

HKIE Structural Exam 2021 – 2022 Examiner’s Report

HKIE Structural Examination consists of two main parts, the written exam and the interview. The written exam is a 7 hours exam and has two sections, a one hour multiple choice section and a six hours design question section. The design question is further divided into section A and B.

The interview part generally adopts a competence-based approach which focus on the following four pillars, applying engineering knowledge, developing technical solutions, managing engineering works and upkeeping professional acumen. The interview usually takes about an hour.

Candidates has to pass both the multiple choice and the design question section together with the interview to be considered passing the HKIE Structural Exam.

For the exam year 2021-2022, 390 number of candidates registered for the written exam of which 364 took the exam on 1 December 2021.

- 77.4% of the candidates passed the multiple-choice section and 19% passed the design question section. The overall pass rate is 19%.
- Majority of candidates attempted design question 1 or 2, with lesser number of candidates attempted design question 3 or 4.
- About 23% of the candidates passed Section A of the design question 1 and 2. Much lesser number of candidates passed Section A of design question 3, however for design question 4 about half of the candidates passed Section A. Failure to provide two distinct and viable design solution, and failure to demonstrate compliance with client’s requirements are the main causes.
- Regarding Section B of the design questions, most candidates attempted design question 1 were able to provide wind load calculation, detailed design calculation and method statement, but did not do as well on drawing and presentation of structural framing plans, and construction programme. For design question 2, most candidates did not do well in Section B with less than 30% gaining passing marks for this section. For design question 3, most candidates failed to provide satisfactory detailed design calculation for the long span structure, unsatisfactory in drawing presentation, method statement and construction programme. Candidates attempted Question 4 generally did rather poorly with design calculation, method statement and construction programme.

123 candidates registered for the interview between May to July 2022, 4 withdrawn and 1 deferred. 50% passed the interview.

- Main concerns on failure include: lack of design and / or site experience, lack of in-depth knowledge of the design project(s) presented, unable to discuss alternative solutions, fail to demonstrate sound structural principles and behaviour, insufficient project management experience and knowledge on construction contracts.