



**SINGAPORE PATENT AGENTS
QUALIFYING EXAMINATION 2027**

**CONDUCTED BY
THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF
SINGAPORE
PURSUANT TO PART 2 OF THE THIRD SCHEDULE
TO THE PATENTS (PATENT AGENTS) RULES 2001**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SINGAPORE PATENT AGENTS
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GENERAL

1. Introduction

i. In accordance with sections 104 and 105 of the Patents Acts 1994 read with the Patents (Patent Agents) Rules 2001, an individual must meet the relevant statutory requirements to be eligible to apply for registration as a patent agent. One such requirement is having passed the examination specified in Part 2 of the Third Schedule to (Patent Agents) Rules 2001¹, being the Patent Agents Qualifying Examination (referred to in these Administrative Instructions as “QE”) conducted by the Registrar.

ii. The Registrar has thus established the **Examination Board (“EB”)**, the **Examination Committee (“EC”)** and the **Examination Secretariat (“ES”)**, to assist the Registrar in the conduct of the QE:

(a) an **EB** comprising four members (including the Registrar, who shall preside as Chairman), each either being:

- An advocate and solicitor; or
- A patent agent or equivalent, either registered in Singapore or in the countries, territories or patent offices set out in the Fourth Schedule to the Patents (Patent Agents) Rules 2001.

The EB shall deliberate and decide on all matters and issues submitted to their attention by the EC or ES. In addition, the EB shall consider the recommendations of the EC on each candidate’s performance after the marking of the candidate’s answer scripts and shall decide accordingly. When the performance of all the candidates has been duly considered, the EB shall inform the ES of the results of all the candidates.

(b) One or more **EC member(s)** shall prepare and mark the QE papers according to the requirements as specified in the Administrative and Conduct Manual for EC. Members of the EC include both Primary and Secondary Examiners.

(c) The ES is composed of officers from IPOS who shall assist the EB in the conduct of the QE.

iii. The contact details of the ES is as follows:

Email: ipos_pau@ipos.gov.sg

Address: Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)
1 Paya Lebar Link #11-03
PLQ 1, Paya Lebar Quarter
Singapore 408533

iv. The Registrar shall determine the period of appointment of the members to the EB, EC and ES and may, upon expiry of the duration, re-appoint one or more members for one or more subsequent periods.

¹ See rule 6(2)(c) of the Patents (Patent Agents) Rules 2001.

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2. QE

- i. The purpose of the QE is to assess whether the candidate is sufficiently proficient in the law of patents and has the necessary knowledge and practical experience to carry out patent agency work.
- ii. The QE is held once a year and comprises the following four papers:
 - Paper A: Preparation of a Patent Specification;
 - Paper B: Amendment of a Patent Specification;
 - Paper C: Infringement and Validity of Singapore Patent; and
 - Paper D: Knowledge of Patent Law and Patent Practice in Singapore.

Refer to **Annex A** for a brief description of each paper.

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A. INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO ENROLMENT

1. Prerequisites

i. An individual who wishes to enrol for the QE must first meet **one** of the following prerequisites:

- a) Passed the Graduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law course (GCIP) conducted by the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore;
- b) Passed the modules under the Graduate Diploma in IP and Innovation Management (GDIPIM) or Master of IP and Innovation Management (MIPIM) conducted by the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) that correspond to the QE papers which the candidate is enrolling in. These modules are:

QE Paper	Corresponding GDIPIM/ MIPIM modules
Paper A	IPM 527 Patent Claims and IPM 529 Patent Applications
Paper B	IPM 525 Patent Office Action
Paper C	IPM 531 Patent Infringement and Validity
Paper D	IPM 523 Patent Practice in Singapore

- c) Obtained approval from the Registrar to be exempted from complying with the requirement set out in rule 6 of the Patents (Patent Agents) Rules 2001 to pass GCIP, GDIPIM or MIPIM.²

ii. Each candidate must submit documentation showing that the candidate has satisfied one of the prerequisites for the QE. A candidate awaiting the results of the candidate's GDIPIM/MIPIM modules at the time of submitting the enrolment form must submit the results by **28 December 2026**.

iii. To ensure adequate practical exposure, candidates are advised to attempt the QE only after completing a minimum of one year of supervised internship in patent agency work.

² See rule 8 of the Patents (Patent Agents) Rules 2001.

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2. Enrolment for Candidacy

- i. Unless otherwise specified by the Registrar, the QE2027 shall be held in Singapore and in-person. Please note that the dates of the QE may be **subject to change**, and the ES will provide reasonable advance notice to all enrolled candidates of any changes.

DATE	TIME	PAPER	VENUE
11 January 2027	13.30	Paper A	To be confirmed by December 2026
12 January 2027	13.30	Paper B	
13 January 2027	13.30	Paper C	
14 January 2027	13.30	Paper D	

- ii. Where a candidate is attempting a particular paper for the first time, the candidate must indicate accordingly in his/her enrolment form.
- iii. Candidates are encouraged to sit only the paper(s) for which they are adequately prepared. Further information is available in **Section B** (Information on the QE).
- iv. Candidates must comply with the instructions stated in the enrolment form regarding the submission of the form, supporting documents and payment of fees. Enrolment for QE2027 comprises the following:
- (a) a duly completed enrolment form accompanied by documents to show compliance with a prerequisite under para A.1.i or in a situation where candidates are awaiting results of their GDIPIM/MIPIM modules at the point of submitting the enrolment form, documents to be submitted by the non-extendible deadline of **28 December 2026**;
 - (b) a non-refundable enrolment fee of S\$32.10 (inclusive of GST); and
 - (c) the relevant examination fees (Refer to **Annex B**).
- v. The closing date for the enrolment period for the QE is **30 September 2026** ("**Closing Date**"). Enrolment forms received after this date will not be considered.
- vi. Please inform the ES immediately of any change(s) to personal particulars, e.g. correspondence address, to avoid delay in communications of important announcements or notices.

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3. Notification

- i. Upon successful submission of the enrolment form, candidates will receive a notification separately by email to make payment of the fees within 7 working days. Candidates must make full payment of the enrolment fee and the examination fee(s) as specified in **Annex B**. Only enrolments with full payment of the enrolment fee and examination fee(s) by the said deadline will be accepted. Note that the enrolment fee and the examination fee(s) are inclusive of GST and are generally not refundable.
- ii. Upon receipt of the full enrolment and examination fees by the prescribed deadline, the ES will assign each candidate a unique index number, which will be used throughout the QE (Papers A to D), including in all communications with the ES. The index number will be the sole identifier on all answer scripts. Candidates must not indicate their names or initials on any answer script. Failure to comply may result in immediate disqualification or suspension by the ES. The index number will also be the sole identifier used in all matters placed before the EB and EC. The ES will maintain the confidentiality of candidates' names and corresponding index numbers.
- iii. Except where para A.3.iv applies, a candidate who has successfully submitted an enrolment form by the Closing Date will receive confirmation of their enrolment for the QE and a unique index number, approximately three weeks after the Closing Date.
- iv. Candidates awaiting the results of their GDIPIM/MIPIM modules at the time of enrolment will receive provisional confirmation of enrolment for the QE paper(s) indicated in their enrolment form. Such candidates may sit for the relevant QE paper(s) only if they submit supporting documents by **28 December 2026** showing that they have passed the corresponding GDIPIM/MIPIM modules. Failing this, the enrolment for the relevant QE paper(s) will be treated as invalid, and the ES will inform the candidate accordingly and refund any examination fees paid.

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4. Summary of Events in the Processing of Enrolment Forms

Subject Matter	Date(s)	Fees	Comments
1. Submission of enrolment form	30 September 2026 (Closing Date)	1. Enrolment fee \$32.10 inclusive of GST 2. Examination Fee(s) (Refer to Annex B)	Candidates must submit the completed enrolment form and supporting documents by the Closing Date. Enrolment forms received after the Closing Date will not be considered. Candidates will be regarded as enrolled only upon full payment of the applicable fees by the prescribed deadline.
2. Notification to all enrolled candidates	October 2026	-	Candidates awaiting GDIPIM/MIPIM results at the time of enrolment will receive provisional confirmation of enrolment. Supporting documents must be submitted by 28 December 2026, failing which the

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Subject Matter	Date(s)	Fees	Comments
			enrolment for the relevant QE paper(s) will be treated as invalid.

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B. INFORMATION ON THE QE

1. Disqualification or Suspension from the QE

- i. Candidates who fail to comply with these Administrative Instructions before or during the examination may be disqualified or suspended by the ES.
- ii. Candidates found to have engaged in plagiarism or cheating will be disqualified. Such candidates will not be permitted to sit for the remaining papers or participate in subsequent examinations.
- iii. No refund of any fee(s) paid by candidates will be allowed.

2. Absence from the QE

- i. A candidate who is not present at the examination venue for a paper and does not fall within the circumstances set out in para B.2.ii will be considered absent.
- ii. Candidates who are unable to attend the examination may submit a written request to withdraw from the examination. To be considered, the request must be submitted to the ES no later than 7 working days before the examination date and be supported by valid reasons and any relevant documentary evidence. The ES will consider each request on a case-by-case basis and may approve or reject both the withdrawal and any associated refund request at its discretion. Withdrawal requests submitted during or after the examination will not be eligible for a refund.

3. Examination Results

- i. Upon receipt of the candidates' answer scripts, the EC will commence marking. The ES will coordinate the administrative processes relating to the determination of candidates' results. EB shall consider the recommendations of the EC on each candidate's performance after the marking of the candidate's answer scripts and shall decide accordingly. The EB's decision shall be final.
- ii. The marking process following the QE is provided below, which will take approximately five months.

Events
End of QE (Papers A to D)
The ES sends a copy of the answer script to each of the 2 Primary Examiners of the EC for assessment.
The ES co-ordinates the marks allocated by the EC on all answer scripts.

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Events
The ES returns the answer scripts to the relevant Primary Examiners of the EC for reconsideration in the event a Primary Examiner allocated a Pass grade while another allocated a Fail grade.
The ES will coordinate the reconsidered marks awarded by the relevant Primary Examiners of the EC. If the Primary Examiners are unable to reach agreement on the results, the ES will forward the answer script to a Secondary Examiner of the EC for an independent assessment.
The ES will coordinate the marks awarded following completion of the marking process and submit the EC's recommendations, including comments from the Primary Examiners and the Secondary Examiner (if any), to the EB for consideration and decision.
The EB deliberates and informs the ES of its decision on the results of all candidates.
The ES officially releases the results of the candidates by email and via an announcement on IPOS website. Answer script will also be sent back to the candidates.

- iii. The QE results will be sent to candidates via the email address provided in the enrolment form. An official announcement of the results will be published on the IPOS website on **30 June 2027**. Requests to receive results by mail will not be entertained.

4. Re-sitting the QE

- i. Candidates who fail one or more papers at a sitting of the QE may apply to retake the paper(s) concerned at a subsequent QE. There is no limit on the number of attempts for any paper.
- ii. Refer to **Annex B** for the applicable examination fee.

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5. Grades

- i. The results of each paper will be graded as follows:
 - Pass - not less than 50% of the marks available
 - Fail - less than 50% of the marks available(The candidate's mark range will be indicated in the result slip.)
- ii. Where a candidate has been disqualified or suspended from a paper or papers under **Section B2** (Disqualification or Suspension from the QE), the paper will be graded as follows as the case may be:
 - Disqualified; or
 - Suspended.
- iii. Where a candidate was not present at the venue of the examination to take a paper, according to **Section B3** (Absence from the QE), the paper will be graded as:
 - Absent.
- iv. In order to pass the QE, candidates must obtain a pass grade for each of the four papers (Papers A to D).

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C. INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF THE QE

The ES will appoint one or more invigilators to assist in monitoring the conduct of the QE.

1. Attendance

- i. Candidates should refer to the enrolment confirmation issued by the ES for the examination dates, venue and timings.
- ii. Candidates must arrive on time for the examination. Candidates who arrive late will not be granted any additional time to complete their answer script. Candidates who arrive more than 30 minutes after the commencement of the examination may not be permitted to sit for the paper.
- iii. Candidates may leave the examination room during the examination for toilet breaks or other valid reasons. No materials or items may be removed from the examination room during such absences.
- iv. No candidate may leave the examination room within the first 30 minutes of the examination. Candidates who have completed the paper and have uploaded their answer script onto FormSG may leave thereafter. Re-entry will not be permitted.
- v. Candidates may not leave the examination room during the final 30 minutes of the examination.

2. Discontinuation and Postponement of the QE

- i. The ES may discontinue or postpone the examination before or during its conduct due to unforeseen circumstances, such as a power failure or fire at the examination venue.

3. Use of Laptops for the Conduct of the QE

- i. IPOS will provide laptops for the QE. All candidates are required to use the laptops provided.
- ii. Candidates who prefer to complete QE 2027 using pen and paper instead of a laptop must submit a laptop opt-out request together with the enrolment form, supported by any relevant documentary evidence. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Requests submitted separately from the enrolment form will not be considered. Approval of a laptop opt-out request will be final. Requests to use a laptop after approval has been granted will not be considered.

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4. Examination Procedures

- i. Before the commencement of the examination, candidates may raise questions regarding the conduct of the examination. Questions relating to the content of the papers will not be answered.
- ii. Candidates who distract other candidates during the QE may be disqualified or suspended by the ES and required to leave the examination room immediately.
- iii. In the examination room, each candidate will be supplied with:
 - (a) A single laptop;
 - (b) A single soft copy of the relevant examination paper in the English language;
 - (c) A single soft copy of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 and the Patents Rules;
 - (d) A blank electronic answer script template for candidates to type their answers; and
 - (e) A single hard copy of the relevant paper in the English language.
- iv. Candidates should ensure that they are able to view the examination paper and enter their answers in the answer script template provided on the laptop.
- v. In the event of a technical issue during the examination, candidates must notify the ES immediately. If the issue cannot be resolved, a replacement laptop will be provided for the remainder of the examination.
- vi. When drafting answers, candidates must:
 - (a) Use the answer script template provided and follow the prescribed format to facilitate reading and marking; and
 - (b) Answer only in the English language.
- vii. Candidates must:
 - (a) occupy the allocated seat throughout the examination, unless otherwise directed;
 - (b) place personal belongings in the designated location, as instructed by the invigilator;
 - (c) type the assigned index number in the header of the answer script template; and
 - (d) comply with the instructions below when the invigilator announces the end of the examination;
 - (i) Stop typing immediately;
 - (ii) Type "This is the last page" at the end of the answer;
 - (iii) Ensure no blank pages in the answer script;
 - (iv) Save the final version of their answer script; and

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- (v) Keep the FormSG acknowledgement page displayed on the laptop until the invigilator has verified that the answer script has been successfully uploaded.
 - (e) Upon leaving the examination room, candidates should ensure that all personal belongings are taken with them.
- viii. Candidates may bring personal keyboards, mice and additional clothing for use during the examination.

5. Reference Materials

- i. Hard copies of the following documents may be brought into the examination room by candidates:
 - (a) **Legislation (as in force on 31 August 2026)**
 - (i) Patents Act 1994
 - (ii) Patents Rules
 - (iii) Patents (Patent Agents) Rules 2001
 - (iv) Patents (Composition of Offences) Regulations 2001
 - (b) **International treaties (as in force on 31 August 2026)**
 - (i) Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Convention)
 - (ii) Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure (Budapest Treaty)
 - (iii) Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
 - (c) **Other materials (as of 31 August 2026)**
 - (i) Latest list of members to the World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - (ii) Latest list of members to the Budapest Treaty
 - (iii) Latest list of members to the Paris Convention
 - (iv) Latest list of members to the PCT
 - (v) Language and technical dictionaries
 - (d) **Legal cases**
 - Decisions (dated before 31 August 2026) relevant to the Patents Law as decided by the Singapore Courts
- ii. Annotations³ in reference materials are prohibited. Cross-referencing⁴ and highlighting are permitted.

³ Example of annotation: indicating details such as prescribed fees, forms to be filed or applicable time limits.

⁴ Example of cross-referencing: indicating page numbers or references to relevant sections or rules, without explanatory notes.

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- iii. During the examination, invigilators will check and verify all reference materials and may remove or confiscate any materials that do not comply with the requirements as set out above. Reference materials that are free of annotations and contain only cross-references or highlighting will not be removed.
- iv. The list of reference materials above are not exhaustive. Candidates who wish to bring additional reference materials not listed above must seek clarification from the ES in advance.

6. Restrictions

- i. Candidates must not:
 - (a) possess electronic devices or portable storage devices in the examination room, including tablets, personal laptops, mobile phones, flash drives, portable hard drives, personal digital assistants, and similar devices. Such devices must be placed out of reach in the location designated by the invigilator;
 - (b) possess reading materials other than the reference materials permitted under **Section C5 (Reference Materials)**, unless prior approval has been obtained from the ES;
 - (c) review the examination paper before the commencement of the examination unless instructed by an invigilator;
 - (d) cheat or attempt to cheat;
 - (e) communicate with other candidates after the commencement and before the conclusion of the examination;
 - (f) smoke in the examination room;
 - (g) behave in a disorderly manner or distract other candidates during the QE (see para C.6.ii) and
 - (h) leave the examination room without the consent of the invigilator in charge.

The ES

September 2026

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ANNEX A

ANNEX A

SYLLABUS FOR QE 2027

Paper A : Preparation of a Patent Specification

Time allowed : 4 hours including reading time

Broad allocation of marks:

Independent Claim(s) : 50 – 60 marks

Dependent Claims : 20 – 30 marks

Description : 20 marks

Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
Specification	Candidates are required to draft a specification for filing in Singapore which complies with the requirements of the Patents Act and the Patents Rules. More specifically, the specification must: (a) disclose the invention in a manner which is clear and complete for the invention to be performed by a person skilled in the art; and (b) include claim(s) that (i) define the matter for which the applicant seeks protection;	<i>Legislation (as in force on 31 August 2026)</i> The Patents Act 1994 • s 13, 14, 15, 16, 25(3), 25(4), 25(5), 113(1) The Patents Rules • r 19	Candidates are to assume that they have received a letter from their client which includes some drawings, a brief description of the invention for which the client wishes to obtain a patent in Singapore, together with references to the most pertinent prior art.

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Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
	(ii) are clear and concise; (iii) are supported by the description; (iv) relate to one invention or to a group of inventions which are so linked as to form a single inventive concept; (v) have at least one independent claim which offers the broadest possible protection and is novel, i.e. does not form part of the state of the art; involves an inventive step, i.e. is not obvious to a person skilled in the art; and is capable of industrial application, i.e. can be made or used in any kind of industry; and (vi) have dependent claims to provide a fallback position if the independent claim(s) fail.		

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ANNEX A

Paper B : Amendment of a Patent Specification

Time allowed : 4 hours including reading time

Broad allocation of marks:

Draft Response to Written Opinion (including prior art analysis & argument) : 35 marks

Claim Amendments : 35 marks

Client Advice Letter : 30 marks

Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
Amendment of patent specification	Candidates are required to: 1. review the client's reply 2. review any other information provided 3. draft advice to client 4. in the case that the situation contemplated by the examination involves responding to a Written Opinion, draft a response to the Written Opinion that addresses all points raised in the Written Opinion and by the client. The draft response must include amended claims, provide the basis for the amendments proposed to the claims, and give clear reasoning for the proposed amendments	Legislation (as in force on 31 August 2026) The Patents Act 1994 • s 14, s 25(5), s 29, s 30, s 31, s 38, s 80, s 84, s 107, s 113(1) The Patents Rules • r 46, r 48, r 49, r 52, r 91	(a) Except for situations covered in Paper C, any other situations in which amendment to the claims is contemplated may be tested, such as an amendment in response to a written opinion, an amendment after the conclusion of an examination, or a post-grant amendment. One such situation is when a

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Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
	5. in the case that the situation contemplated by the examination does not involve responding to a Written Opinion, draft amended claims, provide the basis for the amendments proposed to the claims, and give clear reasoning for the proposed amendments The written opinion could contain objections that: - the invention defined in any claim — - does not appear novel; - does not appear to involve an inventive step; or - does not appear to be capable of industrial application; - the conditions specified in sections 13 and 25 (4) and (5) have not been complied with - the application discloses — - any additional matter referred to in section 84 (1); or - any matter extending beyond that disclosed in the application for the patent as filed	Legal Cases Singapore <i>Element Six Technologies Ltd v Ila Technologies Pte Ltd</i> [2020] SGHC 26 <i>FE Global Electronics Pte Ltd and Others v Trek Technology (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Another Appeal</i> [2006] 1 SLR 874; [2005] SGCA 55 <i>Ship's Equipment Centre Bremen GmbH v Fuji Trading (Singapore) Pte Ltd and others and another suit</i> [2015] 4 SLR 781; [2015] SGHC 159 <i>Warner-Lambert Company LLC v Novartis (Singapore) Pte Ltd</i> [2016] SGHC 106. <i>Warner-Lambert Company LLC v Novartis (Singapore) Pte Ltd</i> [2017] SGCA 45	Singapore Patent Application has been filed and that a Written Opinion has been issued. The Written Opinion has previously been sent to the client with the candidates' advice. The client has subsequently replied, clarifying the differences between the prior art and his invention. (b) Candidates are to accept the facts as given in the paper and not use any special knowledge that they may have. They are to assume that the prior art given is exhaustive. (c) For the purposes of this paper, candidates may not need to propose any amendments to the

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ANNEX A

Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
		The United Kingdom • <i>Southco Inc v Dzus Fastener Europe Ltd</i> [1992] RPC 299 • <i>Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals v N H Norton</i> [1996] RPC 76 • <i>A C Edwards Ltd v Acme Signs & Displays Ltd</i> [1990] RPC 621 • <i>Conor Medsystems Incorporated v Angiotech Pharmaceuticals Incorporated and others</i> [2008] UKHL 4	description of the Patent Application.

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ANNEX A

Paper C : Infringement and Validity of Singapore Patent

Time allowed : 4 hours including reading time

Broad allocation of marks:

Claim Construction : 35 marks

Infringement : 25 marks

Validity : 25 marks

Letter : 15 marks

Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
Advice on infringement and validity	Candidates are required to: 1. advise the client on infringement and validity of their patent, including, but not limited to, internal validity issues such as sufficiency. 2. advise the client on how the patent may	Legislation (as in force on 31 August 2026) The Patents Act 1994 • s 66 – 82 • s 13, s 14, s 25(5), s 29, s 31, s 38, s 80, s 84, s 107, s 113(1)	(a) Candidates are to assume that they have received a letter from their client indicating a possible infringement of a Singapore patent. The client is concerned that the infringement has a significant effect on his company.

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ANNEX A

Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
	be amended to improve the patentee's position, and the impact that it may have on the advice already given answer client's questions 3. give clear and logical reasons 4. discuss with conclusions 5. cite and apply the relevant laws	Legal Cases Singapore • <i>Ila Technologies Pte Ltd v Element Six Technologies Ltd</i> [2023] SGCA 5 • <i>Nippon Shinyaku Co, Ltd v Registrar of Patents</i> [2023] 3 SLR 344 • <i>V-Pile Technology (Luxembourg) SA & Ors v Peck Brothers Construction Pte Ltd</i> [2000] 3 SLR 358 • <i>Merck & Co, Inc v Pharmaforte Singapore Pte Ltd</i> [2002] 2 SLR 515; [2000] 3 SLR 717; • <i>Genelabs Diagnostics Pte Ltd v Institut Pasteur & Anor</i> [2000] SGHC 53; [2001] 1 SLR 121 • <i>Bean Innovations Pte Ltd & Another v Flexon Pte Ltd</i> [2001] 2 SLR (R) 116; [2001] SGCA 42; • <i>Ng Kok Cheng v Chua Say Tiong</i> [2001] 3 SLR 487 • <i>Peng Lian Trading Co v Contour Optik Inc & Ors</i> [2002] SGHC 238; [2003] SGCA 25 • <i>FE Global Electronics Pte Ltd and Others v Trek Technology (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Another Appeal</i> [2006] 1 SLR 874; [2005] SGCA 55 • <i>Dextra Asia Co Ltd and Another v Mariwu Industrial Co (S) Pte Ltd and Another Suit</i> [2006] SGHC 7; [2005] SGHC 85;	(b) Candidates are to accept the facts as given in the paper and not use any special knowledge that they may have. They are to assume that the prior art given is exhaustive. A copy of the subject patent specification and prior art will be provided to the candidates.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SINGAPORE PATENT AGENTS QUALIFYING EXAMINATION 2027

ANNEX A

Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
		• <i>Main-Line Corporate Holdings Limited v United Overseas Bank Limited and First Currency Choice Pte Ltd (First Currency Choice Pte Ltd, Third Party)</i> [2010] 1 SLR 189; [2009] SGHC 232 • <i>Muhlbauer AG v Manufacturing Integration Technology Ltd</i> [2010] SGCA 6 • <i>Cargill International Trading Pte Ltd v Martek Biosciences Corporation</i> [2009] SGIPOS 12; [2010] SGHC 135; [2010] SGCA 51 • <i>Cargill International Trading Pte Ltd v Martek Biosciences Corporation</i> [2009] SGIPOS 16; [2011] SGHC 71 • <i>MacDermid, Incorporated v Alpha Fry Limited</i> [2009] SGIPOS 13 • <i>Dien Ghin Electronic (S) Pte Ltd v Khek Tai Ting trading as Soon Heng Digitax</i> [2011] SGHC 36 • <i>Towa Corp v ASM Technology Singapore Pte Ltd and another</i> [2015] SGHCR 4 • <i>Ship's Equipment Centre Bremen GmbH v Fuji Trading (Singapore) Pte Ltd and others and another suit</i> [2015] 4 SLR 781; [2015] SGHC 159 • <i>Lee Tat Cheng v Maka GPS Technologies Pte Ltd</i> [2017] SGHC 48, <i>Lee Tat Cheng v Maka GPS Technologies Pte Ltd</i> [2018] SGCA 18	

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ANNEX A

Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
		• <i>Sun Electric Pte Ltd v Sunseap Group Pte Ltd and ors</i> [2017] SGHC 232 • <i>Rohm and Haas Electronic Materials CMP Holdings, Inc v NexPlanar Corp and another</i> [2017] SGHC 310 • <i>Towa Corp V Asm Technology Singapore Pte Ltd and Another</i> [2023] 5 SLR 870; [2023] SGHC 99 • <i>Towa Corp V Asmpt Singapore Pte Ltd and Another</i> [2024] SGHC 163 • <i>Towa Corp V Asmpt Singapore Pte Ltd and Another Appeal</i> [2024] 2 SLR 580; [2024] SGCA 52 • <i>Ng Say Keong (Trading As S & K Solid Wood Doors) V Jia Le Aluminium Pte Ltd and Another</i> [2025] SGHC 243 The United Kingdom • <i>General Tire and Rubber Company v Firestone Tyre and Rubber Company Limited</i> [1972] RPC 457 • <i>Asahi Kasei Kogyo KK</i> [1991] RPC 485 • <i>Biogen Inc v Medeva Plc</i> [1995] RPC 25 • <i>Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals v N H Norton</i> [1996] RPC 76 • <i>Windsurfing International Inc v Tabur Marine (Great Britain) Ltd</i> [1985] RPC 59 • <i>Catnic Components Ltd and another v Hill and Smith Ltd</i> [1982] RPC 183	

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ANNEX A

Topic	Specific Instructional Objectives	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
		• <i>Improver Corp v Remington Consumer Products</i> [1990] FSR 181 • <i>Sabaf SpA v. MFI Furniture Centres Limited and others</i> [2004] UKHL 45 • <i>Kirin-Amgen Inc and others (Appellants) v. Hoechst Marion Roussel Limited and others (Respondents). Kirin-Amgen Inc and others (Respondents) v. Hoechst Marion Roussel Limited and others (Appellants) (Conjoined Appeals)</i> [2004] UKHL 46 • <i>Thorn Security Limited v Siemens Schweiz AG</i> [2008] EWCA Civ 1161 • <i>Conor Medsystems Incorporated (Respondents) v Angiotech Pharmaceuticals Incorporated and others (Appellants)</i> [2008] UKHL 49	

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SINGAPORE PATENT AGENTS QUALIFYING EXAMINATION 2027

ANNEX A

Paper D : Knowledge of Patent Law and Patent Practice in Singapore

Time allowed : 4 hours including reading time

Allocation of marks:

Each of the 5 questions to be answered : maximum of 20 marks each

Topic	Specific Objectives	Instructional References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
Singapore Patent Law and Practice	Candidates are required to display a thorough and practical knowledge of Singapore patents law and this includes: 1. International applications 2. pre and post patent grant prosecution in Singapore 3. patentability requirements 4. rights to a patent 5. amendments of patents and applications 6. infringement proceedings 7. revocation proceedings	<i>Legislation (as in force on 31 August 2026)</i> • Patents Act 1994 • Patents Rules • Patents (Patent Agents) Rules 2001 • Patents (Composition of Offences) Regulation 2001 <i>International treaties (as in force on 31 August 2026)</i> • Paris Convention • Patent Cooperation Treaty	(a) This paper comprises questions relating to different areas of the candidates' legal knowledge. (b) Answers should be brief and to the point and supported by sections, rules or other legal bases where relevant. (c) Candidates should take note of the recent changes in the Patents

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ANNEX A

Topic	Specific Objectives	Instructional	References (not exhaustive)	Remarks
	etc.		Legal cases • Decisions (dated before 31 August 2026) relevant to the Patent Law as decided by the Singapore Courts (please refer to para 4.4 List of Singapore Patent Cases as a non-exhaustive reference). Other materials • List of members to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as of 31 August 2026 • List of members to the Budapest Treaty as of 31 August 2026 • List of members to the Paris Convention as of 31 August 2026 • List of members to the PCT as of 31 August 2026	Act and Rules which may be incorporated in this paper.

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QUALIFYING EXAMINATION 2027**

ANNEX B

ANNEX B FEES FOR THE QE

Payable	Fees Inclusive of GST
Enrolment fee	\$32.10

	Number of attempts within each QE paper	Examination Fee (s) (inclusive of GST)
Tier 1	First to third attempt	\$642 per paper
Tier 2 ⁵	Fourth and subsequent attempt	\$1,284 per paper

Example:

QE Year	Papers attempted	Fees payable (New)
2023	Paper A	\$642 for 1 st Paper A attempt
2024	Paper A <i>(assuming candidate failed Paper A in 2023)</i>	\$642 for 2 nd Paper A attempt
2025	Paper A <i>(assuming candidate failed Paper A in 2024)</i>	\$642 for 3 rd Paper A attempt
2026	Paper A, Paper B <i>(assuming candidate failed Paper A in 2025)</i>	\$1,284 for 4 th Paper A attempt \$642 for 1 st Paper B attempt

⁵ Tier 2 fees will apply based on the number of attempts of each QE paper from QE2022 onwards.

ANNEX C

ANNEX C MARKING CONSIDERATIONS

The following tables set out the key criteria by which marks are awarded and deducted for each section of Paper A. As the QE assesses whether a candidate is sufficiently proficient in the law of patents and has the necessary knowledge and practical experience to carry out patent agency work, marks may be deducted for errors falling below the standard expected of a qualified patent agent, including but not limited to inconsistent language, clarity issues, the use of hedging language in claims, and failure to identify and correct limiting statements or inappropriate terms in the description.

Independent Claim(s)

Note: Candidates should focus on correctly capturing the essential features and the inventive concept. Where candidates draft more than one independent claim in the same category, only the first independent claim drafted in that category will be assessed; any subsequent independent claims in the same category will not be marked.

Criterion	Mark Award/ Deduction	Key Guidance For Candidates
All essential features included; the claim is novel in light of the prior art provided and supported by the description; covers all embodiments.	Full marks awarded	Essential features typically include key structural or functional components and the spatial or relational features defining how components interact.
The claim is not novel in light of the prior art provided and/or does not comply with	No marks awarded	A feature whose omission leads the claim to read on prior art is generally regarded as essential.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SINGAPORE PATENT AGENTS QUALIFYING EXAMINATION 2027

ANNEX C

Criterion	Mark Award/ Deduction	Key Guidance For Candidates
sufficiency requirements (e.g., one or more essential features omitted).		
The claim does not cover all embodiments presented in the question.	No marks awarded	Where the disclosure shows multiple embodiments, the independent claim should cover each embodiment.
Including an accessory or non-essential features as part of the independent claim (e.g., a component that is detachable or optional)	- 15 marks per instance	Features appearing only in some embodiments, or which provide refinement without being essential to novelty, are typically reflected in dependent claims rather than the independent claim.
Lack of clarity (low-level)	-1 mark per instance	Errors which relate to poor grammar, missing words and/or spelling mistakes.
Lack of clarity (medium-level)	-3 marks per instance	Errors which have a material effect on the meaning of the claim, including vagueness.
Lack of clarity (high-level)	-5 marks per instance	Errors where a feature is worded so poorly that it cannot be understood.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SINGAPORE PATENT AGENTS QUALIFYING EXAMINATION 2027

ANNEX C

Set/Kit Claim (if applicable)

Note: A Set/Kit Claim may be required in some years as part of the independent claims section. Candidates should be familiar with Set/Kit claim drafting as it has been tested in recent sittings.

Criterion	Mark Award/ Deduction	Key Guidance For Candidates
The set/kit claim is correctly drafted, covering all embodiments, with parts described as configured for use together rather than in assembled form.	Full marks awarded	The set/kit claim protects the combination of parts as supplied, not the assembled product; parts are therefore typically described as "configured to be connected" or "configured to be aligned", rather than as already connected or aligned.
The set/kit claim is omitted entirely.	No marks awarded	Nil

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SINGAPORE PATENT AGENTS QUALIFYING EXAMINATION 2027

ANNEX C

Dependent Claim(s)

Note: The paper requires candidates to limit their answer to 10 claims. As only the first 10 claims are assessed, regardless of the number drafted or their dependency, careful planning of the claim set is recommended,

Criterion	Mark Award/ Deduction	Key Guidance For Candidates
Each dependent claim must add technically distinct and coherent feature(s)	+3 marks per claim, up to the section maximum	Only dependent claims that add a technically distinct and coherent feature(s) are awarded marks. A dependent claim will not be awarded any marks where it: • merely restate the independent claim or add trivial features; • include unduly limiting features; or • suffers from clarity issues that materially affect the meaning or understanding of the claim.
Incorrect dependency	-1 to -2 marks	Dependent claims must correctly identify the claim(s) on which they depend.
Antecedent issue	-1 mark	Each term used in a dependent claim is assessed on whether it has antecedent basis in the claim from which it depends or in an earlier claim.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SINGAPORE PATENT AGENTS QUALIFYING EXAMINATION 2027

ANNEX C

Description

Note: No marks are awarded if one or more figures of the embodiments are missing. The description should therefore make reference to the figures provided in the question.

Unlike other sections, specific mark allocations for the description sub-components are not published in advance, as they are calibrated to the question set each year.

Sub-Component	Key Guidance For Candidates
Highlight advantages of the independent claim(s)	Marks are awarded for clearly articulated technical benefits of the invention over the prior art. Generic statements (e.g., "the invention is better") will not attract marks.
Discussion of prior art disadvantages	Marks are awarded for explaining the technical disadvantage of each prior art reference.
Adding alternative features as alternative embodiments	Marks are awarded where alternative features mentioned in the question are incorporated into the description as alternative embodiments, rather than as the only or preferred approach.
Removing "limiting statements" and correcting "incorrect terms/phrases"	Marks are awarded for identifying and removing limiting statements and for correcting incorrect terms or phrases in the description.