

**Singapore Patent Agents Qualifying Examination 2008:
Informal Session for Paper B**

Speakers	Mr Kristian Robinson and Mr R N Gnanapragasam
Date	15 August 2008
Time	10.00 am – 11.00 am
Venue	IPOS Promise Room

The highlights below are intended to assist candidates in their preparation for the Singapore Patent Agents Qualifying Examination.

-
- Paper B serves to assess candidates' ability and skills at prosecutions of patent applications and giving advice to clients.
 - Candidates may be given either an office action or a letter from a client or both. They may also be given granted or pending patent applications.
 - The prior art given will be technology-neutral.
 - Candidates must assess the invention and decide what amendments may be made and whether such amendments are allowed. Previously, many candidates failed because they made amendments which constituted added matter.
 - Claims should also be at least novel and arguably inventive.
 - Read the instructions carefully to make sure that you write what is requested.
 - It is not necessary to begin writing immediately. Time management is important.
 - The first 1.5-2 hours of the Paper should be spent on analysis:
 1. Review the documents before you and consider whether they actually constitute prior art under Singapore law.
 2. Look at the claims. Determine if amendments would be required.
 3. When amending your main claim(s), make sure the amendments actually cover the commercial embodiments that the client says he wants to protect.
 4. Do not spend too much time on subsidiary features which do not cover the preferred embodiments.

5. Be practical. Think about how you will want to enforce the patent.
- One hour may be spent on the claims and one hour on the letter to the client / the response to the patent office.
 - The letter / response serves as a good opportunity to explain your thinking behind the amendments to the examiner.
 - Point out the support for your amendments from the specifications or the claims as originally filed.
 - Explain and give analysis for novelty. Do not simply state a feature is novel.
 - Give support for your inventive step arguments. They should not repeat the novelty arguments. The problem-solution approach may be useful.
 - It is also important to justify why you have left claims unamended, if they have been objected to in the examination report.
 - Secondary issues to consider would be:
 1. Clarity
 2. Prior art – explain in your letter why a document qualifies as prior art
- Candidates should practise by doing at least 4 – 5 question papers under examination conditions.