

Answer Guidelines to QE 2007 Paper A

Note: The answer guidelines contain a non-exhaustive list of points that examiners expect candidates to cover in the answer to this Paper.

<p>1</p>	<p>Main claim</p> <p>A possible main claim might read:</p> <p>1. A body for a fan mechanism ["a body for" can be omitted; "fan system" can be "fan mechanism"], the body having:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a hub for connection to a motor,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a plurality [which can also be stated as "at least two"] of blades [which may equally well be called e.g. "fan members". They can equally well be called "components" – the term used in the question – provided their function is clear from the claim overall] , the blades being connected to the hub,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the blades diverging mutually and being angularly spaced apart around a common axis about which, in use, the blades rotate,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">each blade having a respective drive face inclined both to the axis and to a circumferential direction around the axis,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">whereby, upon rotation of the body around the axis caused by action of the motor on the hub, the drive faces of the blades generate an air flow parallel to the axis.</p> <p><i>Examiner's Comment:</i> Other forms of wording which get across the working principle are also acceptable. For example, it is possible for the final two clauses ("each blade...parallel to the axis") to be replaced by wording specifying that each blade is arranged relative to the axis such that upon rotation of the body around the axis, the blades generate an air flow along the axis.</p> <p>Unnecessary limitations (e.g. three or more blades; blades are longitudinally symmetric; curved spokes; "up"/"down"; the presence of the motor) are penalized. No marks for claims which cover the prior art, or which do not cover the embodiment.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Sub-claims</p> <p>The blades have at least one curved face, a portion of the face axially closer to the hub being more inclined to the axis than a portion of the face further away.</p> <p><i>Examiner's Comment:</i> These marks might alternatively be earned by wording which refers to how the blade is curved.</p> <p>Blades uniformly circumferentially spaced around axis.</p> <p>The combination of body according to claim 1 and a motor arranged to rotate the</p>

	<p>body around the axis.</p> <p><i>Examiner's Comment:</i> This claim may alternatively be written as a second independent claim, with equal marks being given for both options.</p> <p>The combination with the motor arranged to rotate the body in a sense in which the resultant air flow along the axis in the direction away from the motor. (There are various ways of expressing this.)</p> <p>The combination with a support structure to support the fan above a base, with the axis in a horizontal orientation.</p> <p>The combination with a shield, which includes one or more apertures and is spaced from the body in the axial direction.</p>
3.	<p>Remainder of specification</p> <p>Title, field of the invention</p> <p>Discussion of prior art</p> <p>Summary of the invention</p> <p>Specific description</p>