exam.

- More time for private study
- more time to study
- Most important for passing is personal study; more days for studying will help
- My supervisor never sit the eqe himself... A supervisor should also participate on some training. My company is not interested that I am successful with the eqe
- My supervisor was a "grandfather", so he never himself studied for EQE. He gave me the advice that he had from his experience with working with patent issues. It is good if you also could be in touch with someone that has actually been in the exam situation.
- my supervisor was an external attorney - hence, the situation was very special (no real training re preparation). It would have been very helpful to get an overview as well as further introductions into EPC
- NB I am an EPO examiner, so the answers to many of the preceding questions are irrelevant. However, although plenty of pretty good training was offered some recognition / time allowance for the time I spent studying would have been nice!
- Neben den geeigneten Kursen sollte nicht viel mehr als 40 Stunden pro Woche Arbeitszeit in den Monaten vor der Prüfung erwartet werden um Vorbereitung zu ermöglichen
- not applicable
- Not generally supervised
- Note: The previous questions are impossible to answer for self-employed candidates. You should ignore my answers.
- Pay for candidates' professional training. Supervisors shouldn't do the training themselves because the EQE has little to do with real-world representation.
- Please consider I am employee of the EPO for your statistics
- Please consider that tutoring is part of your job-description
- provide more general support: Courses, free time, group discussion etc.
- put time aside to work on the compendium.
- Read the law. It has changed in the past 20 years.
- Read the past papers and the examiners' comments so that you know what the examiners are looking for and can brief your trainee accordingly.
- really train the candidates and not rely on self-training by the candidate
- recognize the ultimate value in understanding the material
- Remark on last 3 questions: my supervisor did supervising while writing patents and answering office actions, but no dedicated EQE training, this was done with courses of DeltaPatents.
- Reserve time to go through old exams with the candidate or discuss legal questions. The time reserved should be as important as customers, i.e. no disturbing telephone calls, etc, and the time should be reserved in a calendar as any important meeting.
- Review candidates' draft papers and give suggestions to improve

them.

- some of the supervisors took the EQE decades ago, they forgot how much time a candidate not having the routine in applying the EPC from over 15 years of working experience as a European Patent Attorney needs
- Spend more time with your candidates
- Spend more time.
- start by reading the Visser and at the same time the Compendium (first for papers A-B and then for C-D)
- Start preparation for Part DI+II asap.
- Start well in advance!
- Stress the importance of time management, both in preparations and during the exam.
- stronger teaching the way the answers in the exams shall be written (Better teaching of the technique)
- Supervisors are not familiar with EPC2000: we have to teach the supervisor.
- supervisors must have passed the EQE, i.e. not grandfather
- supply dedicated formal classroom type training in significant quantities. On the job training is inadequate/inappropriate for the tests posed by the exams
- Take it more serious! Help the candidate to find his/her way into all the learning material in first instance. Motivate the candidate, help with overviews and the broad picture. Candidate should then much faster grasp the details. Motivate in taking courses. Give candidate time at work to study and prepare. Give candidate work that will help him to improve the exams.
- take time for this
- Telling own experience; support by giving more time for preparation
- That they loose their status as a representative before the EPO if they do not provide a set number of hours tuton in the year.
- The prblem is that in my and in the opinion of my supervisor the real life is completely different from the examination. For the D-part I don't need the help of my supervisor. The C-part is the most similar part for real life (but we nether do the problem solution approach as expected in the exam). My supervisor is of the opinion that a majority of the sample solutions would not work in practice. Therefore, I lifed in two lifes (in real life and in the exam preparation life where I write totally different claims as I would in real life). Therefore, in my opinion, it is easier for the candiates to pass the exam (A, B-part) if they don't have any practical experience.
- The support and advice of the supervisors is of limited use since the conditions of the EQE have severly changed since 2000 (e.g. formerly D1/D2 = 50% to 50%; New EPC 2000, from which the "old EPC 1973 passer" don't know very much) and the examination questions have become much more complex and demanding. Accordinlgy, every candidate has to fight his own battle at the front line (as regards time = the present = the year 2008); it is worth NOTHING if you were able to pass the examination questions of the

EQE 2007 or of any EQE before !!!

- They could try to spend some time with their employees to correct at least one A and B paper before the exam.
- They have to keep up to the level required for passing the EQE. Too many EPA's who passed the exam previously simply do not have enough knowledge of EPC2000...
- They only have to be human beings, and to take into account of the fact that nobody wants to steal nothing, but we are only trying to learn a job. And it's an hard one, very hard.
- this exam is also taken by many EPO examiners!!
- Timemanagement know how. Time for training is essential and the knowledge how to manage your training time
- To allow the candidate to process complete real life cases, e.g. opposition
- to attend several courses on eqe training, because the supervisors are industrial practitioners with high experience in daily work but low actual expertise how to tackle this examination
- To clearly explain the differences between normal daily practice and the EQE exams.
- to discuss by phone interview with examiners and to provide for being present to oral proceedings
- to discuss epc-problems as they come up in daily work
- To generally give the candidates a good training in patent praxtice in their everyday work. During the actual preparation for the EQE be available for answering questions, and allow freetime for preparing.
- To give access to their knowledge and not to be afraid of candidates as potential rivals
- To give the candidates the relevant tasks at work so that they can prepare to the exam during performing their ordinary duties
- to give time and spend time with us, for instance 4 haours every tow weeks focused on the preparation of a past exam
- to give time during working hours to prepare for the EQE.
- To have more free time to prepare the exam
- To loose their qualification if they do not well follow at least a trainee.
- To send the candidates to a training course and give more free days to prepare the exam (quite difficult if working at the same time)
- To spend more time on a weekly basis
- to stay tuned with the developments in eqe exam itself. which has radically changes in past years especially paper C and D
- Try to ease the work load on the candidates in the couple of months prior to the exams - so that the candidate can focus. The biggest factor in the preparation is TIME.
- try to find an understanding together with the candidates, how the examination commission think and prepare the questions and papers
- Use mentors to review everything you do in everyday work. Try to relate everyday work to Exam related situations.
- Well, my supervisor is a "grandfather" and thus cannot help directly in the preparation. It is OK.



- when employed: extra holiday for courses
- when working on a real file, just give them time to go really deep into the legal issues
- With the changing law (was mostly PCT but now also EPC2000) supervisors learn as much from you as you from them.
- work on real cases 'in an exam way'
- 1) Start studying the EPC!!! At least once in their life. 2) Having interest in making the examiners passing the exam
- Accept training candidates in the company and/or in special classes without special conditions. Employers often ask candidates to train themselves without impacting on the office work and request candidates to sign engagement to stay in the company for at least 5 years after obtaining the qualification and if not to pay the company (in case the candidate leave before the end of the period he will have to refund the company). With such conditions the candidates are only available for training during the holidays and after work hours reducing therefore the time imparted for training to the minimum.
- Actually give the candidate some dedicated training for the eqe's
- allocating time for mock exams that are corrected by supervisor
- Allow sufficient study time in the evenings of working days. Set timed past papers + mark them early in the study process.
- Always judge the working results of the candidate in light of the EQE, highlighting the areas to be improved.
- As a lot of supervisors probably have limited capacity available for supervising and guidance during EQE preparation, send candidates to dedicated preparation courses.
- attendance of candidates to Ceipi preparatory courses
- be yourself a european representative AND send them to special courses
- candidates need more time for learning, it is not possible to work full time and to learn only during the free hours.
- Concrete individual demonstration step by step of the method they actually used to solve the questions and proof that this was possible in the time provided.
- Demand the presentation of past papers of the compendium in detail.
- Discuss with candidates actual problems presented in previous exams and approaches to deal with them in an exam situation (i.e. under real-time conditions with a clock ticking)
- Do not under- or overestimate the time required for preparing for the EQE just because you have passed ages ago.
- Do past papers in order to be able to see the difficulties in them
- Early on, give them an impression of what sort of thing will be required of them in the exam, esp Paper D. Then, they can study the relevant material with motivation basically following the Guidelines plus Visser's book in the structure (chapters / topics) provided by the CEIPI basic law course (i.e., Delta patents questions book) over the second 2 years of the training.
- For paper C not many people in my firm have opposition experience hence it's difficult to find someone who can help

- Generate a basic guide to the EPC and the PCT and sell it - EQE practice questions level 1. My employer took me on into a small practice after I had worked at the EPO. I had only been with him 1 year when I took the exams. He couldn't have done more internally himself. We just needed more comprehensible training materials at a more basic level than CEIPI D course and EQE forum to bridge the gap. What's out there is pitched at too high a level and the reason the Brits mostly do so well is because they have already done years of learning the British system whereas I am coming almost from the same place as non Brit having not gone through the normal British training system.
- give 2 weeks free time before the EQE relieve work load 2 months before the EQE
- give more flexible free time to prepare in the last three months before the EQE
- Give the candidates more exam-relevant work (i.e. no translations and other tedious work), i.e. let the candidates draft as many responses to office actions, draft as many patent applications as possible and let them at least be involved in some opposition cases as well. In this training it is important to focus on the quality of the work rather than speed. It seems to me, regrettably, that attorneys at the private bureau's are more focused on speed and money, than anything else.
- Give them enough study leave, in particular sufficient time for self study. Just attending courses in preparation of the EQE is by far not enough. In fact, before attending any courses self-study is crucial in order to take the most out of the courses. The EQE is a main project, not just an exercise! Anything else means employees take advantage of their candidates work force. Just imposing pressure on their candidates does not help and comes close to slavery.
- Give two weeks free time before examination
- Good explanations are essential and these should be given more than once - if necessary
- I am adding some comments here because there seems to be no box to capture these. I feel a need to explain my supervisor's actions as else it would appear that he had not helped me at all. My supervisor himself did not receive any in house training or EQE specific training from his supervisor (many years ago) and consequently was happy to apply the same to me. However, before I started training as a patent attorney I worked in house for 20 months as a patent searcher during which time I gained a lot of insight into patent matters. Furthermore, I have been responsible for dedicated patent portfolio throughout the whole of my training period and if ever I had any questions my supervisor (and my other colleagues) has been very helpful. Finally, my supervisor fully supported my choice of external courses and tutorials (paid for by the company in full; mock papers sat during working hours). It was on this basis that my supervisor felt I would be sufficiently prepared for the EQEs.
- I am self employed. I do the preparation full time in a minimum of 3 months each December - February since 4 years, ie quarter of a year

each.

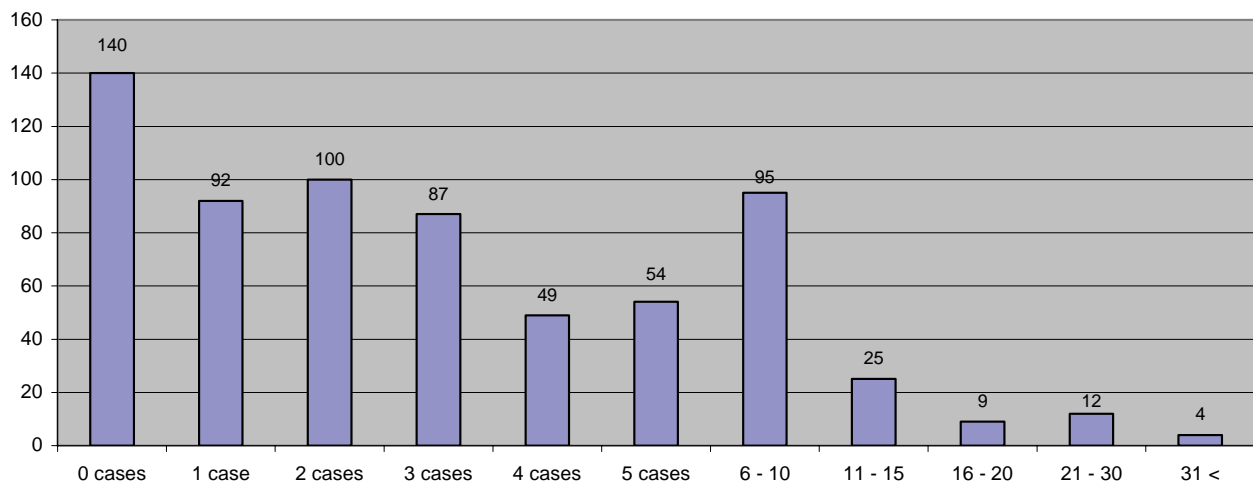
- I did not have any supervisor so I cannot suggest anything. However, it seems to me important to teach people to concentrate on one single question and to organise the time. Not to think a lot about eventual tricks that could be involved in a question and to check with the material they bring to the examination only the essential features of the answers.
- if they didn't pass the exams within the last several years, the supervisor is of no help any longer
- In the first years take time to explain to the candidate the black points and give him time to learn (move him to read guideline and the convention) give him a large diversity of work. the most important is to reduce the working charge in the last months before the EQE and to support the candidate (that was definitely not my case)
- Involve candidates in strategic discussions
- It would have been helpful to spend more time during the first couple of years rather than cramming at the end
- Let candidates have paid time off to prepare, at home if necessary.
- Make sure that the candidate has as varied a workload as possible.
- Maybe this is done in some companies/firms, but I've never seen it. I think it would help if supervisors would allow trainees to look over their shoulder, as it were, in the early days of traineeship to see how real cases are worked by an experienced professional. Yes, I know, it'll take more time in the short term, but I reckon it will save everyone time in the long term if it means trainees are accelerated up to a deeper lever of understanding and fusion of analytical skills. It's just a thought.
- More time and funds for long-term courses eg ceipi
- Most importantly allow for study time, seminars are not enough. Reduce work load. Study during work time would be nice, but at least give the option to take time off during the final months of preparation e.g. half a day per week. Give assistance by e.g. organizing working groups and question/answering session, correct passed papers and discuss these.
- My supervisor didn't sit the EQE's as he grandfathered. Thus, he could little or no advice on how to approach the EQE's. Also he was the only patent attorney in my firm. In order to improve my situation I consulted with patent attorneys in outside patent firms. This was a great help, as they told me exactly what I needed to do.
- My supervisor was a grandfather. Yes, he knows some of EPC, however, after training I know more. He does not have a clue about the examination, so how a grandfather could supervise a candidate because the examination is so far away from everyday life.
- perform and correct compendium papers under real time conditions
- Pose old exams and give them one day's time to complete each.
- Read the examiner's mind in order to put the candidate in a position to choose the correct prior art documents and to bring forward the expected attacks.
- read the examiner's reports

- Reduce their work-load. Let them write exams from previous years and discuss these exams.
- Reserve time to prepare for the examination
- Send your trainees to courses. Tutors have a better preparation and sensibility for the EQE than people who have sat the exam many years ago (or have not sat the exam).
- Set examination style problems to be solved.
- set up individual trainings (when inexistent)
- Spend some time of the working days before the EQE for discussing/correcting papers of the compendium
- Spend time on dedicated EQE training. The exam is different from day-to-day work requiring a different mind set. Difficulty is that once passed the exams, supervisors are not being kept up to date on how the exam requirements change and evolve during the years.
- Study some recent exams and make some of them by yourself. The exams that most of them have made themselves are not representative for nowadays EQE.
- Suggest that candidates use the EQE format from as earlier as possible when deadline with day to day work.
- Supervisors are not appropriate for a dedicate preparation to EQE.
- Supervisors should study the exam papers.
- take more time for the candidates
- take time to prepare your cadidate.
- Tell the candidates that the exam has nothing to do with the practice.
- that they sit for the exam!
- The problem in our agency is, that there are no-one that has passed the EQE presently. Hopefully this will change soon...
- The supervisors need to knwo how the papers are marked, what the Examiner's want to see and points awarded. Personally i would ratehr receive good general training to be an attorney and fail the exams a few times rather than pass first time and be no good at the job! My failing paper B and C has nothing to do with supervision, it si down to exam technique.
- The supervisors shall be young enough in order to be up to date with the current focus of the EQE
- there should be more training how to solve each paper. More practise how to write an opposition, apllication and how to file claims
- They should train the interpretation of the articles and rules of the EPC with respect to the case law
- think about candidates' development
- time off work for self-study
- To be fair to the person who signed my form we were very under staffed and it is difficult to ascertain just how much time he actually spent with me each day explaining stuff when I asked.
- To gain maximum practice, the supervisors should provide their respective candidates with past papers for training purposes early. The papers should be written under eqe conditions and marked accordingly by the supervisor. Especially the examiner's reports 2006 and 2007 give good hints on how to mark the papers. By this,

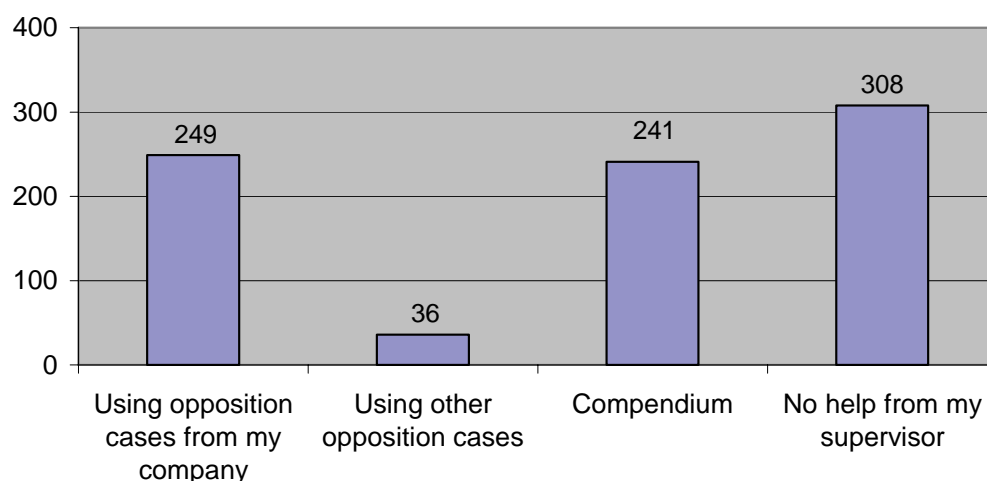
candidates can gain practice early and acquire a good background for their own intensive studies towards the eqe.

- To lend themselves available to discussions, in particular as regards the A and B parts. To provide difficult problems that the candidate has to solve by means of the EPC, to help them familiarise themselves with the EPC.
- To push candidates to study and practice
- Try to discuss one or more previous exam papers. When this is not possible, allow to follow courses.
- Try to do on-the-job training, e.g. involve people in an actual opposition and prepare according to eqe standard, rather than the (somewhat lower) daily-practice standard, even though that costs more time.
- Who needs tutors? ;-) Behave as supervisor and try to be a tutor. Take it as serious task.

**Q24) In how many opposition cases were you involved during your 3-year training period?**



**Q25) How did your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE train you for paper C?**  
(Multiple selections possible)



**Candidates were asked to make comments concerning Q25.  
The comments are listed below.**

- AB only
- Actually I am just started my preparation for paper C. I am going to see some real opposition cases only in the next months
- argumentation in practice is very much different from what is expected in the paper C
- Arranging internal seminars
- attending opposition/appeal proceedings
- bought c-book
- but not yet sat paper C
- by asking me to solve specific opposition-related legal questions
- CEIPI course
- Ceipi course and a qualified attorney (not my supervisor) with the firm
- CEIPI course and exam preparation
- CEIPI, Strassbourg
- Ciepi C-courses
- Comment from my supervisor: How should I train you for a lottery?
- Corrected one paper C.
- Courses
- Course run by my company, mostly based on questions prepared by my company which we discuss.
- Courses
- DeltaPatents C-course
- discussion of special cases
- Don't know yet, as I have not started studying for that paper, yet.

- even if I was involved in opposition cases from my company, such activity was not focused on C paper
- external courses
- general advice during my every day work (such as explaining the ground of amendments when replying to an official letter, using inventive step approach...)
- General case work - nothing specific
- Generally very good feedback on regular work, but no dedicated EQE training.
- going through past papers
- Had no supervisor...
- having the responsibility for opposition cases with external counsels
- He gave me one example of an opposition case, but no help how to deal with it.
- He gives me various work so i get important experience for papers.
- help from colleagues was important
- His own experience
- I also think people will be put off some of these questions if no help is given by supervisor - as that would reflect badly on candidate too.
- I did the C-course of Cronin and I made 4 exam papers of previous years.
- I didn't request help from my supervisor
- I had support from my firm in general by having in-house tutorials with colleagues where we went through my answers to past papers
- I have not started preparation for paper C
- I have not started thorough training for paper C yet
- I have not trained myself for paper C
- I have opposed 6 patents (before national patent office and EPO), participated in 4 oral proceedings and defended two patents against oppositions. I do not know how this experience has increased my chances of passing the C paper.
- I have taken part at the EPI tutorials and we have additionally discussed my solutions
- I prepared via Deltapatents and CEIPI, using the compendium and the model answers prepared by the tutors. The tutors (Deltapatents/CEIPI), my supervisor, and I agree that Paper C differs greatly from practise.
- I was able to assist opposition proceedings and was allowed to speak and defend the case myself
- Ich hatte meine Einsprüche und Beschwerden schlicht zu bearbeiten. Beim ersten hat der Betreuer mal über den Entwurf geschaut, wobei ich gerade bei diesem von einem deutschen Einspruch mehr oder weniger abschreiben konnte. C-Teil relevantes Wissen wurde gewiss nicht vermittelt. Danach blieb es mir selber überlassen, die Begründungen abzufassen.
- Internal courses between trainees.
- Internal training courses
- involving me in opposition cases and taking me to opposition

proceedings

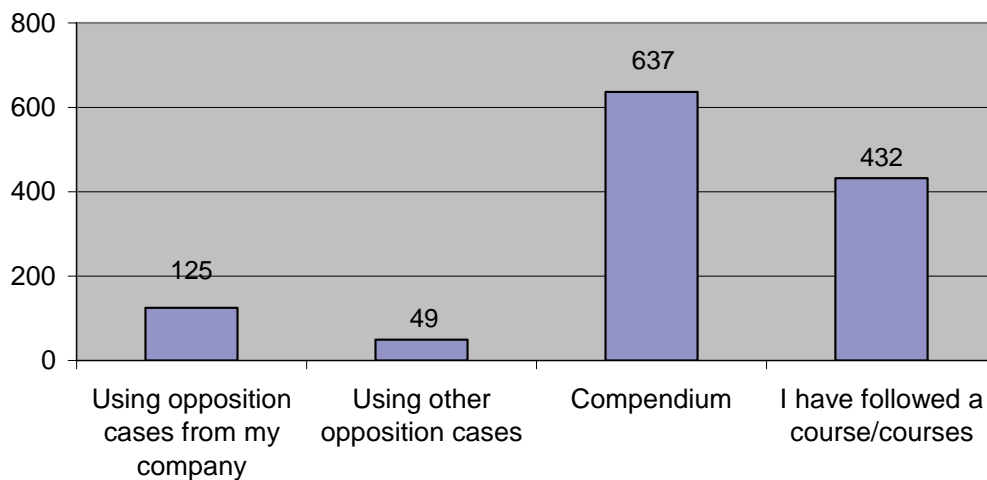
- JDD Paper C course - Milton Keynes, UK.
- Mitwirkung Einspruchsabteilung
- My main supervisor was a very kind man (I've since moved from corporate to private) but provided little support for paper C in the formal sense. What he did do, which he did well, was to discuss general issues and principles with me every Friday at a sort of one-to-one tutorial lunch. This, of its nature, included aspects relevant to paper C, but he gave no formal training as such.
- My supervisor has never taken the EQE for himself, but has taught me how to perform my work.
- My supervisor is of the opinion that the problem solution approach has more disadvantages than advantages. therefore we don't use it in opposition cases.
- no specific help for paper C but for oppositions in general
- No supervisor as EPO employee. No training received.
- Offer to take part in DeltaPatents C courses
- paper C was not yet in focus of preparation
- Participation à des procédures orales à Munich.
- patent examiner at EPO, so not applicable
- practice exam papers
- question answering
- Read and comment my old (not passed) paper C's
- Sending me to a course where they know about it.
- Supervisor unable to train me personally.
- Supervisor was helpful by supporting on questions but primarily preparations for C was done by doing papers with a study partner. (I am not clear on who you mean by supervisor - my 3 year training was done in another company, so now I am working under a different EPA).
- the help (only) came from the representatives office representing my company
- The opposition cases in my company have been rather complicated and huge. Besides usually a lot of money was at stake (millions of EUR) so oppositions have always been handled in the company as a team work, usually with additional help from 1 - 4 Attorneys as well. I have thus, never handled any opposition case single handedly.
- There was no specific training for paper C, but any work I did on our own opposition cases was thoroughly discussed. We also had several discussions regarding assessment of inventive step, but these were mostly in the context of responding to office actions.
- there was no supervisor: the problem is only the time for the exercise of the eqe to answer in an adequate manner without proper compendium examples for gathering points
- There was only one mock exam taken from the compendium. However, despite repeated reminders my supervisor did never hand back the corrected answer and did never give me any feedback!
- Use of existing work, but not as training, as there was no effective



feedback on use of argumentation etc.

- Working at the EPO
- Wrote my oppositions alone (and won everyone)

**Q26) 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:**

- "C book" methods and approach
- "C-Book" (Hoekstra)
- "The C-Book"
- A,B,C Seminar week with CEIPI
- AB only
- books about strategy for tackling the paper
- Books that explain how paper C should be approached
- C Book
- C book
- C book
- C Book
- C-Book
- C-Book
- C-Book
- C-Book

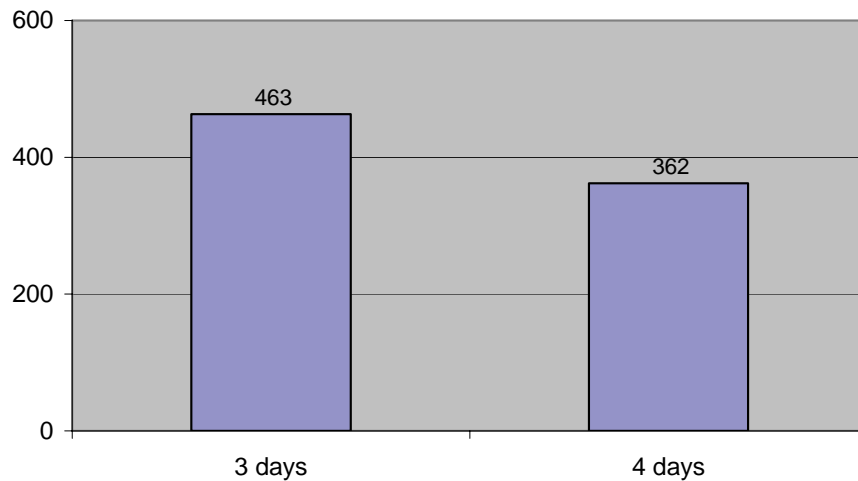
- C-book
- c-book
- C-book
- C-book
- C-book
- C-Book
- C-Book
- C-Book
- C-Book
- c-book
- C-Book
- C-Book
- C-Book and CEIPI course.
- C-Book and CEIPI courses
- C-Book Ed II
- C-Book, Matrix Claims-Attack Method
- Ceipi
- CEIPI
- CEIPI ABC Course
- CEIPI course in 2007. This year, in view of the changes due to EPC 2000, I also did the Delta Patents D part questions on some relevant topics, mostly the language, priority and opposition sections, as well as reading sections of Derk Visser's "The Annotated EPC 2000" regarding patentability, priority and opposition, and some other procedural matters.
- CEIPI courses in Strasbourg external provider of a moq exam
- Ceipi pre-prep and Ceipi strasbourg. Study of old exams using the compendium
- ceipi seminar
- CEIPI-C-Kurs in Strasbourg C-Book Chandler/Meinders
- Chandler/Meinders Paper C book
- courses
- Deltapatents 3-day course.
- DeltaPatents C-course
- Eleven years of experience. More than 90% of my work experience has been EPO, not national, representation.
- EPI tutorials
- EPO in-house course.
- EPO in-house seminar
- EPO weekend course
- EQE FORUM
- Exam preparation book - Roberts and Rudge (NB the 2008 edition of this book is much improved cf. 2006 edition, especially for Part C)
- External training courses
- Feedback from two tutorials organised by CIPA in the UK.
- Group discussion with other trainees
- Guide to passing EQEs (book)

- Have not prepared yet to paper C
- help from friends
- I am going to study book on the subject and to participate to CEIPI and/or deltapatent courses
- I did many past papers, used the C-book and also attended the Delta patents course. However, I had no real life experience from my job to prepare me for the exam.
- I only attended the normal training course offered by CEIPI in Strasbourg in combination with the ones for papers A and B. However, the part for paper C held by Mister Florian Renger from Stuttgart was just crap! A waste of time!
- I read relevant parts of Visser and read the C-book, EPC and GL.
- I studied the "C-book"
- I studied the book on Paper-C
- I think that practical cases are much different than the examination. The only way to pass the exam is to find out what points are awarded for, see e.g. paper C 2007 - no points for an attack starting from Annex 3 - I think in practice this attack could have been successful while the priority issue was awarded points with possibly little chances to succeed in practice.
- In-house tutorials with recently qualified staff
- Internal courses with other trainees. Developing a method of dealing with information.
- making exams of previous years
- paper C was not yet in focus of preparation
- Past experience of people who had taken the exam in my company was very helpful due to the major differences between real practice and exam practice.
- Past papers
- Practice exam papers
- Preu&Bohlig seminar preparation for EPC 2000 Delta Patents training course for EQE, EPC 2000 for EQE, correction of papers
- Reading guidelines and case law and discuss cases with fellow candidates
- reading guidelines and an annotated EPC
- Special C book
- study groups with others from work
- Thanks to the C-book!
- The "C-Book" + old EQEs
- The "C-Book" from Hoekstra => Claims/Attacks-Matrix Solving papers alone and discussing them later in a group.
- The "C-book" has been an indispensable help for me in training for paper C.
- The C-book
- The C-Book
- The C-book (Chandler, Meinders)
- The CEIPI course is very, very helpful.
- The Ceipi Paper C book plus the Ceipi course.

- Training by in-house tutorials
- Training with colleagues
- Use of the C-book (Chandler/Meinders)
- usign the C book, lots of past papers and CIPA tutorials, which were excellent
- Very helpful: CEIPI C resitter course
- Vorbereitung mit dem "C-Book" (Meinders, Chandler)
- with other students
- writing old papers

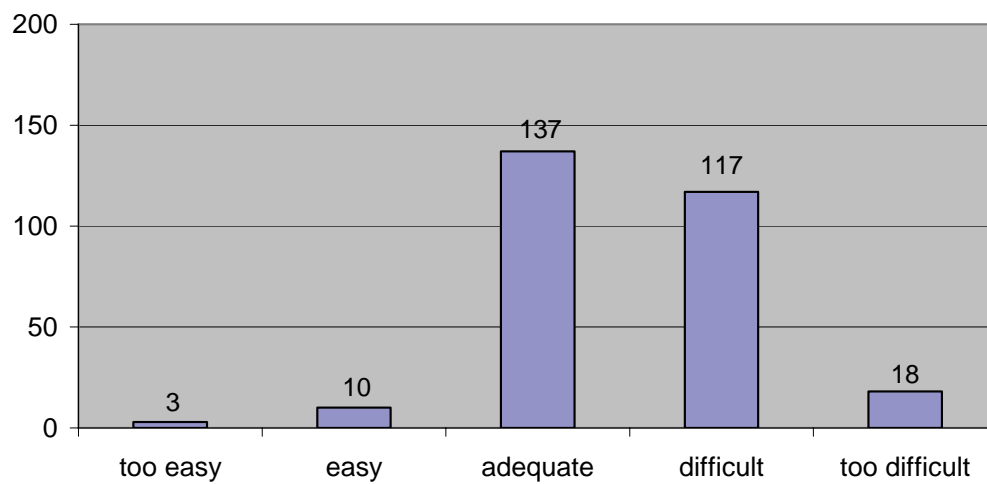
## Chapter 4 - EQE papers

**Q27) On how many examination days should the EQE be held?**



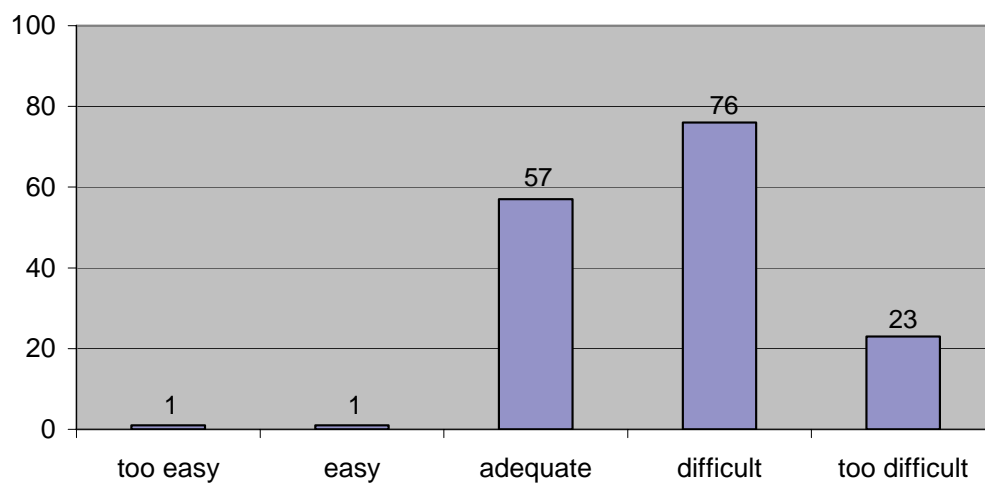
**Q28) How would you rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2008?**

Paper A E/M

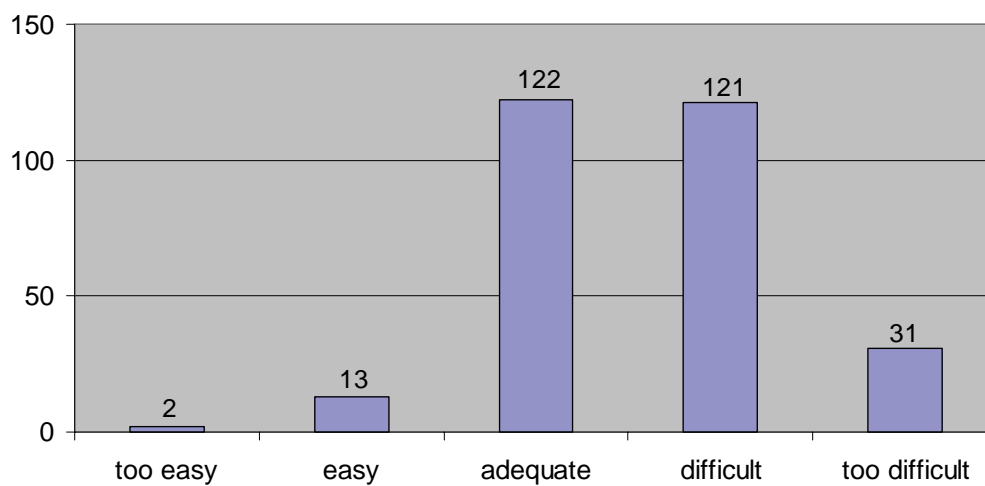


**Q28) "How would you rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2008"**  
continued

Paper A Ch

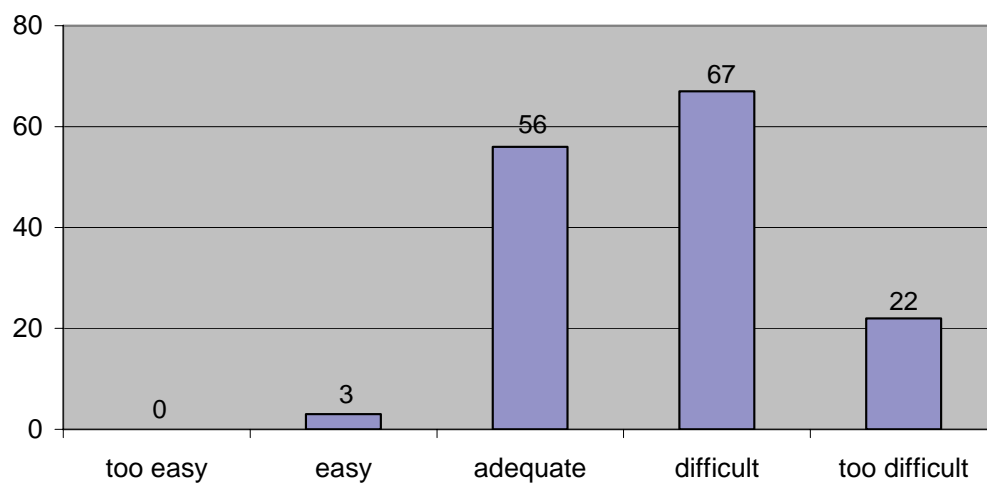


Paper B E/M

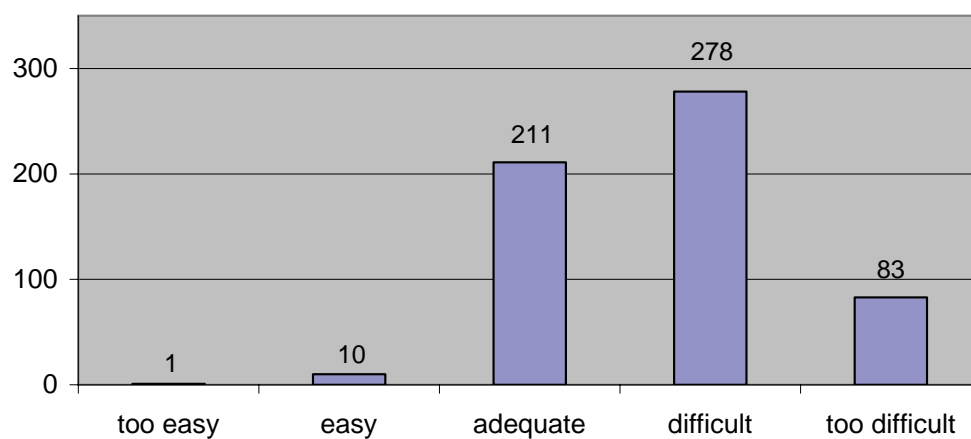


**Q28) "How would you rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2008"**  
continued

Paper B Ch

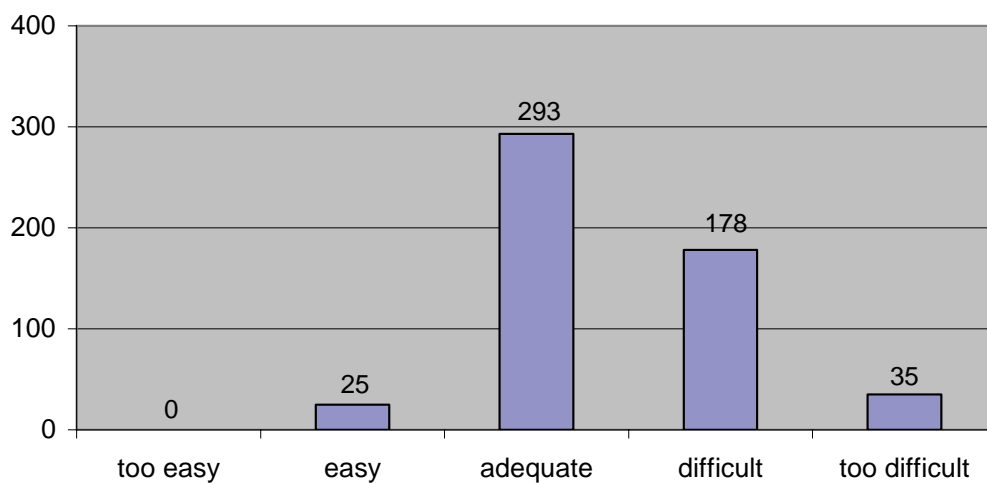


Paper C

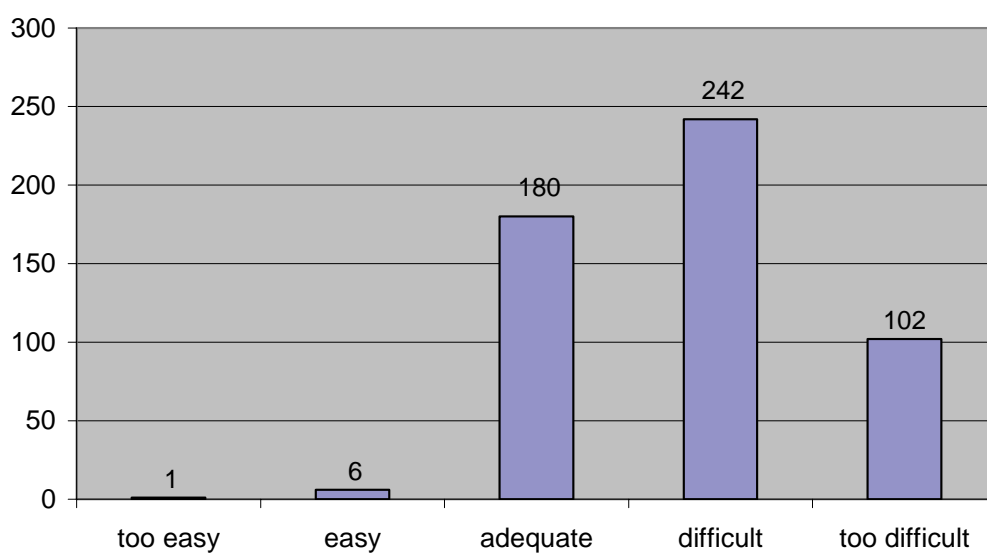


**Q28) "How would you rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2008"**  
continued

Paper D I



Paper D II





**Q29) Candidates were asked to make comments concerning the difficulty of the examination papers.**

**Their answers are listed below.**

- Die Schwierigkeit besteht darin in der vorgegebenen viel zu kurzen Zeit präzise Antworten formulieren zu müssen. Wenn man nicht im Zeitrahmen bleiben kann, so hat man wenig Aussichten auf ein Bestehen der Prüfung, weil die Prüfungskommission wohl davon ausgeht, dass fehlende Argumente insbesondere bei Teil C mit Nichtwissen gleichzusetzen sind, was wohl in den wenigsten Fällen zutreffen dürfte.
- the Examining Committee should ask candidates of preceding years to do a test run / contribute to the model answer on the new papers (in confidentiality before / after the EQE was held) and adjust marking of a given years paper according to the answers of well prepared candidates of previous years - this would e.g. have avoided the C2007 mess
- 2008 paper D II was not more difficult than the years before, but it contained much more relevant events: during the last years, the D II papers contained about 18 to 20 events to be considered. This year, it dealt with 28 events (as far as I remember), and thus, D II 2008 was much more comprehensive than the years before.
- 3,5 hours is just not enough time to properly do exam A
- A - far too much material to assimilate reasonably under the time B - a little too much material to assimilate reasonably under the time D1 - never enough time to properly answer the questions C - completely unnecessary to have to translate a document, this adds unnecessarily to the exam burden - BE REASONABLE!
- A (Ch) - The meaning of quite a lot of information given in this was not clear & unambiguous how to use
- A and B were unconventional this year. I usually need less than the required time to finish the exam. This time, I didn't finish any of the papers. Maybe due to stress but also to A which was surprising for many of us.
- A bit too difficult to pass the papers (all of them). We do try and spend a lot of time, some reward should be given or you should get the "hopeless" cases out at an early stage so that we don't spend all our life studying and failing the EQE.
- A E/M was difficult in that it took half of my time to work out what to claim, and I found very few clues as to how the answer should be structured.
- a little more time for part C would help to have a chance to solve it properly and not only to write what comes first to your mind. This should still allow to choose candidates, who understood the paper and allow them to pass
- A was too long, too much text and too many stories - funny but interpreting them consumed a lot of time
- A, B and C were probably OK - however until the examiners report is written it is difficult to say. I did not sit D this time.

- A-CH: confusing as to the number of non-unitary inventions that should have been claimed C: in principle not difficult, but a tough amount of writing D II: too many aspects cramped in the paper, too little time to address them properly even if one realised them
- additional difficulties are related to reading / writing in a language different from one's own mother language
- After the 2007 paper C and the totally inadequate comments provided, it is very difficult to know what the examiner's want.
- All papers are reasonable with respect to time, except the C paper which consistently requires more time to answer than is allowed.
- all papers seem more than a puzzle to be solved than an examination determining candidates fit for practise - the papers per se do not seem adequate for such a task .
- all very demanding, especially to give good answers to time
- Although the questions are not that difficult, the time pressure makes it very hard to dispose the amount of time available to obtain maximum amount of points.
- always difficult for paper C and the issue of such a paper is uncertain. Not so easy for paper B. For C, the problem is the organization of the time
- Always the time plays an important role for non natives of one country with a language of the EPO.
- Annex 4 in french/german unusually long and difficult to read
- As always time management is an issue. Starting the exam on the hour rather than at 08.45 would be very helpful in time management.
- As compared to other years, the subject of the paper A (Ch) was difficult to understand, in particular what invention the paper was aiming at.
- As I said, I think it is strange marking sometimes - this is what makes the exam somewhat unpredictable. Why 0 points for an inventive step attack starting from Annex 3 in paper C, 2007?
- As with D2 of 2007, too much subject matter to be handled properly in the time given. it is wrong to set up the exams as a "writing race". in fact, the structure of the exams now excludes physically disabled persons.
- B (Ch): not clear what the inventive feature should be; several possibilities appear reasonable but it is not clear which one the examination committee wants to see; you have to decide for one but if it is not the one the committee wants to see, you fail (cf. C2007). This creates stress in the exam. It would be better to know that the Committee is not fixed to one solution but also appreciates other reasonable solutions
- B paper was too long, too complex, the comment of the "Mandantenschreiben" was not clear
- Based on last years paper C, I was influenced by my choice of the closest prior art. I am concerned that I may have chosen the incorrect closest prior art in the view of the examining board, and as a consequence will not get any marks for that part of the paper. The arguments I presented were good, but if my answer is not marked

because of my choice of the closest prior art, this seems unfair.

- Both DII and C were too long, too much information to process within the 4 and 6 hours it stands for.
- C and D seemed to be fair and were not too difficult but needed a lot of writing or rather a lot of time for finding the right words to formulate the arguments
- C becomes more and more difficult...
- Candidates seem to be more tested on the speed with which they can reproduce some knowledge rather than the capability to practice the knowledge
- C-exam was too much. One claim less to attack would have been better D-exam can also be done with less time points I would think.
- Chemical paper A was not really chemical paper
- claims were on two pages and second page had been overlooked
- Concerning papers A/B Mech/Ele: Personally, I found that there are two "styles" of how the papers are composed over the last years. A more "german style" and a more "british style" regarding to claim drafting practice and the answers in the model solutions. This year, however, the papers were "british style". Thus, as I was trained in Germany, I found the papers very hard (as every such paper in the past ). Paper C: The paper was very complex and, thus, hard to solve as nearly no state of the art documents could be excluded for certain claims (because they were 54(3) or lack of valid priority etc.). Further, paper C is marked very (in my opinion much too) strict. Thus, passing is difficult. Paper DI/II: I found the papers hard, but adequate and, thus, fair. Many issues related to new EPC2000 topics, remedies or transitional provisions which I (and I assume many other candidates as well) studied a lot. However, strict time management was very important this year in both parts
- confusing: there was no "instructions to the candidate"-cover sheets as there are in the compendium. Important for A: include or do not include the examples in the draft application
- C-Part: Too much independent claims of the patent
- D II : matter of time management and organisation on the table because the table is too small
- D1 and D2 completely different should be divided into two separate parts
- D1: less questions => more points per question; more questions with less points would cover a broader range of the EPC and would provide a better overview on the candidates knowledge D2: too complex; the level of difficulty varies too much from one year to another
- D2 - Still trying to work out exactly what "legal status" of an invention is for question 1. Does it rate to validity, status of the application, applicant etc? I have no idea what "legal status" means. On a literal interpretation it is simply whether an application is pending and who owns it? On a broad interpretation, it could mean the potential validity of a claim in an application which is legally withdrawn. I just hope that the ambiguity in the question has not resulted in a fail.

- D2 - too much information; a lot of events to comment on; D1 - time very short;
- D2 : too artificial constructs ! Clearly not meant to show professional competence (nothing to do with real life ) but just to arginate the flood of candidates
- D2 as mentioned above has developed to a complex multi data task (> 20 calendary dates, about 9 patents/applications + 1 Publications, 3 parties and several different matters connected with all these disclosures. This makes it necessary to conduct a thorough analysis, which has too be widely correct. If not the rest will become automatically false. To achieve this enough time is needed. But the time frame is not sufficient. D2 2002/2003 were significantly easier. According to my self estimation these mock exams I would have passed. It would be also very helpful to get the marks to be given for the D2-Questions or 1 hour more time. C: I could hardly believe that only one novelty attack was possible, I had to look very long to find that. No Priority problem, no A123-problem. If this is true and "only" PSA was requested the task was rather one sided. Also to get the points for the legal questions within the task would be helpful.
- D2 was too unrealistic, some of the situations is more for a D1 questions. Paper B was technical difficult to understand in a examinations situation were you have to perform without thinking to most on the technical part. Paper C too many independent claims with too many different technical subject both chemical issue, and Bar code etc. I Use too much time to understand the technical part.
- definitely have to know the material, good to see
- Der Stresslevel während der Prüfung ist sehr hoch im Vergleich zum Training zuhause. Daraus resultieren Flüchtigkeitsfehler die in der Vorbereitung nicht unbedingt auftreten. Zusätzlich wird die Handschrift schlechter als üblich.
- did the last 8 B / Ch papers at home and had no difficulty at all - this paper B was in comparison more complex and ambiguous.
- die vorherige Bewertung scheint mir sinnlos, solange ich nicht weiß, ob meine Antworten richtig sind!
- difficult to assess absent the results
- Difficulty in all papers was adequate but the time to write down the answers was too short in all cases except B.
- Difficulty is a question of time.
- Difficulty relates mainly to amount of reading and writing involved in relation to the time allocated. It is irritating that you know how to answer the paper, but have not enough time to write it all down, even though you work hard all through the exam. It does not reflect actual work performed by a patent attorney.
- Difficulty this year seem to originate rather from the amount of material presented then a particular intellectual challenge, which seems to favour people who write fast rather than people having experience in real life IP protection.
- DII cannot be done in 4 hours time, 6 hours would be adequate
- DII is always difficult to pass : I've found the courses I've about this

part not adapted of what OEB is waiting from the candidates. For A, B, DI and C, the goal is clear and the way to achieve it also. But not for DII.

- DII is too long with respect to the time at disposition
- EQE-C probably too difficult. 7 claims of which 4 were independent = too many to give a good answer using full problem-solution approach. Also, foreign language document relatively long so time lost due to translation. Also, no priority claim so all documents have to be considered as fully relevant (normally one can largely be removed from consideration due to some issue, which saves time)
- Especially C and DII might be solved much better if time pressure would not be so high.
- Especially the 1. question of DI has been indefinite. One could have answered the question by writing 3 or more pages and because of that one lost a considerable amount of time in answering the 1. question instead of following the other questions...
- far too much to write in both D2 and C papers for the time available
- for me in the c paper was no clou visible. so it seems to be easy but I think I haven't found the right way to solve it (because there was clou visible)
- For paper A: the clients letter was very long and contains a lot of information mixed in order to establish the different claims categories. A lot of claims were possible what was not the usual indication from the trainers. For paper B: it was difficult to identify the relationship with "chemistry" and also was difficult to identify the object that still can be claimed in front of SoA.
- for paper C and DII there was too little time to finish the paper
- For paper D2 time was definitely not enough. The case was not difficult, but it was nearly impossible to deal with all the questions in a proper way in the given time compared to other years
- For papers such as DII and C there is simply too much stuff to be dealt with in a too short amount of time. Especially for paper C it is hard to predict for me now, what was really required. I have to wait for the examiners report to make real conclusions.
- for someone who's not used to handwriting (and is not very fast in it, like me) it is almost impossible to give a complete answer in paper D2 and C, apart from the question if it's right or wrong.
- For the very first time I had the impression that the technical subject of the patent to be attacked in paper C had an influence on my performance. With previous C-papers I've never had this feeling.
- From comments I have heard, Paper C this year was found very hard for candidates with a limited knowledge of German, as one of the most important prior art documents was available only in French or German. I personally have a good command of German and found this year's paper C relatively easy. I found paper DII very chaotically structured and requiring work I would have thought fitting for paper DI. I understand the Exam committees desire to make a paper DII with issues relating to transitional provisions, but in the specific case a lot of calculations had to be performed to check whether EPC1973

or EPC2000 should be used. This should have gone into DI in my opinion. Paper DII became too difficult this way.

- Generally fair.
- größtes Problem war Zeitdruck: zu wenig Zeit für eine sorgfältige Antwort, von daher nicht realitätsnah.
- hard to find the correct wording for claim1 of part A (E/M)
- Hard to tell if you do not yet know the outcome...
- Haven't got my result yet but I felt that Chem paper B included an possible amendment that whilst novel was unlikely to be inventive. Inventive step can be very subjective so I thought this was rather harsh.
- Having regard to the high rate of candidates failing each year, it would appear that the papers are too difficult. However, taking into account that the failing rate is relatively constant over the years, this is apparently politically desired.
- how are supposed to rate it without knowing how well we really did and how is the committee going to react?!? in 2007 C and D did not seem specially difficult but the correction was so hard that it turned out to be very difficult to pass!!
- How can I tell before we get the results?
- I am a biologist. Neither the mechanical paper or the chemical paper are comfortable subject-matter. I am (sadly) a repeat sitter for paper B. I passed all the other papers in one sitting a few years ago (2005) - one mark away from getting all four! I am stuck on Paper B and my confidence feels eroded. Why can I get Rule 71(3) communications (no help from my supervisor in any of the Examination Reports) and still not pass Paper B? Perhaps my problem is I read too much into paper B and I lack a gung-ho attitude (I explore all options before deciding) - in the exam time is my enemy. Not passing Paper B is holding back my career.
- I cannot comment on the difficulty yet. I need the results from exams and see which answers were expected by the Examination Board. At the moment I can only say that it is mean to hide the novelty attack on claim 1 in Figure 2 of A5, when the description of A5 contains a clear teach-away against using said document at all.
- I cannot give any ranking because the results are not available yet.
- I didn't expect it to be easy!!
- I do believe that D2 paper is too difficult
- I do not think that the Chemical drafting paper was very chemical in nature and I found it very difficult to concentrate under the cold and noisy conditions.
- I don't think that papers are actually difficult; perhaps, I think that it is difficult to understand the marking of the papers by the examiners. Sometimes I've had the impression to be hang around, and that's no good.
- I estimate that D2 paper has a very specific difficulty because it is unknown by the candidates at the time of writing the paper, how the points are given or not. Thus, in 2008 D2 paper, it was not possible to know how many points are given for questions 1/ 2/ or 3/, and how

was the share of points in the sub questions of 1/.

- I expected much more questions specifically related to the revision of the EPC, that is particular issues of EPC 2000 I was not really prepared to use the EPC 1973 extensively
- I felt the papers presented the correct degree of difficulty. The only exception to this remark is the insufficient time available to write the answers.
- I find the main problem especially in "C" that instead of checking your knowledge it rather checks the ability to write quickly in a readable way
- I find this paper was really fair. I only had problems in the B-part. I saw the distinguishing feature too late and therefore made a little mistake. Also the time was not enough to comment the inventive step. The only problem I had in all parts was the time. It is really not enough to write all down what you know or to reread the paper. Therefore, the hand writing will never be ok (if you write about 10-20 papers this is not possible and you will always have problems to correct). Also it is not allowed to make a little mistake and to correct it because you just don't have the time for this. This is really frustrating if you see the right answer but don't have the time to write it down (and in the worst case must wait one year to write it again).
- I found papers DI and DII both adequate, most adequate than formers one.
- I have found "misleading" the "client's letter" of paper B. To try understanding the client's wish make me to lose time and the correct road to the solution. It was the first time in my life I had problems to find the correct solution of a paper B.
- I have never struggled before on the foreign language document this year ther was not a sentence that I could translate without the help of a dictionary also it was much longer than previous years
- I have to re-think my answers when I fail- I might have answered in this way because I have overlooked s.th.
- I probably hit a 'booby trap'. A 'booby trap' is an item on which the examination comitee puts more than average points. E.g. in 2007 selection of the wrong prior art made it impossible to pass.
- I propose to begin with DII on the first day and after with DI since DII is 60 points and we are more concentrated in the morning that in the afternoon
- I really feel that having to translate a document in Paper C is too burdensome. It is difficult enough to analyse 5 pieces of prior art and the patent to be opposed in the time given without having to spend extra time trying to decipher prior art in a different language. I understand that candidates from Spain, Italy for example have to do the same but that stems from the EPO having three official languages. It is not fare to penalise some candidates for this. Further some countries such as from Germany have a distinct advantage as they will have been taught English as a secong language from a young age and are often fluent in English and/or French. Further, I do not believe translating a document is actually a test of qualities required to practise as a European Patent Attorney.

- I still cannot judge, as I do not know the results.
- I think that the difficulty of the C papers have varying too much.
- I think the 2008 A and B papers were in line with the most recent papers
- I think the difficulty of Paper C was similar to previous years (apart from last year!). There were some new issues raised, and the lack of added matter and priority issues meant the legal issues were more complex. However, overall it seemed to me to be a fair paper. On a related matter, I have found out subsequent to the exam that I missed claims 6 and 7 on page 6 of Annex 1. Whilst I realise that the fault for this ultimately lies with me, I have discussed this with other candidates and I know of at least 4 other people who have done the same thing. Thus, it does not seem to me to be an unreasonable mistake to have made. I think this is down to the fact that claim 5 finishes on line 24 and there is nothing after this claim on page 5, whereas the pages of the description go down to line 29 (and still have space at the bottom). I would suggest that for future examinations the paper is published in such a way as to make it clearer that claims are continued on a second sheet.
- I think the papers were fair this year - unlike D2 and C the previous year.
- I thought that the number of issues presented in D2 this year were too many given the fact that there were the transitional provisions to be considered too. D1 this year, I thought was fair.
- I thought the Paper B Ch was perhaps too full of technical information to allow a proper assessment of the legal issues under exam conditions. However, I may have just not practised sufficient papers of this type...
- I understand that the focus of Paper C is shifting towards preparation of Inventive step arguments and selection of closest prior art but this years paper was difficult to complete because there was such an emphasis on this aspect in contrast to previous years. It also prevents candidates from demonstrating their ability in other areas such as in determining priority problems, etc.
- I was expecting more CBE73 / CBE2000 transitional provisions issues
- I would have needed more time to complete B and to control my solution for A.
- Im D2 Teil war so viel zu schreiben und wenn man es wie ich gründlich machen wollte, dann fehlte mir hinten die Zeit, bei den Einfachen sachen, die ich normal immer hingeschrieben hatte. Auch konnte ich mir die Sache nicht noch mal komplett durchlesen um noch etwas ggf. anzupassen. Auch waren viele Zusammenhänge die die Sache in der Zeit schwer überschaubar machten. Die ganzen Ansprüche gegenüber zuwichten, das dauert eben wenn es gründlich gemacht werden sollte.
- I'm Italian and know english very well, so I decided to write my answer in english; nevertheless, I found it difficult in paper A to find the correct english words to claim the invention in the broadest possible way.



- In C2007 war es schwer, die von der Prüfungskommission gewünschte Lösung zu finden.
- In comparison to last year's DII papers, this year was much better. The questions were very difficult, but the subject matter was clear so one could truly concentrate on the legal issues rather than on sorting out tangled details of the invention.
- In general the duration of the exams is too short => making errors under time pressure does not necessarily mean "not fit for practice"
- in my experience they are quite variable, you can be lucky or unlucky. A great deal of the difficulty is caused when there is ambiguity. In the exam, unlike real life, you do not have time to properly consider such issues. you have to go one way or the other with no time to reconsider
- In my opinion it is very unrealistic that the advice required from candidates in the D2 paper can be composed in 4 hours. In my opinion it is also unrealistic that an opposition with the amount of detail required by the C paper can be composed and hand written (!) in 6 hours.
- In paper C there were some booby traps. C2008 was not as bad and unfair as C2007!
- In paper C, there were too many attacks that could possibly be launched against various claims. So there has been not enough time to launch all these possible attacks.
- In paper DII time is a crucial factor. The magnitude of information is also very high, leading to the fact that it is easy to overlook some important information. Making DII a 5 hour test would be a significant improvement.
- in real life one has to understand the law and usually there is enough time to prepare for an opposition. paper C is just too academic to have anything to do with the cases of the daily work. it would be best to try to find out if the candidates can prepare for an opposition rather than having them write for 6 hours about something purely academic.
- It appears that paper C is a test about how fast a candidate can read and write.
- It is hard to say whether the papers were difficult or not, when you actually have no idea of the expected answers yet!!
- it is unreasonably difficult; theoretical; and far from the real practice
- It is very difficult to assess with papers A & B how well you have done, since the examiner's comments and marking schedules appear to favour one particular answer strongly even though, in practice for prosecution at the EPO, several different answers would be equally as successful. Paper D1 was fair this year. However candidates were perhaps unfairly led to believe before the exams that a detailed knowledge of the transitional provisions would be needed, but this was not the case
- It is very hard to say if the papers were difficult, before getting the answers.
- It may be a 'European' Exam, but the requirement for candidates to translate a document from a foreign language during Paper C is

pretty redundant as regards determining a candidate's ability to draft an effective opposition which could be filed at the EPO. Paper C should focus on a candidate's understanding of opposing patents, and not require them to sit about looking words up in a dictionary... afterall, even ESPACENET now provides for computer translations of documents into the Official Languages.

- It seems to me that the difficulty of papers C and D has significantly increased in the past few years. In my opinion, paper DII, which now weights 60 points, is a little too long, expecially for a non-mother tongue
- It should be difficult and it was.
- It was somehow irritating that this year the instructions were not given in the papers, but had to be taken from the official journal, sent out weeks in advance - and of course I was not fully aware of.
- it was very difficult to answer D2 in the time available
- Less time. No clear indication of matter in the whole story. As always, it is more or less a might fit in stead of a must fit, with regard the objects.
- Man-made tricks don't make laugh
- Many documents to be read, containing many different subject-matters
- May be too many prior art documents (6)
- Mir schien, dass A und B Teil dieses Jahr anspruchsvoll aber ohne tückische Fallen gestellt waren - ein Scheitern ist auf Erschöpfungserscheinungen zurückzuführen.
- more like mechanical paper. very different to all past chemical papers
- More time is needed, even more if the Official Language is not your own language.
- Mother tongue candidates were too much favoured compared to the others
- much too much details; almost no practical relevance of the questions; hypothetical issues instead of real life; technically quite often beside laws of nature;
- My difficulty is the available time
- nearly the same difficulty throughout the different years would be preferable
- No use, because you do not take the comments into account anyway.
- Non-native speakers are always at a disadvantage. 10% slower reading time means much less points.
- Not difficult as regards the subject matter you need to know, however very, very difficult to pass papers C and D (because of lack of time)
- Not difficult as such, but different in structure to prevoius years, thus rendering preparation for it difficult
- Not enough time
- not enough time
- not enough time for adequate working
- Not enough time for D2
- not enough time for the amount of information given for C and D, in case of open legal questions in DI high risk of loosing too much time.

- not enough time to write a complete answer. EQE conditions do not correspond to real situation. Papers should be easier for the given time or same difficulty with more time.
- One of my and my fellow candidates biggest problem is, that we know that marks are only awarded for the one solution expected by the examination board. But there are so often borderline cases (is priority valid, is it a novelty attack or an inventive step attack, is this or the other document the closest prior art, ...) which in "real life" cause big fights of the parties. But it seems to me, that the examining board is always convinced that there is only this one and only correct answer. So I try not to answer what I am convinced of, but what I believe the examining board wants to hear. It would help a lot if one knew that the examining board would give more room to alternative answers if they are well founded.
- One phrase in English was unclear in the client's letter in paper A
- Paper A (ch) was hard - there was a lot of information and less clear indicators than in previous years of what was and wasn't essential. there also appeared to be multiple inventions, and it wasn't clear that they were unified.
- paper A : too many pages to plow through in only 3 1/2 hours !!!!  
paper B : one detail at the very end of the last page of D2 paper C : too little time to complete all the attacks
- Paper A 2008 to me seemed very easy, more so than previous years
- Paper A 2008 was nothing like the previous years so my lack of experience in drafting at work showed up.
- Paper A appeared to be a bit out of standard. Paper B seemed to be tricky.
- Paper A Ch : too much information from the 'client' which meant that there was too much material to absorb before starting drafting. Paper B Ch : a letter from the client indicating which aspects of the invention were important would have been helpful in determining a suitable amendment/possible divisionals.
- Paper A Ch: I think it was confused, too many possible independent claims. Paper B Ch: I have not find the solution i.e a novel and inventive claim/s yet... is there ones???
- paper A seemed to have many inventions complexly intertwined. papers A and B seemed to have "unity" issues. Since these are never black/white issues and can always be argued one way or the other, it is difficult to know what is expected from the candidate.
- paper A would require more time to be adequately completed with a sufficient number of dependent claims to define a quite good fall-back position: hand-writing takes away a lot of time that do not allow to study deeply the examination case : candidates, to save time, had to choose between studying the case in full and than prepare their replies or to proceed step-by-step in studying and replying. In paper B there were many docs to be studied (in a no mother -tongue language) and than time to reply was very short
- Paper A, chemistry, 2008, was different than the previous papers. The applicant letter was almost constructed as a mechanic

application, incl. numbers at different features of a drawing. By having the same methods described several times in different parts of the paper (as I believe is more customary in mechanics) it was a more lengthy than necessary. This together with the extensive use of product by process gave rise to some confusion. Paper B, chemistry, 2008, seemed like an usual paper (unless I severely have missed something).

- Paper B E/M was technically more complex than the previous years (also longer in terms of text size), and the comment of the client were difficult to understand, from a technical point of view.
- Paper B e/m with 3 embodiments took quite some writing and checken for proving new main claim for all 3.
- Paper B E/M: in my view, the client's letter contained an ambiguous request which took quite some time to figure out what was meant exactly.
- Paper C 2008 was too long (too much text), resulting in lack of time for completion. 3 pages of text in secondary language (german) consumed a substantial amount of time.
- Paper C involved too much writing given the time (too may inventive step reasonings). Also it involved some exotic topics (affidavits) that only made candidates insecure. Paper DII was also concerned with rather unusual topics that hardly occur in practice.
- Paper C is artificially difficult, with information dispersed in 6 documents, with undue severity in correction: it becomes a test about nerve-resistance rather than the real skill to practice.
- Paper C is in practice a writing competition wherein those who can write quickly have the better chances to pass because they have evidently more time to think and prepare their answers.
- Paper C is too long, it is impossible to read carefully all the 44 pages of paper C
- Paper C is unnecessarily obfuscated.
- Paper C required an enormous amount of writing Paper A was difficult due to claim categories
- Paper C seems to be an easy one, but unfortunately there was a lot to answer, and I ran out of time..
- Paper C this year was - especially in comparison to last year - well constructed with no major flaws. It gave a fair chance to focus on good argumentation instead of guessing or writing shotgun-attacks.
- Paper C too long.
- Paper C was too long for 6 hours
- Paper C was too long.
- Paper C was very long.
- paper C: too long and very difficult to obtain punctuation. The 2007 C was very bad planned. It seems that the solution I followed was later considered valid or almost discutable. This should not happen.
- paper C: too much for analyzing in too less time paper D2: switching between the two EPC versions which was expected but nevertheless not so easy in detail (too less routine), Case Law (priority) from old EPC

- Paper D is too extensive. One of the papers D1 or D2 would be sufficient.
- Paper D2 had an unnecessary requirement, that is to know the date of accession of India to the Paris Convention. Having such specific information as a requirement to construct a large part of an answer is not in my view acceptable. By all means test detailed information in subsidiary aspects (eg even the Gebrauchsmuster publication date of Paper C in 2007) but not for a significant aspect of a paper.
- Paper D2 of 2008 involved 22 dates which about 1.5 times the normal number - this made preparation of the time line very time consuming and overcomplicated.
- Paper D-II, Priority from India. This problem was unfair, because students who were not aware of G 3/02 did not have any problems at all with this topic, whereas students who are aware of this problem were not able to find an solution, because the date, when India joined the Paris Convention cannot be found inside the Ancillary Regulations, Office Journal etc.
- Papers are not that difficult per se but the grading system is unfair and obscure.
- Papers C and D2 were slightly easier than last year (2007). How difficult you find paper D1 is often dependent on how well prepared you are.
- Part C: better than the year before, especially that the "difficult" claim 3 did not have dependent claims. Claim 3 included too many difficulties in one claim.
- Pas assez de temps pour développer une argumentation à la hauteur de mon savoir-faire
- personally, i think the time given is insufficient to rewrite paper and check thoroughly, an open ending of the exam would be optimal the papers are difficult in that including all embodiments (paper A) and finding a way to include an embodiment on the border of Art.123 / writing the inventive step arguments (paper B) requires creativity and creativity is hard to measure given a strict time schedule
- Please ask again after the results have been published.
- Rated papers difficult due to lack of time to prepare what I would consider a full answer. Quantity of issues it raises is not possible to answer in time available - however my best description of this years papers would be that they were fair.
- Regarding paper C: It is hard to judge the difficulty before having read the Examiner's report, as I am not sure what was expected. I expected at least a legal question being EPC 2000 sensitive - why not test the candidates knowledge of transitory regulations and EPC 2000? It was hard to finish in time, many inventive step attacks needed lot of writing.
- See earlier comments on amount of time, method of testing and realism of C.
- Some D I Papers are more aimed to verify whether some specific Board of Appeal Decisions are known by candidates rather than whether the EPC principles are really known.

- Stressful event. Only uses a pen during the examination. Rest of the year I'm using a computer...
- Subject matter was fine for the Chemical papers, as I am not a pure Chemist, so I was thankful for that. I just thought it was quite unclear which of the two non-unitary inventions in Paper A Chem we were expected to direct the application to, and that the amendment in Paper B Chem was quite hard to find. For paper C having 4 independent claims (only one attackable with Novelty) meaning 3 full Problem Solution Approaches to do in the exam was quite a lot.
- The amount of information to be handled in paper C is OK, but the time however to write out your answers always seems to be too short. It is a bit frustrating to find that you have it all figured out and structured nicely, only to end up not being able to write it all out before the six hours have passed. As more than six hour exams are no dream scenario it is suggested to consider reducing the amount of answers required in order to make it possible to pass even if not being able to write by hand at sufficient speed. Alternatively, it would be desirable if one could type the answers using a computer, as this would more resemble real life working conditions.
- The amount of information to handle in D2, A(Ch) and B(Ch) was extremely difficult. In A and D2 the amount of information was borderline. B was very difficult this year as I have seen several answers all of which were possible in practice but not acceptable in EQE
- The amount of pages to be written is a complete horror. Also the time constraints are heavy, although it is clear for me that there is no other chance!
- The amount of time compared with the quantity of the paper was limited. No time for real thinking and rereading. In practice, you always have time to reconsider things.
- The candidate is left with no idea what should be contained in the correct answer. Further the exam (English version) is a poor translation, if not completely erroneous and misleading.
- The C-paper is without doubt the most difficult paper. So far I have never had the time to finish it fully. This was the first year that I had time to make attacks on all claims, but I did not have the time to answer the legal questions.
- The C-part was not difficult but it was too less time to cope with the information. It took too long reading all the information.
- The D1 and D2 papers as such are difficult, but doable, but the expected level is too high. In my opinion it is ridiculous that the highest markings for e.g. D2 is around 75%. Also, I wonder how many qualified practitioners are 'fit for practice' according to this standard.
- The D2 paper was relatively complex, not due to the high level of difficulty, but because there were much more patent applications than usually, resulting in a messy situation.
- The D2 part is too difficult. Time pressure and nervousness should be considered, particularly since there seems to be one "model answer" that is expected.

- The difficulty depends on the result. We can believe it is not difficult but if we haven't seen trap, it is then difficult... At present time, it is difficult to say...
- The difficulty is mainly in not knowing when to stop providing an answer, or avoiding going off on a tangent.
- The difficulty is to identify the more relevant prior art and take a good position relative to this one.
- The difficulty seems not to be in the papers themselves, but in the way that they are marked. The examiners should be more flexible in allowing alternatives to their 'standard' answer, provided that they are well argued.
- The exam continues to be too long for people who write slowly. We candidates are all used to either typing or dictating. Until we know better from the Examination Committee where we are allowed to "cut corners," i.e. where the points truly are, candidates will continue, for safety's sake, to write much more than is absolutely necessary. I badly injured my right hand last Fall and couldn't hold a pen until shortly before the exam. This wasn't a problem for me in my daily work, but was a significant handicap in the exam. This demonstrates how far the exam situation is from reality.
- The exams were very much a test of how fast one can write, rather than how much you know. Especially C and D2 papers required extensive writing. If I am correct the D2 paper required you to describe the present situation for over ten inventions. The same amount of information on the abilities of the candidate could have been extracted if far less inventions were required to be described. In the C paper at least six extensive problem and solution approaches were required including two partial problems. I sincerely doubt the exam committee can reproduce the answers by writing even with the correct answer present.
- the last question - like many others - is difficult to answer without knowing the results / Examiner's reports
- The legal questions posed by the client were more difficult than in previous years.
- the level of difficulty seems to vary massively from one year to the next
- the main concern is about Paper C, which often is based on specific language interpretation of the text and this gives some advantages to mother official language mother tongue.
- The main difficulty is the short time to answer. This can't be a good way of testing knowledge. Even if not irrelevant, time should never be the crucial test on your capability of representing before the EPO. The substantive knowledge must be the much more valued.
- The main problem is TIME. Any mistake comes very expensive as there is no time to correct, even when you know the answer.
- The marking of the paper C seems sometimes a little "black and white" and not so much oriented on "fit for practice" (especially 2007).
- The most difficult with the exam papers is not their content but a lack of available time. In paper A this year was a word "fulcrum" that I

could not find in my dictionary (over 80 000 entries), which is not so ordinary word (such terms should be explained/translated to non-English speaking people). I assume that I've failed this paper.

- The most important issue concerning the paper (mainly DII) is that it is unclear what the examination committee wants to know (what is on their marking sheet?). Although one may see the solution for the case it is not clear how deep and to what extent the answer must be.
- The object of the EQE is to test whether you are fit to practice, this means to be able to solve a problem and to give the right advice to your client. Therefore, it is essential to be able to analyse the case correctly and give advice in order to solve the problem on the most favourable way for your client. This is tested in the EQE by means of a test case, but I don't understand why this time pressure is so important because in real practice it is more important to formulate the right advice than to do it within an extremely short time. So, it seems more important to increase the difficulty of the problem, rather than to test the candidate on his speed of working. Your client should not be satisfied when you give him not the best advice and will for sure pay more in order to obtain this.
- The paper A(Ch) contained a large number of details which puts the candidates sitting the exam in a language other than their mother tongue in an unfair position. Excessive reading stole too much time.
- The paper c - 2007 was a disgrace, German candidates were favoured, the examination committee applied G2/98 wrong and refused to admit their errors and to rescore and recorrect the paper !!!!!!!!!
- The papers were not excessively difficult, but the time available to answer completely to the questions was too little.
- The result will show how difficult it was
- the structure and sense of the contents of DII this year was clear and ok, but the amount of facts and information and especially of defect by the person's handling of applications in the story of paper DII was again too high. the examiner should reduce the defects on applications and facts in the story of DII or split the problems in smaller parts which not depend on each other. See for example the German examination for German patent attorneys in which two or more smaller problems are to be solved..
- The time
- the time allowed for answering the papers is inadequate to the time actually required to elucidate a proper answer
- The time for writing all arguments in paper C is too limited.
- the time is too short for answering the question properly, especially in DII you have no time to discuss all the aspects of the case, therefore you lose a lot of points for facts you know but you have run out of time.
- the time is too short. 1 hour more WOULD make a difference! Don't tell us that you have surveys which show that more time does not lead to better results: you have never done the same questions with more time with a second group! A little bit more time gives you the opportunity to amend a mistake you become aware of, and helps to



avoid mistakes because you do not have to start in such a hurry.

- the time issue, especially for the paper C.
- The time keeping!
- the time of 3,50 for paper A is too short and did affect my afternoon prestation (for paper B)
- The very first issue to spot in DII was that India is a Paris member state. I did not have any indication whether on the date of filing the PCT application India was member of the Paris convention. There is a decision regarding the non-validity of TRIPS for priority claims in the context of India. I think it is not the duty to know when exactly India became member of the Paris C. If it was not an issue in the exam, another state which clearly is member of Paris C should have been chosen. I think I have failed the exam only due to this point. ... I think this should not be a basis to fail. In real life, I would have checked with the Internet .... no problem in real life.
- there is a lot of time pressure
- There was too much information in D2 this year - it took too long to organise it all, which meant I ran out of time to write the answer. Paper C was strange, no priority issues, added matter or 54(3). Too much focus on inventive step, too many independent claims - I ran out of time to write the answer.
- There were no instructions supplied with any of the exams
- THERE WERE NO INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES!!!! In particular for paper A, candidates did not know whether to prepare a whole spec or just the pre-amble. This caused confusion. Paper A chemistry was further different from previous papers: No clearly defined prior art (except very short annex), very little chemistry, nearly simple mechanical subject matter - Candidates seriously doubted that they were given the chemistry paper. This confused candidates - in addition to having no instructions!!!! I think it is not acceptable to hand out an examination paper without instructions!!! Paper B presented the candidates with a quite difficult amendment.
- there were three opposition procedures because of three different subjects and not enough time to study state of the art
- They do not prove whether you are fit for practice but whether you are fit for the exam which, in my opinion, is quite different. However it forces people to study. Other than paper D I (for which studying is a must) I have the feeling that the results of papers A-C D-II are sometimes aleatory and luck plays a vital role. Especially for C and DII it appears that the examiner's expectations are driven by the need to maintain a low pass ratio rather than to really concern oneself with important aspects (reading the examiner's reports I sometimes had the feeling that absolutely minor aspects received a lot of points just because appearingly few handled them, probably because the candidates thought they were only minor).
- They seemed fair this year. The fact that EPC 2000 is very recent meant that this subject could be examined fairly without the need to find relatively pointless details which have been the subject of examination in past years.

- This cannot only be a stress test or penmanship test! Coverage of tests have increased year by year.
- This question is hard to answer at this stage, since the markings of the papers may disclose difficulties to the candidate that were not observed at the examination day.
- This time there have been a lot of hints in D2, which seems to be not important. It has been not clear whether or not you should have had to argue why a special sentence / hint in the clients letter are of no importance to get any points or if you could ignore such sentences.
- This year the papers (A E/M,C,D) were surprisingly straightforward. We all looked for the catch. Paper C however was very/too strict on time. Paper C could be brought to 7h instead of 6h. Paper A was OK. Paper D1 had very few questions (8) on a lot of points per question. This is difficult. A lot had to be written.
- this year, the content of the paper may not have been so difficult, but the amount of writing was too much in view of the allocated time. Purpose of the EQE is to check if one is fit to practice, not how fast one can write. why not allowing the candidates to prepare a nicely written paper instead of having to rush (which automatically results in imperfect writing and silly mistakes which would not happen when we would not be under such time pressure)
- This years papers appeared fair - however much depends on how the papers are marked - the 'correct' answer to last year's paper C for example was, in the opinion of many (including members of the EBA) only one possible solution - there was therefore merit in the answers of many candidates which was not rewarded with a commensurate allocation of marks.
- Though paper C seemed to be less difficult this year compared to 2007, it was difficult to finish in time as teh many problem solution approach attacks took quite some time to write down.
- Time for C was too short, I feel (writing down everything takes too much time). D1 questions were more complex than usual: 8 instead of 10, more 7-points question. Answering a 4-points question and another one with 3 points is easier than one big question for which 7 points can be awarded.
- Time is as always not sufficient
- Time is the enemy in paper C: I have found no satisfacory way of reviewing and writing all points in the given time (and I didn't use external tables etc.)
- Time management is crucial. When the paper starts with a demanding question - D1 - it takes time to aswer and that raises the pressure and distress as one has just answered question 1 and already 30 min are gone.
- time problem
- Time was too short for D2 and C
- to many pages to read; to long and not adequate time
- To much information for the short time frame, there is no possibility to evaluate different options.
- too comprehensive for the time given

- too less time
- too less time for C; too much pitfalls in B
- too less time for paper A, 30 minutes more were needed
- too many inventive step attacks in too little time in paper C, impossible to write a proper problem and solution approach for all.
- too many tricky sentences to be read and digested in short time.
- Too much background in electronics needed to answer paper B. I am a chemistry and I pass in E/M since my tutor can not help me in chemistry. I was not able to understand which limitation is too limitative or not because I can not imagine how to embody the invention.
- Too much information in DII. Too many priorities.
- too much issues to handle in the given time frame
- too much possibly attacks, that ist was difficult to decide to the correct one and than not enough time to make all possible attacks in C-part.
- Too much to write!
- uncover the predefined solution path the examiner wants to see out of the hidden flags set in the paper; once you are on a wrong path, it is very difficult to pass the paper
- unity-question in paper A is not a task in the daily work, answer in the Guidelines appears to be not very clear
- Used a lot of time trying to understand the technology of Paper B (I am not fond of electronics). I would rather use my time on the patent questions instead, that is what the exam is about.
- volume of informations time
- Well, it's hard to judge as long as you don't know what you got right and what you got wrong.
- which articles should be cited, using old or new EPC..
- will depend on the results...
- Without knowing the answers/ solutions expected by the Examination Board it is difficult to judge the difficulty of the exam.
- year by year it seems that the paper get more and more complex
- \*paper D1: this year I found it not so difficult. The difficulty was to find all the legal basis, which , since the number of marks per question was higher compared to other years, were in my opinion expected to pass \* paper D2: not very difficult but a lot of applications and a lot of small points like bankrupcy, saving the cases. I could not finish! \* paper C: since there was not any added sunj-matter nor priority issues, I expect most point are on the attack and especially on argumentation, which was impossible for me to finish in the 6-hour time. Moreover, I lost time thinkink that maybe for claim 1 , differently that other years, were expected both a novelty and inventive step attack, at least
- 2008 D1: Too many "big" quaestions; some small question to warm-up would be prefered. D2: as every year ... to many facts in short time. This is far from practice
- A (Ch): adequate B (Ch): too much ways to explore (each way would be exploited in the reality). Lots of time wasted by choosing the way

which best seems to be expected by the examination board. C: not so difficult if we got 8 hours (or 1-2 claims less) !!! The main difficulty is to write quickly ! 1-2 inventive steps attacks are sufficient to control the capability of the candidate to develop the problem/solution approach. It does not make sense to require almost 7 such attacks. D1: adequate D2: adequate

- A CH: too much information for 3.5 hours; not enough prior art as in previous years, C: too much contents for 6 hours, the exam should have lasted 7 hours for 5 Documents to be considered for 7 claims, 4 of those independent. Was not possible to analyse carefully each document for each claim and write complete argumentation. Many students did not finish the exam.
- all papers were fair; D-II was too complex- too much dates to consider
- All papers were very long, in particular for people who are not English or German or French mother language!
- Almost too much to write in order to attack all claims correctly.
- any comment is useless as long as persons taking the exams are treated 3rd class. Exam papers do have nothing in common with the real world. My employer will have to fire me immediately if I would prepare an application as requested in paper A and B. For paper C also a different approach is expected from me because of negotiation with the third party outside the opposition chamber. For paper D and the complicated situations shown there, I would always consult a colleague and discuss possible alternatives. The result can never be a one-way solution. Different options need to be on the table to open the way for negotiations.
- Attention should be paid not to overload D2 with too many patent applications/patents (too many permutations to consider).
- B, the material is easy to understand, however it is easy to be caught out. In real life I would not immediately go for the "correct answer" I would try to get the broadest possible position, but you will fail the exam if you try this. So real life work actually counts against you. C, after last year, the paper was simplified, no priority /Art 123(2) issues (I think), but lots of I.S to work through. I.D.-ing the CPA is important but again in real life, it may suit you to start from a different document to make a better argument. Zero marks for choosing the wrong CPA is too harsh. In this modern day, most people will use electronic translators to get the gist of a foreign language patent. I appreciate that non EN/FR/DE people have a worse time than me, but is reading a foreign doc and translating it really a worthwhile test?
- because of the stress, "surprising" papers are very time consuming for nothing, because, after all, the paper is not so difficult. For example, much time is spent on paper C to solve "D problems". The rest of the time becomes too short to attack the claims and, thus, bad argumentation is given, in haste.
- Biggest problem is not the EQE2008 per se, but the large variations between different years.
- c - too much writing work
- C and D2 are not that hard but the time allotted to them is by far too

short

- C paper: too little time. No time for re-reading the answer paper
- C: as always, for the amount of information that has to be processed time was too short. DII: Questions 2 and 3 were not quite clear.
- D II had a too large density of information. It would be reasonable to reduce the information density in order to give the candidates more chances for well considered answers and in order not to miss a lot of details of the case.
- D1 not enough time to sufficiently answer the questions D2 overkill in regard to information and structure of the paper C Very specific case law was expected in regard to claim 3; nevertheless, not as ambiguous as last year
- D1 still has questions which fall well outside of normal practice for most attorneys, and thus test academics prowess, rather than fitness to practice.
- D2 - The problem with the Indian priority was felt to be an unnecessary trap
- D2 contains too much information for such a short time. It appears that the examining commission forgets that D2 is written in the afternoon when candidates are yet biologically more tired than in the morning and moreover just have concentrated intensively for three hours of D1. The strategic advice questions may be feasible for candidates from industry, but for candidates from patent attorney offices (free practice) they are generally difficult to handle because this is not usual practice. Moreover there is little possibility to train these skills theoretically.
- D2 enthielt - entgegen früheren Jahren - eine Flut an Daten und Informationen, die ich für die zur Verfügung stehende Zeit schlicht für überzogen halte. Auch wenn es im Lichte der Musterlösung sicherlich einfach und logisch erscheint, so war es unter dem Stress der Prüfung doch schwierig, sich einen Überblick zu verschaffen. Sehr störend: Unterbrechungen wegen fehlender Seiten und Druckfehler während der Prüfung D2 sowie Seitenzählen zu Beginn der Prüfung C - hier sollte die Prüfungskommission bei den Anforderungen, die gestellt werden, auf jeden Fall mehr Sorgfalt walten lassen und die Prüfungspapiere im tadellosen Zustand präsentieren.
- D2: Zu viele Fallgestaltungen, insbesondere zu viele einschlägige Dokumente (allein der Mandant hatte ein Patentportfolio von diversen Stammanmeldungen, EP-Nachanmeldungen etc.. Dazu sollten dann die Dokumente der indischen Company und des Wettbewerbers kommen). Allein zur Klärung der diversen Zeitränge ist der vorgegebene Zeitrahmen viel zu knapp bemessen. Hinzu kommen völlig unklare Fragestellungen. Es ist für den Prüfling völlig unklar, was genau beantwortet werden soll. C: Wie üblich zu viele Ansprüche die angegriffen werden sollen mit zu vielen möglichen Kombinationen. Um alle denkbaren Angriffe aufzuschreiben und zu begründen ist der vorgegebene Zeitrahmen zu knapp bemessen. Hinzu kommen dann noch die Mandantenfragen etc.. Dies alles ist in 6 Std. kaum zu meistern. Es wäre besser, hier a) weniger (anzugreifende) Ansprüche zu haben, und/oder b) weniger

Dokumente die für die Angriffe verwendet werden können. Generell ist zu sagen, dass die Teile D2 und C zu umfangreich sind.

- Dieses Jahr fehlte einigen der deutschen Prüfungsaufgaben D II eine Textseite bzw. enthielten alle Aufgaben D II auf S. 2008/DII/d/4 einen Fehler. Alle Bewerber wurden während der Prüfung durch die Aufsichtspersonen auf die fehlende Seite und den Fehler hingewiesen. Durch die Mitteilung der Aufsichtspersonen wurde ich in meiner Konzentration massiv gestört. Die durch die Mitteilung und die erforderliche Korrektur der Prüfungsunterlagen bei mir persönlich hervorgerufene Störung meiner Konzentration und damit meiner Leistung im Teil D II war erheblich. Daran konnte auch die 10 min-Verlängerung nichts ändern. Sofern der geschilderte Sachverhalt für das Bestehen des Teils D eine Rolle spielen sollte, halte ich es für fair und auch erforderlich, den mir entstandenen Nachteil auszugleichen, sei es durch Vergabe von Extrapunkten oder einer anderen, der Prüfungskommission zur Verfügung stehenden Kompensationsmöglichkeit. Entsprechendes gilt für Teil B u. C (Überprüfung der Seitenzahlen)
- Difficult to comment without knowing the results... I would like the EQE board & committee to know that I believe that candidates are not as "stupid" as they believe. The results do not only reflect knowledge and capabilities, but also the ability to write very fast by hand in a non-native language. In practicing mock papers, I got relatively good marks when I used more time than allocated or when I used the computer to write my answers. I started making serious mistakes when answering within the time available at the EQE. About time: I have found out that many D1 model answers provided by CEIPI or Delta Patents cannot even be copied by hand within the time available for writing the answer at the EQE - and that is without looking up anything or doing any date calculations, just writing the answer legibly on paper...
- Difficult to judge since I do not yet know what solutions we were supposed to find. Only then I can judge if I think it was reasonable to expect someone to come to this conclusion or not. Paper D2 was certainly difficult, it did not follow the trend indicated during the seminars, but focussed on procedural aspects. Paper C as far as I can judge was borderline, since the need for argumentation and justification why something was usable was taken to the extreme. To exclude priority from this year's paper C after the objections to last year's paper was unnecessary and childish.
- Difficult to understand what the examiners want. What could be right in real life is considered wrong by examiners. It would be better if it was possible to see the examiner's objections in each question in marked papers. Difficult to know what books/papers to study and to bring to the exam.
- Difficulty of the examination papers change every year....
- DII war zu umfangreich für 4 Stunden. C war m.E. praxis-fremd.
- Due to the difficulty of the papers, I think that it is necessary more time in order to finish completely the papers.
- Eine Einschätzung der Schwierigkeit ohne Kenntnis der

Musterlösung ist meiner Meinung nach nicht wirklich möglich.

- En plus de la difficulté des épreuves, ces épreuves sont beaucoup trop longues (notamment l'épreuve D2, et cette année particulièrement l'épreuve A Chimie). De ce fait, la sélection se fait plus vs le temps, plutôt que sur les connaissances des candidats.
- Es ist mir unverständlich, wieso das C-paper in 2008 so fundamental von allen vorausgegangenen Prüfungen abwich. Offensichtlich legt es das Komitee darauf an, einen maximalen Grad an verunsicherung unter den Kandidaten zu erzeugen. Hier scheint es dringend angeraten, die Entscheidungsträger schnellstmöglich auszuwechseln.
- Especially in DII too much information given
- Exam C has lost its "professional life" meaning. It has become a rat lab exam for the Examination Committee which has nothing to do with actual practice.
- For my preparation for paper A and C, I made all previous exams (2000-2007). It feels like every year the paper C is getting more and more difficult. Last year was a difficult one, and I did not think it was possible to top it. But it did with the 2008 paper. My estimate is that the passing rate will be below 15%: Putting 'strange' claims/attacks in the paper: pres of information; synergic effect; partial problem attack; this is too much complexity to deal with in an exam of 6 hours. There is also no possibility to prepare for such attacks; the compendia of previous years did not include such attacks. It is difficult enough to set up such an attack in real life conditions, where you have the possibility to consult a colleague and discuss it. During the exam; where you are expected to analyse the doc's and set up such an attack, it is unfair to expect this kind of level of knowledge from people who are typically working 4 to 8 years in the business as TRAINEES in the available ti
- Good (perfect) time management seems to be a more and more important issue. This makes the exam a lot easier to the native English, German and French speakers (readers/writers). Otherwise, the exams included those problems that you might imagine beforehand and were well construed.
- Hard to say before I know which answers were expected!
- Having discussed this year's paper C with my peers, it appears that one of most common problems was a lack of time.
- Having sat the C part in 2007, I found C 2008 much more "exam-like" and thus easier in the sense that it was more logical and predictable, and the whole exam did not depend on identifying the correct prior art for the first claim as in 2007. It was, however, still quite time consuming as it was almost entirely inventive step arguments - eg, even having finished all my mock exams with some time to spare, I still needed the full 6 hours for the 2008 paper.
- How I am to know how difficult they were when I have never sat them before?
- I don't understand the correction of paper C 2007 (selection of the closest prior art). The difficulty of this paper did not reflect the real

abilities needed as a european patent attorney.

- I marked by error paper other than Chemistry in the previous question. Sorry! in general I found the examination papers difficult and have no idea whether I have correctly focused the solution or not. I also do not know whether the examiners consider any aspect of a candidate's answer even though he/she may have failed to correctly focused any aspect of the case (paper B, paper C, for example).
- I only sat paper C this year and I did not find it to be overly difficult. If anything, I was a little perplexed to find no priority claimed in the patent to be opposed and hence no priority issues, as well as no added matter issues. As such, the paper itself was relatively straightforward. The main problem with the paper was it's length as myself and many others that I spoke to simply ran out of time. Having 7 claims, four of which are independent is a lot of work to attack, especially with the lengthy inventive step attacks. My main fear, however, is the repeat of last year where if you chose the wrong closest prior art, zero was awarded without the answer even being looked at. It took me a long time to translate the foreign language documents which also hindered my progress and does not seem a fair way to test ability - instead it is testing language skills and how fast someone can use a dictionary. In real life a translation would be obtained.
- I think that EQE is the reflection of the EPO representative quality, thus EQE must be difficult
- I think the C-2008 and D-2008 papers were balanced
- I thought that the analysis of the papers was difficult this year. I think it is usually more clear which subject matter should be claimed. Especially in paper A I found it difficult to decide on what invention to pursue in the application as several different inventions were present, which could be combined into one but which were also claimable separately. In paper B it was also rather difficult to chose the right path.
- I thought the exam papers were fair - they appeared to be a lot fairer than the 2007 DII and C papers - they seemed to be more in line with the level of the 2006 papers
- I was surprised how easy D2 was concerning the content of the applications (R1 plus D2 or plus G etc). The three possible remedies were easy to find. However, who knows what trap I didn't see.... In A (CH) I was very confused as to the high number of independent claims ... In B (CH) I was stressed out completely because of lack of time. The patent was too long and offered two technical effects. When you identified one technical effect by comparing the one table with the other and phrased the problem solution approach, based on the difference (combination of metal salts), only when arguing why this was not obvious I realized, that it might have been obvious indeed, therefore I had to phrase another problem-solution-approach based on table 1 alone (difference when using the spec. thickener). Here my reasoning was insufficient, in lack of time. C was simply too much to write and explain.



- In DII there wasn't enough of a spread of topics to test candidates on.
- In my opinion, paper C difficulty resides in the high number of papers to read, in the difficulty in organizing information from different papers (especially this year) in a very short time, and in the effort required for hand-writing the answers. Time is another difficulty (6 hours are not enough for answering the whole paper). The meaning of some words may also be an issue for non-mother language candidates.
- In order to sit the EQEs you need three years experience. However, the questions require knowledge which you do not gain in three years.
- In paper A (E/M) there is a strong difficulty. Usually Examination Division of the EPO don't like at all the use of something which looks like a result in the claims, this even if the guidelines C III 4.10 allow such formulation in some specific cases. I guess such formulation was necessary in paper (E/M) this year. So the candidate had to use a formulation very risky. He had to sail close to the wind. So please release your examiner's report as soon as possible so we can know your approach this time.
- In papers C and DII there was too much information to be read and analyse. It should be kept in mind that candidates, not using one of the EPO official languages, need a lot of time for reading and for analysing texts which are not in their mother tongue.
- In some cases the marking scheme makes the exams too difficult, often marks are given for obscure points and no marks awarded for often sensible solutions. Even if a solution is not the best possible answer, that does not make it wrong.
- In some years, the Papers are just way too difficult (like e.g. C 2007). Sometimes, the examiners report and the possible solution don't live up to the expectations themselves (e.g. A 2004, C 2007).
- It is especially difficult making comments on the difficulty or estimating my own performance without having seen the examiner's report and/or my results. It is well known among the candidates that one's own feeling after the examination does not correlate very well with the results.
- It is good that paper C is on the last day and D on the first day were you are still fresh. However, 40 pages to read (paper C) and at least 10-15 pages to write on the third day of exams gets physical. Eyes, writing hand and concentration gets week. But that's part of EQE, isn't it.
- It is hard to judge if you do not know your results. A serious problem is ALWAYS the time constraints. In C and D2 you need time to think deeper about a problem, but you do not have the time in the exam. Once false decision could lead to failing the exam, therefore this aspect is crucial. In 2008 part C there could have been lots of detailed argumentation concerning the inventive step attacks, but there simply is not enough time to write everything down. If the marks are focused on detailed argumentation (which nobody knows in advance) and not in finishing everything, then it was simply too much. I started writing at 12:00 and needed all the time to fill 20 pages! The test runs of the examining committee seems to be too optimistic.

- It is mostly not comprehensible where all the losses of marks come from. Exam does not look difficult but is marked severely.
- It is not each paper individually that causes problems, but the fact that all have to be taken within three days. It is by far the hardest exam ever taken for the absolute majority. I found out that you not only need to be extremely well prepared, but also well rested and relaxed in order to be able to take the exam successfully. During those three days, there is just not enough time to relax.
- It is undeniable that chemical candidates had a great advantage this year for paper C, while this was not the case with other papers (i.e. this could have been prevented). Non-chemical candidates therefore needed more time to read the documents and lost (perhaps useless) time in writing the attacks. In addition case law seemed to be involved which could only have been found via the case law book, and it seemed as if this case law should also be applied to one of the attacks. This causes stress and unnecessary difficulty. Also six hours for an exam is simply too much, in particular after having already spend two full days on exams (in certain countries it is prohibited by law that people work for four hours without a break). Everybody agrees that this is freaky. An exam may be four hours max. C needs to be more realistic and needs a change!
- It is really regrettable that a page was missing in part of the papers, and a typing error, furthermore the handling of the incident was highly unprofessional, i.e. several disturbing announcements and then a mere 10 min. extra given, even though the missing part was noticed more than 10 min after the beginning of the exam.
- It seems to me that the difficulty of the papers have increased over the years. It could seem as if the examining committee like to have the same constant pass rates over the years, even when preparations, courses, CEIPI tutorials and the general availability of good tools for preparation have improved significantly. Also many of the issues particularly in Paper C are borderline issues, where there is no precise case law, that has specifically addressed that particular question. I do not think that borderline issues should be addressed in exam-papers, where there is not time enough for argumentation and where marking schedules only allow one correct answer. Exam papers should be clear, fair and a test of the candidates knowledge about the law. They should not deal with issues, that could require new board of appeal decisions. The exam have become a question about finding hidden information and guessing, what the exam committee would like you to answer and not what is supported by the EPC
- it was surprising that there was no problem neither of priority nor modification in C paper this year
- It's difficult to comment on the difficulty of the exam papers without knowing the answers! If I got all the answers right, they were too easy. If I got too many of the answers wrong, they were too difficult.
- Lots of information to be dealt with in a limited time
- misleading information in paper C, annex 1 regarding the window in claim 1. general in DII and C: too much informations and details in

both papers. Absolutely no real cases. Only people with a photographic memory can remember so many details in 1 or 2 hours!!

- more time is needed to formulate adequate answers even if no time is lost
- more time would be good.
- My answers for the previous question are based on the fact that if you know the answer it is easy and if you don't it isn't. As I didn't do any revision for paper D I can't say whether it was easy or not.
- not enough time for answering parts D II and C
- Not nice with the India issue in paper C. Unnecessary to punish candidates with G-case knowledge...
- Paper A 2008 Ch was quite different from all other A papers, as there was no clear prior art evidence. Some personal interpretation was necessary.
- Paper A Ch 2008 was quite unlike the past 5-10 A Ch papers and many candidates, including myself, was taken aback by this, and had to spend more time than usual on how to deal with the information in the paper. In particular, the usual saying that all the text for the answer "is in the paper" did not seem to apply to this paper.
- Paper A chemistry 2008 was not easy to read and some aspects were confusing (Text not clear on some aspects) Paper B chemistry 2008 was confusing on the fact of the D1 prior art document could be considered as an accidental anticipation. Since it deals with a totally different field (watches) but it deals with the same problem MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE A DECISION ON THAT.... PLEASE BE MORE CLEAR ON THAT ASPECT TO AVOID CONFUSION I hope it was the intention to make candidates confused on that aspect and hesitate on such aspects
- paper B 2008 was very tricky, many traps
- Paper B 2008: too many possibilities. More difficult than last years.
- Paper B E/M required to amend the main claim so as to claim the three original embodiments and also a new embodiment disclosed only in the client's letter. This is unfair. Paper C was too long. 41 pages to read make a relevant difference between mother-tongue and non-mother-tongue candidates.
- paper b was not very clear about what was expected. more than one limitation was possible and the preferred solution was not very visible
- paper b was too electronic, moreover, on the contrary with respect to the papers b of the other years, this time the amendment required was very obscure. The client letter creates confusion. Also the text and the argument of the invention were unclear
- Paper C 2008 was much more straightforward than the 2007 disaster. However, there was insufficient time to provide an answer which was complete in all respects.
- Paper C does not need to be 6 hours long. This is an unrealistic requirement as the core skills that the paper is trying to assess could just as easily be assessed in say a 5-hour paper. Like they used to. The translation requirement seems to me to be a step into no-man's

land. I understand that the rationale for this is that European representatives should be able to show competence in two of the official languages (why not all three and why not full competence at that?). The current translation requirement in Paper C does not prove or satisfy this rationale. It merely acts as a time-consuming hindrance to competent candidates (possibly resulting in a failed paper) who would otherwise communicate with the EPO more than adequately in their own language whether it be English, French or German. This must also place a high burden on those without FR, EN or DE as their mother tongue and probably does not promote the profession in states without FR, EN or DE as the national language.

- Paper C has been made artificially difficult by hiding claims 6 and 7 of A1 on a second page, even though there was plenty of space left on the first page - why was there no comment on page 1 that there were two more claims to follow, or at least an announcement in the exam, or a hint in the letter from the client?
- Paper C requires the candidate to translate one of the annexes. In 2008 the annex was very long and for those like me who do not speak French or German, found it very difficult and will most likely have failed the exam as had to spend too long on one document and even after spending the time translating it did not really understand it. There are also too many claims to be attacked. 7 in 2008.
- Paper C should be a test of how well the candidate can prepare an opposition, not how quickly the candidate can prepare a translation or answer legal questions unrelated to the opposition itself.
- Paper C was easier than in the previous years.
- Paper C was fair in the level of the content, but I found the amount of work to do too much to make the attacks at the required level of quality.
- Paper D should be in two parts suitable independently. Paper C is too long and focusses too much on specific issues, rather than whether candidates can prepare an opposition and argue problem-solution - the 2007 farce of "wrong" closest prior art in paper C epitomises this. If there was a real and effective appeals procedure then it wouldn't be so bad.
- Paper D1 was a little bit long In my opinion Paper D2 was not very clear in some passages. Since it should prove the capability of the candidate to face a real life legal case, if the client instructions are not clear I can always ask him further details.
- Papers A and B were nothing like real practice. There seemed to be clear indications within the documents pointing towards a preferred answer e.g. whole entire phrases in the description that were drafted by a client and that could be simply slotted into claims. These papers just seemed to a little too neat. The difficult part of paper C is the length of the exam. It is just not possible to concentrate in exam conditions for 6 hours without a break.
- Papers A and B were quite different in comparison to former papers A and B. In the former papers it was much easier to see the differences between prior art and the discussed invention. This year it was very difficult.

- Part C: Nearly had overseen the last two claims, due to the large gap between the last device claims and the last two claims in the patent to be attacked...
- Part C: Too many claims with A56 attack for the given time of 6 hours. Part D: Too many protective rights to be analysed.
- Please make a more standardized paper for DII. E.g. the initial analysis of the applications/inventions is very tedious and boring, and all the preparations I made this year I could just throw out as the questions were formulated in a different way than usual. Stop doing that! - it is incredible difficult to prepare for. Also the economical aspects of licensing and the like are difficult to handle when you are a Dane writing in English and do not have any vocabulary for that at all.
- Preparation of the German Version of the Papers for D2 part was not sufficient. There was a typing error and some candidates even missed complete pages. This was verified only at 15:20 - resulting in that people missed important information of relevant prior art for 1/4 of the whole examination time and could only begin to complete the task after more than one hour of the whole examination time. The reward of 10 more minutes is ridiculous. While 10 minutes might be enough for clarifying the troubles resulting from the typing error on page 4, it is definitely not enough to compensate the missing of page 2 for more than one hour. Especially it is unfair, because people who sat the examination in French or English had all relevant information and finally had more time for finishing the Examination.
- Rather than difficult or easy papers are unpredictable, especially C & D, thus not allowing a "proper" preparation either in academic or in pragmatic sense
- Re: (E/M): the point is that the more they're technically easy, the more difficult it is to draft sensible answers ! But I understand that such an approach is necessary.
- Schwierig zu sagen, nachdem ich das Ergebniss noch nicht weiss - die momentanen "Gefühle" sind subjektiv und damit nichts wert für eine Beurteilung. Es wäre sinnvoller, diese Abfrage erst durchzuführen, wenn die Ergebnisse bekannt sind !!!!!
- Some 2008 papers were too long: A(Ch), C and D2.
- Sometimes I believe the papers are written for the "lucky" persons because there are traps which do not evaluate your legal knowledge and make you fail the exam. It is only assessed if you actually came across with the issue raised by chance (questions which depend on a paragraph appearing somewhere hidden in the guidelines...like last year trap on the German "gebrauchsmuster" or this year India PCT priority - simply unfair). Well prepared people fail the exams and badly prepared pass (happens).
- Taking into account the amount to write in too short a time (6h) for Paper C, it could be termed "too difficult". The substantive quality of its content was "difficult / adequate".
- The A and B papers Chemistry in my opinion were more difficult than 2007 and above average in difficulty, while C and D were about average difficulty

- The big difficulty this year was to approach to a difficult (more than the usual) paper B in the afternoon, when my energies started to decrease. I would expect to have easier difficulties in the afternoon. In these cases it would make sense to hold the two papers in two different days.
- The cases are very artificial. The marking schedule especially for parts C and D2 are very obscure. Especially for part C is very unrealistic that only ONE golden solution exists and that all other equally valid well argued solution are considered wrong!
- The cases are very artificial. The marking schedule especially for parts C and D2 are very obscure. Especially for part C is very unrealistic that only ONE golden solution exists and that all other equally valid well argued solution are considered wrong!
- The difficulty is the harsh marking, that arguments are not considered (but only catch words and facts or only) or arguments are only considered if they relate to the allegedly only correct answer; sometimes significant parts of one's answers are not considered (ignored by examiners) if candidate fails in only one of many aspects of the paper.
- The difficulty level was rather relevant. However, the time available was very short, in particular for DII and C. The short time available for the DII part was a surprise, compared to earlier exams. While it is appreciated that a candidate cannot spend any amount of time for the examination paper, it is not adequate to say that somebody is not fit to practice just because they are not speedy enough to handle all questions in the short time available.
- The difficulty of the EQE is very much related to the short amount of time available (at least for C and D). One is stressed to go with the first line of answering that springs to mind without really giving oneself sufficient amount of time to analyze the question/situation (as one does in a real life situation).
- The difficulty, apart from time constraints, lies in the unpredictability of what will be examined. This year, stating that we should be fit for practice with EPC2000, the committee did not dare to really test EPC2000 ... people will pass without knowing really the important issues with EPC2000.
- The exams are rather artificial and mostly seem to be about spotting what the examiner is getting at. There should be more marks available for reasonable arguments/additional points that are not exactly what the examiners were expecting.
- The exams do not reflect real life patent prosecution situations, but rather test a form of mass information management
- The main problem is the time available : because hand writing takes more time than the Jury thinks, it's not possible to have a "plan" before beginning the answer!!
- The marking of Paper C is a mystery! How can it happen that only 25% of candidates pass even after everybody was given extra 10 points in 2007?! There was even no indication - at least officially - why the extra 10 points was given. I passed the Paper C in 2007 but from what I hear it seems that something is not working correctly.

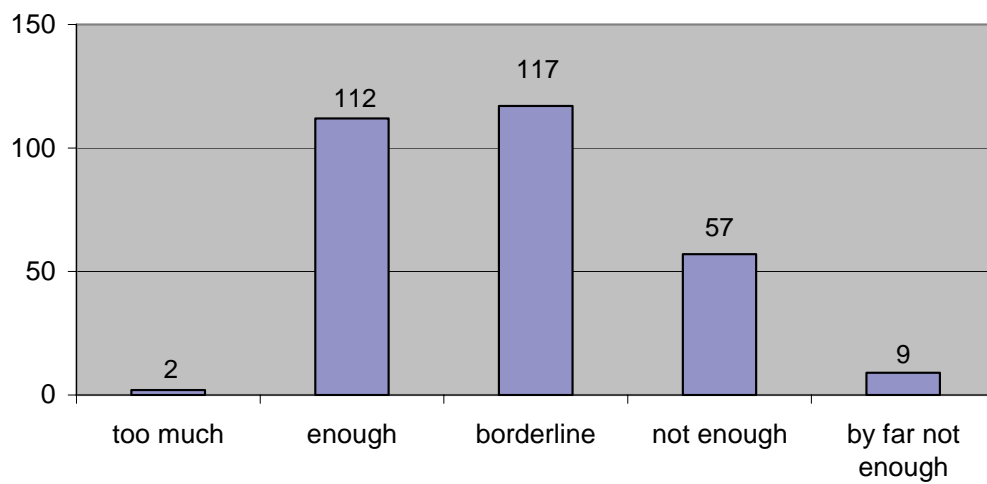
- the papers are NOT an instrument to check if a candidate is fitted for practice. they are (papers C and D) COMPLETELY based on a non-existing world! Just look to the little time the candidate has to answer to impossible questions.
- The papers were of an adequate level of difficulty and with hindsight would have been easier to tackle with better preparation on my part.
- There seemed to be discrepancy between the different language versions of paper C this year (affidavit in english which is not necessarily sworn, or statement unter Eide in German which is sworn), making it unclear what was meant and thus introducing additional difficulty
- They would not be too difficult if we have more time available
- This depends on the rating of the answers! If all attacks have to be fine then the exam was too difficult. If dependend errors are judged independently (e.g. claim 1 novelty attack instead of another novelty attack and claim 2 (dependend on claim 1)) then it is fine.
- This year the papers (B-D) seemed to be somewhat easier than in previous years.
- though sometimes not too difficult, they usually contain too much information while too little time is given, which is especially true for D II.
- Though you have the possibility to use all sort of documents during the examination, some important questions cannot be solved with your knowledge - also in combination with your documents. There is always the problem that you have to choose between two solutions in a way that you could flip a coin.
- Three words: lack of time!!!
- Time for papers D II and C is too short. Many mistakes could be prevented by reconsidering a question, but there is no time for it.
- Time is a critical issue, especially if you do not have any of the Exam languages as your mother tongue.
- Time is not enough
- Too complex to be solved in the given time
- Too long.
- Too many Patents to be discussed in D II Too specific questions in D I
- too many relevant documents, all similar to each other. Too many lengthy inventive step attacks.
- too much data to consider for the designated time (D2)
- Too much information. Too poor practice.
- Too much to write in the time for paper C
- Too much information to be processed in a short time. Paper C is not realistic. Marking system unfair. Only best attacks are awarded points. It does not make sense that one Annex is only available in French and German. Paper C should not be used to test language skills of the candidates. In the real life translators are used.
- We can not question the inventor as in real life on the essentiality of some features. Sometimes it is difficult to interpret the client's requirements.

- Why do you have to be skilled in 2+ EPO languages for C? It is not a language test, but a test in your analytic/argumentation skills. In particular it seems that the importance of the 'third'-language document differs very much each year making it even more random whether a person passes on his language skills or his patent technical skills. If it is deemed important that the candidate knows 2+ EPO languages it would seem that it would be more appropriate to have a Paper E testing your language skills.

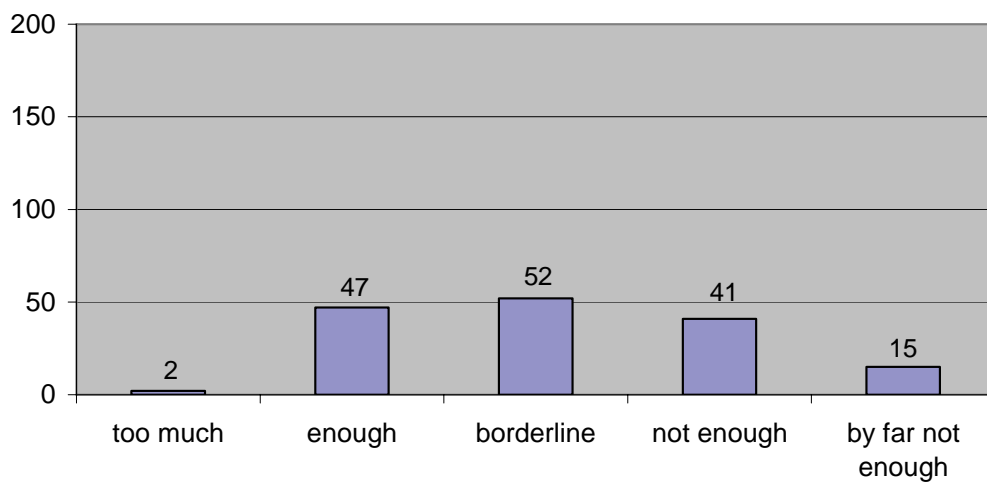


**Q30) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2008?**

Paper A E/M

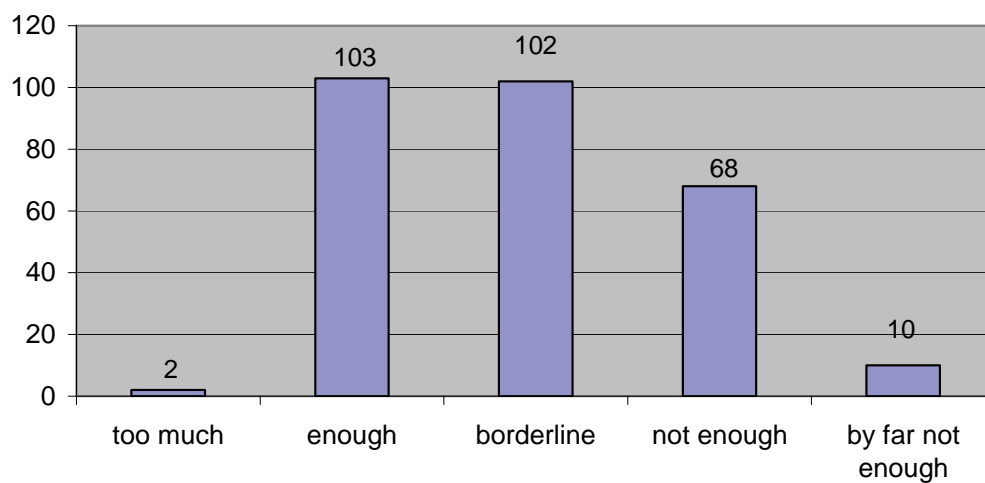
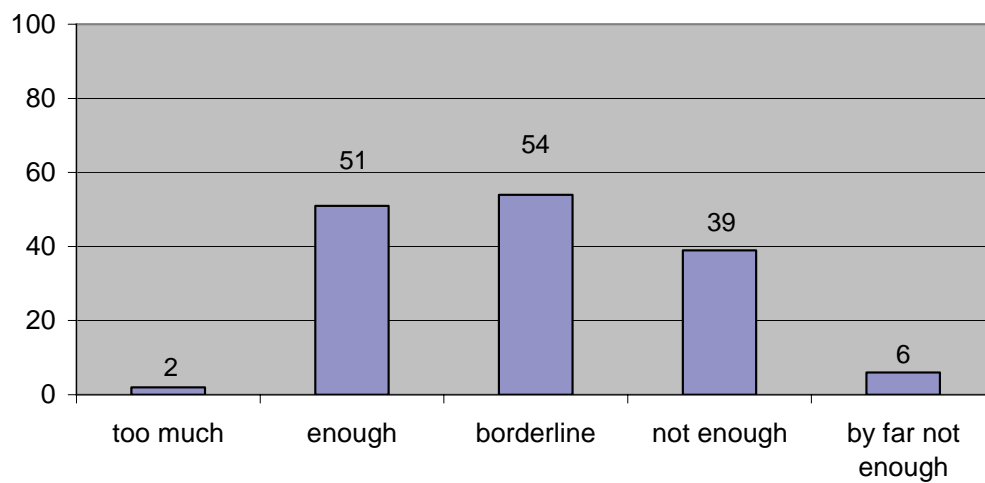


Paper A Ch



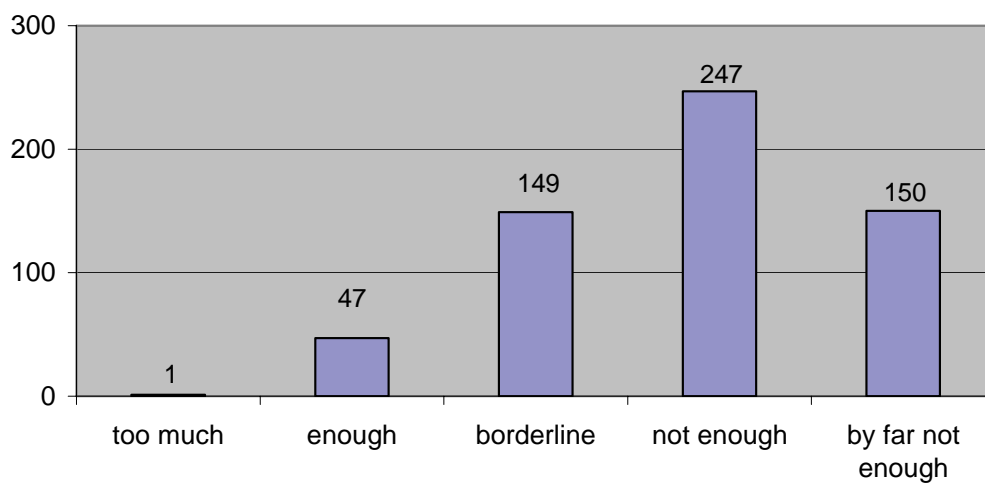
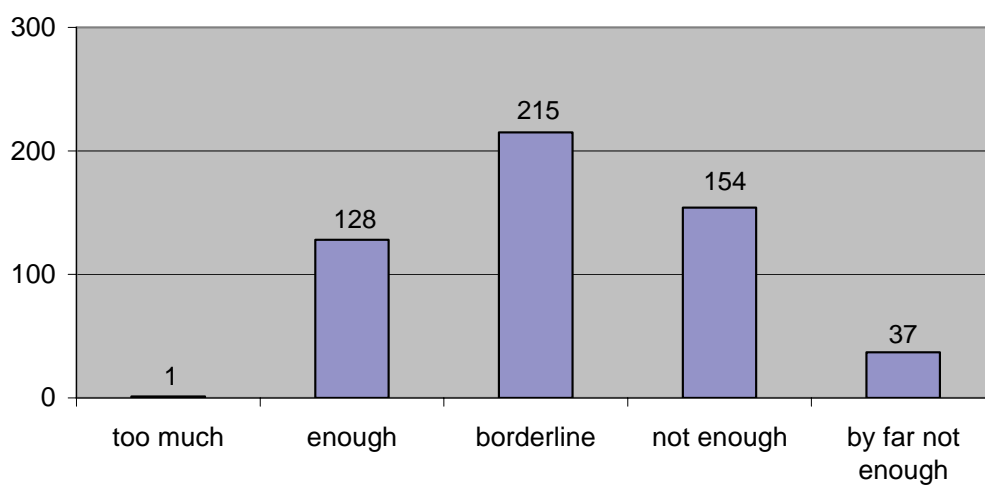
**Q30) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2008?**

continued

Paper B E/MPaper B Ch

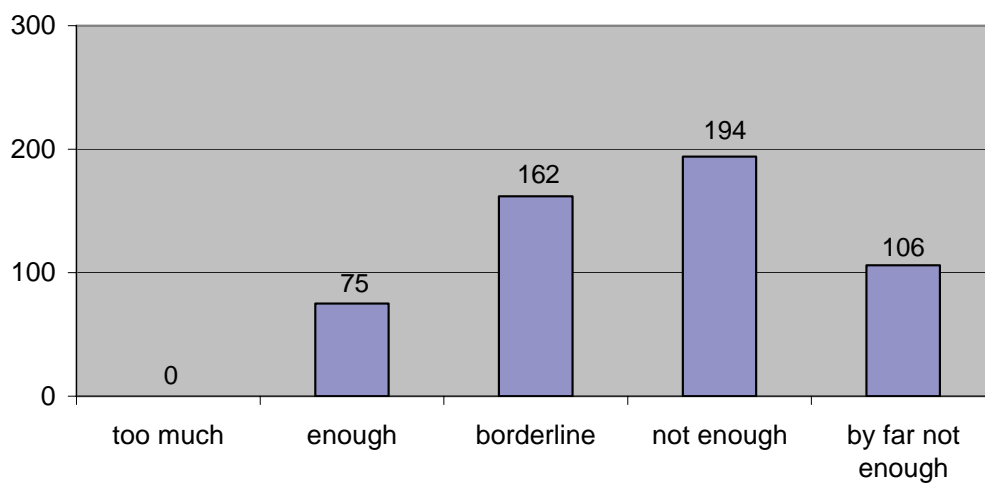
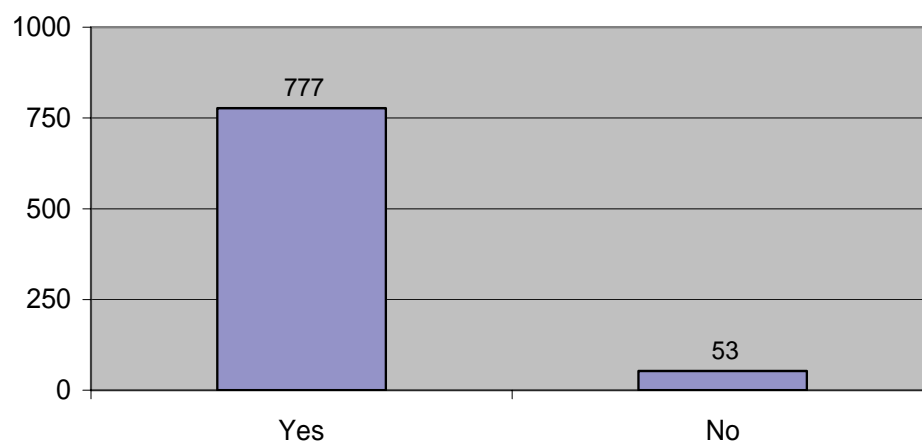
**Q30) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2008?**

continued

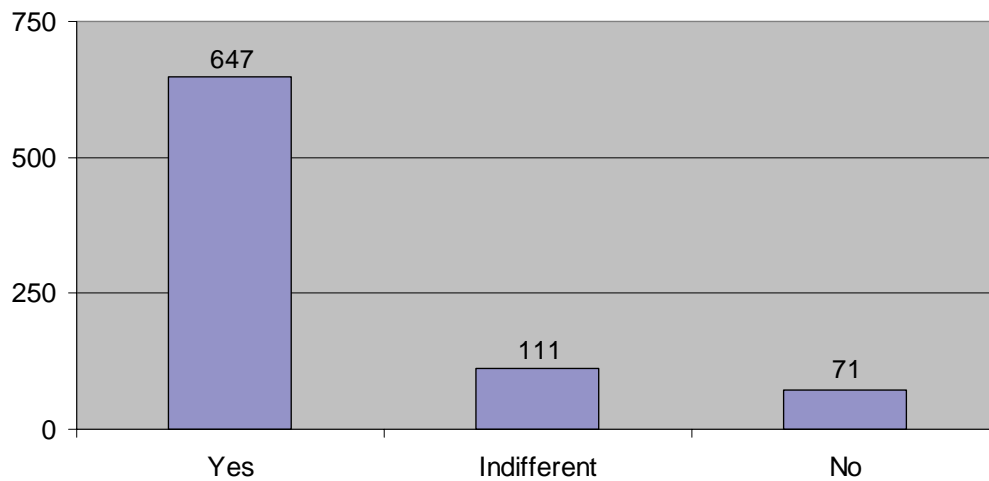
Paper CPaper D I

**Q30) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2008?**

continued

**Paper D II****Q31) Did you feel time pressure during the examination?**

**Q32) Do you think that more time for preparing your answer would have improved your performance in the examination papers you sat?**



**Q33) Candidates were asked if they had comments concerning the time available for the examination papers. Their answers are listed below.**

- 3 hours and half for A paper is too short, especially for people using a foreign language (e.g. English for Italian people)
- Especially DI presents massive time pressure. I understand that time should not be unlimited (as it is an open book exam), but the amount of time is so little per question, that candidates tend to make unnecessary mistakes (although they know the answer) - I am not sure whether that is an appropriate fit to practice test. C and DII are tight, but I think acceptable. B and A is not enough time
- - the exam is supposed to test fitness for practice, not fitness to work most efficiently under time pressure (this is an employers' criterium, not a client's, the EQE should protect the interests of the future clients of a candidate, not those of his employer!) -> more time should be available for all papers
- the time is too short for answering the question properly, especially in DII you have no time to discuss all the aspect of the case, therefore you lose a lot of points for facts you know but you have run out of time.
- Too long papers, too short time especially with paper C. In real life, we have time to re-read a document and identify a characteristic missed in a first reading. I have missed one information in one document in paper C 2008 and I realized that at the end when writing the attacks for the last 2 claims. I did not have sufficient time to re-write my argumentation and I think I missed many points on the last 2 claims. With more time, I would have re-written a correct attack for those 2 claims.

- Wenn man die Prüfung schon äußerst umfangreich gestalten will, dann sollte zumindest gewährleistet sein, daß man die Prüfung auch bestehen kann, wenn nicht alle Aspekte des Falles beleuchtet werden, d.h. es darf nicht sein, daß einzelne Punkte so stark bewertet werden, daß bei Fehlen eines solchen Punktes ein Bestehen der Prüfung kaum mehr möglich ist.
- 3,5 hours for exam A is just not enough, especially when several independent claims have to be drafted. I had problems to find an adequate wording for the independent apparatus claim and got into severe time pressure for the last hour to draft dependent claims and the description. I would have needed at least 30 minutes more time to do proper dependent claims and a good description.
- 4 hours is better
- 4 ours for paper A and 4,50 ours for papers B
- 6 hours for paper C are not sufficient, I think 8 hours it would be better, with the same extent of the paper
- 6 hours is far too little for paper C and in DI at least 6 minutes per point is necessary.
- 6 hours of concentration at the highest level is getting to be beyond me at my age ....I get serious sugar depletion and a sore bottom!
- A significant amount of time is taken translating the document. I can understand the Fr document to an extent, but if you choose not to understand every word (ie translate nearly word for word) you run the huge risk of missing that important bit of the document.
- A: If you don't see the solution once no time for correction of claims is possible C: this year : too much information was given, one had to choose the first reasonable combination of state of the art because there was no room for thinking over more ways
- Additional time for people with another-tongue different of official language (for example 30-60' more). It will be more equal for everybody
- Allow more time for paper D2. Also, I would have preferred to have D2 in the morning (when it is easiest to concentrate) and D1 in the afternoon (it is easier to answer a series of short questions when tired compared to having to analyse a single complex situation).
- Already noted above
- Although 6 hours are not enough for answering the whole paper, I don't think that extending the available time would improve candidate's results. Indeed, keeping concentration for 6 hours is difficult. This problem would not be solved by further lengthening the paper's duration.
- An extra half an hour would be very useful
- Another half an hour in DII, B and C was required by me.
- as details seem to be required, no solution to time issues is available
- As mentioned previously we are being expected to analyse sometimes complex issues. Why should this be a prerequisite to becoming a European Patent Attorney. In practise being under such time pressures will not happen that often and even if they do there are often remedies to mitigate the circumstances. There should be

adequate time given to prepare the answer and then to write it. I reiterate being able to prepare an opposition in 6 hours that will pass an exam is not a true test of a candidate's ability to be a successful EPA.

- As noted above, more time for each exam (or fewer questions to answer) would remove the requirement to have very high speed, and could turn some focus to actual thinking and preparing high quality answers.
- as said, unreasonably a lot of content
- As stated in my previous section, I completely ran out of time to do thorough attacks for claims 6 and 7, despite knowing how I wished to attack these claims.
- At least for C and D II there is too much time pressure!
- At present the examination is first and foremost a speed test. Nothing has been done to compensate for the inevitable benefit that native speakers of En, Fr or De have.
- borderline for C. With an extra hour, candidates would possibly make less mistakes, and for sure concentrate on the real problems set on his paper
- C could have done with more time this year - but only because there was probably too much in the paper
- Certainly C & DII have so many issues, that you can focus on relevant, but not necessarily best issues in answering questions. Examiners' comments on DII in past have indicated 4 or 5 major issues were pertinent, and 2-3 answered well would give a pass. Which adds up to a lot of information to process in a short time - but overall I believe the papers were fair.
- Concerning paper A, I think that enough time was allowed to write at least claims with a reasonable quality. Concerning paper B, the problem-and-solution approach could probably be better if a bit more time (e.g. 1/2 hour) were allowed.
- C-paper: the claims 6 and 7 were in another paper and I only realized at the middle of the exam, so it was VERY TIME CONSUMING to do these two last claims at the end (because I read the documents at the beginning WITHOUT having these two claims in mind!!!). The ERROR was that in the first page where claims 1-5 were written, there was NO INDICATION that further claims were in the other page. Furthermore, claims 1-5 were written in the page and only occupied up to the middle of the page, so it was totally misleading because it gave the impression that there were NO MORE CLAIMS !!!!
- C-part too much information. But easy. I would prefer higher degree of difficulty and not so much. I am better at thinking than in fast writing.
- D II should be on a separate day and should be given at least one more hour time, better two more hours.
- D: I would recommend a split of DI and DII into independent parts. D1 at least 3 h 30 min. DII 5 instead of 4 hours, C: difficult because that are already 6 in a row, but one more hour is necessary if not less information is given.

- D2 is such a complicated paper that more time would be welcome. Especially concerning the priority questions, you immediately have to see it. You don't have time to think about it. Also for getting deeper into the technical subject-matter which is discussed in the different applications discussed in D2, time is lacking.
- D2 requests in item 2 answers regarding a lot of combinations although it could be seen clearly by solving item 1 that combinations would have been not of relevance because of all of clients possible combinations with r/R1 are dependent on patent (application) of DS. Thus candidates have had to spent a lot of time to argue again and again that the combinations are dependent on DS.
- Die Zeit ist bei weitem zu knapp, um eine sorgfältige Antwort auszuarbeiten, und ggf. einen Irrweg zu korrigieren bzw. die Arbeit nochmals zu überprüfen.
- DII needs 6 hours
- do not extend - this increases the errors to be made at the end of each time period and the candidates, anyhow, cannot stand a longer writing time due to exhaustion in arms AND brain
- do not increase the time available. instead, reduce the amount of work necessary in the existing time available.
- Due to the time pressure there is no possibility to evaluate different options. In real life, situations like the examination conditions are very rare.
- Either more time allocated or the papers better adapted to the time available.
- Especially C and DII is often more of a examination of your writing speed. I do not see how this has anything to do with whether a candidate is "fit to practice" or not.
- Especially for D2 and C the time is very limited. No time to reread your answers. If you make a slight detour in the wrong direction, there is no time to completely finish the paper.
- Especially for D2, given that the share of points is unknown, it is not possible to organize in a satisfactory way the time for responding.
- Especially for paper C depends on the actual paper (number of claims to be attacked, number of inventive step attacks, number of usable documents).
- especially time pressure in C is contraproductive
- Expecially for paper C: There are so many possible attacks, but usually there is the one you get the marks for. Finding this attack takes a lot of time evaluating pros and cons, which you do not have during the exam. The quality of the answers would be much better, if there would really be the time to think, but instead one has to rush writing everything. I think it is weired that they recommend to bring a pair of scissors to cut out text and paste it in the answer to save time. And to be honest, I do not see any reason why someone who might need a little longer would be the worse representative.
- extra time always help to improve the answers, e.g. by more extensive consideration of the question, extended answeres instead of patchwork



- far too short in particular not being mother tongue and trying to write legible
- for analyzing complex situation there must be more time
- For C and DII, half the points are for the answer, half the points are for showing how you derived the answer, so in fact, the time constraint always has double penalty. This is not fair. To REALLY test fit for practice, try out an ORAL exam, there the people who know, and can explain it faster than they can write, will pass. not the ones who know half the subject, but write exactly that half.
- for C approximately 8 hours
- For example this year paper D2. I know that I knew everything, but answering all questions in a proper way was not possible, since time was very short. I was ready sorting out the problem after 1 hour and 3 hours writing was not enough to answer all the questions in a proper way to be satisfied with the answer. It is a bad feeling knowing that you knew everything and saw everything, but being unable to complete
- for paper A available time should be increased up to four hours at least
- For paper A chemistry more time was needed to struggle through the text For paper B the time was sufficient but it was not clear whether D1 could be taken as an accidental anticipation.
- for paper A there was not enough time
- For paper C 2008 time available was sufficient, if your knowledge of German was adequate. Otherwise you had much too little time as many words had to be looked up in a dictionary. Paper DI was OK timewise Paper DII differed in my opinion from previous DII papers in that calculations had to be performed to make sure which law system to apply. This takes time, and therefore other parts of the exam paper would get less attention than required. 30 minutes more would have been sufficient.
- for paper C and D2: 2-3 hours more should be available; for paper D1: 1 hour more.
- for paper C I had not enough time to make all what I wanted to do all others were ok for me,
- For part C more time should be allowed.
- For part C one hour more would help to pass. However, as a rule, if the time for part C will be 7 hours, I am pretty sure the Examiner Board will decide to make part C much more difficult.
- For some papers I would have probably improved the answer (paper C and D) while for papers A and B it would probably not have made any difference.
- For this C-exam the time available was not enough. No time for properly attacking claim 7, no time to check the answers, no time for filling in the opposition form.
- for writing an optimal paper, creativity is required and creativity and time pressure do not go together very well
- Give 4 hours for paper A
- Given what is required in Paper C, more time would be helpful.

However, given that the exam is already an excruciating 6 hours long, it would be better if that time was more focussed on preparing good attacks, rather than translating documents. Also, the legal questions in Paper C would probably be more at home in Paper D I. And why should Candidates have to fill out the Form 2300 in Paper D? Given that, in real life, no one is ever going to draft an opposition in 6 hours or draft a patent application in 3.5 hours, the exams should focus more on candidate's understanding of the underlying principles, rather than on ancillary matters, which often arise only in the exams and do not arise in day to day working life.

- Giving half an hour more for either C/DI and DII would certainly improve the results and would not mean that the candidates are less well qualified to practise (in real life one normally has much more time even).
- Have very slow handwriting, and still it is quite bad. BRING IN LAPTOPS!!!
- I already commented in the previous questions about this issue. I can summarize that after sitting this examination, which for me was not impossible as far as the content is concerned, I am seriously thinking about stopping sitting it again because I will never pass paper C nor D2
- I am dyslexic, and could have benefitted from more time.
- I commented on this earlier.
- I definitely found the time pressure the hardest element of the exams.
- I do not read exceptionally fast, therefore, I spend more time reading than most.
- I do not understand, why obviously for the examination committee giving high time pressure to the candidates is so important? This forces the candidates to compromise largely on quality, just to have a chance to complete the papers in time. This has also been mentioned repeatedly in the examiner's report. It cannot be the intention of an exam to check, how fast people are in hand writing, which in addition results in a bad hand writing, which is not so easy read by the persons, who have to read all this. I also do not think, that offering a computer-based EQE would solve this problem. I am faster in typing on a computer, than in hand-writing, but not every candidate types blind and with 10 fingers. In addition I guess that the addition of computers to the EQE will add another obstacle to the EQE and with time the examining committee will give even more time pressure as "now all candidates can work faster with a computer". Computer would just add complexity to the EQE
- I don't really understand why so much value is placed on time pressure in D1 and D2. I prepared very well and for D2 which I think I may have failed the model answer came to me without talking to anyone else or consulting any reference material as I thought about the legal situation during the hour following the exam - it was very frustrating.
- I had no time to reread the papers. It is sitting and continuously writing (if you did not write your answer properly -badly language expression which can be wrongly interpreted- and you would know the proper

answer, there is no time to correct it)

- I had not enough time. However, if I had know the EPC extremely well and wouldn't have needed to find some information for a couple of questions, the time would have been ok. However, with some old exam papers I needed to spend extra time to clarify a term for myself (I am a non-native speaker of EPO official languages).
- I have already commented this and can't enough emphasise the importance of more time. If you gave more time, much fewer resitters would appear at the exam. This would lead to faster correcting/marking of the papers which in turn would lead to a possibility of giving the exam twice a year which would further decline the number of people sitting the exam as those resitting the exam now could benefit from the preparations from last time. As it is now you have to make a full restart every time you want to sit the exam as there is a full year delay. A further improvement would be to combine D1 and B on one day and DII and A on a second day. Thus it would be possible to increase the time for D1 to 4 hours and the time for DII to 5 hours without extending the period of the exam. The C part could be given 7 hours in the last day. I am totally confident that such a reform would mean a revolution to the pass rate and thereby to the workload of the markers.
- I have to take the exam in a language which is not my motherlanguage and it is difficult to come with a good formulation if you dont know the exact answered. I need more time to explain the situation around the question and pro and cons
- I know that one is expected to be sufficiently familiar with the language in which one gives the answers. However, when the language is not ones mother language it will take longer time to read the paper and also to formulate the answer, i.e. to find the correct words. Therefore unnessecary lenghty papers does not test the candidates actual professional skill, just their pace of reading a foreign language. This seems not to be the right criteria for pasing.
- I made a mistake in scheduling time for paper D1 that's way I think more would help me in giving better answer. Otherwise I do not think more time would be absolutely necessary.
- I need one hour more in D2, mainly because of my stress, and of the fatigue of D1.
- I only found difficulty with this in paper C
- I think more time should be available for paper A. 4 hours seems reasonable to me, if only so that I can take more time writing to make it legible. I would have liked more time for paper C, even though 6 hours is a very long time.
- I think that it is not a very giOOD system where time is the crucial part of the exam. Most of the exam parts you have to little time which makes the exam more difficutl that it needs to be and also it is not very reality connected. When do you have only 4 hours to review all documents in a case and prepare an answer to an Office Action?
- I think that it would be more acceptable the following time available: 4 hours for paper A 4.5 hours for paper B (in a separate day)

- I think that the time available for the C and partly the D papers is not sufficient and I do not see the point in asking to do something very fast but low quality. I think that A and B papers are better in this respect: you have the time to do it correctly and then the quality is judged instead of the how many points were collected.
- I think that time available for each papers was enough for a well experimented person, that why it seems to me really borderline (notably for A chem and C)
- I think the time available for papers B and C is fine but for paper A and Paper D1, another half an hour would be helpful.
- I think the time available for the Examination papers should remain the same as the time pressure is part of the 'test'
- I think the time pressure is high. However, I can understand that being able to process information and deal with it under time pressure is an essential element in the work of a patent attorney. It is therefore not unreasonable to include such element in the exams.
- I totally ran out of time for the paper I sat - Paper C. However, I do not suggest that the 6-hour time allowed is increased, because then it becomes even more of a test of stamina. Rather, the paper should be written so that 6 hours is sufficient, particularly for those of us who are not fluent in one of the second languages that is required - in my case French or German.
- I understand and agree that time pressure and performance under pressure are key valuable points for the evaluation of fit to practice.
- I understand that it is necessary to have a limited time available for the papers, however I found that for this year it was just too little time. I know that if I would have had just a few more minutes, I would have been able to hand in a better answer paper.
- I understand that the aim is to test the candidate under time pressure. This is taken to the extreme though, and a very high level of analytical detail and argumentation is required at the same time. This mix pushes the candidate to his/her limits and in my point of view is the reason for the low passing rates.
- I usually do not need all the time, apparently not in the examination conditions. I am having a hard time imagining people who usually are slower than me!
- I was pushed for time on the C paper, but this was the only one. Perhaps because there were so many inventive step arguments to be made, which require more time to write down.
- If only 1 hour more time was available for examination papers C, D1 and D2, EVERY candidate (with a reasonable preparation) would pass these papers. But this is not what the Examination Board wants to test. These papers are ONLY time problems = "in-tray exercises" = Postkorbübungen (and are not determined to test whether the candidate has understood the EPC, and less than ever to check whether the candidates are "fit for practice").
- If Paper C continues to be unnecessarily obfuscated, more time is needed. However, a 6-hour paper is still ludicrously over-extended in time.

- if somebody find the clou, there is enough time. I somebody didn't find the clou, ther is never enought time - so the time for my opinion is adequate
- If you want people to reflect about the answers, more time should definately be given - particularly for paper C (and D). If you want ready answers and people who are generally good at sitting exams and learning by heart - keep the time pressure high. It is worth a thought that SO MANY people with long educations and a lot of university-exams passed fail in THESE exams.
- If your mother tongue is not E, D or Fr you are starting with a big handicap. You are on top of answering questions always looking for more or less the correct words to be used.
- In D1 in particular, applying considerable time-pressure to candidates is contra-productive wrt. requirements in IP practise, where the correctness of the answer is paramount, but not the time take to arrive at it.
- In general time was enough. Problem was that D2 was quiet difficult to find the solution.
- In general, the time available tend to be not enough.
- In principle the times available is for most exams sufficient. For D2 normally I could write down more then the time allowed to write.
- In prinicple I just managed to do the papers almost in time; however, I did not havbe enough time to quickly check my answers again.
- in the office one can take the time needed to get it right. In the exam I feel over pressurised and, as a result of repeatidly failing Paper B, I have started to feel panicky in the exams (not an expresince I have ever had in my schooling career).
- It is an exam.
- It is difficult to express the exact meaning you want to, when you are writing in a foreign language. Sometimes I am afraid I write total nonsense because I have to write something within the time allowed and I am not sure I get the points I should have for my knowledge because my language makes it impossible to express what I want to say. More time would give me more time to develope what I want communicate.
- It is entirely unrealistic to work through an opposition in just six hours. In real life and dependent on the case, this takes days, sometimes weeks...! Giving short answers in the legal questions does not at all give me an opportunity to demonstrate my knowledge in the respective field. Same for the attacks: in real life, I would make any attack possible, even weak attacks. In the exam, I have to make a choice and can only write down the most important attacks and other (also possible) attacks can't be presented.
- It is just too little; For paper A and B, only 15 minutes more would have given me to time to thoroughly check the claims
- It is necessary more time in each paper, perhaps 1 hour more.
- It is not clear from the compendium to what level of detail an answer should be given, so it is difficult to have a reasonable self-evaluation on the adequacy of the answer: probably often time is lost in un-

necessary explanation (that on the other hand might result in loss of mark if not given). In paper C more copies of claims under opposition would be useful for cut-paste in answer.

- It is too few. First you have to understand everything and time run out without having finished all I have in mind.
- It is way too short. There is absolutely no time to go back and read what has been written or to consider the questions/answer and especially not in D2
- it seems a little unrealistic to expect to solve and raise all issues of a D2 paper in 4 hours
- It seems that special exam related time management is the most important criteria for passing the exam. This makes the exam somewhat artificial when compared with the skills needed for the real life.
- It was OK for paper C.
- It will never be enough! However for paper C the time is about as long as you can concentrate for The solution is to only provide say 4 pieces of prior art and only have say 4 claims, but expect a fuller attack on each
- it would be better to have more time available without making the exam harder
- It would certainly be very helpful to know how many marks will be awarded for e.g. each claim to be attacked (part C)
- just half an hour more for each of the papers should be enough, so that one can look through his/her answers and has at least a chance to correct s.th.
- more important than having more time for writing seems to be more time for recovering between the parts of the EQE.
- More time = more quality of the answers
- More time for candidates who do not have one of the EPO languages as their mother language.
- more time for DI and DII would certainly be welcomed
- more time for paper A were needed
- More time for paper D1 and more time for drafting
- More time is generally required
- More time needs to be provided for candidates to prepare their answers. You only have enough time to answer the papers if everything goes to plan - there is not enough time if you come across anything which requires a little bit more time than you had planned for.
- more time or less questions/problems
- Much too short !!! I was not able to formulate an answer all the questions due to time limitation. I propose to reduce the number of questions or to reduce the length of answer necessary for each question.
- My comment re having too little time was for paper C
- No need for the law questions in Paper C - add to paper D1 and make it 4 hours.
- No other comments
- No, because if we ask more time you just give more questions.

- Not enough for D2 and C
- not enough time for C or DII
- not to extend the time but to reduce the complexity like number of claims, facts, events, texts, embodiments etc.
- Of course more time would have helped - but that is the same for every exams that I've ever sat! I didn't feel excessively time pressured in any of the exams, but finished the main part of what I wanted to do in each - but only just. A bit longer would have been good to check my answers, but at the end of the day an exam is an exam and you expect it to be time pressured to some extent. It was therefore necessary to work at some speed in each
- One of the main problem is that the exam also is a "writing exam", i.e. more or less useless mass production of text. Obviously, the Examination Board believes that it is their job to check if the candidates are fit to compete with others based on an old-fashioned work style. This situation is unbearable. It should be possible to find out if candidates have sufficient knowledge and skills even if they are not forced to waste their time just by hand-writing of too lengthy texts.
- Only the C paper would appear to consistently require more time to answer with the required quality than is given.
- Paper A Ch : 3.5 hours to read through the client's description is insufficient. Paper C : 6 hours ought to be sufficient; there is a wealth of material to study (including foreign documents to translate) and this could perhaps be reduced.
- Paper A: if not too much different embodiments are given, it is ok otherwise, the needed time should be increased so that all embodiments can be covered for paper C: it is impossible to do the paper if it is this difficult in the available time
- Paper C 2008: about 7 to 8 hours. Paper DII 2008: 4:30 h.
- Paper C is nerve wrecking due to the time pressure, especially due to the level of detail required for the answer
- Paper C should in principle be non-time pressures. However, the continued presence of at least one foreign language document simply makes the exam more rushed than it should be. This year the French document was around 3 pages. It turns the exam into a translation exercise rather than a pure test of a candidate's ability to craft a decent opposition. I do understand, therefore, why the foreign language document continues to be included. Seems to entirely miss the point of the exam and what is actually being tested.
- Paper C should not include a prior art document in a language different to the language in which a candidate sits the paper. The EQE is supposed to simulate real life situations, in which case the EPO would instruct a translator to prepare a suitable translation of any foreign language documents. In day-to-day practice it would be negligent to try and ascertain the disclosure of a prior art document in a foreign language.
- Paper C time is just about being adequate
- paper D needs more time, particularly DII
- Paper DII requires 5 hours

- Part C of the EQE seems to become longer from year to year. I have never needed as much time to solve any of the exams in the compendium (and I practiced nearly all exams from 1996 - 2006) as I needed during the exam 2007 or 2008. In all mock exams I usually had at least 1 hour left at the end, which was not the case in the exam 2007 and 2008. In particular part C 2008 was very time consuming because a lot of writing was required to attack four independent claims.
- Particularly relating to paper D1, I think that is really difficult to find out the best way to answer to the questions, and I mean that this kind of speed is not really necessary to good representative.
- Pas assez de temps pour C alors qu'un peu plus de temps m'aurait permis de fournir une réponse de qualité bien supérieure
- Perhaps more time on D2 would be reasonable. In real life we have some more time. On D1 it might be necessary to limit the time available.
- Please give us more time. Firstly there would exist the possibility to reread the paper and to correct some grammatical errors (therefore it would be easier for you to correct). Secondly there would exist the possibility to correct some mistakes. In this year the B-part was the problem for me. I saw the distinguishing feature too late and therefore had significant time problems. 30 minutes more and I would not have to think if I have passed the exam. It is really frustrating if you see the right answer but don't have the time to write it down.
- Preferably more time for Papers C and D1
- providing more time or shortening the paper C
- Reading texts in foreign languages is tough when a detailed analysis is also required, it takes far more time than is allowed, and thus the result does not reflect the true capability of the candidate
- Really too little. I wonder whether the true knowledge of the candidate is evaluated of his ability to write fast against the clock. This is even worse when english is not your mother tongue.
- see answer given regarding the difficulty of the papers
- see before. It is always ask in the solutions of the compendium to write extensive argumentations concerning inventive step (problem solution approach), but there is in fact no time for it, even if you are able to do it.
- see comments some questions earlier
- See earlier comment. The examination will always have time pressures. If additional time is added, then additional information will be required from the candidate.
- see previous comment
- see previous comment, for paper C I needed an extra hour to read through the documents in a broad sense.
- See previous comments, but I think Paper C should be of shorter duration and naturally a shorter paper.
- See previous note.
- See previous questions...
- see question 29. the available time is too short for such difficult



papers

- separate D1 and D2 also in evaluation. give 3,5 h for D1, 5 h for D2 and 7 h for C or reduce the scope e.g. less data as were given in D2
- Should be more
- Since paper and pen makes it more time consuming to change/renumber etc and often reduce the typing rate compared to conventional today, i.e. writing using a computer, (at least when it must be legible), this negatively affect the time left to be spent on what really should be tested. Also, some people work slightly slower than others, but the result may be equally good or better at the end. Perhaps 0.5-1 h more time for the exam would be helpful to many people. It does not seem very reasonable if 0.5-1 h of too little time is a stopper for some people to pass. On the other side, since it is apparently possible to pass nevertheless, one could argue that these people could learn be faster. Hence, more time or not is a question regarding how important the factor of speed is in relation to others factors to be tested.
- Some extra time should be given to candidates whose mother tongue is not that of the paper.
- Specially for D1 if an item does not pop-up right in your mind you need to skip the question as mostly there is no time think it over.
- Students not taking their exam in their natal language, should be allowed an extra 30 min.
- The amount of time in "C" in comparison to time available its highly not sufficient, I am not sure if I would be able to write everything should in 6 hours even do not having a time for considering how the answers should be. I think in the era of computers, when the people are just not used to write with a hand it could have more sense to provide at least typing machines during the exam.
- The available time is much too short to look up a specific answer in detail and to compare and evaluate different approaches to answer a question. I definitely think that more time will improve the quality of the answers.
- The EQE is about performing under time pressure
- The examination time is fine as it is, BUT the number of details and issues must be in coherence with the time given.
- the huge amount of the information in the paper A + drifting the description was very difficult to handle in only 3 and a half hours.
- The long FR/DE document in paper C this year meant a lot of time had to be given to preparing the translation, which would have been better spent being available for preparing the answer.
- The main trouble is to get enough time, I write quickly, so very bad and it could penalize me... reading comprehension of the examiner ?
- The major problem is for D1 : the time pressure for this part is very high. And sometimes, it's difficult to assimilate the questions, face to the pressure and the stress.
- The paper c - 2007 was a disgrace, german candidates were favoured, the exam committee applied G2/98 wrong and refused to admit their errors and to rescore and recorrect the paper !!!!!!!

- The same standard time may be more or less appropriate depending on the paper itself.
- The time available for paper C is very short; is not possible to answer to the questions in 6 hours.
- the time for paper C is extremely poor and border line for Paper D1
- The time for papers C and DII was simply not sufficient!
- The time is not long, but nor should it be, these are examinations.
- The time pressure do not at all exhibit whether or not a candidate is qualified to act in front of the EPO. The examination is called "European Qualification Examination"! If something is known fastly by the candidate, this candidate is not superior!
- The time pressure is worst for the C part, but I would not suggest to have more time available, since after more than 6 hours you would be totally exhausted. I would rather think that there should be less claims to attack etc.
- The time should be increased or the papers should require less work.
- The time was too short for both the DII and C paper
- The way part C has been written in the beginning of 1990 as a 5 hour exam is more adequate for part C in my eyes, as the exam shall only show whether the candidate has understood and can apply the opposition procedure.
- There has to be a time limit. The problem is to know when the answer is complete, ie when to stop. I always have the feeling that more is required.
- There is a balance between time and subject knowledge in the exam. The worse your subject knowledge, the longer you need to look up answers. Thus I think that there should remain some time pressure at least in paper D. However Paper C should be lenient on time because this exam is less about mere subject knowledge knowledge and more about analysis and explanation. This requires care and thus time pressure should not be an important factor in Paper C.
- there is no time for cross checking answers and find mistakes. so a small mistake may result in a totally wrong result an no marks. That could not be the goal of such an examination
- There is significant time pressure and people who are slow handwriters are at significant disadvantage. Speed of handwriting should not be a criteria for fit to practice, as modern practice is all computer typing. Exam comittee should consider realistic test on people sufficiently prepared to take the paper but not experienced tutors/members of the exam comittee so that time pressure is more uniform
- There is too much to do in paper C in the time available
- There was no time left to adequately check my aswers. Extra half hour for checking answers would make difference
- These examinations are not representative of daily work passing these examinations the candidates are over-qualified. I'm still wondering when the examiners had for the last time to write an opposition act within 6 hours with lost of the patent if not done in that time.

- This year I really felt I had everything figured out, so if not successful, the reason most likely would be that I did not have ample time to hand write my answers. I would not like longer exams than the six hours of paper C so the only way around this would in my opinion be to reduce the amount to be written or alternatively to allow typing the answers by computer.
- This year, paper C was too long because of too many inventive-step attacks.
- Three days in a row is too much. In my opinion splitting the exams with rest days in between would be beneficial without hindring the level to be examined
- time for paper C is not enough. same comment as last year. same effect. Time was not enough again.
- time for part D2 is very short whereas the amount of information given in the paper (subject matter) is increasing from year to year
- Time is wasted in translating the non-English language document. In this day and age, I can get an on-line translation of a document in a couple of minutes that is better than my own translation. It seems a waste of candidates time to struggle with translation. In real life, an important foreign language document would always be translated professionally.
- Time management is crucial for C. Not enough room for hesitations and changes in deciding about attacks
- time pressure during the exam has nothing to do with the time pressure at work
- To be honest, I did not waste time in Paper C (like for the other, of course!), anyway I had not enough time to think clearly on things to do
- To perform with a some quality in a technical area that one is not familiar , one needs more time , especially if the documents in not in one's mother tongue. Therefore, all none Germans, none English and none French should have a longer time for reading documents/writing the answers.
- too little time for 12 pages of paper A this year
- too many information and too long for the time allowed. At work, we never have to handle so many information in such a short time. This is especially true for paper D2.
- Too much hand writing required which takes too much time and is quite tiring
- Too much information to grasp for paper D2
- Too much time is lost in writing.
- Wenn ich mehr Zeit hätte, dann wäre ich schon seit Jahren nicht mehr dabei. Ich ging im D2 Teil wieder raus und sagte mir das hätte ich noch gerne alles schreiben wollen und im D1 Teil konnte ich die letzte Frage nur teilweise beantworten. Leider. Doch vielleicht langt es ja.
- When non of the languages English/German/French is your first language, one have to spend more time to interpret words and also when writing answers. Also it takes time to write by hand if you are

not used to it.

- Why not abolish the time limit for paper C? People would probalby leave after 6-7 hours anyway, but so often, you simply don't have sufficient time to write all that needs to be written.
- Wie geschrieben, sind insbesondere die Teile D2 und C viel zu umfangreich in der Fragestellung und in dem zu berücksichtigenden Material um sinnvoll in der vorgegebenen Zeit beantwortet zu werden! Hinzu kommen sprachliche Mängel und völlig unklare Fragestellungen (nach dem Motto: Geben Sie eine rechtliche Bewertung ab. Beachten Sie dabei alles mögliche, jedoch lassen wir Sie nicht wissen, wofür Sie die Punkte dann erhalten). Hier wäre es sinnvoller die Fragen zu präzisieren und auch den zu lesenden Text klarer zu strukturieren. Es ist z.B. extrem schwierig, mehrere Seiten des Textes zu lesen um dann auf z.B. S. 6 festzustellen, dass ein neuer Aspekt für ein Schutzrecht angesprochen wird, das schon auf z.B. S. 1 besprochen wurde (z.B. EP-XY auf S. 1 besprochen, auf S. 6 dann geschrieben, dass für EP-XY "vergessen" wurde die Anmeldegebühren zu entrichten). Dies alles kostet extrem viel Zeit.
- Writing an answer for Paper C which required attacks on 7 claims, plus answering 5 legal questions, was difficult and physically very tiring to do in the 6 hours available. This was particularly the case since most candidates had already sat over 14 hours of exams in the previous 2 days.
- Writing Problem-solution approach in part C is to time consuming
- yea - see above
- Yes. I've made my remarks above. Whilst recognising that the time has to be restricted, I don't consider that the exam should be a test of speed, particularly a test of writing speed. The exam should merely test my ability to produce a sound answer. Of course, speed of working has implications for daily work, but that should be dealt with by an employer, rather than by the exam.
- 20 hours of exams in three days is far too much: are the exams supposed to be a test of stamina or a 'fit-to-practice' test? At present, they are too much of the former and not enough of the latter.
- 3.5 hours would be more suitable for Paper D-1.
- 6 hours is enough for paper C, but only if it is predictable how long it will take to prepare the translation.
- 6hours is already long. More time would only yield longer exams.
- All papers apart from C are ok. The problem with C is not the time, which is adequate, but rather the structure of this year's paper and the number of claims requiring an inventive step attack. This was very time consuming in the exam. Also the foreign language document was exceptionally long, requiring more time to translate, hence exascerbating the issue.
- Alleine das sehr schnelle Schreiben von Hand über die zu kurze Prüfungszeit ist eine große Anstrengung und nicht förderlich für das Finden einer angemessenen Antwort. Ist zB das Verfassen eines Einspruchs in 6 Stunden wirklich ein Kriterium, ob jemand "fit to practice" ist?

- An additional 30 minutes in the paper C examination would make a large difference.
- An exam is meant to have time pressure!!
- As already stated, for D2 time is definitely too short and it is the "wrong" time (afternoon; after "brain-consuming" D1). As regards paper C, this depends on the specific exam and on whether ideas come in time. But even for "easy" papers, time is at most borderline and definitely not sufficient for controlling and optionally correcting what has been written.
- Because I intended somewhat to give a complete answer, for certain aspects I had to shoot from the hip because there was no time to rethink or even to refer to my books.
- Beim C-Teil ist es schwierig und der Zeitbedarf kommt sehr darauf an, wieviele versteckte Punkte eingebaut werden, auf die man kommen muss bzw. die man erst mal analysieren muss. Beispielsweise in C-2007 musste man erst A2 analysieren, um den Zeitrang der Ansprüche festlegen zu können. Diese konkrete Anforderung empfand ich als signifikant anspruchsvoller und zeitaufwändiger, und damit unfair gegenüber den bisherigen C-Teilen, auch gegenüber dem diesjährigen C-2008.
- C: if all documents are 54(2) and may be used for inventive step attack, there isn't enough time to write it all down, especially when you are also asked to reason for each and every phrase. B: if you have to compare two texts of more than ten pages and compare tables to identify differences it would have been nice to only offer one technical effect, not two. As it costs a lot of time, to phrase a problem-solution-approach properly.
- D paper is a brain killer. It is very easy to overlook details just because there is not enough time to re-check stupid things like dates etc. (which however receive a lot of points). In the given time it is also very difficult to make linear statements about the application of law as required by the examiners (if your sentence is a bit entangled you certainly do not have the time to re-write it to make it more understandable). Personally, hand writing with such little time, is an additional difficulty which bears no relation with reality (I have an awful handwriting and to write legibly was for me an ordeal).
- DI : 4 hours, DII: 5 hours (two different days, same amount of questions / problems as in 2008) Alternative : reduce the workload
- Die wesentliche Schwierigkeit der Prüfungsaufgaben besteht in der viel zu geringen Zeit, die den Kandidaten zur Bearbeitung zur Verfügung gestellt wird. Insbesondere in den Teilen C, DI und DII entscheidet zu 30 % das Fachwissen und zu 70 % die Schreibgeschwindigkeit über das Bestehen oder Nicht-Bestehen der Prüfung. Nach meiner Auffassung sollte das Fachwissen zu mindestens 70 % und die Schreibgeschwindigkeit zu höchstens 30 % über Bestehen oder Nicht-Bestehen entscheiden. Auch in der Praxis wird ein zugelassener Vertreter nach seinen fachlichen Qualitäten und nicht nach seiner Schreibgeschwindigkeit ausgesucht. Die Prüfungsteile C, DI und DII sind gegenwärtig als Schnellschreibprüfung konzipiert und daher als praxisfern

einzustufen. Eine wesentlich größere Praxisnähe würde dadurch erreicht werden, dass insbesondere in den Prüfungen C und D das Fachwissen in den Vordergrund gerückt wird und nicht die Fähigkeit zum schnellen Schreiben.

- D-II had too much dates to consider
- do the "test"writers of the exam need only the time actually available?
- During D1 Exam, I believe that many candidates have to decide in which answer(s) losing some marks in order to gain more time for the remaining questions. 200 minutes per 40 Marks would be OK.
- During the exam, candidates were informed when 5 minutes were left. It would be good to be informed also when 30 minutes are left.
- especially D II would need more time to reconsider first thoughts with respect to the actual information density of the cases. Sometimes first thoughts are incorrect and this could be detected by the candidate having a bit more of time (30-60 min. for D II). Alternatively: reduce information density!
- Especially for D1 the answers would certainly be better given more time to consider. The amount of time pressure is not a reflection of real life, where a lawyer would never give legal advice without double checking the case law and rules, regardless of the time necessary. Thus, there does not seem any reason to have more time, for example, for A than for D1.
- Especially for papers D1, D2 and C more time would have improved the quality of my answers. Due to time pressure I have stopped discussing certain issues, while there was much more to say about them. It should also be noted that it is not always clear how much details are expected. The compendium is not very helpful on this issue either as there are many cases where e.g. a compendium of year x the comment to a certain question is that candidates give too little detail/information, and that in a compendium of year x+y, the comment to a similar question is that candidates "wasted time" giving too much details. This is very confusing.
- Every paper was written under time pressure. But, especially in paper C, more time would lead to better answers as more links and hints between and in the papers can be found. Further, more time would lead to better arguing and better written problem-solution approaches and, in my opinion, more points by better answers.
- For paper B: In the cases that it is difficult to find the new set of claims there is a time pressure for writing the inventive step argumentation.
- Generally, it is my feeling that time is the only real bottleneck for candidates to pass the exam. With more time provided, particularly for realizing what the particular problem is and what the answer should focus on, passing rates would be much higher, in my humble opinion.
- give the paper in advance to a CANDIDATE to TEST if the time is sufficient, NOT a PROFESSIONIST who almost knows in advance the answers!
- I am very slow in hand writing and reading. My papers are always

written under time pressure. Being fast in hand writing and reading does not mean to be a good patent representative.

- I do not understand the reason why the time is so limited for the EQE. It makes it look like a competitive examination. In real life, one can make a very good job ... slowly!
- I found the time on the borderline for paper DI, and had no time to revise any answer, or even to completely respond to some of them. I would have like to have more time for appropriately citing the legal basis of any of my answers. In paper A I had no time to draft the description as I would have like to do it. In paper DII the time for me was clearly not enough and I am sure that I could have done it better with more time. Furthermore I was very tired and could not concentrate very well during the last hour. This one was the hardest part in my opinion. I was very disappointed at the end. I had a slight better impression concerning the time in paper B and C (here six hours are really hard too).
- I found the formulation of the independent claims for A and B particularly difficult this year, compared to previous, and compared to the rest of the tasks.
- I lacked the time for a proper attempt at the last two claims/attacks, while I think I actually saw all/most of the issues in there. With more time I am sure could have done those attacks right. Now with the lacking time I will probably not get many marks for them, as I did not have time for a proper argumentation and did not use all the information that I had seen.
- I think the allocated time was adequate. More time would not have helped me in improving the answers. In paper C, additional time might have helped in adding some clarifying comments etc. But, I am not sure that this would really make a difference. Compared to C 2007 where not enough time was available this year's paper was a major improvement.
- I think the exam should be about the knowledge you have as opposed to how fast you can write. If canidates had another 45mins to answer DII the answers provided by canidates would be much more logical in thought and layout. Incidentally, it would be easier for examiners to correct such papers.
- If paper C committee is to continue on the line of giving marks ONLY for the "best" attack on any claim, and providing zero marks for an attack which is inferior (but would by used in practice in a real opposition), more time should be allowed, to provide for adequate analysis & formulation of the attacks.
- if the time is inadequate or borderline, the candidates who had enough time for specific EQE training spend time in developing tools and strategies specifically aimed at passing EQE (to be able to score all the "easy points" quickly) - in my opinion this does not really improve the level of the candidates
- In general, there is little time for "reflecting". You need all the time available for (1) reading the paper, (2) looking for an answer and (3) writing down the answer. There is no time available for reflecting, re-thinking, considering other alternatives, etc. Especially in paper DII

this is not realistic and it is certainly not a real-life situation. The same applies for paper C - there is no representative preparing an opposition case in only 6 hours.

- In paper C, too much time is spent translating foreign language document. Cross referencing a document with a dictionary is not testing any relevant patent skills. Why not provide all documents in each language relevant for the candidate?
- In particular Part D2 and Part C are regularly not too difficult but too complex for the time available. The EQE should filter out bad candidates but not slow ones.
- In the evening you start to think and find that there were much more aspects to the questions than you answered.
- Instead of increasing the available time for parts B and C, you should rather think about reducing the size of these papers (B+C: less text to read, B: only limitation of pending claims and no introduction of new claims from the description; C: fewer questions to answer, fewer claims to attack).
- Instead of increasing the time allowed for each paper, it would be better to have fewer questions.
- It is clear that the deficiency of time clearly favours the ones writing with their native tongue. However, it has been stated generally that this reflects the EPA nationality preferences of EPO, so hardly anybody expects any improvement to this anymore.
- It is necessary to add 30 min to DI.
- It is no sense to give so less time. Papers should test the candidates knowledge of the EPC, not how fast they can read and write!
- it is not a test of legal fitness if you don't have the time to write your answers. not everyone writes at the same speed or thinks about certain aspects in the same speed. quality and legal fitness should be examined, not speed, because speed always means less quality
- It should be possible to use short sentences like: - Closest state of the art: A4 - Reason: ... - Difference between claim x and A4: ... - Technical Effect: ... - Objective technical problem... ..
- it was not possible to use all attacks against the patent in the time of the examination.
- It's not possible to make a plan before beginning the answer!! We lost time (!) because we have no time enough to organize our ideas.
- Lack 30% / 40% of time to complete the exam (C, D1 and DII)
- More time should be allowed especially to those candidates that does not have the native language the same than the official languages of the EPO.
- More time should be allowed for D2, otherwise the amount of information should be reduced. More time should be allowed for paper C, otherwise the number of independent claims and inventive step attacks should be reduced. If I fail the exams it will be because I did not have enough time, not because I did not know the answer. This is surely not the right way to assess people.
- Nearly no time to look up something. Candidates have to know facts inside out (necessary to be fit for practice?))



- Need an extra 2 h for paper C.
- No, it is what it is, it is important to practice papers in the time allocated and under exam conditions
- Not enough time!!!!
- not so much concerning the total time for paper C but the distribution over the day.... Now it takes up lunchtime too. What about paper c from 12:00 - 18:00 ? It is more inline with the human digestion system and would probably allow you to focus better.
- one can gather all relevant information, but short time prevents from using it completely in the answer : frustrating.
- Paper A needs at least 4 hours!! Paper B...it depends. Usually 4 hours are enough, this year absolutely not!
- paper C : cf question 29
- Paper C has too much in it; make all documents available in the three official languages of the EPO to compensate.
- Paper C: This years paper C was extreme with respect to available examination time. Helpful could be, e.g., a division of the paper into a halfpart before noon and a halfpart after noon (8 hours in sum instead of 6 hours at present).
- Personally I think the stress factor is greater than the time pressure. In my preparations I could do papers A, B and D1 well within the given time, but struggled with C and D2. In the exams, I struggled more with A and B because my mind simply went blank.
- Please don't extend them.
- please see former questions comment. please reduce facts and complexity in DII
- See answer to question 29.
- See difficulty comments
- See earlier comments. Needed an hour more for each of C and D. Or a totally different way of testing than pen and paper. I cannot write for more than about an hour without my wrist hurting. Also I am dyslexic and havent actually written more than about two lines by hand since they invented word processors, ie since I started university in 1981. This is an awful long time ago for a technical profession to be manually ploughing through paper still. Could we not at least have part oral part multichoice part online to cut down on the difficulties faced by people who gave up writing sequential word strings with ink on paper as a form of self abuse over 20 years ago.
- See last comment. Paper C on the last day may need more time, since clean writing and focused reading takes longer. One might take a break of 5-10 minutes, but might then gets under time pressure.
- See my answer to question (about) #29
- see my comments above (question 29 or 30)
- See my previous comments - I definitely did well in C and D when using 10-30% more time.
- See previous comment.
- see previous comment. In fact, I am sure that I could make a good paper C with one hour more. In fact, paper C does not select good sitters, but fast sitters. Many of them are slower but just as good as

the faster sitters.

- Short time available for the papers mostly for candidates which are not mother tongue in English, French or German
- Simply too short
- some "tricks" would be discovered or some issues better answered with a little more time (for example half an hour) or with a little shorter papers
- Temps impartis insuffisant pour que les candidats puissent répondre correctement et de façon exhaustive à toutes les questions (et ce même s'ils connaissent les réponses).
- The C and D papers are more of a race against time than a measure of knowledge!
- The Exam committee wants us to write legibly. I've timed writing legibly versus regular handwriting. Writing legibly takes 35% more time. It is already a problem to finish the C paper in time with regular handwriting! The exam committee should consider whether they create a paper that could be finished in 6 hours, but give the candidates 7 hours. If a candidate cannot give proper answers in that time, he's not fit to practice. Now I had to rush, and I'm certain that I would have done (even) better if I had had that additional hour. As the examination is black and white (pass/fail), this is an issue. A candidate may get failed for not being able to write quickly enough or for not being a native speaker, yet be capable.
- The exam continues to be too long for people who write slowly. We candidates are all used to either typing or dictating. Until we know better from the Examination Committee where we are allowed to "cut corners," i.e. where the points truly are, candidates will continue, for safety's sake, to write much more than is absolutely necessary. I badly injured my right hand last Fall and couldn't hold a pen until shortly before the exam. This wasn't a problem for me in my daily work, but was a significant handicap in the exam. This demonstrates how far the exam situation is from reality.
- The examination is more difficult for people not having EN/DE/FR as their mother tongue.
- The exams would be easy with ample time
- The opposition paper needs wholesale reform. There isn't enough time to cover all the points thoroughly but an increase in the time would make it yet more unbearable than it already is.
- The problem-solution approach is VERY important for paper C. I think I have not had enough time to detail all the steps of this approach
- The time for D2 should have been extended when extending it to 60% of marks.
- The time given is acceptable for D1 if you know the answers by reading the question. If you have to look for an answer you do not have enough time. In D2 analysing the single facts was this year extremely time consuming so I did not have enough time to elaborate the answers properly. In A(CH) due to the non-unity it was difficult first to see which part form which invention and then to find the

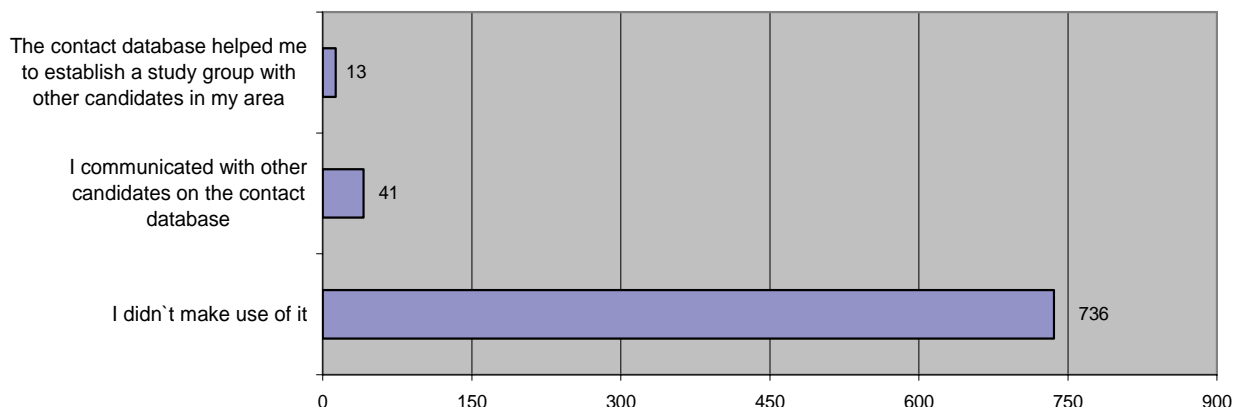
"right" answer and to elaborate the answer in time B(CH) was completely confusing and it was almost impossible to find the answer in time

- The time is broadly adequate
- The time pressure during the exam is very high. The problem is the fear of not finishing the paper, losing marks for not finishing and thereby rushing through the questions, or becoming nervous and in consequence not getting the chance to answer the questions under real life conditions.
- The time pressure is having a large impact on the quality of my handwriting, which can make it difficult for the examiner/marker to read. Furthermore, it makes you somehow skip some 'obvious' steps in argumentations which in the end appear to be required for obtaining full marks (although the general line of the answer appears to be correct). Having more time would make it possible to show that you have clear and thorough knowledge of the subject, by being capable (within the given timeframe) to provide a 'smooth' and well founded argumentation.
- The time pressure is probably much worse for candidates not having an official EPO language as their mother language.
- There is a lot of time-pressure, especially for candidates whose mother tongue is not EN, FR or DE, who necessarily work a little slower than the others. I was well trained, so I saved about 20 minutes in A, B and D1 to revise the answer: I had no time left on C and D2.
- There is certainly a technique to taking the EQEs concerning your time management. I imagine it gets better the more you practice.
- There is hardly time to develop the answer, especially in Paper D2 and C.
- There is in recent years more emphasis on the correct argumentation and complete problem and solution approach in Inventive step attacks. Accordingly there is less time for making the proper analysis of the Paper C documents, which have not become less complex. Also for the persons, which do not have English, German and French as native language, significant time is spent on translation of the German document in the paper C.
- There should be more time for paper A than paper B i.e. paper A 4 hours, paper B 3.5 hours. Paper C is ridiculously long and the Examiners seem to set an exam to fill that time. It is just not possible to concentrate fully for 6 hours in exam conditions under exam pressure. This exam should be shortened by reducing the length of the required answers e.g. the law questions in paper C seem largely unnecessary in view of paper D.
- there would have been sufficient time if one would have 30min more
- This was my first sitting so I cannot make any comparison with a previous sitting
- Time was much too short for C in particular, although six hours is already too much to spend on one exam. For C, less claims should be attacked, and less writing should be expected.

- Time was not enough (especially for non-mother-tongue candidates). The solution should be to reduce the complexity of papers. More hours for the solution would be useless for the impossibility of maintaining concentration.
- Too little in general
- Vorschlag: A (M/E) 3h B (M/E) 4.5h C 6h DI 3.5h DII 5h (da DII offensichtlich immer umfangreicher wird)
- Without major problems in understanding, time is just enough. With problems (I did not have any) time is quite short.
- You never know for what the points will be awarded. therefore you often write as much as possible. For C and D2, I had finally no time to re-read the text.
- Zeit für D1 ist immer knapp, war nach meiner Ansicht aber in diesem Jahr fair bemessen. Persönlich finde ich die Zeit für Teil C in Ordnung, da die Informationen in Form von Anhängen zumindest schon "geordnet" ist. Die Zeit für D2 ist m.E. absolut unzureichend, die meiste Zeit ist man beschäftigt, Informationen aus dem zum Teil etwas konfus wirkenden Text zu fischen, noch ohne sie inhaltlich bewerten zu können.

## Chapter 5 - Contact database and computer based EQE

**Q34) Did the contact database offered by the Examination Secretariat help you in contacting other candidates for training purposes?**



**Candidates were asked if they had comments concerning the contact database. Their answers are listed below.**

- 1.) Ich benutzte die Datenbank nur wenig, da die relevanten Inhalte (Fragen/Antworten) nicht optimal für die Offline Bearbeitung (ausdrucken, pdf dokumente) aufbereitet sind 2.) Viele Anmerkungen von Kandidaten sind nicht sehr konstruktiv!
- As an examiner, I simply used my personal network in the office.
- As I started my preparation very late, so it was difficult to contact other candidates. I communicated with candidates I knew about very specific information.
- Because of time constraints.
- Die Fragen die Angeboten wurden habe ich teilweise bearbeitet, da ich noch viele andere Aufgaben gemacht habe fehlte mir für alle Aufgaben die Zeit.
- Finally, I did not make use of the database.
- Für A und B Teil nicht unbedingt nötig. Für den C und D Teil im nächsten Jahr beabsichtige ich Kontakt aufzunehmen
- Given the complexity of patent work I've always suspected the idea of trainee discussion groups/study groups/trainees helping each other find solutions etc is a bit like the blind leading the blind. Call me elitist but I'd feel more comfortable talking to someone who actually knows what they're talking about. Maybe that's just me.
- had only paper C and performed this on my own. For other papers, the contact database, however is useful
- I already had a studying group. But, however, I appreciated the database very much and I'm of the opinion that the database should be continued.
- I am in contact with the CEIPI tutor and with some other candidates that have attended the CEIPI courses together with me.
- I am not near other candidates so didn't make use of it but it is a

good idea and I would have used it in different circumstances.

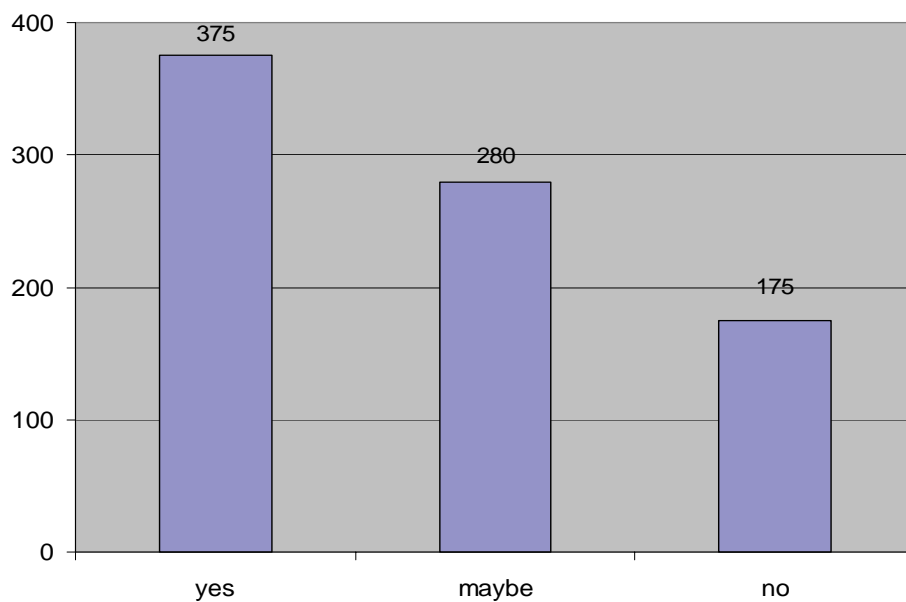
- I appreciated the D questions
- I contacted trainees in other companies in Ireland
- I didn't get reply.
- I didn't get any offer to use a contact database
- I discussed with my company colleagues
- I found information which answered questions I had.
- I had enough material to go through as it was. I will have a look should it be required for 2009.
- I kept in contact with other candidates from my firm who were preparing for the EQE
- I knew a number of them and I had a network so I didn't make use of it, however I liked it.
- I looked at it a little too late. As stated previously, I thought it would be better if the database was open all year to students to learn from it.
- I looked briefly into EQE-forum, but didn't communicate with any
- I preferred to use the EQE forum
- I read other communications.
- I used it a very small amount
- I used it to watch rather than participate
- I used the database to study - reading the comments and answers etc., but didn't contact anybody.
- I would like to use it for establishing contact with candidates from my area, but some personal problems did not allow me to do that
- interesting to see people's views and comments, however, you have to be careful what information you make use of, they could be just as wrong as I am!
- It is a good idea and should be maintained for those who are not in a big firm or company. I could practice with other students in my firm.
- It is a good thing, but I already had a good network in my office.
- Lerngruppen sind zwar meiner Meinung nach sehr wichtig, aber ohne Kenntnis von Musterlösungen für gestellte Aufgaben ist eine reine Diskussion über mögliche Antworten im Endeffekt nicht sehr hilfreich zum Bestehen der EEP.
- Maybe we are just shy people....probably, triggering the discussion with a hint, such as a topic to be discussed with, might be helpful
- Of course I would like to use this tool, but it's always a matter of time. I work on my own, and the job has to be done any given day.
- Probably more useful for D.
- The contact database helped me to gather more questions to prepare for paper DI
- The paper c - 2007 was a disgrace, German candidates were favoured, the exam committee applied G2/98 wrong and refused to admit their errors and to rescore and recorrect the paper !!!!!!!!
- There was no candidate in the near neighborhood.
- too difficult to find only with postal code
- Too few candidates in my area.
- too little student in my area, but otherwise, it is helpful and should be

continued.

- useful to read tips and to get references
- very helpful
- Was of interest to see who was sitting the exams
- why is it not possible to give a negative opinion? - the database didn't help me at all

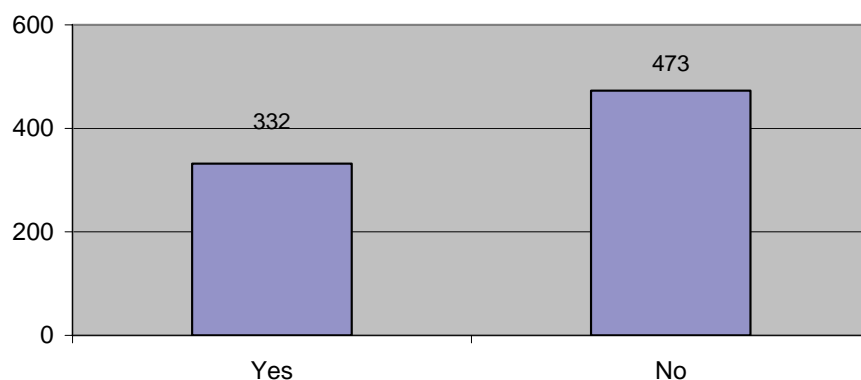
**Q35) The EPO currently assesses the possibility of offering a computer-based EQE in addition to the hand written EQE.**

If the computer-based EQE would be easy to use and safe would you opt for writing the EQE on computer?



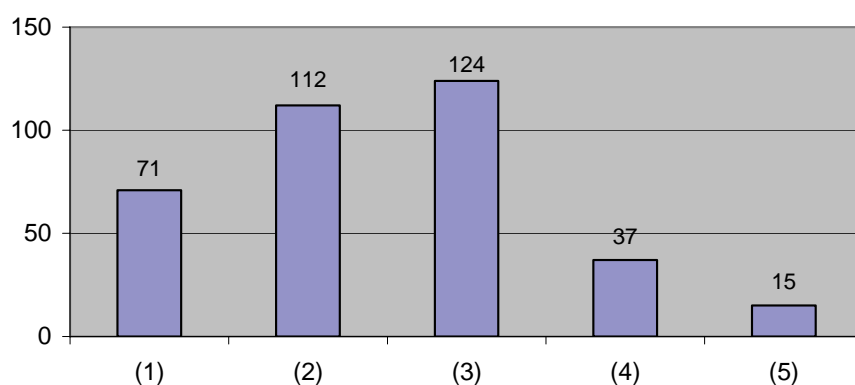
## Chapter 6 - Training activities of the European Patent Academy

### Q36) Did you use the "EQE Online Forum"?

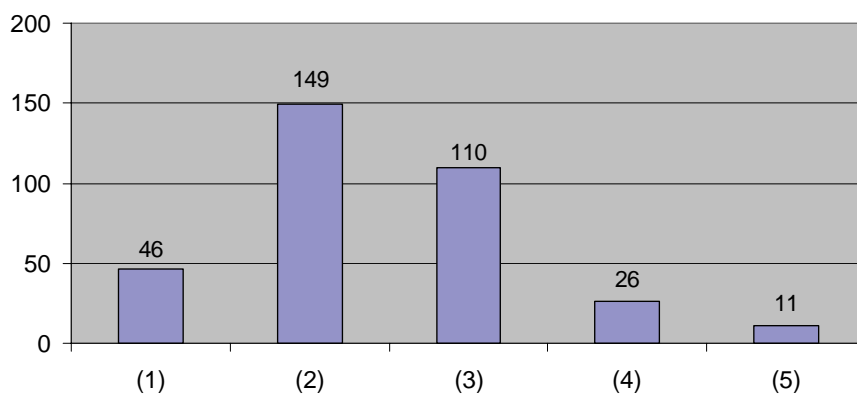


### Q37) How would you rate the following aspects of the Expert Online 2007 service on a scale from 1 (very high) to 5 (very low) with regard to the following?

#### General usefulness

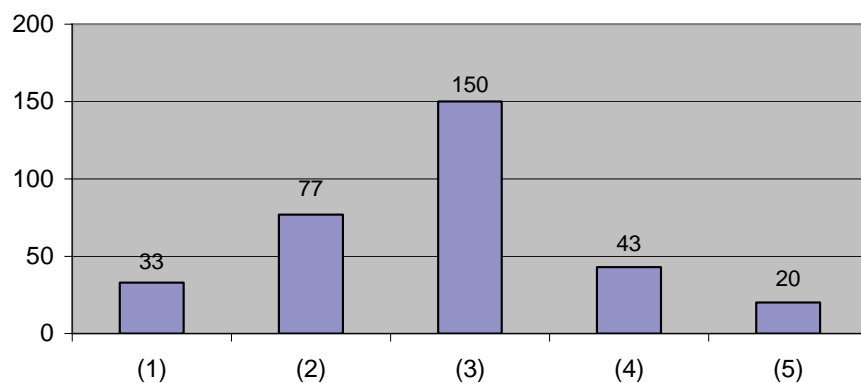


#### Quality of experts' responses



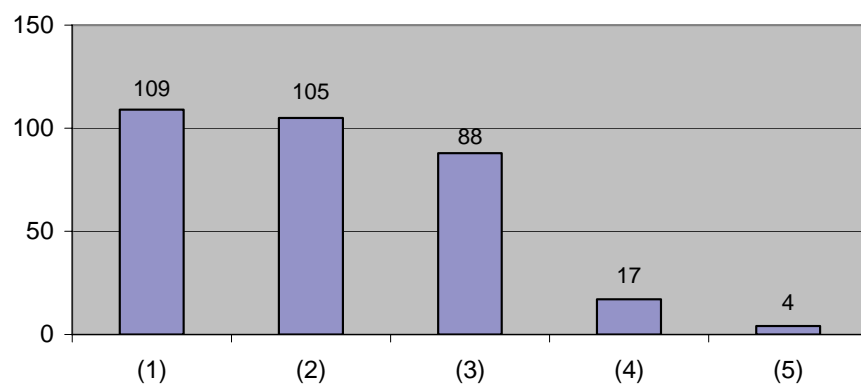


The concept of 24 hours posting possibility

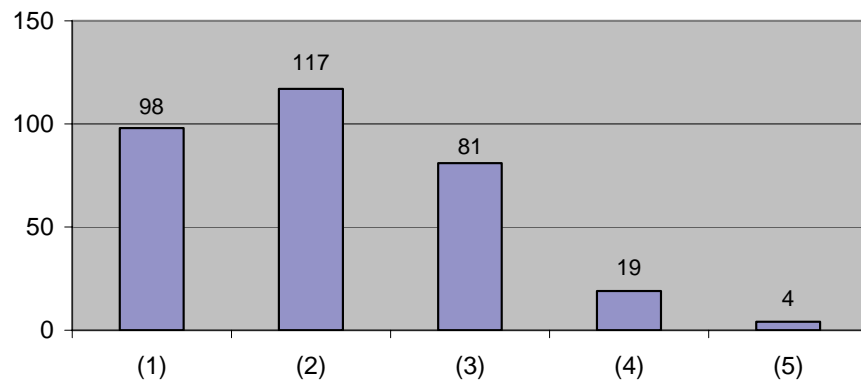


**Q38) How would you rate the EQE Online Exercises on a scale of 1 (very high) to 5 (very low) with regard to the following?**

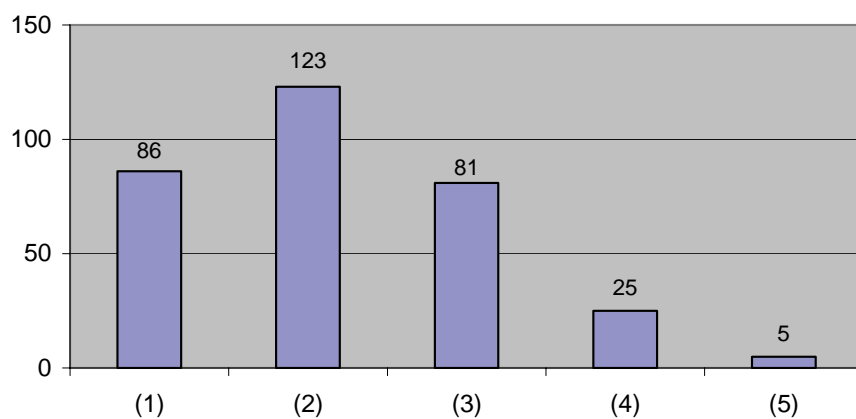
General usefulness



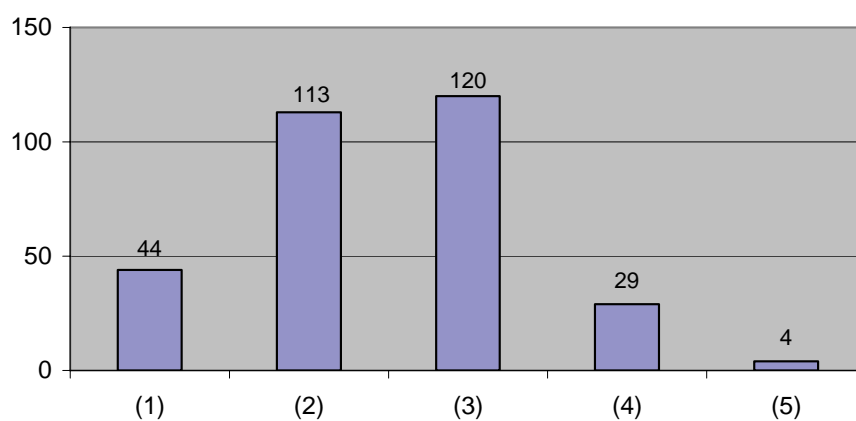
Relevance of the covered topics



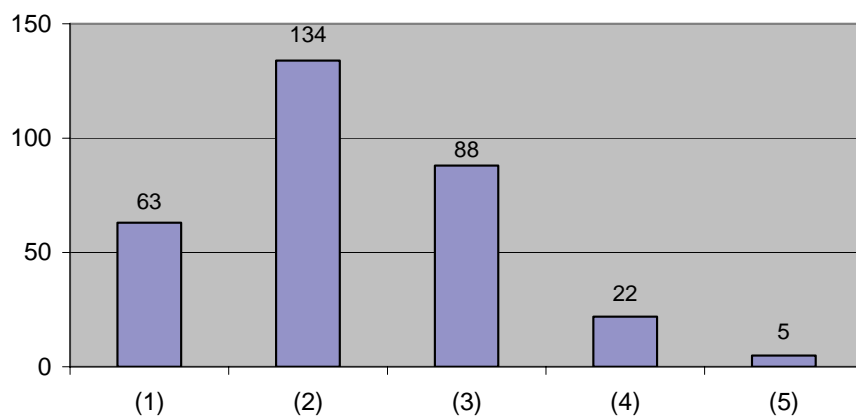
Ease of use of the forum



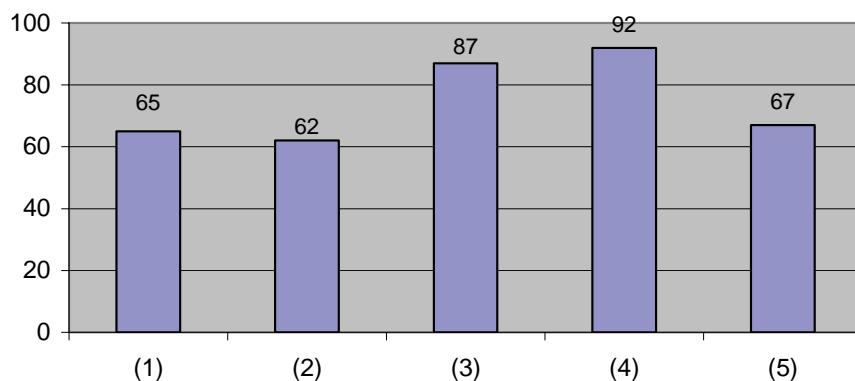
Time schedule of the exercises



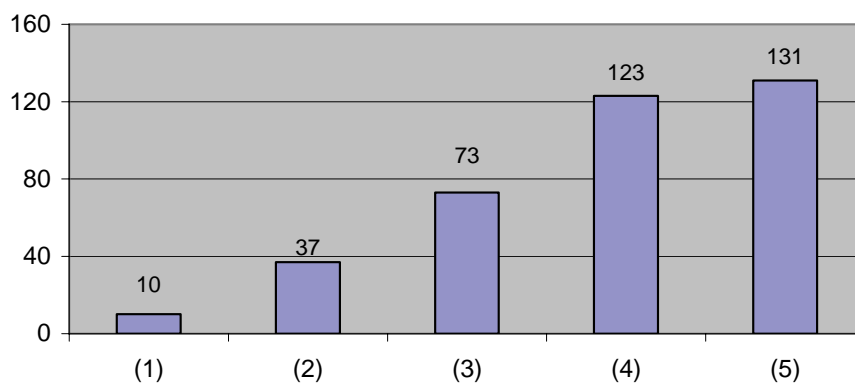
Quality of the model answers and comments



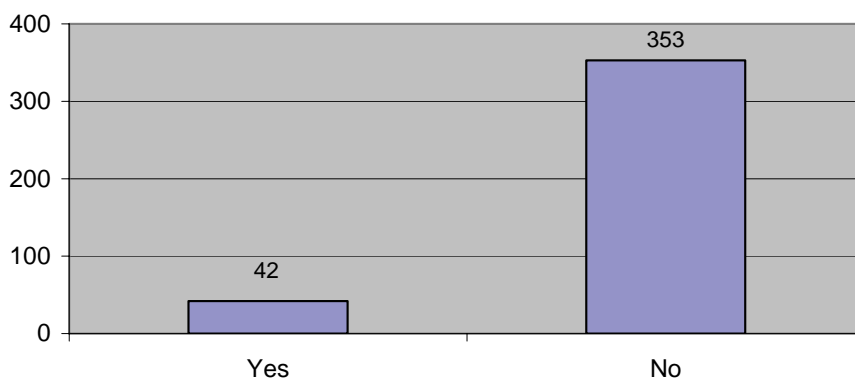
**Q39) How actively did you use the EQE Online Exercises on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)?**



**How actively did you use the EQE Online discussion forum on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)?**

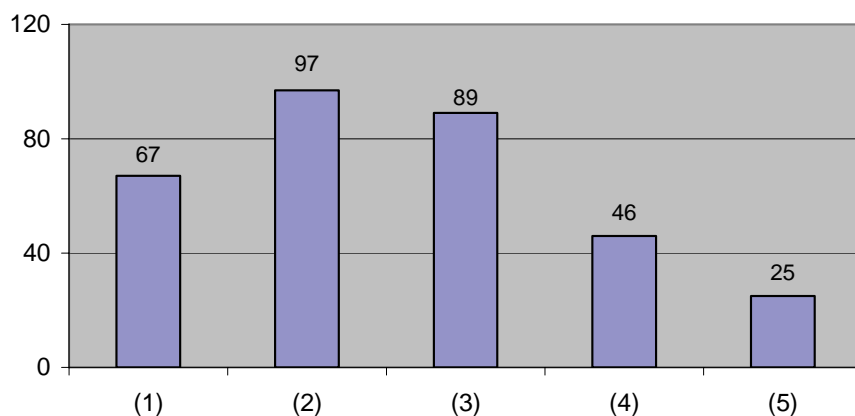


**Q40) Did you discuss the EQE Online Exercises with your supervisor / tutor?**

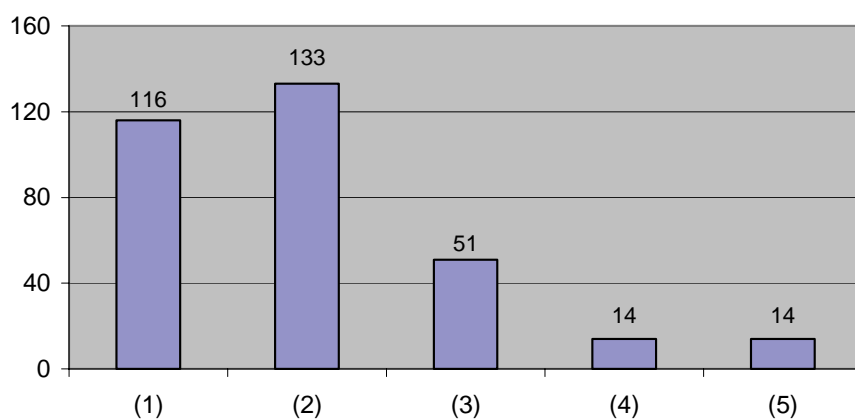


**Q41) How could the EQE Online Forum service be best integrated into your preparation for the EQE on a scale of 1 (very useful) to 5 (unnecessary)?**

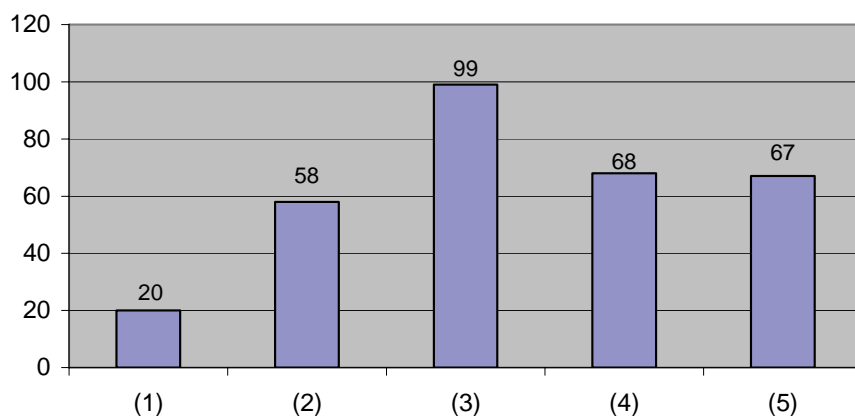
Providing last minute help on a broad range of topics



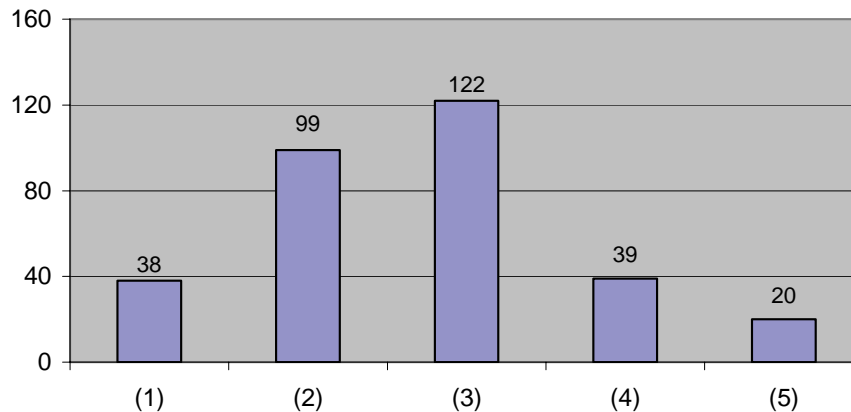
Providing tutorial-like exercises with model answers and an opportunity to discuss



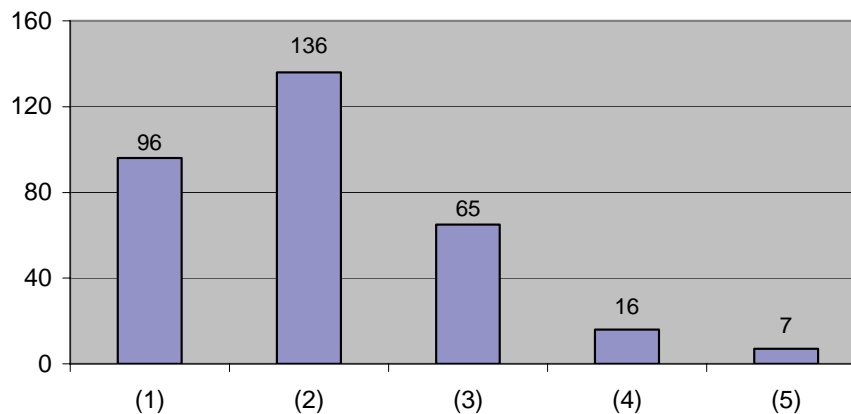
Serving as a basis for discussion with your supervisor / tutor



Time schedule of the exercises



Quality of the model answers and comments



**Candidates were asked if they had comments concerning the EQE Online Forum. Their answers are listed below.**

- Was man braucht, sind prüfungsrelevante Fragen und Musterlösungen - je mehr, desto besser, als stures Training, Training, Training für den D-I-Teil. Was fehlt, ist der Hinweis, wie die Punkte konkret verteilt werden: Was MUSS dastehen, wofür gibt es welche Punkte, was ist "nice to have". Insbesondere beim D-II-Teil ist eigentlich nicht klar, wieviel und wie weitläufig und wie weit ins Detail muss ich schreiben - wofür gibt es eigentlich welche Punkte? Die vorgegebene zeitliche Abfolge, damit meine ich den "zwei-Wochen-Rhythmus", ist gut gemeint, aber in der Praxis konnte ich mich nicht daran halten, ich muss meine Zeitplanung nach meiner Arbeit etc. richten. D.h. für mich wäre es ausreichend, wenn alle 5 oder 6 Frage-Antwort-Module auf einmal und frühzeitig zur Verfügung stehen. Was hingegen gut und wichtig ist, ist die Angabe der zu erreichende Punkte, aus denen man sich dann die für die Beantwortung zur Verfügung stehende Zeit berechnen kann.
- Tutors should give their opinions also on past papers. They do not. Apparently they are not allowed to do so by the Examining committee.

## Chapter 6 - Training activities of the European Patent Academy - page 7

- to list the most frequent mistakes in approaching each of papers
- This exam is a torture, and it should be two times a year
- The paper c - 2007 was a disgrace, german candidates were favoured, the examin comitte applied G2/98 wrong and refused to admit their errors and to rescore and recorrect the paper !!!!!!!!
- The model answers should be on separate pages from the questions (or at least hidden until a link is clicked on). Not everyone is able to exactly follow the proposed timetable, so it would be useful to be able to look at the questions (and not see the answers until required), even after the answer has become available.
- The EQE Online Forum was very helpful to exchange views and arguments concerning the correction of part C 2007 before filing an appeal.
- The EQE Online Forum provides a very good and systematic overview on the different topics of the EPC (e.g. time lines, fees, priority, opposition ...).
- the discussion forums should be moderated with higher intensity to avoid the presentation of personal aspects of candidates which are time consuming and inadequate from time to time
- The answers should of course be up to date - and not be taken from DELTA's last year as this was the case with some of them. I feel e-learning generally looks good if the answers are reliable. Questions should be focussed on the actual topics as it appeared to be this year.
- The accuracy of the tutors answers should have been checked before posting - there were many instances of errors which were picked up on by candidates.
- The 48-hour thing was of no use to me as I was away that weekend! Also, don't always get answers to questions...
- sometimes questions are answered by many people and one is lost to know what the "answer" is finally ; I would appreciate that the tutors stop the discussion at one point giving an explicite and definite answer Also some comments from the tutors about the difficulty of some papers, the way one should be prepared, what to do/not to do, etc will be appreciated
- Reinforcing revised material.
- Questions were the same like Delta Patents, but, errors could be changed and other problems are discussed.
- Phrasing answers in a legally correct way for a wide audience is a very interesting and difficult job, and trains the person writing on writing a legally correct answer
- One model answer was erroneous
- no others
- Mark the cases by a class of importance, eg. class A = you must definitely know this with every single detail, class B = better know this too. Would be helpful in case of unforeseen time problems durning preparation.
- It would be nice to provide new exercises each year.
- It would be most usefull to see answers at the level required at the exam.

## Chapter 6 - Training activities of the European Patent Academy - page 8

- It seems that the questions of the EQE Online exercises were identical with questions from the Delta Patents booklets. However, independent questions seem to be more appropriate.
- It is a very good way to get a reaction on the answers. I learned a lot. I tried to answer the first 4 blocks in time before the solutions were published. Some days I spent 5 hours of answering. The comparison and the discussion were very helpful. Unfortunately not many used it.
- In other languages
- I think it would be good if it were possible to post questions to tutors longer, i.e. until some few days before the examination and not only until two weeks earlier. Often, important questions come up during intense preparation which - especially for re-sitters of only one paper - is probably the last two weeks before the examination.
- I suggest making a 'hot spot' time every Friday afternoon when candidates are likely to have free time to interact in a discussion board type activity along with Tutors. The tutors need to be the backbone of the forum acting to keep up the momentum of answers, even questions. This can then make it worthwhile candidates logging on every day so as to then form a 'community' with a life of its own. Hence, great idea needs to be more interactive.
- I found that I would rather print the questions rather than working from the computer. In this respect, it would be helpful if the questions and answers were more easily printable. It was necessary to copy/paste each question into a word document, which was time consuming.
- I did not use the Forum this year but did find it very helpful for Paper D last year. However, only if people have sufficiently prepared their legal knowledge beforehand was it useful to use the questions in the given timescale.
- I am unusual in that my firm is too small for much/any supervision therefore I'd really like to use EQE more. I did not know enough to answer the questions to the depth that was required when they started in November. I think the broad structure was fine but would have liked a set of easy questions (the basics) on each area first followed by a second round of the more advanced questions later. I think to get decent response from this section of the Survey your question should have read differently - one can't answer "how could xx be best integrated into yy with a "very useful" or "not very useful". Did you mean "Usefully". An adverb is required to make sense of the question if read as such. Therefore quality of model answer could be very useful i.e. =1 but not in fact as useful as they could have been so actual quality = 2-3 ditto timescale.
- Diskussionsgrundlage für Kleingruppenarbeit mit anderen Bewerbern
- did not make use enough to comment
- comments
- \* I used the Forum at the very end of my preparations. \* In particular the PCT questions & answers were somewhat demotivating & frustrating - I also felt they were >2 levels higher than what was expected

**Q42) Candidates were asked if they had any suggestions for how the EQE Online Forum might be improved. Their answers are listed below.**

- Service also in German!
- Put even more questions on it. The more opportunity to practice, the better.
- provide more live sessions. Also alot of posts provided by canidates are inaccurate, this can be misleading. All post should go through a quality check.
- provide links to the references cited in the questions: guidelines, OJ, decisions, articles, rules. This would permit a full reading of the answers. give a complete list of relevant texts: OJ, noticeable decisions...
- Please leave it as it is.
- Nothing specific
- It may be helpful for two model answers to be posted by two people who both make comments on the comparison of the two model answers
- It is not adequate to spend 95% of the preparation of the EQE for just 40 points of D1. Further D1 and D2 should not be treated as "one" part, but rather as two different parts. D2 is too heavily weighted with 60%. It should be 40% maximum, since the D2 part is a game of chance.
- If applicable to indicate how many point for each part of the model answer are awarded.
- Ich habe das online Forum nur wenig genutzt, da ich nach den ersten Versuchen festgestellt habe, dass überwiegend Kandidaten miteinander diskutieren - und das hilft (wie schon zum Thema Lerngruppen erwähnt) in der Sache nicht effektiv weiter. Die wenigen Tutoren-Antworten, die ich gefunden habe, haben schon einen guten Eindruck gemacht - interessant wäre, ob die Antworten bei Prüfungsaufgaben Punkte gebracht hätten und wenn ja, wieviele.
- I would prefer 4 Days: First day: D second day: A third day: B fourth day: C I have really problems to concentrate for the B part (the break of 1:30 hours killed my concentration). Perhaps this was the problem why I saw the distinguishing feature of the B-part too late. In my opinion only D and C are relevant for practice. The A and B part are more luck (if you see the feature or not). Why don't you change the exam in the way what you ask more the Dpart (this part was extremelly helpfull for the dayly work. I don't think what you are fit for practice if you pass the A and B part because the real life is different (in contrary to the C and D part which could usefull for the real life)
- Give a clear statement for every case, whether the articles and rules of EPC 1973 or EPC 2000 were used. Add 2 or 3 short sentences of a high importance, which should be learned litterally and carefully as a core knowledge.
- German exercise would be appreciated, because myself and a lot of other people write in German. The print mode should be simplified, because at the moment each question has to be transferred to word.doc in order to get a complete print out, which means avoidable effort.
- Collecting Frequently asked questions on EPC by candidates during preparation of past EQE and formulate topics (questions+model



answers) for such issues.

- cf previous question
- Yes: more advertisement: too few people use it.
- YES please make it all downloadable so that I can take a batch of questions to my study place and exercise. At present one has to copy/paste one by one.
- yes because the CEIPI D course is now earlier I could not use the last block because this was in the same week so it would be good if the course would consider these course times, also the november course there was a problem with the time to answer
- Weekly hot-spot on Friday pm when tutors are on hand and questions can be rapidly exchange. Discussion forums work very well when critical mass is reached, need daily updates by Tutors (just a single post shows activity).. The 48 hours Expert seems an arbitrary option. As it was it stretched over weeks anyway. Good idea, make it an ongoing/rolling activity. Tutors often contradicted each other, fine, shows uncertainty in the law, but then it might be healthy if they commented on each others responses and not just on candidates.
- Try to furnish more concrete situations of patent rights interferences within the context of D2 paper.
- To provide computers or to make a question which does not require such an amount to write or to give more time for the answers.
- to indicate the most frequent errors of candidates
- to allow best copies from last year to be posted The examiner's reports are useful but : - they are in english and although the answers are clearly understandable, they do not provide hints about how to word things when English is not one's mother tongue - they are the OPTIMAL answer expected but sometimes it is good to see some candidates' answers who pass the paper without having the full amount of points
- There should be two different dates posting question to a tutor and getting response within 48 hours.
- The time schedule should be different. I would appreciate a time schedule that is finished around Christmas in order to gain a good basis of theoretical knowledge until year's end. Or alternatively, candidates should be able to choose when to unhide the model answers and user comments to study in a more personal tempo. This might be possible as to the individual login accounts.
- The time line for posting additional questions and comments should be extended, e.g. from two days up to one week.
- The questions in the section I-VI tend to get a mixed up - they are not always in the right section so difficult to find again later if required.
- The questions in the papers should be more clear and direct. You never know if you are answering all the topics or you forgot some points. It should be assess the candidates knowledge and not the capacity to see or not the points in the exam
- The questions and answers were fine but the postings by other candidates could sometimes be confusing. It would have been useful for the experts to answer questions and close the conversations to prevent time being wasted in reviewing postings of limited use

## Chapter 6 - Training activities of the European Patent Academy - page 11

- The paper c - 2007 was a disgrace, german candidates were favoured, the exam committee applied G2/98 wrong and refused to admit their errors and to rescore and recorrect the paper !!!!!!!
- Some models of Papers C and D2 could be available, it was very important to have another model this year because of the change of EPC 73 to EPC 2000 and the compendium of course did not have it.
- See earlier. Two levels basic questions followed by advanced.
- see above
- Publish marking schedules for past papers !
- Provision of german questions and answers.
- Providing a user friendly and accurate database à la Google in which candidates can type in key words to find specific questions, answers and discussions on any topic concerning them at a particular time - i.e. the search function should allow the candidate to target the most relevant material in the database by using search operators or Google search strategy intelligence.
- Posting of sample questions and model answers a lot earlier
- Post pdf booklets of questions and answers on forum.
- Possibly answers need to be rated by other users, so that on a subject with many posts the more interesting parts, and those with less errors are given more relevance. At the moment this is done by checking if the writer is a tutor or not.
- place the answers in a separate area to the questions so it is easier to work the questions without seeing the answer if one doesn't work to the time scale of the EQE forum
- Perhaps the model answers could be clearer on what is required to get full marks for the question. A lot of the model answers contained more than necessary information. This causes confusion as to how much to write and what is expected from the candidates.
- Overview and printability of model answers could be improved.
- Not using the same questions as in the Deltapatent's courses.
- no. I found it very useful.
- No specific suggestion apart from those already cited.
- No I think is very useful and it works very well
- Never heard of this before!
- more presence of moderators and tutors!!! many questions posted remain unanswered!
- more often in the year the EQE necessary - see e.g. US-proceedings
- More focus on paper DII
- More exercises relating to DII like situations, i.e. more complicated legal situations with "open legal" questions and answers, so that it would be easier to understand what is required from you in answering paper DII.
- mettre l'adresse email des personnes participant au discussion pour éviter d'avoir des réponses fantaisistes ou erronées de la part des participants non encore mandataires
- make the questions less ambiguous, get the law right in the answers as many answers in this year's forum discussed the situation under EPC73
- make it easier to print out all the exercises and comments in one

## Chapter 6 - Training activities of the European Patent Academy - page 12

document rather than having to go to each page and print from there.

- Machen Sie diese Abfrage erst, wenn die Ergebnisse bekannt sind - Was weiss denn ich, was ich tatsächlich richtig und falsch gemacht habe, bevor mir der Korrekteur es sagt?
- it would be useful if the questions and answers were in a format which was easier to print out, since most candidates will do the questions by hand in their own time, not at the computer
- It would be helpful, to have be able to differentiate between experts and candidates e.g. by color coding the login names
- it was not very user friendly. I posted some questions to some of the "online forum" tutors and never had an answer.
- It is technically possible to change the profile. But this results in making the ID unusable. This happened to me and I was told this is a safety net in order to preserve the anonymity when I was required to request a new ID. It seems that this happened to quite a few candidates. Therefore, it should be technically prevented to change the profile.
- it is OK as it is
- Introduction of "ad hoc" mock examinations for all the papers
- Include more general advice about how to approach papers and how to structure answers in general.
- In particular re PCT questions: adopt to level of EQE questions
- If the quality of the tutors and the questions remain the same everything is OK.
- i will try D next year
- I don't think it needs to be improved; it is pretty good. What would improve the EQE overall would be having more detailed comments on the marking of our own papers...but I appreciate the difficulties this raises.
- Haven't used it
- Grouping the questions into subgroups (not only e.g. opposition, non-representative, opposition grounds, etc.
- give model answers which would not yield all possible points (for marks) and explain why the maximum has not been given. that would help to extract what kind of information exactly the correctors want to get.
- Enable you to download the questions and answers as a single document, as I spent hours copying and pasting each individual question into a word document so that I could print them all out. A lot of people did this and it takes a long time!
- Early suggestions of what books might help and which materials are necessary. Online possibility to write an exam in time
- Didn't use it
- Da ich mich in Deutsch auf die Prüfung vorbereiten würde es schön wenn es mehr Unterlagen in Deutsch geben würde. Zwar kann ich das Englische auch lesen, doch in Deutsch geht es schneller und die Zeit fehlt einem dann immer. Auch bei der Vorbereitung könnten ich dann in der gleichen Zeit mehr schaffen. Danke und Gruß Gerne komme ich auch auf eine mündliche Prüfung vorbei um endlich den D Teil zu bestehen. Ahnung hätte ich haben mir schon viele bestätigt, doch leider konnte ich dass noch nicht von einer bestandenen D-Prüfung bestätigt bekommen. Gruß Andreas Hermann Wessling

## Chapter 6 - Training activities of the European Patent Academy - page 13

- As I said, it should be possible to post questions to tutors until only a few days before the examination.
- Although the provided answers were very good due to their thoroughness, it would be useful to see shorter answers that were adequate to get full marks on the questions set.
- A German (and French) version would be helpful
- 2 eqe's per year