

STRUCTURE OF PAPER

This paper is a 30-minute interview conducted primarily in English and each candidate is interviewed by a panel consists of three interviewers. This is the fifth year that the new policy on using Cantonese for technical terms and for supplementary purpose with the permission of the Chairperson of the Panel of Interviewers is implemented.

This is also the fifth year to test candidates on their Case Study reports in the Professional Interview. Interviewers reminded the candidates that their case study reports were also used as a referencing material in the interview. Candidates may choose projects not handled by themselves and Interviewers were reminded to cross reference with the candidates' logbooks.

Interviewers were advised to make sure the candidates have digested the followings in doing their Case Study reports:

- Statutory Control
- Cost Control
- Time Control
- Safety
- Quality Control
- Design Quality Control
- Building Contracts

Candidates' professional maturity and adequacy of the practical experience as recorded in the Logbook were assessed by the interviewers. Questions may cover topics related to Buildings Ordinance, Building Regulations, other related ordinances and Codes of Practice, construction knowledge, Building Contract and Contract Administration and Professional Ethics. Candidates' confidence in answering questions was also looked for by interviewers.

ASSESSMENT OBSERVATIONS

Among 69 candidates, 68 candidates applied for admission via Professional Assessment while 1 applicant applied for admission via Non-Local Architectural Professionals (NLAP) Admission. 46 candidates (representing 68%) passed the paper in this September 2017 attempt (for PA2016), which is significantly lower than the attempt in March 2017 (70.27%).

From the report of Interviewers on failed candidates, most candidates were lacking knowledge in Building Contract and Building Ordinance and failed to demonstrate to the interviewers their competency to work as an Architect. The candidates were also lacking confidence and general knowledge; and were not well prepared for the Interview. The weaknesses may be attributed to their lack of practical experience in local projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CANDIDATES

- To reinforce his/her understanding of a project selected for case study, a candidate is recommended to discuss regularly with the advisor of what he/she has observed in the case study and to consult the advisor the rationale behind certain solutions to various problems, instead of just reporting to his/her advisor what have been done during the period of review.
- As reflected in the summary, main reasons of failure of some candidates in the examination attribute to the lack of practical construction and contract administration experience, which may be a result of the reducing number of local projects. Candidates are advised to look at their job exposure in particular the chance of getting involved in local projects before they commit or engage to the practice during their internship period.

Professional Interview Subject Panel Chair