

Competence-based Professional Assessment (PA) in Geotechnical Discipline

Review of results of PA 2020/21

1. Results of 28 competence-based PAs were endorsed by the Qualification & Membership Board in the period between September 2020 and September 2021. The passing rate is 50%.
2. Statistics of not meeting the competence standard is presented below:

Competence Area	Competence	Number of candidate not meeting the standard
Applying Engineering Knowledge	1	12
	2	8
	11	5
Developing Technical Solutions	3	6
	4	10
Managing Engineering Work	5	3
	6	4
	7	4
	12	6
Upkeeping Professional Acumen	8	1
	9	1
	10	2
Writing Assessment	13	2
	13(i)	0
	13(ii)	2

3. It is noteworthy that a large number of failed candidates underperformed in the following competences.

Competence	% of failed candidate not meeting the competence requirement
C1 - Comprehend and apply knowledge of accepted principles underpinning widely applied good practice in professional engineering	~ 85%
C2 - Comprehend and apply knowledge of accepted principles underpinning good practice for professional engineering specific to Hong Kong.	~57%
C4 - Design or develop solutions to complex engineering problems in accordance with good practice for professional engineering	~71%

4. Comments on the performance of the failed candidates given by Assessors have been reviewed. Below is a gist of the comments giving a glimpse of the general views of the Assessors.

- *Candidates could not display sufficient geotechnical knowledge. The limited knowledge in common types of geotechnical works e.g. retaining walls, slopes, ELS etc. constrained their ability of developing sound engineering solutions.*

- *Candidates' knowledge of the local geotechnical practice in e.g. site investigation, quality control system and handling of exceedance of AAA levels is not up to standard.*