

Competence-based Professional Assessment (PA) in Geotechnical Discipline

Review of results of PA 2021/22

1. Results of 26 competence-based PAs were endorsed by the Qualification & Membership Board in the period of April 2021 to March 2022. The passing rate was 62%.
2. Statistic of not meeting the competence standard is presented below:

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

3. Statistic of underperformed items is shown below:

Competence	% of failed candidates not meeting the competence requirement
C1 – Comprehend and apply knowledge of accepted principles underpinning widely applied good practice for professional engineering	80%
C2 – Comprehend and apply knowledge of accepted principles underpinning good practice for professional engineering that is specific to Hong Kong	50%
C4 – Design or develop solutions to complex engineering problems in accordance with good practice for professional engineering	50%

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 do not possess the necessary geotechnical knowledge required to practice as a geotechnical engineer. They could not comprehend fundamental soil mechanics knowledge and are unable to apply the geotechnical knowledge to explain and resolve complex engineering problems they come across before, such as slope works, ELS works, etc.*
- *Candidates are not familiar with the geotechnical engineering practice for the work they were involved in. Some candidates also could not explain the application of engineering knowledge and their judgement on problem solving well.*