

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 eighth year that, with the Interviewer Panel Chairperson's permission the new policy on using Cantonese for technical terms and for supplementary purpose is implemented.

This is also the eighth year that the candidate's Case Study report is being tested in the Professional Interview. Candidates were reminded that their Case Study reports would be used as 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 following when compiling their Case Study reports:

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

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

ASSESSMENT OBSERVATIONS

Among the 38 candidates, 5 candidates applied for admission via Non-Local Architectural Professionals (NLAP) Admission. A total of 30 candidates (representing 79%) passed the Paper in this October 2020 attempt (for PA2019), which is slightly higher than the June 2020 attempt (77%) by 2% and slightly lower than the March 2019 attempt of 80%. It is worth noting that the passing rate for NLAPA was 100%.

From the Interviewers' reports on failed candidates, the weakest items appear to be the concepts of, and knowledge in HKIA/ARB/ARO's Professional Conducts; lack of understanding and the working knowledge of Building Contract and Buildings Ordinance. Other reasons cited include lack of confidence and general knowledge in the practice of an Architect; and not well prepared for the Interview, etc. These weaknesses might be

attributed to the lack of sufficient practical experience, thus, failed to demonstrate to the interviewers their competency to work as an Architect.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Candidates are recommended to consult their advisor at closer intervals to discuss, and thus, to enhance their understanding of the rationale behind the problems and solutions as revealed in the course of the case study instead of reporting to his/her advisor what they have been done on quarterly basis.
- As reflected in the summary, one of the main reasons for failure was attributed to the lack of practical construction and contract administration experience. It might be a result of the reducing number of local projects in recent years. Candidates are strongly advised to look at their job exposure, in particular the opportunity of getting involved in local projects before they commit or engage to the practice during their internship period.

Professional Interview Subject Panel Chair