INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF SINGAPORE

QE 2017 PAPER A – ANSWER GUIDELINES

S/N	Category	Mark
1	Independent Claims	
	i. Apparatus Claim	40 m
	ii. Method Claim	16 m
2	Dependent Claims	24 m
3	Description	20 m

S/N	Answer Guide	Mark
1(i)	**Example Apparatus Claim** A case comprising: • A body; • a handle arranged to selectively retract into the body; • a wheel release frame cooperatively coupled to the handle so as to act as a single member; • a plurality of wheel mountings having wheels upon which the case is arranged to roll, said wheel mountings arranged to move so as to extend from the body and retract within the body; • the wheel release frame having a plurality of engagement portions, each arranged to selectively engage with each of the plurality of wheel mountings such that, on engagement, the wheel mountings are fixed in an extended position; • wherein on retracting the handle, the engagement portions disengage from the wheel mountings. **Note:** This is an example version only. Variations without practical difference in scope will still be awarded full marks.	**40 m**
	Deductions: • Claim(s) not novel, – As a note, it is at the Examiner's discretion as to whether the claim has been anticipated by the provided prior art;	no marks will be awarded.

	• Clarity issues – Low level: For instance, poor grammar, missing words, spelling mistakes – Medium level: For instance, a clarity error having a material effect on the meaning of the claim, including vagueness; – High level: Feature worded so poorly that it cannot be understood; • Inconsistent language – For instance, a term or feature is defined differently between distinct claims, or between the claims and the description; • For each unnecessary limitation beyond novelty such as: – including features directed to the wheel mountings retracting within the body, beyond the wheel mountings being capable of doing so, and; – Limiting to 4 wheels (NB: "a plurality of wheels", "at least 1 wheel" or "at least 2 wheels" are all acceptable)	- 1 mark per instance - 2 marks per instance - 3 marks per instance - 1 mark per instance - 15 marks per limitation
1(ii)	**Example Method Claim** A method comprising the steps of: • retracting a handle of a case, and consequently; • moving a wheel release frame cooperatively coupled to the handle, said frame having a plurality of engagement portions; • said movement disengaging the engagement portions from a plurality of wheel mountings extending from said case; • said disengagement releasing the wheel mountings from being fixed in the extended position.	**16 m**
	Deductions: • Claim(s) not novel, – As a note, it is at the Examiner's discretion as to whether the claim has been anticipated by the provided prior art;	no marks will be awarded.

	• Clarity issues in claims – Low level: For instance, poor grammar, missing words, spelling mistakes – Medium level: For instance, a clarity error having a material effect on the meaning of the claim, including vagueness – High level: Feature worded so poorly that it cannot be understood • Inconsistent language – For instance, a term or feature is defined differently between distinct claims, or between the claims and the description; • For each unnecessary limitation beyond novelty – Such as, including the wheel mountings retracting within the body.	- 1 mark per instance - 2 marks per instance; - 3 marks per instance - 1 mark per instance - 8 marks per limitation
2	**Dependent Claims** **4 marks per claim up to a maximum of 24m** Only award marks for each meaningful dependent claim, examples of which are provided below. Note: Paper asks to limit to 8 claims, including independent apparatus and method claims. Therefore, only the <u>first</u> 6 dependent claims are to be marked, regardless of the number drafted or their dependency.	**24 m**
	<u>Example features for dependent apparatus claims (not exhaustive):</u> • The engagement portions having recesses corresponding to an extended position and a retracted position of the wheel mounting; • The wheel mountings having a projection to be received by the recesses of the engagement portion; • The wheel mounting having a spring to bias the wheel; • Slide bearings located within the wheel release frame; • Exactly 2 wheels; • Exactly 4 wheels;	

	• Hollow steel.	
	<u>Example features for dependent method claims (not exhaustive):</u> • Applying a force to retract the wheel mounting within the body; • Re-engaging the engagement portions and the wheel mounting in a fixed retracted position; • Extending the handle to release the wheel mounting from the retracted position. Note: If candidate added feature(s) in the description, then marks can be awarded for dependent claim(s) to added feature(s) within first 6 dependent claims.	
	Deductions: • Inappropriate terms such as "preferably", “may”, “optionally” etc, – when marking the claim, all words after the inappropriate term are to be disregarded, with the claim marked according to the text preceding this word. – Further, deduct -2 marks per instance for a medium level clarity issue) • Inconsistent with independent claim • Antecedent or clarity issue	 - 5 marks -1 mark per instance
3	**Description** Marks to be awarded: a) Advantage statement for independent claim(s) b) Background with discussion of Prior Art #A with disadvantage c) Background with discussion of Prior Art #B d) Brief Description of Drawings	**20 m** 6 marks 5 marks 5 marks 1 mark
Total marks		**100m**

END