

# **Survey**

## **European qualifying examination 2009**

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



# **EQE Survey 2009**

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## **Introduction**

On 26 March 2009 candidates were invited to participate in a survey concerning the European qualifying examination 2009. 599 answers were received by 14 April 2009.

Among the candidates who participated in the survey, 322 took part in the EQE for the first time. 79 candidates sat only the first module (papers A and B) and 51 only the second (papers C and D); 276 resat the EQE.

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

Questionnaire preview EQE Survey 2009

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

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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.

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

---

Please select

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

**Q3) Examination centres - rating**

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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 ☐ ☐ ☐**Q6) Additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions**

Please add your comments

**Q7) Examiner's report - rating**

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 "Master of Advanced Studies in Intellectual Property" 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****Q10) Which other elements do you consider important for your personal preparation for the EQE?**

Please add comments



**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?**

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Please describe your experiences

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

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

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Please select

- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czech Republic
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Iceland
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Liechtenstein
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Monaco
- ☐ Netherlands

- ☐ Norway
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Slovakia
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ 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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

**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"/>

**Q19a) 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)?**

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Please indicate the number of working days

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

**Q19b) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 19a) did you spend during the first year of training?**

---

Please indicate the percentage

- ☐ 0 - 20 %
- ☐ 21 - 40 %
- ☐ 41 - 60 %
- ☐ 61 - 80 %
- ☐ 81 - 100 %

**Q19c) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 19a) did you spend during the second year of training?**

---

Please indicate the percentage

- ☐ 0 - 20 %
- ☐ 21 - 40 %
- ☐ 41 - 60 %
- ☐ 61 - 80 %
- ☐ 81 - 100 %

**Q19d) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 19a) did you spend during the third year of training?**

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Please indicate the percentage

- ☐ 0 - 20 %
- ☐ 21 - 40 %
- ☐ 41 - 60 %
- ☐ 61 - 80 %
- ☐ 81 - 100 %

**Q20) What would you propose to supervisors in order to improve candidates' preparation for the EQE?**

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Please add comments, suggestions...

**Q21) In how many opposition cases were you involved during your 3-year training period?**

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Please indicate the number of cases

**Q22) How did your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE train you for paper C?**

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Multiple selections possible

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

**Comment**

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**Q23) 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****Q24) On how many examination days should the EQE be held?**

Please choose

- ☐ Three days
- ☐ Four days

**Q25) EQE papers**

Please rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2009

	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"/>

**Q26) Comments concerning the difficulty of the examination papers**

Please add comments concerning the difficulty of the EQE papers

**Q27) EQE papers**

What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2009?

	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"/>

**Q28) Did you feel time pressure during the examination?**

Please choose

☐ Yes

☐ No

### Q29) 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 ☐ ☐ ☐

### Q30) Do you have comments concerning the time available for the examination papers?

Please add your comments

### Q31) 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

### Q32) Did you use the "EQE Forum" or other on-line services provided by the European Patent Academy?

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

☐ Yes

☐ No

### Q33) Expert Online - rating

How would you rate the following aspects of the Expert Online 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 72 hours posting possibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Q34) 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"/>

**Q35) Questions on the calculation of time limits - rating**

How would you rate the questions on the calculation of time limits 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 tool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Time schedule	<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"/>

**Q36) EQE on-line services - use**

Please choose

	1	2	3	4	5
How actively did you use the EQE Expert Online 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 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"/>
How actively did you use the exercises on the calculation of time limits 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"/>

**Q37) Did you discuss any of the EQE on-line exercises with your supervisor / tutor?**

Please choose

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**Q38) EQE Forum and other on-line exercises**

How could the EQE on-line 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**

---

**Q39) Do you have any suggestions for how the EQE Forum or the other on-line exercises might be improved?**

Please specify.

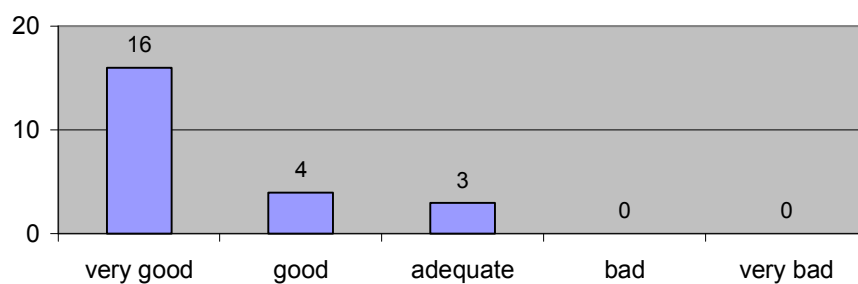
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## Chapter 1 - Examination Centres

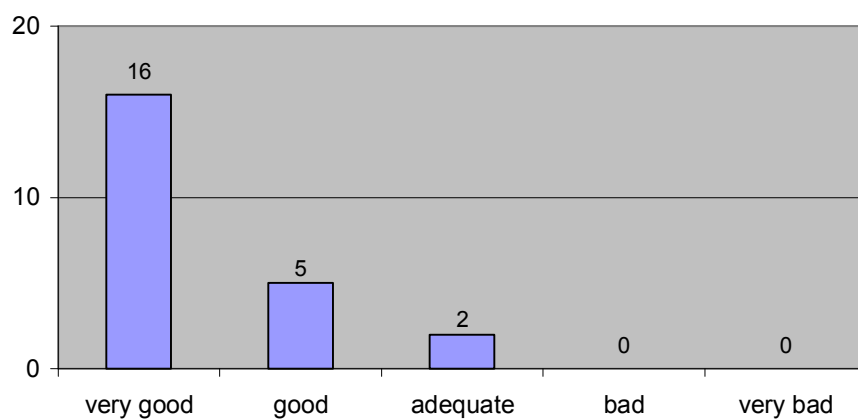
### 1.1 Berlin (23 answers received)

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

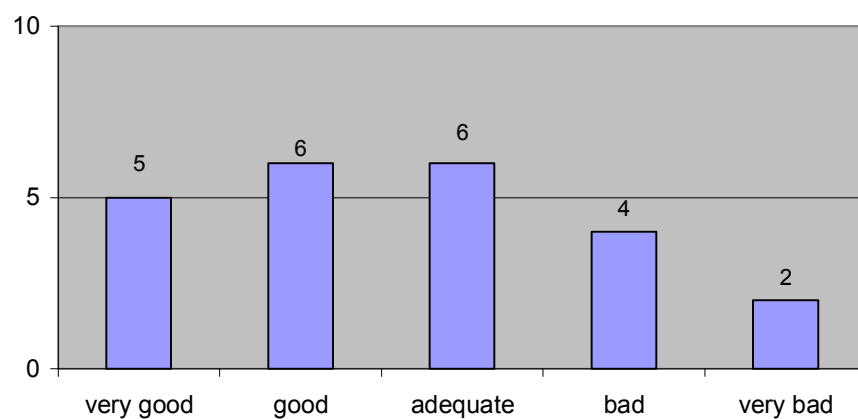
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



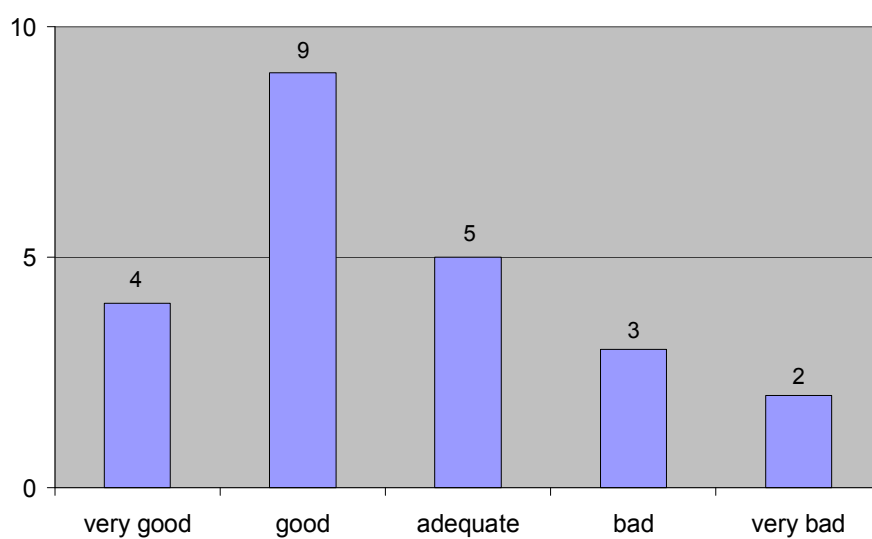
Identification check



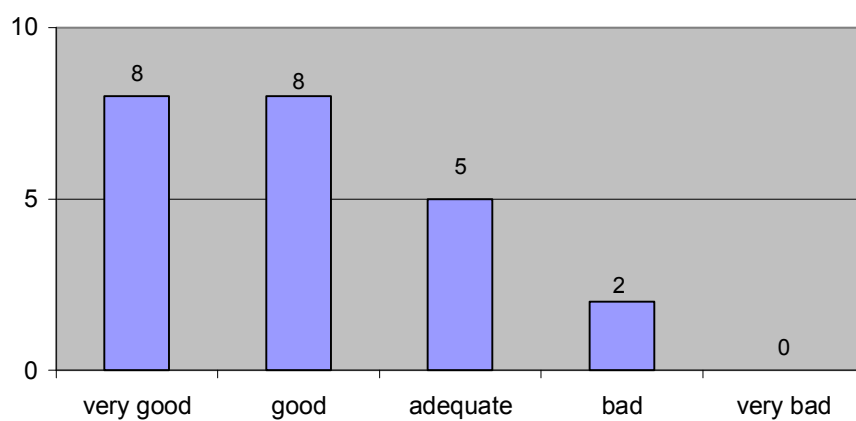
Lighting conditions



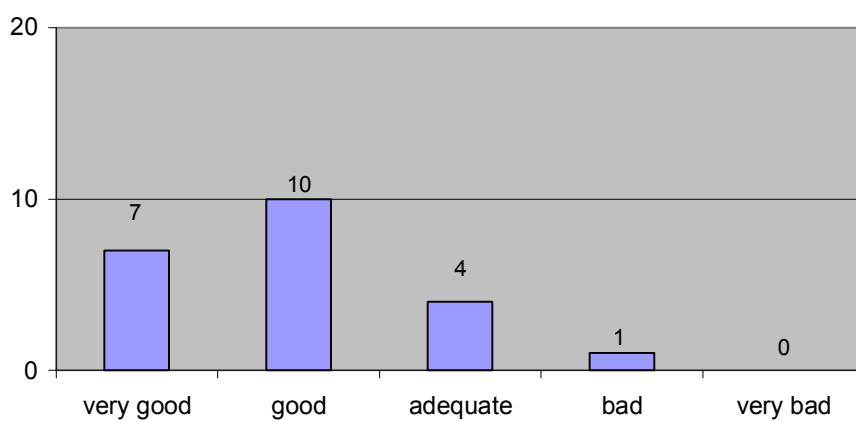
### Space for candidates



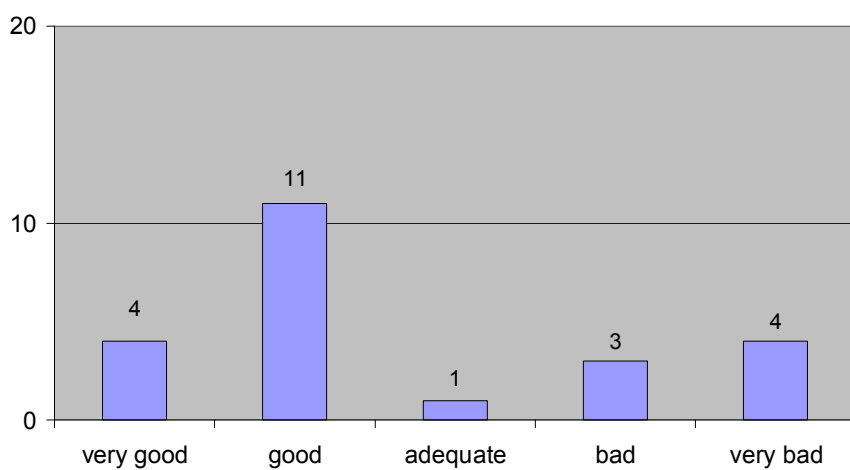
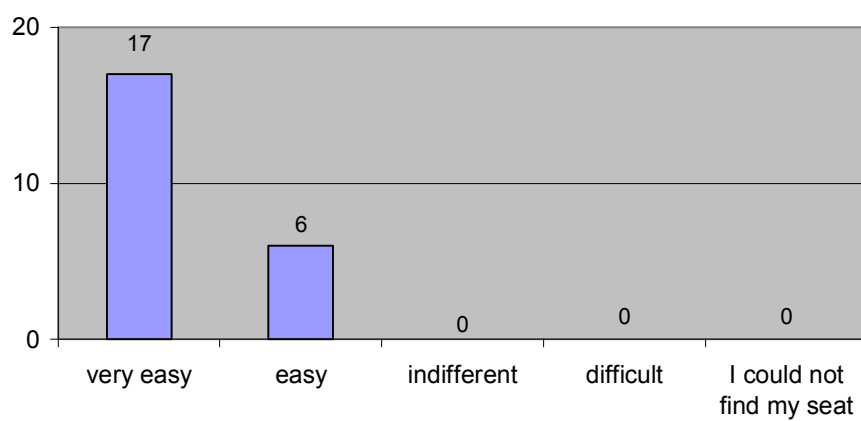
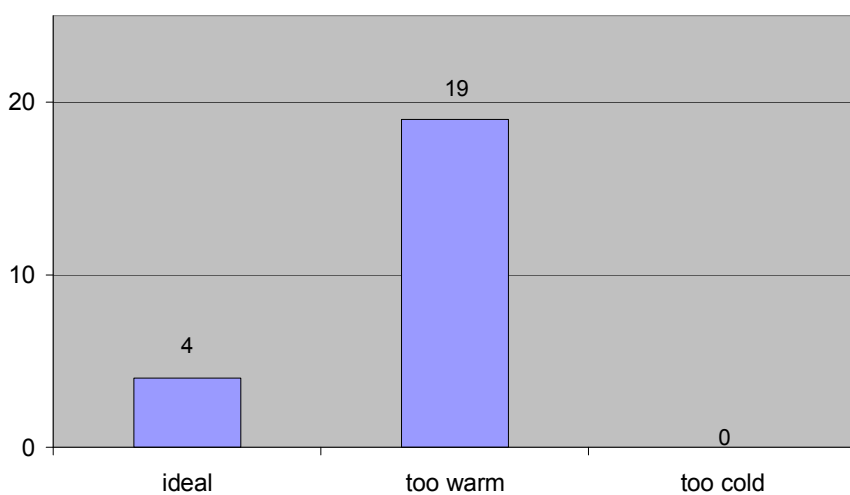
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities





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

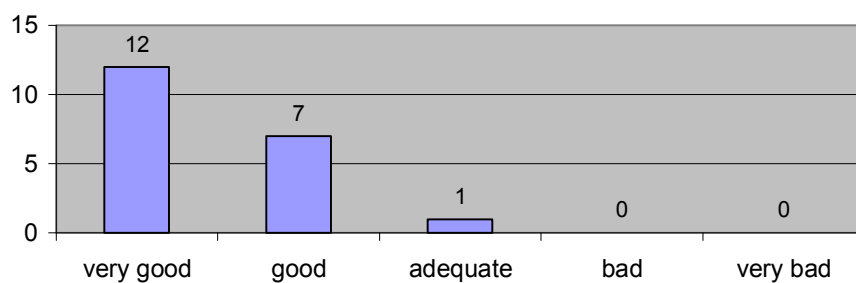
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- Excessive heat was caused by lights in the room
- I had difficulties to see the lines on the paper due to the lightening conditions, everything else was fine
- Im Verhältnis zur Max-Schmeling-Halle war der Saal im EPA wesentlich schlechter. Es mangelte an passender Temperaturregelung und die Lampen haben den Saal noch weiter erhitzt. Bereits zum Beginn der Prüfung war es viel zu warm im Saal und die Luft war extrem schlecht.
- Install better air condition --> fresh air
- It was way too warm in the hall and there was no sufficient inflow of fresh air. For me, this was very exhausting.
- Lighting conditions were changing
- poor air conditioning in the hall
- Size of the hall too small for 50 candidates - very bad oxygen conditions, AC was not able to provide enough fresh air.
- the aeration was not so good!
- The heat of the light increased the temperature of the room enormously. This led to the "compromise" to dim the lights. Nevertheless, the heat development was quite high while the light intensity was quite low.
- The lights were turned on, on the first day, which heated the hall in an inadequate way.
- The room did not have windows to let in fresh air, so at the end of each exam the air was virtually unbearable and it was incredibly hot due to the lights. The room is not suitable for exams of this kind.
- The temperature was much too high. The conditions were poor. A concentrated work over several hours was not possible.
- too warm because of intensive radiation of the lightening

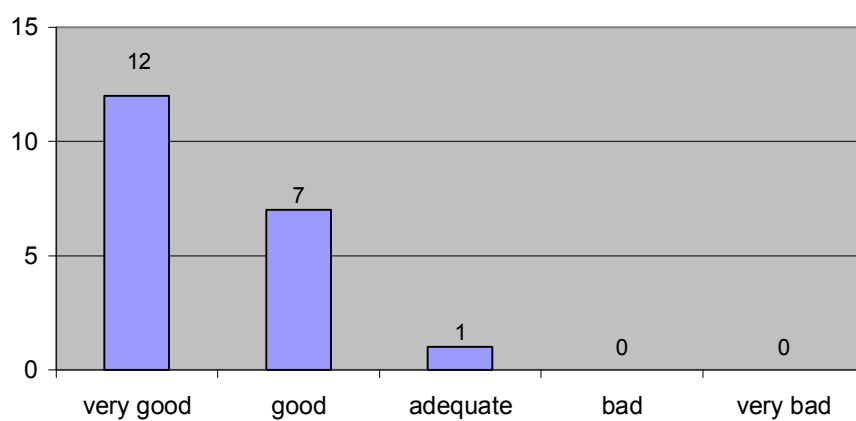
## 1.2 Bern (20 answers received)

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

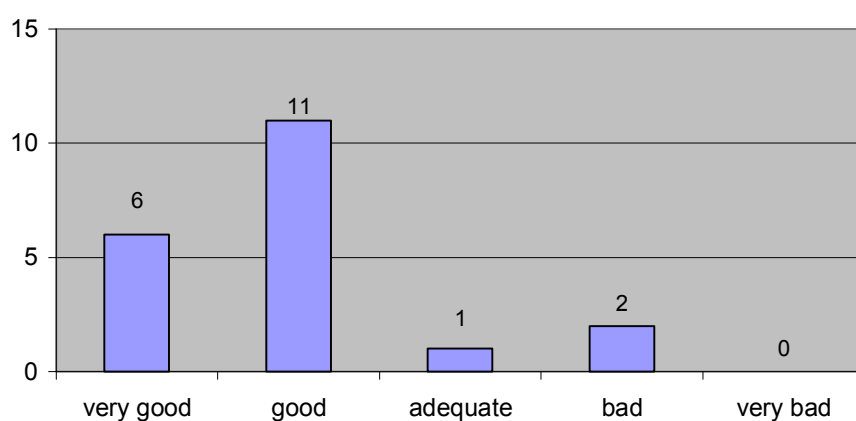
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



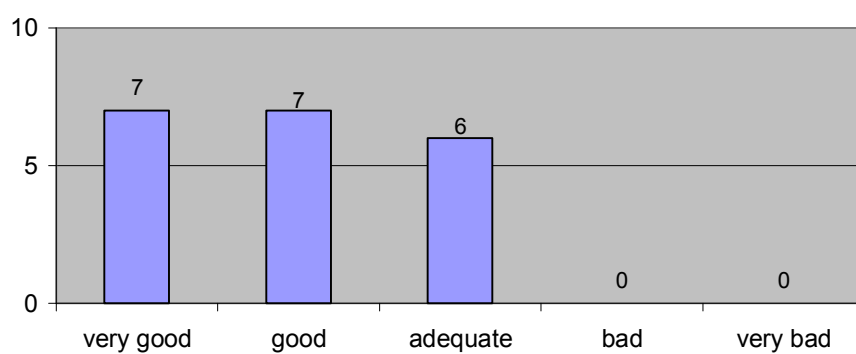
Identification check



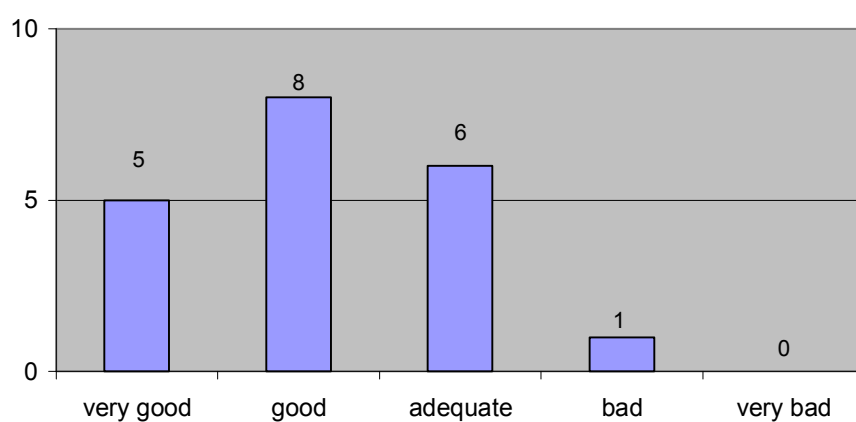
Lighting conditions



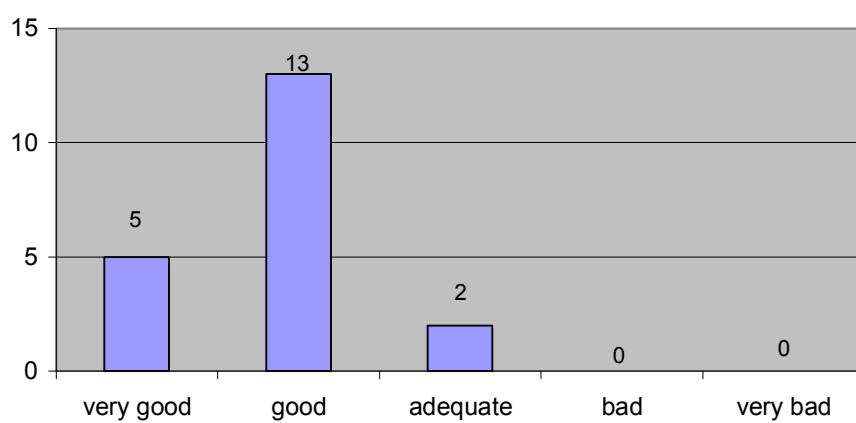
### Space for candidates

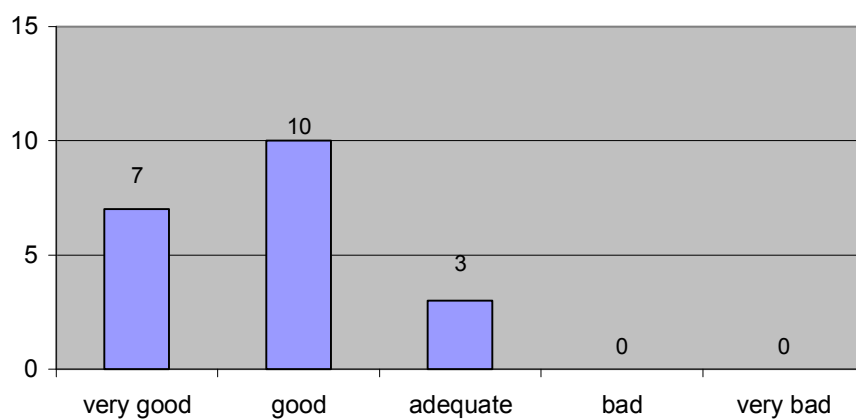
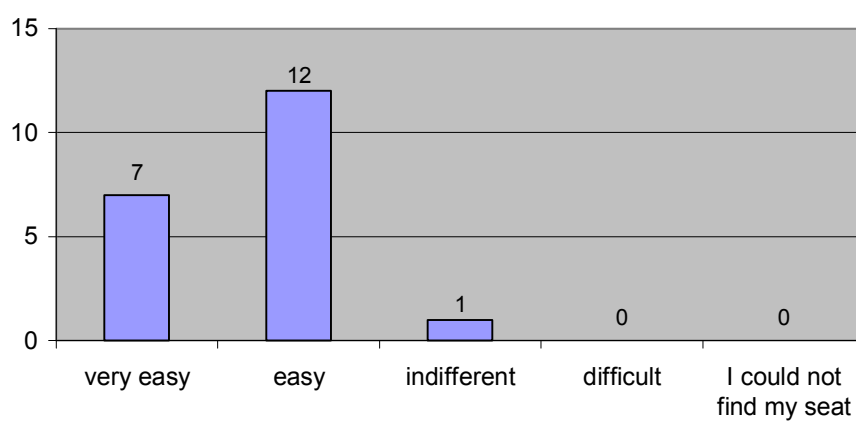
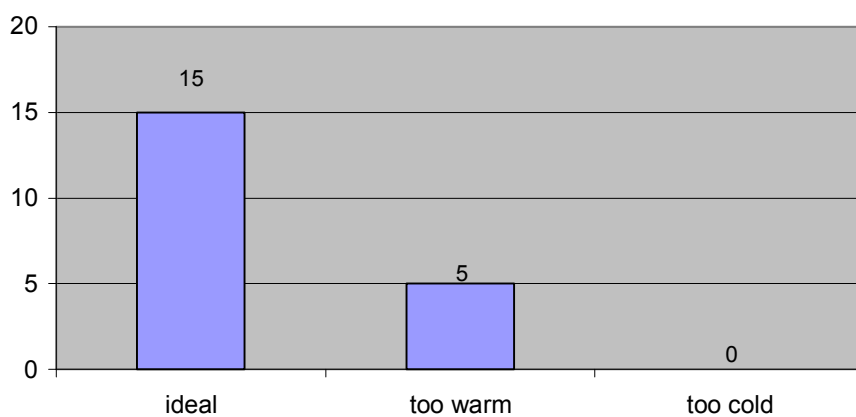


### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities



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

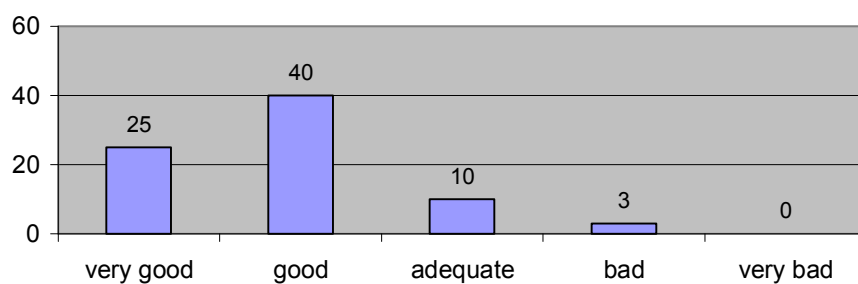
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- 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 personnel 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.

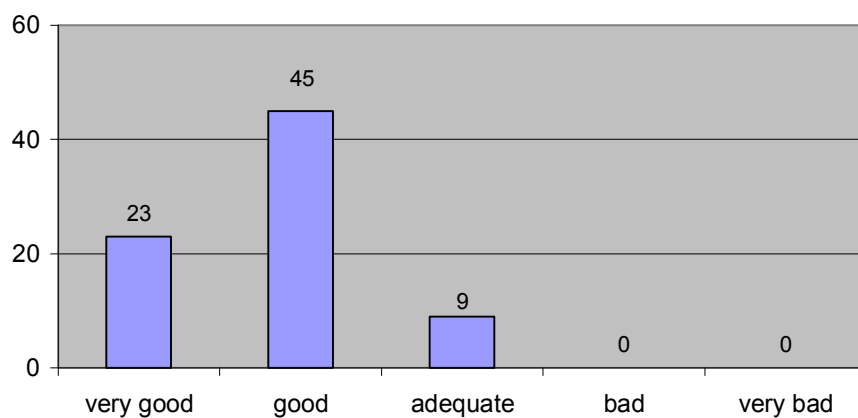
### 1.3 Bristol (78 answers received)

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

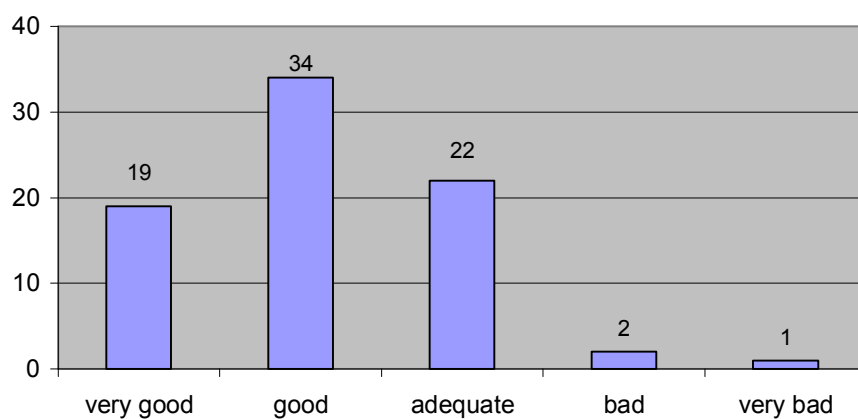
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



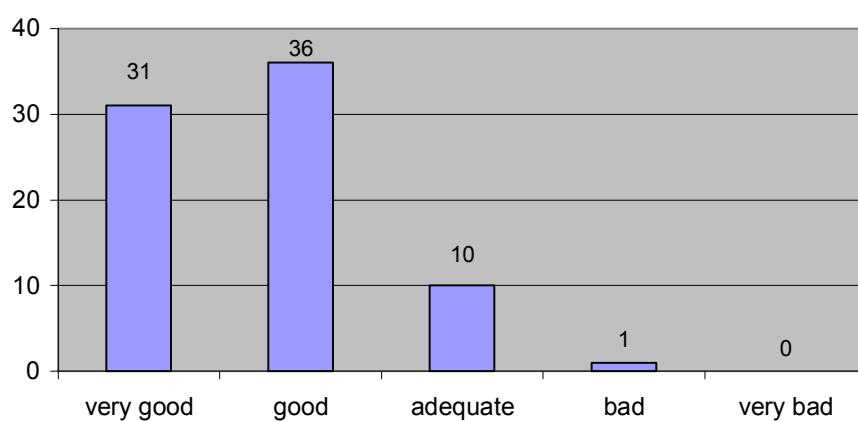
Identification check



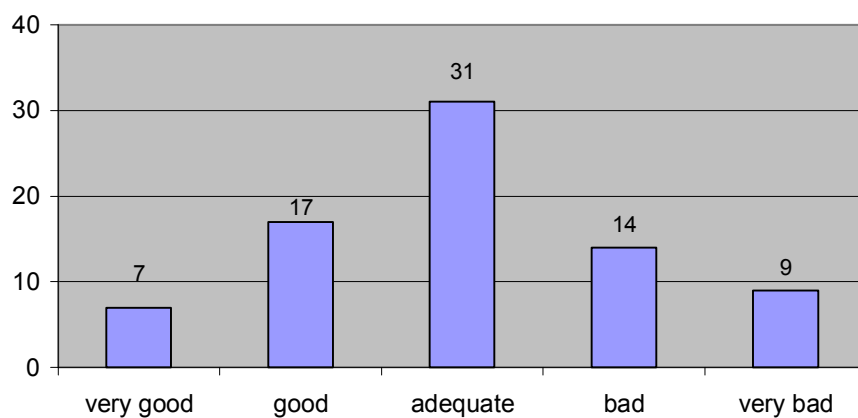
Lighting conditions



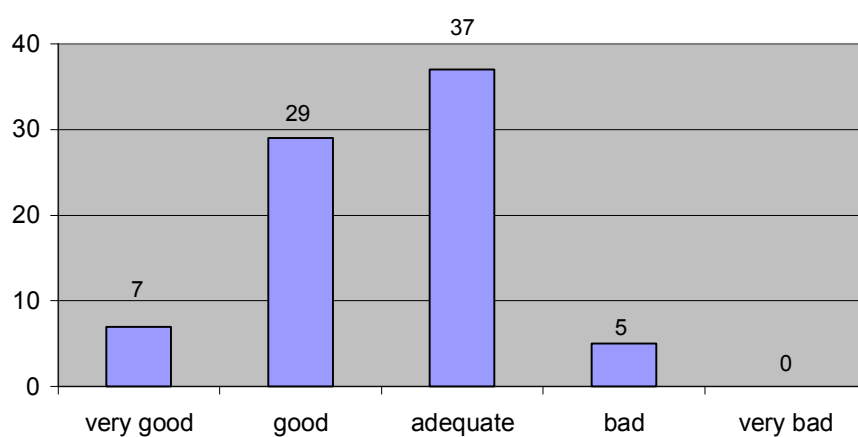
### Space for candidates



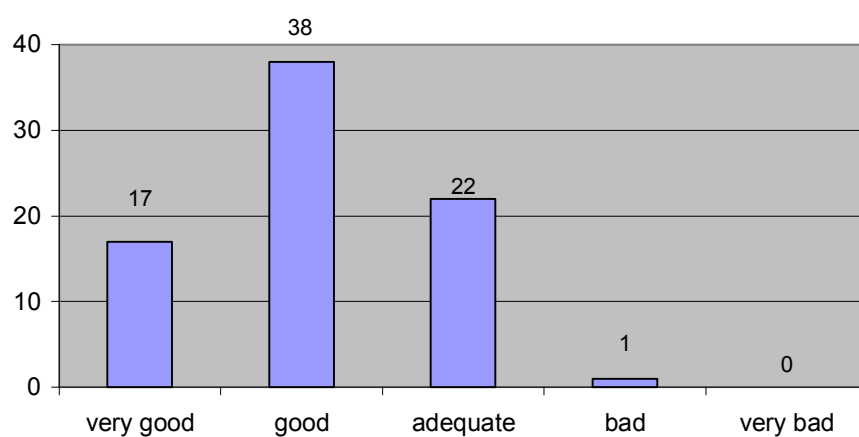
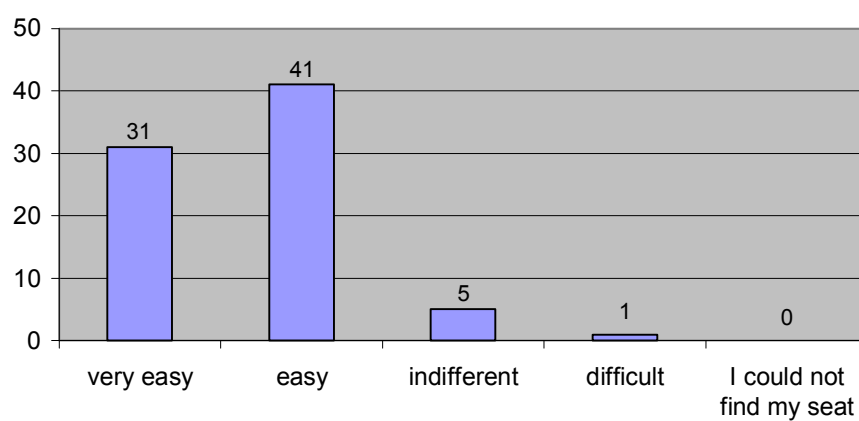
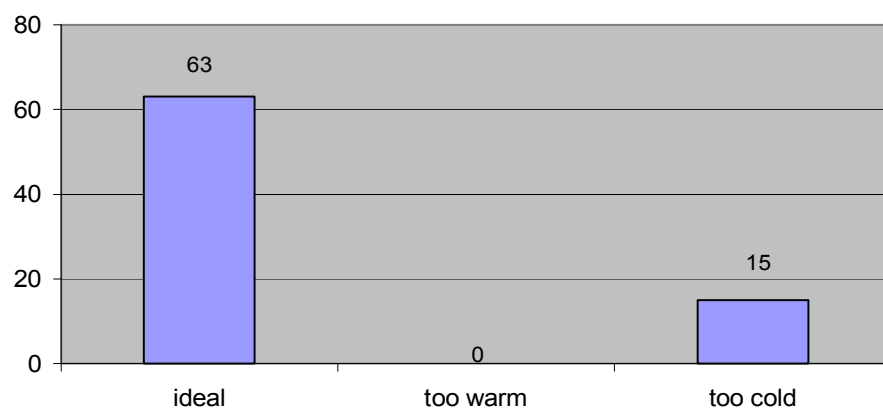
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities





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

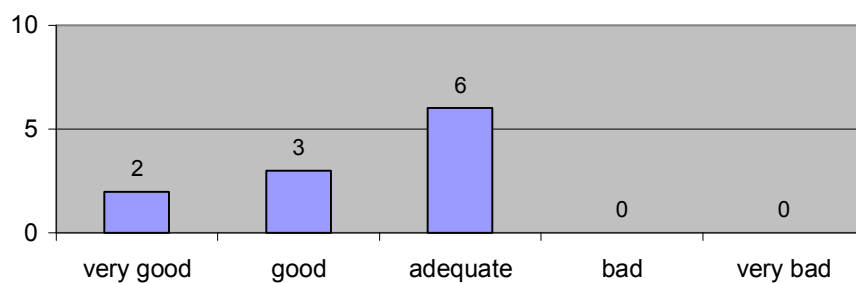
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- This year the desks provided in the exam hall were much better than in previous years, in which they were too small.
- I was sitting at the back of the hall and was unable to hear the invigilator because the speaker system did not work properly.
- I only sat paper C but I found the space in the hall and the larger desks to be much better than last year
- MOVE IT to LONDON - it is so inconvenient!!!
- The examination hall, being close to a busy railway station, was somewhat noisy, which was at times a little distracting.
- The hall used in Bristol is very large and so it is difficult to regulate the temperature efficiently. I was comfortable, but I believe a lots of the other candidates were not.
- Bad odour from toilets at rear. My seat was on the back rock and the smell was off putting.
- Generally a good venue and suitable for exams. Tables were just about big enough.
- Although the venue itself was fine, I find it hard to understand why it is located in Bristol. Since such a large proportion of the profession in the UK is centred in London, it would appear to be easier for the majority of people to hold the exam there.
- It makes little sense to hold it outside London, as the majority of candidates will be from London.
- Noisy seagulls were somewhat distracting
- The lighting could be better (whiter!). The desks were much better this year than in 2008.
- Some noise from the station car park during the examination was disturbing at times.
- Having the exam centre in Bristol is much better than London, as there are plenty of places to stay nearby and Bristol is much more unlikely to be subject to a terrorist attack which would disrupt transport and make it difficult for candidates to arrive
- It was quite - probably the most important criterion. The desks could have been bigger and the room warmer.
- Good accessibility from station and city centre hotels.
- The room was very cold on most of the days. The lighting was also not particularly good. Could not hear the invigilator properly either.
- Examination hall, to my experience, was a bit to cold in temperature, but I was on third row from farthest from the heaters, so what to expect, extra sweaters is ok in instructions. Hall could be better lighted, EPO expects a lot from the examinees!
- The exam hall was excellent apart from the lighting and a few issues with the microphone system, which seemed to buzz unless it was switched off when not in use. The lighting was not particularly strong.
- Colleagues who had sat the exam at the Bristol venue in previous years had warned of it being too cold and too noisy. I did not find this to be the case. I thought the venue was excellent this year.
- I was sitting at the back and completely unable to hear instructions from EPO representative
- PA system very poor - lots of white noise and hum from loud speaker just before exam and approx five minutes before end. This was very distracting.
- The hall is somewhat reliant on natural light. Towards the end of the day, this made the hall a little dark.
- The hall was echoy - I had earplugs so that was ok but invigilator very muffled from where I was. way better than the UK exams!!
- The hall was not designed to be very warm especially in cold weather conditions
- The examination hall was far too cold and it was a problem hearing the invigilators.

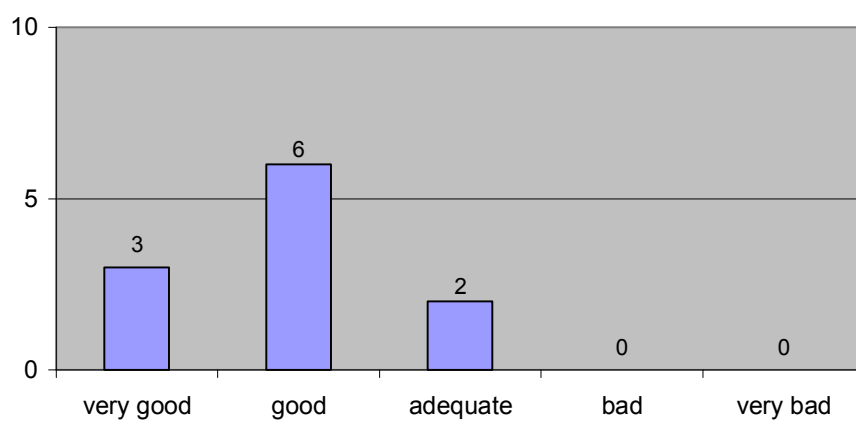
## 1.4 Brussels (11 answers received)

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

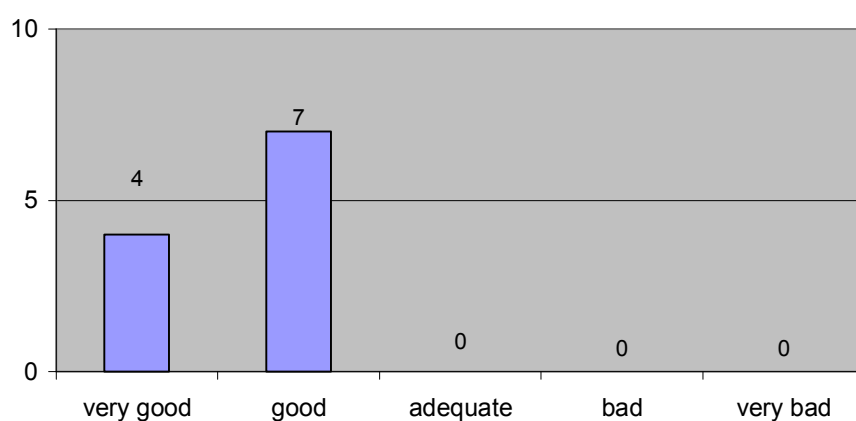
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



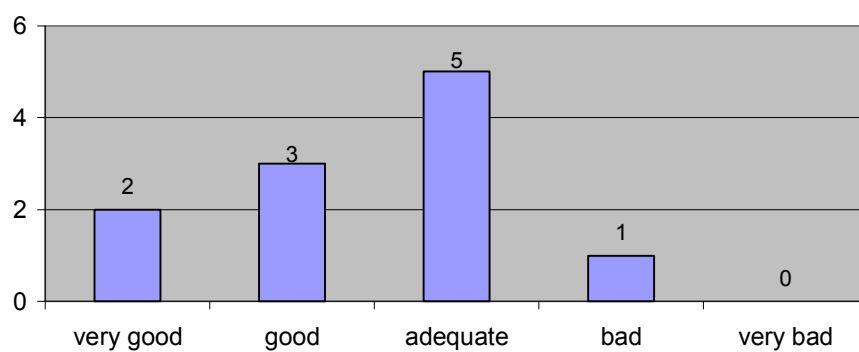
Identification check



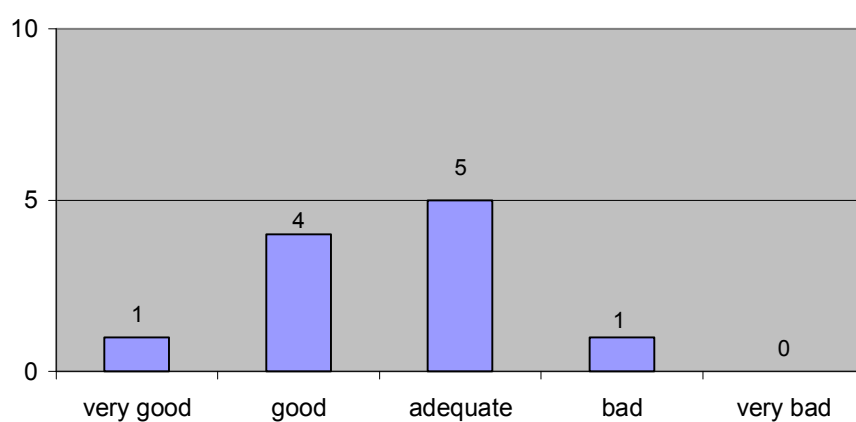
Lighting conditions



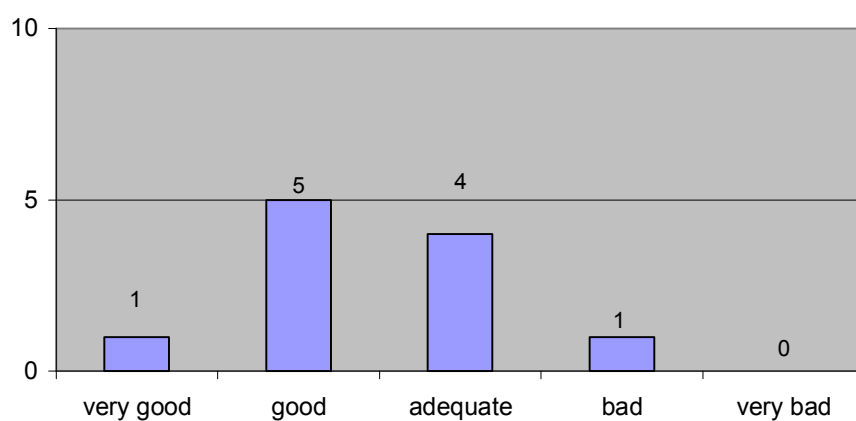
### Space for candidates

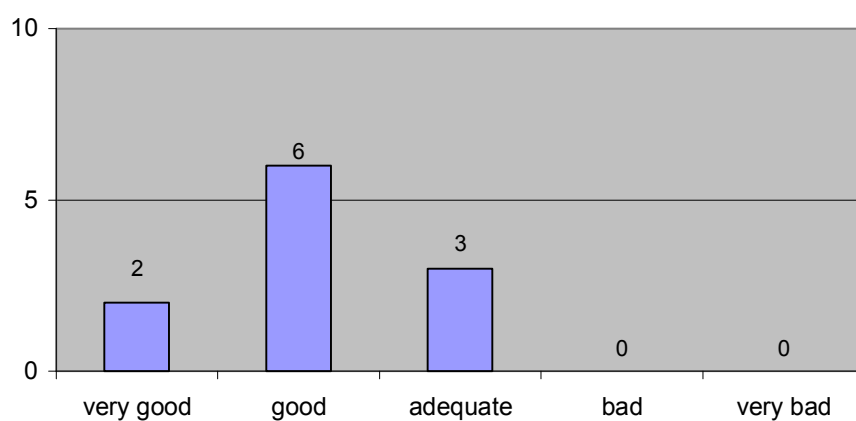
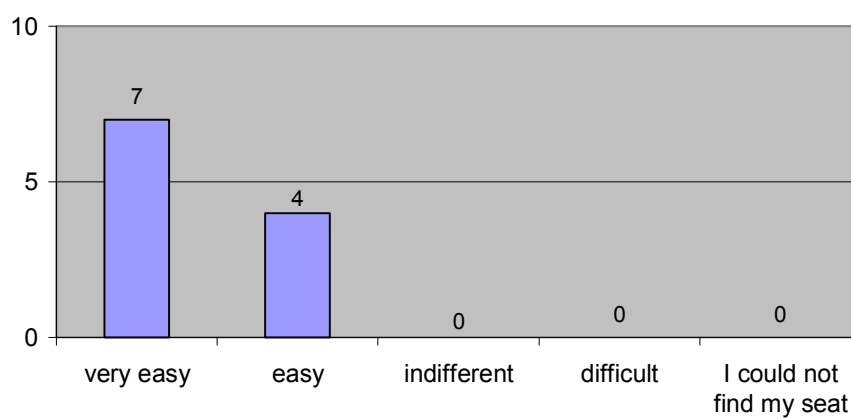
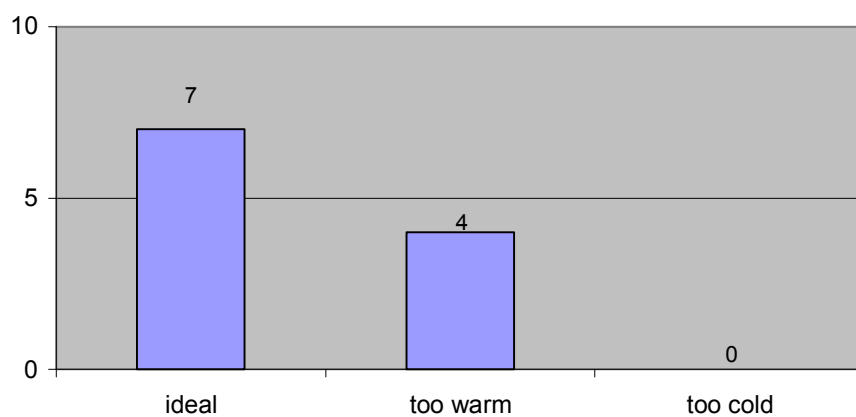


### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities



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

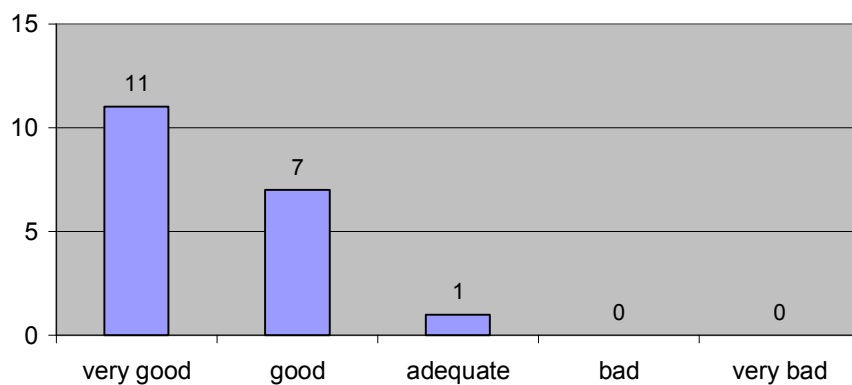
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- A little bit more table space would be better. In Brussels there is also a lot of noise from sirens.
- I had to sit too close to the heating system.
- Perfect spot (5 min. walk from train station) and very good organisation!
- Table surface was only "just" sufficient, larger surface would be more comfortable
- Tables with damaged edges
- The workspace, especially for paper C and D-I, should be larger. It was not possible to have lunch within the building.
- Well-organised. Good working conditions. Tables of good size. However, long way to walk from entrance to examination room with all our heavy suitcases and bags filled with books!

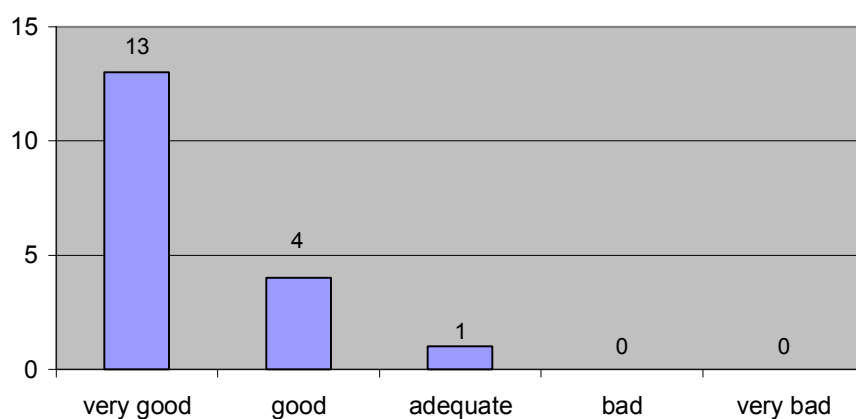
## 1.5 Helsinki (19 answers received)

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

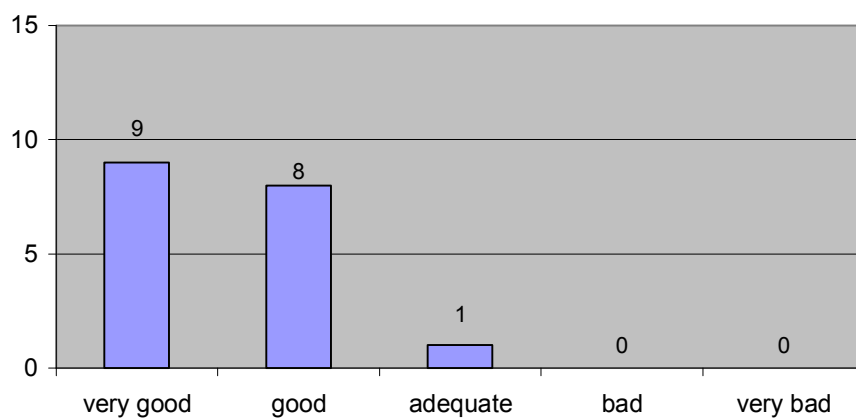
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



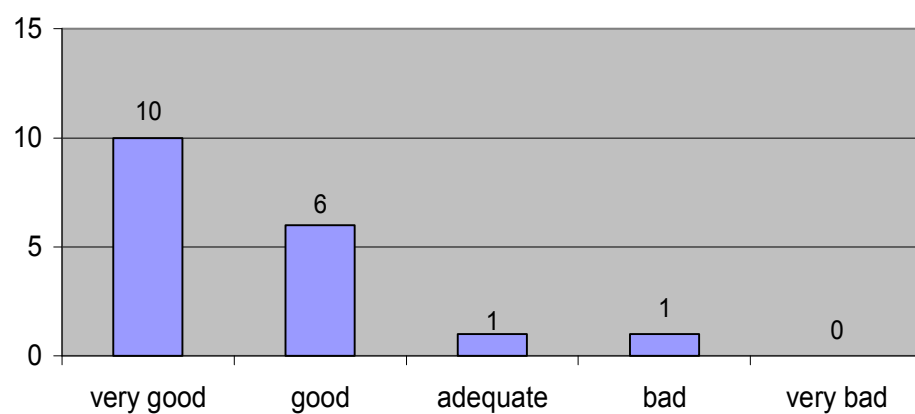
Identification check



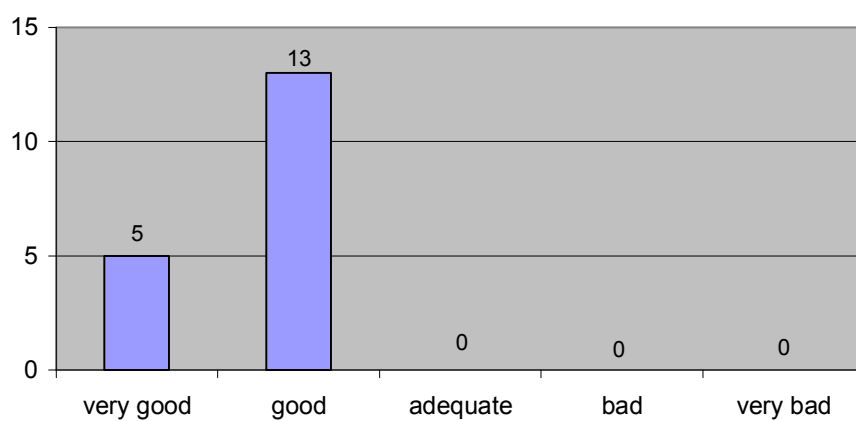
Lighting conditions



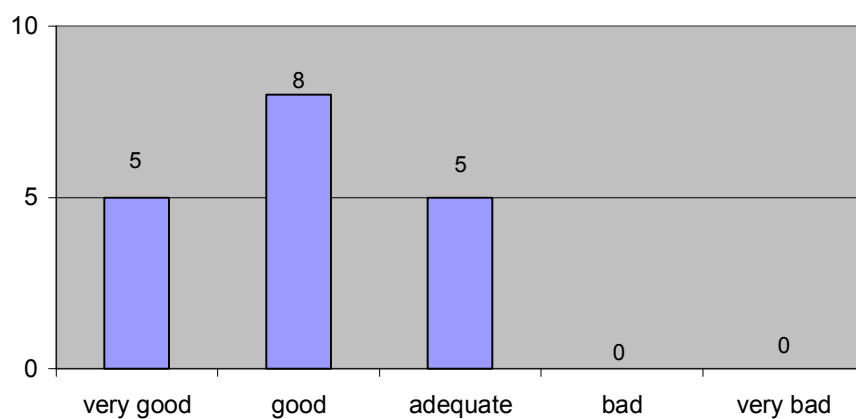
### Space for candidates



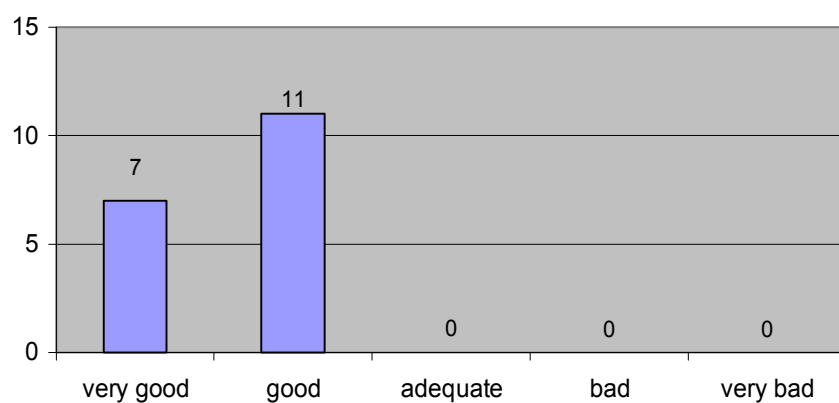
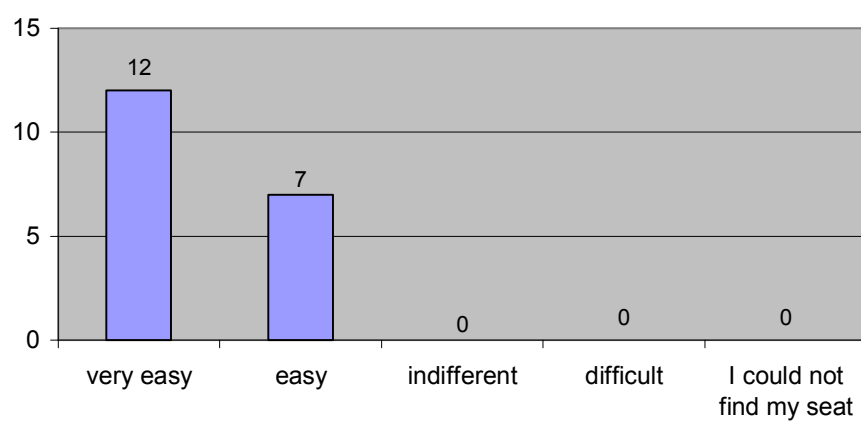
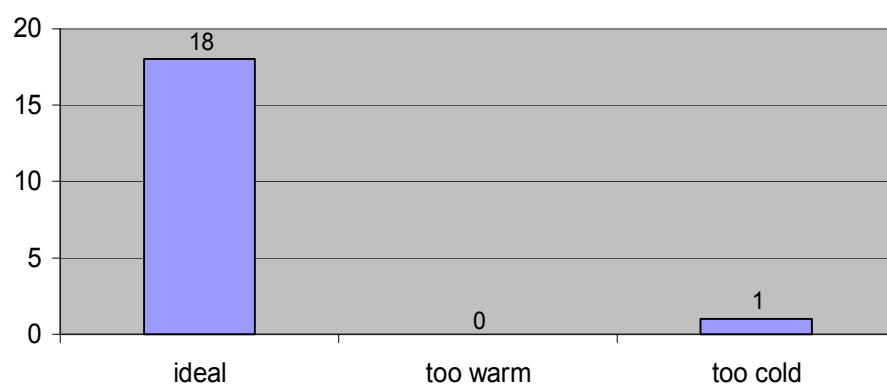
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities





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

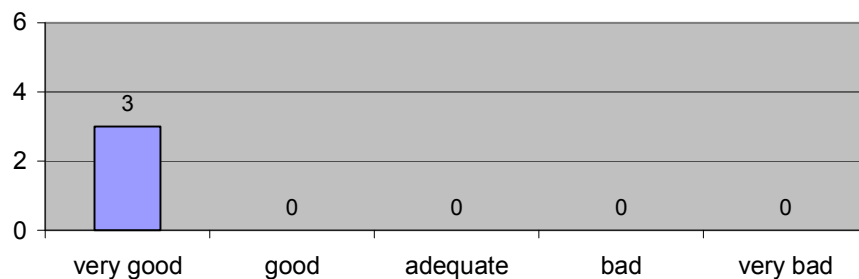
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- A familiar place for Finnish candidates. Sometimes its drawing on certain spots but its common knowledge.
- Air conditioning stops at 5 p.m.
- Everything was ok, except for one problem. My seat was located next to the exit door and there was a lot of traffic during all exams. This effected my concentration at some points.
- Helsinki is the best of all examination halls I have been.
- I sat the EQE 2009 in the larger hall at the examination location.
- The examination hall is a little bit small. Nobody should sit next to the door. Nobody should sit in front of the air conditioning vent. These two could be arranged at least in papers A and B where there is less people attending. Also, it could have been arranged properly for paper D, as the C paper had more participants. Otherwise it is good. These small changes could improve the conditions. However, it is more important to have the same seat in all papers. So, if it is difficult (different people attending different papers) modifications should not be made.
- The hall was very well suited to the test and the tables were large enough to accommodate the test papers, which was a large help.

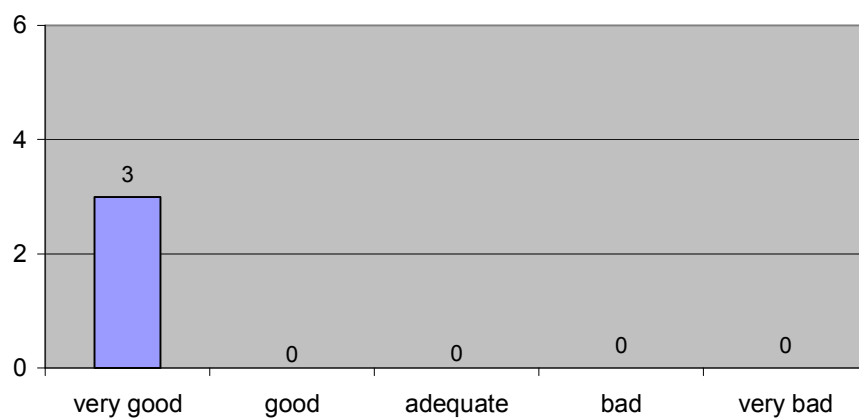
## 1.6 Kilkenny (3 answers received)

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

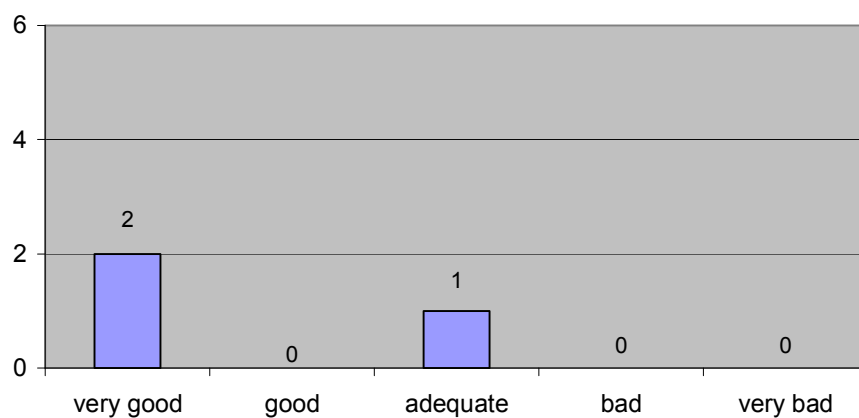
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



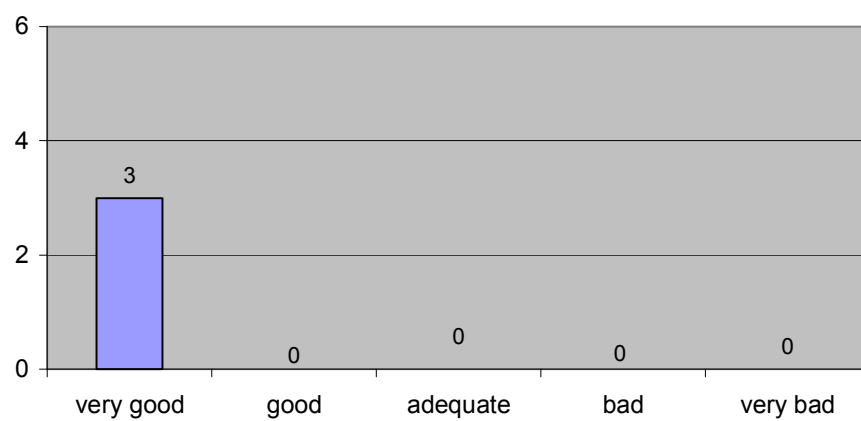
Identification check



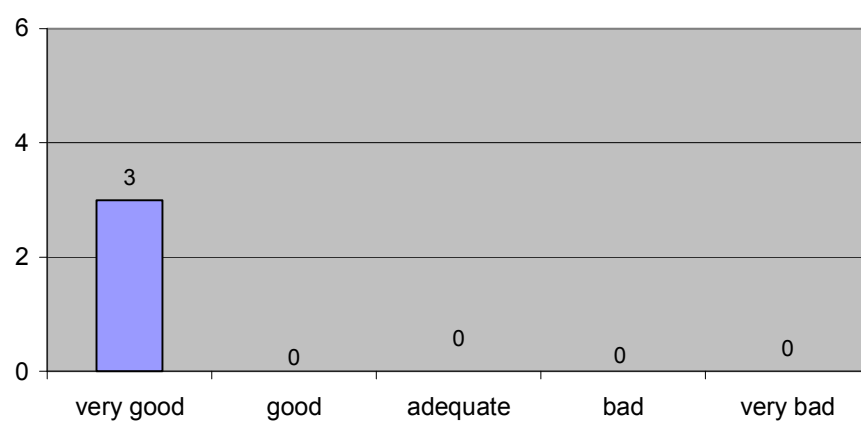
Lighting conditions



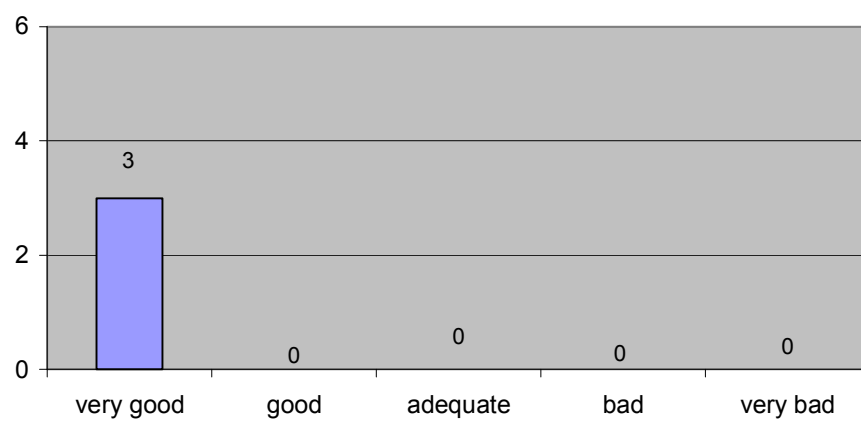
## Space for candidates

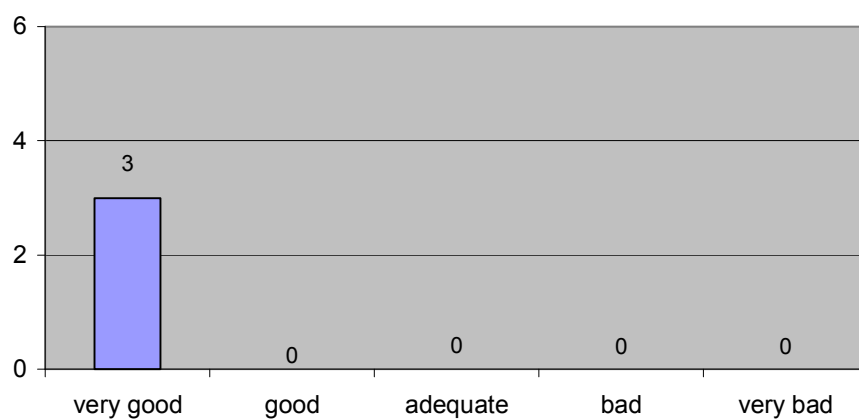
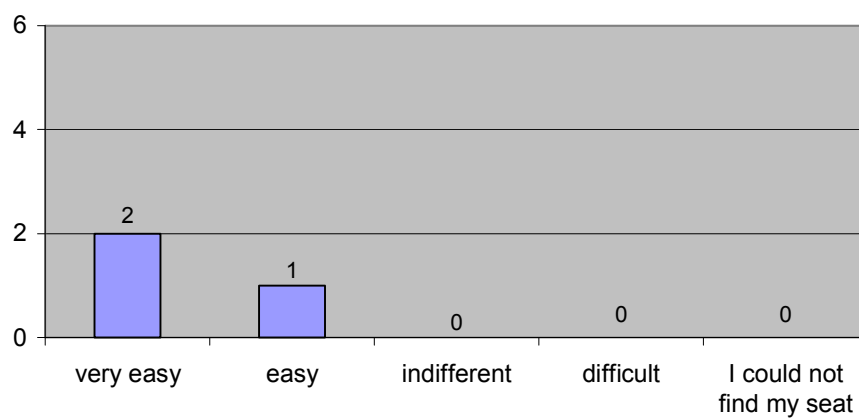
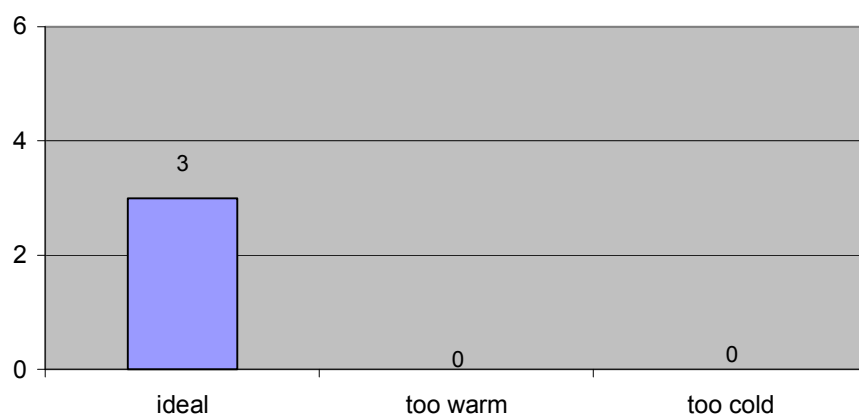


## Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



## Restroom facilities



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

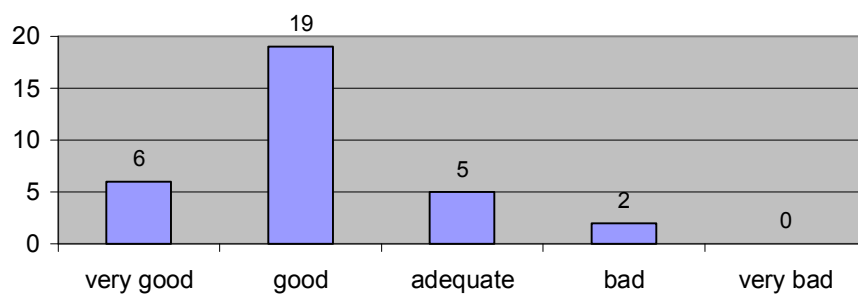
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- An absolutely fantastic venue!

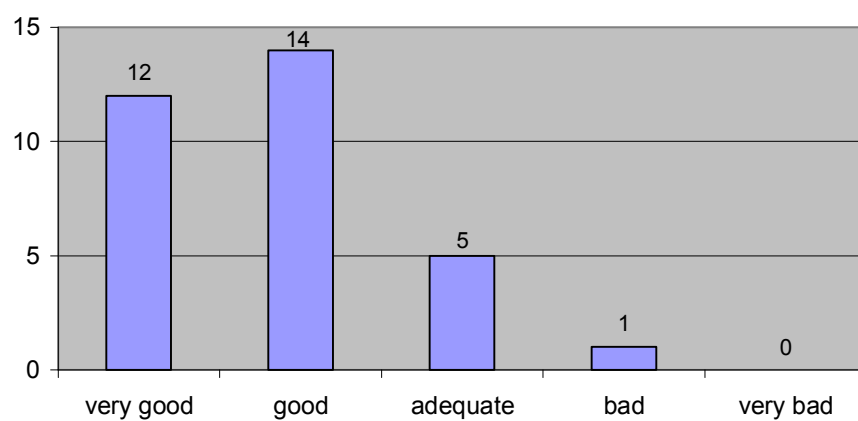
## 1.7 Madrid (32 answers received)

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

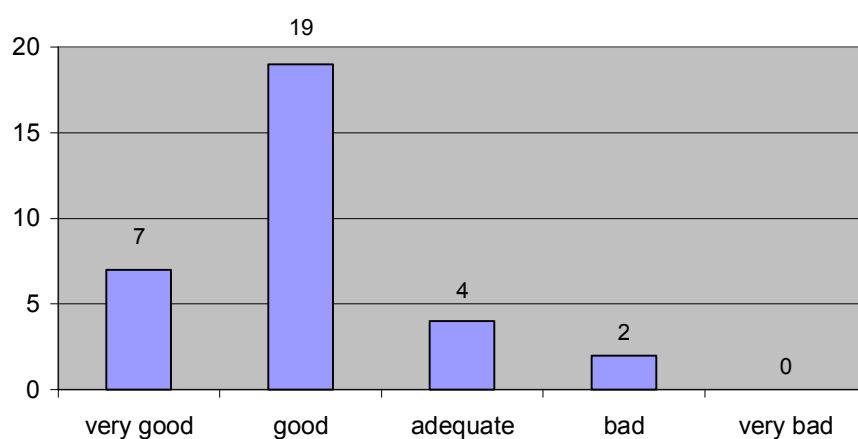
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



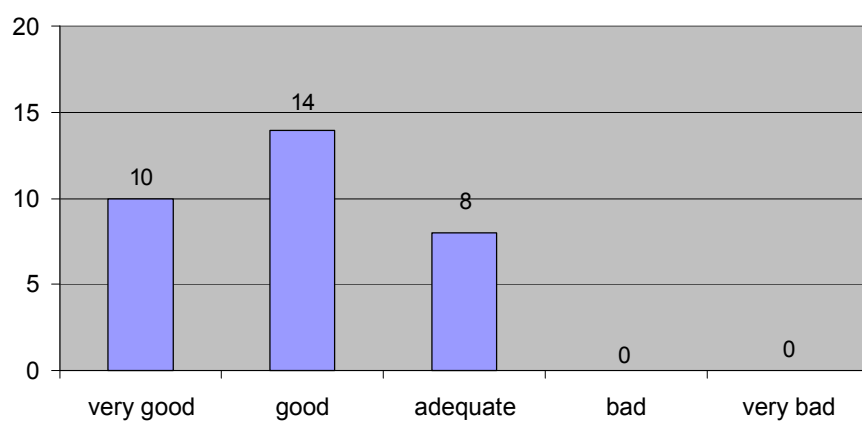
Identification check



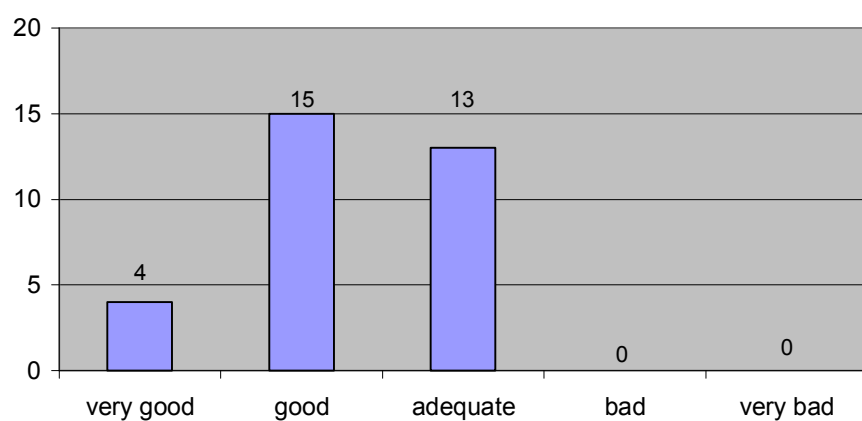
Lighting conditions



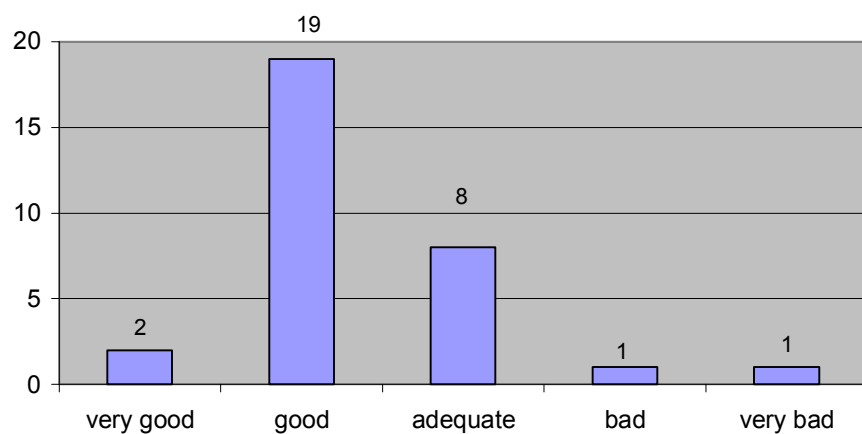
### Space for candidates



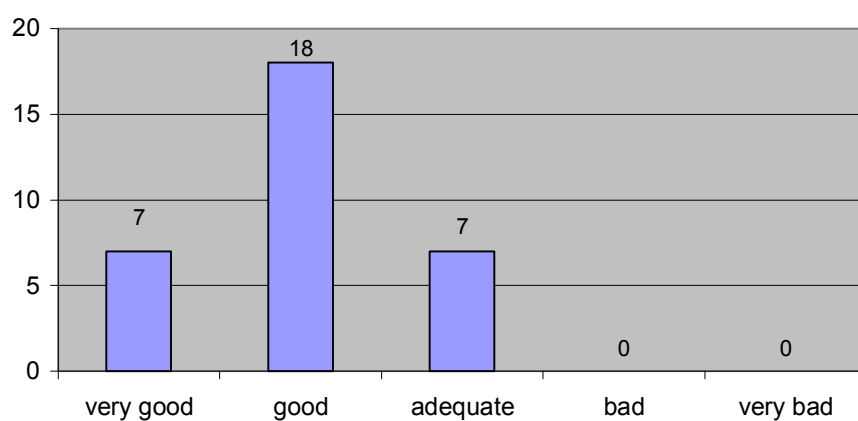
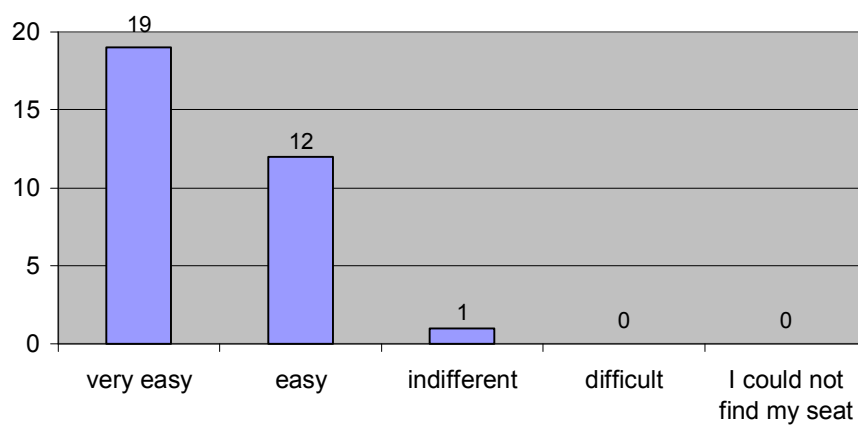
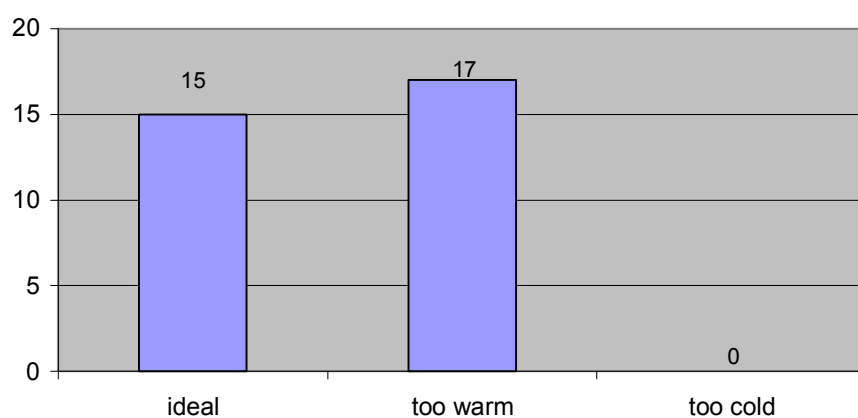
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities





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

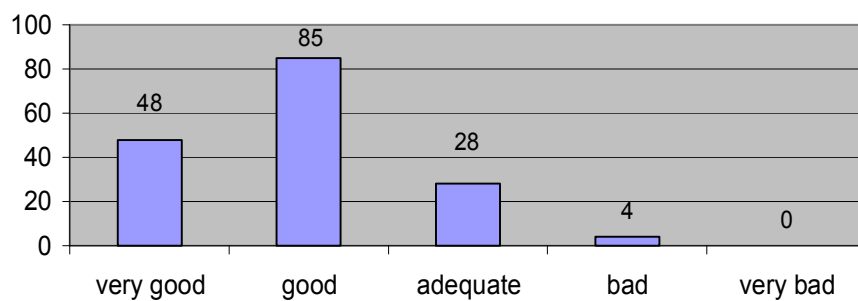
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- Again the room was far, far too hot, to the point of being claustrophobic. I reported the same problem in 2007 so I hope that this is resolved for next year.
- Although accessibility of the examination hall and information signs was adequate, it could still be improved. Adding some signs next to the main entrance of the building would help. The porters and security personnel were very kind in providing further indications to get to the examination hall.
- Difficulties to look at the clock.
- during the afternoon the room was too warm and the air was stuffy, during the morning exam it was fine. the restrooms were a bit too far away
- In the afternoon it was too hot in the hall.
- It was extremely warm
- May be the desk was not big enough for the amount of papers to be handled. Not very well illuminated Otherwise, it was comfortable.
- The best place in Madrid
- The conditions were in general fine
- The corridors between tables were too narrow
- The lack of natural light for so long made me feel my sight very tired and the heating/air conditioning at the end of the afternoon made dried my eyes.
- The temperature in the examination hall was really too warm, even more during the afternoon. Moreover, there was a storm the same day the exams took place and there was a lot of noise because of the wind but also because of the aeration system in the examination hall. Otherwise, the tables and the space between each table were suitable.
- Very convenient place to sit the examination
- Very good.

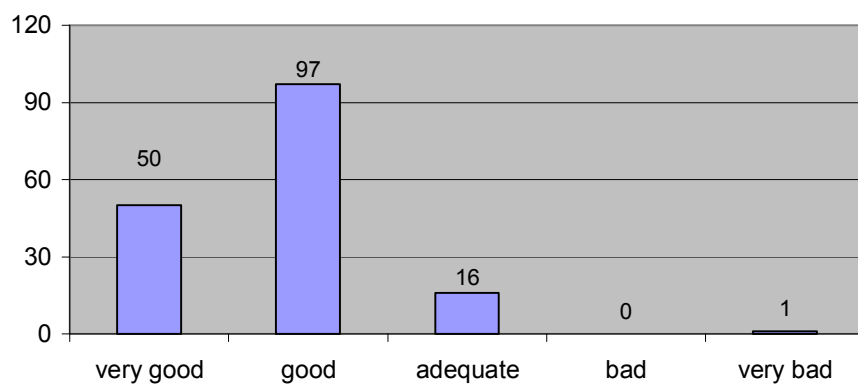
## 1.8 Munich M,O,C (165 answers received)

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

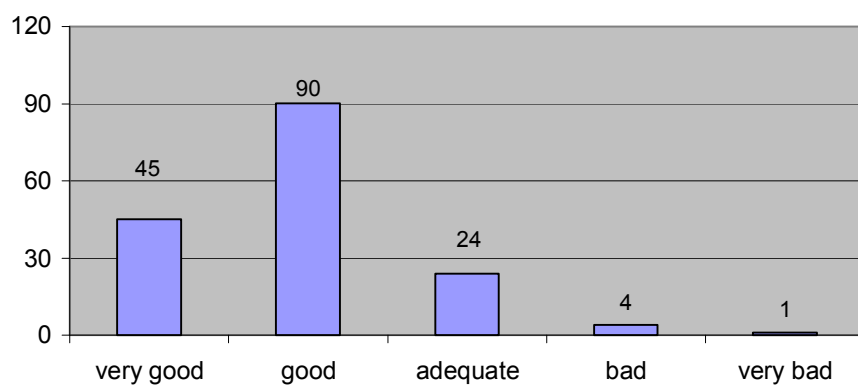
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



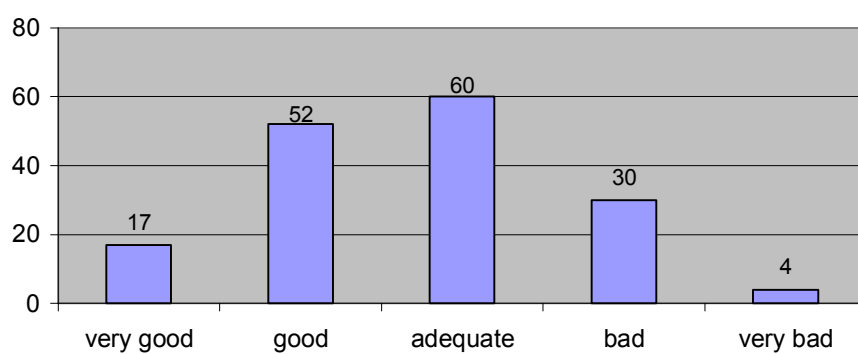
Identification check



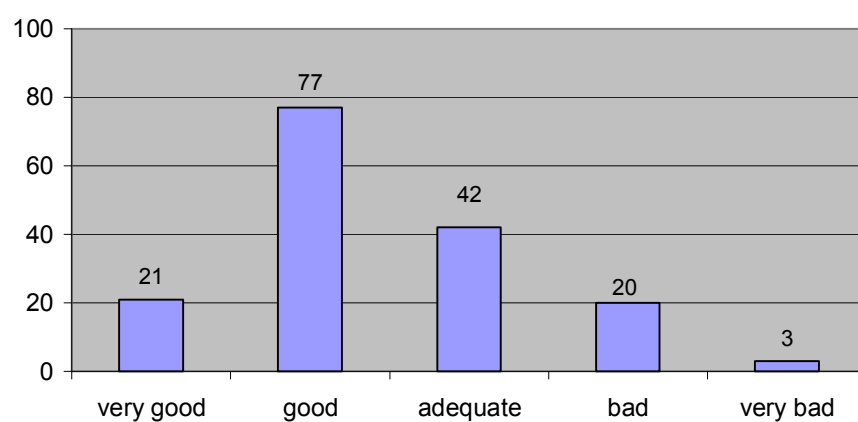
Lighting conditions



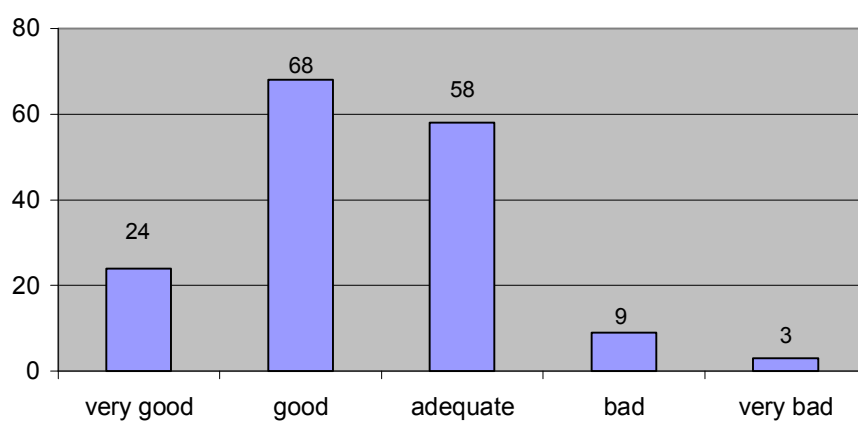
### Space for candidates



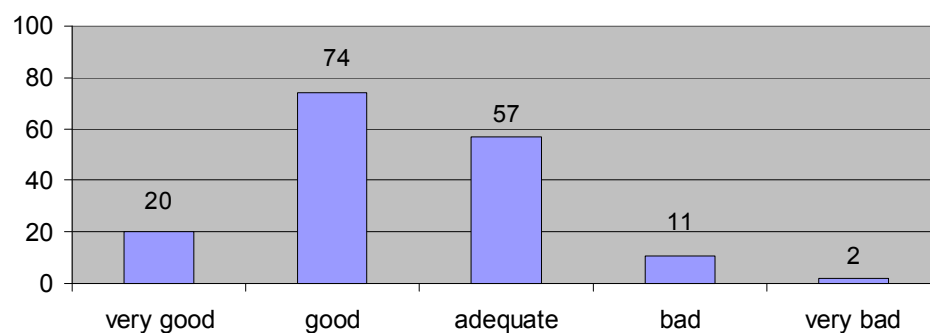
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



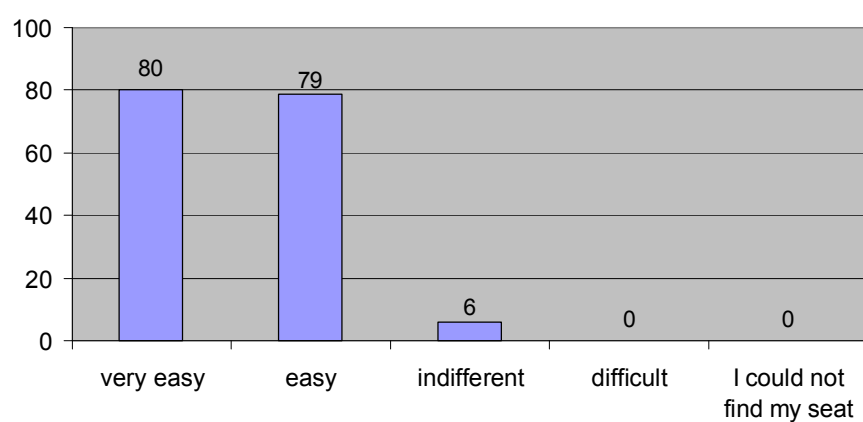
### Restroom facilities



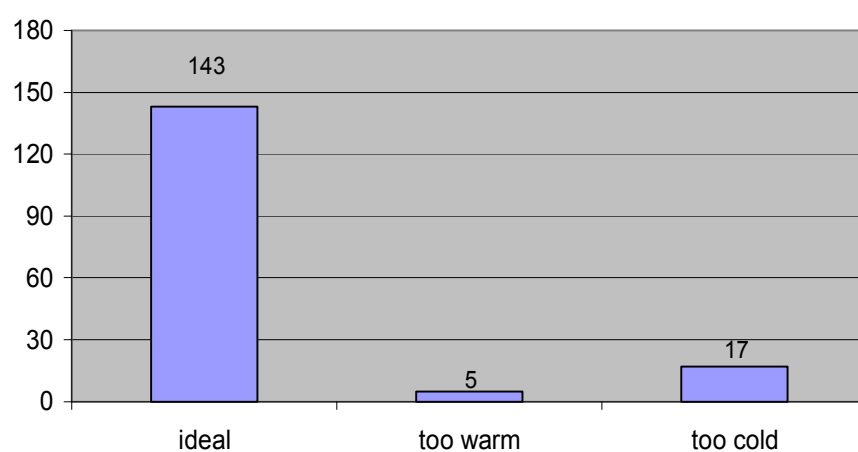
### Suitability of the examination hall



### 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.**

- It would be a good idea to have a bell ringing also 15 minutes before the end of the available time.
- The AMOUNT of light was sufficient. However, the QUALITY of light was less-than-satisfactory due to low frequency of the lighting elements, thus causing early tiredness of the eyes. - The guidance to the hall (hall no. 4) was better than in 2008.
- Acoustic conditions: S- or U-Bahn was very loud seats next to loudspeakers: voice of instructor was too loud and "sudden"
- Air conditioning was noisy when turned on - the tables were too small - the chair was good - the hall was in principle acceptable
- Alarmingly large!
- Angenehm anonym!
- Bad air
- Better than expected
- Chairs are really bad considering the time the candidates have to stay seated. This year at least some candidates, despite the clear signs to the contrary, did smoke in the restrooms! Therefore, in order to protect non-smokers, please consider monitoring the restrooms or providing some facility for smokers.
- Cloakroom would be nice, more "eyes" in the toilet
- Desks should be bigger.
- Die vielen Neonröhren als Beleuchtung haben ein leicht flimmerndes Licht erzeugt - zusammen mit dem dumpfen Rauschen der Klimaanlage, den viel zu niedrigen Stühlen (ich saß auf den Richtlinien und einem Kissen, welche ich für Schreibhöhe auf den Stuhl legen musste) und der trockenen Luft verursachte es bei mir Verspannungen und nachmittags starke Kopfschmerzen - so werde ich nächstes Jahr erneut antreten müssen
- Durch große Anzahl der Prüflinge und die dicht angeordneten Plätze zuviel Lärm und Ablenkung; Stahlplatten im Boden machen großen Lärm beim Betreten (ist mehrfach vorgekommen)
- Es ist ein bisschen ungewohnt, eine Prüfung mit so vielen Teilnehmern in einer Messehalle abzulegen. Aber es wurde alles getan, um ein Arbeiten zu ermöglichen.
- Größere Tische
- Hall OK - desk could be bigger - space around the desk could be bigger
- I could not leave my stuff (pencils/water/cookies/Text-Marker/post-its...) on the table, it was gone the next morning! With respect to the amount of luggage I "had" to carry for the exam, It would have been helpful to leave it in the hall overnight, but due to the above, that does not seem to be possible.
- I found my table partly wet with drinking remains, but this is because of the sloppy neighbour I had ...
- I managed to get there because I followed the crowd..... some extra indications would have been helpful!
- I regret that the access to the examination room was limited during the lunch break.
- Ich hatte Glück und saß am Rand eines Blocks, wodurch ich etwas mehr

Bewegungsfreiraum hatte. Mitten drin kam es mir etwas beengt vor.

- Im Boden des MOC befinden sich sehr viel Kabelkanäle, deren Abdeckungen beim Drauftreten recht laut sind. Dadurch entsteht eine zusätzliche, relativ störende Lärmquelle.
- In my opinion, M,O,C is too big for such an examination. The air quality decreases significantly during the exams, in particular during paper C. This year, for the first time it was not allowed to leave the examination hall during the exam. Is this a general new regulation, or is a speciality of Munich? Although the time limit for the exams is very tight, it would have helped me a lot to breathe some fresh oxygen.
- It's hard to comment on it because I have never seen other examination sites.
- Leider hindert es sehr, wenn man während der Prüfung auf seiner linken Hand sitzen muss, um sie zu wärmen. Ich fand es zu kalt. Laut Thermometer waren es zwar 21°C, aber bei einer mehrstündigen, sitzenden Tätigkeit kühlen Extremitäten doch unglaublich ab.
- Manchmal ging die Lüftung für einige Zeit an, was sehr störend war. Etwas größere Tische wäre angenehm.
- Mich haben sehr brummende Leuchtstoffröhrenlampen gestört
- My desk was near the restroom and there was the noise of the door which was opened and closed continuously. There are no hotels near MOC wherefrom it's possible to reach MOC by foot, so that the candidates are forced to take the taxi or the underground to reach MOC (while in Rome it's better because it's possible to stay at Ergife, which is close to the examination room).
- My table very close to the men's restrooms with direct access from the examination hall, the locking system of the door was very noisy: Thus at any time during the examination there was people going back and forward and, of course a lot of noise- Disturbing!
- Not enough space bad restroom conditions far to loud from trucks outside the building. I sat near a roll door which let the noise get in the hall
- Ok
- Ok..
- Quite large, industrial look
- Tables are relatively small (well, same size as last year in Berlin but nonetheless too small for handling lots of books and papers at the same time, especially relevant for part C).
- Tables are too narrow and too close each other
- Tables too small, walking of candidates to the restroom made noise due to metal plates on the floor, far distance from metro station.
- The acoustics should be improved by more carpet areas on the floor.
- The air quality in the afternoon was not so good.
- The air temp. was fine, however the floor was extremely cold, causing cold feet.
- The air was not good (I attended Wednesday and Thursday). The air should be better exchanged before the start of the examination.
- The conditions in the examination hall (MOC, Munich) were all in all ok. for the exam, although a little more space (larger table, bigger distances between the tables) would be desirable.
- The hall becomes noisy if the candidates start to arrange papers and move

chairs. This is annoying towards the end of each exam. Instructions to the candidates to be fair and to keep quiet would be appreciated. Further, delays in the exam proceeding caused by mismanagement, as happened in 2009 (multiple candidates had received wrong exam papers), causes disturbance and noise too. However, the problem handling of the organizers was quite efficient.

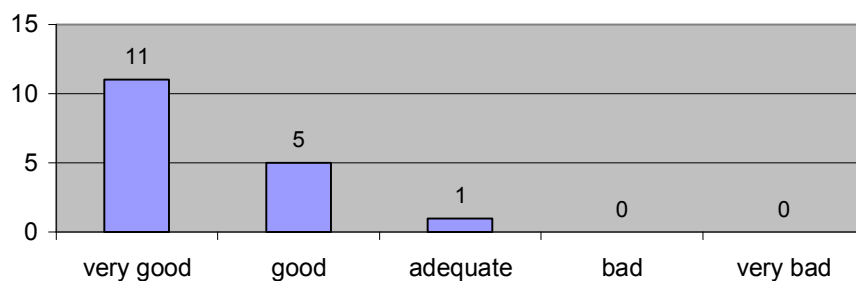
- The hall is loud, although I was fortunate enough to sit at the back and had only a few neighbours, more space would be welcome.
- The hall smelled a little bit from machine oil. When the vans for providing fresh air were running, it was a little bit noisy. The vans ran only at the beginning of the exams for some time, not during later times of the exam. So it should be possible to only use them just prior to the beginning to "fill" the hall with fresh air. Some metal plates in the floor gave noise, if somebody walked over them. Maybe these metal plates could be labelled in a way to avoid people from stepping on them. Candidates sitting close to the doors of the toilets, I guess, were disturbed by the clapping door. Maybe the door could be "silenced" in some way. Any type of noise is extremely disturbing, at least for me.
- The problem that happened with paper A at MOC in Munich, with some folders having paper D1 instead, and the consequent delays is just embarrassing for the EPO. I was told that such organisational problems happen nearly every year (another problem happened with D2 in 2008). Does not anybody in the Exam Committee take the responsibility for these mistakes and pay the consequences? MOC is very far from the city centre.
- The table was unsuitable for making paper C or D. the candidates need more space to do a good work.
- The tables are too small
- The tables are too small. My table was a wiggling one which got on my nerves during paper C (the reason perhaps was an uneven ground)
- The tables were too small.
- The tables were unfortunately somewhat small.
- The wall clock is not well seen from all places in the MOC hall. I found it extremely helpful to have my clock in front of me on my desk, esp. for part D-I.
- Toilet far to close and people actually smoke in the toilet.
- Too large
- Tuesday morning it was a bit too cold, after that it was fine.
- Writing in the MOC means to write together with a huge amount of people, but it is organized very well.



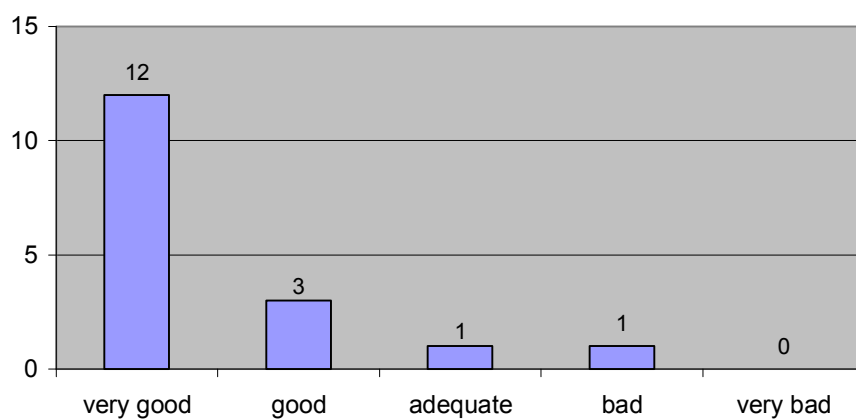
## 1.9 DPMA (17 answers received)

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

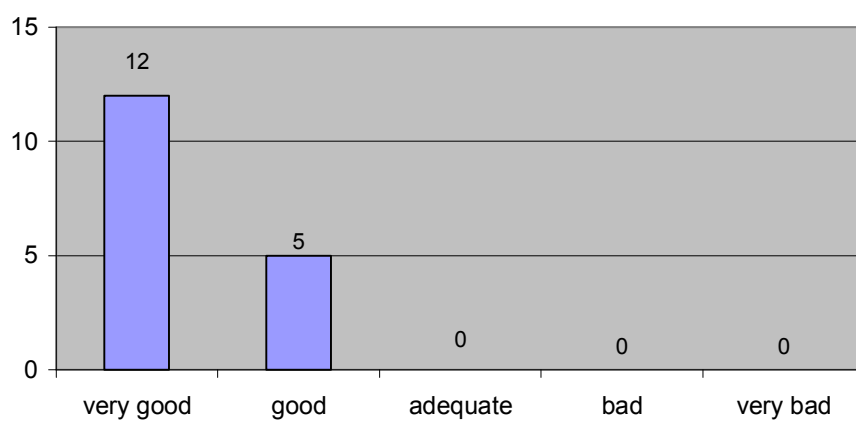
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



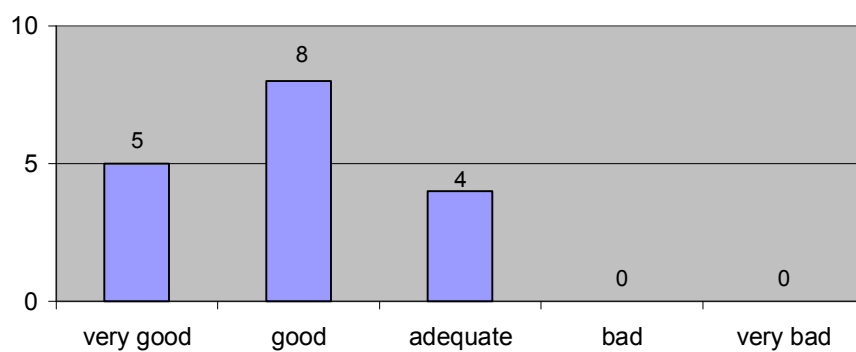
Identification check



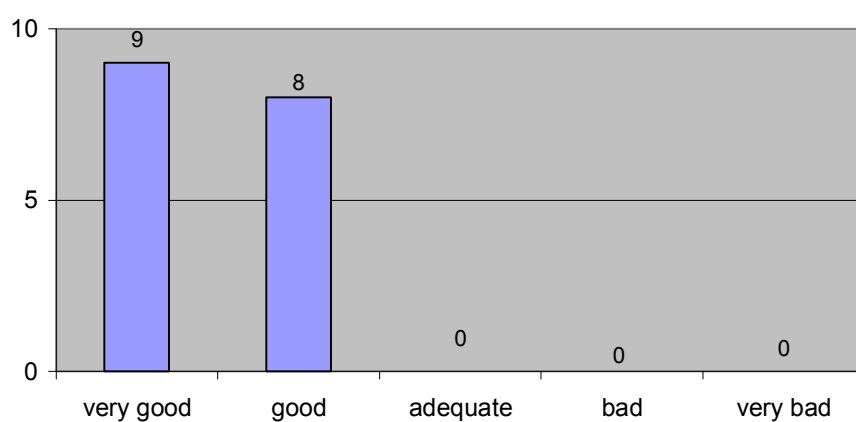
Lighting conditions



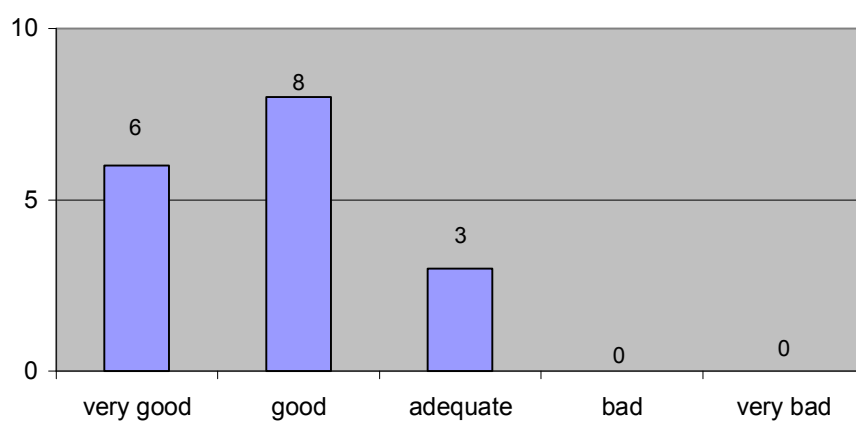
### Space for candidates

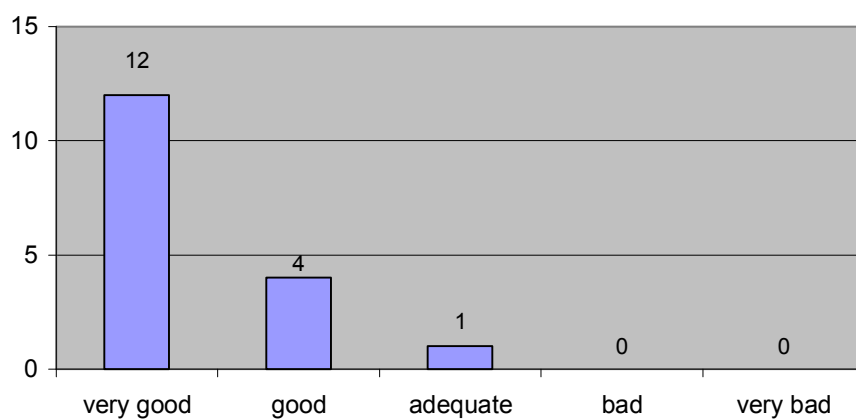
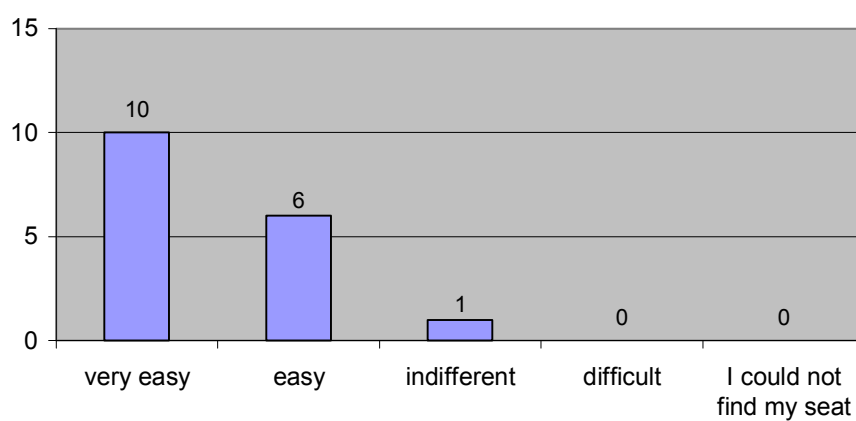
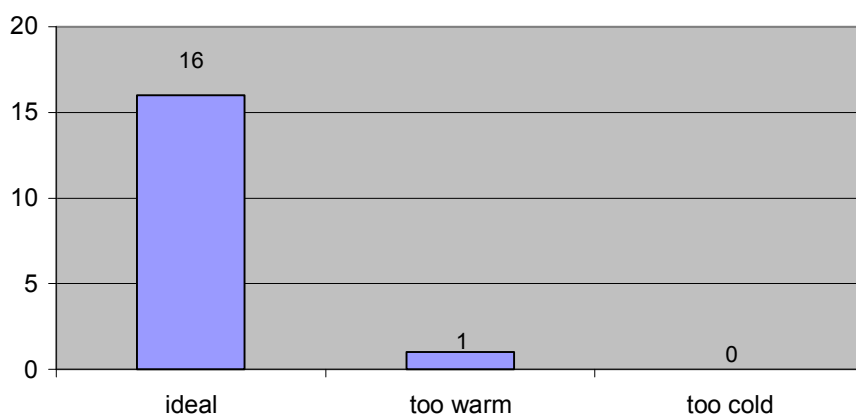


### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities



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

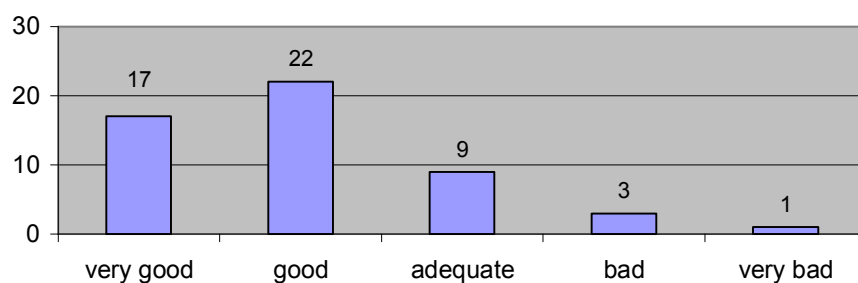
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- Air conditioning not ideal: air in the examination hall was used very quickly, i.e. not enough fresh air
- Being only 54 candidates in a room enabled a good atmosphere for examination since there was not much disturbance.
- Good atmosphere.
- Identification checks were performed all the time; this is distracting
- Over hours oxygen content dropped significantly in the hall
- Place on the desk is a little cramped
- The clock inside the room was not visible from all places. The clock outside did not work properly.

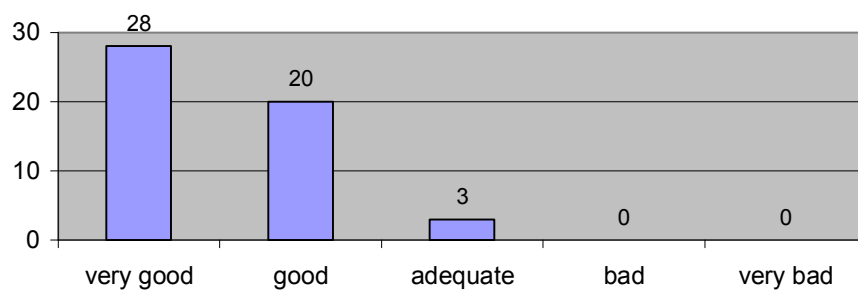
## 1.10 Paris (52 answers received)

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

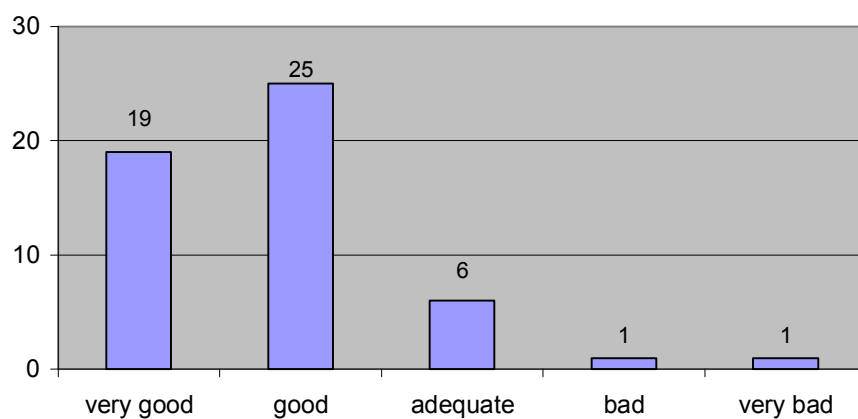
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



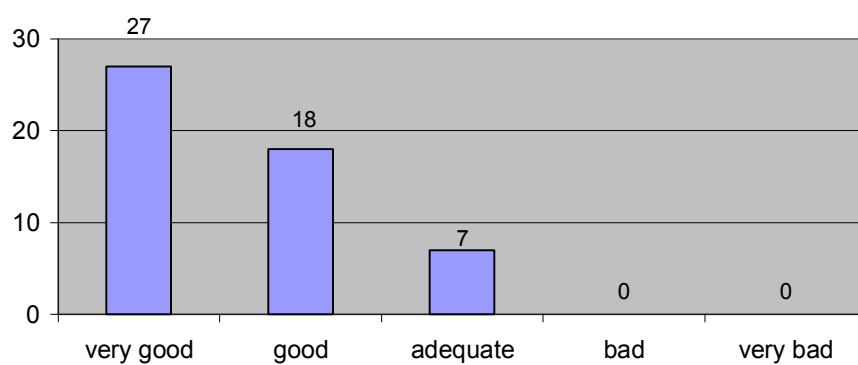
Identification check



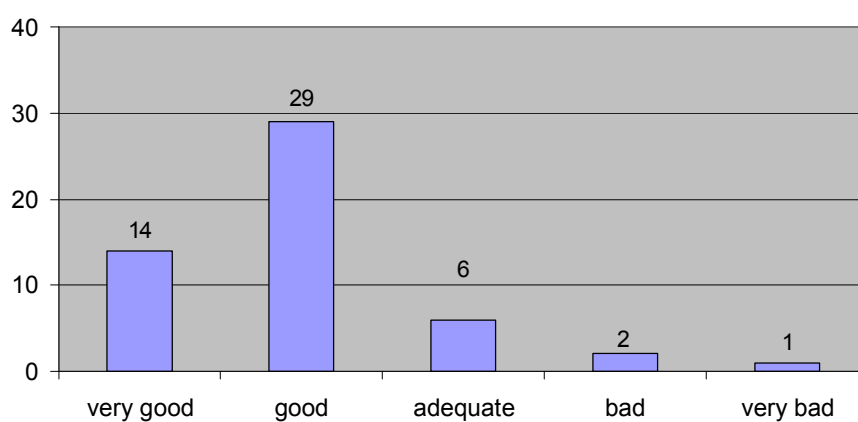
Lighting conditions



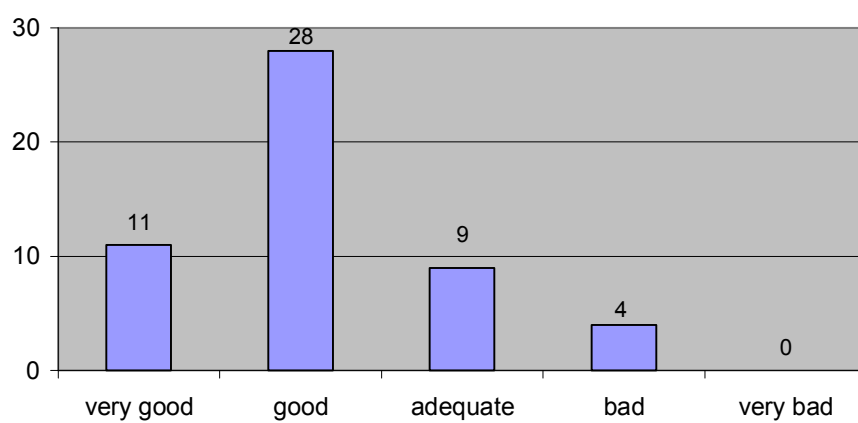
### Space for candidates

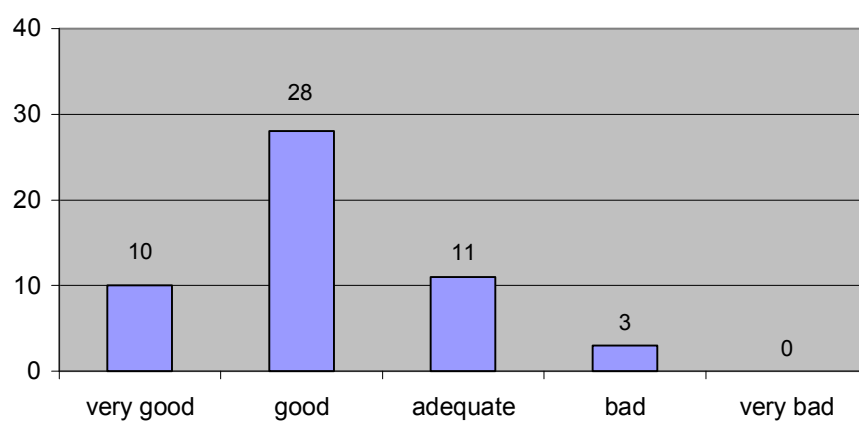
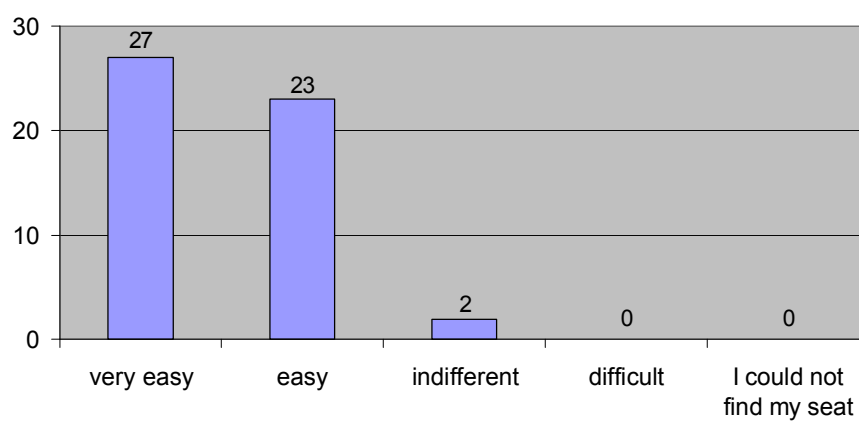
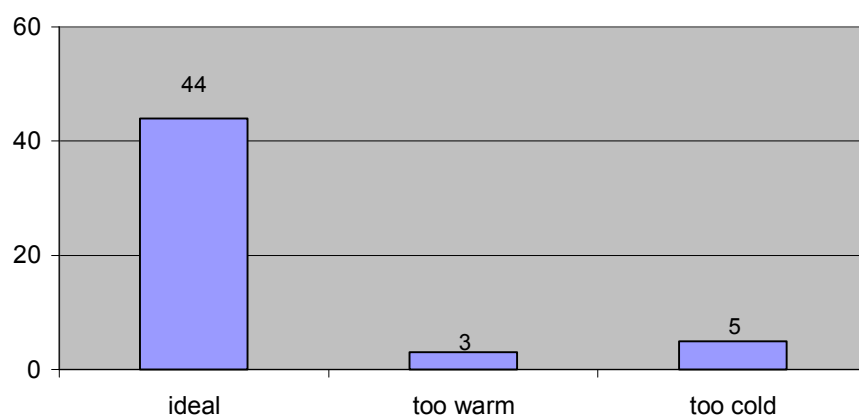


### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### 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.**

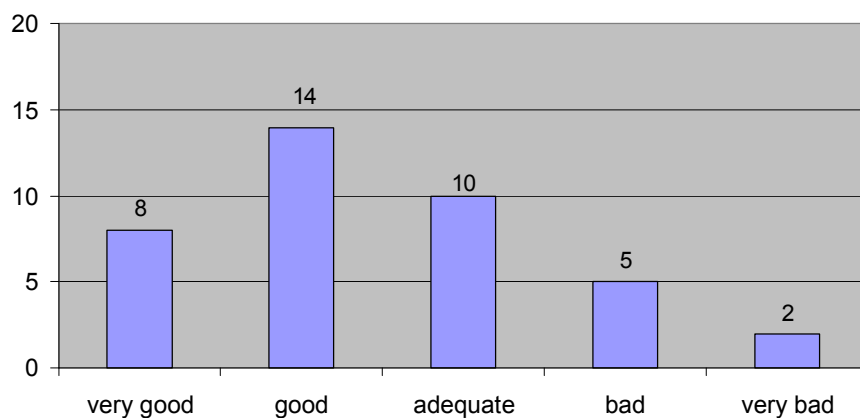
- A bit too far from Paris centre and stations
- difficult to have lunch in the short time available since There were few restaurants or bars around the hall and these latter were already filled with candidates - far from public transport stations
- It's very important to check that tables are not wobbly, as writing on them is not convenient and may create repetitive noise disturbing for the colleagues.
- Le centre d'examen est trop excentré et dans une banlieue de Paris pas très bien fréquentée, accessible seulement en bus et pas directement en métro. Un centre d'examen à l'intérieur de Paris serait préférable.
- Les tables grincent quand on écrit, ce qui est déstabilisant pour celui qui écrit mais aussi pour ceux qui sont à côté.
- Lots of space, very large tables, very good conditions.
- nappe en papier très peu solides et pas pratiques
- No control to go to the restroom. Several persons can go there in the same time...
- pas de commentaires spéciales. L'endroit est spacieux et adéquat.
- some tables made very bad noise
- The access to the examination centre itself by public transports is extremely difficult. It takes more than one hour from the centre of Paris with several changes between metro, RER, bus.... Not all candidates can afford to book a hotel nearby the examination
- The examination hall was very noisy because of a drill just near the examination hall and some candidates think they are alone and are not care of the noise that they produce. Lighting was poor in some area of the examination hall after 5 hours of examination
- The hall was far away from the centre of Paris, and in an unsecure place...
- The noise of the mechanical clocks was disturbing, as I seat just near a clock.
- the Paris facility is far away from any public transport
- to far from Paris centre.



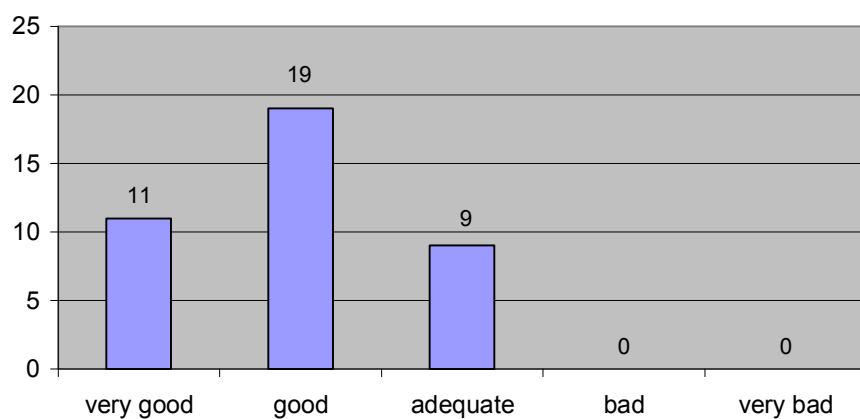
## 1.11 Rome (39 answers received)

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

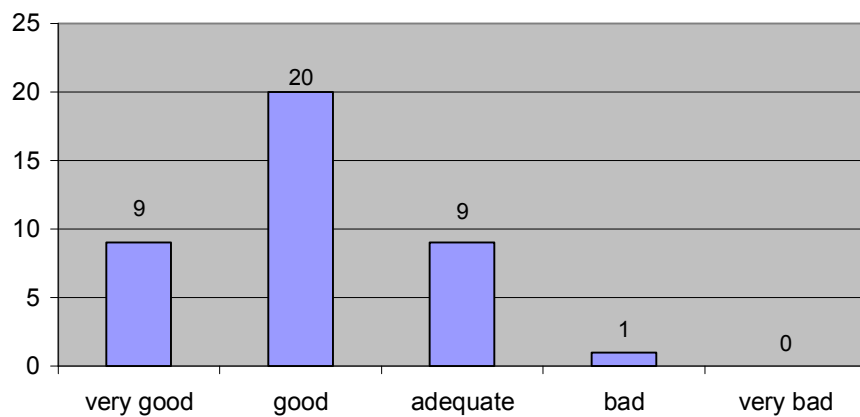
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



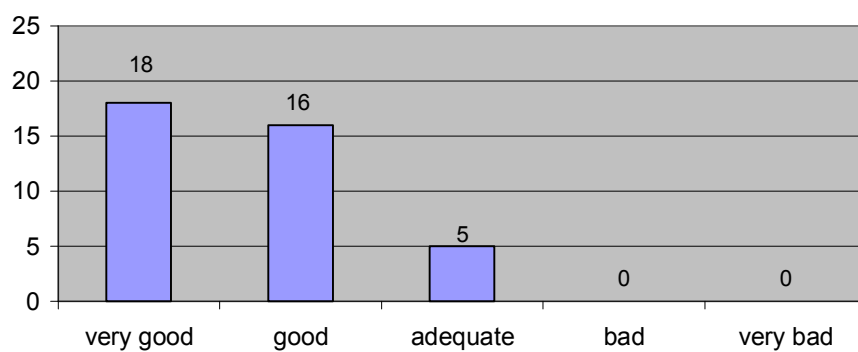
Identification check



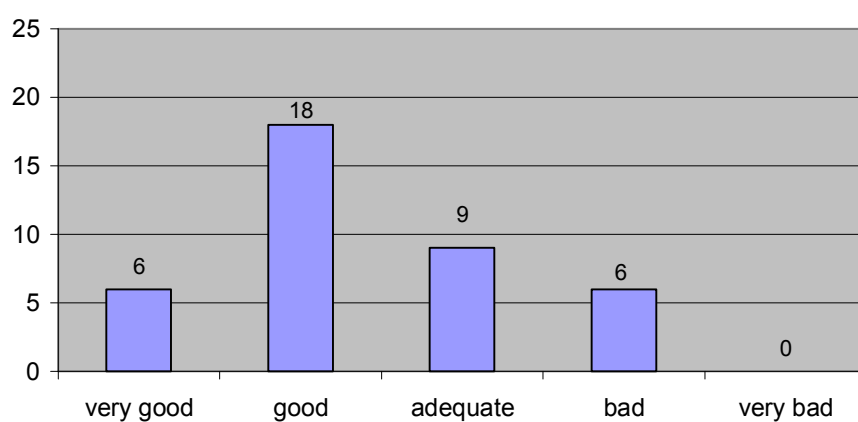
Lighting conditions



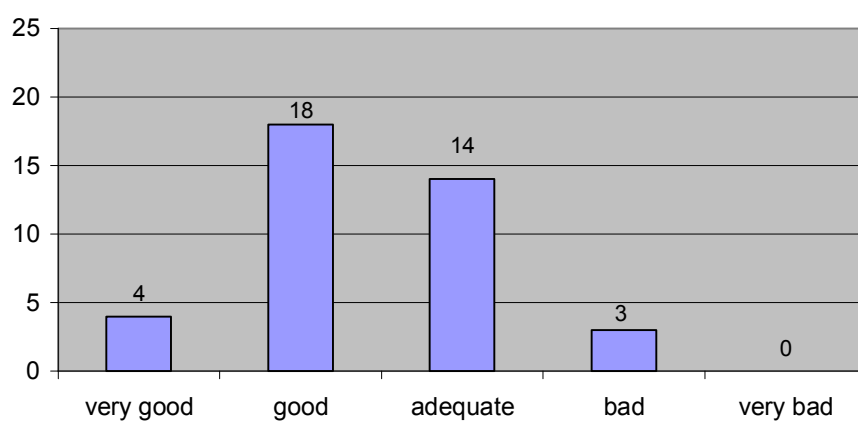
### Space for candidates



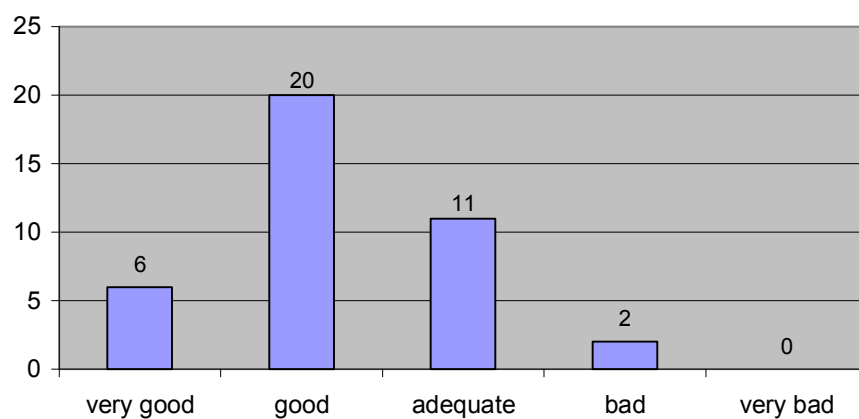
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



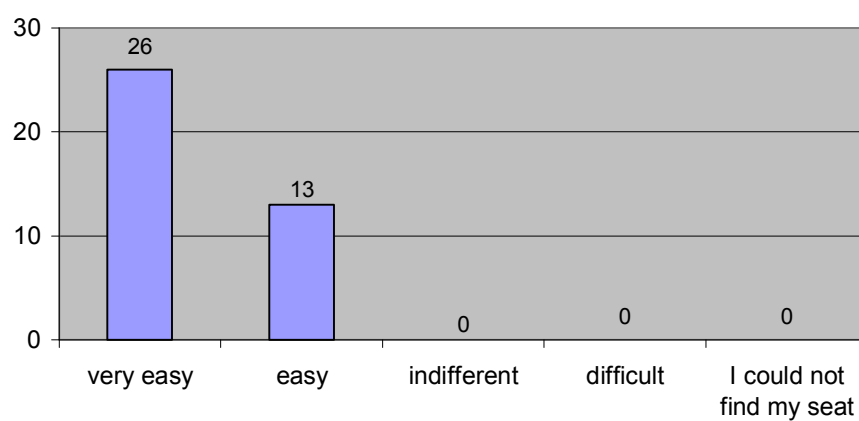
### Restroom facilities



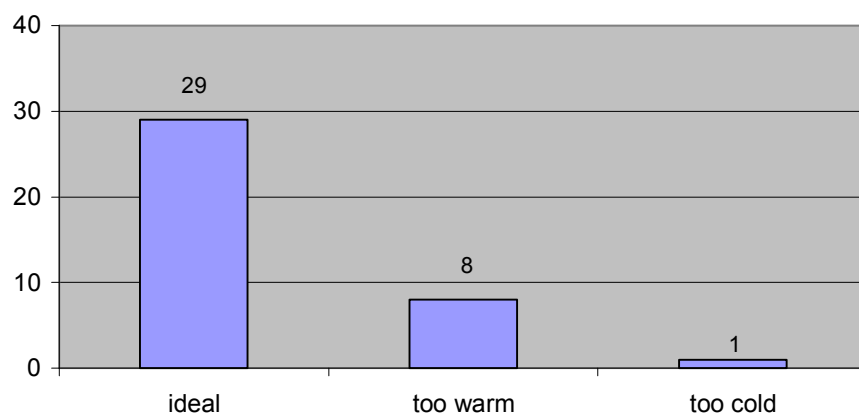
### Suitability of the examination hall



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



### Q5) Hall temperature



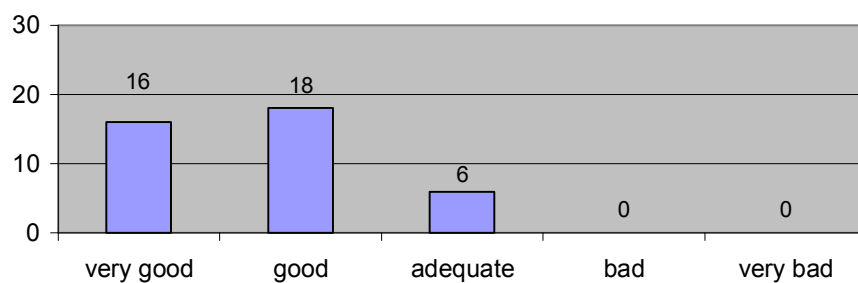
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- adequate
- hard to reach with heavy luggage (downstairs)
- I only suggest a better regulation of the temperature of the hall
- It was OK.
- no elevator for accessibility...hard to carry all book up to two floors !
- none
- nothing
- temperature was not under control: too warm or too cold
- The address which was sent to me was not correct! The exam did not take place at the Ergife Hotel (address in the sitting paper) but in the "Ufficio delle entrate" premises behind the hotel (200 meters from it). I could find it only thanks to resitting colleagues
- The Examination hall in Rome is part of a building frequently hosting several examinations on the same day. Unfortunately, though, halls are accessible through a single main entrance which inevitably gets packed when candidates sitting different examinations show up at about the same time. Accessing one's examination hall may hence become a bit of a hassle, since one has to first find a way through the crowd and then to identify one's destination in the building... Further, the very location of the Examination Hall in Rome is not all that well served by public transportation.
- The examination hall in Rome is placed in the basement of the building, therefore the illumination of the hall is not optimal.
- There was a flickering neon light, which was troublesome.
- Unfortunately since the examination hall in Rome is in the basement of the building, there are no windows and consequently the lighting conditions are not optimal.

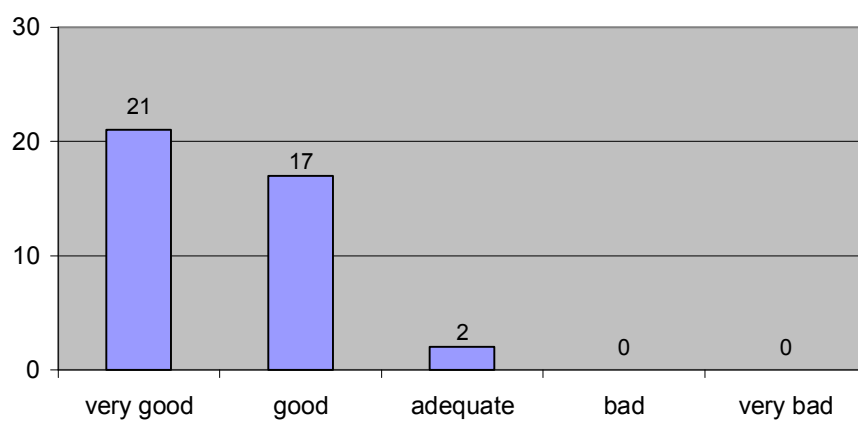
## 1.12 Stockholm (40 answers received)

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

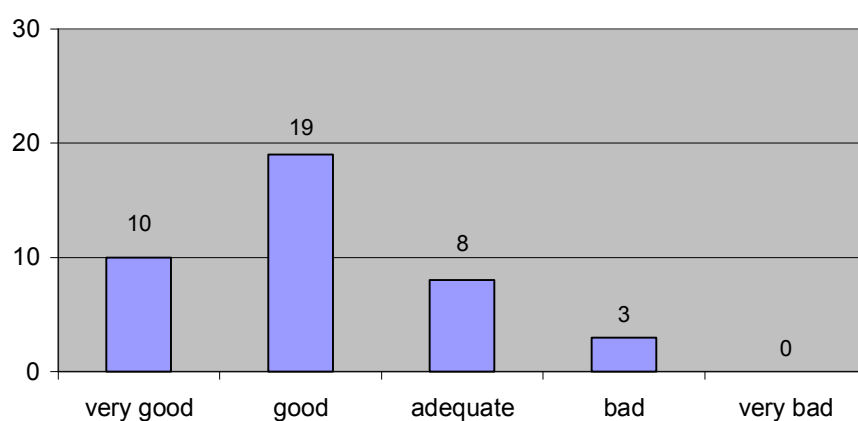
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



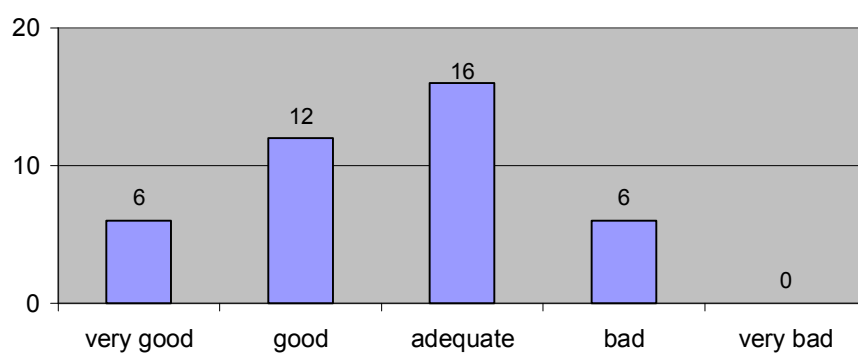
Identification check



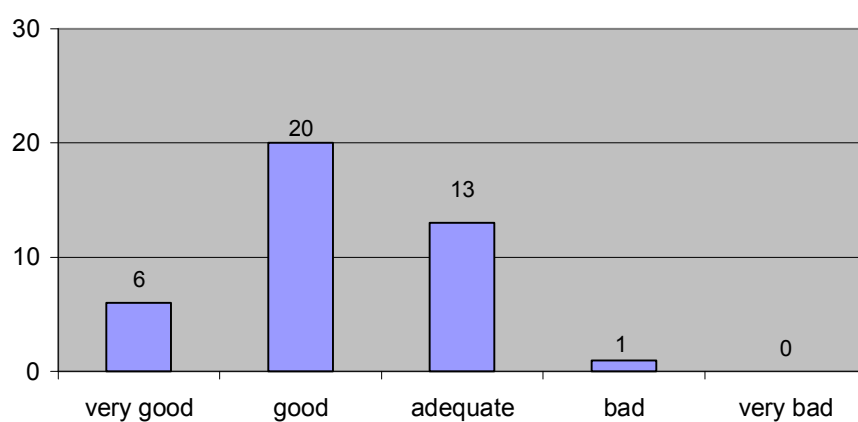
Lighting conditions



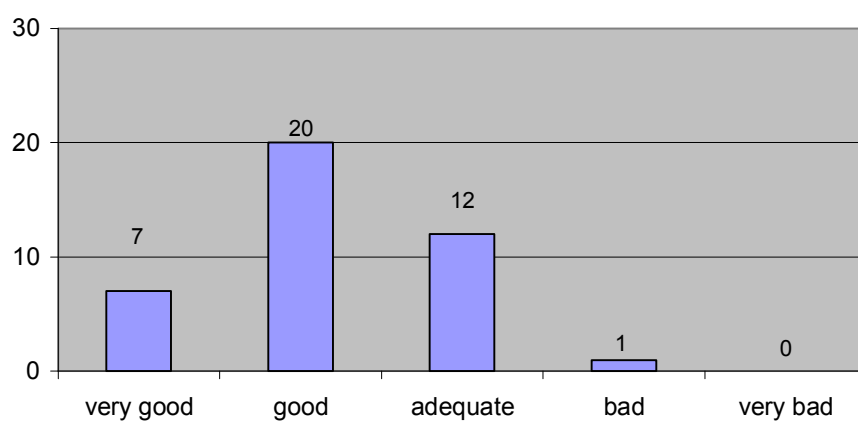
### Space for candidates

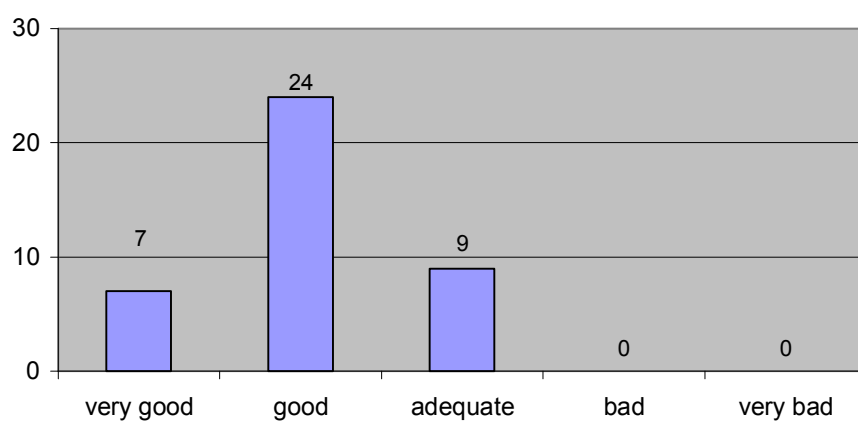
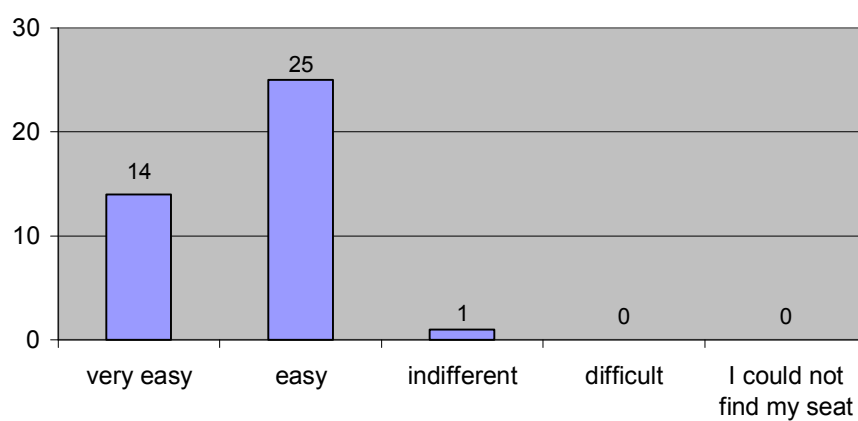
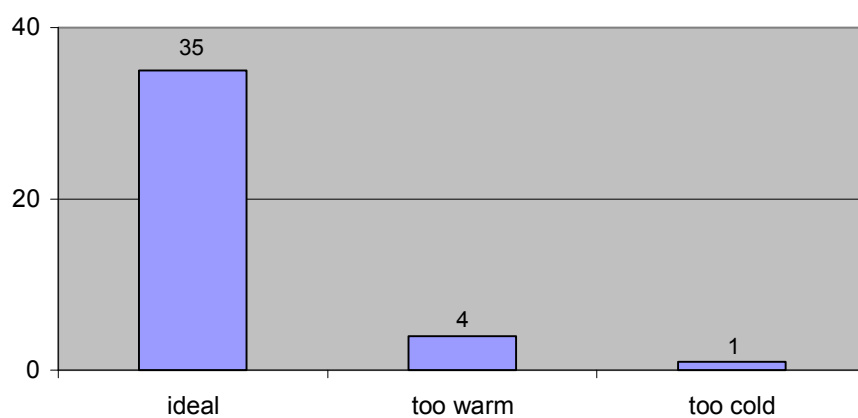


### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### 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.**

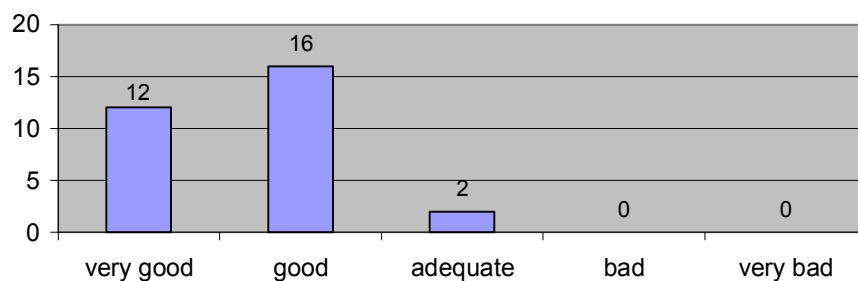
- A bigger table could be adequate
- Acceptable.
- Light too much noise.
- None
- None, actually. very good
- None-comfortable tables/seats: the tables were very broad and short, was not possible to put all necessary books/papers so as to overview those. Seats were rather low (at least for me with my 158 sm tall).
- Some desks are instable.
- table could have been bigger, to have more work space
- Too small tables
- Would prefer city centre



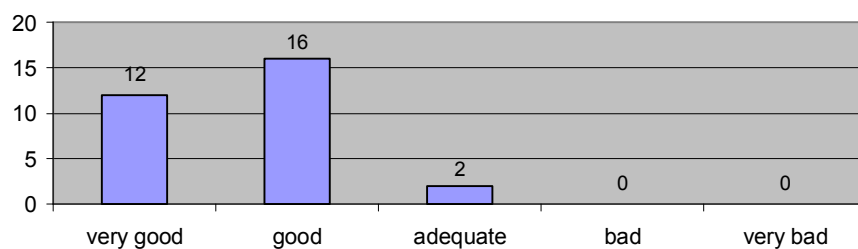
### 1.13 Taastrup (30 answers received)

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

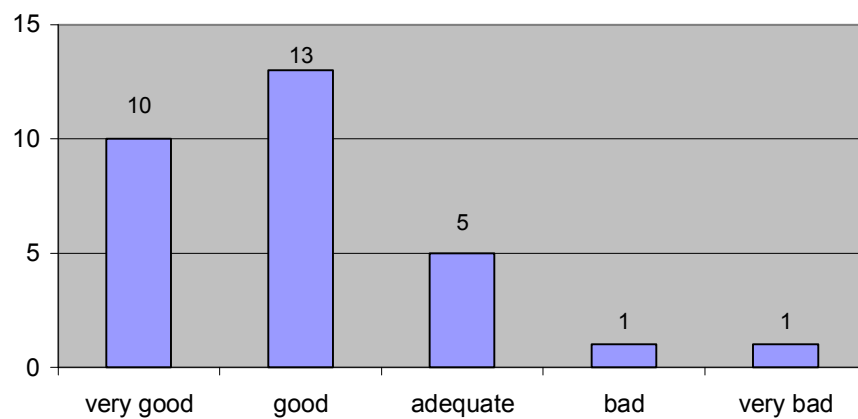
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



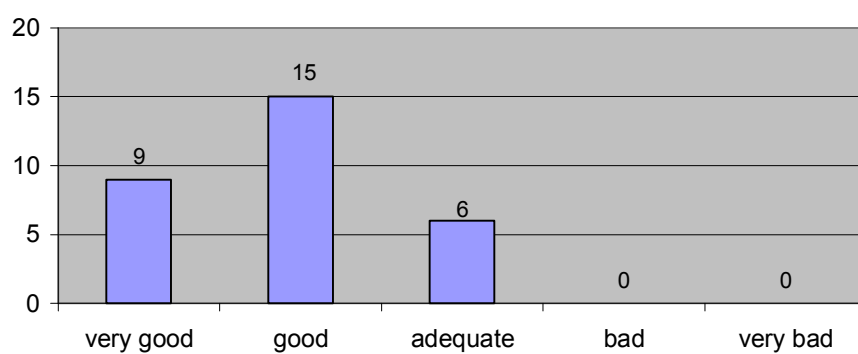
Identification check



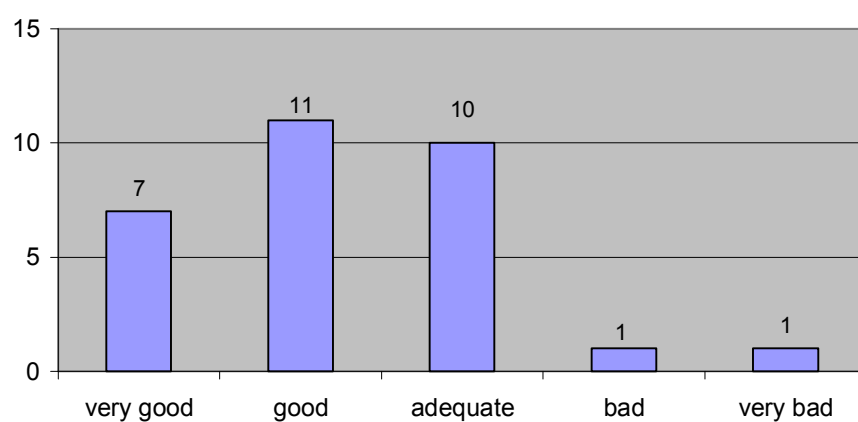
Lighting conditions



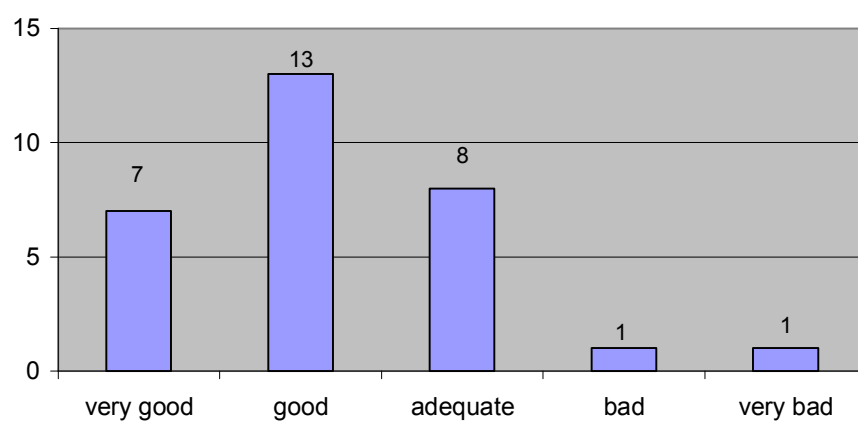
### Space for candidates

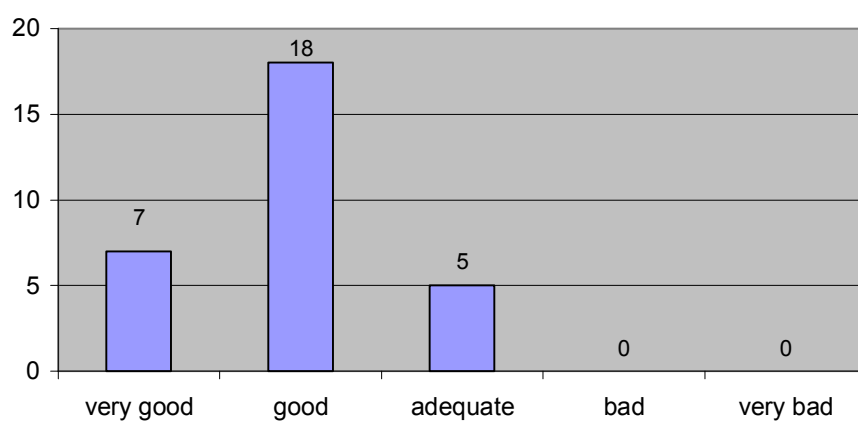
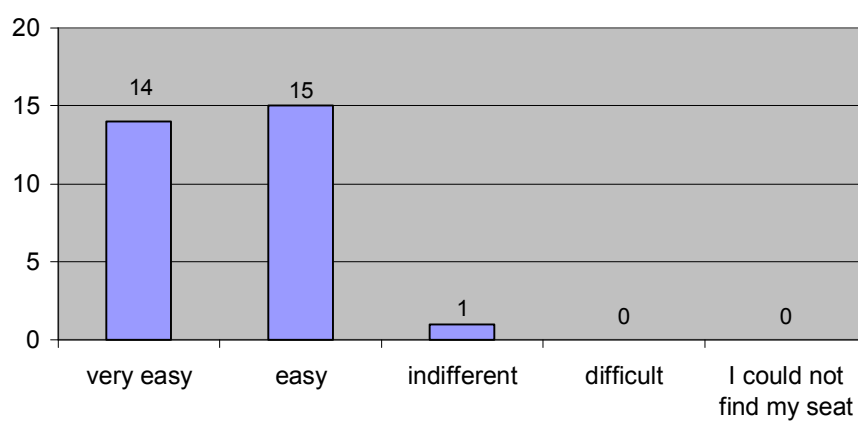
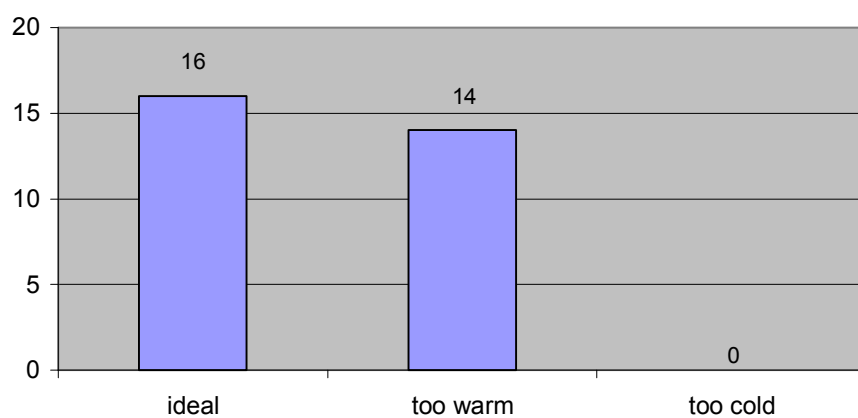


### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities



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

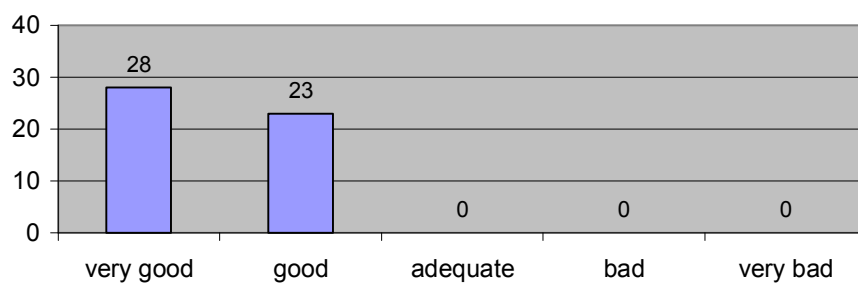
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- Big enough.
- Inadequate ventilation. It gets very 'stuffy' quickly.
- Not enough light at all. Otherwise, it is fine
- Room temperature on the first day (DI+DII) was almost unbearable -- at least 28 degrees Celsius! A bit better day 2 and 3. Shades to cut off the sunlight not optimal.
- The Examination hall in Taastrup is in all aspects good
- The temperature was the only apparent problem. It was acceptable the day I sat the exam, but it was still too high.
- There are not enough toilets for all the candidates. The complimentary snacks such as sliced pineapple were very refreshing.
- We were only approx. 60 candidates, which was very good - less noise and good space for each candidate.
- Where I sat, I could not hear the tutors at all, which I commented, I could stand up about 3-4m from my desk to listen and then return to my seat. This is not OK especially not at the start of the Exam. Also, the light from the windows came right on me and I had to pull the curtains, thereby stand up and do so, myself during the Exam since the tutors were not visible to me during the Exam.

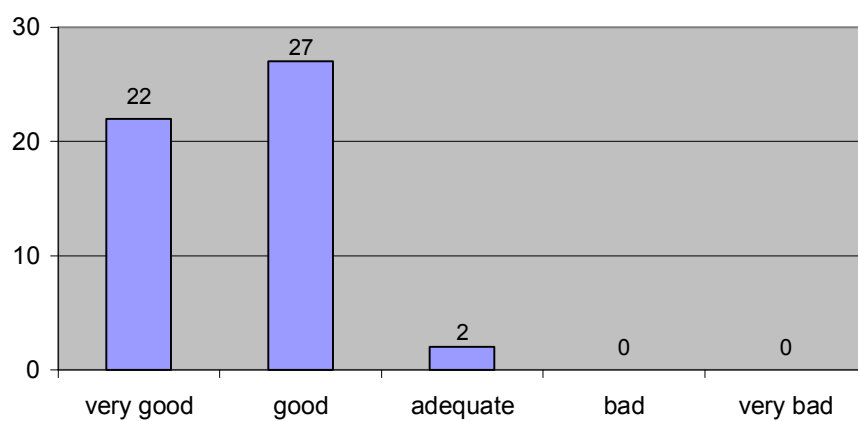
## 1.14 The Hague (51 answers received)

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

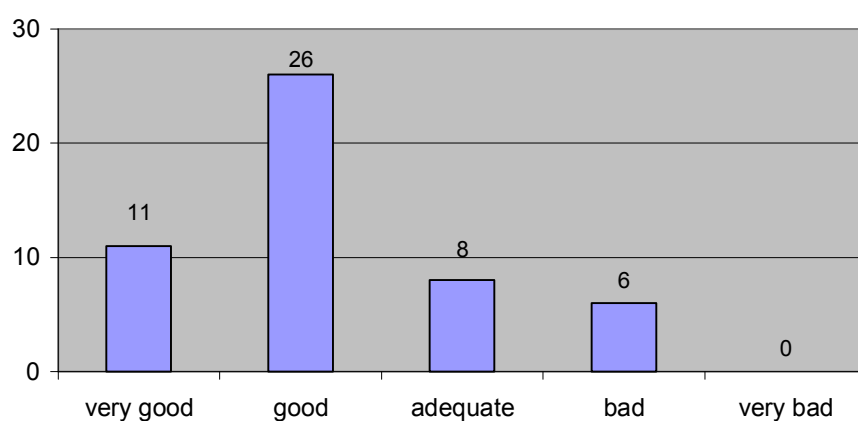
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



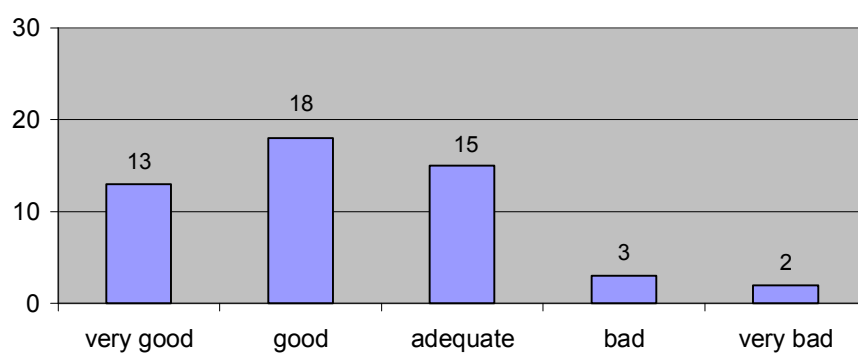
Identification check



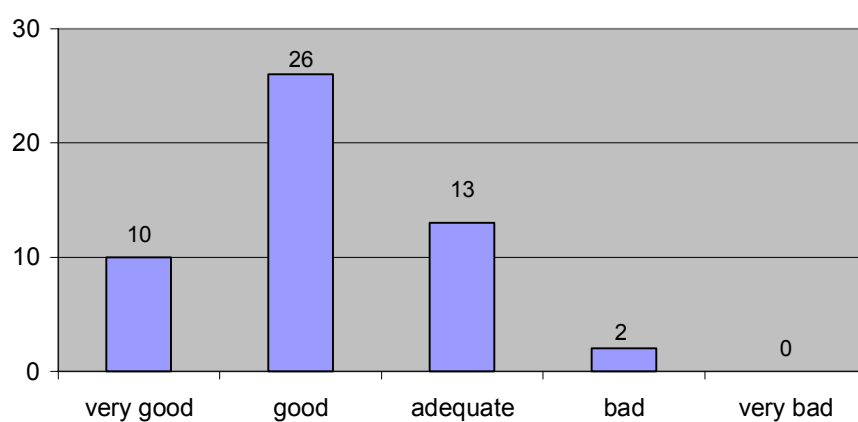
Lighting conditions



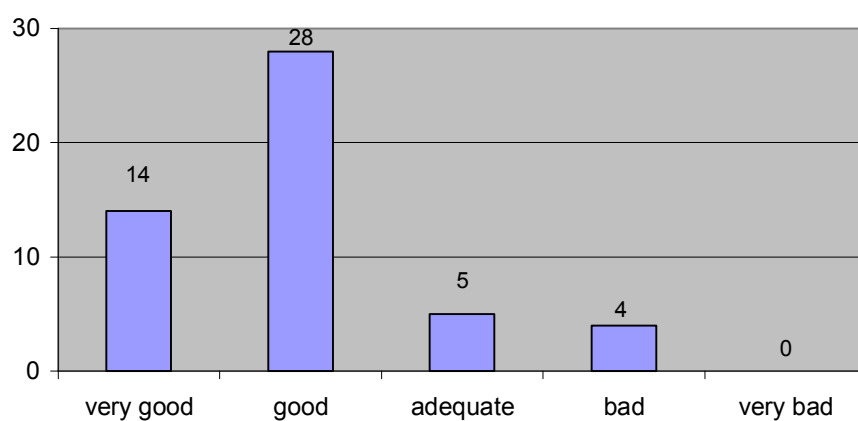
### Space for candidates



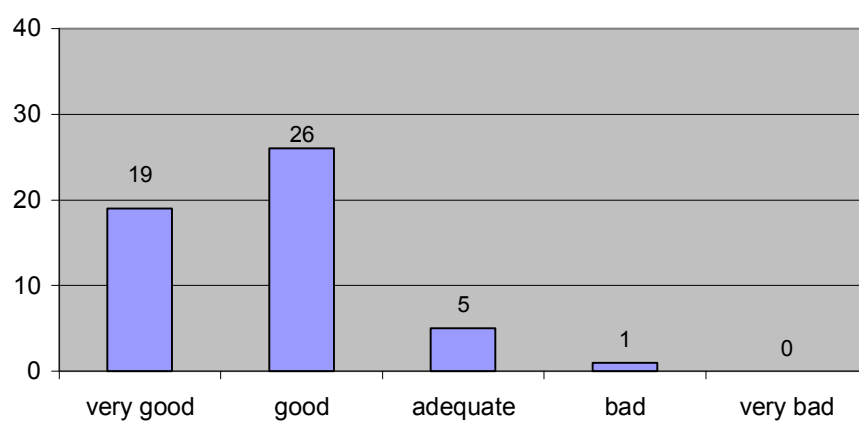
### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



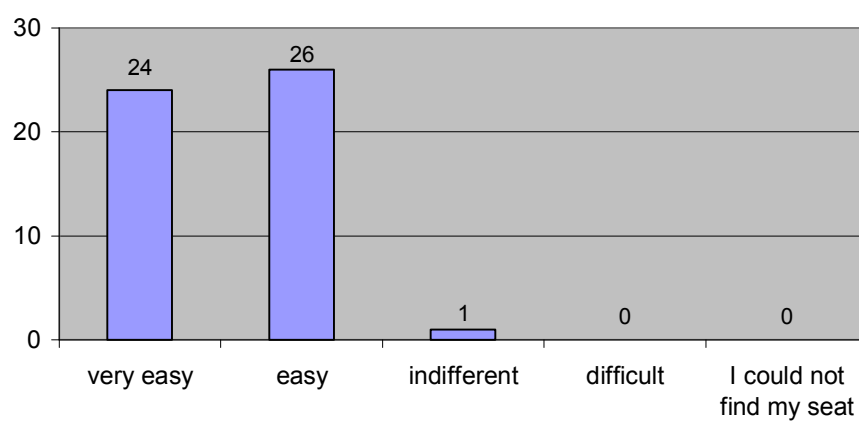
### Restroom facilities



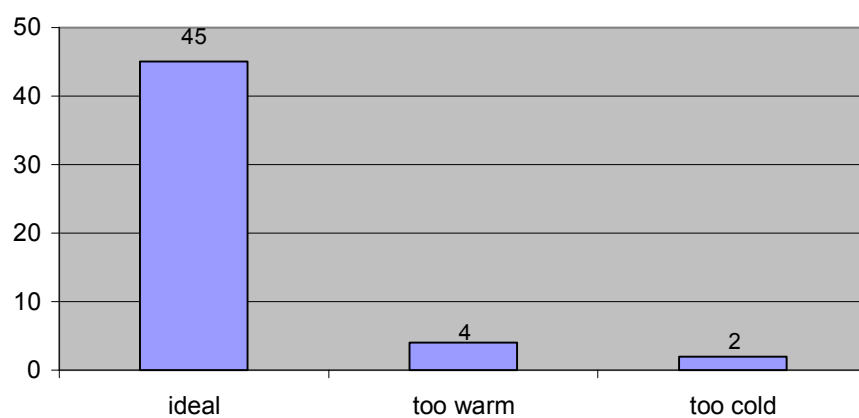
### Suitability of the examination hall



### 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.**

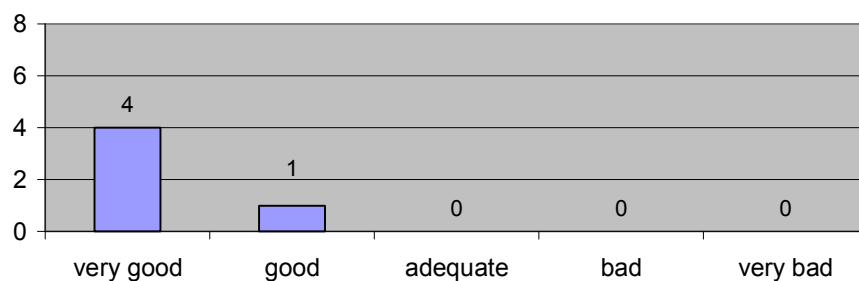
- depending on the location in the auditorium, the light conditions could be very bad. and the place for putting one's material was way too small.
- From the organization side everything was very professional and well-organised
- I was in the centre part of the hall. I had light coming from 4 different directions which generated 4 different shadows on the paper. The lines on the paper were difficult to see and these shadows made it even more difficult. Other than that no specific remarks
- I was sitting at the surrounding tables of the hall and was lucky that the candidate next to me did not show up. Otherwise desk surface would have been less than preferred.
- in the middle (free-standing tables) enough space was present in the periphery, space was more limited
- It would be convenient if rest rooms would be closer to the hall
- Lighting could be subject to improvement
- No comments
- No comments
- No comments, hall and conditions were quite fine
- No problems with the examination hall and/or conditions.
- no separate table
- Preferably the microphones in the outer rings are removed to provide extra space
- seat was broken, no adjusting of height possible
- Some additional storage for reference books is in order for sitting the C and D modules
- The examination hall does not have any daylight at all, which is unpleasant. My seat was not at a "regular" table, but at one of the places normally used for attending lectures otherwise given in the hall. Although these places are wide enough, the table space is very shallow and therefore not very suitable for taking an examination that requires a lot of papers to be spread out at the same time.
- The Hague is good reachable by tram from central station. The examination hall has no windows.
- the lighting was not adequate; it was hard to see the lines on the sheets of paper
- There is only artificial light, which starts to be not strong enough after some hours The toilets are a bit far
- unclear why the most spacey seats were not used all the time; the seats in the centre part have too limited space



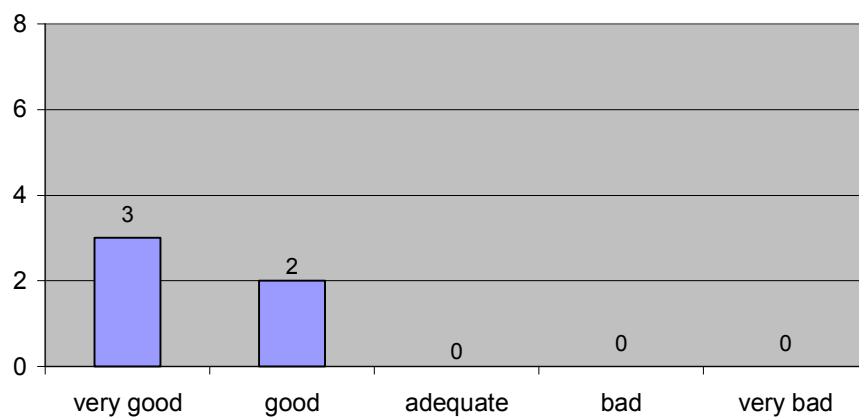
## 1.15 Vienna (5 answers received)

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

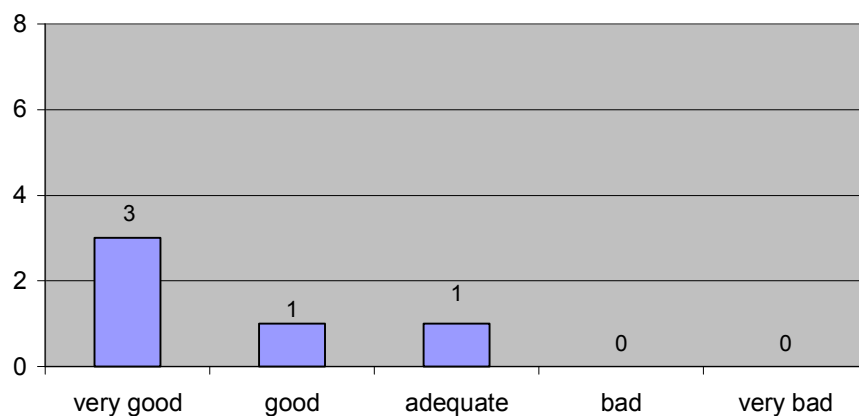
Accessibility of the examination hall and information signs



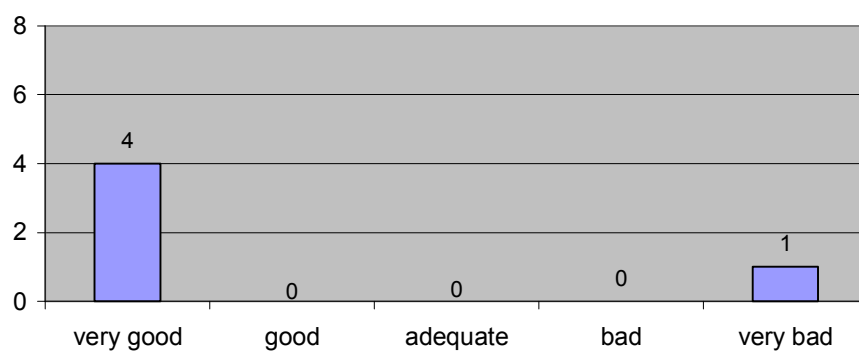
Identification check



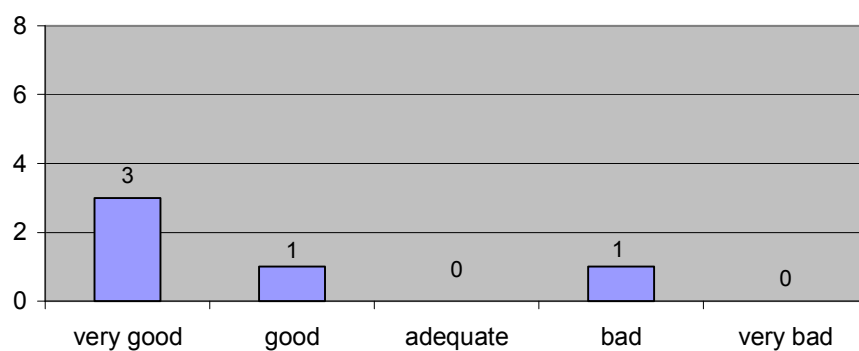
Lighting conditions



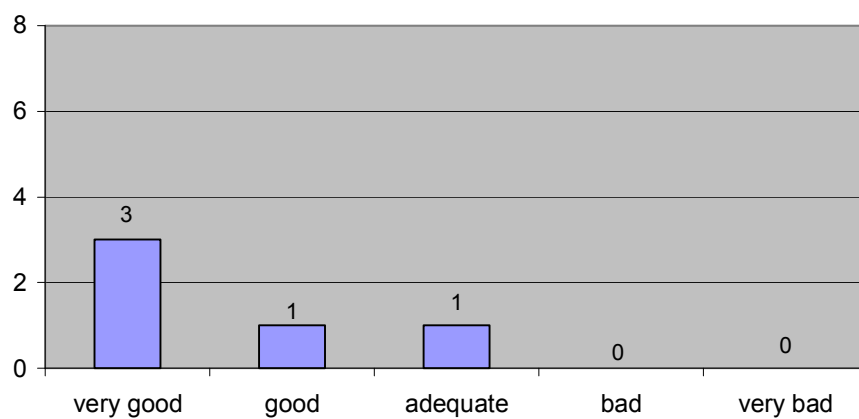
### Space for candidates

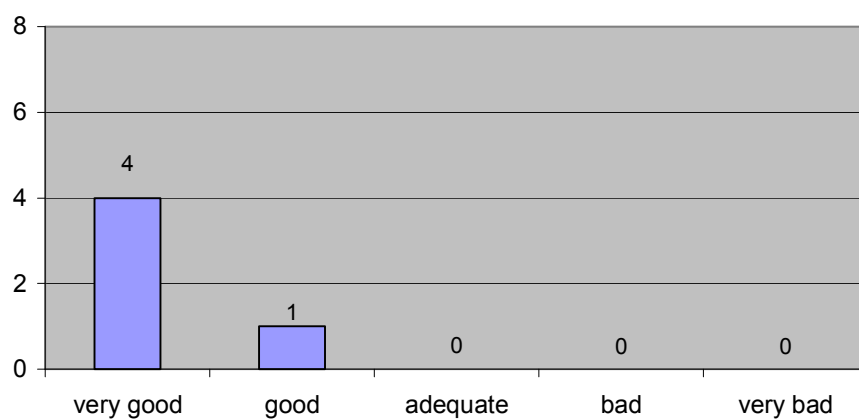
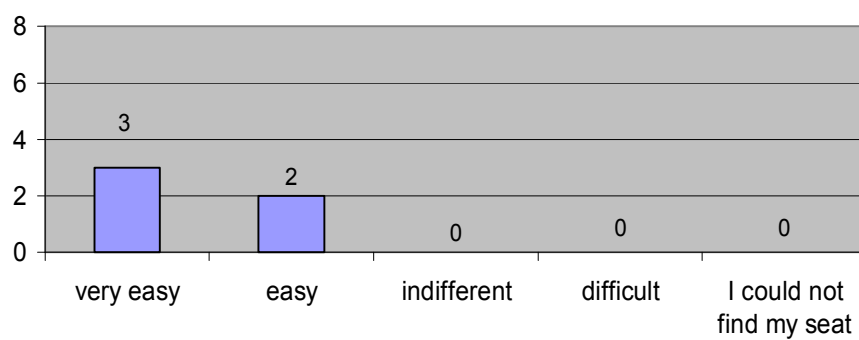
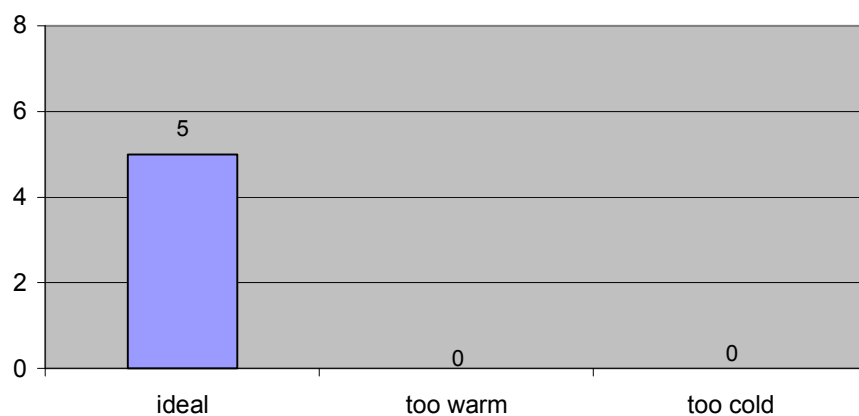


### Acoustic conditions and audibility of the invigilators



### Restroom facilities



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

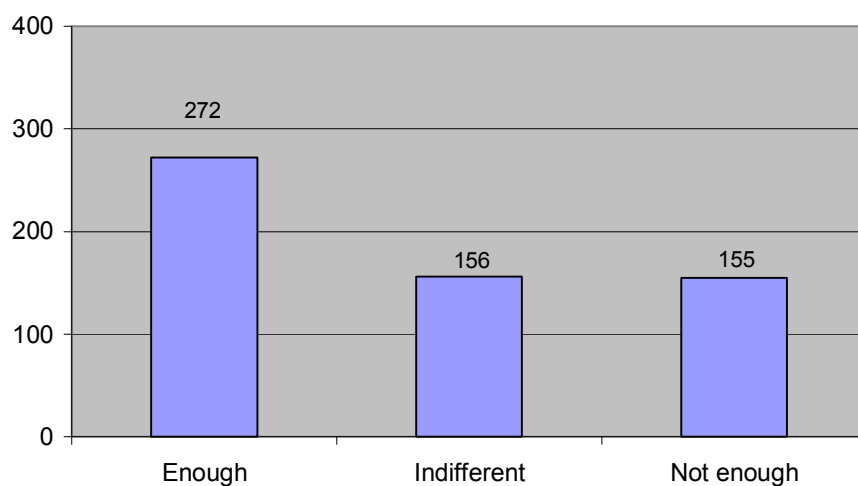
**Q6) Candidates could make additional comments about the examination hall and its conditions. These comments are listed below.**

- Just Perfect. Still enough place for more candidates taking the examination in Vienna (I cannot understand why in previous years some candidates were shifted to München).
- very good conditions

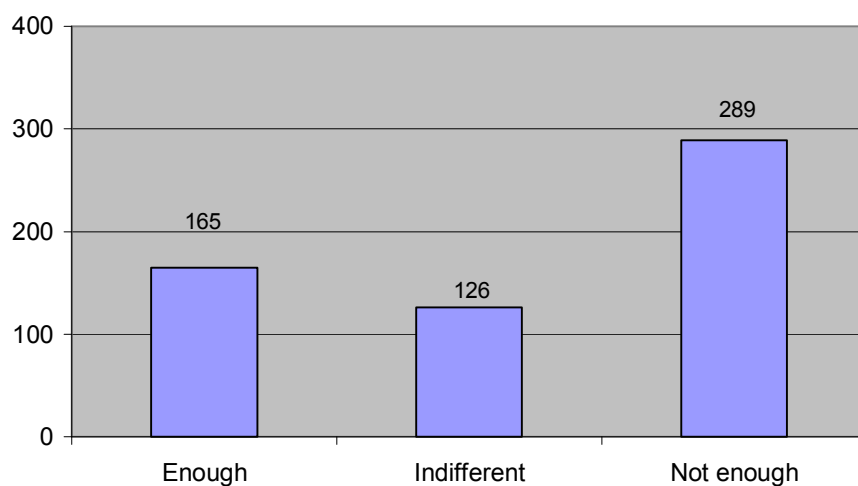
## Chapter 2 - Preparation for the EQE

### Q7) Examiners' Report

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



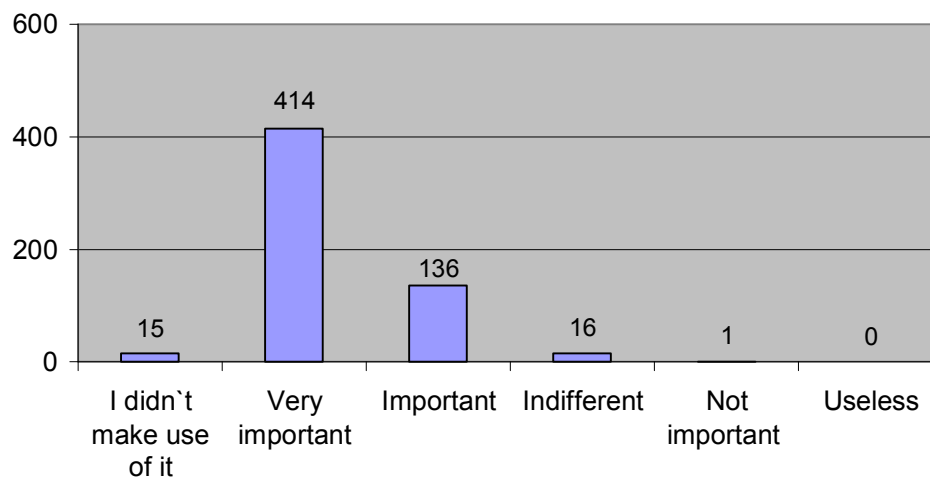
**Does the examiners' report in the Compendium give enough information to understand how the papers are marked?**



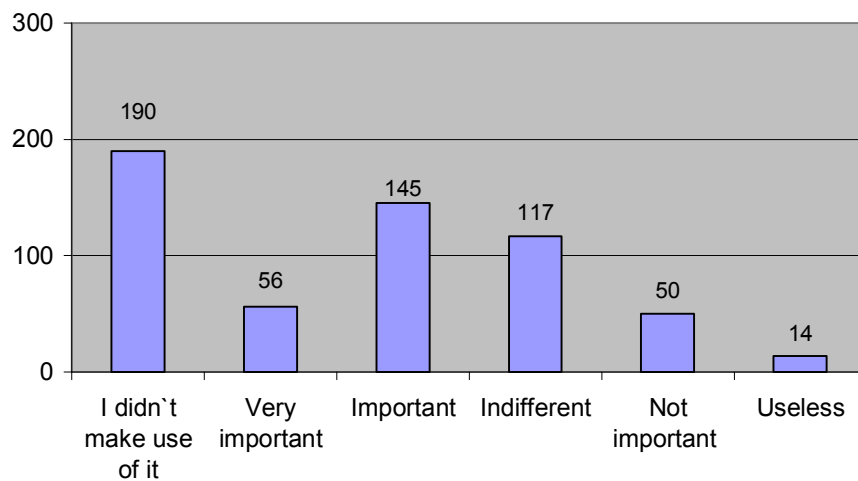
### Q8) Elements of the candidate's preparation for the EQE.

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

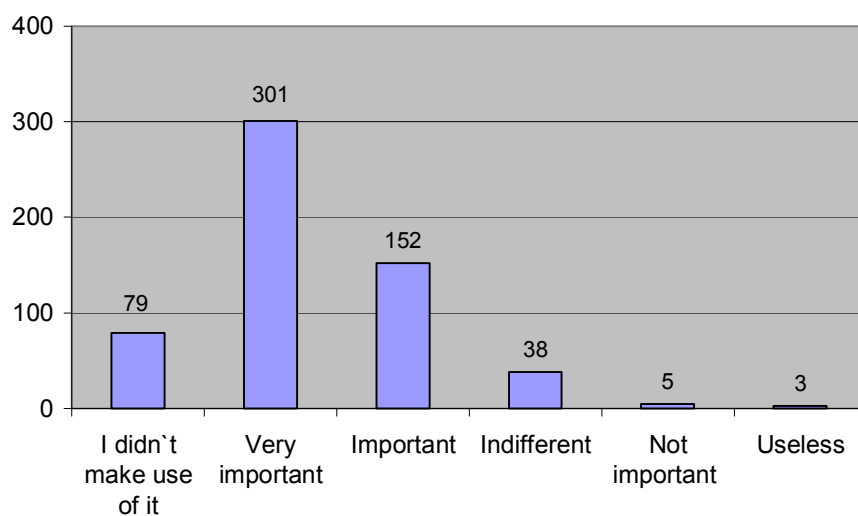
#### Compendium



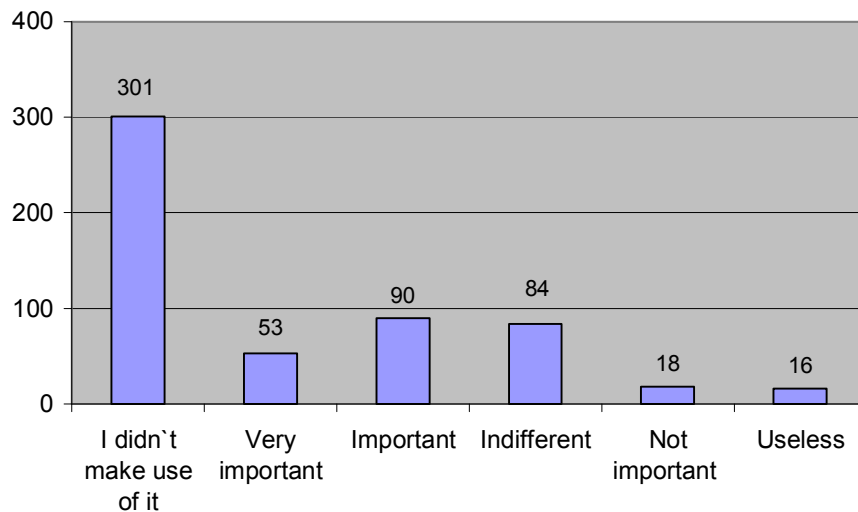
#### General external courses regarding intellectual property



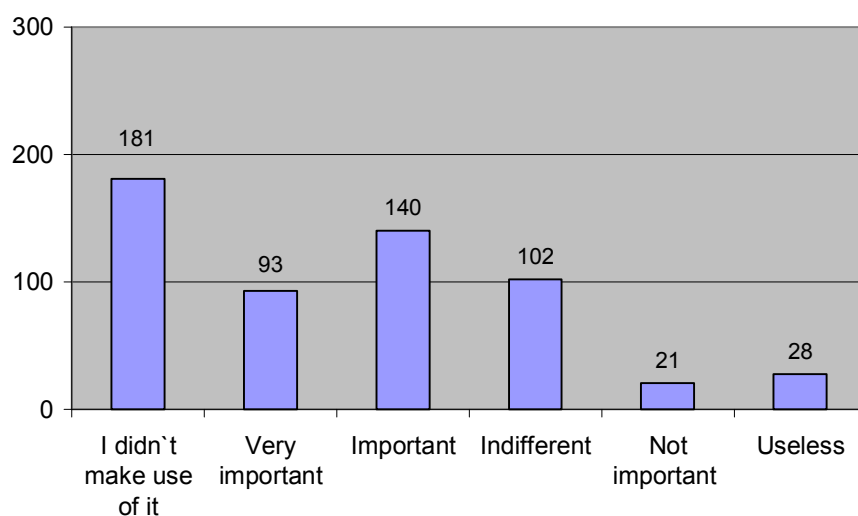
### Specialised courses for EQE papers



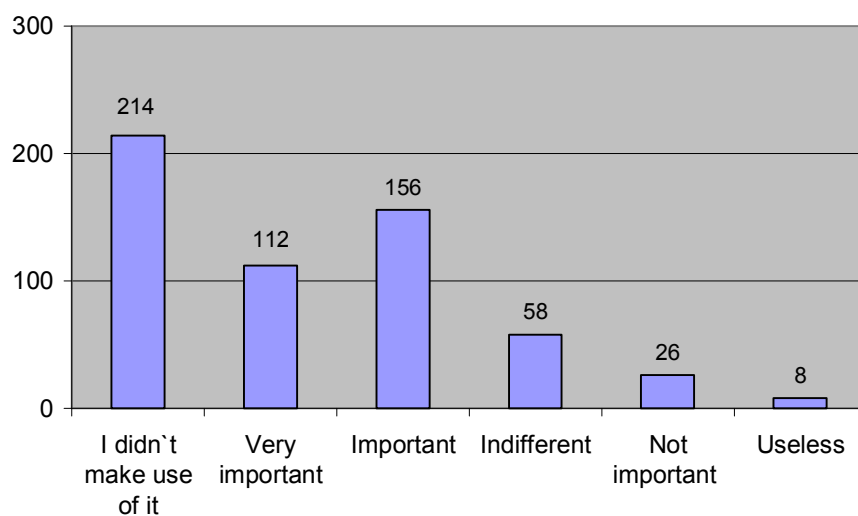
### In-house courses organised by your company



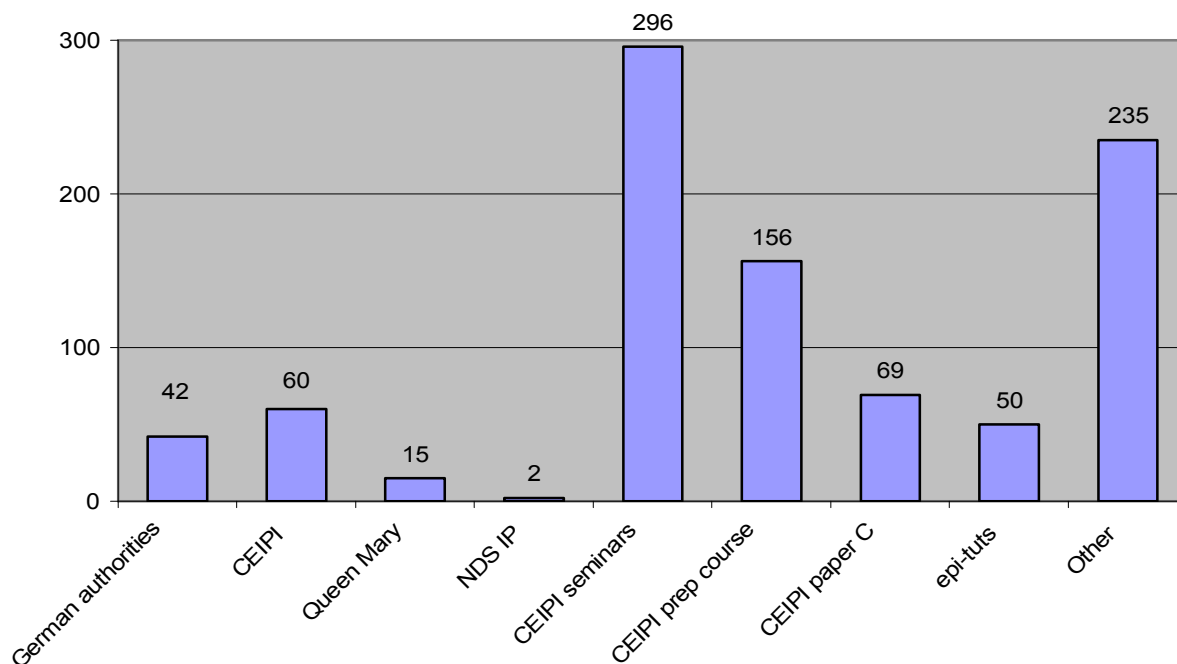
### Dedicated training given by your supervisor as mentioned in the Art. 10(2)(a)REE



### Study in a small group with other candidates





**Q9) Which course(s) did you follow?**German authorities:

the full eight months' training with the German authorities

CEIPI "cycle long":

The "Diplôme d'études internationales de la propriété industrielle", obtained after completing the one-year period of study with CEIPI in Strasbourg/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 "Master of Advanced Studies in Intellectual Property " 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 conditions 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 attorney ship.
- 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 hadn't 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
- Deltapatens cours for part D
- Deltapatent courses
- Deltapatent courses
- Deltapatent Preparation for examination courses in paper C and D
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- 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 paper C
- EPO in-house courses
- EPO in-house courses
- EPO in-house courses for EPO-patent examiners
- EPO in-house courses.
- EPO in-house Part A, B (1.5 + 1.5 days)
- EPO in-house seminars. CEIPI seminars only for paper D.
- EPO in-house training for paper D
- EPO internal courses for examiners
- EPO Internal EQE preparation courses
- EPO internal seminar
- 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 cash making ! 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 qualifying Examination.
- held by Mr.Cronin (Patskills) in Genève
- 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 important 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 exercises 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 tutees. 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
- In-house 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 EQE - 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 EQE (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 study group 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 use for the 2008 exam.
- Patskills (Brian Crohnin, 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 EQE
- 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 in-house 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.**

- A correct answer in paper A and B and C
- a good control of the Guidelines and the EPC Training questions for paper D on the EPO e-learning to frequently see the OJ EPO
- A lot of dedication and time spent studying, doing exercises and former papers.
- A personal training by a competent tutor could be very valuable (that I do not have). Possibility to study more (days off from the job) or possibility to study in working hours, which I do not have. Full time job makes nearly impossible to study as much as required for passing EQE.
- a wide and varied experience of work before the EPO
- Ability to have paper solutions (personal exercises) corrected.
- Actual attendance of Oral proceedings/Opposition
- Adjust work load at office Tim allowed by employee for preparation.
- Allocation of enough free time to prepare.
- Annotated EPC 2000 (Dirk Visser) How to pass the EQE (Andrew Rudge)
- Annotated European Patent Convention by Derk Visser
- Annotating my own copy of the articles, reference books, etc.
- Annotation of materials - Guidelines, Decisions, Case law, EPC etc.
- answer all of Delta Patents, Basic Questions
- Attempting past papers is the main element followed by preparation and familiarity of materials to be used in the exams.
- best copies
- Bibliography
- booklets by Delta Patents
- Books explaining the EPC (annotated EPC) and question-answer (delta patent or EPO online training). The e-learning shall be improved and provide more questions for all papers. The compendiums are really useful but most of the time, I had no time for completing a full paper. It should be more efficient to work on short part of the paper C.
- Books of H.J. Kley D. Visser
- Books such: Kley commentary, Ole Trinks PCT
- books! (c-book, delta patents ... as well as epo publications: ancill. reg. / OJ spec. ed. 3, 4, 5 of 2007, guidelines for examination!, ) to a lesser extend commentary books like by derek visser
- books? CEIPI papers. guidelines!! I made my own commented EPC based on the guidelines, decisions, Official Journal, etc.
- Calligraphy and ILEC (International Legal English Certificate in Cambridge)
- C-Book
- C-Book Comments (Visser + Kley)
- C-Book durcharbeiten
- C-Book, Chandler&Meinders, 2nd Ed. / Kley Comment
- CEIPI course for C and D were excellent preparation, although a bit more preparation for D2 would have been better

- CEIPI course very good
- CEIPI courses for papers C and D which I found very useful.
- CEIPI pre-prep course: Gives you an early indication what to look out for
- CIPA tutorials
- close collaboration with small group of other candidates for a week or two away from home
- Commented EPC Manuals (Visser, Voekstra,...)
- compendium and examiners' reports from 2007 on. EPO Guidelines
- compendium, but I would like more of "candidates answers" or model answers! EPO require us to be "jack of all traits" !but really! specialists of some traits. Which traits is kind of trait secrets ;- ) which should not be so!
- Correction of Exam papers from DeltaPatents
- daily practice at work
- Daily practice on drafting and prosecution especially for A, B and C to achieve the necessary knowledge about defining subject-matter in claims, scope of terms, scope of claims, the relationship between claims and prior art etc. Further to achieve manda
- D-Books by Delta patents Examinatorium Europeanum offered by the FernUniversität Hagen (in association with the Patentanwaltskammer)
- Dedicated publications (e.g. the Delta Patents books or CEIPI books)
- Dedicated training time
- Delta patent course in paper C was very important for me. I also think it is very important NOT to take advise from persons who never was sitting the examination, for example from unqualified European patent attorneys (the "Grandfathers"). It is important ask advise from people who have been sitting the exam.
- Delta Patent courses and material for EQE
- delta patent papers, old exams
- delta patent questions
- delta patents
- delta patents - studied "Einführung ins internationale u. europäische Patentrecht" - c-book - working with old exams
- Delta Patents D Books, Case Law Book, Guidelines
- Delta patents question and answer books. As much study leave as possible.
- Delta Patents questions and past papers
- Delta Patents Training for the EQE
- Delta Patents, a booklet with DI-type questions
- Delta Patents: Training for the European Qualifying examination" C-Book Köllner: PCT-Handbuch Kley: EPÜ Kommentar 3 week vacation for intensive preparation
- Deltapatents and past papers
- Deltapatents C-Book
- delta-patents for part DI C-Book
- Deltapatents question book
- Delta-Patents questions
- DeltaPatents Scripts

- DeltaPatents training material for papers C and D, Compendium, Examiner Reports
- Delta Patent
- direct experience at work
- Do papers to time in conditions similar to the examination i.e. in the office.
- doing exams from previous years; practising time management and strategies for how to prepare the response and organizing the information in the papers
- Doing old exams
- Doing old exams under exam conditions, i.e. with time restrictions.
- Doing past papers under exam conditions.
- Drafting itself, working practice
- Durchführen mehrerer Probeprüfungen aus dem Compendium in Echtzeit um ein Gefühl für die Prüfung und die Zeiteinteilung zu bekommen. Kommentare zum EPÜ wichtig um einige Entscheidungen und die Entscheidungspraxis zu kennen.
- Dutch Patent Attorney course
- Early organisation of the information prior to practising past papers. Timed practice papers.
- Elaborate studying of the guidelines
- Enough time. Studying on my own is still the most important
- EPC Guidelines and Visser marked up together with the compendiums
- EPI- and internal feed back on answers in writing.
- epo e-learning
- EPO eLearning EPO Candidate Forum/Questions
- EPO Official journal regarding actual case law. Internet articles on case law interpretation. The EPO Guidelines regarding substantial patent law
- EQE forum
- EQE online forum and Delta Patents literature. The online forum is a valuable institution, I appreciate the effort and patience of the tutors and administrators. Please keep it up and many thanks to them.
- Exam related questions by Delta Patents CEIPI C-Book
- exercise and time
- Exercise under Exam conditions
- exhaustive commenting of the EPC; reading and understanding Guidelines, EPO- and PCT-applicants guides; doing Deltapatents exam related questions for paper D;
- Experience
- Experience gained by other candidates
- experience in real cases managed in my office
- Experiences of veterans.
- Extra Free time given by employer to study, -EQE forum with dedicated questions; -EQE Forum for time limits calculations
- Finding required documents is difficult. There should be a separate homepage which provides the required documents such as Durchführungsverordnung etc. in the version that is the most actual. If for example somebody download information for the applicants guide in

January the allowed December information may not exist anymore. Nobody knows if I have to bring the whole applicants guide including national information for china. There should be a list of minimal required information provided by the EPA.

- Focussing Method
- former exams
- For papers A and B, try to do as much exams as you can, study the Guidelines, specially the part C, and the daily work you made in your office linked with the paper A and B
- For A and B: doing 5-8 papers under exam test conditions and evaluate the result.
- For my personal preparation, I regret the misunderstanding of my company since I had the same or even more work load. I really encourage candidate to meet one another : when trying to work on delta patent book alone a whole day, I was unable to make more than 5 questions. But when appointing an "EQE friend", I succeeded to prepare 10-15 delta patent questions the morning before our afternoon meeting. My friend prepared 10-15 questions different from mine. And during this meeting, we discussed on the difficulties we had on the questions we prepared so that I felt preparing 20-30 delta patent questions !
- For Paper C, doing past papers, For Paper D, DOING PAST d1 QUESTS
- free time from work
- free time is a must for learning - it is too difficult to manage work and learning
- General good-to-know-stuff from colleagues with EQE experience.
- Genug Zeit für die Vorbereitung
- Get materials/tips from other colleagues who have passed the exams successfully.
- get practice on the job
- Getting enough time to focus on the target, which really isn't the same as a common day at work, which i think could be much more reflected by the EQE as a whole.
- Getting of the OJ's and EPO legal publications for paper D and organising that information
- getting organized for paper c
- getting to know the question types and required level of answering
- going through examiner comments and example candidate answers
- good reference books
- Gregory Bacque 's book
- Guide du déposant PCT Directives
- Guide lines to the EPC EPC EPC Rules PCT PCT Rules Applicant's Guide to the PCT Visser Case law book earlier papers and answers
- Guidelines for examination in the EPO Vissers annotated Ceipi/Delta patens books with questions for paper D (Training for the EQE I and II) Spending time on the G-decisions and selected T-decisions Discussing issues with my colleagues
- Guidelines. Baque BOOK for French candidates

- Handbook such as Visser; Legal material online from EPO e.g. OJ, Notices, Guidelines etc
- hard work learning
- having enough time
- Having enough time for preparation. Organized material.
- Having the right set of legal texts and other material needed to answer the questions; Finding out the best strategy to work on the individual examination parts, as the EPO does not give any hint to solve this problem.
- Having time to do the papers of the previous examinations
- hear experience from past candidates
- Hinsetzen und Lernen!
- HTML versions of EPC and Guidelines for Examination are very handy to get quick access to the relevant sections when preparing papers A and B.
- I do not know
- I think that, when you have time at disposal, it is very important to create small group of candidates and comment together the papers of the compendium.
- I think the Compendium was the main element, with a commented EPC and the EPO guidelines
- I would like to have more information about how the exam is marked. The Examiner's report and the candidate's answer are very useful, but since you do not know what the Examiners did not like about the candidate's answer there is a risk that you learn to answer in a wrong way. Regarding the C exam I would like to know how much argumentation that is necessary for the different steps.
- I wrote my own "Handbook" instead of using "Kley" or "Visser" or similar. My understanding of the patent system and its regulations is more intense by preparing my own legal collection and comments than just taking over the system of someone else.
- In house tutorials. Deltapatents Paper D book (both parts). EQE online forum.
- Indexing the EPC and doing past legal questions
- Individual studies
- In-house tutorials, doing past exam papers
- is it of utmost importance to make as much paper as possible and then study the examination reports
- Kley comment
- Kommentar Kley
- learning books
- legal questions with comprehensive answers. i also found the new online questions with deadline calculator very useful.
- Lösen der alten Aufgaben unter Prüfungsbedingung und Besprechen der Ergebnisse auf regelmässiger Basis in Kleingruppen.
- make exercises
- make old papers under exam conditions
- Making multiple exam papers of previous years

- Making my own compendium of important topics with references to articles and rules for paper D. Making point by point check lists on how to attack the papers.
- Making the exams of the previous years was probably the most effective way to train. It was just annoying to only have a possible answer and not quite a model answer in the examiner's report. Although a lot of information can be found in the examiners report, the given solution is often incomplete and it is sometimes hard to see how the papers have been marked. This is particularly true for paper DII where its is not always easy to see which problems should have been addressed and how to gain marks. Despite this, the compendium and the examiners report were found extremely useful in the preparation of the exam.
- Many example questions, having time off work before exams in order to concentrate
- Many hours of self-study Doing past examination papers - including under time pressure Having good books (Visser, Hoekstra etc)  
Colleagues advice
- massive home-studies
- MORE COURSES
- Must be given time of from work to prepare.
- my everyday work (drafting of some new patent applications, drafting of oppositions, answering some communication, office actions, etc...)
- None
- old exam papers; Delta Patents D1 questions
- Old exams Case Law
- On-line EQE Forum
- online exercises are at best also on German
- Online forum
- Opportunity to prepare using past exam papers followed by review of the examiners comments and discussion with supervisor to identify areas requiring further attention.
- organising all relevant information so that it can be quickly retrieved at the eqe
- organization of the material to be used during the examination
- Part C: Examination Guidelines very important and helpful, particularly for interpretation of claims. Part D: Annotated EPC, Derk Visser, Delta Patents Questions and Answers
- past papers and general studying
- Past papers under examination conditions at home
- Personal preparation. Reading and annotating Visser, Veronese. Preparing and trying a detailed strategy for each paper
- personal studies
- Personal studies. Lot's of it.
- personal study - i think working in a group would have been highly beneficial
- personal study, reading material recommended for the exam and practice of exam questions
- Personal studying and a good psychological equilibrium to face the



months before the exam

- personal work
- physical training because writing the EQE is very exhausting
- Plenty of time away from pressures of the job in the days prior to sitting the exams.
- post it notes and tabs!! text books
- Practical work on real cases; EPO publications (OJ, supplements to OJ, Case law, etc.); WIPO publications (Newsletter, practical advice, etc.)
- practice
- practice at work
- Practice of as many past papers/questions under exam conditions as possible
- Practice papers concentrating particularly on timing and technique.
- Practice papers Discussion with other candidates/former candidates
- Practice papers; revising the law.
- practice to the job at work
- Practicing exam paper from previous years.
- Practicing papers
- Practicing with older papers, comparing one's answers with fellow candidates
- practise at work
- practise old papers
- Practising handwriting. I have never written anything by hand professionally. As my writing is barely legible, it took too much time to get the message to the paper. Also the dedication level cannot be understood unless a good tutor explains it. Thanks to Cees Mulder, I committed myself to EQE preparation for five months. Well, it nearly cost me my marriage and I Gained weight for 8 kilos, but now I am much more competent at all patent matters. Regardless if I pass EQE or not.
- Practising paper C in full and to time.
- Practising past papers is key, particularly under timed conditions. Also, reading and annotating you EPC2000 and Guidelines to make the information easy to find. Being familiar with the content of the OJ for the last few years, in particular, Special Edition No. 3 of 2007. Reading the PCT applicant's guide and the PCT. The Complete Guide to passing the EQE by Roberts and Rudge was also an invaluable learning tool for me. I also answered all the Delta patents Part 2 questions, which were really useful. I annotated my books as I went along with any information not already there that were in the Delta patents answers.
- practising previous years exams
- Preparation by the CEIPI for the EQE
- preparation of legal books like Kley
- Preparation of own script. Most important (legal) text to be studied in detail: Guidelines for Examination in the EPO
- Prepare handwriting for a long time (endurance and readability). Time management for each paper (one of the most important things to prepare)
- Prepare own material and work with it. Kley special PCT-Book

- Prepare your own set of commented legal texts and find out how marks are given.
- preparing by using older exams
- Preparing in small groups with other candidates is very useful, however that is not possible for all candidates. I found the EQE forum very important and useful for my preparation as, even without the support of the experts, other candidates may help. It is also very helpful to try to answer to other candidates questions or to check other candidates opinions.
- Professional practise and personal work
- Profound preparation of the matter, >6 months in advance Questions of the DETAPATENTS books I and II
- Q&As such as provided by deltapatents; prepare the EPC with your own comments from these Q&A; Köllner, "PCT-Handbuch"; "Leitfaden für Anmelder" (EP + Euro-PCT), published by the EPO.
- question and answers
- Read OJ EPO and PCT newsletter
- Reading annotated patent conventions
- Reading Derk Visser's bible
- Reading the "Guidelines" and Boards of Appeal decisions. Writing past years' papers.
- Reading, and lots of practice. Thorough marking by experienced tutor (the marking according to the compendium is not sufficiently clear on the extent of toughness. Possibly an example paper with indication of marks lost could be helpful. A detailed, but overview, marking sheet would also be good.
- Reviewing mistakes made in previous attempts and practicing papers under timed conditions
- Revision and practise!
- Sein eigenes EPÜ preparieren. Lesen der Richtlinien Sich auskennen in Durchführungsvorschriften, Nat. Recht. Amtsblätter der letzten 2 Jahre PCT in der Praxis PCT Handbook
- self study
- Self-made past papers + feedback drawn from EQE compendium
- Self-study during evenings to read and partially re-read the EPC materials was perhaps most important
- self-study of past examination papers
- self-study with the help of some reference books and the EPO legal texts.
- Self-study; practising previous papers and D exam questions (CEIPI)
- sharing questions and answers with other candidates
- simply learning and writing old EQE-papers
- Some luck: if the answer you give is not the one expected by the Exam committee, you fail anyway, no matter the arguments.
- some weeks time off from work before the exams
- specialized books about EQE
- Start with the preparation as early as possible. Have a clear head, and try to make your studies in regular intervals in a place where you can't

be distracted by anything.

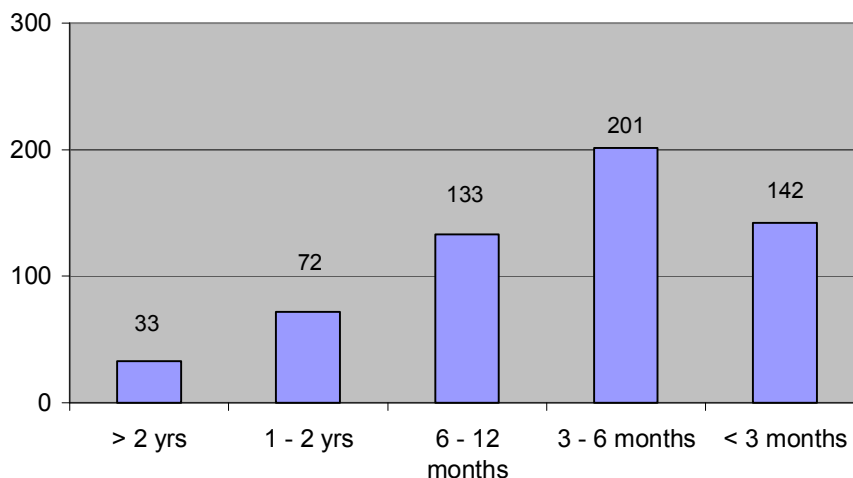
- Study hard the Visser, Guidelines, EPC, PCT guidelines
- Study in a small group with other candidates
- Study of books
- study the delta patent documents and the Kley comment as well as recent decisions -- prepare a lot of own documents
- Studying and practising papers of previous years
- studying at home!
- Studying during weekends by doing old examinations
- Support from the company (time for study) Support from the family (time for study) Exercises on real exam questions and/or (smaller) cases based on real exam questions in order to exercise the techniques required, in particular for the complex papers D-part 2 and C. I feel I was not aware of this until very late in my preparation at a point when there was not enough time for doing more of these exercises anymore. However an early training of a structured approach is of utmost importance in order to cope with the time pressure in these complex papers. Doing many of the "Basic questions" and "Exam related questions" compiled by Cees Mulder / Jelle Hoekstra / Pete Pollard and distributed e.g. through CEIPI is an excellent preparation for D-part 2. NOTE: the previous question on the examiner's report should be differentiated according to the different papers: A and B ex.-reports are very useful, whereas in particular paper C reports appear much less pedagogical. paper D reports are ok
- Support, understanding and time to study from the employer. Very little private interests besides studying.
- Tabbing up, annotating and highlighting Visser. Reading the Guidelines. Doing the DeltaPatents questions. Asking questions to colleagues. To some extent the Forum questions. Past papers.
- teachings from my boss, a ceipi tutor
- The Book of Visser. Guidelines. Case law book. Cross reference by Jelle Hoekstra. PCT cross reference by Cees Mulder.
- The C-Book Chandler/Meinders Reference to EPC Hoekstra Derk Visser Book Complete guide to passing EQE 2008 Training for EQE for Paper DI, DII DeltaPatents
- The CEIPI courses, and past papers.
- The correction of my previous 2008 C paper by Jelle Hoekstra was the most instructive: this was the only 'course' that clearly indicated what I was doing wrong!
- The Deltapatents publications for paper D
- the forum questions were useful
- The most important factor for me is time i.e. time to prepare. As a general rule, this time was taken from my family-time and not from the working-time.
- The preparation received from my tutor and the meetings held with my colleagues which were also preparing EQE.
- The presence of a in-house tutor and work together in the daily work
- time

- Time
- Time
- time
- Time
- time
- Time afforded by the company to spend on EQE-studies, Devoted study companions
- time and predictability of the test evaluation
- Time and self-discipline. You have to study a lot by yourself to get an overview of how to pass the papers.
- time for studying
- Time management Write old exams
- time management training with mock examinations
- time spent looking at EPC, PCT and case law
- time to practice each of the papers
- time to prepare
- Time to sit and study
- Time to study, which in my case was not provided by the employer.
- Time to train yourself which is not available at work hours, and not at home when being a parent. Thus, an impossible task to train adequately, particularly for the C-&D-parts.
- Time!
- Time!!!
- time, time and time spent studying the legal matter AND training the exam
- Time, time, and more time.
- Time.
- TIME. Start study early.
- time...
- to find your own way to manage the situation
- to have a good commented EPC and PCT, each of them collecting article, rules, case law, etc. in a comprehensive manner.
- To have a lot of experience in writing applications in order to be prepared for the A exam.
- to have a personnel tutor, other than the employer, and to have time during working days.
- To have enough time for preparation, to learn writing quickly
- To know what the examiner expects, To know how I was marked EXACTLY in my past papers, what counts as errors, what not. SO FAR THIS IS NOT ALLOWED and is the worst thing for the preparation: not knowing the reasons of the failure of previous sitting. Management of time (the only thing needed I think for me) Repeating exams with the same conditions (6 hours in a row for C, etc.) A complete analysis of the Examiner reports, sometimes with contradictory reasons (for me).
- To make exercises for taking into consideration the problem of time pressure.
- To obtain enough time from your employer to prepare for the EQE. This is a problem for us working in a small offices with own client base, when

workload defines when you can study or if you have time to study at all.

- Training old exam papers
- Training to write fast and readable
- training with older paper A-D of previous EQE
- Tutorials offered by CIPA
- Understanding the problem
- Use of and familiarisation with the Guidelines.
- virally impossible to prepare well as long as no transparency is given on marking, expectations etc. Further, the Exams are an isolated situation, far away from day-to day practice; the relevance thereof is therefore limited; on the contrary, the significance is immense: the conflict being the two do not match at all. Even more, the Exams are not at all a test on fitness for practice; more likely a test on stamina.
- Visser + hoekstradoc + delta patents were invaluable
- Visser Hoekstra Question books of Deltapatents
- Visser!
- We need more support from our employers. Paper C is six hours long, so you can only do paper C past papers on a weekend unless your employer allows you a study day in which to specifically do a paper C. In my opinion, this is one reason why the pass rate for Paper C is often much worse than for the other papers. Often, the most valuable thing about study courses is that they put you in an examination hall for several hours and make you do past papers - many EQE candidates have prior qualifications from years spent at university, plus at least 3 years in patent practice, so very many of us have young families and babies, which has a very significant effect on our ability to study at home. So, in my opinion, the most important factor in preparing for the EQE is to find quiet time by yourself to go through as many past papers as possible.
- When working full time to get days off from work to study, that's hard.
- Working through old papers in the compendium is valuable; however, older papers (starting around 2004 and older) quickly became obsolete; this applies for D mostly and C fairly, but also slightly for A and B; --> suggestion: provide, each year before
- You need to take enough study time at home. Courses alone are not enough.

**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.**

- 1. I had a great weakness in doing A papers and therefore, did a lot of A papers which were published in the Compendium to exercise for the A exam. During the exam I did benefit from that. 2. I was very good in doing the B papers which were published in the compendium. However during the exam I was doubting so much about the right set of conclusions that I spend 3.5 hours in writing the right set of conclusions. So in the end I only had 0.5 hour to spend on my argumentation. In the preparation for my exams I always exercised my exams in the right time window. But now I failed in keeping the time. So next year, if I have failed, I have to keep good track of the time!
- A) I relied on the chance to consult books, commentaries etc. however this is not possible in the time given B) I will prepare a personal food + drink package for the next time.
- Adapting to the specific style of the EQE Realizing how to interpret the hints provided by the Board to trigger certain answer More training with Exam
- Answering more questions Writing more C exams
- As I have no results, I cannot judge my performance...
- At the end I had no fresh exams to do. I should have saved more of the exams from recent years. Exams from 90's are not as relevant as new ones.
- Aufgrund schwieriger familiärer Verhältnisse etwa einen Monat vor der EQE war das Training auf Zeit und hinsichtlich der reinen Prüfungskondition (Durchhaltevermögen) etwas knapp geraten. Unter normalen Verhältnissen hätte dies verstärkt trainiert werden können.
- Before sitting it the first time: a) overload of work and b) no face to face training with proper feedback

- Better time planning for each exam due to the enormous time pressure.... I should have trained more under realistic condition....
- Better timing, no second guessing decisions made earlier. Go with the initial solution.
- Continue study for more than 3 or 4 hours a day
- Could have started preparation earlier by working through the DeltaPatents questions, say, about 12m before the exams.
- D2 part. But I don't know how to overcome it.
- D2 training of previous papers C training more time to dedicate to preparation in the previous year exchanges and discussions with other candidates
- D2-Teil. Ich hätte ein oder zwei mehr alte DII-Prüfungen machen sollen.
- depending on the result: if I passed then no weakness: but longer preparation time is preferred, 3 weeks -8 hours daily- is not enough, 2 month for me seems good and is what I advice to friends. If I failed: 6 month in panic might be ok.
- did not manage to prepare time saving flow charts (own manuscript) for D1. it took too much time to check the commentary; Should have started early with preparing flow charts in parallel to answering D1 questions.
- did not start early enough - should have focused on each paper for more than 3 weeks in a row
- Difficult to answer before having the results.... Main weakness was to stay concentrate the whole three days : after paper D, I was already exhausted.
- difficulty of writing down concisely, especially the argumentation for paper B. can be avoided by more exercising.
- DII ; balance more preparation time between DI and DII
- DII is very complex and although I studied a lot of DII-parts, it appears to depend a lot on luck if a DII-part solves easier or is hard to solve. When exercising DII-parts of the compendium some years were very easy (2006, 2008) and some appear to be much more complicated (2007). Most of my colleagues agree that DII can only be trained to a certain extent and beyond that, depends on luck. This observation is in line with the number of students passing DII with more than 50% of the points rewarded therein. This seems to be inadequate for an exam which is undergone mostly by people which are already successful performing services in the European IP field.
- Do more mock exams in exam conditions (especially Paper C).
- Doing papers to time - more practice
- Doing UK exams in November before left little time for revision and i was already tired and stressed
- don't know
- don't know
- Durch eine 45 Std. Arbeitswoche bleibt einem nur das Wochenende und dass wäre schön wenn das anders auch ginge
- During the preparation of papers A and B, I have tried to follow the indications of my CEIPI tutors and to develop a personal method for carrying out the various tasks of the exam in the time available. While I succeeded in doing this, I was so concentrated on my assumptions that I

missed some important details of the papers. I think that two papers in a day are quite a challenge. Every detail in the paper is important and after a number of hours it is easier and easier to miss something important when you have started making assumptions. I think that the best thing in this case is to train to think outside the box and to evaluate alternatives to your assumptions before writing the answer.

- Especially with paper C one has to cope with time-management. To cover this issue my preparation consists of mock-writing at least 4 C-papers from recent years. The problem is that the more often you prepare the more the papers. So the preparation is not very realistic even not for time-management training. From my point of view the master-question is why the papers are stuffed with so much information that most candidates run out of time? In reality you take the time necessary to prepare an opposition. The conclusion: only the very fast candidates which are capable of good handwriting will pass the EQE.
- Even in the last week before the examination, I not only used the examination papers of the previous years for a "real-time training" of the examination, but also prepared material for taking to the examination. For example, I studied the decisions published in the OJ in 2008 and wrote summaries of the decisions in the book of Mr. Kley. It would be better, to have every material prepared and ready at least one month before the examination and to focus the last month on training with previous examination papers.
- Exam conditions and requirements are very different from what we do in real life. I should have worked less maybe???
- experience in drafting, could be overcome by studying more previous exams
- External pressures such as workload and a very young family which limit time available for study/preparation
- fehlende Geschwindigkeit, fehlende Übung, fehlende Systematik
- final preparation was in time, i.e. training with old exams, learning for "short time memory" was ok however, i should have started earlier (maybe one year before) just reading basics ... forgetting them again ... but being able latter on to more easily reread this.
- Finding enough free time to prepare.
- first the second language of the documents in paper C. then, the ability to understand what is the main point of the paper in a reasonable time. i think that is very important to practise, in my opinion, it is the only way to save time.
- First: in order to adequately prepare the EQE you would require many months of full-time study, which is not normally possible when you work. So, you have to face the reality that it will be impossible for you to be well-prepared when you undergo the EQE, which is a nasty feeling. Perhaps in some other countries in Europe is acceptable not to work full-time while you're preparing the EQE: in my own country this is unfortunately not the case. Second: candidates having English, French or German as their mother language enjoy an unfair advantage which is not taken into account when marking papers (sadly, neither of the above languages is my mother language). With current EQE regulations it would be not possible to overcome these problems.



- Focus on detail of scoring marks. However in this respect it is noted that the variations over the years at times require detailed in depth answers to score marks including references to OJEPOs, whereas in other years the mention of the relevant EPC article and rule suffices. [As to the extent of what actually did suffice to score marks the Examiners report generally is silent.]
- focus on preparation while full-time job goes on. more (and eventually "unpaid") vacation before the EQE.
- focus on the text of the questions, overcoming only possible by making more exercises
- For A and B papers to adapt to the unknown terminology due to that are field very different to my current working field.
- for A and B this was fine
- Forcing myself to think about writing obvious facts in the answer (which nevertheless carry points) Finding implicit questions
- Für A und B zu erkennen, welche Details wichtig bzw. unwichtig sind.
- Generally I felt I had not enough time to answer the questions although I thought I understood what most questions were about. So perhaps my weakest point is quick and effective drafting of an answer
- question of stress
- Get used to fast and long writing as expected during the EQE. There is no way to overcome this, unless the exams of the EQE are extended for half an hour each. Finding all necessary information in the documents needed. I did overcome this by practicing and memorizing.
- greatest weakness : - few time of preparation - stress and load of work in my company - time spent to chose a work method performance : - working with my EQE friend
- Greatest weakness is being able to remember in detail the Articles and Rules, Guidelines etc Overcome by spending more time studying specific application to unique examples that aid memorising the Act.
- Greatest weakness is the fact that due to financial restrictions coming up short termed, external trainings were cancelled
- greatest weakness was lack of time: preparation of the C&D papers (being far far away from practical relevance) would have required me to heavily reduce either my every days work as a German patent attorney or my family life - both being out of discussion. under the current conditions, I doubt if I will ever sit part 2 - although practising before the EPO together with a German lawyer for years.
- Greatest weakness was the PCT. It seems to be advisable to study the PCT in parallel with the EPC. For example whenever questions on the EPC are dealt with it would be possible to consider how the same question (if applicable) would be answered under the PCT.
- greatest weakness: Not writing the answers down word for word how to overcome: not possible (to little time at hand)
- Greatest weakness: Time management (to get the gist of the paper & phrasing the solution within the given time) - How did I (try to) overcome it ? I exercised as many mock papers as possible under real time conditions.
- greatest weakness: time management in the DII part, how to overcome:

more focused training on how to best structure the answers in the DII part

- had an operation just before - could not have foreseen this
- had different other exams before the EQE; next time I can focus solemnly on the EQE
- Hard to say without knowing my results! I felt ready and fully prepared before sitting the exams and at the moment can't see what I would have done differently. Obviously if I pass then this holds true. If I fail, as far as I am concerned now, this will be more than likely down to a bad day in the exam or a poor choice on the day (or for paper C a poor knowledge of French or German!)- and I don't know how that can be overcome (except for paper C, which I believe sense has been seen).
- Heavy workload ==> not sufficiently structured preparation. Maybe better planning could have overcome the problem
- Holding a more than full-time position and having small kids, I simply have too little time to study. I should have started earlier, but it is really hard to find the vacant time in a day that on forehand is way too short
- How to write down short, but clear and concise answers in handwriting. How not to get lost into too much details providing only few points.
- I am simply slow in hand-writing. I see no chance in improving this. Typing with a computer during the exam to my opinion would also be no solution, as I would expect that it use of computers during exam would be allowed the expected amount of text to be written during exam gradually would rise. Limited time was the second main problem - which of course is also interconnected with my "disability to write fast by hand". I have to train to compress my answer to be able to get everything said with less words.
- I am still too slow, I have do practice writing down the attacks for the individual claims. I never have enough time lift to do the last claims properly
- I began to late with the preparation, because I had to much work in the office and because I did not know which books and material to use. - In order to overcome this, I should have found the books earlier
- I could have spend more time, I should have started at least a year in advance. Modular sitting might have been a good idea.
- I could have started on the legal aspects (D-part) earlier; however, preparation was sufficient, nevertheless
- I could have studied more.
- I could not sleep in the night before I had studied too much in the days before time management in D2 and C
- I did not complete enough past examination papers, this could have been overcome by more disciplined study
- I did not do enough amount of old examination papers (A). I should have got tutoring in analysing the papers from the earlier years.
- I did not have any senior expert supporting me and giving me advices to prepare the EQE. In Spain, as in other countries, there's no enough support for the EQE candidate.
- I did not have enough time to prepare for part D, actually I did not prepare especially for part D. I only had about 2 weekends for each of A,

B, but I consider myself fairly fluent in A, B ,,,, at least in A and B. For C I needed little more time. Moreover I thought time, and level of the exam was more or less fair for A, B C, and D. Of course it was difficult an immense time pressure but that is norm for US Universities exams as I know them anyway! I would NOT consider the exam demand more time pressure than in normal BS US university, but the time of concentration span required was at least twice as much, especially for C. C was really demanding!

- I did not practice enough C papers under exam conditions. My time plan for C was not detailed enough, so that in the exam I noticed too late that I was running out of time.
- I did not study enough, I had some other personal problems
- I didn't address evenly all the topics and legal aspects, focusing on too much details at the beginning for some of them and not enough for others at the end. The solution is trying, even not that easy, to adopt a more hierarchical approach.
- I didn't do enough papers under exam conditions.
- I didn't study enough, I had no time for that.
- I didn't have enough time to prepare. This was due to taking all of my UK exams in the November. It was hard to find motivation to study after working hard for my UK exams, especially with Christmas in between.
- I didn't participate in enough courses
- I didn't start early enough to learn the law fully. Should have prepared for longer.
- I don't know yet!
- I felt my preparation for my re-sit this year was strong
- I felt well prepared.
- I focused on the DI-part rather than on the DII-part and underestimated the effort of preparing for the DII-part. Next time, I would schedule more time for preparing for the DII-part.
- I focussed on D1 whereas most of the points are given in D2.
- I had not enough time for applying my learning by doing exercise. I believe I should start earlier with the preparation with a time for learning and a time for exercising.
- I had to resit so I prepared only the last 3 months before the exam. In hindsight I would have felt better to start preparing a bit more in advance.
- I have a tendency of writing too much meaning that time is lost for unnecessary work. One way to overcome this tendency were to write more papers at home in real time.
- I have not enough work with Compendium
- I have not expected that the legal questions of the eqe have purely academically character. Not well prepared for that.
- I have very good understanding of the theory. My problem is clearly that I am to unstructured when solving the papers. This may be ok, when you have a lot of time to solve the papers, but in the exam it is very important to manage the time properly and approach the papers in a more methodical way. I will focus on that part if I have to sit paper C again.
- I need to do more past papers. In my daily job I need to get more

involved with the formal requirements and payments of fees for patent prosecution in Europe, which are today handled by the paralegals/assistants for reasons of business efficiency. I need to be completely fluent with my argumentation using the problem-solution approach. I know the principles and how to apply them, but I need to be able to write this down succinctly under examination pressure.

- I needed to adapt myself to the format of the exam. Practicing with past years exams simulating actual exam conditions helped me formatting my answers to meet what it is expected according to the examiner's report, and improving my time management.
- I only sat paper B and I do not find any great weakness in my preparation.
- I only sat paper c, so the number of past papers is now few since I have sat paper c before.
- I only sat Part A this year and my biggest problem was concentration. I would have tried to work on improving concentration and combating fatigue
- I only sat the remaining A-part, and I had already studied most of the exams given previous years. In retrospect I wish I had saved more old exams for this years training.
- I should have known the law and G-decisions better. My performance at the examination was partly hindered by my bad nerves and weak knowledge of German/French in Paper C. For the next EQE, I simply have to read more.
- I should have paid more attention to particular questions of EQE, and less attention to theoretical questions
- I should have sat more past papers from the compendium
- I should have spent more time learning French. The non-English document in Paper C this year was unusually long.
- I should have started a little bit earlier.
- I should have started even earlier with preparation
- I sometimes felt that my inventive step arguments for Paper C were not strong enough
- I started to late
- I started too late with preparation for part D. I did not solve enough DII exams. I did not discuss problems with other candidates. I had no working place for my own at home.
- I think I have a good control of the EPC, Guidelines and Case law, but during the EQE I lost to much time looking for the right number of articles, rules, case law, OJ EPO ... and so I did not have enough time to do the subject completely. I think it's very import to frequently train on paper D questions to get some automatism and vastly find the right article, rule, case law ....to answer the questions.
- I think my big challenge was to try to see the solution fast, without dependency on the subject of the patent, because, mainly at first, it was so frustrating the fact that you get an exam and do it well and get another exam, of another subject, and realise that you can get thing right... My solution was to do the most exams I could do in order to gain confidence and agility, to establish a methodology for answering the

exam, preparing the points and/or subjects that could be needed to answer in the exam..

- I think my preparation was good. I made mistakes in the exam, but I actually don't think preparing more or differently would have avoided that.
- I was not always fully prepared. I could overcome this to either wait another year, either study more (the last not always being easy when you have a family to take care of and a time consuming job!)
- I was not ready for time management during the exam. I think this ability will come only with failing experience.... or, at least, with strong practice in exam-like conditions
- I was only sitting paper B and although I sat about 10 past papers, I had not researched and organised the legal aspects (case law, EPC, Guidelines) prior to the exam. And consequently realised what I should have written shortly after the paper finished. Very frustrating...
- I was really nervous on the examination which made me misread dates. Otherwise, with both full CEIPI and ASPI preparation, I felt well prepared, it is important to underline that 3 months from the examination, you cannot do anything else than prepare for the exams!
- I was too slow (I lacked time).
- I will know in August.
- I would like to think that I overcame my main weakness, which resulted in failure in 2008, being a lack of practice for paper C. For paper B my weakness was expecting the answer to be more complicated than it actually was.
- ich hätte noch mehr probeprüfungen schreiben sollen und zwar wirklich in Echtzeit und nicht nur checken ob ich in etwa richtig gelegen hätte.
- If you are on the job you do not have enough time for preparation. Another problem: the preparation of the actual documents (legal texts etc.) started too late. The valid German version of the PCT was not available at all as full version, only as amendments (I asked the WIPO why). The EPO should generate some pressure on German authorities since German is an official language!
- Illness/ Influenza of member of family in January and February 2009
- il est important d'avoir les anciennes épreuves. Sans cela, l'EQE serait difficile à passer.
- I'm working in a private company and I think I haven't a sufficient practical experience to manage paper A and B, comparing to colleagues working in patent offices. Concerning my personal studying, I think I have done all my best.
- Immediate understanding of D2-problems. Further training of D2 under exam conditions
- improve the speed
- in German: den Unterschied zwischen dieser Prüfung und anderen Prüfungen (uni) erkennen und entsprechend anders lernen. Daher die spezielle form der Vorbereitung zu erlernen braucht etwas zeit
- In Paper A, I had difficulties in correctly identifying the broadest formulation of the invention. It could have been useful to practice some more papers together with a Qualified European Attorney.

- In the C exam, if you do not have English, French or German as your first language, the time is very critical. From my perspective the time of the exam is adapted to a person having one of these three languages as their first language. Perhaps 20% extra time would be suitable if you write your answers in an admissible non-EPO language :)
- Inadequate preparation for Paper C under exam conditions. More practice papers to time (i.e. starting revision earlier) would have helped.
- Insufficient Exam paper training within time schedule
- Insufficient practice of past papers
- Insufficient time for really reading all material. Repeating, Repeating, Repeating, ... Case law book not updated to EPC2000 DII and training for it; too much information, too little time, too many issues hidden in single words. DII this year incomparable to earlier versions
- It has been difficult for me to keep focus on preparation during 6 months. I think that joining one or more study-groups partly would have overcome this...
- It takes too long to go through the paper before starting to answer the question. Practice reading old exams.
- It's a pity only to have known the presence of the compendium when the exam was imminent. In my office, when I started working, nobody suggested me to form myself on compendium. I believe that compendium is fundamental for my professional activity.
- Keep the concentration during the second exam in the afternoon. I'll overcome this by doing mock exams (A and B) in the same day.
- knowledge in law, studying a commented EPC
- Lack of enough of time (Management of time) Spending in three last sittings (except the last one) too much time in too much legal support for paper A, B and C, and not finishing all the defence /attack of the claims The only way to overcome that, is doing Compendium exams in the exact conditions of the Examination.
- LACK OF ENOUGH TIME FOR COMPLETING THE EXAM ON TIME IT SHOULD BE OVERCOME BY PRACTISING ON REAL TIME
- Lack of motivation. I do not want to be no life jerk just because of the assholes in the examination committee.
- Lack of practical experience, poor strategy
- Lack of preparation time between UK qualifying examinations (taken in November) and the EQE in March. Nothing can be done to change this unless the dates of the exams are changed
- Lack of sleep before and during the exams affected my performance and I didn't have sleeping pills! Otherwise, I was well prepared.
- lack of time
- Lack of time available between UK Final Examinations and EQE papers. Necessitates short preparation period. No way to fix unless one or other examination changes dates.
- Lack of time for even more studying and writing previous exams in order to internalize the answer schemes in terms of time and legal basis for passing the exam.
- Lack of time for preparation (move home in Oct, new job...), not enough focused on past papers, not enough discussions with other candidates,

insufficient knowledge of guidelines of EPO, relied mostly on the "Visser" book solutions: allocate more time in advance, make own index for paper D, take part of a working group, study examiner' report better and do more compendia

- lack of time for preparation due to temporary work overload in Dec08 - March 09 start with preparation earlier
- Lack of time for preparation. Too much work at the office. No time to do any tutorial this year.
- Lack of time for studying. Could only have been overcome by taking unpaid leave from work.
- lack of time to fully read and understand lots of legal cases.
- Lack of time to practice Paper D questions from Delta Patents books and DII questions from past papers
- Lack of time to prepare fully, since I took my UK national exams the previous November. Would have been better to take the UK exams after the EQE
- lack of time, higher workload than in previous years
- Lack of time. I should have started earlier.
- Lack of time. Since English is not my native language it does take more time to study the papers and double check terms from a lexicon to be sure of the meaning of the terms. Those not having EPO official languages as their native language should get extra time for the examination.
- Lack of training in real time conditions.
- Language training for Paper C. Exam technique for Paper DII - more practice required.
- Last year (2008), I only failed paper B with 49 points. So I'm not sure that my answers are relevant for this questionnaire (2009)... I'm just not able to pass B!! For Paper D, the most helpful was my training with the DELTA PATENTS books. For Paper C, the most important was the "method" (thank you the C-book!)
- Last year I had too little time to prepare all parts (just five weeks altogether). Thus, I only prepared part D, passed parts A, B, and D and failed C. If I had prepared part C just a little I think I would have passed last year already. I overestimated part D and underestimated part C. I believe one week more time and two of the six weeks spent on part C would have sufficed.
- learning discipline, concentration, systematic approach to legal questions. tried too few D II papers of recent years
- Little compendium practice
- little time for preparation, start earlier and distribute total preparation time on longer preparation period, especially for D-paper
- managing of time. It can be overcome by practicing mock tests
- mangelnde Geschwindigkeit: a) trainieren, mit der Hand zu schreiben, b) noch mehr Aufgaben üben
- Manque de temps pour réviser. Aucune solution à ce problème, à moins d'être célibataire et de n'avoir aucune vie sociale et aucun centre d'intérêt.
- maybe there was a weakness in exchange of information with other

- candidates concerning their experiences/hints to master the eqe
- mehr Zeit zum Durcharbeiten der Delta-Patents und zum Präparieren der eigenen Unterlagen einplanen
  - mock exam would have been useful. Questions which I found easy to do under normal conditions were difficult under exam conditions due to nerves. Because the papers involve a lot of reading and understanding, nerves play a big role as if you misread one aspect, it can affect your whole answer and cause panic when you cannot see why the question is worded in the way that it is. A lot of my preparation was of little or no use for paper DI as there is so much to cover and only a small proportion of it can be addressed in one paper. To cover all of the EPC and PCT in enough detail to answer the questions well is not possible in 2 or 3 months. It can undermine confidence during an exam to know that you cannot answer the questions 100% correct, even though you know the pass mark is only 50%.
  - More practice on timed papers, particularly C
  - more practise at C
  - more practise in understanding the points, practise on speed and pressure,
  - more real-life training would have been helpful
  - more time
  - more time spent on past papers
  - More training on following my time schedule. Perhaps more language study because the C-exam is almost impossible without German (or French) language knowledge. However, additional language should not be the restricting factor for managing the exams.
  - Most important is the time needed to prepare. However it is also essential to focus on the compendium to see what kind of answers are expected.
  - My great weakness was that the first time I made paper C and D I had not taken any special course before and I did not have any technique about how to attack the exams.
  - My greatest weakness is that I am too slow in analysing all the documentation and in finding the adequate solutions... Therefore, I had some problems to end the papers on time. With more time, I am sure that my answers would have been better and more accurate.
  - My greatest weakness was in giving the correct answer to the DI questions in the given amount of time. I often knew the answer, but I was not able to put it into a concise and to-the-point answer. My training was focused on finding the right answer, not on how to put that answer onto paper in a form that would be accepted by the examining committee.
  - My greatest weakness was to work alone when I first sat EQE. This year we worked in small group and I think it was more efficient than working alone. We discussed our "copies" in light of the Examiners reports which helped understanding our flaws.
  - My greatest weakness was too much focus on past papers for papers A, B and C, and not enough revision of the law for paper D. In retrospect, I should have spread my time more equally between the four papers.



- my handwriting; there seems to be no way of improving it
- My preparation and performance was good with respect to parts A, B and DI; my preparation was good with respect to parts C and DII, too. However, due to the lack of time I was unfortunately not able to write down my correct solution completely. I do not believe, that it is possible for me to overcome that problem by further training, because I have already trained hard and appear to have reached my performance limit in this respect. However, I could have overcome that problem easily, if I was given 10% more time in parts C and DII or if the amount of information to be dealt with would be reduced accordingly. Interestingly, time was not at all a problem for me with regard to parts A, B and DI. How come that difference...?
- my preparation was well organised in advance. However, at the beginning I had a problem as how to start into the huge amount of topics. the key was the guidelines.
- My problem (as working in industry) that I do not have much to do with EPC on a daily basis in my work (too many other tasks) and therefore need more time to remember. The problem in my performance during exam was a lack of time due to different languages of prior art documents: reading documents in two different languages that both are not your mother tongue takes longer time then for those speaking the "EPO" languages. To overcome -> just to train ! OR increase time (at least for 0,5 hour) for none EPO language speaking candidates!
- My problem was mainly the time pressure and to deal with the stress and preparing a thorough answer, which was difficult, it is easy to make severe mistakes under stress. I had practised this before the exam, but it was still difficult.
- My work load is very high, and it does not decline during the weeks preceding the EQE. I do not know how to overcome it. I work about 60 to 70 hours a week. In general, I get three weeks of "learning holidays" before the EQE, which has to be sufficient. During the weeks preceding these "learning holidays", I am just too tired and exhausted in the evenings, thus I cannot concentrate on the EQE preparation. Although they promise me to relieve my work burden e.g. as of Christmas, this never happens.
- Need to do more past papers to time as time management especially in paper C was tricky.
- No decent time table
- No idea on a schematic way to follow for paper DII
- No results obtained, first-time sitter.
- Not attempting enough past papers. I concentrated too hard on learning the law and did not do enough practice. With hindsight, I could have had a better balance by using past papers as a means of learning the law.
- Not being prepared for such intensive exams i.e. such long days of exams. The pressure and tiredness you feel makes you make careless mistakes. A practice run through under timed conditions would help solve this. Time management on Paper C and D was a slight issue. Practising writing concise answers is a way to overcome this issue. Taking less time to translate the French document in Paper C would

help too!

- Not enough drafting and prosecution in my daily work, most of it is opinion work and patent related project management
- Not enough experience in sitting papers under exam conditions.
- Not enough focused study
- not ENOUGH SERIOUS PREPARATION FOR DII
- Not enough time for preparation because of heavy daily workload
- not enough time for preparing beside work in my office
- Not enough time for preparing the exams, and a lot of material to study. A good organization is important, for arranging correctly all the information.
- Not enough time to practise exam papers
- Not enough time to prepare for the exam. Help at home and at work would have made it easier.
- Not enough time to review the Guidelines and to do previous exams in examination conditions
- Not enough time to sit earlier EQE: as a training for correctly dividing your time in the EQE.
- Not enough time to study beside the regular workload and family obligations Unfortunately no idea how to change this
- Not familiar enough with EPC - I needed to focus my preparation more on the actual law.
- not having enough physical recovery in between
- Not reading questions carefully enough. Spending too long on analysis and not enough time on answer.
- nothing, because for C I even do not know which proper answer is correct. I saw the problem and possible solutions, but due to the manner of the eqe I had to decide for one solution.
- One cannot control and reduce the most important aspect concerning the performance at the EQE which is an unavoidable inherent error level when processing all the information required to prepare the answer. This is unfortunate and against the purpose of an examination in general, because a single deviation from the so-called ideal solution for instance due to a single error of a candidate when reading the text under time pressure leads to immediate failure for the whole paper. One can train though the second most important aspect for performance, i. e. speed of preparing the answer, by 1. focussed training with exam related cases/questions and special attention to a comprehensive and detailed answer plan/routine/schedule; Better train not to deviate from the plan under no circumstances. 2. taking more details from the top of one's head and/or from well-prepared books/notes to try to avoid unnecessary cross-checking of articles, rules etc. under EQE conditions (=stress)
- Only use the exact strategy you tried at home. I should not have tried a modified strategy (timing) on the spot the day of the exam
- Paper A: Recognize the invention. I tried to overcome it by training numerous old papers. Paper C: Time management. I tried to overcome this by making a timeline and setting milestones regarding the issues to be covered. Would have liked half an hour extra though.

- Paper C is the last paper I miss. It requires a lot of practice and a lot of time (6 hours each time you want to write a paper from the compendium). Working only on parts of a paper is not efficient. My problems lies in the fact that after 5h of continuous work, I am too tired to be efficient. I don't know how I could have overcome this time matter !
- paper D-II. I do not see any way to overcome this, since it's based on a lack of time for both analysis and conclusions of the case. Since this was similar for all old paper D I did in preparation, this lack of time is obviously part of the examination conditions set out by the exam committee.
- Papers A&B were not particularly good for me. More tutorials in these would have been useful.
- parallel work load, discipline in continuous daily preparation
- Part D, focusing on the relevant problems. of course I do not know my performance. If it was not good enough, paper D was mistakable this year.
- Part D2: advising the client on strategy. Not many possibilities to improve expect maybe study a greater number of old exams.
- paying more attention in writing
- Perhaps I should spend more time in the evenings after my daily work preparing some specific issues.
- Poor French language skills, should have spent more time learning French for paper C
- Poor possibility to get personal tutoring. Managing the time for preparing.
- Practice more for the C paper in the allotted time
- Practice of assembling the already available pieces of information, composing the writs to be submitted. Knowledge of information provided in various forms of decisions from authorities of the EPO regarding procedural matters.
- Practicing old exams. Could have been overcome by starting earlier with the preparation of the eqe.
- preparation for D2 part to write more D2 test exams
- preparation for paper D2. Made more past papers.
- Preparation: Time to study and preparation of own materials. One gives advice and recommendation on how to prepare and strives the importance of starting early enough. However, only the last 3 months are very productive but it is not enough to prepare our own materials (which I think is the most important). During that time, I started to understand what exactly needed to be done and how and which issues to address. However, again, this is too late to address everything. I think that having a pre-exam is a good way of overcoming these problems. Performance EQE: Stress management and Time management are the biggest issues.
- Preparing for paper D by answering the questions in the Ceipi/Delta Patents book (preparing for the EQE I) was extremely beneficial. However, I started too late and therefore did not have time to answer all the questions in book II. Thus, I should have started preparing for paper D earlier than I did (I started intensive preparation for this paper in

December 2008) - not only because of the exam but also because the knowledge gained it is very beneficial in my daily work.

- quickness. I do not know how to overcome it.
- Rapidity to analyse and to answer
- see my previous remark; as long as expectations are not clear, one can not reflect: of course, always weaker points are present, but that in general does not prevent candidates from passing any other exam, once well prepared.
- Should have started earlier with preparation.
- should have taken a course for paper D2 - would have expected similar "flash of insight" as with course for paper C; distributing work on old exam papers over a longer period of time with longer pauses in between in order to have more time to reconsider problems with my personal solutions
- Should have taken more time for preparation
- Simply the "how to answer" part. Should have realized more upfront how important the structure of an answer is.
- speed and time management for assessing in particular the more complex papers D-II and C. Starting earlier on a dedicated training with focus on the required techniques for a structured approach of the papers would have helped a lot for improving speed and precision in the analysis / decision making process. Such training requires performing exercises with detailed feed-back from an experienced professional.
- speed for the time given by the exam conditions
- Speed in writing answers (complete the paper). Exercising in being less verbose and more concise. As not mother-tongue candidate this is somehow difficult & penalizing.
- Spend time for other, private things. Start earlier with learning.
- Spent more time and more focused training final year
- start earlier intensify time management for answering the questions I have no clue "how deep" the questions should be answered, and which aspects of an answer yields the important points... (without any answer to point list you are just alone ...)
- Start past papers 6 months before Exams; more relevant practice material for paper DII
- -stress on the day of the exam itself; -not enough discussion with professional tutor; -not enough discussions with other candidates
- Structure for answering DII.
- Studying with focus on the respective papers and their questions. Should perhaps have started earlier with making my own compendium and check-lists.
- Sufficient time for study due to amount of client work
- Tackling of paper D2 Overcoming: no clue. seems like one has to have the right eye for the right problems just in the right time ...
- test is too EPO. centred rather than trying to assess objectively the candidate's predisposition to become a successful patent attorney. In addition, too much importance is given to the so-called problem-solution approach
- That's hard to say, since we do not yet have the results.

- the EQE is too formal, in particular the expected responses are in a highly rigid frame. The compendium help a lot for the preparation, but I think a detailed response grid could also help understanding the requirements similarly to many first time sit (C and D papers). I do not see how I could have done more for preparing the exam. But yet, chances are high that i do not pass. One of the reasons is that the exams are too long (for instance C paper, there is not enough time to write everything...or to think about everything you write...in particular transitions between attacks or in the reasoning). It is not just the preparation (I think the majority of candidates -at least first time sitters - are more than prepared for the exams) Very frustrating !
- The exam is not in one's own language
- The exams are unpredictable in the weighting that is given to certain answers and do not acknowledge alternative solutions - this does not always lead to real results - rather there is a tendency for all or nothing situations, which does not assess the candidates abilities correctly. The German patent attorneys exam is far superior in this regard, as it gives marks also for argumentation and not just conformity with one or a few answers that were considered by the exam committee to be the only viable solutions. A weakness would be to try to convince by elaborate answers, whereas the test only requires getting a few things right - its an all or nothing situation. Therefore, I would spend more time thinking and less time writing. There are no marks for clever maximisation - instead its all about second guessing and providing what the Examiners want to hear - this is not really preparing for real life as the clients interests are not adequately considered.
- The first time I sat A and B I had not learned "some" basic subject-matter of the guidelines and I had not done enough examinations. The last time I did a good preparation for paper B, the only one not yet approved. To prepare seriously for paper C helps in paper B would be my advice and to do all the examinations (except pre year 2000 of paper C).
- The greatest weakness in my preparations was to keep on going. I think I could have overcome with it by doing more work in groups, so to be under constraint to keep up efficiency.
- The greatest weakness is the time aspect. I still do not know how to practice to complete a paper on time.
- The greatest weakness is to understand which is the expected solution to the papers. In the day by day working practice usually is necessary to fulfil the client's requests and at the same time to try to achieve the broadest protection of the invention while during the EQE it is important to concentrate also on the wording of the claims and every mistake is scourged and there is no possibility to further correct the claims...the candidate has only one chance...but this is the exam!
- the greatest weakness was, to understand the focus of a question. Training with compendium did help.
- The greatest weakness was not enough study
- The language of the examination is not my mother language. It takes for me more time than candidates from GB, DE or FR
- the language, speed in writing

- The main problem with Paper C in my opinion is the time that is necessary to properly analyse the Documents and to prepare the attaches to the claims. The second problem is to maintain the concentration for 6 hours. I think the only way to overcome it is to practise old Paper C examples.
- The only thing (from my perspective) which makes the exams difficult is the fact that you need to complete the paper within a very tight time frame. Making a "wrong turn" in the beginning of a paper basically means you will not be able to complete the paper. This happened with my D2. I had to rush through the paper after having corrected myself. This probably results in significant loss of marks and possibly I need to resit D. (Time mgt. of D1 was no problem)
- the problem is I do not know
- The requirement to be able to read and understand French or German for the C-Paper (as a English speaking candidate). I did all I could to overcome it (taking French classes in the months leading up the exam, translating previous papers etc), but in the pressure of the exam, this element let me down. I believe that this requirement is to be dropped from EQE 2010 onwards (which is a good thing in my view)
- THE SMALL NUMBER OF PREPARATORY COURSES EXISTING IN SPAIN IT WAS VERY HARD TO STUDY THE EXAM EACH DAY AFTER HAVING WORKED MORE THAN EIGHT HOURS // THERE IS NO TIME TO PREPARE THE EXAM AT THE OFFICE
- The time available to answer is too short, mainly because the language problem. I am no native speaker of English, French or German. For me it is very slow to write accurately in English. I could have overcome this by being born in another country.
- The time it takes to write down my answer in comparison with the time necessary to analyse all the facts. This unavoidably leads to unnecessary time pressure.
- the time pressure in the exams. It is very hard to practice the exam conditions at home. Do more exercises under time pressure might help.
- The translations of the questions are not very accurate. There are a lot of facts provided which are not very practical oriented. For example "eine Code der in eine Tinte codiert ist" heisst dass die Molekuele verändert wurden und nicht dass mit einer Tinte ein Barcode geschrieben ist. People who make the questions seem not to have very practical experience.
- there is a lot of material to study, strict time management
- This year no particular big weakness in knowledge due to fair questions.
- Three days exam in a row is very hard, especially the third day, C-exam. I see no way to prepare for this.
- time
- time
- Time management. Lack of time mostly due to dealing with languages not my mother tongue. Only more time would have made it possible to deal with all papers in time.
- time (for A). Even during training, time was important. March 4th, I believed I have half an hour more (due to the stress probably). Thus I

could not terminate.

- Time and family considerations meant finding 6 hours to complete a paper C was very difficult
- Time and time ! (combine job and preparation)
- Time disposal. It takes to long time to deal with all information given on the exam. More training.
- Time due to UK exams preceding November. Could have waited another year before taking the EQE.
- time for attack a single whole paper
- Time for preparation; starting earlier
- time for reflection after having made a paper as homework (what did i wrong + why?) I started too late with thinking about this
- time management
- time management
- time management
- time management I could have practised sitting still more exams under real conditions
- time management - more focus on time management during preparation
- time management practicing more papers as homework would have help to better manage the time available during papers A & B
- Time management (I could not finish the exams in time). Practice more under exam-like conditions.
- time management and physical resistance no idea. Maximizing time devoted to exercise was already my first endeavour. I don't think one can do more compatibly with working time and private life.
- time management better knowledge about how and what points are awarded for
- Time management between the EQE preparation, my job and my family and friends. Unfortunately, I have no answer on how to improve it.
- time management during examination. More practice simulating examination timing.
- Time management for Paper C. I have done training sessions with past exams according to a time schedule.
- time management for paper DI and DII should have practiced past papers even more to get quicker in finding the answers and references
- time management is fundamental, but not very easy to work on if you are not in exam conditions.
- Time management of Paper C. Do more past papers to a shorter time
- Time management started intensive studies in group with other candidates too late
- time management write out more papers
- Time management, could overcome by more attempts with example questions.
- Time management. The only real way to improve is to practice past papers to time.
- time management. there isn't much time during the examination so it is necessary to find the correct answer at the beginning, when studying one may always correct a first approach. The only solution is studying

with the same time limits

- Time management. Without time pressure, the practised papers were evaluated by DeltaPatents as a 'pass', which indicated that the knowledge and methodology are known. How to overcome: have a number of papers practiced without time pressure and some with time pressure.
- Time management in DI and C - Perhaps, doing more C parts might have helped.
- Time management. I don't know how to overcome this; I have practised many papers and I always need between 15-30 minutes more to complete the paper.
- time pressure, nerviness train the papers under time pressure
- time stress
- Time stress was the main issue and led to imperfect presentation of my knowledge -> abbreviation list and handwriting exercises (!) may ease this.
- Time to train and do exams. There is no such time when doing full time work AND being a parent to two young kids. It is not enough to start studying 9pm in the evenings, the time you have, if you are lucky, when having small kids. Allowance to train 1-2 days a week fat work or the last 6 months ahead of the Exam would help this. Not possible in a private practice.
- Time! Having a family with two small children makes working imperative. It is simply not feasible to stop working for more than two months to prepare for the exam. Of course it is an argument to say that a decision should be made beforehand: children or EQE or children after EQE, however ... Well, performance depends on the eye of the beholder. Lets put it that way: The probability to pass EQE is mainly a function which depends heavily on the following parameters: Cleverness, time for preparation (=money), # of children (influences "time") and luck. I can't say how to overcome my lack of time. Lottery?
- Time, time, time, find time enough with daily work, family live etc.
- Time. By studying during a longer period of time
- time. start earlier.
- Timekeeping in the exam - could have been improved with a more concise exam technique.
- Timing
- to be fit on the Examination day. Did not get enough sleep. Maybe train to relax before a big event and not get tensed.
- To combine time for preparation with family life
- To do more exercises under time pressure. The main constraint in the examination is the time available to answer, especially in DI, DII and C.
- To find all references fast. Making your own "all-in-one EPC & PCT book"
- To find time
- to get an idea, how paper c should be written
- to get the key idea of paper A. I still do not know how exactly can I the right independent claim(s) of paper A
- to have sufficient completeness of answers



- to less time for learning. Starting learning as soon as possible, best more than 6 month before the exam.
- To little time for personal preparation
- to little time to study. It took too long to locate the correct answers
- too less time for serious preparation, this, however, is hard to overcome
- Too little time preparation
- Too much focus on D1 and not enough on technique for A, B, C and D2. Should have done more past papers.
- Too much time was required to finally valid my (first) answer attempts using my prepared materials. Should be overcome by more intense learning and training with previous exams in order to save the time for validation
- Too optimistic evaluation of my scores, as evaluated by my supervisor. Correction of papers by experienced tutor would be better.
- too slow - further exercising
- Too tensed for the first day (D-exam). Do not take 3 weeks off before exam. Spend limited time (hours per day) for preparation.
- Training for paper D: Start intensive reading and practicing old exam papers earlier... Gaining speed in paper C: practice more old exam papers
- Training time management. Difficult to overcome, as in my opinion the EQE requires too much information in too little time.
- Trying to apply one of the Methods of the C-Book in the examination
- understand how paper C should be dealt with
- understanding the exam concept. I would have more intense contact with experienced colleagues. to get better feeling of the specifics of the EQE
- Verifying correct understanding with other people especially on thing where I did not have direct experience. I could have tried to interact more with other people however location and time available are a concern to this extent
- Wasted a lot of time on updating my EPC and searching stuff in the Official Journal. Wait until September for the most actual books and don't think about the latest amendments. The test paper is already composed months before the test.
- weakness : I limited my claim too much on paper B, including features that seemed essential to me due to the way they were presented in the subject. In paper A, my argument on novelty did not clearly include a summary of prior art How to overcome it : reading more carefully the examiners report (that could also be more detailed on what is expected, and what to avoid)
- weakness in performance due to nervousness,
- Weakness is time. Not easy to overcome.
- Weakness was my ability to stay calm and to have the endurance to maintain a high level of concentration over the period of 3 days of examination. I cannot see how I could over come this problem. I did practice doing papers over 3 days but I only have 2 opportunities to do this as it requires that I take 1 days holidays from work. It would be good if the Exams were arranged so that there was a 2 day break after we

have completed paper D, A and B before we sit Paper C.

- Weakness: Examination panic, time pressure, exhaustion after during the three days of examination, solidity of knowledge Overcoming it: Mental preparation, repeat alls topics more often to settle the knowledge, physical fitness
- Weakness: Practical experience - could be overcome in more than 3 years time that I was in the patent field up to now
- Weakness: the start. Difficult to find how to start and with what material. Overcome: would have been possible if there had been an early course for "dummies".
- What was your greatest weakness? Paper C and D in retrospect, could you have overcome it? Preparation over a period longer than 6 months
- When first sitting I had prepared well for Papers DI and II and had a profound knowledge of the EPC. This year I focused on what the examining committee was expecting me to deliver, I studied the rules of the EQE game. With respect to IP knowledge this was just a refresher, but I spend a lot of time and effort on the way the exams are designed. This is a bit questionable.
- When practicing with older paper A's I noticed that I would often claim correctly part of the claimable subject-matter and neglect some other aspects, which, in my opinion, in real-life practice would not be interesting for a Client (in that they would be too remote from their actual commercial niche). Still, according to the compendium solution, those had to be claimed, because the goal of paper A appears to be always claiming all that is at least novel and somewhat inventive with respect to the prior art. At times, this approach is quite unrealistic - especially when part of the "claimable" subject-matter would reasonably be considered to be common general knowledge or at least obvious (e.g. a paper described a method for making a catalyst by dropping an acidic solution of a certain metal precursor salt over a ceramic support... which is what anyone with a very basic hand-on experience in the field would do to make the catalyst)
- with more luck and more concentration after the first 50% of the test
- Work through more older papers (although some of them are obsolete), start preparation earlier
- Workload at the office left me too exhausted to study as effectively as I otherwise could have during the evenings. To overcome this I could have started study even earlier, or e.g. taken a one-month unpaid leave.
- would have needed more exercises in patent law
- Writing by hand. I have professionally used computer for ten years as a patent attorney and my drafting style involves a lot of corrections. I think that I stumbled at the A exam on a simple language error, something that a native English speaking would never do - I made a float out of solid metal. During the exam this never occurred to my mind what a float actually is. I have thought that my language skills are good enough, but under the EQE pressure I should have used the possibility for my native language. I am still under the assumption that I understood everything in the exams, my biggest obstacle is how to get my understanding written on the paper in the given time - writing by

hand and (mostly) in a foreign language. Also in a C exam I had to ask for extra paper and was given only five sheets. As the paper delivery was so slow, I had to compress my writing for the final minutes in order to get points. I think it is very stupid to argue on the amount of paper.

- Writing fast and readable, esp. in the D2 and C part. Nowadays one is not skilled anymore in handwriting, the last time I did it was in school over 15 years ago. In my normal life I use computer and Dictaphone.
- Zu viel praktische Erfahrung mit europäischen Akten!
- zu wenig Zeit neben der Arbeit

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

- 1) Train on speed. 2) Train on speed. 3) Train on speed. 4) Try to analyze what they want to hear and answer the question accordingly.
- 1. Expect US university time pressure exam, I don't know the EU university exams. Do they expect time pressure? 2. Exams require very complex train of thought, don't start your answer until you are ready, more precisely until you know beyond any doubt what you are expected to answer, but the same applies for any office action right? So use common sense most of all!
- a) an CEIPI teilnehmen b) alte Examiner's Reports lesen c) einen (nicht mehr) übersichtlichen Kommentar verwenden (z.B. Kley, nicht Visser) d) Übersichtstabellen für Standardfragen (z.B. Anmeldeerfordernisse) verwenden e) don't panic
- All the necessary materials can be collated and ordered before beginning the final push for the exams. This should be done as soon as the texts as of 31 December of the preceding year are available.
- An alten Klausuren lernen, wie man am besten A Und B schreibt.
- As I mentioned before, practice under timed conditions, annotate all your books so you can find answers quickly and practice answering papers with your annotated books. Don't take books in that you haven't opened. You won't have time to search for answers, you should know exactly where they are. Since most of the Paper DI questions are out of date with the EPC2000, I recommend using the Delta patents questions and answers because they have been modified to be specifically applicable to the EPC2000 situation.
- Assuming you did the German candidate time in a patent office 26 month (performing some patent applications and replies to office action, being involved in oppositions and legal questions) and the 8 month in the BPatG: A B C part can be fun and enough simply practising 2 weeks (C!). D part requires some weeks of planful learning. Delta patent papers, C-book, guidelines, latest case law is good. On the day of the exam you are allowed to bring all docs you like. Prepare, and get them well sorted, have indices etc (don't do it all yourself, ask your friends for papers and trade)...
- at an early stage it is very important to decide which material/books to use for preparation. The selection is huge and it is not possible to work with all the material in depth.

- attempt lots of past papers
- Attempt practice papers as early as possible
- Attend CEIPI courses Do papers to time under exam conditions Practice language for paper C
- Attend the 2weeks CEIPI course
- attend a long lasting course. and make all possible exercise
- avoid traps
- Be strong !
- Begin preparing the exams as soon as possible, and if possible, try to study together with other candidates.
- Best of luck, the result of the EQE does not tell anything about your abilities or your fitness for practice.
- CEIPI tutorials plus Delta patents plus compendium at least the last 5 years
- Choose a job where you have at least a EPA to support you in the preparation stage.
- Choose a way to prepare that suits and works best for YOU, don't just go with the flow.
- Commencer tôt. faire les compendiums et les deltats patents. faire les préparations de l'EPI-CEIPI.
- consider attending strategy-courses for every paper; if you use the "Kley" annotated EPC (German): you will have to supplement a lot and beware of dangerously abridged interpretations
- D paper should definitely be started long in advance as there are lots of materials to prepare and review. For A, B, C, a good method and practicing the compendia is pretty much all that can be done.
- DeltaPatents Correction of Exam Paper is very useful
- Devote much time from the beginning. Chose an employer that supports you and provide time for preparation.
- Do a lot of old exams
- Do all four parts at one time! Especially preparation for part C helps a lot for A and B!
- Do as many compendium as possible.
- Do as many past papers as you can and ask your supervisor to correct them
- Do as many past papers as you can for A, B, C and DII, and attempt as many questions from the EPO forum or a text such as Delta Patents for DI. Also, do not underestimate how pressed you are for time.
- Do as many past papers under exam conditions as possible.
- Do as much mock exams as possible and spent a lot of time to analyze what you have written in these mock exams. I think this is the most important aspect of preparation for the exam. Don't use the cut-and-past method for paper C, although this method is favoured by the CEIPI. The old method with the large table works better.
- Do lots of past papers! And don't have too many reference sources.
- Do lots of past papers.
- Do never underestimate the efforts required to pass the EQE. Even if most candidates have university degrees at high levels, this is

something that for the unguided is very hard to prepare for, especially since many candidates meet this exam in a part of their life which is not suitable for the purpose.

- Do not attempt to sit the EQE without dedicated and stringent preparation, both in matters of EPC and of exam related strategies and carefully prepared documentation. Do not use documents (guidelines, etc) that you have not prepared yourself.
- Do not focus ANYTHING on "real-life". The EQE does not have anything to do with you ordinary work; If anyone in my company would have authored claims as expected in the A and B exams, I would have them fired immediately!
- Do not loose time and, at the same time, read carefully all the documents!
- Do not over prepare DI, DII is equally or even more important. Time management for C helps a lot: Short (!) direct answers for the first claims help to get to the last claim.
- Do not spend time to details before you master to helicopter the matter
- do not underestimate / understudy for the A&B exam; adequate preparation is really important
- Do old exams and try to find other candidates to discuss them with!
- Do past papers
- Do past papers to time. Do past papers to time. Do past papers to time. Do past papers to time. Do past papers to time. Do past papers to time. Other than the above, the Deltapatents paper D book is excellent.
- Do plenty of past papers to time, in exam conditions.
- Don't rely too much on annotated versions of EPC etc, such as Visser - put in the effort to fully annotate a copy of the EPC yourself, as this makes you far more familiar with where to find information. If you rely on a 3rd party annotated version of the EPC, and what you are looking for is not covered, you will not be able to find the information yourself.
- External courses are very important. Such courses are useful for learning techniques for approaching the exams. You cannot pick up these techniques from day-to-day work.
- Familiarise yourself with the materials as early as possible, so your practice papers are about practising and not learning.
- Find the right strategy. With it the exam should be a basket case.
- First study EPC and Guidelines, then attend CEIPI preparatory courses and, finally, try papers A and B in the Compendium, starting from 2000 papers to the most recent. Read very carefully the examiner's report. If possible, make some more trials with the help of a Qualified European Attorney.
- Focus on the exam. It is different from day to day practice.
- For me it was very important to work with another candidate to keep motivated and to learn things to each others.
- For paper A and B it's useful to make the most recent papers some weeks before the exam. So, I suggest to make the previous papers from September to the end of November and the most recent papers from December on.
- For paper DI completing all of the DeltaPatents questions is very

important. Nothing can prepare you better than doing lots of timed papers under timed conditions.

- Forget everything what you have learnt before. Plan your time and take time to understand and memorize. No crash course can help you, only long term diligence can lead to success.
- Forget your social life the last half year before your exam and just study.
- get dedicated time from your company
- Get time allocated.
- Go for Module sitting
- Go to Deltapatents courses
- group up!!!
- Guidelines are very complete although not in a clear order. If you manage this can be your central information point for preparation
- honestly evaluate alternatives, respective efforts in time and money and practical relevance of the approval for acting before the EPO.
- I do not give suggestions without knowing the results.
- I would propose to use the Compendium and of a good EPC commentary, such as Kley. Do intense training instead of long-time superficial exercise.
- i/ ensure familiarity with the Guidelines. ii/ Strasbourg courses
- If eng., German, French is not your mother tongue, learn to read and understand the language very quickly - as good as you would read your own language.
- If you do not have the energy to commit fully, wait a year.
- I'm a big fan of the CEIPI seminars for ABCD; However, they are quite expensive; --> look for an employer who pays those seminars
- In my opinion is very important to solve old Papers of the Compendium and I found very useful CEIPI seminars preparing the EQE (of course it is essential to know the EPC, I suggest to study the Visser's annotated EPC).
- in my opinion it is essential to deal with former papers in groups, particularly to analyze the examiners report as detailed as possible in order to get marks
- It is a matter of luck. even if you are perfectly prepared it is not sure to pass the exam.
- It is better to dedicate one day a week to prepare the exam during several months than the last two or three weeks before the date of the exam.
- It is important to follow some courses (like CEIPI courses) in order to get good advices how to study well each paper
- It is very helpful to participate in tutorials where you can discuss with others to identify areas of weakness and discuss strategies for preparation.
- it is very important to prepare EQE in groups for sharing questions and tricks on the papers
- It would be great to have some document underlining how many hours you need to study before the exams, because if you are working on your own (i.e. in a company that doesn't know the EQE), you can have hard times explaining why you are less efficient in everyday work before the

exam!

- Just keep reading.
- Kiss goodbye to any social life or free time for at least 6 months of every year until you pass these exams. I know candidates who have a young family and cannot make that kind of commitment; in this circumstance it is better to spend no time revising whatsoever than to spend some time revising, to get stressed, argue with your family and invariably fail because you have not done enough work. Approach these exams with an attitude of 100% or nothing, or you are wasting whatever time you put in. Seriously consider taking the exams in a modular fashion. Even if you are well prepared for the exam, you still have to be a little lucky with the paper. So, even if you are well prepared you could fail a paper and have to wait a whole year before being given the opportunity to sit the exam again. This is frustrating. For this reason, do not target a single paper and work exclusively on that for one year - my friend made a silly mistake in his and therefore passed no papers that year.
- Know the law, there is no time to look something up during the exam. Practise under time pressure. Especially D
- Learning, learning, learning.. and solving Delta Patent questions
- leave your work 6 months before EQE - learn - write EQE - come back to work if your boss agrees !
- Lot of practice long time before
- Lots and lots of practice papers (including under exam conditions).
- Lots of past questions.
- make as much past papers as possible and only then see the examination reports
- make past papers and put enough time and effort in correcting your mistakes.
- Make sure to sit and complete past papers under examination conditions.
- make sure you test your ability to work in exam conditions
- make time to study from an early stage. there is a huge bulk of work and it takes longer than you think.
- Make use of books such as Visser and the Cross-Referenced PCT but be aware of their limitations. Use the Guidelines for Examination.
- Make your own compendium and try using it on old papers.
- Make your own summaries on time lines for PCT/EPC.
- Modular sitting - or start a year in advance.
- Most surprising issue is the lack of time which was depressing during the exam. It is incredibly slow to read papers for the first time in your first and second foreign language. The reading is much slower especially under time pressure than when practising.
- Must know the law - Not enough time in paper D to find the answers while in the exam if you don't already know what it is or at least where to find it.
- Nicht verrückt machen lassen von anderen Kandidaten, ein gutes und effektives, d.h. schnelles, Nachschlagewerk sowie der auf Geschwindigkeit trainierte Umgang damit ist das Wichtigste für den D-I-Teil; Für A, B und C-Teil kann man sich anhand des Kompensiums eine

eigene Prüfungsstrategie erarbeiten. Hilfreich sind in der Vorbereitung noch die Delta-Patents-Fragen sowie das C-Book.

- No
- no
- No it's very personal and anyone should understand by exercising on it one's typical weakness points
- None
- Not at the moment, because I do not know if my preparations have been sufficient until August.
- Not really, except work, work, work.
- Not to start too early to study. To work in group. Not to go too far in the question they may have.
- Nothing which goes beyond the courses (CCEIPI level)
- Nutze die Ausgleichsmöglichkeit insbesondere für "C"
- Organisation der eigenen Unterlagen ist beinahe wichtiger als wissen, bzw. ein grundstock an Basiswissen verbunden mit gut organisierten Unterlagen: Üben schnell was zu finden, von dem man keine ahnung hat
- Parts A and B: very important to have dealt with a considerable number of real cases in this area. Being aware that every information is in the documents handed out at the exam. Do not "make up" problems which are not clearly indicated. Be open-minded but do not stray from what is the purpose, particularly at part A. Part C: practise with at least a couple of old C parts, reading of C-Book may be helpful, however, strictly formal approach using matrices takes too much time. Use signature maps for being able to quickly change between documents. Part D: concentrate on important major aspects when learning. Do not overestimate "small" cases from case law (T decisions). Better to learn major issues than stray by learning a high number of T decisions etc.
- Personal work + Study "Guidelines for Examination" + Do "Compendium"
- Plan your revision carefully, ensuring you have sufficient time to prepare for each paper. Complete as many past papers as possible, with some under exam conditions and to time to get a feel for the exams. Be very strict with your time allocation during each exam. Talk to others who have recently sat the EQE to find out how they prepared - everyone prepares differently and by getting as many different perspectives as possible it will be easier to find what you think will work best for you.
- planning, preparation and precision
- Practice
- practice a lot with old exams
- practice a lot! hand-writing is one of the major problems: speed lacks and readability is important
- Practice and understand the papers
- Practice each type of paper several times strictly observing the exam conditions and giving detailed answers - several times, i.e. five or six occasions. Reviewing and indexing all available legal resources and practicing the use of the indices.
- Practice in time management
- Practice lots of past papers; knowledge of the law is only one part of



effective preparation.

- Practice old exams!!! Many !!! Our study group sat old exam papers starting New Year every weekend, Fri-Sun; that was also helpful for training hand-writing;
- Practice Papers hand writing.
- Practice with compendium. Make one of the well known comments on the EPC your own Learn EPC by heart (rudimentary), gives you a huge advantage in speed
- Practice!
- practice, practice, practice
- Practise and be strict with the time given in the mock exam
- Practise handwriting and find a comfortable pen!
- practise, practise, practise old papers
- Preparation, preparation, preparation, past papers, preparation.
- Prepare a study plan well in advance
- Prepare for the EQE only a couple of weeks before the exam. Do not work or do other things. Prepare and give short talks about specified topics like priority, time limits etc. Work out a time schedule for the preparation and for each of the exams.
- Prepare long lasting handwriting and time-management with past papers.
- prepare once thoroughly. It is much less time than preparing a multiple of times not thoroughly.
- Put a considerably amount of effort into finding a style of drafting a concise answer to a DI question.
- Read and mark the Examiner's Guide early, and read it again in February, maybe even more often. It is very valuable.
- Read the applicants guides and the guidelines first to get a comprehensive overview
- Register for more courses, very necessary...
- Repeating, Repeating, Repeating, ...
- See previous 2 answers.
- see previously. Start summer before EQE if C&D only
- See Q12
- see Q12 plus: The EQE is a very practical exam taking place on an artificial planet. It needs training, training, training with former EQE cases and at the same time developing an individual schedule/routine how to handle the respective EQE paper.
- see the suggestions of hansjörg kley.ch ...
- sich gut darauf vorbereiten, doch nicht enttäuscht sein, wenn es dann nicht klappt Ich merke zwar auch dass ich über die Jahre immer besser geworden bin, doch die Zeit und meine Schrift ist immer das größte Problem, sonst hätte ich die Prüfung denke ich schon längst A-C habe ich ja auch schon
- sitting a mock-up exam in a study group within the given time is totally different than sitting it alone and more (!) like the real examination
- sleep well at night. paper A-B: don't try to be too clever, stay adherent to the text. paper C: forget legal question, make as more attacks as you

can. paper D: concentrate on D1, you need 30 to pass comfortably. In the afternoon you will be tired!

- Something that was mentioned to me when I was preparing is that in terms of doing past papers - "less is certainly more". The theory was that if you do all the past papers you start to see "patterns" in the questions that invariably aren't there. You are then prone to panicking in the actual exam when the paper 'appears' different to previous years. There was also concerns about the relevance of doing past papers based on old law. Whilst I tried to do the last 2-3 past papers for each exam in timed conditions just to get a feel for the papers and into the groove, by far the best time spent was thoroughly indexing the articles and rules and reference guides that I was going to use in the exam.
- Specific courses, preferably by Delta patents. Then home work according to their instructions.
- Spend a lot of time on the Compendium.
- spend a minimum of 4 months fulltime preparing - work on each paper for at least 2 weeks in a row - dedicate 70% of your time to papers C and D - don't underestimate DII
- Spend less time on D1 as its only 40 marks, do a checklist for D2 and work on technique for other papers. Do all the past papers
- Spend most of the time solving previous examination papers and answering questions for paper DI and then read about the problems to be solved. Spending too much time on reading may not alone provide the sufficient understanding of the issues and may be a waste of time.
- spend much time!
- Start as early as possible, don't cram for paper D
- Start as early as you can manage, but you can get quite a lot done in a short amount of time if you are organised, work efficiently and very hard. Do the DeltaPatents questions and thoroughly participate in the Forum. Ask questions when you don't know the answer. Don't move on until you know the answer and why it's the answer.
- start at least 1 year in advance -study in small groups
- Start at least one year in advance by getting the feeling of what needs to be done and how from others candidates/qualified attorneys, books, seminars, etc... And at least 6 months in advance, prepare your own materials (e.g. own annotated EPC) similar to the ones available. 2 months in advance, do compendium using your own materials.
- start early
- start early
- start early
- Start early !!! 12 months in advance is not a luxury. Using a commented version of the EPC, work through the material (general IP) well in advance such that Articles and Rules (both EPC and PCT) are at your finger tips. For PCT the applicant's guide is a useful entry point to the PCT-system. Motivate your study/training by doing D-part 1 type question exercises to all subjects, use e.g. Cees Mulder's Q&A booklets for self study. Exercise on real exam questions the techniques for the A, B, C and D-part 2. Start by reading a given paper, ex-report, and solution, do at least one of each of the papers to get a first

understanding of the respective paper. then get professional advice on the techniques involved and finally advance to do A FEW OF THE NEWER PAPERS in each category ABCD under exam conditions with professional feed-back. Count on a preparation of roughly 1000 hrs of exercises and self study - not counting the respective exam specific courses.

- start early enough and work through old examinations as many as possible
- start early enough!!!!
- start early enough, it is very important to train with the old exams and study intensively the examiner's report
- Start early enough. Practise daily or at least weekly.
- Start early to study
- Start early with studying the EPC
- Start early, preferably reaching close to exam level slightly before the end of the year (Nov); have all tools in place for the exam at that time. Then follow-up by making exercises and exams at exam speed and have your answers reviewed by skilled tutors rather than fellow colleagues.
- Start early. Practice past papers to time.
- Start EQE-course at the open university of Hagen, Germany.
- Start form an annotated EPC (e.g. Visser) once familiar with that study very well the Guidelines. Possibly work with other people
- -start in advance; -do past papers, compendium; -do basic and exam questions of Deltapatent; -attend specialized courses (Deltapatent); -use the EPO EQE forum
- Start in good time! Believe that you can do it, but don't underestimate the difficulties!
- Start in good time, if possible.
- start in time and practice a lot
- start intensively working with the compendium only after sufficient knowledge about EPC and PCT was built up - I personally would start working with the compendium not later than one year before the EQE. A complete set of papers (A, B, C, DI and DII) ma
- start learning early, try to solve a couple of papers before attending a preparatory course, so you'll be already familiar with what is expected
- Start preparation as early as possible connect to EQE Forum
- start preparation early enough
- Start preparation, and ordering, of all relevant materials as early as possible
- Start preparing DI first and way in advance, the knowledge of DI are useful in papers. Do questions on DI (A lot). Do papers, read the examiners report, eventually redo papers, use the compendium for this. Work continuously don't wait the last month.
- Start preparing for the EQE early enough. Consider seriously whether you want to sit all the papers same year. In that case you should have enough time for preparing the exam. If you know that your will not have enough time, concentrate on certain papers. Prepare your own material i.e. mark your EPC.

- start reading the guidelines and prepare, based on the guidelines (comprising all relevant decisions etc.), your own commented EPC. Do the same, based on the PCT part in the Visser comment (The annotated), for the PCT. Attend the CEIPI courses!
- Start study early at least 9mts-1 year before. And pace yourself through the 3 days of Exams.
- start studying early enough according to your level of preparation. Base part of the preparation on examiner's reports (those of recent years are better explained). They give plenty of suggestions on the most important elements of the exam
- Start studying now for paper D
- start to get familiar with EPC-Book as early as possible and prepare EPC as central knowledgebase
- Start with it early If you can not get 3 or 4 continued hours to do an exam, try to do at least 2 or 3 of them as if you were in the exam day, and with other exams, try to divide in parts the exam, spending the time you consider you may spent in this part in the exam, try to do get a methodology on how to read the papers, the order, how many times, taking into account in which time which are the characteristics you may focus on. Structure the answer, establish how much time would you spent in the different parts, and made a template that helps you with the typical phrases.
- start with the legal aspects to have a good overview; then focus on a strategy for part C; do not neglect parts A and B, but focus on how the exams are built and what is common to all solutions; Write test-examinations in "real-time" under exam-conditions!
- Start with your preparation as early as possible. Exercise as many mock exams from the compendium as possible under real-time conditions. Stay cool and be confident, even if, after all your efforts, you still might have the feeling that you could keep learning until the end of times without ever getting 100% prepared.
- starting the preparation at least 1 year before the exam
- Stay quiet. There's life beyond the EQE.
- Steady work for preparation, To be in great shape for the exam
- stop working on other stuff -- and do physical exercises
- strict schedule for time to prepare (weekends, afternoons etc.) + stick to it (even if children or your boss keep you busy)
- Study a lot and make a lot of previous exam papers.
- study a lot find your own method
- study hard!
- Study the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO!!!!
- Study very closely the latest compendia and forget about real practice especially in opposition proceedings
- Study!!!!!! prepare and comment with other candidates your solutions.
- Study, study, study Past papers, past papers, past papers - under time pressure and have them marked independently!
- Study, study, study. Practice hand writing with black pen.
- tägliche Praxis ist wichtiger als stupides Lernen. Daher soviel wie Möglich Anmeldungen und Bescheidserwiderungen ausarbeiten. Der

Rest kommt von alleine.

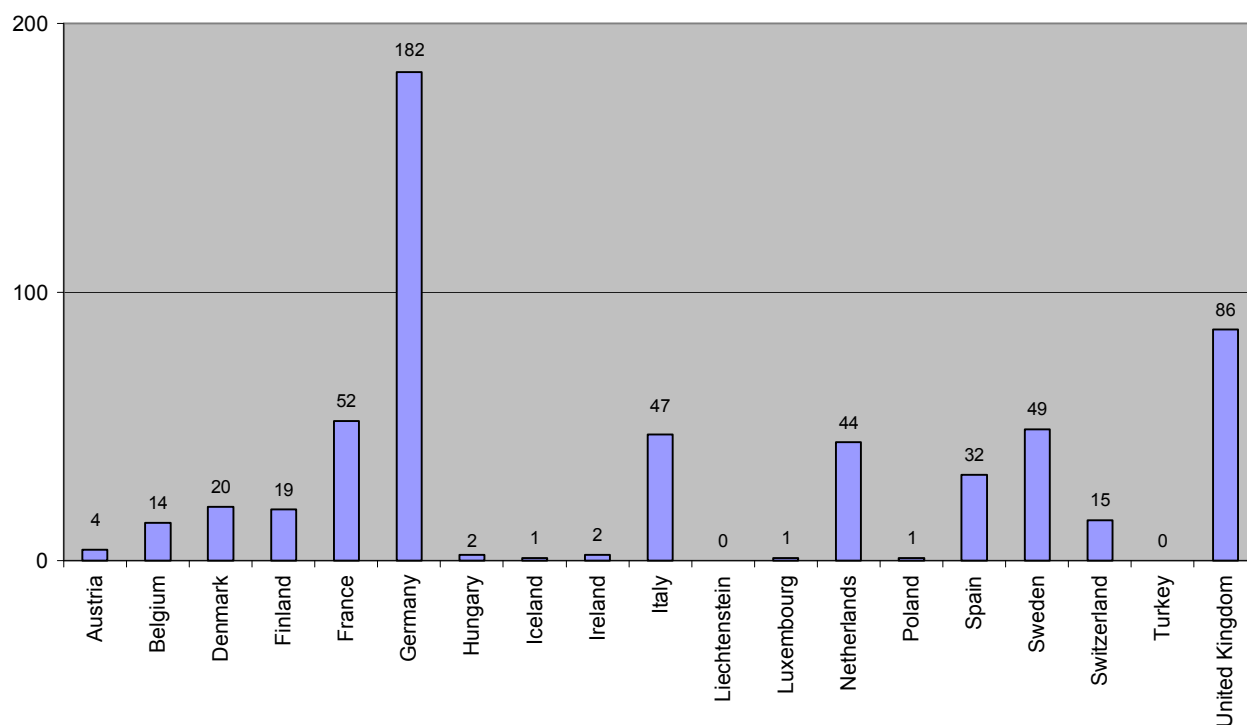
- Take courses, do all exams from the last 10 years. Save at least two recent exams until last.
- Take some of the specialized courses (CEIPI, Deltapatents etc.). Start early.
- Take the Delta patent courses - to obtain excellent training and excellent exam training material
- Take the time that it needs. Six months very intensive training seemed to work for me, although it nearly cost me my job and my family. Prepare everybody around you to understand the required commitment.
- Take time and start studying for the D- part
- take your time for the compendium and write the answers down word for word in whole sentences!
- the compendium is the most important study aid and a sound legal/part D course
- The EQE is nothing like the real world. Train for the EQE and not for your every day work.
- The EQE isn't as bad as its reputation.
- the exam is not so difficult, prepare thoroughly then you will pass, time presses is the one and only problem of the exam.
- The exam is very subjective, 2 months solid study would be adequate to pass the exam well.
- They should have started their training in September at least
- Thorough preparation on the basis of previous exams!
- To me, studying the compendium and trying to figure out your own solution seems most efficient.
- to practice doing papers in a short period of time
- To practise in examination conditions (time, etc...)
- To sit the paper only after intensive previous training.
- To start early (July-August) to work - Not work too much in February
- To start in right time with suitable material
- to use the Delta Patents Scripts
- Train in real time conditions, especially for C.
- Train yourself by writing previous exams under real time conditions
- training under realistic condition is a key issue
- training.
- Try to do as many previous papers as you can and at least 5 of them under exam timing.
- try to learn in small groups (DI+II) try to understand the Exam-Land-Structure of A+B
- Under the UK system, most candidates can only spend up to 3 months preparing and so it is important to realise that you cannot answer the questions to a high standard, but instead have to focus on a shallow understanding of all of the EPC and PCT. It is not a particularly satisfying way to prepare, but seems the most likely way to succeed in the exams.
- Use books from Veronese + Visser Go to Ceipi Strassbourg pre-prep and prep Make several timed mock exams until you have a working

strategy.

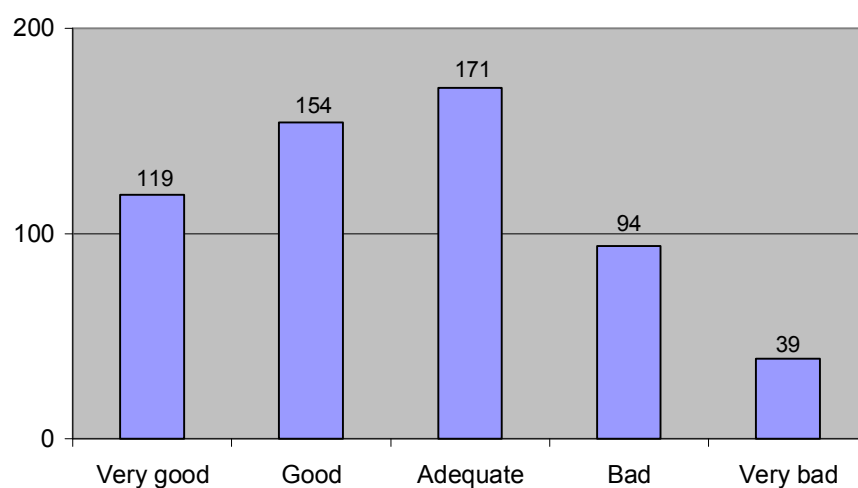
- Use the compendium, and also the EQE forum (very useful!!), start well in advance and train yourself in "exam like conditions" to realize what the time schedule is. Also develop your own method.
- use the EQE forum - make your own "all-in-one EPC & PCT book"
- Use the focussing method together with the matrix from the C-Book
- Very important information in the Guidelines
- Work in real time
- work in small study groups with motivated people
- Working through the Delta Patents Questions books is a good way to train close to the exam. Making A + B + C exams early allows concentration of training legal points close to the exam
- Write and read a lot at home.
- Write old papers (five parts for part C, two or three each for parts A and B). Learn the headlines of all sections and Articles of the EPC and of the most important parts of the PCT by heart. For part DI you should be able to say to what topic relates a specific Rule or Article given by number and in what range of numbers a Rule or Article relating to a specific topic would be found without having to think more than just a few seconds. In this way you also learn the relevant contents of the law (read the Rule or Article whenever you don't know what it is about).
- Write your own summaries / tables about the basic legal facts
- Writing your own annotations helps a lot. Try to answer the questions in exam time
- yes, focus on knowing the articles and rules, and your main material, Visser/Hoekstra or other. Do not focus on obscure case law unless times allows this.
- Yes, start preparing as early as possible. Do many exams as possible under real time pressure.
- YES, to attend any of the specialised courses for specific papers, in particular paper C and D. And to practice with the compendium
- Yes: 1- If you are working and you cannot dedicate more than 50% of your time for the preparation, do a modular sitting. 2- Do the Compendium exams and analyze the Examiner's reports in detail to see what they really want. 3- The worst error is (as I did till this year) to treat the papers and the answers as real -patent- life cases. 4- Do not think that if you work doing the functions of an European Patent Attorney (filing patents, answering the EPO, revocating patents) you will have easy to pass the exam. 5- Be prepared to failure maybe because of subjectivity of the proposed answers. 6- Keep on trying until you get it. 7- Participate in the online forum eqe.
- yes: do not be afraid, learn, exercise, try:)
- You need time
- You will fail paper C if you don't know enough of the second language. You have to be good at a second language to pass this paper. paper DII is cryptic, you have to train yourself to spot the question, otherwise you waste time giving an answer to the wrong question.

### 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.**

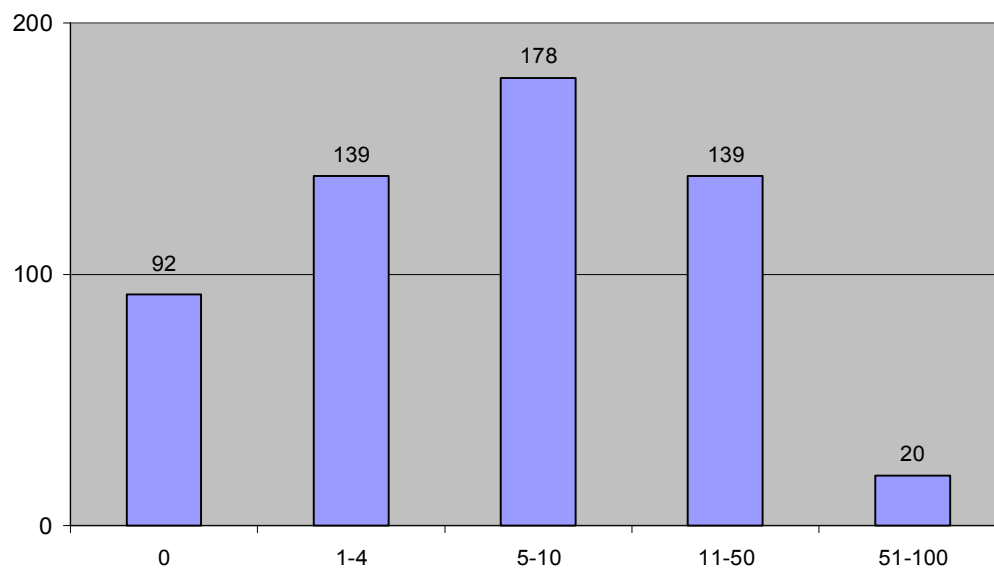


**Q15) Candidates were asked how they would rate the support of their employer in view of their preparation for the EQE.**

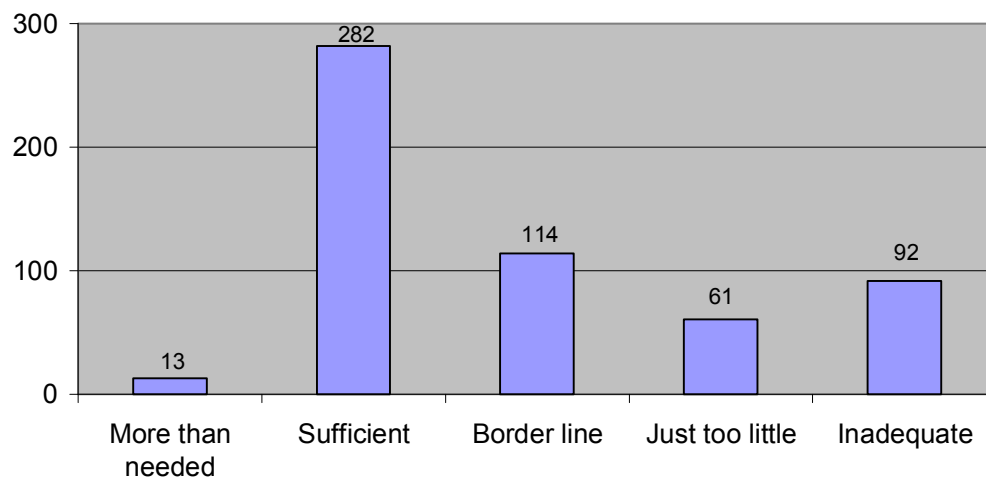


**Q16) How much time did your employer allow for your participation in courses regarding your preparation for the EQE?**

Number of working days indicated by the candidates

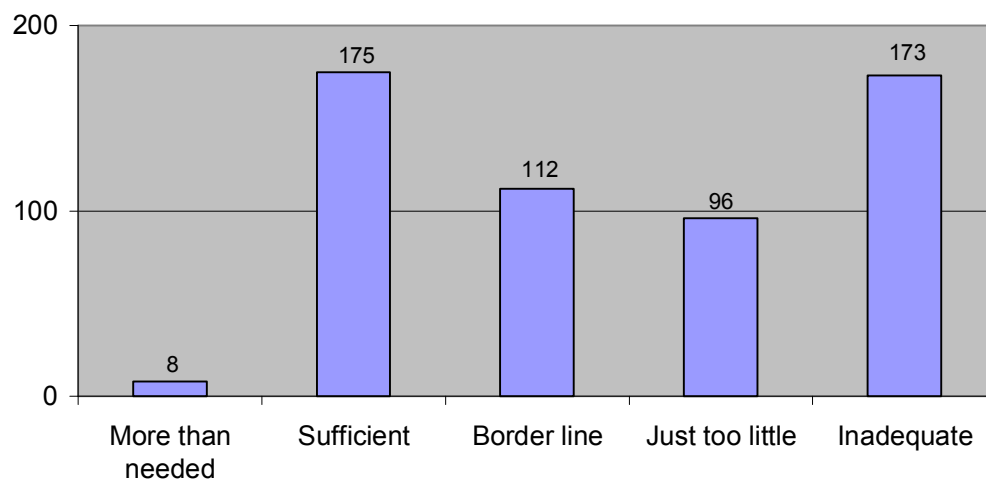


**Q17) How would you rate the amount of time allowed by your employer for participation in courses?**





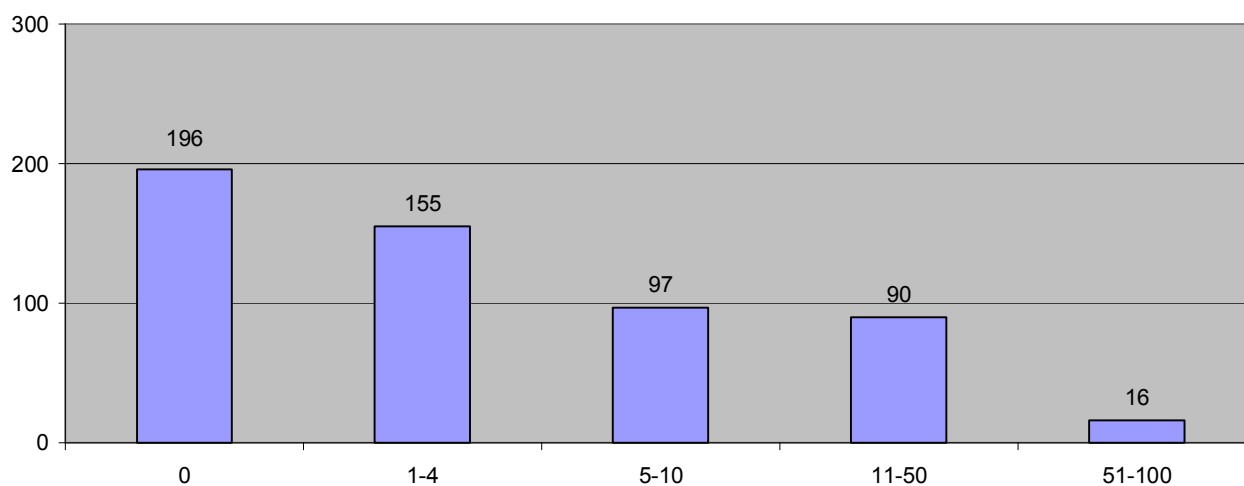
**Q18) How would you rate the amount of free time allowed for your personal preparation by your employer?**



**Q19a) How much time did you spend on dedicated training for the EQE with your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE**

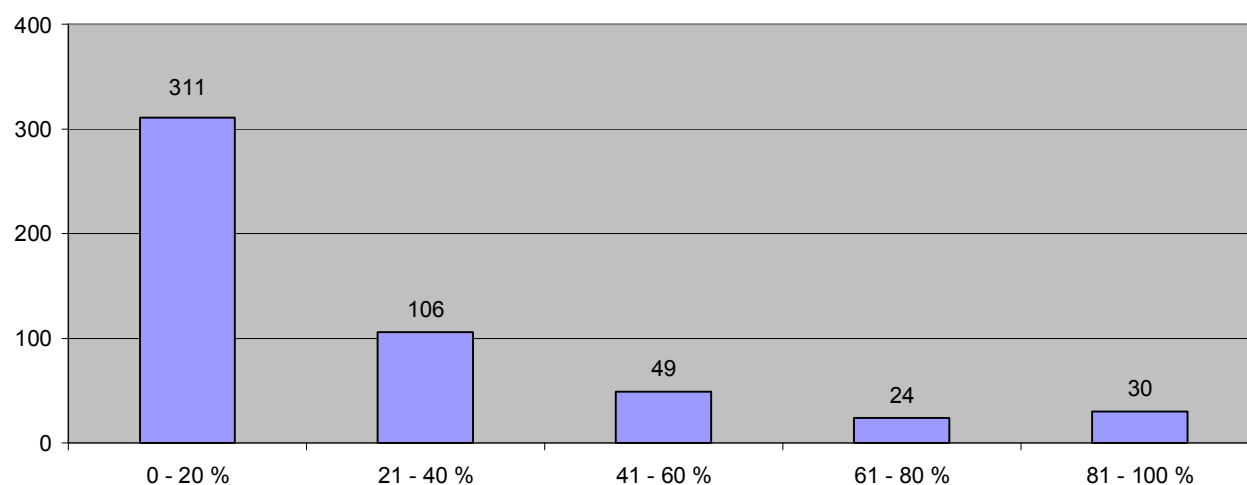
(i.e. the person who signed your Certificate of Training or Employment)?

Number of working days indicated by the candidates



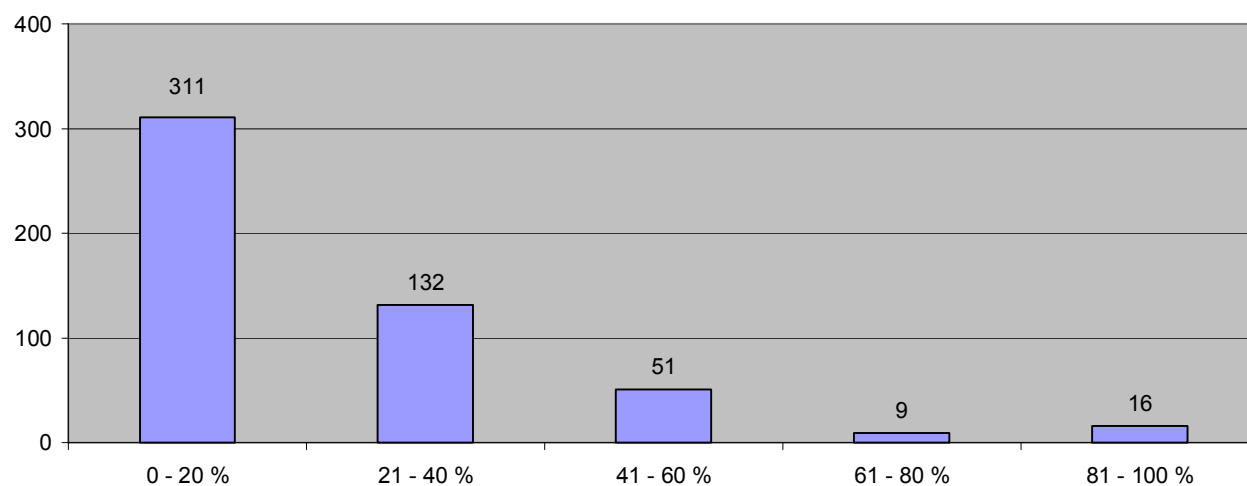
**Q19b) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 19a) did you spend during the first year of training?**

Percentage indicated by the candidates



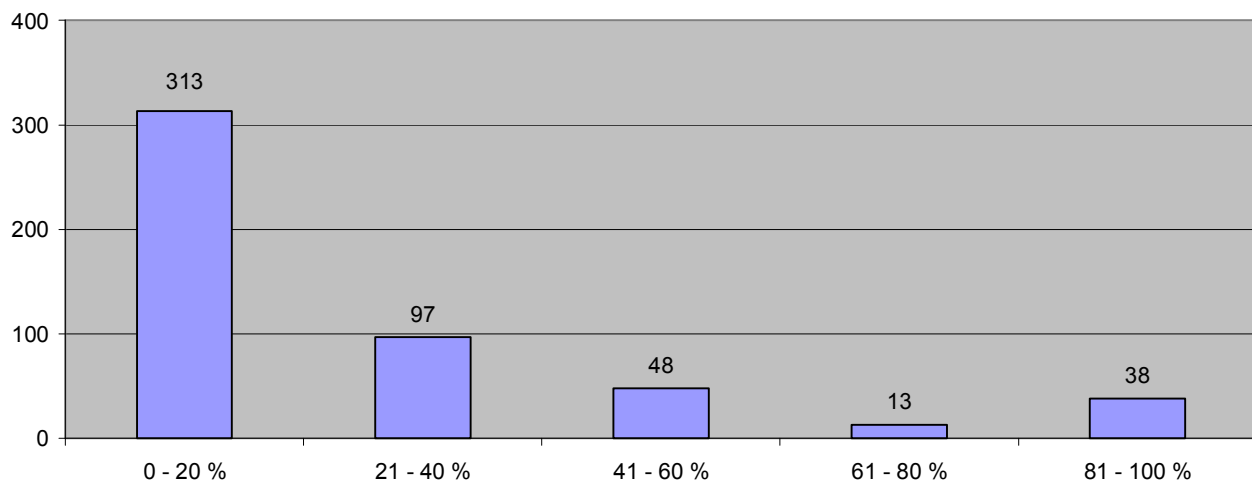
**Q19c) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 19a) did you spend during the second year of training?**

Percentage indicated by the candidates



**Q19d) Which percentage of the working days mentioned under 19a) did you spend during the third year of training?**

Percentage indicated by the candidates



**Q20) Candidates were asked what they would propose to supervisors in order to improve candidates' preparation for the EQE.**

The answers are listed below.

- A true project schedule and sticking to it. Intermediate tests before entering the subsequent issue and a check that the previous issues were understood correctly.
- A. case studies, B. going through exam-like questions C. take more time with your students !!!
- Allocate dedicated preparation time for the EQE. Chances increase dramatically by having enough time to focus on the preparation.
- Allocate more preparation time free from work.
- Allow allocation of time.
- Allow attendance at CEIPI courses. Mark attempts at past papers
- Allow candidates to take their holidays before the exam, i.e. freeing the candidates from work assignments that prevent them from taking their regular holidays during that time.
- Allow more free preparation time, and support correction by experienced tutor.
- Allow more free time at home to study
- allow more free time for personal preparation
- Allow more time for studies
- allow more time in the few days before the exam for students to be able to focus
- allow some free time to prepare EQE (say 15 days) do not overload the candidate during the week preceding the EQE
- Allowing free time to prepare the EQE at work, for example 0.5 day a week or 1 day in 2 weeks during the 3 months prior to the exam. If

possible, also allowing 5 days to be kept at the student's best convenience before the exam.

- Arrange for supervisors to be dedicated to the preparation.
- As grandfathers to sit the EQE themselves since the daily work as a patent attorney is far from the situation(s) in EQE.
- Ask difficult legal questions, and make candidates prepare practice papers for review.
- Ask the candidates to fix a program as soon as possible. Supervisors themselves should be up to date in their knowledge about EP and PCT and EQE.
- Assessment of practical cases (i.e. prosecution of pending cases) formally, taking as a practice for the four type of exam papers; preparing draft replies
- better training, allocation of time during working hours
- Comment the answers of the Compendium
- correct and note their mock exams. Impose on them a training schedule
- Dedicate time... My tutor, as an external patent attorney (grandfather) dedicated only time in connection with cases I wrote.
- define a schedule together (issues to be covered in a certain time schedule)
- detailed feedback
- Die typischen Eigenarten der Prüfung insbesondere im Unterschied zu Hochschulexamen herausarbeiten
- Discuss past papers
- Discuss trial papers.
- Discussion with candidates on legal texts and case law in relation to everyday work.
- do not let candidates to feel alone in the dark
- Do not undertake the supervising unless you have the time and are dedicated. Check that your boss understand and consider it very important.
- Do old compendium exams for parts A, B and C at a very early stage of training already (in first year one or two exams would be enough, but better than nothing)!
- do regular training session along theme lines
- Don't assume real life drafting or opposition practice is helpful for passing the corresponding exams - it is totally different
- Don't forget how intimidating the EQE is before you pass it.
- effectively be involved in preparation, not only sign the certificate!
- emphasize to practise old papers
- encourage candidates to learn a second language early,
- Encourage candidates to look up all legal points and continually practice skills
- Encourage them to prepare responses and advice based on the exam's formulaic approach - answer because reason because legal basis because case law. Good practice in principle and for the EQE.
- Ensure that they themselves are fully up to speed on current law and procedure.

- EQE exam is three days!!!! An average universities students need to cover the same material 5-7 times before master a subject. That would be adequate, student participates -- supervisor checks-- student repeats each topic. 15 - 21 days should at minimum be dedicated by the student to prepare (actually do papers from the compendium in addition to other training) -- how much time does the supervisor need? At least half of that 8 - 11 days dedicated by supervisor for training.
- Es ist schwierig zu sagen, weil mein Betreuer seine EQE-Prüfung vor längerer Zeit gemacht hat. Ich weiß nicht, wie weit und gut er noch in den Feinheiten der EQE-Prüfungen bewandert ist. Denn eins ist deutlich geworden, zwischen der täglichen Arbeit (Patentanmeldung und Bescheidserwiderung) und den Prüfungsvorbereitungen für A und B gibt es eben doch Unterschiede, auch wenn die Prüfung nahe an der Praxis sein soll.
- Explain general exam strategy and "making-of" of the papers. Be available to answer specific questions on past papers.
- explain the difference between EQE and real life
- First supervisors need to be qualified European Patent Attorneys themselves, i.e. NOT "Grandfathers", or at least have tried to sit the exam (a candidate who have prepared for the exam and not passed is usually 10 times more qualified a supervisor than a "grandfather", who usually does not know anything about the EPC or how a proper opposition is drafted).
- fully understand the time necessary for revision and need to reduce workload accordingly
- Get acquainted with the current requirements for passing the EQE and act accordingly in order to provide the necessary support for candidates.
- Get more time during the exams.
- Give candidates more time to study and prepare
- give candidates enough time for their personal study as well as possibility to answer specific questions
- Give confidence : candidates can reach the goal with a good preparation  
Give a time schedule for preparation Mix "theoretical" courses with exam-like preparations
- Give homework during in house courses
- Give more time off to revise.
- Give more working time to prepare EQE because time at home is not enough for a good preparation
- Give personal advice. Ask candidate how he manages.
- Give study leave to enable candidate to study at least 2-3 days per Exam. Send Candidate on courses. Teach candidate over the 3 years how to draft and amend as opposed to the candidate having to teach themselves during the year of the Exam
- giving them dedicated time for preparation during normal working time. Training after a 8+ hour day is not very effective. My personal training was mainly done during 3 weeks "vacation" i took from my normal vacation.
- Go through papers with the trainee
- Grand fathers usually do not understand what is required for preparing

to the EQE.

- have a supervisor!
- Have at least one full day a month for the three years training.
- Have your candidate do old exams at an early state
- i did not have any supervisor and for that reason i cannot add comments
- i did only get days off work but no time during working hours, i think this is not fair for such an exam
- I didn't understand the questions previously. I did almost no SPECIFIC training for EQE with my mentor. However, he has trained me as a patent attorney every day for three years.
- I must clarify that your questions are wrongly phrased. My firm does not spend "1-4 days" training people. The amount of time spent training with my supervisor and other qualified peers is not possible to calculate. Some days it may be 1 minute, others 1 hour. Over 3 years, this is adequate. However, we do not hold "training days" for this sort of thing, it is all on the fly.
- I propose to read and comment the candidate's tests during the preparation. Real life is sometimes too far from the requirements of the exam.
- I think it would be a good idea to put together a booklet with advices to supervisors. In such a booklet different tasks could be listed, different situations to be discussed etc.
- I think it would be good that any supervisor taking a trainee signs up some sort of record: make it more official. Then the trainer should receive a guideline on how to train or at least what does the trainee need to acquire the first, second and third year....If possible introduce some kind of control to make sure the supervisor is indeed training !
- I work for EPO the questions of this section does not apply to my case I think
- I would propose them to allow more free time to candidates
- If possible, use only supervisors who have recently passed the EQE for the examination because very experienced attorneys or grandfathers do now have a clue of the examination because it does not meet the requirements of real life.
- If possible, work more time into the working day for specific discussions of matters arising from day-to-day work. Try to set aside more dedicated time for specific tutorial studies focussing on specific aspects of the EPC.
- If you want your candidate to pass the exam, make sure that the conditions for preparations are adequate. Be an inspiration and be supportive.
- Implicate more. We need more EPA in Spain to reach the European average level.
- In EPO 3 working days are allowed retroactively for the preparation only after successful exams. I think more days before the exam would be fair.
- In my view the best preparation is dedicated EQE courses, in-house tutorials, personal study and small study groups. Preparation needs to be exam focussed. Everyday work is relevant to the exams of course, but to prepare properly for the exams you need to focus on exam

technique. You could be great at your job and still not pass the EQE unless you specifically train for it.

- Inside training is not longer possible (too much time pressure). Good outside training is the only possibility remaining.
- invest more time
- Invite to read the law more from the early days, find the basis for the practical work.
- It is very difficult if your supervisor is a grandfather... You soon start teaching your supervisor. It would be good if supervisors understood their own limitations, what they can do and what cannot. My best support came from friends that had already passed the EQE.
- its always difficult but try and give up a little time for it
- Just be open to questions and make time for answering them Refer and direct to legal sources (EQE, GL, Case law, PCT, etc) whenever possible. Candidate should be able to find his way around the sources prior to dedicated EQE study & training phase
- Keep triggering candidates on the EPC itself and not merely focus on drafting and prosecution of applications
- Keep up to date with the requirements/style of the EQE.
- Know the current law and be aware of recent Examiner's comments.
- Learn candidates to work by themselves.
- make a deal: they work for the employer full time until Christmas, the employers the allow for candidates' free full time preparation until the exam during January and February.
- Make the candidates do the work and then review it with them afterwards. Show candidates unusual and/or difficult cases and discuss. Allow candidates to work and participate in oral proceedings and/or opposition and/or appeals. It is in these cases that legal issues often pop up. These are not common in a traditional examination proceedings.
- mock exam during the working days
- More dedicated working hours and mentor hours
- more experience of different procedural areas
- More free time.
- More guidance instead of self-study
- More study leave days, more in-house tutorials, more funds and leave to attend courses.
- More thorough explanations in compendium
- More time allocated to allow leaving work early to make use of the evenings.
- More time and more courses for preparation
- more time for preparation
- Most importantly - know when the exams are! My trainer swanned off on Holiday for the two weeks preceding the exams, but not before dumping a large number of files on my desk! If I have to work 10 hour days Mon-Fri just to keep up with the work load before I started prepping, when do they expect me to find time to study - bearing in mind I have sporting commitments at the weekend and a young family who demand time. As employers, they benefit too from us passing. They should therefore consider setting aside "revision time" during the months preceding the

exams and tailoring our work load accordingly.

- No comments
- No comments.
- No official document explains what EQE is in understandable terms (for non patent people), how much works it implies and what advantages can be granted for the employer. You can prepare the arguments yourself, but I felt that if something official existed, I would have had more support from my employers.
- no suggestions
- None
- not applicable; EPO examiners do not follow the 4 years scheme of representative trainees
- offer to mark practice papers
- participation in dedicated courses is better.
- performing each year 4 supervised old exams might be good- starting from the second year. This gives the candidate an idea on his knowledge level and motivates to learn.
- Periodical meetings to review important matters and solve doubts
- Please dedicate more time to the training of your protégé. There is no substitute for advice and training from a qualified European patent attorney.
- Please, give some days/weeks free before the eqe!!! It is very hard to be working just until the day before the first examination.
- Prepare a plan for their preparation or at least ask what they are doing.
- prepare compendium papers together with candidates at least 2 papers of each category
- préparer des compendiums en groupe
- present an ideal answer to the paper, so you can learn how to phrase and structure a good solution
- Read the examiner's comments - these can be very different from the personal opinions of supervisors.
- regularly do some of the current exam papers themselves using their own experience in order to get a good feeling for how their daily experience fits with the requirements of the EQE and in order to get a good understanding of what the candidate needs to know in order to pass the EQE..
- relax
- Send your candidate on Delata patent exam training courses
- should give more exam relevant cases to candidates
- Some allocated time for students to get together in a room and thrash out issues is important. It can be difficult to find this time in a busy working day unless it is allocated to you
- Spend time on it !
- Spend time with them, and put sample exercises for them that your supervisor can correct later on
- spezielles Training eigentlich nicht notwendig, wenn die tägliche Arbeit sowieso genau das fordert was in der Prüfung verlangt wird. Somit wird quasi jeder Tag zum Trainingstag ohne dass extra Zeit dafür



aufgewendet werden muss. Voraussetzung dafür ist natürlich dass genug praktische Fälle vorhanden sind.

- Start preparing for paper DI straight away because then the rest comes easier.
- Start setting up goals as early as possible and demand good preparations before each session.
- start training earlier and on EQE papers/questions
- Studying the case law
- supervisor should encourage a very early start of focussed study (preferably more than 1 year in advance of the EQE)
- Supervisors are useless in view of preparing the EQE which is an artificial exam, not real professional practice (where supervisors become essential).
- Supervisors do not have any clue about the EQE, you need experienced trainers that do this as a job
- Supervisors must also be up to date with the law EPC2000 Perhaps follow training courses for training others Know how to mark past papers Know what is expected from students
- supervisors must study EPC 200 first of all!! ..allow candidates to attend some specific course on EQE.
- Supervisors should show interest in candidates' preparation. In most cases they do not even know how they should help candidates.
- take the time to answer all the questions the candidate may have instead of giving a short and not meaningful answer
- Take time to explain
- take time together on a regular basis
- teach the candidates throughout the whole training (at least three years) in how to use the EPC and PCT in practice, by means of weekly questions or short seminars every week/month.
- Tell the candidates which books and materials (and maybe courses) are advisable in preparation of the EQE
- The best thing a supervisor can do for a candidate is to keep their workload light while they are studying.
- The dream scenario: after filing application for sitting EQE each candidate should be contacted by a supervisor (EPI or CEIPI) by e-mail according to indicated technical field. When/if a need for a check of made at home "old" exams occur, he/she knows where to send a paper and could get it back with a short comment/approx. marks. Existing system is not adequate: I could not find/get a contact with anybody for this purpose prior coming to CEIPI course (to be better prepared). Candidates do not know WHO is/are available as tutors, especially for "a distance" training (those living in Netherlands have better chances that one living long away from the tutors and not having possibility to meet in person)
- The employers and the supervisors have to accept, that the EPE cannot be passed if there is not time to write and solve real C and D exams. It is not possible to be prepared adequately, if the only time for the preparation for the exam is in the evening after work.
- The EQE has evolved. The EQE as it was at the time the supervisor

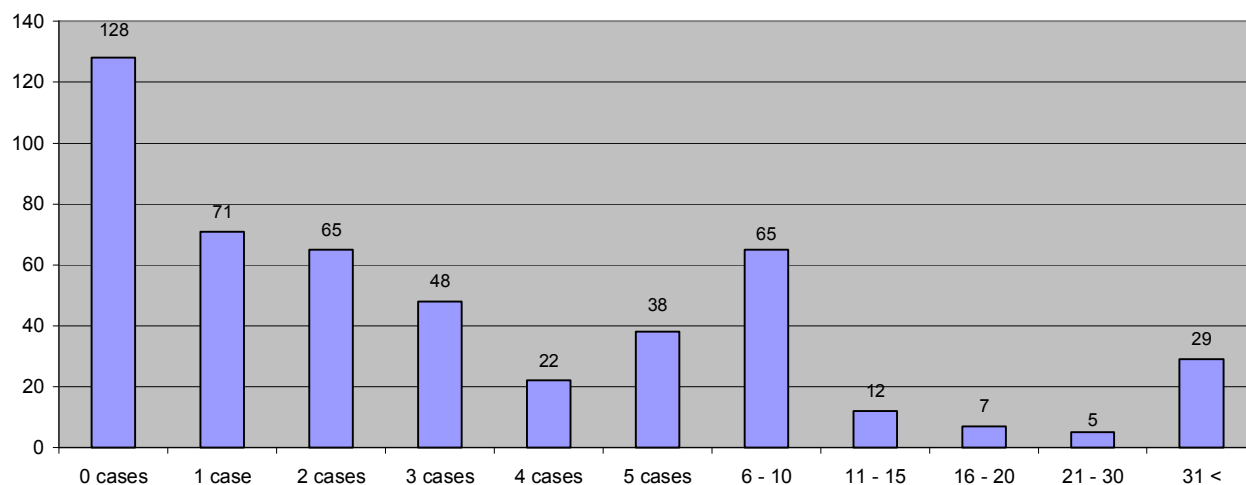
participated has changed a lot.

- The exam is quite different from the real work so, I suggest supervisors to study at least the most recent papers in order to being able to discuss about them with the student.
- the registration at the EQE should be also approved by employers/supervisors which should be obliged to give 3 months free time. We can always dream...
- The supervisor should try to give the tasks to the candidate which have something to do with the tasks of the examination. I personally had to prepare for part A and C, but most of my work was in the direction of paper B.
- The supervisor has to be a person actually passing the EQE, not a grandfather.
- The volume of work/revision required to prepare for the EQE is huge - I would suggest providing more time off for candidates to prepare. I appreciate that employers do not want to provide candidates with too much paid study leave, but they should bear in mind that it is also in the employer's interest that the candidate has sufficient time to prepare for the exams.
- Their own understanding of law, with EPC2000 changes it looks some times like training the supervisor.
- They should invest more time in the candidates and give more EQE-focused feed back.
- They should not only promise to unburden candidates from work load, but really do it.
- This is a difficult question for me as my supervisor has never taken and passed the EQE, so has no concept of the necessary exam strategies. And they ARE necessary in my view. Hence I cannot get good examination advice from him, only advice on daily practice and help in the form of study days. In the current economic climate, all external study courses, seminars, etc are not permitted in order to reduce business expenditure. I will suggest that we do internal study periods for past papers this year.
- Time table & control
- To "grandfather's": Do not spend any time whatsoever preparing your employees for the EQE. You simply do not have the skills necessary for passing the EQE, nor teach how to pass it, regardless of how good you are at your work. Actual work skills and EQE skills are not connected.
- To bring internal courses!
- To discuss previous exam papers. If the supervisor does not have sufficient time, then follow at least one good course per paper (as I have done).
- To give detailed preparation for the EQE as it does not require the same strategies of a normal working life for a patent attorney
- To give free time to exercise papers.
- To give them time and to discuss with them about the papers
- to give us more feedback on special cases or difficulties they met during patent application proceedings, oppositions or appeal.
- to have a proper training plan and to dedicate time for the training rather

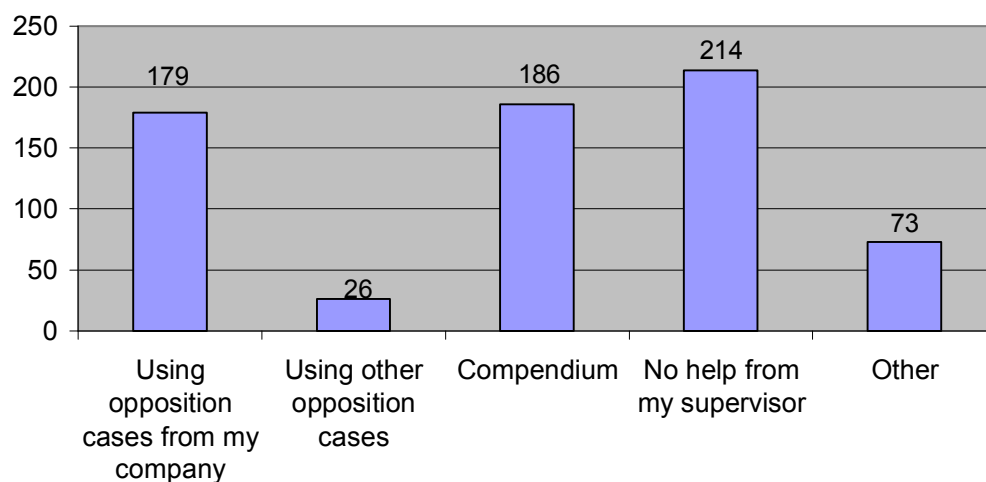
than just squeezing it in between other job commitments build up the training with individual tasks that get marked and discussed properly

- To have less fear to lose an employee. With that would be enough.
- To make sure the candidate has had, if possible, at least one real life experience of responding to a communication relating to substantive examination including amending the claims, drafting a notice of opposition, drafting an EP specification and providing strategic advice to clients on exploiting their patent portfolio and dealing with freedom-to-operate issues. If this is not possible, then the supervisor should make sure that the candidate answers past papers and the supervisor marks them and points out the areas for improvement. Ideally, a combination of the two is best.
- To offer us more time to dedicate at work in order to study for the EQE because this is not a loss of time! On the contrary, our preparation to the EQE helps us to be more efficient in our everyday work.
- to organize a lot of training days
- to pay more attention to the lacking knowledge of the candidate and help improving it
- to suggest the candidates to do the papers on their own. After that to see the examination report.
- To take the examination himself!
- To try to understand what the EPI wants...
- To use more time for discussion Make personal training not by phone but face to face
- Today it is believed that most supervisors have passed the EQE themselves and are thus not grandfathers. I think it is of crucial importance that the person acting as a supervisor has been there him-or herself. Also do not take the responsibility to guide others if you do not have a genuine urge to provide others with the knowledge required to become Authorised.
- training of problem solution approach, time-management, EPC/OJ-learning
- update knowledge!
- Use a lot of time to be available for questions, for review of daily work, which is eqe-related and so forth.
- Using more time for EQE-specific issues
- war ideal. Die Ausbildung zur Eignungsprüfung (!) war "outgesourct" durch Finanzierung der Ceipi-Kurse in Straßburg.
- Well, the supervisors would be very kind if they have a will to learn what the EQE is about.
- With the transition to EPC2000, the aid of EPC2000 knowledgeable tutors makes sense.

**Q21) In how many opposition cases were you involved during your 3-year training period?**



**Q22) How did your supervisor as defined by Art. 10(2)(a) REE train you for paper C?**  
(Multiple selections possible)

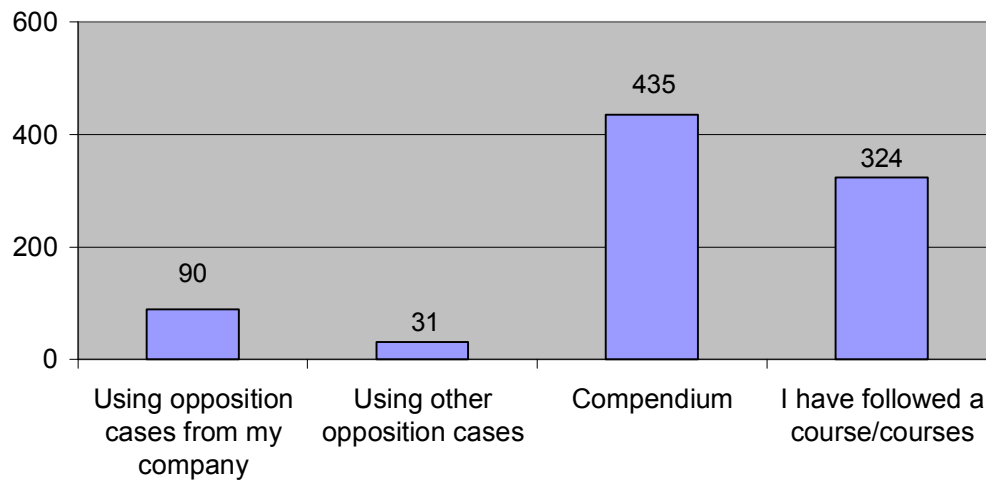


**Candidates were asked to make comments concerning Q22.  
The comments are listed below.**

- 5 hours seminar
- A and B only
- A lecture of 2 hours for introduction by an experienced European patent attorney. Afterwards I wrote an examination of a previous year and gave it to the attorney for correction. A discussion of 2 hours about the results of my test with the patent attorney (together with two other candidates).
- adequate training by litigation department
- Allowing to assist to training courses.
- already passed
- Answering questions
- At the moment no help. I am now starting to study for papers C and D and I will ask to work on some opposition
- Attendance at Ceipi C course
- Brief discussions about the strategy for completing paper C. No worked example
- c-book
- Delta patent training
- Delta patents
- Discussing the legal issues in every bit of work I did for him. When I misunderstood something, he would point it out and clarify.
- Discussions re approach
- Followed DeltaPatents and CEIPI course
- former employer EPO
- giving me tips
- I actually do not remember.
- I got external training.
- I have not sit paper C yet
- I have not taken Paper C yet - I am working with live cases, which is proving valuable learning opportunity
- I prepared compendium-papers and we afterwards discussed such papers
- I sat only paper A and B
- I therefore followed the Cronin course.
- I used opposition cases that I have done with my company
- I was allowed to draft a few oppositions myself, which was very helpful.
- I was given one case for an opposition of a national patent, with the instruction to handle this like an opposition against an EP. Unfortunately the client backed out.
- Indirect training by providing me with real opposition cases from the beginning of my education.
- it is my opinion that realistic opposition cases are of relatively little relevance for paper C
- Many examples from national proceedings which are of course not quite the same, but still a good way to practise. I have continuously been involved in such national proceedings

- My direct supervisor did not help with paper C at all. I received help instead from a less senior attorney
- My supervisor and I always go to Munich for oral proceedings for any patent or competitor's patent in my portfolio. We check argumentation thoroughly and he gives very pertinent and consistently good advice on which are the better attacks and how any attacks could be improved. (On a daily basis, my supervisor is perhaps strongest at providing sound business advice in relation to patent strategies, oppositions, licensing, collaboration agreements etc. - but this is only really helpful for D2. This is a shame, as it is an area of the job where we really add a lot of value for my company.)
- not applicable yet
- Only in doing courses on my own.
- Past papers, timed and not.
- The last thing you do for preparing the exam is to study real cases.... You stick to the compendium.
- Training for the C paper was handled by Deltapatents. Although attending opposition may help in preparation for the C-exam, attending an opposition is not key for passing the C-exam. In this respect the C-exam appears at least in part an academic exercise, for which exam training appears to be a more suitable training.
- Tutorial on paper c
- Tutorials shared by the qualified attorneys in my firm.
- tutors always available to answer to my questions but little help can come from those which have set the EQE many years ago
- using the classic matrix method

**Q23) How did you prepare for paper C apart from the training you received from your supervisor?**

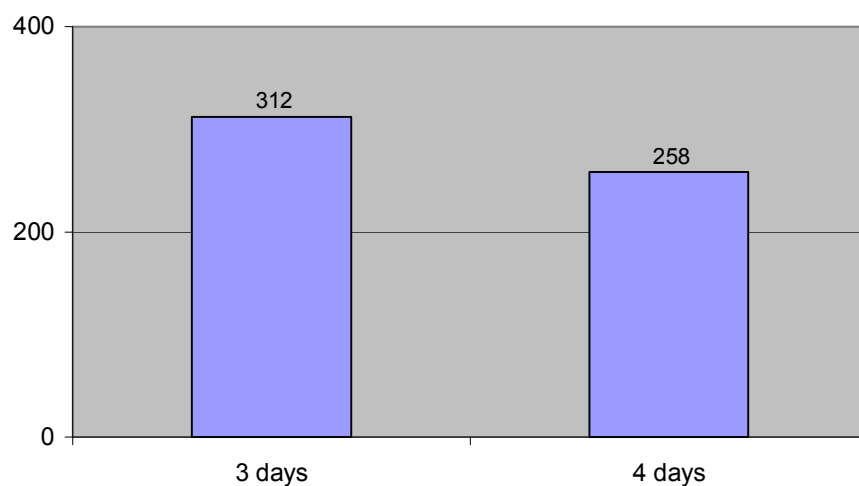


**Candidates were asked if they prepared in other ways for paper C. Their answers are listed below:**

- A and B only
- C-Book
- C-Book
- c-book, 5 old exams under real time
- c-book, ceipi
- CEIPI C-Course, FORUM C-Course for resitters, Compendium
- CEPI course for paper C
- Delta patents
- Delta Patents C crash course
- DeltaPatents and Ceipi course
- I found the "C Book" VERY useful.
- I sat only paper A and B
- Past papers, and the EQE online forum. Plus, internal seminars in my company (not from my "supervisor", but other EPAs at my firm).
- Private courses.
- The blue "C book" is a valuable resource, but following either of the two matrix systems can result in a lot of lost time in my opinion. Even though it provides a logical system that candidates probably feel they can trust for accuracy, they will then often struggle to write down all of their attacks before the exam finishes.

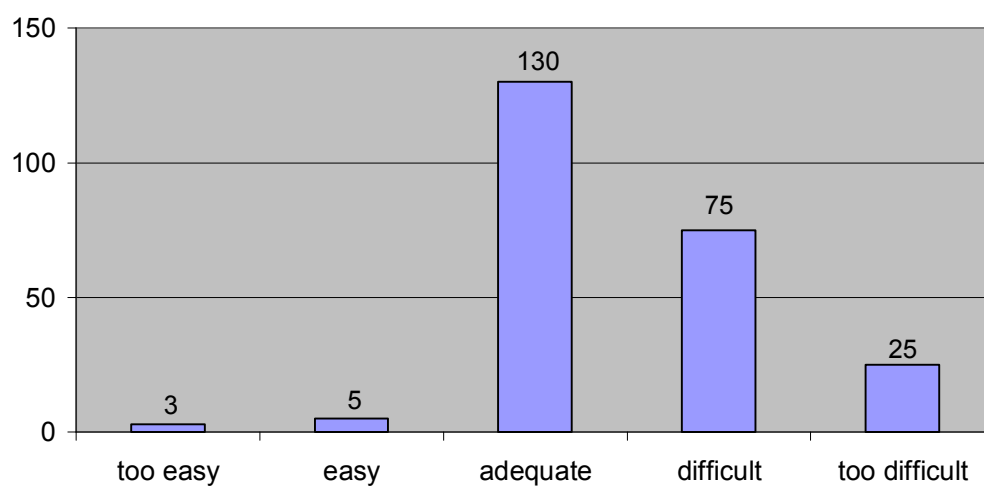
## Chapter 4 - EQE papers

**Q24) On how many examination days should the EQE be held?**



**Q25) How would you rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2009?**

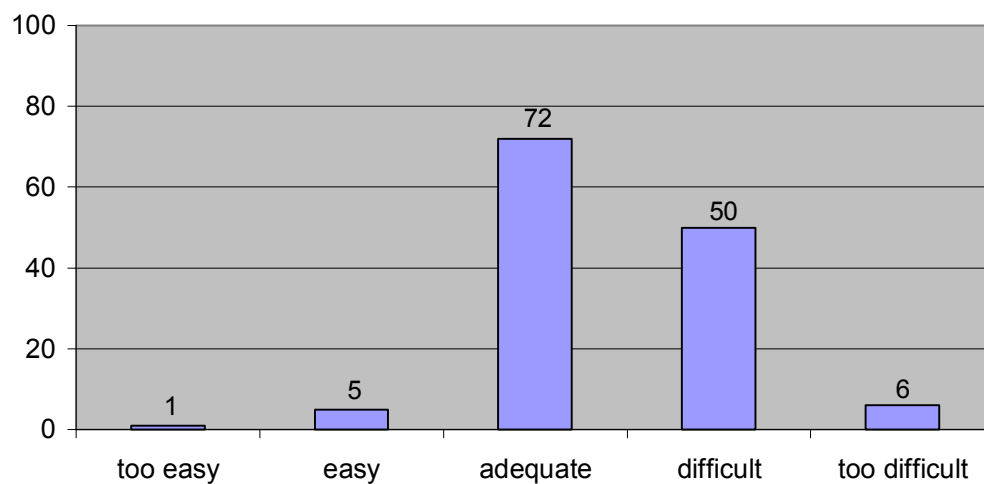
Paper A E/M



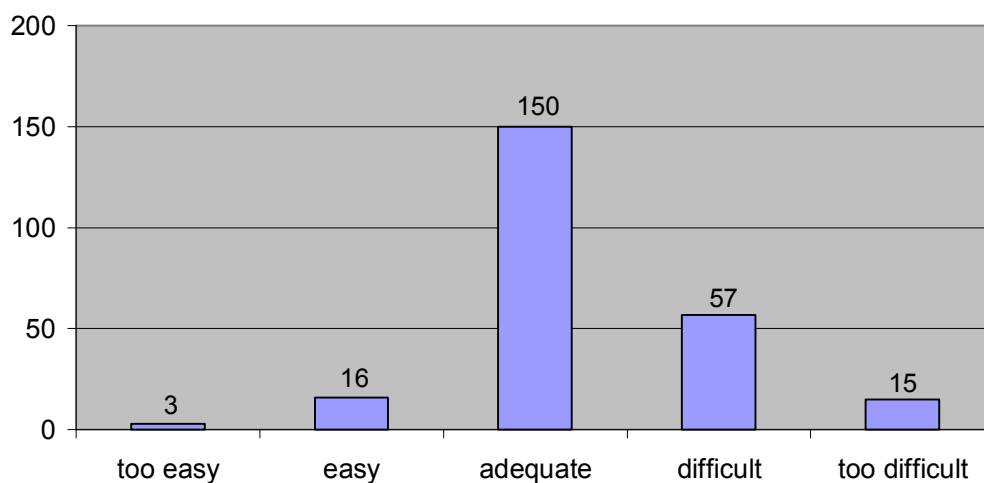


**Q25) How would you rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2009**  
(continued)

Paper A Ch

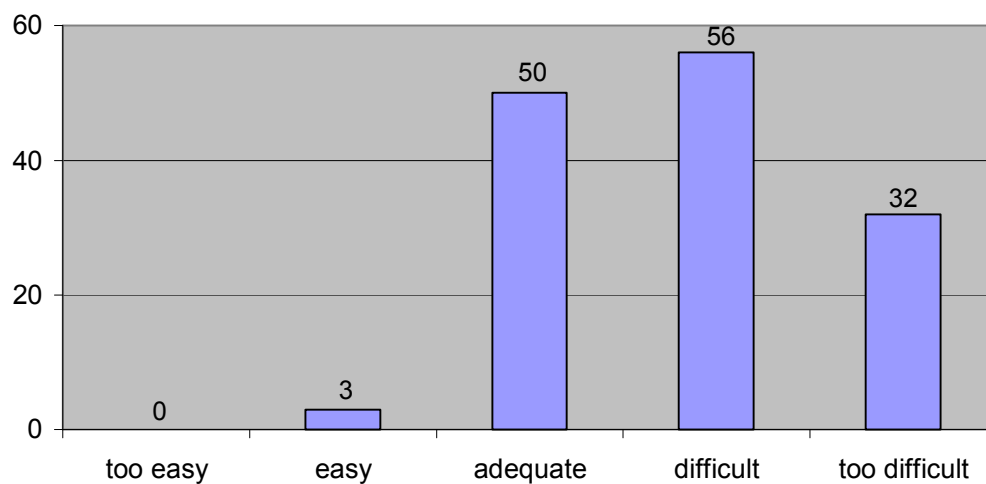


Paper B E/M

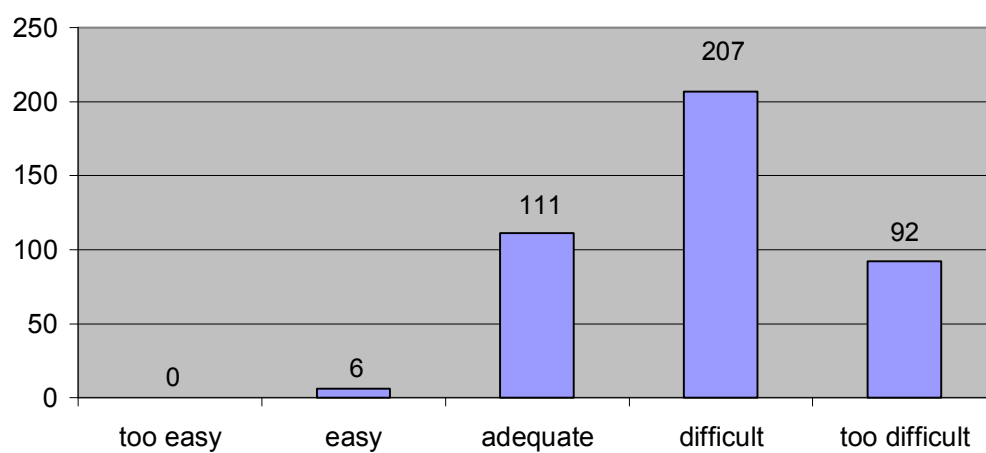


**Q25) How would you rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2009**  
(continued)

Paper B Ch

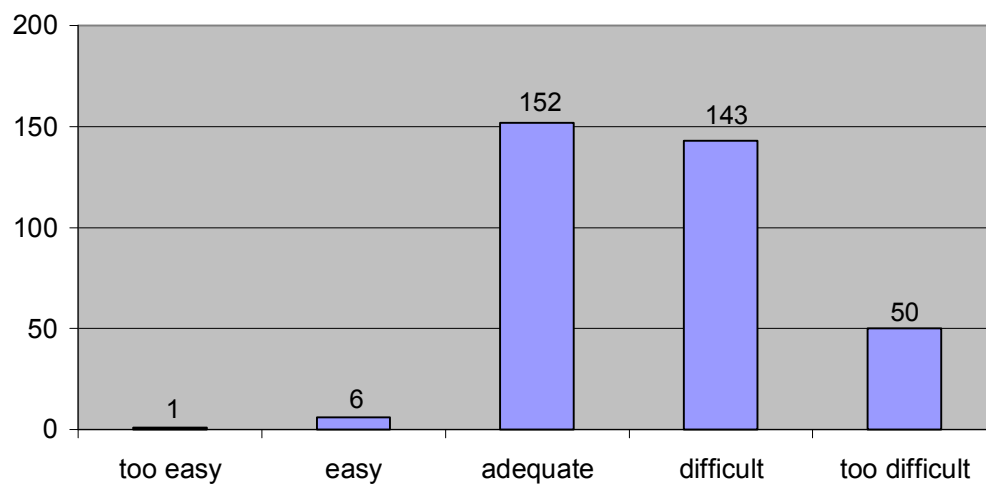


Paper C

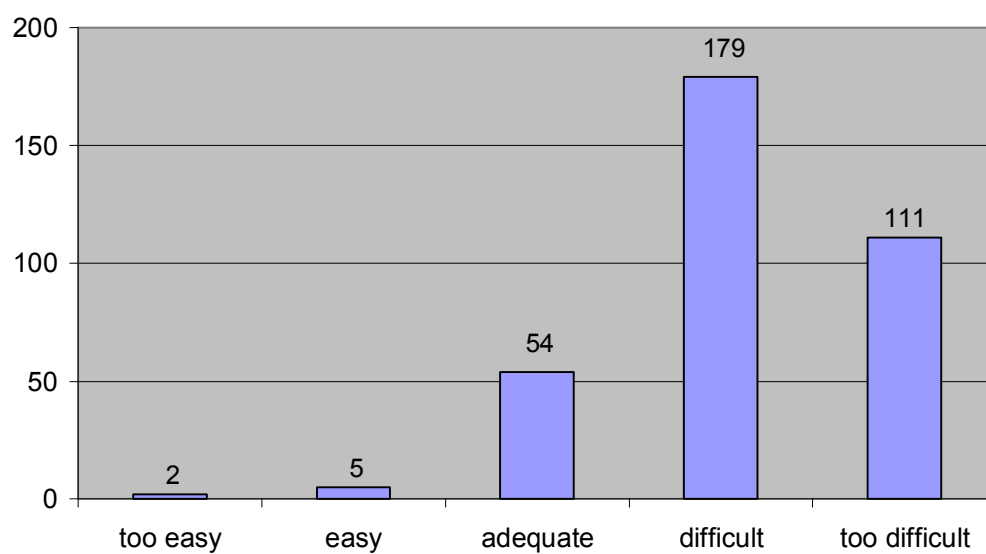


**Q25) How would you rate the difficulty of the examination papers you sat in 2009**  
(continued)

**Paper D I**



**Paper D II**



**Q26) Candidates were asked to make comments concerning the difficulty of the examination papers.**

**Their answers are listed below.**

- "difficulty" would decrease if there was more time!
- A and B are manageable parts. After learning fairly well the outcome is more or less predictable. C is perhaps less predictable. since it you oversee something at the beginning the whole argumentation can turn out to be in vain. Both D1 and D2 are equally difficult, 'cause they are strongly interconnected. without good knowledge of D1 - you have no chance in DII. D needs perhaps the most number of learning hours.
- A and B were fair papers. C was made difficult because the French document was 3 pages long, which used up a lot of time translating. Also, the legal questions seemed quite long - I wrote at least page and a half for each, which was quite time consuming and ate into time I should have used preparing the notice of opposition. DI was of similar standard to the 2008 paper, but had an additional question, which made it more difficult than 2008 due to the additional time constraints. DII was very difficult in comparison to previous years as it was very vague as to what was required from the candidate, i.e. it was difficult to determine exactly what information the examiner required you to provide overall in your answer. Rather than being able to focus my answer towards a conclusion, it was really just a matter of analysing the situation as best I could for each invention/application in a memo form, which left me feeling as if I hadn't really answered the question.
- A and C were "standard" A and C papers B (the French version) contained a translation problem in the client letter. The client was referring to a "film" whereas the application and claims to a "feuille" which prompt me not to draft a product claim directed to a film as I thought a film would had subject matter. By looking at the German and English text after the exam (there is no time do to it during the exam and no reason to do it), I noticed that this difference in wording was not present in these versions. Also, there were too many different solutions. D1: very long questions for few marks D2: It was not clear hat was expected. This exam was very different from the past ones and very "open". I may have spend too much time addressing questions rewarding few marks and too quick on the ones awarding high marks. But this is impossible to know on which issues/questions to insist and spend the more time.
- a lot of time consuming writing in part C, whereas the time to put it down on examination paper was too short.
- A lot of work and thought apparently were spend drafting papers A, B, C and D2. Nice cases, enjoyable to read.. Aspects of law, which I was expecting in D1, were appearing in C and D2. Lots of formal stuff in D1 where flow charts would have been helpful.
- A, B C, DI could be handled. DII was... strange... I do not know what to expect from it. It did look like the papers of the previous years.
- A: Very hard to figure out what the invention was; let alone claiming it DII: did not resemble papers of last few years
- All papers (except A-chemistry) were too long !!! Les épreuves étaient

beaucoup plus difficiles qu'en 2008. Il est injuste qu'il y ait un tel écart de niveau entre deux années. Les candidats qui ont passé l'épreuve en 2008 (ce n'est pas mon cas) ont vraiment eu de la chance. L'épreuve C était de loin la plus longue. Impossible de rédiger correctement toutes les attaques tellement il y en avait. S'il manque des attaques dans les copies des candidats, ce n'est pas forcément parce qu'ils ne les ont pas vues, c'est qu'ils n'ont pas eu le temps de les rédiger, malgré le fait que le sujet était facile à comprendre. D-II était beaucoup trop long. B-chimie était trop difficile. Il y avait trop de points obscurs dans le sujet (fallait-il faire une différence entre une "couche" et une "tranche" en l'absence de définition dans la demande ???). Les arguments dans la lettre du client étaient peu convaincants mais il fallait les utiliser, sinon on ne nous les aurait pas fournis.

- as mentioned, test C evaluation is unpredictable and too much importance is given to the so-called problem-solution approach
- As the paper DII in 2007 the paper DII in 2009 focus on chemical matters, e.g. drafting claims on substances and use of substances. That's quite difficult for an electrical engineer.
- Aufgrund der hohen Arbeitsintensität und Informationsdichte im Nachhinein kaum zu beurteilen
- B (CH) war für mich nicht eindeutig. Man musste irgendwann eine Entscheidung treffen, was man schreiben will und dann loslegen.
- B was OK. C was special, a lot of possible attacks, and a claim (6) without any strong attacks (only 123(2) and 54 (3)) D1 was too long....so many things to write, where should I stop what should I write etc.... D2 was....heu....what is exactly D2 supposed to be ? the goal of this paper seems to change from year to year.
- Bei DII ist die Struktur, die durch die Fragen vorgegeben ist, oft schwierig einzuhalten, auch diesmal. Ist Frage-Reihenfolge streng einzuhalten bei Beantwortung oder wie genau muss Struktur, die durch die Fragen vorgegeben wird, eingehalten werden.
- C and D2 papers were very long. D2 : many objects to deal with C : the decision concerning priority (if it was validly claimed or not) was to be made at the beginning of the paper and it determined the rest of the paper
- C paper was from a language perspective more difficult. An important combination was in two languages which needed extensive arguing which was very time consuming.
- C was obtainable this year, the attacks and arguments were quite straightforward once the method was established. C was as I expected it to be. DI was a little bit harder than usual, especially since there was only "big points questions", no question dealt with an unforeseeable theme. Time was short, as usual. DII was tricky, mainly because there was no big tips to give but rather a whole bunch of small things to think of. In particular, I found the last question really hard to answer to because it dealt with so many possible scenarios (third party friendly, not friendly, attack, preserve the patents, etc...) which made the analysis quite hard if one wanted to keep focused. Moreover, it was not really realistic since you wouldn't say to a client in the same letter that a patent looks revocable AND that he should buy it. More direction would have

been great.

- C: a lot of information, often different terms are use which sometimes cannot be unambiguously substituted by each other. Search for the right documents is a very time consuming effort under high pressure. To answer and to write a complete and correct answer seems not to be possible within 6 h. D 2: too much information to work upon and to write a solution in only 4 h. A very unrealistic scenario. What does EPA want to test here? The max. points should be given per question in D2 and per claim in C.
- C: English is my second language, French is my third language. I do manage in French but it takes longer time, and there is always the question whether an expression is the exact translation in English or if explanation is needed for mapping to the claim. I don't see the point in making paper C a language test...
- C: Es war schwierig, mit Neuheitsangriff alle Ansprüche zu vernichten. Bei den Angriffen mit erfinderischer Tätigkeit war nicht klar, ob man mit mehr als einem Dokument angreifen konnte, bzw. auf Informationen aus dem 54(3)-Dokument argumentieren konnte, die das Wissen des Fachmann darstelllllen konnte vor dem Zeitpunkt der Einreichung der Anmeldung. Ich habe an einer Stelle damit argumentiert, aber....? DII : Die Fallkonstellation hat mich völlig verwirrt, so dass ich mich anschließend nur noch nach meiner Timeline gerichtet habe und versucht habe, eine Linie in meine Lösung zu bringen. Ich bin auch nicht ganz fertig geworden mit meiner Argumentation.
- C: too long, too many data to properly carry out a PSA approach
- Comparison to 2008 papers the 2009 papers were far more difficult! It is unfair that the level of difficulty of the papers each year is so erratic. For fairness, the level of difficulty of the papers should be the same each year.
- Concerning paper B, I think the time limitation makes the main difficulty as if one starts replying on the wrong foot it isn't possible to change the whole strategy of the answer
- Considering the trend of the last ten years, I think that the papers are more and more focused on very small details that may be very easy to miss during the exam thus reducing the chances of passing the paper. On the one hand this is very good in that it teaches the candidate to consider even the slightest differences between the various embodiments of an invention and of the prior art. On the other hand, this is quite far from real life. Past papers A and B (early 90s) were a bit easier though more complex from a technical point of view.
- C-Paper is generally a fair and well set paper, however the 2 EPO language requirement causes failures due to language constraints, which is not what the exam tests (ability in writing a notice of opposition). The problem with the C-Paper is that it is a jumble of puzzle pieces, which is you find them all, and can understand them, fit together beautifully. If the lack of language understanding causes you to miss puzzle pieces, or worse, misunderstand them, it means that you make wrong decisions in your notice (i.e. wrong attacks, for which the marking scheme is ruthless). The DII paper is generally good, though '1 mistake' at the beginning can cause the whole paper to fall apart, especially in

regards to the advice element. DII 2008 seemed on the whole much easier than DII2009 or 2006/7 A & B & DI are generally pretty fair year to year

- C-part; languages in Annexes - i.e. use of one doc only in FR/DE...makes it very hard for Candidates not having an Official language as mother tongue to pass (i.e. much more time needed to condense info from these doc's)
- D papers: One can answer all question if there is enough time. The main difficulty is time. The questions do not focus on understanding of the EPC, but more an more on exotic details. The more literature is available, the more detailed the are the questions. It is just like an arms race. A and B papers: you only get the points if you hit the prepared intention of the examining committee. Proper alternative ways are not rewarded at all. C papers: same as A, with the further difficulty that the examining committee itself has sometimes doubtful ideas (see C paper 2007) and you easily run out of time if there are too many inventive step attacks in which you have to write down a proper problem solution approach and additional could-would.
- D Part 2009 appeared basically fair to me. However, this strongly depends on the way the exam is marked and on which possible answers in part II are expected. Therefore, this opinion is only preliminary.
- D1 is extremely difficult and has only few points
- D1 last question - as far as I could see there was not one answer to this question. I'll have to wait for the results.
- D1 was needing too much time but questions were feasible. D2 was very complex and had too many aspects to solve in 4 hours! difficult issues also with EPC2000 hardly met in practice yet! paper C was also too long for being completed and legal questions were numerous and I hardly knew whether they were legal questions or were related to attacks to be made, should be better differentiated for adequate time allocation
- D1 was too difficult due to the time allowed for each question D2 looked so simple that a detailed answer seemed to be impossible
- D1 was unclear, with lots of open questions and to some questions more answers could be given. B and D2 very confusing
- D1: strange language compared to the 2008 exam
- D1: too many questions ! It does not reflect the reality of our work in relation to clients. The quality of my answers cannot be optimal. D2: too many textual-information : please simplify or resume exactly the matter by means of a graphical time-line for example Definitely too much matter
- D2 a lot of possibilities for saving the situation require going trough. Once you have found the correct solution only limited time available for answering. Portfolio management and items like license negotiations is almost none in our daily practise. It is difficult to prepare for this on basis of daily practice. Rather academic issue for me.
- D2 needs a lot of reflexion, not only to know the procedures but also their respective advantages. D2 is also a matter of strategy. The interest of one way over another legal way is not something taught.

- D2 part was very vague, no clear topics recognizable D1 part, lots of points for very few questions
- D2 seemed a bit different in the setup of the questions with respect to previous years
- D2 was a horrible paper this year. D1 was more time pressured than previous years therefore although the questions themselves felt fair the time to write full legal basis was not available. One less question would have made a big difference.
- D2 was destabilising, because did not look like a standard D2: no ultra complex situation, and a first question requiring a long answer relating to a "formality" subject. C was difficult because I needed a lot of time for the "letter to the client" and also to decide on the Y-Y combination for claim 1. Then the rest of C was also long, so I missed time (I never did when training).
- D2 was different from previous ones I had trained, this made it more difficult
- D2 was extremely difficult this year. It was impossible to answer most questions within the allowed time.
- D2 was very long compared to 2008 and 2007 Other papers (A, B, C, D1) I barely had time to finish
- D2-paper was too unclear regarding the single subject matters to be analysed. Too much analysing work had to be done to separate the different subject matter instead of examining strategies how to improve the patent portfolio and how to negotiate with the competitor. Case was too far from reality. too high focus in reinstatement of rights; this would have been better placed in D1-paper. C-Paper was too much work to prepare/establish/find/work out the attacks required; finally too little time for formulating the attacks due to the long preparation time. A and B-paper was ok.
- Das Prioritätsproblem im C-Teil hat Viele sehr nervös gemacht, weil erst später erkannt wurde, dass es darauf nicht ankam.
- DI was not really too difficult, but the number of questions was too much to fit in the given amount of time. Checking the fitness to practice could also be done by posing less questions to the candidates.
- DI: The number of questions, as well as the type of questions clearly favour native speakers [EN,DE,FR] which are greatly helped in comprehension of the question. In particular in this years exam where the sheer number of questions and the difficulty in understanding them is substantial, I suspect that the native speakers even more than other years will score above average. In addition I would be very interested in having an indication of how many candidates were able to answer all questions, or were unable to answer one or more questions in the time allocated. Offset this with a distribution over native/non-native speakers and use this to create a fairer exam. DII: The number of items which could be remarked upon requires an amount of time that greatly exceeded the amount of time available. Here once more the remark on non-native speakers echoes possibly even louder. C: As D1 wherein question answered should be claims attacked, mutatis mutandis.
- DI: too large



- Die Schwierigkeit bestand meistens nicht in der Schwierigkeit der Aufgaben an sich, sondern mehr in der dafür verfügbaren Zeit. Die Fragen zu D2 fand ich allerdings stellenweise etwas schwammig.
- Die Zeit war in beiden Fällen zu knapp. Im D1 Teil war so viel zu schreiben wie sonst früher für 45 Punkte und es gibt leider nur 40. Im D2 Teil war das Abwichten der Merkmale nicht ganz so einfach und durch die knappe Zeit wurde es noch schwieriger. Ich wünschte mir, die Zeit wäre nicht so eng begrenzt, dann könnte gerade ich mit meiner schlechten Schrift wirklich mal zeigen was ich kann, denn dass ist bedeutend mehr als man dort sieht. Gerne komme ich zu einer mündlichen Prüfung vorbei, ohne gr. Vorankündigung, so dass ich dort beweisen kann, dass ich als zugelassener Vertreter tauglich bin.
- different in different years
- Difficult to have an idea about this question without knowing whether or not we succeeded...
- Difficulty in D1-examen was the time that was required for answering. The questions were fairly open, and less to the point.
- Difficulty in making the claim novel, also there were many technical features which added confusion.
- DII - the use of totally obscure wordings or terms such as slugbanite was very confusing. I think that I could pass all exams if I had just a little more time. The language barrier and the handwriting slow me down.
- DII : time is a main factor when taking into account the amount of embodiment combinations of the 2009 paper. In addition, working concentrated (as is necessary for DII) is harder in the afternoon.
- DII is too much material; its all about writing fast and not about thinking
- Do you have people telling you the papers were too easy ?????!!!!  
Maybe it is easier to answer this question once we have the results...sometimes an exam seems easy...but it is failed !!!
- Due to the increased difficulty of Paper C 2009 compared with previous year, time management became an issue. If that level of difficulty is set then more time should be allocated, 6 hours is inadequate!
- en général, les épreuves étaient trop longues (D2, C). L'épreuve B était également "surprenante" dans le sens pas classique
- enormous time pressure for especially D1, B (Ch) and C
- Especially the time pressure is a problem (for D-II and C). If the time allowed would be 1 hour more (or the exercise a little bit shorter) I'm sure that I would pass. The problem is that for C and D-II everything is connected with each other and one has to develop one big answer within the time frame. The risk is that by running short in time, the complete answer is defective. Time pressure is not a problem (or less a problem) in D-I because there you have several questions which stand on their own. Running short in time means only that one or two questions could not be answered and if the others are correct, the candidate can still pass.
- Even though it is a marathon 6 hour exam, the time pressure on Paper C makes it too difficult. The information content is vast, coupled with a requirement for a full explanation of all attacks and justification of equivalent technical features when the wording is not identical between

the calim language and the prior art.... how can you do all this properly in 6 hours? D1 is okay, but D2 also has a lot of information to be analysed before you can even start writing. It was much worse last year (2008) as there were far too many inventions to consider. Papers A and B are probably about right in difficulty, but candidates are still punished to too large a degree in my opinion for being too "greedy" with a claimed scope of protection - this is after all what we are trained to do in our daily work for our employer, so it does not mean we are unfit to practice... but no real complaints over all on A&B...

- Examinations were very long
- Excessive time available for paper B. Papers C and D1 very time pressured.
- few time vs precision of the awaited response, information given
- Firstly the time is not enough, especially the time given to answer paper C. Then the languages: there is a gap between the mother tongue candidates and all the others. These last should be given some bonus!!!!
- For A and B: the principal difficulty is that there is often only one solution and when we find this solution we have lot of hesitation because we know that there are severe lost of points for one mistake! That does not put to us in self-confidence and makes us make errors.
- for A/B papers only the principles of how the invention/application worked were easy and simple to understand, and the number of prior arts and/or embodiments were not excessive, allowing the candidate to concentrate more on the IP issues rather than on how the invention actually works
- For D, I wasn't prepared for enough, for C I needed 1/2 more hour maybe not properly prepared. A & B fair and well prepared. Actually, like always, if you are quite honest, the papers you will do well in are the once you are prepared for! Same is true for me!
- For D1, I found too little time to answer and be able to understand and think of the solution: to me, main difficulty was time more than questions content. In D2, I found the Paper too orientated to Chemistry (I am an Engineer) and also very difficult to understand and answer c
- For one familiar with the problem-solution-approach, papers A and B appear manageable. For paper C, prob-solution-approach understanding appears sufficient for the attacks but paper C requires A LOT of somewhat repetitive writing which makes the success on paper C more dependent on one's handwriting capability than on one's understanding of how to oppose a patent. Thus, according to my perception C is merely a fast writing contest. The problem with D is that there are so many different possible legal situations that one almost will know none from practice but only from training. And even after intense training, the likelihood that one encountered a certain legal question during training is still low.
- For Paper B Chemistry no answer was possible that would be regarded as sufficient in the day to day business with the EPA. The way it would be handled in real live would be totally different from that examination. 1. get the claims 3 and 4 granted. which is what the company is working with, than file a divisional and hand in good data. Without any data the ED would never grant such an application.

- for paper C, there is not enough time. The paper in 2009 was ok for 8 hours but not for 6 hours. When there is no time for a bathroom visit in 6 hours there is clearly something wrong.
- for the 6 hrs available, the complexity and number of features to consider was too high
- For the C paper the time is always insufficient! The 2009 paper had a lot of prior art documents to be considered and a lot of legal questions which had to be answered in order to correctly start the paper. For the B paper, it was very difficult to find patentable features...it has been very unusual the fact that one embodiment could not be covered by the claims because already known from the prior art.
- From my point of view the master-question is why the papers are stuffed with so much information that most candidates run out of time? In reality you take the time necessary to prepare an opposition. The conclusion: only the very fast candidates which are capable of good handwriting for hours will pass the EQE.
- From the papers alone it is simply not possible to figure out what is expected and it always requires a huge amount of luck to make the right decisions. Looking at the compendiums of the last years is no help for this problem neither, because they simply contradict to each other. One year it was expected to come up with generic terms not mentioned in the paper, the next year it was penalized not to generalize even without any hints in the paper. How should one prepare for such situations? Moreover, the EQE has nothing to do with "fit for practice", but drafting an application like expected in the EQE will fail in real life!!
- für mich war Teil C, für den ich mich gut vorbereitet wähnte, schwierig, da bei einigen Angriff nach Art. 56 die Wirkung bzw. die Verbindung zwischen zwei Dokumenten nicht eindeutig war
- Generally, I find paper A the most difficult paper because if you don't get the idea of the examining commission, then you can't get claim 1 correct ==> high loss of point, and thus also you loose a high number of points in the argumentation and dependent claims
- How can I correctly rate the difficulty of the papers, without knowing what was really expected in 2009. In 2007 nobody realized that the main issue of the C-paper was the supposedly "closes prior art". Even today many people I know still are of the opinion that their "wrong" choice of the "closest prior art" was indeed perfectly right. C 2007 was the most frustrating exam experience of my whole life so far. I hope I will never again suffer such a such totally demotivating experience.
- I am an English speaker. In this day and age, the need to read a document in French or German for the opposition paper is an unnecessary complication as I can obtain an online translation of a document (for free) in a few minutes. I found the legal questions a little difficult in paper C. In real life, I would spend more time to ensure my advice was correct, ensuring the opposition was filed on time.
- I believed them to be adequate, but do not know if they were too easy or too difficult until the result is submitted to me.
- I can tell you when I know my results ...
- I couldn't see much to write about in paper D2, there were few clues as to what was expected. The questions were not clear, and hence it was

hard to spot the issues the paper that gave rise to any marks. As usual, the key document in paper C for inventive step attacks against a number of claims was in French and German only. Poor interpretation skills cost me lots of marks (probably 30-40) even though I spent at least an hour trying to translate the document. I don't see how this is a good test of my skills as a patent attorney when in day-day practice I can get a translation of the document on the internet in a few minutes.

- I did a resit for C without D1/D2. This posed additional difficulty in answering the legal questions in C within the expected time frame. Especially legal basis references are not at hand (without looking up or searching for).
- I do not know if what I did is right or wrong. I do not know if I have missed any important aspects. Therefore, I am not sure if my comments on the difficulty can be relevant at all. In any case, the papers seem to be designed to put candidates under time pressure. Realistically, it should be no surprise that difficult aspects or "hidden" hints can be overlooked or assessed in a wrong way if there is no or little time to reconsider a response. Judging from several examiner's reports, examiners seemed to be surprised that candidates missed such aspects and called the candidates "unwilling" to answer this or that in the examiner's reports. I note, however, that such disparaging comments seem to have disappeared since a few years. You may want to remove such comments from older reports, as well.
- I do not understand as how paper DII is rated. When preparing this paper at home I wrote many many things about the different questions but I could not find most/some of my answers (which where seemingly correct) in the compendium, but other proposals are given. This is confusing since I have understood that my correct answers not mentioned in the compendium are not awarded any marks!?!)
- I find useless to provide in paper C an Annex only in French and German. All the documents should be available in the three official languages.
- I found paper B not very clear to understand by reading the documents.
- I found papers A-B-D1 difficulty similar to that of the corresponding papers of the recent past years. Paper D2 main difficulty was that I was too much tired from paper D1 (day one is simply too tough). In addition I found it too fragmented (a lot of minor questions to answer. Paper C as usual was unfair (legal questions in particular were for people very confident with EPC1973)
- I found the difficulty of 2009 Paper C very high, especially the drafting of the arguments in the inventive step attacks
- I had problems with the C exam, much more problems than I ever had during preparations with the old exams. There was even more information than usual to sort out. The claim interpretation was not difficult but the documents were. My other problem was that my German is not so good so it was difficult to analyse that document (which I thought was more extensive than usual)
- I have used 70% of my time for preparation of paper D, 15% for C 10% for B 5 % for A
- I made many c papers. I prepared a lot of things for instance the c-book.

But these cases were not covered. And multiple attacks are not possible because the committee says this is not correct. C has nothing to do with reality.

- I only sat part A. If I made it it was easy, since it took me very little time to complete the exam, less than two hours. If I failed the exam it obviously must have been a bit too difficult, since it lead me "up the wrong tree". So, basically it must have been adequate. The technology was basic, which is reasonable since it is not technical skills that should be tested.
- I ran out of time with paper and D2. D2 was very unclear - lots of objects which seemed similar but weren't ...
- I sat only paper C, and the difficulty of that paper was OK, but the problem was the time needed to analyse the many usable cited references in view of the many features included in the claims. I ran seriously out of time and was not able to do all the required attacks due to this.
- I sat only paper C. I need more time to complete the paper. In fact I take a lot of time to read and understand the prior art documents (especially in the second language - French) and I don't have sufficient time to write all the attacks.
- I sat Part A in Munich M,O,C and the wrong papers had been placed on the desk before the exam started. Therefore the exam started 45 minutes late, which meant that my concentration had already started to lapse. The paper was very long and there was a lot to read so that by the time I was reading the last 2 pages I was very tired and missed the "trap" that the Examiners had set in the final embodiment. This trap (one valve orifice instead of a plurality as in previous embodiments) was very difficult to spot and confusing anyway, as the last embodiment also had multiple channels in the valve body, which could be read as a plurality of valve orifices. I felt that this was not a fair test of drafting skill but rather to see if we were awake and, due to the delay in the start of the examination, unfortunately I was not.
- I think I just tempted fate there!
- I think it is right that the exam papers are difficult but the exam board must make sure they are not impossible.
- I think I've either got exactly what they're looking for in A&B (Mech) or I've got completely the wrong end of the stick! Paper C seemed quite tricky this year compared to last year's paper, but it's no C-2007. Paper DI was OK. DII was in an unusual format, but hopefully picked up on what the Examiners wanted.
- I think paper C was of average difficulty this year. The only point I noticed was that the non-English paper was unusually long. Presumably this is because all document will be in all three languages from 2010!
- I think paper D2 was too difficult, I got confused about the components and what the difference between them was. I prefer mechanical subjects.
- I think the challenges this year were more conceptual than amount of hard work, and I believe that supports passing of the most qualified candidates.

- I thought paper DII was unfair and tried too much to "catch-out" candidates rather than test their knowledge. Also I thought DII was too chemically-orientated. I thought the claim order in paper C was fairer this year than in other years.
- I would prefer answering most of these questions when I know if I have passed or not!
- If one is well prepared time pressure is the only problem of the exam. The exam does not check your abilities in patent law, claim drafting etc., but how you cope with time pressure.
- I'm in the field of data communication and control engineering; so, personally, I had trouble in 2009 (as in 2008), to acquaint myself with the "snorkel valve" in paper A. - Unlike 2008, the different subject matters in DII were not given letters
- Impossible to bring all literature (e.g. Applicants' guide, both EPC1973 and 2000).
- impossible to comment before knowing the results
- In C paper was difficult to define a closest prior art. The language problem :reading documents in two foreign languages takes longer time then reading in mother tongue - leads to lack of time for drafting Notice of opposition (I needed at least 0.5 hour more) In DII paper was difficult to decide on preferable acting as there were different alternatives.
- in D2 gab es zwei markante Unklarheiten durch ungeschickte Formulierungen. Für einen Nicht-Chemiker ist die Frage, ob ein organisches Material gegenüber einem anorganischen Material erfinderisch ist oder nicht nicht beantwortbar, so dass sich eine Vielzahl an Lösungsansätzen ergab.
- In D2 part, the inventive step was not very clear.
- IN GENERAL VERY DIFFICULT ALL OF THEM, SPECIALLY DII AND EVEN MORE DIFFICULT C
- In my opinion, time (pressure) is too much of a factor at passing this exam, which requires detailed knowledge and, accordingly, tremendous preparation anyway. Personally, I know from my daily work that my knowledge and skills about EPC and PCT are professionally usable and not bad at all and that my preparation was intense and effective indeed. Nevertheless, this was my 5th (!) sitting of D (after having passed A, B and C since a while) and still I am in doubt if I managed to pass this time. I certainly do appreciate that fundamental knowledge is essential for adequate professional representation of clients with the EPO. But at least time pressure should be avoided as an additional handicap.
- In paper A there are many embodiments to deal with. In paper C there are many prior arts to deal with. In all papers the time for answering the exams is not enough.
- In paper C too much time is spend on the non English prior art document. In real life you would have it translated or just spend more time with the dictionary. In general the time pressure during the exam is the main cause of my difficulties. More time for thinking before writing, would make me able to come up with much better answers.
- In past, D2 papers gave often incomplete information to some extent. Some of the "unclear" issues had to be identified and discussed, as

outcome depended there from. This year, however, there were too many central points that could be differently interpreted.

- in Teil D2 war nicht wirklich klar was die Frage war und was eigentlich verlangt wurde. Daher kann ich nicht beurteilen ob es schwer war, es war einfach unklar. die anderen Teile waren klarer, wobei in Teil C die Zeit etwas knapp wurde.
- In this year's paper A E/M, it was clear what the invention was. The challenge was to write down a clear independent claim with the essential features etc. which was very complicated and time consuming.
- Insufficient time available in Paper DI and C
- it appears in DI the number of questions - based on the available marks - got raised.
- It has become about solely exam technique rather than ability to practice day to day
- It is always difficult. It have never been easy until now. You must immediately see the key issues in the little time available. If you don't immediately recognise these, you can not succeed. I think that when I would have more time to do the exams, my results would be much better.
- It is difficult to know if the exam was difficult or not without knowing the results. However, in paper B Chem. There was an interval which was patentable which was easy to mix up with an interval that was not patentable. When you are in a hurry it is easy to make a mistake and mix up numbers. Such intervals should be avoided.
- It is extremely interesting to compare the efforts put into providing a full Opposition in the EQE compared with the amount of cases handled in the disciplines with regard to EQE A and EQE B. It is obvious that the EQE is too hard for its purpose to provide you with enough knowledge to represent clients before the EPO. A comparison with the average grandfather, which there are many new ones today in Europe, the requirements in the EQE is not properly balanced, especially not for people having minority languages as their mother tongue.
- It is important that the papers are sufficiently difficult, so that unqualified candidates are not allowed to pass the exam, and thereby be able to represent a third party, whose rights can be mishandled. However, since my native language is neither English, French or German, I think that at least in paper C, where the interpretation of features is very important, there should be more supporting figures. In this way it may be avoided that "common" English or German words/features are misinterpreted, because they can have more than one meaning. This could also be improved if the features are supported more by their function or intended use. This way a misinterpretation of the words may be avoided.
- it is impossible to evaluate whether the paper was too easy or too difficult etc. until it is published what was expected from a good answer
- it is my observation that the level of complexity between exams of several years seem to vary to a fairly large extent.
- it is not the difficulty a problem but the time left to candidate that is too short. EQE today test more speed rather than preparation of the candidates. Some candidates did not know why they were able to pass

(faster and lucky? but not really prepared?) A more fair balance should be found between evaluation of "fit to practice" (legal skills, technical preparation) and "fit to practice under stress".

- It seems that in the past two years the EQE had no wicked traps in part C and D, as the 2007 EQE had been somewhat unfair...
- It was very difficult understanding the non-English document which this year was very long and difficult. Should not be the restricting factor for managing the exam.
- Its always to little time
- It's hard to say before knowing your result. If I pass it 's fine if no, to difficult. What du You expect us to answer
- Its in unfair. The need to read German or French text in the C exam is outrageous in the 21 century. This makes other nationalities disfavored.
- Kampf gegen die Zeit. Im Bereich IP ist Handschreiben=Steinzeit EQE ist Handgeschrieben
- Lack of method (for me) so lack of time during the examination.
- Lack of specific comparative data in paper B was difficult to argue Inventive step
- Language plays a role in the difficulty of a paper. People with a mother language different than English, French or German have a disadvantage over the rest of the candidates.
- Large amount of material to analyse; technically challenging subject matter (induction heating) is not easy to understand for a molecular biologist!
- Les épreuves m'ont paru particulièrement difficiles et peu classiques: - D1 était trop longue et trop peu diversifiée: beaucoup de questions sur les langues et les divisionnaires, quasiment rien sur le PCT. L'écart avec D1 2008 était vraiment impressionnant! - D2 n'était pas dans la lignée de ce qui avait été proposée les années précédentes: analyse par brevet/demande et très peu de dates! L'invention était trop compliquée, il aurait put s'agir d'une épreuve A! Enfin, j'aimerais bien comprendre ce que l'on attendait de nous au sujet de la demande concurrente qui n'était pas publiée à 18 mois. Personnellement, cela m'a obligé a posé énormément d'hypothèses et m'a fait perdre beaucoup de temps... J'espère que c'était un point clé du sujet! - A était classique - B n'était à mon avis pas assez structurée! J'ai vu plusieurs facon de voir le sujet. La lettre du client aurait du davantage nous orienter(les blocs présentaient-il un intérêt pour le client? Dépôt d'une divis
- much information, a lot of difficult issues.
- My impression is that the papers are designed more and more difficult and with tricky questions and cases. It seems to be a purpose to have many, many candidates fail the test. It does not seem that the intention is to get candidates pass the test.
- my opinion depends on the outcome of the exam which with this questionnaire is unclear. assumed I passed, which is my feeling, but is somehow unrealistic in view of 60% fail rate: a fair difficulty level. otherwise no answer possible.
- My stomach problems got worse reading paper B dealing with fat in different forms. In general the time for writing is much to short. Most



candidates are not used to write in a readable way by hand, thus it take to much time just for writing. The EQE should not be a test for writing speed.

- No clear product item, more a functional description of the product.
- No real complaints about the papers other than paper C. I recognise that the papers have to be testing as they are a fitness to practice assessment. However, whether or not I can read a 3-page technical document in a foreign language is irrelevant to an assessment of fitness to practice. When ever I come across a FR or DE document in real life it gets translated by a professional (in much the same way as if the prior art is Chinese). I won't whinge on for too long though as I understand that this criteria has been removed from future exams.
- None
- None.
- Not enough time for paper C (or too much matter for 6 hour paper)
- Not enough time for papers C and D
- Not enough time to finish the opposition paper
- Not enough time, Had no EPC 1973 with me
- Not sure how we can answer this without knowing what the correct answers are.
- Obviously the 'ease' of the papers as viewed by me is not for certain until I get my results! However, paper A seemed a 'fair' paper with a suitable degree of difficulty that was achievable within the time available. Paper C was as ever very difficult to finish to time, even using the recommended 'Special paper C' course method. I was unable to do justice to the last few attacks. Additionally, translation of a document to a degree suitable for use in an opposition argument requires excessive time.
- ohne die tatsächliche Lösung ist diese Frage nicht zu beantworten
- One aspect of the paper C is artificial according to my opinion: The information that a ceramic is porcelain or earthenware was written in document 1. I went systematically through all documents with the C book method. When I read D1 for the first time, I did not recognize that it is necessary to remember or to mark this feature. Then I studied D2 and so on. When I was ready with all documents, I went back to D1 and found this very important information. After that I had to insert this information at the places where the information was missing. This task of definition finding should be left out in the future according to my opinion, since this task does not help to find out whether a candidate can write an opposition. Or the task to find a certain definition should only be required for one attack on a dependent claim.
- optimal
- paper A description was way too long. the exam should be focused on drafting not reading
- Paper A is supposed to be dealing with drafting a patent application and giving the applicant adequate protection, while the examination committee makes some kind of a reading test out of it, hiding as many details as possible in order to mislead candidates. This is inappropriate and far away from daily practice.

- Paper A would have been easier without the need of a 30 minute delay... (but accident only never happen in a perfect world)
- paper A: very close prior art Paper C: long, attacks based on inventive step not easy
- paper b and c are not really too difficult, but it is too less time!
- Paper B Ch was really too long. There were a lot of alternative solutions to study before obtaining the set of amended claims. Moreover, there were two problem and solution approaches to draft and also the novelty and inventiveness of a product by process. It was really too long and I could barely finish to write the letter. I understood the paper but I was not able to write accurate answer because of the lack of time. This is not what can happen to us in our everyday work. Moreover Paper B is taking place after Paper A so all candidates are already tired and it is difficult to concentrate on the paper.
- Paper B Chemistry was too difficult to answer on time. There were too many variables to consider and I did not find it appropriate for EQE examination.
- paper B did not contain any tables with experiments or description of experiments, which made the set up of the paper different from what was taught in courses and practised from the compendium subjects of paper A and B were very interesting though
- Paper B in chemistry was very difficult. There appeared to be no concrete data to use when discussing inventive step. Although the client's letter pushed you towards a position where you could argue over D2, you were left unclear as to whether you could use the same arguments over D1. Absent guidance on this front, you were forced to either unduly limit the application, or construct inventive step arguments which lacked concrete support.
- Paper B was hard - Paper C was very hard too. For claims 1 and 2, it reminds me paper C of 2007... It was too long. The claims were hard to interpret - Paper D1 was not as usual. Questions were long to read and cover always the same subjects. Only 1/2
- Paper B was not very difficult but there were three prior art documents to check and the most important feature to include in the characterizing part of new Claim 1 in order to distinguish the invention from the other documents was expressed in an ambiguous way
- Paper C Claim 1 required an inventive step attack. The claim was to a wooden table having an induction coil (for heating food). One piece of prior art was a table with a burner on (A2). The other piece of prior art used induction coils and wooden blocks to support the food to be kept warm (A3). I can see the Examiners might have a very strong view on which piece of prior art is the correct starting point. I think they will want you to have started with A2. But this only shared one feature in common (table!). A3 had all the other features of the claim concerning the induction coil in common, and so I used this as the closest prior art. I'm would be very disappointed indeed if the Examiners repeat the mistake of 2007 and give absolutely no credit for an attack starting from (what they consider) the 'wrong' closest prior art. Also, I thought there was a lot of issues to address in the time available.
- paper C - difficult because lack of time (about 30-60 minutes) paper D-II

- ./ (about 60-90 minutes)
- Paper C - not enough time to carry out all the attacks - more of a time management exam than an exam representative of an opposition in real life. Furthermore, this is the last exam of the 3 days, so already mentally drained! Paper D1 - race against the clock, questions not inherently difficult, but too much to write in too little time Paper DII - inadequate examiner's reports make it difficult to know what is expected and how the papers are marked. Again, too little time to finish.
- Paper C is a straightforward exam made difficult by repetition of the same points over and over again - to the point where timing becomes the critical factor. Each year tends to endlessly focus on one particular aspect of drafting an opposition to time pressure instead of being a good broad test of a candidate's knowledge and ability to put together convincing arguments in a reasonable time.
- Paper C is too difficult because it's too long. After 5h of work, even a "simple" reasoning began to be difficult to write.
- Paper C is unrealistic (no patent attorney would draft a full opposition in 6 hours) - Marking of paper C is not clear - Paper DII is mostly too difficult because there are not model solutions available (i.e. no structural approach to DII can be learned)
- Paper C was incredible. No time to think, to time to write and the attacks were very strange and unclear.
- Paper C: candidates with English as a mother tongue had advantages, because it was easier for them to identify, from a term of an anteriority, if there was novelty or not. Not enough time to complete it. Paper D1: No time to think. Paper D2: Very complicated questions
- paper C: claim features were unclear and difficult to analyze, claims would never have been granted in this form paper D2: too many information and facts to comment on (as usual)
- Paper C: not enough time
- Paper C: several possible attacks plus documents complex and full of features to analyse. Paper D1: no particular difficulty. Paper D2: it was difficult to focus the answer by following the client indications.
- Paper C: The amount of information to handle (within the examination time) was just too large. It is not necessary to set up a paper with this amount in order to evaluate if the candidate have the skills needed and is fit to practice. What is evaluated in this way is more the candidates skills to handle time and to write fast rather than the candidates skills to handle patent issues.
- paper C: too difficult to understand prior art documents and define attacks for the claims paper D1: very specific questions (divisional application, EPC 1973-2000, language of the PCT procedure ...) paper D2: a lot of features for each independent claim of each patent applications/patents
- Paper C: Too many independent claims. Too many subjects. Paper D2: Too many subjects, too little competitor description/Papers. No good structure.
- Paper D is very difficult in terms of lack of time. In real life a case, especially a complicated case as presented in DII would never have to

be solved in 4 hours. On the opposite, at work, such a complicated case is only sufficiently solved by repeatedly checking things. If time is short, it will be checked also by different people. Similarly, part C does not reflect the real-life situation when drafting oppositions. Except for the principal setup, the oppositions I have drafted at work have been different. E.g., an attack on a claim can be drafted by using a document as novelty destroying, and as an auxiliary measure as detrimental for inventive step. This is not allowed in the EQE. Moreover, an opposition is not completely failed in real life if one of the attacks is not the best one possible or incorrect, since the opposition division itself will conduct a certain amount of investigation on its own. This ensures that only patents survive which fulfil the requirements of the

- Paper D1 includes too many questions for the time allowed
- Paper D1: too many questions. Time was too short Paper D2: Formulation of solution/proposal for the client appears to be difficult. Until now I have found no adequate preparation for this part Paper C 2009: I had problem to understand the technology
- paper D2 I found the lack of timeline events confusing and the subject matter artificially made complex. This detracted me and made it difficult for me to gain overview over the paper. paper C I had a good start with the legal questions. However, the claim set to be attacked, in particular claim 1, was confusing for me, such that I lost too much time deciding on a proper attack against this claim. I therefore ran out of time in order to perform the (much easier) attacks against the remaining claims.
- paper D2 is difficult to complete in 4 hours. In paper C an error is present in the letter. The word "loaded" means that the document is available from the data wherein it is "loaded" on internet page. On the same document (Annex 5) the word "downloaded" is written. The document can be loaded and downloaded the same day. The presence of the word "loaded" in the letter of the client is an error which leads the candidate to retain that the date wherein the document is available is the date wherein the document is "loaded" and that is to not consider this document available for paper C.
- paper D2 was strange, too procedural steps to clarify.
- Paper D1 comprised many "periphery" issues which are rarely dealt with in the daily work or in previous examination papers. Did not comprise many questions related to "core issues" - perhaps because the 2008 paper did this. In DII I spend too much time trying to find any problems with priority or the applications as such before accepting that not many of the usual problems (from previous papers) appeared to be present.
- Paper D1 was difficult to complete within allowed time
- Paper DII did not follow the format of previous years because there were not many dates to deal with. The paper was more focussed on subjective matters of patentability, in particular, sufficiency, which could be argued either way. This is unusual for a Paper DII. In Paper C, the French document was rather long, which put the rest of the paper under considerable time pressure.
- Paper DII was a distinct departure from the normal question type. This made it difficult to know what the Examiner's were looking for. Furthermore Paper DII had an ambiguous statement from the 'client'. In

real life this statement could be checked in the register, however in the exam an assumption had to be made. It is unclear how the Examiners will treat an incorrect assumption, should one have been made.

- Paper DII was too confusing.
- Paper should not contain tricks, sometime wording could be clearer
- Papers A and B were as expected Paper C was time wise more difficult than previous papers Paper DII was unexpected in style and therefore posed additional problems in locating the problem (-> time) Paper DI was as expected
- Papers are not difficult - they're just too long ! Consider Paper C for instance: why would you want me to write more than one full inventive step attack and not give me enough time to do it well ? If you want me to complete all attacks, then give me 10 hours ! Besides, once I show that I can write a decent attack, while asking me again for the same thing ? With due respect, to me that's a waste of time for both candidates and examiners.
- Papers D1 and D2 were too long. Big time issue. This is sad, because it was not possible to show what one has learned. It unrealistic to deal with a case like in D2 within 4 hours in the real world. For sure this would be a case for the insurance!
- Part A: too many functional features were asked, that made it hard to believe that you are on the right path
- Pour D1, en suivant trop toutes les journées de bachotage on se sent trop en confiance pour l'examen...
- Pour l'épreuve A, la variante de réalisation à protéger qui n'a rien à voir avec les autres est très difficile à intégrer dans une revendication principale nouvelle et inventive. Pas très réaliste qu'un même inventeur puisse inventer des modes de réalisation si différents.c
- Probably at least partly personal stupidity. However, I feel that the paramount problem in EQE is time. I do not think that merely adding time pressure leads to exams which filter the candidates who are not fit for practise. On the contrary, it leads to more schematised thinking which is toxic for real life conditions. In my opinion the current system is unable to deal with juridical approaches which are undogmatic. Such kind of approaches has always contributed to the development of case law. It seems that EQE deliberately wants to eliminate such approaches.
- reading and understanding the second foreign language (German) paper in C was a disaster, took far too long taking the time away from formulation correct attacks and especially writing those down. Most severe difficulty is lack of time. Too much is spent in reading the questions and understanding the questions correctly.
- Relevant questions. Much to little time to make appropriate answers, especially considering the level of detail required.
- Silly tricks
- some questions/papers appear to be unnecessarily difficult. It should be considered that the EQE should aim for checking for fitness of the candidates for practice. The EQE is an extreme situation even for good prepared candidates. Therefore mistakes that are made should at least not lead to losses of marks on consecutive mistakes (causes by the

previous mistake). Also wrong reading of questions should not be punished too hard because of the special circumstances every candidate faces in the EQE

- some times you have to write claims that in real life are impossible claims which won't be granted
- Sometimes very hard to tell what the examiners are looking for - for example one year in the drafting paper they advised in the examiner's comments that they were expecting you to draft two independent product claims of different scope with no discussion as to why that would not offend against rule 43(2) EPC
- Surprising D2 in light of previous papers
- technical, being Paper C related to a technical field very far from mine
- Technically unclear!!
- The amount of analysis and detail required to score the full marks for paper C are completely unrealistic considering there are only 6 hours available to complete the exam. As the amount of detail required in the argumentation has no bearing on reality whatsoever.
- The B Ch paper had some contradictions in the prior art documents, therefore during the exam I became uncertain. Furthermore too much information was given.
- the c paper 2009 was full with details, one had always to go back and forth. the state of the art was very much distributed in all of the documents given. it did cost a lot of time to get it all together
- The common denominator for paper C and DII is too little time. It is very frustrating sitting the exam, having the (in your opinion) right answer and not having enough time to write it down. Usually in paper C the document not in English takes too much time analysing (why is this document often the key document? Are we testing language skills?) and in the end you do not have enough time for writing down your attacks with complete reference to specific basis in paragraphs in the documents. There is too much to do. In paper DII it is very difficult to make sure that all possible details are contained in your answer, as these seem to give a large number of points.
- The difficulty comes from understanding the thoughts of the Examination Committee and the sheer amount of the presented problems.
- The difficulty comes only after reading the examiner report: if your answer is far from it, it was a difficult one. The "feeling" of difficulty is to know if you are matching what they expect with your answer (namely, to realize right during the paper a solution that fits with the "spirit" of the Compendium). If there are terrible doubts in what the answer will really be what the Examiner expects, then comes the feeling of having had a difficult paper. Obviously with my perspective or several sittings, the first one with no idea of what was even correct. But in 2009, I had already a pretty good idea of what and how to answer (even with time I understand most of the reasoning of the Compendium and agree), and still fear a terribly different examiner report...
- The difficulty is not the problem with paper C and A its the time that is the factor, there is not enough time to absorb information and think
- The difficulty is partly in that the time allowed is too limited; even further,

the total time for any Exam is too long; further, the Exams tend to focus on seldom or never appearing situations; training on such situations is virtually impossible; there is no transparency, so it is not clear on what items answers are expected, e.g. for the C and D paper a mark of more than 80 is impossible, thus no candidate is qualified is good or very good, opposite to any other exam in the real world

- The difficulty level of part C appeared to be adequate in 2009. However, in view of the amount of information to be dealt with there was not enough time to analyse the same with due diligence and to write down my assumable correct solution completely and well verbalized as required by the examiners
- The difficulty of the paper was not caused by the complexity of the fictitious case, but due to the fact that you were strapped for time in order to find the solution and to phrase an adequate answer.
- The difficulty was in the time required to write down the answers. I am very slow in writing and reading, this is a disadvantage for me in respect of other candidates.
- The examination is not about the knowledge, it is only a race against the clock. If there was one hour more in each paper (without adding work) then a lot more people would pass because they know the stuff of the examination. But the examination committee does not want that so I do not ask for more time. If I ask, then you add 20% more work to spend that time making the examination even more difficult.
- The examination papers A/CH and B/CH as well as paper DII seemed to differ very much in character from what was expected in the years 2005 to 2008.
- The examination papers are not that difficult, it is the time frame wherein the paper has to be completed makes it difficult. I am sure that, given time enough, the percentage of "pass" would at least double.
- The French-language document in C-2009 was time-consuming to read, I bought a new brand dictionary for the event and understanding the doc was difficult even using it. Luckily the claim at the end had reference numerals so I could use the figure to assess the contents of the document.
- The greatest difficulty is to keep concentration for the whole day.
- The instructions to the candidates that were handed out this year were of general nature and there were no instructions included which focused on the respective papers. Was this supposed to be this way? A Ch There were hints in paper A which triggered quite a lot of questions to decide: Arsenic comprising solution: Is achieving a good colouring a technical effect or not? Is the technical effect of a better rub resistance obtained or not? The customer does not focus on As solutions due to environmental problems - shall I claim it all the same or respect his wish? It wasn't until later that I decided that 1. question was irrelevant as 2. question was to be answered with yes and about the 3. question I will have to wait until the results come out because it is impossible to predict whether this year's examination committee will priorities the customer's wish over the broadest possible scope of protection or vice versa.
- the inventive step of claim paper B - as I thought it would be the solution- was inventive on the documents, but may not be considered inventive

using general knowledge, this was borderline. The paper should avoid to come close to a situation where common technical knowledge should be applied unless it is very clear.

- The length of the annex which must be translated in paper C has a very large effect on the amount of time available in which to answer the paper; a long annex severely reduces amount of time available to prepare and write an answer
- The main difficulty is the lack of time. Especially, if your language is some other than German, English or French. Also, D2 and C paper usually contains quite many "special circumstances" which one never would experience in normal daily work
- The major problem with the EQE papers (all of them, but especially A, C and D2) is that it is often very unclear what you are expected to answer, and how much you are to expand on the questions.
- The matter of both paper A and B was quite easy to understand. Regarding to paper A, I think it was adequate. Regarding paper B, I think it was quite different from the previous ones and it presented some traps.
- the most serious problem is time
- The need to translate the document in paper C seems pointless. How does this test your skills as an attorney?
- The only real difficulties of passing the EQE to me are: lack of time, lack of time, and lack of time. I think the percentage of people passing would sky-rocket if there was only an extra hour for parts C and D. Is the main requirement for being a European patent attorney really being able to work fast and under high pressure?
- The papers provided a challenge. They were well written. It was difficult to know just how broad to claim
- the papers were not so much difficult in hindsight but rather "unusual": D1 - had hardly any PCT related part D2 - different "type of problems" than probably most candidates trained for - amending claims seems to be more related to B C - many questions related to legal questions (miniature D2) took a lot of time, since it seemed to be (initially) important to answer them, e.g. the priority question - it was rather "unexpected" that only EPÜ 1973 was relevant - here probably most candidates trained for other types of questions
- The papers were not too difficult, but the time was too short.
- The questions are not too difficult - but time is always a problem
- The situations disclosed in the B and DII EQE papers were much too complex to be given the answer I think the examiners' expected within the time allowed for it.
- The technical field was very different to my current one (Pharmaceutical) thus the situation becomes difficult to imagine. Specially in paper B.
- The test only relates to the problem of time management which is far from a real IP job situation. Due to the time issue have less text in the paper documents to process and more knowledge based difficulties.
- The time was too short. 30 additional minutes or even 15 additional minutes would be perfect. Paper DII involved knowledge about the British patent system which could not be found in the Guide Lines. For

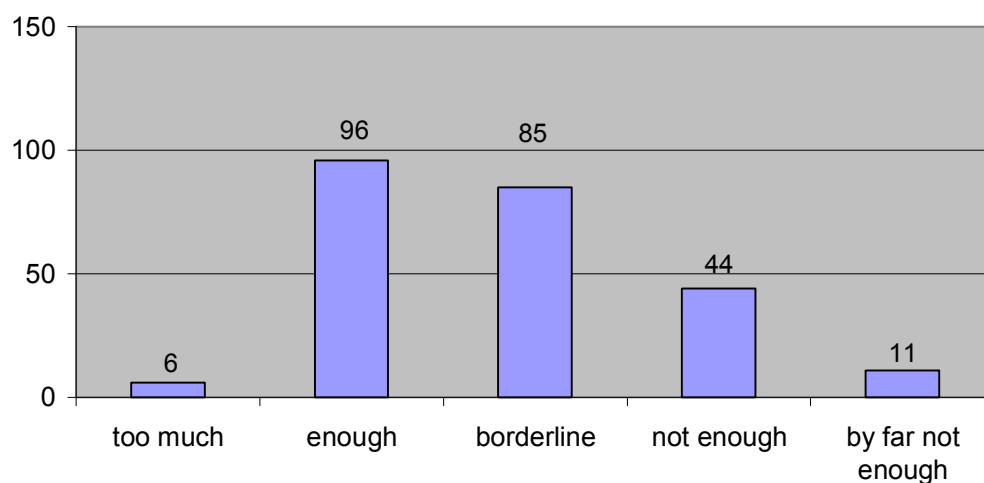


- paper A it was difficult to find a broad and novel independent claim 1.
- the way of presenting information in paper A 2009 was confused contrarily to the order of presentation of papers in previous years
  - There is either too much subject-matter or too little time.
  - There is not enough time to outline all aspects of the problem. So, the difficulty is to select.
  - there is not enough time for writing a decent opposition for paper C
  - There is simply too much to do in paper C, which could easily be slimmed down and still test what needs to be tested. Fatigue is a big issue.
  - There seemed to be too much to do in paper C. Clearly an exam will be time-pressured. However, if the majority of people cannot complete the tasks required in the time given, then the results reflect more on a candidate's exam technique, rather than their professional competence.
  - There was a lot of information in paper C and it was hard to manage to handle all this information within the time given.
  - There was quite a lot of information in D2 to be "processed". This is what makes it difficult (for me at least).
  - there's nothing to say, the papers are adequate to prepare a candidate to real life.
  - they were more difficult than last year when EPC 2000 had just entered into force
  - Time
  - Time is not sufficient
  - time management is a crucial part of success ... especially when having to provide a readable manuscript
  - time pressure for D it too much a decisive factor
  - Time pressure is too high for paper C. Most points are gained when attacks are build/written in the last minutes of the exam, hence with 20 more minutes I would have got 20 more points
  - Time pressure under parts A and D1
  - time pressure very high
  - To many topics covered for the time available
  - To much information for the available time
  - To much information on to little time.
  - Too little time to answer all questions (complete all attacks).
  - too long
  - too long ! Every word-sentence appears more as a trap than as a guiding tool to the answers.
  - Too long. The key for attacking inventive step was in a non English text
  - Too many important items appeared towards the later claims or prior-art... But I guess this was intentional to make us lose time with unimportant issues...
  - Too many information to cross-check in paper C.
  - Too many pages to be read both for paper A and B. This let to have less time for the execution of the paper... especially paper A.
  - too much information in D2-paper for the time allowed
  - Too much information to be processed for the amount of time available

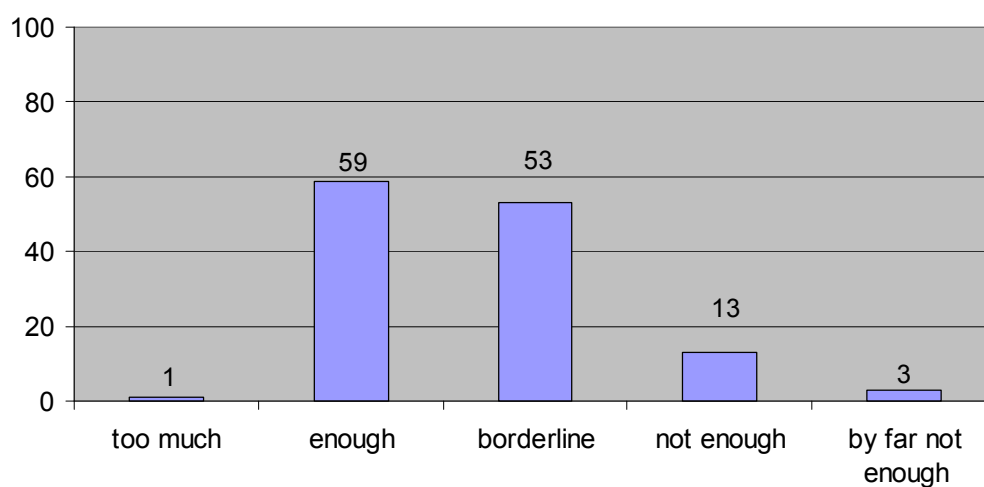
- too much information to find and write down all possibilities
- Too much special issues that are not suitable for the examination. The examination should concern general issues.
- Too much to do in too little time.
- too much writing
- Translation seems to be a huge problem in the EQE. The tests have different meanings in different languages. The questions are not very accurate. There seems no check of the tests by people from the practice. ex post facto seems to be wanted in C. Since i do not have other documents i have to use documents for the attacks.
- Very difficult to prepare for paper DII, consequently DII part is particularly difficult
- What documents to use as closest prior art could be an issue again for paper C, especially for claim 1. Good choice of subject matter for A and B i.e. no horrible organic chemistry formulae. Paper D1 harder than expected
- whenever i talk to outsiders about the eqe they wonder about the extraordinary high fail rate. Since all eqe-sitters have already successfully passed one degree and i don't think that there are many who go through this just for fun and since in other countries such high fail rates are uncommon: I think that splitting up the eqe (like in the D-part to come) and "lowering" the fail rate to a normal rate would be much better
- Year-to-year variation in difficulty is high.
- Yet again paper C is biased towards UK candidates. The longest piece of prior art is in the alternative language. Most candidates from other countries will be able to speak fluent English. It is well known that languages are never taught as standard to UK students thus to translate 4 pages from another language while possible puts an extreme time pressure on UK candidates and disadvantages UK candidates as compared to French or German or Dutch candidates where reading in English is almost second nature. I am bitterly disappointed at the Examination Board's lack of consideration or even explanation at why a very important piece of prior art (and the longest piece of prior art) should have to be translated. This situation would almost never occur in the real world. Any document would be translated and even at short notice could be translated using electronic means. THIS IS NOT A TEST OF ABILITY TO PREPARE AN OPPOSITION

**Q27) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2009?**

Paper A E/M

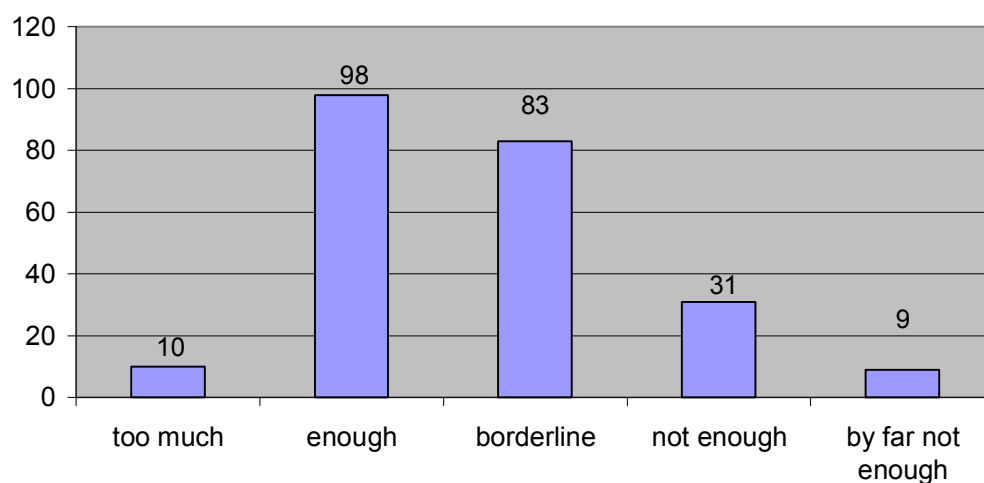


Paper A Ch

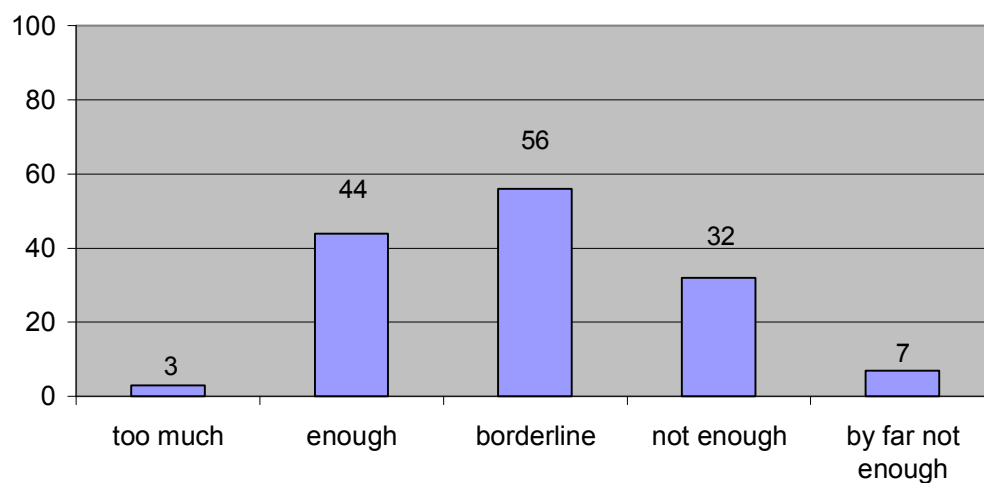


**Q27) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2009?**  
(continued)

**Paper B E/M**

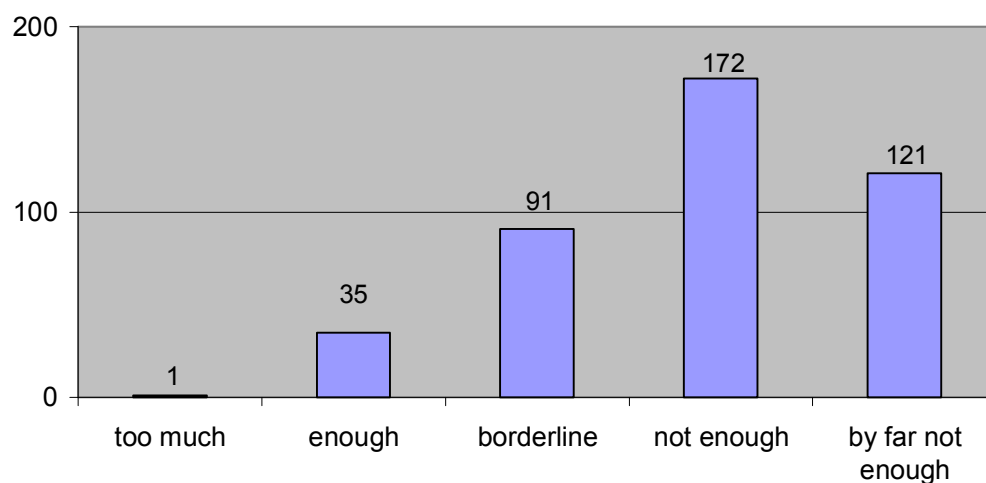


**Paper B Ch**

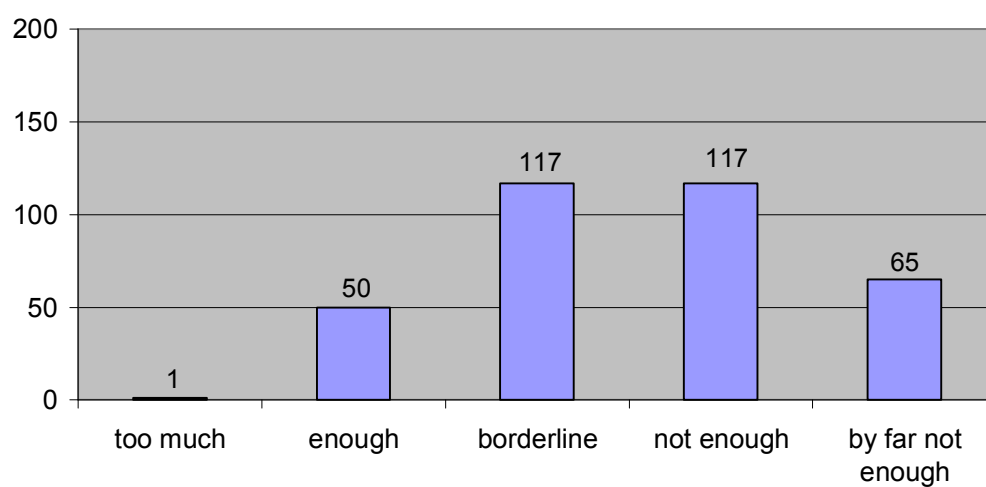


**Q27) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2009?**  
(continued)

**Paper C**

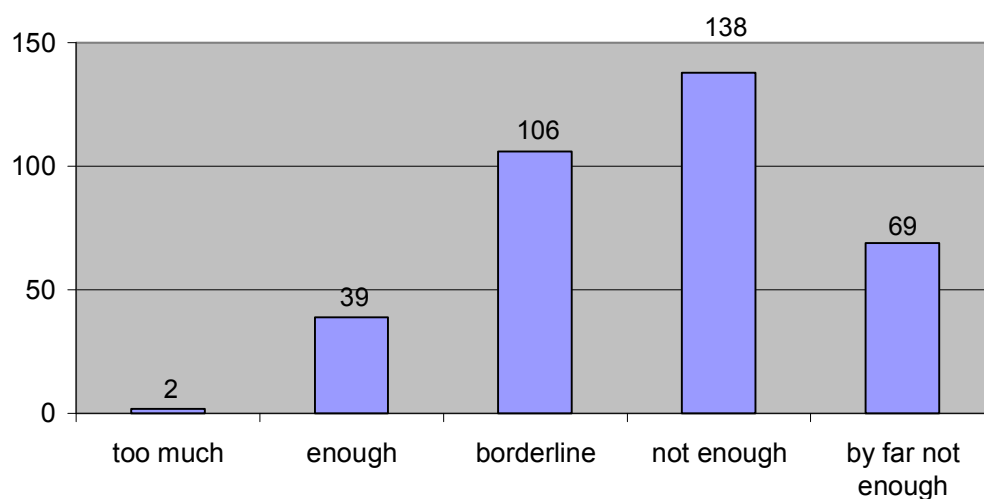


**Paper D I**

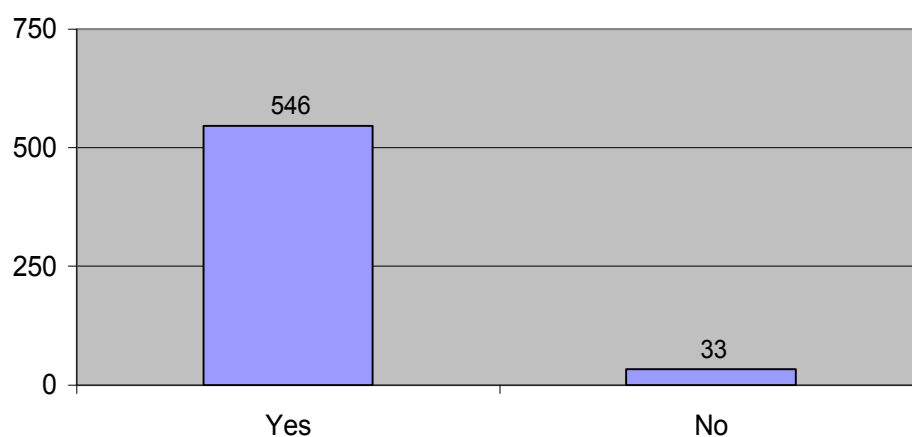


**Q27) What is your opinion about the time available for each of the examination papers you sat in 2009?**  
(continued)

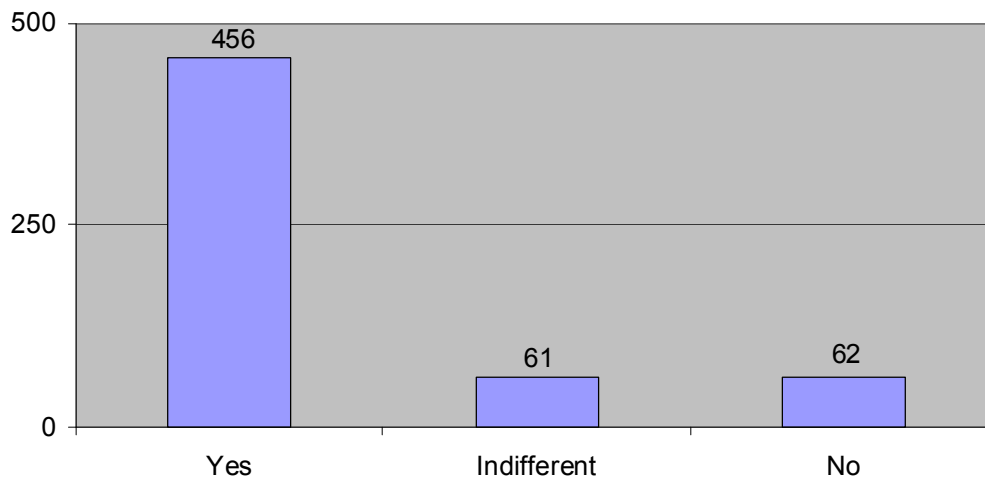
**Paper D II**



**Q28) Did you feel time pressure during the examination?**



**Q29) Do you think that more time for preparing your answers would have improved your performance in the examination papers you sat?**



**Q30) Candidates were asked if they had comments concerning the time available for the examination papers. Their answers are listed below.**

- 15 to 30 additional minutes would be much better.
- 15-30 minutes more would be nice:)
- 20-30 minutes more would be sufficient
- 6 Hours for paper c will likely be too long if there isn't a translation requirement. Time for paper D is spot on. More time for papers A and B would always help as the longer spent thinking and checking the claims the better. However, they are exams and the time is thought to be adequate.
- 6 hours for this C paper was not enough due to the extensive argumentation which had to be made from 2 document with different languages
- 6 hours was not enough for Paper C. There was a lot to do in the time available ; address the priority entitlement issue, added matter in the description, added matter in the claims, so overall I had time to deal with these but not to attack one of the dependent claims. I was forced to choose between which to do. I've heard from other people that they struggled to finish. So, I would point out that there was a lot required to address everything in this paper.
- 6 hrs for paper C is principally OK - the concentration and strength of candidates are also limited. Hence, the difficulty of this paper should be adjusted that it is doable. I got the impression, that this time the complexity was too high - despite a thorough preparation from my side.
- 6 ours for C is already very heavy - even more time would not really help - rather make the examination a little "smaller"
- A good training help you to finish the papers in the time available. However there is hardly time to carefully check the answer.

- A long foreign language document (the French/German annex) increased time pressure since a long time was required to adequately translate the document.
- a reduction of material w.r.t. DII would ease the pain; one or two attacks less in C would help as well
- A: depends strongly on difficulty of paper B: depends strongly on difficulty of paper C: not enough time to perform all attacks on all claims, too many time-consuming issues in letter client DI: OK. More time allows better structuring of answers DII: way too little time to sort out information, let alone responding to questions. Nearly impossible to write coherent response. Absolutely unclear of what is disclosed in which application when merely stated "the application discloses the results of the research" (or equivalent) => product, combinations, process, use????
- Again, candidates with a mother language different than English, French or German has a disadvantage and should be allowed some extra time.
- Again, I sat part A only. If you pick your line of attack early, you will have (and should have) plenty of time available.
- All papers allowed more or less sufficient time; - DI always has a time problem, I guess limited time is just "part of the game" in DI. - Especially paper C provides, in my opinion, far too little time (6h): you have to analyze up to 6 prior art docu
- Already commented on in previous question.
- As already stated before, the situations were much too difficult to be answered within the time allowed for it. Later on, performing the exams without the time pressure of the exam, solutions arisen more fluently, but in any case, evaluation of the different possible solutions took longer than the time allowed for it in the exam (mainly on exam B, due to its complexity).
- As I already said, those not having EPO official language as their native language suffer more about the time limit and should be given more time to do the examination.
- As I previously wrote: candidates do not having a mother tongue as "EPO" languages MUST have a longer time available for studying documents and drafting their answers in the foreign language, especially for the paper C, wherein one should find/analyse /interpret synonyms/terms in other languages
- As mentioned previously the translation of the longest piece of prior art makes paper C far too pressured. It is not a prerequisite that a European Patent Attorney is fluent in two of the official languages. It would be useful to see a justification of this.
- as mentioned, the total time should be shorter: at a maximum of three hours (per day that is!)
- As pointed out before in my point of view it wasn't possible to deal with papers D1 and D2 in a complete way within the time limit set.
- As previously stated, the exam at Munich started late and there was no information about the time the exam would finish (if the invigilator did state the finishing time, it was inaudible). Therefore, I thought I had five minutes more than I actually had and was in a panic at the end. There



was certainly no time for a final check, which most certainly would have made a big difference in my performance.

- At least paper A and D1 should be 4 hours
- B should have a restriction to 2 papers (instead of 3) within the time limit given today. Another paper should extend the time by 30 minutes. D2 needs 30 more minutes C should also be made dependent on the number of papers
- C was long.
- C: 6 hrs is sufficient for answering; however writing that much (mainly the last 3 hrs thereof) is physically challenging. DII: 4 hrs was not enough this year, to account for the plurality of combinations of embodiments. 30 or 45 more min. would have helped to gain the overview once in a while.
- C: too short
- cf. comments to Q26
- cf. Q26.
- C-part; language
- D not enough time available, other Papers ok.
- D2 needs reflexion I was one hour short of time
- DI, too short!!
- Die 3 1/2 h für A und die vier Stunden für B sind insofern genug, weil es gegen Ende schwer wird die Konzentration aufrecht zuhalten. Eine längere Zeit würde mir nicht viel nützen, weil ich wahrscheinlich Fehler immer wieder überlesen würde.
- Die Zeit für die Ausarbeitung der Antworten zu DII und C ist wirklich knapp bemessen. Ich bin in beiden Teilen nicht ganz mit der Zeit ausgekommen.
- due to the nervousness in the EQE the time for each of the parts seems to be too short. Papers can be solved borderline in time outside an EQE situation, but it runs amazingly short in the EQE
- Ein gewisser Zeitdruck mag für den D1-Teil noch sinnvoll sein, da beliebige Unterlagen verwendet werden dürfen und man sich schon etwas auskennen muß, um in der Kürze der Zeit die richtigen Antworten zu finden. Bei den anderen Teilen kann ich nicht sehen, wie der - insbesondere im C-Teil eklatant - vorhandene Zeitdruck hilft, inkompetente Kandidaten herauszufiltern. Hier wäre etwas mehr Zeit wünschenswert.
- einige Minuten mehr Zeit wären hilfreich, vielleicht 10 oder 15 Minuten. Teil C ist jetzt bereits grenzwertig. 6 Stunden Zeit sind eine große Beanspruchung an Geist und Körper. daher vielleicht eine Rechtsfrage bei Teil C weniger --> wozu gibts denn sonst Teil D?
- either have less complexity in paper C for 6 hours or give the same paper for 8 hours.
- either the amount of information in the exam should be reduced or the available time in the C-paper should be extended for at least one additional hour
- Especially for paper B I found the time too short, as it is not possible to correct once one has started with one strategy of answer. also during paper A I didn't have any time to revise my answer

- Even with intensive preparation for paper C and a very strict (and practised) determination of how to tackle the paper, time was still too short. This is especially due to the appendix in the language not chosen to sit the paper in. Dealing with this takes at least 15 minutes more than all the other appendixes.
- Far too little time. This does in no case represent real life! So the EQE does not make the EPO capable of determining whether someone is fit to practice or not. Lots of candidates handle complicated cases in their daily work very well, but are not able to pass the EQE! I think that means something ...
- few time compared with the high precision required for the answers
- For me its too long because with so much time my brain begins to think stupid things.
- For paper C and D: I think that due to the amount of work to be done for the papers in relation to the time available, what is examined is more the candidates ability to "time management" rather than the candidates "fit to practice".
- For paper D1, D2 and C I ran out of time before completing the answer.
- For part C I think there should not be so much time pressure. Who actually gains from this?!?
- For part I time was enough, part II borderline, considering the complexity of parts II.
- for the A-paper I took this year, the time was OK, but for all other papers (which I took last year), the time is absolutely not sufficient.
- From my point of view the master-question is why the papers are stuffed with so much information that most candidates run out of time? In reality you take the time necessary to prepare an opposition. The conclusion: only the very fast candidates which are capable of good handwriting will pass the EQE.
- Generally, the time is too short for the type of questions in the exam. It is sometimes more a test of speed rather than knowledge!
- How fast candidates complete the papers depends on the level of preparation, so a shorter time available in the exam just means that candidates need to prepare more. Preparation is a good thing since it improves the fitness-to-practice that the exam is supposed to measure.
- I believe that time management is part of the exam and should be trained by the candidates-
- I do see the point in not allowing too much time for DI - you should know your stuff and don't have time to look something up if you don't know it. For DII and C I don't understand why there should be extreme time pressure. A bit of time to breathe and think would be nice. And I think the testing of ability would be more adequate. You would be able to see who knows best and not who reads and writes quickest...
- I expect that this issue will never be solved. If more time is granted for a paper with time the expected level for the answers will certainly rise. So more time will simply result in longer exams and in the end will be to the disadvantage of the candidates. If the exam conditions for the candidates are intended to be improved, the attitude of the examination commission has to change. This is certainly not my "lonely" opinion but

also shared by experienced patent attorneys I know and who have passed their exams many years ago.

- I have made silly mistakes I would never have made if I had had more time!
- I have typically found papers A, B and D to have enough time. Paper C is the usual exception.
- i need more time
- I personally find part c (the longest part in available examination time) the hardest in terms of time management.
- I ran out of time in all four exams. The handwriting and the language barrier in writing is too much. I cannot create elaborate sentences in English, juggling between my native language and English in a given time is also difficult if I have to think of two languages simultaneously.
- I refer to my comments to the last open question.
- I sat paper C. In my opinion, time is wasted by reading/translating the French text into English. In real life, I would obtain an online translation which would be better than my translation. In real opposition cases, I would get a professional translation into English. Time wasted by poor language skills could be better spent on answering the paper.
- I simply ran out of time on every paper I sat. Whilst some of this was down to bad time management on my behalf on the day, I strongly believe that DI is too time constrained for the amount of information required and paper C is too time constrained because of the amount of issues you have to deal with before you can even begin to write your notice of opposition. Whereas in practice I would generally finish DII papers with time to spare, I was writing up to the last minute this year. Papers A and B have adequate time allocated, I just made problems for myself this year through indecision.
- I suppose that a borderline (or even too short) timing is part of the exam in itself. If no, it seems that there is a problem!
- I think for paper C and D1/D2, time pressure is an important aspect of the exam and everybody suffers from it to a certain extent
- I think for paper C it is difficult to have enough time to analyze the paper properly as you have to spend quite some time to write the attacks as well. In paper D2 you don't have enough time to analyze it properly.
- I think I completely understood what the correct solution was for paper B Ch; However I had absolutely no time to write down correctly the inventive step reasoning. The difficulty this year was that you had to write 2 independent claims in each category product and method: then you also need twice as much time for arguing, especially because the arguments were not the same. I find this unfair.
- I think I it would be fair to give the candidates the time the need to express their knowledge. I could have written a lot more, but I did not had chance. Also it does not make sense to allow all information material. I think the purpose of an exam is to check what people know, not what they can find. More time and no personal material - that would be a fair exam!
- I think is closely related to the difficult for "viewing" what could be claimed.

- I think more time shall be available for D1 Paper
- I think perhaps an extra 30 minutes for each paper would make a difference, although it is possible if the noise distraction was eliminated then focus would not be disturbed resulting in a need to reiterate analysis
- I think that paper A should last 4 hours and paper B 5 hours (or at least 4h30). Both papers should also not take place the same day. It is really very hard to concentrate on paper B.
- I think that the time pressure is most severe for the D-exam, both DI and DII. Mistakes are made which I would not do at work.
- I think that with 1 hour more for each exam B and C, I would be now sure to have been passed them.
- I think the exams should be time pressure exams. Did I myself have enough time? In A and B yes well prepared. For C marginal, could be better prepares, for D not prepared enough! so, I think time is fair!
- I think the worst time pressure is for paper C...an extra hour would be great !
- I think time management is the key to successfully pass the exams. Especially in D2, where it is necessary to address all points.
- I was pressured for time in all papers apart from A.
- I would like to know people who asked "no" to Q28....
- I wrote something like 20-40 pages per paper. This is not an unusual number of pages. Is any more comment expected???
- If it is possible to give more time without adding the amount of the work, please do so. However, nobody wants more time and more work. Nobody minds the examination being hard if there was enough time. There are reports from experienced tutors (who have passed their eqe:s) that they didn't have enough time to do the mock exam. If the purpose of the examination is to give a chance for candidates to prove what they know, you give more time. If the purpose of the examination is to give a military like feeling of time pressure, which does not happen in the real life, then you can continue as you were.
- In C there are too many facts. It should be more Regulation requirements than making many attacks. The wording is very inaccurate. This year C: there is a physical difference between "erwärmen" and "warm halten". These terms have been mixed in the papers. People who use their "Bauchgefühl" instead of the brain have advantages.
- In D (I was sitting only part D in 2009) the time schedule was rather tough! I was fighting hard and looking on my alarm-clock frequently. In DI was calculating 4,5 Min for a point and I was rigorously cutting my answers and jumping to the next question, in order not to leave unanswered questions. The time pressure was just horrible. In DII it was not better.
- In general not enough time to complete the exam papers
- In general, not enough time available for any paper, in particular, for non-native EQE language speaking candidates. In my opinion, such candidates should have more time for answering.
- In order to provide a well-argued C-paper more time should be available,

or the legal questions should be omitted (already tested during D). Legal issues like added subject matter, priority, and prior rights are tested anyhow by analysis of the choices made by the candidate.

- in paper C too much information to deal with in 6 hours, that is not realistic
- In parts C and DII 2008 and in part C 2009 I was unfortunately not able to write down my (assumably) correct solution completely due to the lack of time. I do not believe, that it is possible for me to overcome that problem by further training, because I have already trained hard and appear to have reached my performance limit in this respect. However, I could have overcome that problem easily, if I was given 10% more time in those parts or if the amount of information to be dealt with would be reduced accordingly. Interestingly, time was never a problem for me with regard to parts A, B and DI. How come that difference...?
- inadequate amount of time for papers A and C
- It needs a lot of time to write an examination in form so that the examiner can read all letters.
- It seems to me that the exam historically have been given more and more time in preparing answers thereto, however the questions and facts part have also been extended, so I feel there is a Status Quo.
- It should be possible to write down all facts collected during studying the papers
- It takes time to understand technology with which you have no understanding of.
- It would be longer: there is not time to think; then, while answering the questions, one realizes that it should be better asked in another way and there is no time to amend the answers. People with slow hand-writing are handicapped.
- it would tremendously improve the quality of papers in D2 and C if not so many documents/information had to be processed for analyzing the situation - only about 30% of the time remained for the actual writing down on paper - 50% would be a more health ratio
- It's quite obviously not enough, especially for papers C and D2. Who prepares an opposition in a day? I did one in 48hrs once, but wouldn't expect it to be of the highest quality! Would a business manager ever need a definitive answer and advice on a patent situation in 4 hours? My contacts are at least experienced enough to appreciate the distinction between quick and accurate IP opinions. I am certain that allowing another half an hour for each exam would raise the pass rate by another 20% at least. I can only assume that this is not done for political reasons as it would certainly not make the exams a less accurate test for a candidate's ability to practice... If the Board is worried about slipping standards for qualified EQAs, they should allow extra time for the EQE but demand a higher percentage of marks for a pass - in my opinion this would better reflect the wishes of a client.
- J'ai déjà répondu à cette question précédemment. A part l'épreuve A-chimie, j'ai été obligé pour chacune des autres épreuves d'écrire jusqu'à la dernière seconde. L'épreuve C était beaucoup trop longue, sans doute la plus longue depuis 10 ans. L'épreuve D-II était elle aussi trop longue, mais là, c'est le même problème chaque année. Quant à B-

chimie, ce n'est pas un problème de temps mais un problème de compréhension du sujet. Même si nous avions eu 10 heures pour faire cette épreuve, on ne voyait pas tout à fait où le sujet voulait en venir tellement il y avait de points obscurs et d'interrogations soulevées. C'était la première fois que je n'arrivais pas à finir une épreuve B en trois heures. J'ai eu besoin des 4 heures cette fois-ci, alors que les épreuves B-chimie du compendium ne me posaient aucun problème.

- Je trouve que nous manquons vraiment de temps pour effectuer les épreuves, et que cela ne permet pas forcément de juger un candidat à sa juste valeur.
- Jetzt wissen Sie, dass die EQE-Prüfungszeit zu knapp zu bemessen ist. Sie werden also nichts ändern, da Leistung = Arbeit pro Zeit ist, Ihr Ziel ist erreicht. In der EQE geht es nicht darum herauszufinden, ob jemand "fit for practise" ist, sondern die statistische Durchfallquote zu erhalten.
- La durée des épreuves n'est pas réaliste par rapport aux conditions réelles de travail. 3h30 est beaucoup trop court pour comprendre une invention avec des modes de réalisation vraiment différents et écrire un jeu de revendications complet (sans se tromper et sans revenir en arrière s'il on pense s'être trompé !) Pour l'épreuve B, une solution inférieure qui peut nous enlever énormément de points aurait pu être évitée si on avait discuté du problème avec des collègues (conditions réelles de travail). Beaucoup trop de points sont enlevées au cas de solution inférieure : pas vraiment le droit à l'erreur !
- Mehr Papier zu Beginn, dass nicht Zeit verschwendet wird, sich neues zu besorgen. Mehr Zeit bzw. weniger Fragen im DI-Teil wäre günstig.
- More time is needed for answering!!!! Time should not be the criteria to pass/fail.
- More time is needed, or the Exam needs to be in every language to remove language bar for non-UK, -DE, -FR speaking population, or more time allocated to those doing the Exam in another language than their main language.
- more time would be helpful, in particular for paper C
- More time would be recommendable
- More time! In practice you would not draft an application in 3 hours...
- More time would hugely enhance the quality of answers. You are forced to respond in a way you feel is less than adequate just to be sure you complete the paper therefore you leave the exams knowing you haven't done as well as you could.
- Most of the time is spent on 1) analyzing non-patent information (usually not really important, but on specific exams where the subject-matter was specially unclear it was very important) 2) writing BY HAND a response which at real situation would be written in a computer. That also difficulties to change the argumentation if an error is detected when the response is drafted.
- Mostly an issue for DI: either lower the number of questions, or increase the amount of time.
- No
- no
- no comments

- No realistic conditions. Should have more time to answer. One of the reasons is that it is easy to stress and to experience black outs.
- None
- Not clear which level of detail is needed in answering the questions and supporting the attacks to gain full marks (i.e. reference to cited prior art: paragraph, page/line; wording in document, etc.). It might be good to have the possibility to use carbon paper to save time in multiple attacks requiring the listing of features of the claim under attack (they are the same and there is no added value in spending time repeating them, as it is necessary to do).
- not enough
- not enough for paper C!
- Not enough for paper C. With 20 more minutes, I would have been confident that I made the perfect exam....but now, I just hope for a compensable fail.
- Not enough time for paper C. But because this is so long already, I guess it is more a time-management method that was lacking. This relates to the difficulty to find 6 hours in a row during training to do a real C-paper mock exam.
- Not enough time is given for Paper C. There was far too much to read and analyse within a short period of time given for the Exam. Especially when the foreign document is 3 pages long!
- On average for all papers at least 25% more time needed
- On this level, at least one more hour would be reasonable. If not, the amount of information given have to be cut down.
- One hour more for parts C and D would make the exam so much easier.
- Paper A needs some more time to build the solution. Maybe 4 hours would be better.
- paper B's time is too tight
- Paper C and D2: One more hour.
- Paper C in particular was time pressured. However, I'm not sure extending the exam beyond 6 hours is this answer. Perhaps one less prior art document would be better.
- Paper C is far to long !! The problem is not only that we have not enough time to finish the paper. To my point of view, the problem is that this paper is too long to keep focus on our work during 6h non stop !! It should be at least 1h shorter (with a number a question adapted) !!!!
- Paper C is long enough at 6 hours, but the law questions should be removed and possibly put into a slightly longer D1 paper.
- Paper C is unrealistic (no patent attorney would draft a full opposition in 6 hrs)
- Paper C needs to be at least 30 minutes more, paper A, there is too much to think about before you can even write the answer
- paper C: one needs a lot of time to properly assess the documents features. and it is mandatory to have an optimum comprehension of documents to create a successful attack.
- paper C: time to be compared with the difficulty of the subject matter of the patents. paper D1: time not enough for reply to every answer of a single question

- Paper D1 is very time-pressured.
- Papers C and D II are difficult enough by it's material aspects and pose lots of opportunities not to pass the examination - formal aspect as time should not be as decisive as it was this year for passing the EQE.
- Papers C and D part I have the most time-pressure. It appears difficult to improve this situation.
- Par rapport à 2008, les épreuves étaient beaucoup plus longues, notamment les épreuves C et D1 et D2. Il y a généralement une grande variabilité entre les années. Les personnes qui préparent les épreuves devraient faire plus attention à cela pour que les épreuves soient faisables dans le temps imparti. Le problème est qu'on a pas le droit à l'erreur. Si on s'aperçoit qu'on a fait une erreur on a généralement pas le temps de revenir en arrière. Or dans la vraie vie, on a pratiquement toujours le temps de relire et de bien réfléchir afin de ne pas faire d'erreur.
- People who do not speak English, French or German as a mother tongue should have some extra time.
- please consider allowing candidates more time for each answer, especially for D1, B and C
- please reduce the amount of questions for D1 and simplify D2 e.g. by means of graphics
- See above question 29
- see above, time is the main problem
- see answer to previous questions
- See before on D2.
- see before, Paper D
- see comments above on difficulty.
- see comments before
- See earlier comments. Candidates with non-EPO language as their native language should be awarded extra time for reading the papers (and writing their answers; a lot of practising time must be dedicated to learning the correct type of phrasing anyway; the language issue gives multiple complications that a native speaker could never dream about).
- See earlier. Time pressure is (for me) the decisive factor for passing/failing D. Time pressure for A and B was ok. Time pressure for C was ok.
- See my remark regarding the complexity variation
- see previous comment
- see previous comment.
- See previous extensive comments.
- see previous questions
- see Q26
- See the preceding answers
- shortage of time makes the examination become an automatic test
- Such comments are difficult to give without the results of the examination.
- The amount of text to process has increased due to the higher detailed problem solution approach (10 steps).
- The available time is just enough to write down very concise answers (at



least for me). Therefore, the candidate risks either to omit certain points that the examiner might have expected or easily runs out of time (papers c and d). Thus, I tended to begin early with writing which led to unnecessary mistakes that would not have occurred otherwise. Also, the handwriting gets very bad in the end.

- The biggest problem that I have is that I am suffering from heavy migraines. Thus after 3.5 hours of intensive mental effort for my A paper, I suffered the last two hours of my B exam from a migraine. I would have really preferred that those exams were on separate days. Just like separating D1 and D2.
- The difficulty of paper C was caused by the amount of documents and the number of claims. If the C paper had one document less and two claims less, everybody could still show whether he or she is able to prepare an opposition, but would have enough time to write everything which he or she wants to write. It was mainly a time problem for me. In case, I have to repeat the C-paper, I have to try to write faster, but in such a way that my handwriting still can be read by everybody.
- The EQE is not a test on IP knowledge or fit-to-practise or quality (which a client is looking for), but scoring enough marks during your race against time.
- the exam is quite different from real life, because at the office one would hardly have to prepare a notice of opposition in 6 hours. The same applies to paper D1 and D2. One feels very tired after 3.5 hours and to concentrate is really difficult after that time.
- The exam wants to check "fit for practice". I will never use an attorney spending only 3.5 hours for drafting an application!
- The exams must be shortened. Time pressure is too much and not realistic.
- The lack of time is a serious problem for almost all foreign language speakers. Even my working language is mostly foreign but this does not help in the exam since there is not such a time pressure in real life than in the exam. Seems that the examination is mostly a measure of who is able to do certain things very quickly and not a measure of who can actually do it. This seems highly unfair for all non-native speakers.
- The little time allowed to study and understand material in the EQE is just ridiculous. The only paper in which I understand the time pressure in paper D1. All others should have much more time allowed, or the subject matter cut down. Your working speed should not be that a high factor for completing EQE as it now is. You either answer or cover issue correctly or not. Time pressure just pushes people to go the wrong way based on time left.
- The non-English documents take far too much time
- The papers are "easy" if enough time is allowed. This especially applies to paper C. Thus, the time factor is apparently very important. Furthermore, it is hard for me to write down my answers sufficiently quickly by hand. In both papers that I was sitting (B and C) I had a very good idea about how to phrase my arguments, but simply ran out of time. I am almost 100% convinced that I would have much increased chances of passing the exam if more time was allocated to each of paper B and C, because it takes a lot of time to write down the facts and

problem solution arguments.

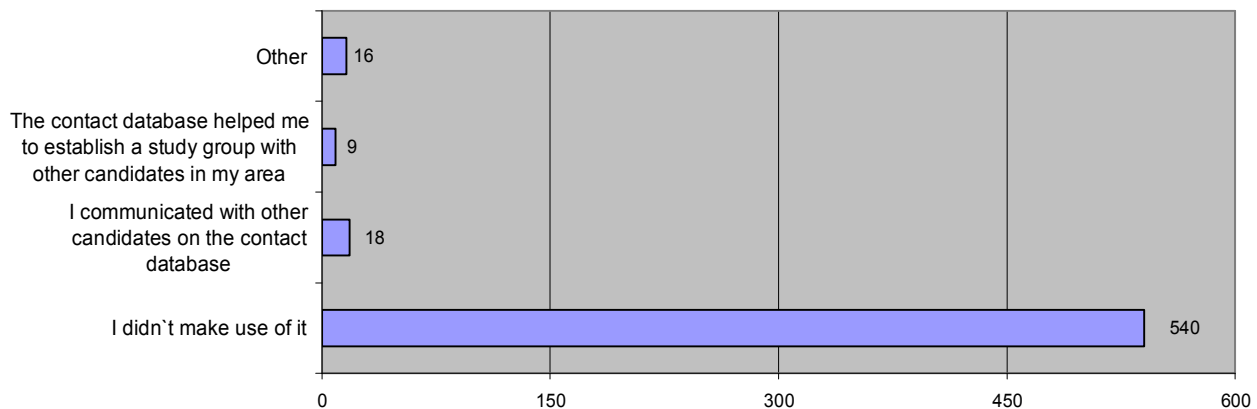
- The time available for paper C is not sufficient.
- The time available is generally enough, as long as the style of (bad) writing will not be marked. But since I am not used to writing with a pen anymore, my writing sucks if I am in a hurry (which is definitely the case during the exam). So one of my main concerns is whether the examiner will be able to read my answers...
- The time for all papers is too short
- the time for paper A was sufficient I just finished paper B in time, but had to write really quickly in the end; half an hour extra or even 15 minutes would have been nice
- The time for paper D1 is much too short to adequately answer the questions. The examiner often complains about the candidates not legibly writing and sometimes giving confusing answers. This, however, is due to the short time a candidate only has for answering all the questions. I'm sure that the examiner's themselves could also not answer these questions (particularly in paper D1) such structured and in a legible way as given in the compendium when only having the time limit given for the exam and feeling under pressure (for example because of losing their job, when not passing the exam - only an example). By the way: the compendium should avoid comments like "surprisingly, most of the candidates did not know..." and the like. The candidates are writing the exam under time pressure and pressure to succeed. This is the reason why, for instance, a candidate uses an Art.54(3)-document in paper C for an inventive step attack. So, please be objective and not polemic.
- The time in AB is fine. In C there is some time pressure, but with training you can go very fast. In D1 you have 4.5 minutes per point: that's extremely short to give an answer and its legal basis even knowing where to find this basis. In D1 the time available is also short considering the complexity of the situation which is usually at hand. This leaves no or few time to think about the advice you will give to the client. The time pressure in D1 and D1 is so high that in the end it is more the ability to work very fast than the knowledge of the law which is tested.
- The time is quite limited. Considering all the difficulties, the time takes at least the 80% of the percentage of the most important difficulty.
- There is always time pressure when taking paper C. This is the reason that I went on a time management course for paper C. For this year's paper, I could probably have done with an extra 30 minutes.
- there is too less time to finish paper B and C
- This EQE was more a test for writing speed. It was absolutely impossible to write all answers in the time given.
- This year the time pressure was fair (for A/B)
- Time allowed does not take into account different rates of writing/reading of candidates
- Time available for Paper B should be longer
- time for paper D2 is too short.
- Time in general is ok. I was making practice papers in 3/4 of the time in my preparations (except C) All the real exams had an element of time pressure for me. The time pressure (except D1 where I ration the time by

marks for each question) arises due to the exams requiring 1st step analysis, 2nd step writing it up - but you can't really write it up until you have finished the analysis, which means that what the candidates actually put on paper is probably rushed

- Time is about right
- Time is not enough, and particularly if your language is not any of the official languages.
- time pressure is good and a realistic test parameter.
- Time pressure makes the exam very dependent on your capability to write fast by hand. For instance, I am writing in capital letters, only, a habit I developed back in school some decades ago for legibility reasons. But, it is very slow. Thus, I lost valuable time. An abbreviation list may have helped to some degree. But it appears ridiculous to me that success may depend on whether you work with an abbreviation list or not. I know two sitters personally which had the hand in a bandage due to an upcoming tendosynovitis as a result of training. My own hand was as well impaired (though little) due to training. The exam shall not be such that one has to endanger his/her health for passing the exam.
- Too little time considering the detailed answers required.
- We need one hour more for DI, DII et C
- We simply don't have enough time to prepare good answers, especially for Paper C. And especially if you're not a native English, French or German speaker.
- Wenn man eine gute Arbeit sehen möchte, dann sollte man die entsprechend der Zeit auslegen und berücksichtigen, dass nicht alle "native Speaker" sind und eine gute Schrift haben. Denn diese Personen werden ganz klar bevorzugt. Denn ich gehen aus der Prüfung und sage dies und jenes hätte ich noch alles schreiben können. Oder für den D1 Teil, ich kenne mich echt schon sehr gut in den Unterlagen aus, doch diesmal konnte ich bei Sprache und Nat Recht die Punkte, die ich sonst immer schnelle gefunden habe und auch einen Tag später schnell auf anhieb gefunden habe, dort nicht so schnell finden, dass kostet Zeit und die fehlt einem dann. Leider. D.h. Schnelligkeit wird hier auch sehr belohnt und dass ist schade, denn in einem Fall der Verhandelt wird bereite ich mich darauf vor und bin auch schnell, doch hier klappt es nicht immer. Im D1 Teil 2008 hatte ich 34 Punkte und im D2 Teil fehlte mir 2008 die Zeit. Diesmal lief der D2 Teil besser, wobei ich noch viel mehr hätte bringen können.
- Yes, maybe add time for persons not having German or French as their major language. Missed a couple of attacks on paper C only because I had to understand the non-English document.
- Yes, the time could be longer but this is of course weighed against the difficulty as the more time the more difficult it must be.
- you always need more time. it might be better to be able to use a computer to write.
- You do not have any time to check your answers. This is a situation never happening in real life, as you always double check your answers to your client and the EPA.

## Chapter 5 - Contact database and computer based EQE

**Q31) 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.**

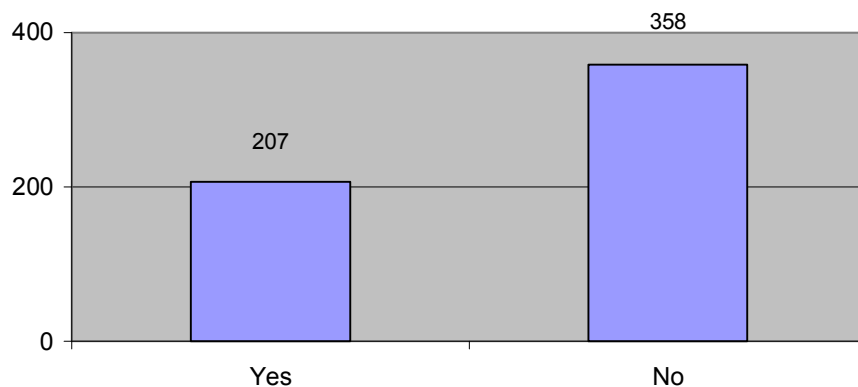
- Extremely helpful! Please continue in future years but publish the contact data earlier to allow for more time to work together with other candidates
- I am in contact with a lot of colleagues anyhow
- I communicated with other attendants to the CEIPI EQE training seminars for training purposes
- I had enough contacts myself.
- I have not enough time to for such study groups. My job simply requires too much time and my priority is to first to do my duty on the job and if time permits do EQE-training - which obviously is too less time to pass the EQE under current EQE-condition
- I only read some posts but did not actively used the database. I rather met people upon seminars
- I studied with some fellow candidates that I knew during EQE training courses
- I tried to contact other candidates but could no reach any contact.
- I used it for A&B and found it useful. However, i did not have time this year.
- I used it to learn more
- I used the EQE forum
- I was already in contact with other candidates through work and CEIPI courses.
- I was very busy the last few weeks! maybe not the normal candidate!
- It is extremely helpful especially when you work at distance from other colleagues and/or supervisor. Reading the questions from other candidates, the answers from the experts is extremely fruitful : it raises new questions ones I never had and answers so
- No - I contacted about 30 candidates in my area, but none even

answered

- No not really
- No other candidates near my place of living
- No time to prepare
- no time to use that tool
- Some candidates I knew that they had enrolled for the EQE were not listed in the database.
- Study group within my company
- The preparation takes a lot of time. There was really no time to discuss papers in groups.
- was not helpful
- We were five person in a study group.

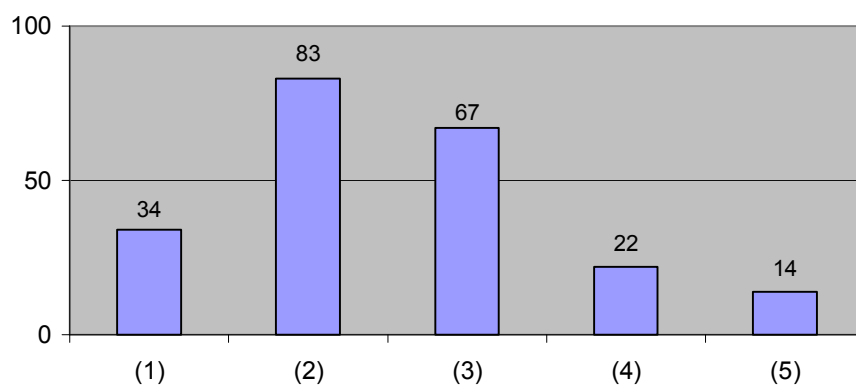
## Chapter 6 - Training activities of the European Patent Academy

**Q32) Did you use the "EQE Forum" or other on-line services provided by the European Patent Academy?**

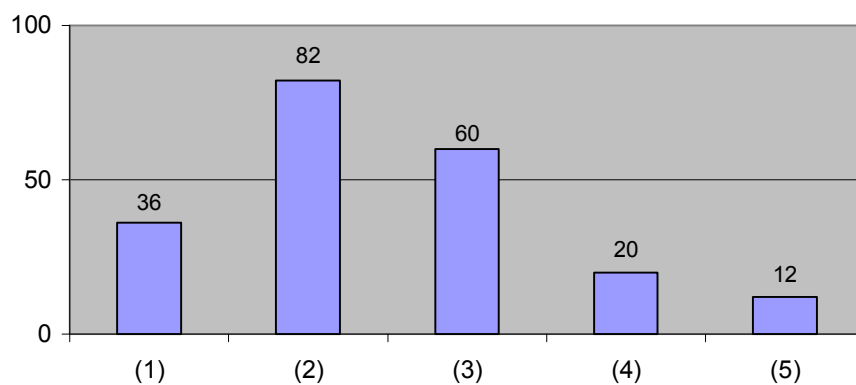


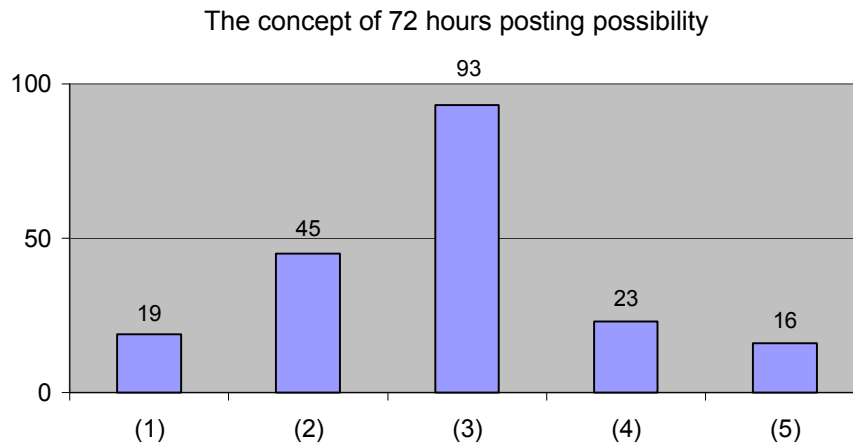
**Q33) How would you rate the following aspects of the Expert Online service on a scale from 1 (very high) to 5 (very low) with regard to the following?**

General usefulness

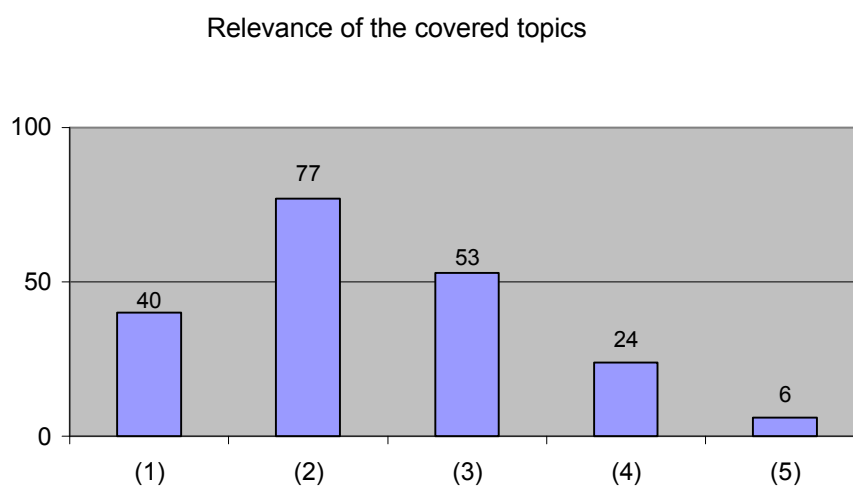
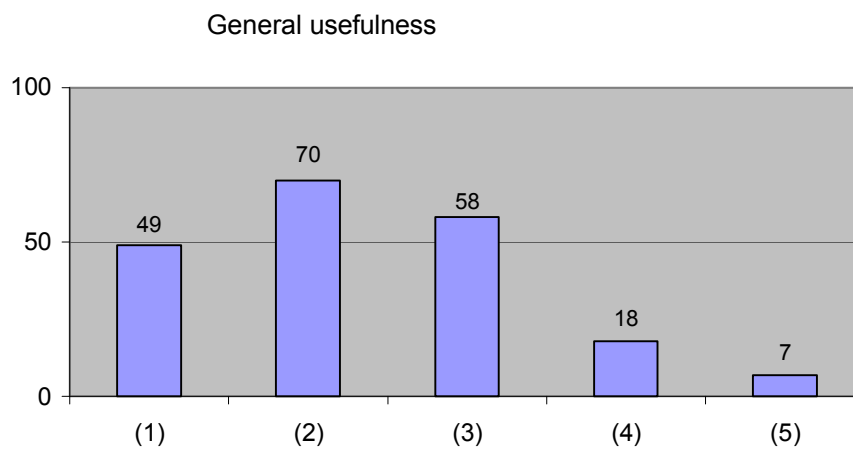


Quality of experts' responses

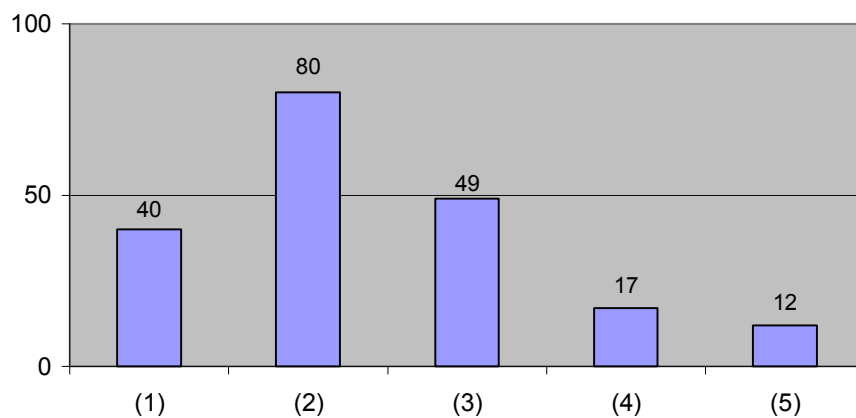




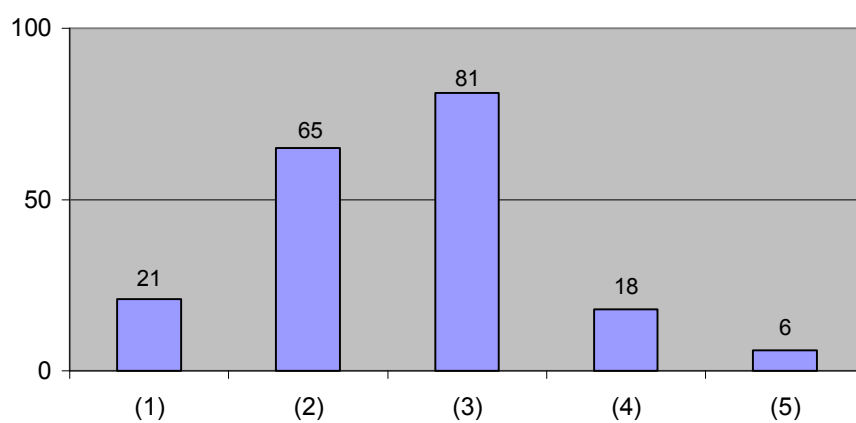
**Q34) How would you rate the EQE Online Exercises on a scale of 1 (very high) to 5 (very low) with regard to the following?**



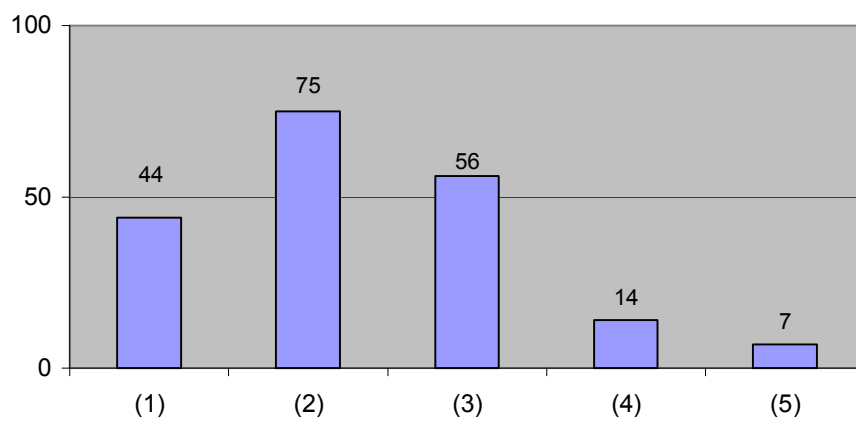
Ease of use of the forum



Time schedule of the exercises



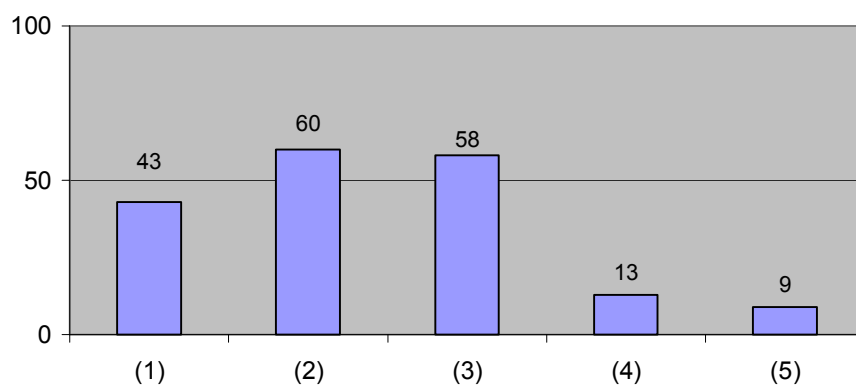
Quality of the model answers and comments



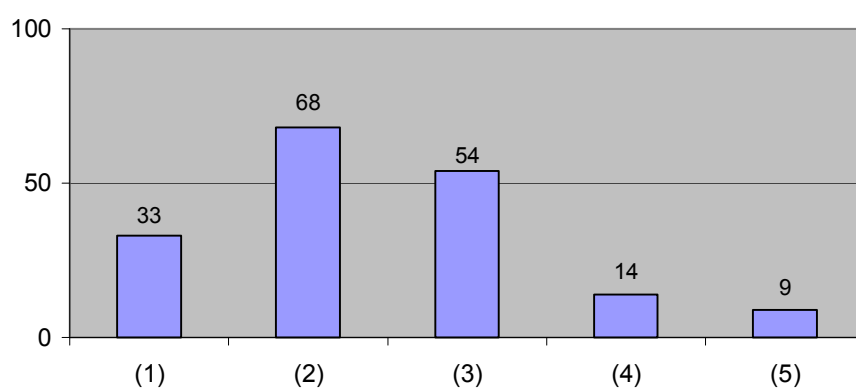


**Q35) How would you rate the questions on the calculation of time limits on a scale of 1 (very high) to 5 (very low) with regard to the following?**

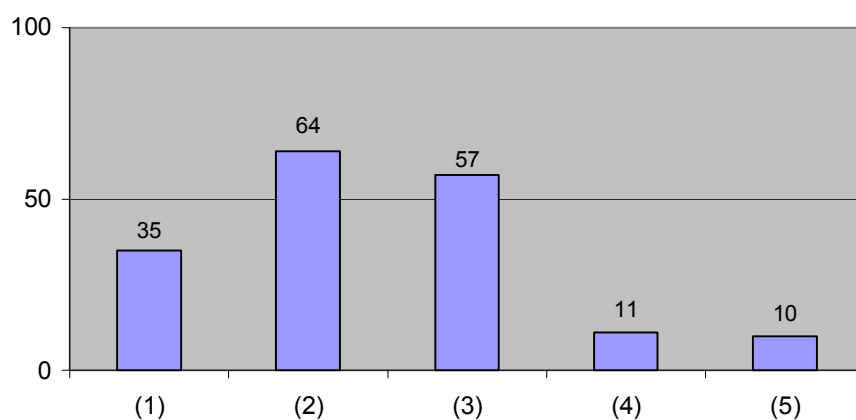
General usefulness



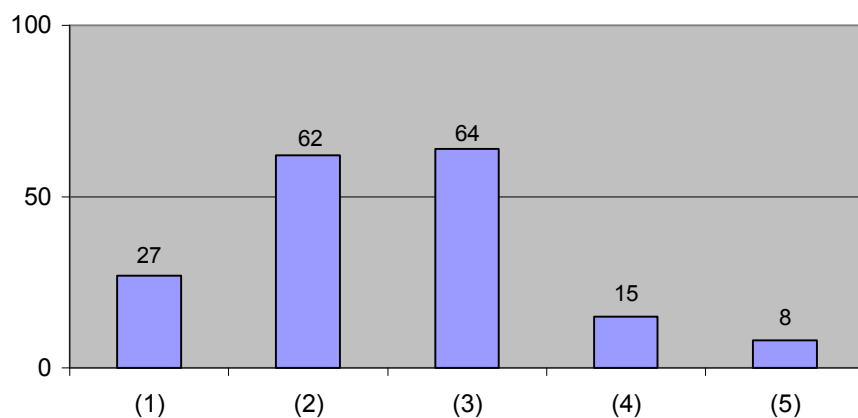
Relevance of the covered topics



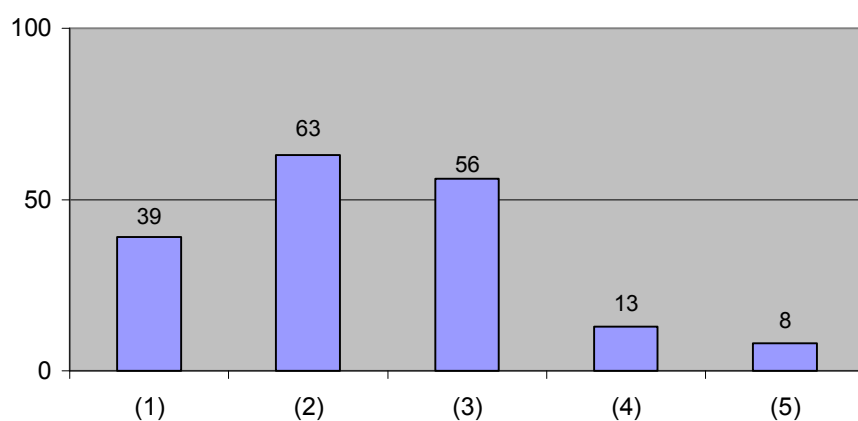
Ease of use of the tool



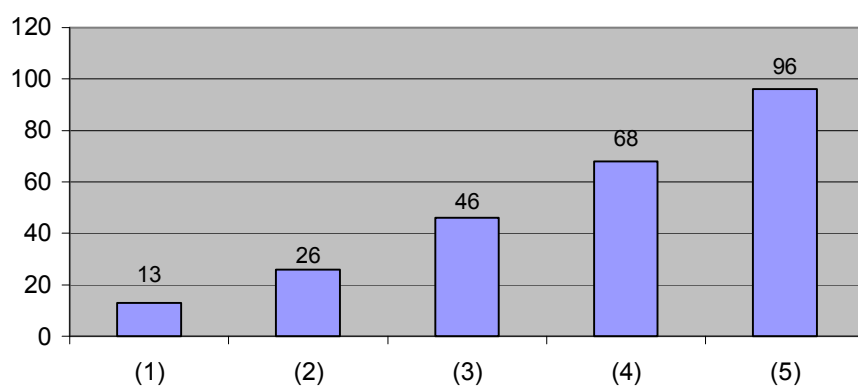
Time schedule



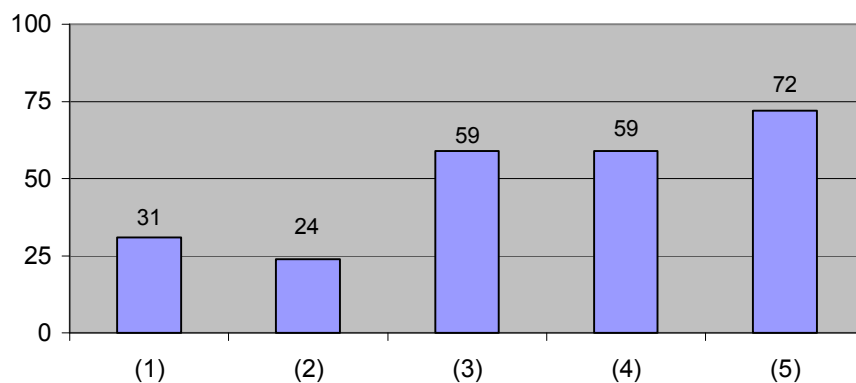
Quality of the model answers and comments



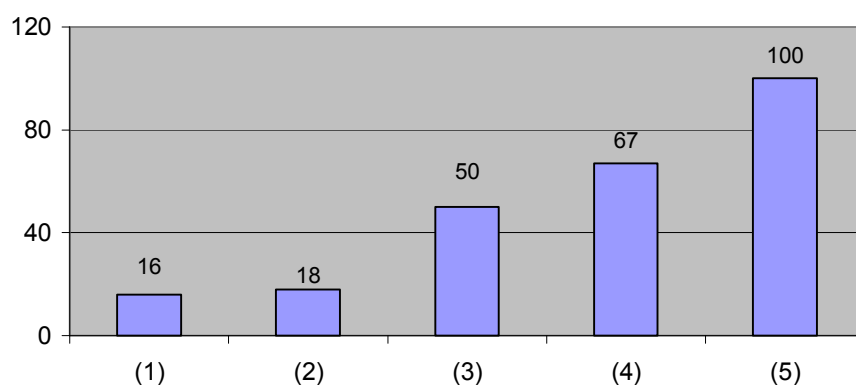
**Q36) How actively did you use the EQE Expert Online on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)?**



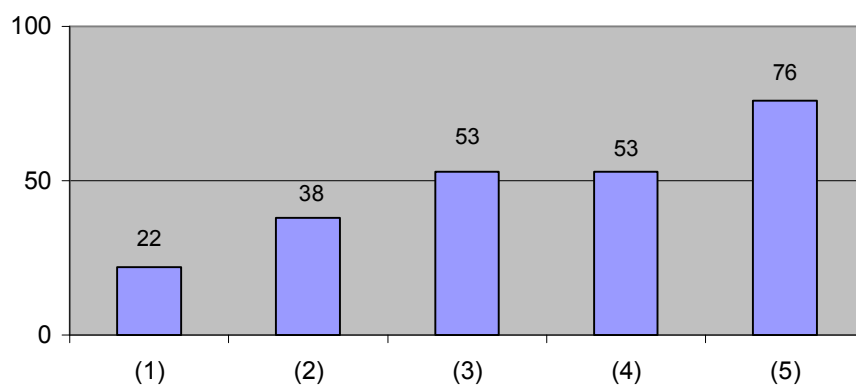
**How actively did you use the EQE Online Exercises on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)?**



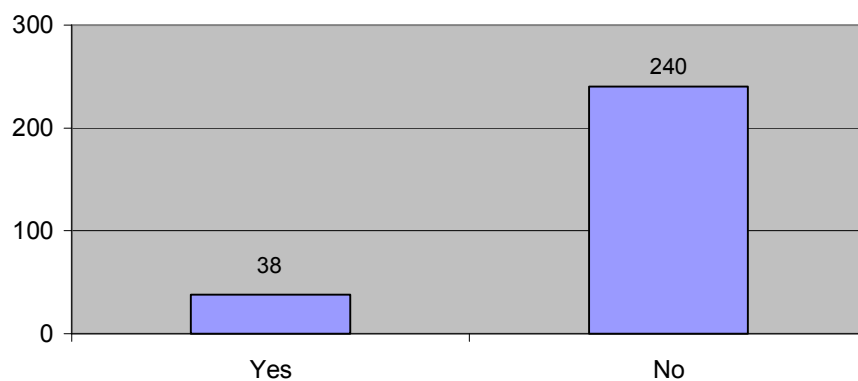
**How actively did you use the EQE Online discussion forum on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)?**



**How actively did you use the exercises on the calculation of time limits on a scale of 1 (very often) to 5 (never)?**

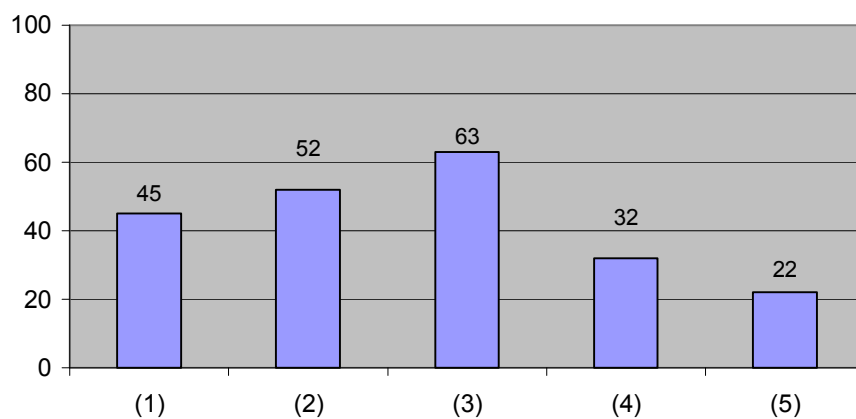


**Q37) Did you discuss the EQE on-line exercises with your supervisor / tutor?**

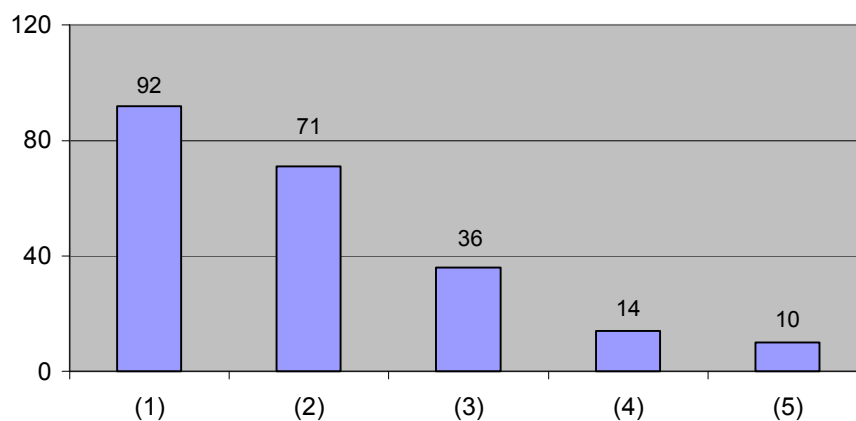


**Q38) How could the EQE on-line services be best integrated into your preparation for the EQE on a scale of 1 (very useful) to 5 (unnecessary)?**

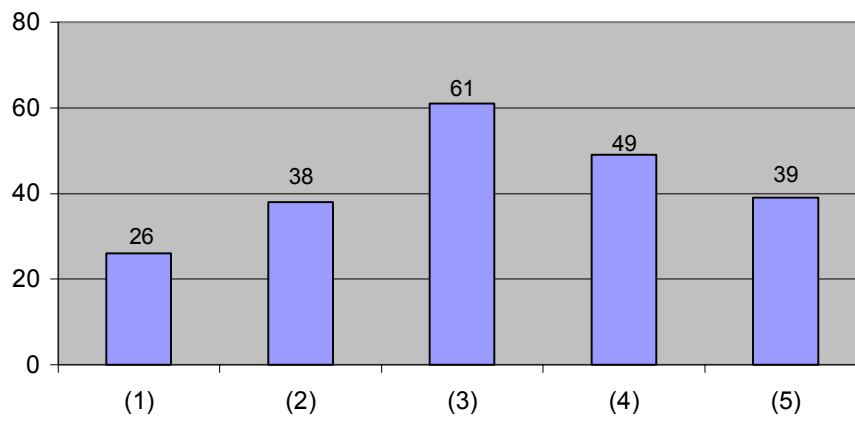
Providing last minute help on a broad range of topics



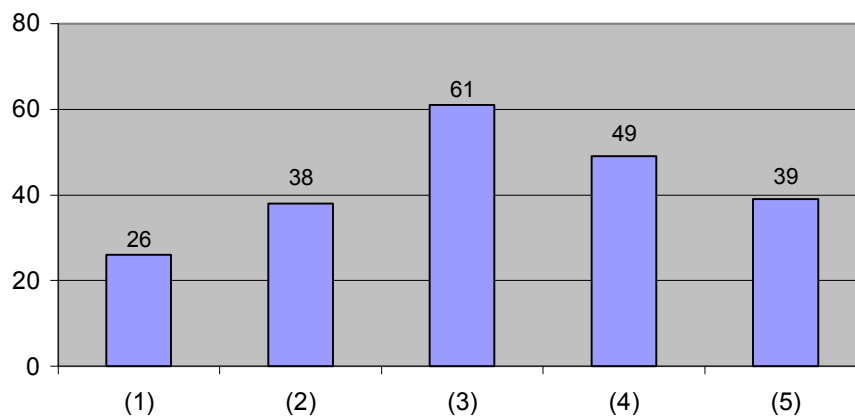
Providing tutorial-like exercises with model answers and an opportunity to discuss



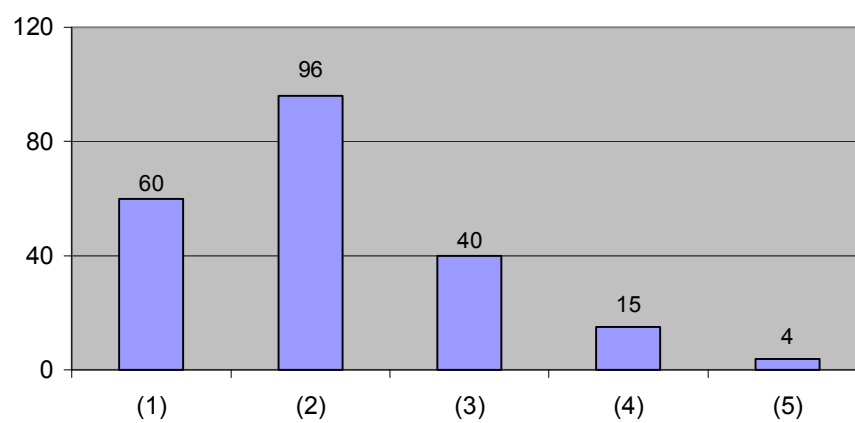
Serving as a basis for discussion with your supervisor / tutor



Time schedule of the exercises



Quality of the model answers and comments



**Candidates were asked if they had comments concerning the EQE Forum and other on-line exercises.**

**Their answers are listed below.**

- AS many of the questions are prepared by Delta Patents tutors, I have seen many of the questions already during my courses.
- Die Fragen finde ich immer sehr gut.
- Exercises and discussion of model answers should be made available earlier
- extend online exercises to other topic and not only for time limit. Apply same principle for other paper.
- Having the Expert available for short periods during the 6 months prior to the EQE rather than just a last minute tool.
- i didn't use the on-line exercises so have marked everything as "not useful" as they were not to me. Probably a good idea in general though. Especially for first time sitters.
- I found the EQE on-line service quite useful, in particular the classification it makes of the different questions into categories, and the focus it provides as regards relevant items
- I think last minute information is rather anxiety generating !!!!
- I think that the quality of the answers of the supervisors is great, since they are open to counter-arguments. For the people that cannot afford the money and the time of a CEIPI course, this is of great help. I miss having used it more time. I would propose that ALL the questions of the students would be answered (fast) by tutors, not only that very few days just before the exam.
- I think there was some faults in the model answers and comments - even though I have calculated everything right, the system still told me my answers were wrong. So I am not that impressed. However, I can see that the system has potential.
- I was in the fortunate position to have an external tutor available for asking questions regarding the EQE from DeltaPatents which renders the EQE on-line service of lesser value.
- In my opinion, the EQE on-line service could offer what is covered by the CEIPI basic training courses. e-Tutorial slide deck explaining the basics of the topics, followed by questions (i.e. the delta patents basic questions). The EQE forum could make the exam type questions (or use the deltapatents questions) in a similar way that they do now. This trains DI (and a bit of DII) Maybe a simple methodology e-training as to how to make ABC + DII answers (or at least how to analyse the exam paper)
- Maybe the forum could open earlier before the exam, because it is a very useful tool (even if only archives of the past years are available at the beginning)
- More exercises please !
- Most of the supervisors in the law firms appear not to be interested in the success of the candidates
- Removing the disadvantage of the candidates writing in DE or FR by giving some kind of compensation; providing translation, or giving bonus

points in the exam.

- The site needs to be easier to use with greater ability to download and print out material. Also more use of multi-media (podcasts/video/RSS feeds) could be useful.
- The tool was quite difficult to use (unhandy). The EQE on-line forum of the previous years was much easier to handle. It might be useful to review the programming of the new tool.

**Q39) Candidates were asked if they had any suggestions for how the EQE Forum or the other on-line exercises might be improved. Their answers are listed below.**

- a further response by the experts, which sometimes have not understood the question and answer in an oblique way
- a synthetic answer that can be expanded, by just clicking on it, in a more deep analysis of the answer. this could be something like "read more..."
- Advert the forum more, it's nearly empty. Very few candidates use it.
- At the time I consulted the on-line exercises, only few of them were available as all the topics were not covered. So covering all the different topics would be great. For the EQE Forum, I am not sure whether it makes much difference to distinguish between the expert part and the discussion part. The discussion is more active and since it is moderated the experts may provide with their opinion when necessary.
- Classify for Paper C and D. Make a online test in real time for Paper D1 with random questions and answers (subtraction of writing time).
- Could you please prepare question in D style? could be helpful
- ease access to exercise each time logging is not ok provide broader time range for making exercises/answers available (esp. tutors answers so close to the exams!)
- eindeutige Formulierungen bei den Aufgabenstellungen unter Berücksichtigung, dass die Kandidaten aus verschiedensten Fachrichtungen stammen (war bei früheren D-papern aber ok)
- EQE Forum concept is very good, but the user interface could use some serious improvement.
- EQE Forum: Daily answering by Tutors of all (reasonable) questions posted by the students. This year has been much more than in eqea2008 since the tutors normally answered most of the questions. The EPO or the EPI (I DO NOT KNOW) should remunerate that task of the Tutors: it is very time consuming and very useful for the student (at least those like me).
- Es sollte sehr frühzeitig damit begonnen werden doch, nicht zu viele Fragen, da auch die Vorbereitungszeit da sein muß. Auch sollten Hinweise gegeben werden, was man am besten durchlesen sollte, denn letztendlich ist das Beantworten ja nur das Lesen und Wiedergeben. D.h. wenn erst gesagt wird das ist der Stoff der gelesen werden sollte und dann kommen die Fragen dazu könnte das für viele einfacher beim Lernen sein.
- For paper A and B there are not any exercises
- I did not use them too much, so I can not give a relevant opinion on it

- I do not know
- I find it a good and useful addition to the preparation for the EQE
- I forgot the login/password I got last year and couldn't log on this year. Not sure if this is all my fault or whether it would have been sensible to also resend the account information to candidates resitting the EQE.
- I have not use it
- I received the invitation to the Online-Forum at a stage where it did not fit into my schedule. It would have been useful to announce the forum several months in advance.
- I think the EQE forum as it is, is very good and useful.
- I used it intensively for DI, DII but it is less useful for C.
- I would suggest starting the questions before.
- Ich fand die on-line Aufgaben sehr hilfreich, jedoch gibt es davon noch zu wenige. Außerdem finde ich es sehr schade, dass es die Aufgaben und das Tutorium nur auf Englisch gibt. Da ich die Prüfung auf Deutsch schreibe (in meiner Muttersprache) ist es nicht so vorteilhaft, wenn ich immer auf Englisch antworten muß, bzw. mir immer alles übersetzen muß. In der Prüfung habe ich dann immer die englischen Ausdrücke im Kopf und muß überlegen, wie ist denn der Fachausdruck auf Deutsch.
- In my opinion, the new EQE Forum is quite unhandy. I would very much appreciate a review of its programming. For instance, it is quite difficult to jump back and forth in order to re-read things you already read some time before and then get back to the current site or to a previous site or to open two sites at the same time. The tree structure of this year's EQE on-line forum suffered from a certain lack of logics.
- Incorporate example papers A & B - e.g. numbers of past papers are limited if all you want to do is practice drafting claim 1.
- it does not have to be anonymous - people should be free to use their own names/nicknames if they prefer so
- It would be helpful if the pages were easier to print out, so that candidates can work from paper copies.
- It would be helpful to have a break down of how/where marks are allocated to each answer.
- Keep as many questions and answers in the archive as possible. Answering old questions and comparing the own results with the answers is the best hint on what the examining commission expects from the candidate.
- leichter Zugang, weniger komplexer Aufbau
- made available earlier
- Make them available soa1r.
- Minor aspect: make the model answers not visible in the main window
- more contrasted colours
- More exercises on a broader range of topics. Improve the IT... sometimes didn't work properly
- More transparency about the interface between the EQE Forum and the Examination commission would be helpful. It would give the candidates more confidence that the opinion of a tutor corresponds to that of the examining commission. As a whole I am very happy that the EQE Forum exists, it is meanwhile the main vehicle of mine for passing



between Scylla (DI) and Charybdis (DII).

- new exercises in addition more exercises concerning new rules, especially taxes
- No - if I had more time, I would have made much more use of the forum. Sitting the EQE straight after UK national exams leaves very little time for anything other than isolated cramming
- No comment
- No comments, since I did not make use of it.
- No suggestions at present
- No, I find it good as it is.
- Probably not the right box for this comment but - I was struck by the amount of waste paper in the bins at the end of each exam. At the very least I would have liked to see paper recycling bins provided for the scrap question papers. On the same thought - the examination hall was in England; what a waste in paper and printing to provide every candidate with the questions in both the other official languages. It is a fair assumption that every candidate in the hall used the English questions, why not therefore only provide the English questions and have a few copies in French and German with the invigilators for anyone who wants a copy to ask for. On a simple estimate, by asking the candidate on the enrolment form which language they want the questions in, you would reduce your printing/paper usage by a2/a3.
- provide more exercises not only for paper D but other papers.
- See previous answer.
- Some of the online tutors seem to be quite arrogant.
- sorry no
- split-up in EPC and PCT -indexing of questions (e.g. indicating main article, rule of G-decision in subject line)
- starting earlier, easier access (more concise)
- Thank you for creating EQE discussion forum. I think that especially Pete Pollard's contribution was priceless. A superb site.
- The questions were focused on time calculation. There are a lot of other topics on which questions could be focused. Additionally a part concerning paper DII part could added, maybe with an step-by-step approach leading to a model solution by an analysis of the DII-paper. (By the way, that is something that I miss: a detailed analysis of DII-paper starting with the facts given in the paper.)
- There are not many on-line exercises on the system yet. Therefore, the system would benefit from having many more questions on a variety of topics being loaded. The questions and model answers so far are very useful, so hopefully, once this has developed further, it will be a really useful tool for future candidates.
- When I tried to use EQE Forum I didn't get any valuable help for training. Probably because I didn't learn to use it properly. Probably because it is more focused on papers C and D. Perhaps a deeper explanation of the tool might be helpful.
- Yes, for paper D you provide sample exercises. I found these very good. I think there should also be questions similar to paper D2, not necessarily as much information given in the Exam paper, but maybe a

number of shorter sample Da2 papers. Also why not give sample drafting and amendment papers wherein you provide answer similar to the Examiners comments in the compendium. I used the compendium for my preparation and found that I ran out of papers to practice on. It would have been good if I had the opportunity to turn to the compendium for further sample paper A and paper B questions.

- Yes, for registered users (candidates) email notifications should automatically be sent when the EPO forum and the online exercises are updated.