

## **Summary Report of Candidate Exam Exit Surveys 2015**

### **MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATES 2015:**

The membership candidates seemed to take advantage of the opportunity to feedback quite extensively in 2015, with 144 candidates completing Candidate Exam Exit Survey forms (covering 15 subjects). Subject specific feedback was provided to the relevant Chapters.

#### *Written Paper One*

A common theme was that candidates felt that there was not enough time to complete the examination in the allocated two hours. Candidates commented that they felt rushed to answer the questions, which affected logical thinking and didn't allow for review of the answers they had written for questions. Further general comments included candidate suggestions of a longer perusal time or time at the end available to review their answers.

A number of candidates also commented that they were not sure of the depth of knowledge the examiners were wanting in the answers or how much detail to include in answers, and therefore preferred sub-questions as these helped clarify and narrow down what was being asked for. Some noted that some questions have entire chapters written in text books, so guidance on what is required is needed. Some felt they had knowledge that they didn't get a chance to show.

However the most common response across all subjects was that written paper one was fair and relevant. Overall the membership examinations were noted to be well organised, with clear and reasonable questions.

#### *Written Paper Two*

Candidates generally reported that they were happy with paper two, saying it was very fair with a good range of questions. However, candidates also commented that they ran out of time or that there were too many questions for the time.

Again, more directed questions were requested to avoid time constraints.

Legibility of handwriting was commented on with the request for consideration of the ability to type answers.

#### *Practical Examination*

There were only two subjects in 2015 which included practical examinations. Comments were made on quality of images, ability to manipulate images, and praise for the format of the examination.

#### *Oral Examination*

Candidate feedback for the oral examinations was predominately how friendly or helpful or kind the examiners were. Many candidates commented on their own performance and the effect that nerves and stress had on them.

However, candidates remarked on how the examiners were expressionless, saying this was a little scary although understandable and that the friendly observer softened this lack of interaction with the examiners.

More information about the marks break down and the format of the examination would be useful.

Some candidates requested more prompts or clearer questions although others felt examiners guided participants through sections and teased out knowledge. At times candidates felt unsure about the depth required in an answer.

### *General*

Candidates made suggestions on how to improve the examination process, including:

- Holding oral exams sooner after the written papers, for example within two weeks.
- Consideration of electronic examination papers (so candidates can type answers) on provided computers.
- Assisting preparation by providing marking schemes to mentors or candidates, to help judge the depth of knowledge/answers required.

Eighty-five candidates reported that they utilised a mentor, with most being in contact fortnightly to monthly however some saying contact was infrequent. Some candidates initially communicated monthly then more frequently as the examinations became closer.

Mentors provided input on reading and areas of focus, example answers to previous questions, practice examinations

Having a mentor helped candidates understand the depth of answer required and was highly encouraged by respondents.

However some reported difficulty finding mentor who was willing and able to help. Thirty one candidates answered that they did not engage a mentor for various reasons, including lack of access, feeling intimidated by the process, not getting replies from Members they contacted, the College mentor list being outdated, and being used to studying independently.