

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF SINGAPORE
PATENT AGENTS QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
(NOVEMBER 2004)
INFORMAL SESSION FOR PAPER D**

Mistakes have been made by past candidates in the Patent Agents Qualifying Examination for Paper D. This table summarises the common mistakes highlighted by the speakers, Ms Isabel Chng and Mdm Audrey Yap.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Common Mistakes</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
1.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Failure to Identify Key Issues</u></p> <p>Candidates failed to identify key issues.</p>	<p>Candidates could extract and highlight key issues from clues given in questions and address them accordingly.</p>
2.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Superficial Answers</u></p> <p>Candidates failed to elaborate sufficiently on their answers. Candidates that provide one/two liner answers cannot expect to pass the paper.</p>	<p>Candidates could elaborate on their answers and support them with references to the relevant provisions of the Patents Act and Rules.</p>
3.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Poor Time Management</u></p> <p>Candidates failed to manage their time well. Many ran out of time towards the end of the paper, resulting in incomplete answers and illegible handwriting.</p>	<p>Candidates could use the given reading time to plan which of the five (5) questions (out of the seven (7)) that they are confident in tackling and give themselves an estimated time to handle each question instead of spending too much time on one or two questions and leaving very little time for the rest. As a rough guide, Candidates should not take more than 36 minutes to answer each case question.</p>
4.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fabrication of Facts</u></p> <p>Candidates inferred too much from the given facts to the extent that they fabricated their own facts from the case questions.</p>	<p>Candidates are advised to take the facts as given and not make assumptions of their own. Their answers have to address the questions before marks can be awarded.</p>
5.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Incomplete Answers</u></p> <p>Candidates expected case questions to have clear-cut answers and failed to discuss both sides of the issues.</p>	<p>Most of the case questions do not have clear-cut answers. Candidates could illustrate their thinking processes by discussing both sides of the issues before coming to a logical conclusion.</p>

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6.	<p><u>Poor Organisation Skills</u></p> <p>Candidates failed to organise their answers well.</p>	<p>Candidates are advised to attach the answers for the same question together and not split them up across the answer scripts. They are also expected to organize and reflect their answers in a coherent and logical manner.</p>
7.	<p><u>Copying of Legal Provisions</u></p> <p>Candidates spent too much time copying sections from the Patents Act instead of addressing and discussing the issues in the questions.</p>	<p>Candidates could refer to the relevant legal provisions briefly and discuss how those provisions can be applied to the facts of the case questions before drawing a logical conclusion. Marks will not be awarded for regurgitating provisions (word for word) from the Patents Act or Rules.</p>
8.	<p><u>Insufficient Illustration of the Candidates' Thought Processes</u></p> <p>Candidates failed to provide logical thought processes to illustrate how they had arrived at their conclusions. Candidates jumped straight to their final conclusions before discussing the issues well.</p>	<p>Candidates could provide a logical sequence of their thinking processes to illustrate how they had arrived at their conclusions. This is especially helpful when candidates provide bizarre conclusions that have no relevance to the arguments that they presented.</p>
9.	<p><u>Familiarity with Dates & Timelines</u></p> <p>Candidates were penalised for giving the incorrect deadlines of certain events.</p>	<p>Candidates are advised to familiarise themselves with the various prescribed timelines and deadlines as provided in the legislation.</p>