

Singapore Patent Agents Qualifying Examination 2009: Informal Session for Paper D

Speaker	Mdm Boo Yee Swan
Date	26 August 2009
Time	11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	IPOS Promise Room

The highlights below are intended to assist candidates in their preparation for the Singapore Patent Agents Qualifying Examination (“QE”).

- (1) From the answer scripts, examiners will assess if the candidates are fit enough to practise as a patent agent in Singapore. When you are advising clients on patent related matters in Singapore, we want to know if your patent law knowledge and practice are sufficient for you to give sound advice to your clients. Your answers must reveal those skills in order for examiners to give you the marks that are allocated to each question.
- (2) Firstly, you have to know the Singapore Patents Acts and Rules, including Patent Cooperation Treaty (“PCT”) and Regulations under the PCT very well, even though this is an open book exam. You can bring in reference materials (see page 14 of the Administrative Instructions for QE 2009 published on the IPOS website) but there will not be enough time to look for the section even though it is a 4-hour paper. You have to know the provisions very well. If possible, memorize the law. Do not be fooled by the open book concept as it gives you a false sense of security.
- (3) Do not leave out any question. You could lose 20marks if you do not attempt a question at all. Even if there is not enough time, try to attempt the question to gain some marks.
- (4) Proper time management is very crucial. You have to allocate each question a certain amount of time. Read the questions properly and then allocate, for example, 10 minutes to read the question and then 35 minutes for each question. Stick strictly to the time limit. Do not be put off by the length of the question. Sometimes, the longer the question, the issues are easier to be identified. Read the questions properly and answer questions to the point. Do not waste time rewriting facts from the question into your answers in the exam.
- (5) Write in clear, proper English and in full sentences. Write in point form only when you are desperate for time. Would be advisable to learn from past year’s Answer Guidelines and a best script for Paper D in QE 2006 on the IPOS website.
- (6) Read questions very carefully. Try to answer the question to the point. Try not to go off tangent or go on a long discussion unnecessarily. A clear guideline would be the marks allocated to each question. Identify the question and the issue.

- (7) Write legibly. If we are trying hard to decipher your hand writing, we will lose track of what you are writing and this may affect your marks.
- (8) Always state the Rule or Act number if applicable. If the section is very long, then you can just state the sub-section only.
- (9) The proper sequence to answer a question would be;
 - Identify the issue
 - State the Rule / Act / provision or sub-section
 - Explain legal basis
 - Apply law to the case
 - State your Argument
 - Draw a conclusion