

**THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG**  
**OVERSEAS LAWYERS QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION**  
**2024 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION PACKAGE**

**HEAD II: CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

**Contents**

- 1. Standards, Syllabus and Materials**
- 2. Examiners' Comments on the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Examinations**
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**Important: The test paper for Head II Civil and Criminal Procedure:**

- 1. is open book. Candidates may bring in and refer to any book, document or other written material**
- 2. has a duration of 3½ hours**
- 3. has no specific reading time allocated**
- 4. contains FIVE questions. Candidates should answer any FOUR questions only.**



# **1. Standards, Syllabus and Materials**



# **Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination**

## **HEAD II: CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

### **Standards, Syllabus and Materials**

#### **A. CIVIL PROCEDURE**

##### **STANDARDS**

Candidates will be expected:-

- (i) to be familiar with causes of action arising out of the contract and tort sections of Head V: Principles of Common Law;
- (ii) to demonstrate an ability to draft simple pleadings, affidavits and letters of advice; and
- (iii) to demonstrate a knowledge of and an ability to apply the rules of practice and procedure as set out in the syllabus.

The test paper for this Head of the Examination is set at the standard expected of a newly qualified (day one) solicitor in Hong Kong who has completed a law degree (or its equivalent), the professional training course (PCLL) and a two year traineeship prior to admission.

##### **SYLLABUS**

#### **1. Structure of Hong Kong's Civil Courts System**

- Court of Final Appeal
- Court of Appeal
- Court of First Instance of the High Court
- District Court
- jurisdiction of the courts, including supervisory jurisdiction
- sources of civil procedure: Ordinances, Rules of Court, Practice Directions

#### **2. Pre-action Considerations**

- the cause of action
- the parties to the action
- time limits
- the merits
- costs only proceedings
- financial considerations including legal aid

#### **3. Underlying objectives of the High Court and District Court Rules**

- the underlying objectives
- case management powers

- use of alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation
- 4. Commencement and Service of Proceedings**
- types of originating process
  - preparing and issuing originating process
  - validity and renewal of writs
  - modes of service
  - acknowledgement of service and intention to defend
  - applications to serve out of the jurisdiction
- 5. Pleadings and Particulars**
- the function of pleadings
  - Statement of Claim
  - Defence
  - Counterclaim and/or Set Off
  - Reply to Defence and Defence to Counterclaim
  - amendments to writ and pleadings
  - Further and Better Particulars
  - Third party proceedings
- 6. Interlocutory Matters**
- striking out and staying
  - security for costs
  - interim payment
  - judgment in default and summary judgment
  - discovery and inspection of documents
  - interrogatories
  - exchange of witnesses' statements
  - orders for exchanged statements to stand as evidence in chief at trial
  - experts' reports
  - joinder of parties
  - contribution notices
  - case management summons, case management conference and pre-trial review
  - case management timetable
- 7. Pre-emptive remedies including:**
- simple interlocutory injunctions
  - prohibition orders
- 8. Preparations for Trial and Trial**
- checklist for hearing
  - setting down
  - preparing and lodging documents for trial
  - subpoenas
  - conduct of the trial

**9. Termination and Compromise**

- without prejudice negotiations
- Calderbank offers
- sanctioned offers and sanctioned payments
- withdrawal and discontinuance
- simple settlement agreements
- consent orders and judgments

**10. Enforcement of Judgments**

- oral examination
- execution against goods
- charging orders
- injunctions and prohibition orders in aid of enforcement
- garnishee proceedings
- winding up and bankruptcy (N.B. in so far as this is relevant to the enforcement of judgments)

**11. Costs**

- bases and scales
- costs between litigants and between solicitor and client
- wasted costs
- security for costs
- taxed costs and fixed costs
- discretion of the Court
- costs on interlocutory applications
- summary assessment of costs

**12. Rights of Appeal**

- setting aside a judgment in default
- interlocutory appeals
- appealing a judgment
- appeals to the Court of Appeal
- appeals to the Court of Final Appeal (s.22 CFA Ordinance)

**MATERIALS**

**A sound knowledge of the following Ordinances and other materials cited is essential to any understanding of civil procedure.**

- Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Ordinance (Cap 484)
- High Court Ordinance (Cap 4)
- Rules of the High Court
- District Court Ordinance (Cap 336)
- Rules of the District Court
- Practice Directions
- authorities

## **Hong Kong Texts on Civil Procedure**

**Candidates should note that although Hong Kong's civil procedure was modelled upon the civil procedure of England and Wales, procedural reforms in England and Wales have not been adopted in Hong Kong, but rather Hong Kong has implemented its own civil justice reforms. Reference must therefore be made to Hong Kong texts and materials.**

**Candidates should also note that Hong Kong Cases can be accessed through the Hong Kong Judiciary web site: <http://legalref.judiciary.hk/lrs/common/ju/judgment.jsp>.**

**Similarly, much useful Hong Kong material can be found on the Hong Kong Legal Information Institute web site: [www.hklii.org](http://www.hklii.org).**

### **Main Texts**

- ‘Hong Kong Civil Procedure 2024 - The Hong Kong White Book’, Sweet & Maxwell
- ‘Hong Kong Civil Court Practice’, Desk Edition 2024, LexisNexis, *Julienne Jen* (ISBN 978 988 886 320 4)

The following materials are useful for reference:

- ‘Hong Kong District Court Practice’, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, LexisNexis, *Lo, P.Y.* (ISBN 978 988 876 486 0)
- ‘Civil Procedure in Hong Kong: A Guide to the Main Principles’, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (2017), Sweet & Maxwell, *Dave Lau* (ISBN 978 962 661 971 1)
- ‘Civil Litigation in Hong Kong’, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (2021), Sweet & Maxwell, *Douglas Clark* (ISBN 978 988 859 085 8)

**Candidates must ensure they are using the latest editions of texts and up to date versions of Ordinances.**



## **B. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

### **STANDARDS**

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate a knowledge of and an ability to apply the rules of practice and procedure as set out in the syllabus.

The test paper for this Head of the Examination is set at the standard expected of a newly qualified (day one) solicitor in Hong Kong who has completed a law degree (or its equivalent), the professional training course (PCLL) and a two year traineeship prior to admission.

### **SYLLABUS**

- 1. Hong Kong's Criminal Courts**
  - Court of Final Appeal (in outline only)
  - Court of Appeal of the High Court
  - Court of First Instance of the High Court
  - District Court
  - The Magistrate's Court
  - The Juvenile Court
  
- 2. Criminal Procedure in Hong Kong**
  - The Role of the Judge
  - The Role of the Jury
  - Police Powers in Hong Kong
  - The Classification of Offences
  
- 3. Commencement of Proceedings**
  - Prosecuting authorities and the role of the Secretary for Justice
  - Arrest, Detention and Seizure of Property, Arrest and False Imprisonment
  - Questioning of suspects and obtaining statements
  - Receiving instructions to represent a client
  - Identification parades and attending the client in custody
  - Charging
  - Bailing
  - Proceeding by way of Summons
  - Service of Process and compelling attendance at court
  
- 4. From Charging to Trial**
  - Summonses, Charges and Indictments
  - Duplicity
  - Joinder of Offences and Offenders
  - Severance and Separate Trials
  - The Prosecution's Duty to Disclose Unused Materials
  - Alibi Notices and Expert Evidence

- 5. Procedure in the Magistrates' Court**
  - Applications for Bail
  - The Plea before the Magistrate
  - The Trial before the Magistrate
  - Amending Charges and Summonses, s 27 of the Magistrates Ordinance
  - Sentencing Powers
  - Transferring to and from the District Court
  - Committals to the Court of First Instance of the High Court
  
- 6. Procedure in the District Court**
  - From Transfer to Trial
  - Trial in the District Court
  - Sentencing Powers
  
- 7. Particular Problems During Trials**
  - Admissibility of Caution Statements: the Voir Dire and the Alternative Procedure
  - Objecting to the Information, Charge or Indictment
  - The Duty and Responsibility to the Court and to the Client
  - Vulnerable Witnesses and Video Linking and Pre-Trial Statements
  
- 8. Verdict and Sentencing**
  - Alternative verdicts
  - Aims and objectives of sentencing
  - Available sentences
  - Sentencing guidelines
  
- 9. Challenging and Appealing the Decision**
  - Appealing from Magistrates
  - The Review powers of Magistrates
  - Appealing from the District Court
  - Reviewing Sentence
  - Appeals generally
  
- 10. Costs and Finance**
  - Powers of Courts to Award Costs and Against Whom
  - Compensation Orders and Restitution Orders
  - Forfeiture Proceedings
  - Duty Lawyer Scheme
  - Legal Aid

## **MATERIALS**

**Candidates should note that although criminal procedure in Hong Kong is modelled upon the procedure in England and Wales, there are differences between the two procedures. Reference must be made to Hong Kong texts and materials.**

**The remarks about the Judiciary web site and the Hong Kong Legal Information Institute web site made in the civil procedure section of this syllabus are equally apposite to criminal procedure.**

**A sound knowledge of the following Ordinances and other materials cited is essential to any understanding of criminal procedure.**

### **Ordinances and sub-legislations**

- Criminal Procedure Ordinance, Cap. 221
  - Sub-legislation:
    - Criminal Appeal Rules, Cap. 221A
    - Indictment Rules, Cap. 221C
    - Legal Aid in Criminal Cases Rules, Cap. 221D
    - Criminal Procedure (Reference of Questions of Law) Rules, Cap. 221E
    - Criminal Procedure (Appeal Against Discharge) Rules, Cap. 221F
    - Criminal Procedure (Applications under Section 16) Rules, Cap. 221G
    - Criminal Procedure (Representation) Rules, Cap. 221H
    - Criminal Procedure (Record of Bail Proceedings) Rules, Cap. 221I
    - Live Television Link and Video Recorded Evidence Rules, Cap. 221J
    - Application for Dismissal of Charges Contained in a Notice of Transfer Rules, Cap. 221K
- Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, Cap. 226
- Magistrates Ordinance, Cap. 227
- District Court Ordinance, Cap. 336
- Costs in Criminal Cases Ordinance, Cap. 492
- Police Force Ordinance, Cap. 232
- Detention Centre Ordinance, Cap. 239
- Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Ordinance, Cap. 244
- Training Centres Ordinance, Cap. 280
- Probation of Offenders Ordinance, Cap. 298
- Community Service Orders Ordinance, Cap. 378
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Ordinance, Cap. 297

### **Other Materials**

- The (Hong Kong) Rules and Directions for the Questioning of Suspects and the Taking of Statements (Hong Kong Government)
- Notice to Suspect for Attendance at Identification Parade (Pol. 60) Hong Kong Police Force
- The Bar Council, Code of Conduct of the Bar of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong Bar Association)
- The Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct, The Law Society of Hong Kong (Paragraphs relating to the Conduct of Litigation)
- Practice Directions
- Solicitor's Practice Rules relating to criminal litigation, esp. Rule 5D

## **Texts**

- *Simon S.Y. So; Christopher Knight; Anthony Upham* ‘Knight and Upham - Criminal Litigation in Hong Kong’, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Sweet & Maxwell Hong Kong (ISBN 978 988 859 077 3)
- *Amanda Whitfort*, ‘Criminal Procedure in Hong Kong: A Guide for Students and Practitioners’, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, LexisNexis (ISBN 978 988 868 236 2)

## **For Reference**

- ‘Archbold Hong Kong 2024’, Sweet & Maxwell Hong Kong
- *Grenville Cross GBS, SC. and Patrick W. S. Cheung* ‘Sentencing in Hong Kong’, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, LexisNexis, (ISBN 978 988 879 973 2)

**Candidates must ensure they are using the latest editions of texts and up to date versions of Ordinances.**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Candidates may find it useful to spend half a day in the High Court, half a day in the District Court and half a day in the Magistrates’ Court.

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## **2. Examiners' Comments on the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Examinations**



## **Examiners' Comments on the 2021 Examination**

### **Head II: Civil & Criminal Procedure**

#### The Overall Performance of Candidates

1. The number of candidates who sat the Head II paper in 2021 was 44, down from 64 in the previous year. 14 candidates were given overall pass marks, resulting in a pass rate of 32%. This is a significant decrease from the 77% pass rate in the previous year where 49 out of 64 candidates were given overall pass marks. Unfortunately the pass rate is now back to where it was in 2019 (31%). Whether 2020 was simply an outlier year of improvement as opposed to the start of a significant trend remains to be seen.

#### The Standard and Format of the Examination

2. The Examination, as in previous years, was open book.
3. The Examination is premised on the standard to be expected from the Day One Lawyer. The Day One Lawyer is one who has completed both the academic and vocational stages necessary for professional qualification. In Hong Kong that means the LL.B (or a non-law degree and the CPE), the PCLL and the two year training contract. Day One Lawyers should have a sound base of substantive knowledge and have acquired the ability to apply that knowledge to straightforward situations. In reality those taking the examination will be more than Day One Lawyers because of experience obtained in their home jurisdictions. Even so the Panel was careful to focus on the "Day One" standard and to keep away from what might be classed as "advanced procedure" or "superior ability". A Day One Lawyer intending to practise in Hong Kong should, however, have the ability to demonstrate an appreciation of the structure, powers and responsibilities of Hong Kong's Courts and have a basic knowledge of what is required in advising and representing clients in litigious matters. They should not be a danger to the client.
4. The Panel was concerned to set questions which would test substantive knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge in a constructive, practical and common sense manner. The examination deliberately mimics the situation of a solicitor asked to advise a client about a problem, and calls for directional practical answers, sometimes against an unfamiliar factual background.

#### General Comments

5. There were five questions in the paper, and candidates were required to answer any four of those questions. The time allowed was 3 hours and 30 minutes. The first 30 minutes is intended to allow candidates an opportunity to read and digest the questions in the paper and to plan their answers before starting to write. However, candidates can start to write their answers as soon as they wish.

## Performance on individual Questions

### ***Criminal Procedure***

6. Questions 1 and 2 focused on the kinds of issues any newly qualified solicitor should be able to guide their client through in a competent manner. This year the answers provided by the candidates were notably poor. For question two, which was based on basic and long-standing tests for criminal culpability, not one of the 14 candidates who attempted the question was able to explain the applicable law satisfactorily. For question one, the pass rate was much better, but still low at 43%. The questions were no more difficult than those posed in previous years and it is very clear that many candidates take this exam with little understanding of criminal practice and either fail to answer the question asked or answer in the briefest point form, ensuring they miss many of the key issues raised by the examiners. The overall pass rate for criminal procedure was a disappointing 30%, a significant drop from the pass rate of 45% last year.

#### **Question 1 (pass rate 43%)**

7. This question had two parts, the first requiring candidates to identify the court in which common criminal offences of assault and criminal damage would be tried. This requires candidates to have mastered basic statutory interpretation skills and an understanding of sentencing practices in Hong Kong which should not have presented the difficulties they did to many candidates. Part two of the question required candidates to explain, in basic terms, the threshold requirements for bail in cases related to national security offences. Many were unable to do so.

#### **Question 2 (pass rate 0%)**

8. This question had two parts and related to a case of drug trafficking with an international element. The first part of the question required candidates to be aware of and explain in simple terms the application of the evidentiary burden arising from the presumption of knowledge under section 47 of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance Cap 134. The applicable section was provided in the paper. The law in this area was settled in *HKSAR v Hung Chan Wa and Another* [2005] 3 HKLRD 291.
9. The second part of this question required candidates to evaluate the evidence against the hypothetical client and identify whether to make a no case to answer submission. The capability to recognise when the prosecution has insufficient evidence to claim a reasonable jury properly directed could convict is a fundamental requirement for practice in any jurisdiction. It is astonishing it presented such a burden to candidates for practice in Hong Kong.

### ***Civil Procedure***

10. Questions 3, 4 and 5 addressed issues of civil procedure which could well land on the desk of a newly admitted solicitor. The answers were expected to be at the level of sophistication and experience of a solicitor at that stage. In some cases, common sense application of established procedures and procedural law was all that was sought, rather than a recitation of black letter rules. The overall pass rate was 48% on the civil



procedure side, which is down from 71% in the previous year and closer to the 2019 figure of 42%. 57% of candidates were able to pass all the civil procedure questions they attempted. Questions 3 and 4 proved easier in that an over 60% pass rate was achieved but this dropped to 23% for question 5 which might reflect the fact question 5 required a rather wider range of knowledge of civil procedure than questions 3 and 4 which were more discrete in their areas of knowledge dealing with the commencement of proceedings and the drafting of a statement of claim (question 3) and a summary judgment application (question 4).

### **Question 3 (pass rate 65%)**

11. Question 3 asked candidates to advise a client resident in Taiwan (potential plaintiff) on his rights against a borrower under a simple loan agreement where the borrower was in default.
12. Candidates were asked to advise the client on what proceedings could be brought and in which forum and also to advise on any matters he should be aware of if legal proceedings were brought in Hong Kong.
13. Candidates were then asked to draft a statement of claim, which task constituted three-fifths of the marks available and lastly to consider and advise on a specific bare allegation in a defence.
14. The majority of candidates were able to identify and draft the statement of claim to a reasonably acceptable standard.
15. Not many candidates were able to properly identify and explain the potential issue of security for costs given the client's residence outside the jurisdiction
16. Very few candidates seemed to understand the purpose of a request for further and better particulars of an allegation in a pleading which resulted in no or very low marks being given to the majority of candidates for this part of the question.

### **Question 4 (pass rate 61%)**

17. Question 4 concerned a client (defendant) who was being sued on a dishonoured cheque which he said he had mistakenly issued on his personal account rather than his company account. An Order 14 (summary judgment) application had been taken out by the plaintiff. The question consisted of two parts.
18. First, for 10 marks candidates were asked to explain a few short points about the Order 14 application such as what client could do to oppose it, and whether client's personal assets were at risk. This part of the question was generally well answered. However, many answers were uncannily similar, suggesting that candidates were answering with the benefit of pre-prepared notes from a common source. These answers were mostly rather general but correct and were generally awarded passing marks. Better candidates focused on the facts given in the question, resulting in better answers which were rewarded with higher marks.
19. Secondly, for 15 marks candidates were asked to draft an affirmation in opposition to the Order 14 application. To avoid going into substantive law candidates were told they

could assume that client had a good defence of total failure of consideration on the basis that liability for the payment lay with client's limited company and not himself. The overall performance was reasonably good, and the pass rate was high. Some candidates produced excellent draft affirmations and were awarded with high marks. Common mistakes among candidates who unfortunately did poorly included:

- (1) mixing up plaintiff and defendant;
  - (2) naming client's company rather than client himself as defendant when it was clear from the facts set out in the question that client had been sued personally;
  - (3) failing to put forward a defence in the affirmation, clearly or at all, meaning that the document being drafted could not possibly serve its purpose of opposing the Order 14 application.
20. There were also some candidates who assumed that client was being sued in the Court of First Instance, when the District Court would clearly have been more appropriate. However, as the choice of forum was not up to client, but the plaintiff, and given that the two courts technically have concurrent jurisdiction for this level of simple claim, this was not treated as a grave error.

#### **Question 5 (pass rate 23%)**

21. Question 5 concerned matters arising before and after the trial of an action. It embraced diverse areas relating to the giving of evidence at trial in the light of the Covid pandemic and the perennial issue of a recalcitrant witness.
22. Separately questions were put as to certain post-trial matters relating to issues of quantum after a trial with a finding of liability and appeals by both parties.
23. Disappointingly, few candidates had any real knowledge of how evidence could be given at a trial other than by viva voce testimony. This is disappointing given this has been an issue which has been the subject of several cases since the inception of Covid.
24. There was a greater understanding of the possible need to serve a subpoena on a reluctant witness although little consideration of the possible impact of compelling a reluctant witness to give evidence.
25. There seemed to be very little knowledge or understanding of a split trial between liability and quantum and the type of directions that might be sought for such a quantum hearing. On reflection this may have been a little too arcane a subject to expect widespread knowledge on the part of candidates.
26. Conversely, an understanding of the basic principles of an appeal from a trial on liability in the High Court is something of which one would expect any candidate to have a reasonable knowledge. Sadly this was not the case with a number of candidates although this part of the question was better answered than the others.

## **Examiners' Comments on the 2022 Examination**

### **Head II: Civil & Criminal Procedure**

#### The Overall Performance of Candidates

1. The number of candidates who sat the Head II paper in 2022 was 61, up from 44 in the previous year. 39 candidates were given overall pass marks, resulting in a pass rate of 64%. This is a very welcome increase from the lowly 32% pass rate in the previous year where 14 out of 44 candidates were given overall pass marks. It is difficult to draw long term conclusions as the pass rates over the last four years have been 31% (2019), 77% (2020), 32% (2021) and now 64% (2022).

#### The Standard and Format of the Examination

2. The Examination, as in previous years, was open book.
3. The Examination is premised on the standard to be expected from the Day One Lawyer. The Day One Lawyer is one who has completed both the academic and vocational stages necessary for professional qualification. In Hong Kong that means the LL.B (or a non-law degree and the CPE), the PCLL and the two year training contract. Day One Lawyers should have a sound base of substantive knowledge and have acquired the ability to apply that knowledge to straightforward situations. In reality those taking the examination will be more than Day One Lawyers because of experience obtained in their home jurisdictions. Even so the Panel was careful to focus on the "Day One" standard and to keep away from what might be classed as "advanced procedure" or "superior ability". A Day One Lawyer intending to practise in Hong Kong should, however, have the ability to demonstrate an appreciation of the structure, powers and responsibilities of Hong Kong's Courts and have a basic knowledge of what is required in advising and representing clients in litigious matters. They should not be a danger to the client.
4. The Panel was concerned to set questions which would test substantive knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge in a constructive, practical and common sense manner. The examination deliberately mimics the situation of a solicitor asked to advise a client about a problem, and calls for directional practical answers, sometimes against an unfamiliar factual background.

#### General Comments

5. There were five questions in the paper, and candidates were required to answer any four of those questions. The time allowed was 3 hours and 30 minutes. The first 30 minutes is intended to allow candidates an opportunity to read and digest the questions in the paper and to plan their answers before starting to write. However, candidates can start to write their answers as soon as they wish.

## Performance on individual Questions

### ***Criminal Procedure***

6. Questions 1 and 2 focused on the kinds of issues any newly qualified solicitor should be able to guide their client through in a competent manner. The overall pass rate for criminal procedure was 48%.

#### **Question 1 (pass rate 45%)**

7. This question raised matters of bribery, bail, legal representation, conflict of interest, evidence, sentence and mitigation. It was divided into 6 sub-questions. It required a good, basic understanding of the legal principles involved.
8. The question was very straight forward.
9. Some of the answers to 1 (a) appear to be a standard stock answers as anticipated by the course providers. But the candidates did not analyse the facts and apply the law to the facts.
10. Some of the answers to all parts were sketchy and not enough depth. Hence, the marks are low in general.
11. Some candidates do not know the differences between Duty Lawyer Service (“DLS”) and Legal Aid Department (“LAD”). No candidates mentioned the first appearance for all accused is the Magistrate Court and DLS is available to the accused.

#### **Question 2 (pass rate 52%)**

12. This question related to the National Security Law. It has 2 main parts - the first on bail and the second on High Court procedure with regard to jury trial and the Secretary for Justice’s Certificate. This question required the candidates to be familiar with this important legislation.
13. The overall performance of the candidates who answered this question was not that satisfactory.
14. Generally speaking, most of the candidates who answered this question did a little well with some parts whilst doing so poorly with the remaining parts, resulting in achieving a bare pass or a fail in the total mark.
15. There was a part on the issues of “review of sentence and appeal against sentence.” A Day One Lawyer engaged in criminal procedure should possess and grasp these issues.

## *Civil Procedure*

16. The overall pass rate was 62% on the civil procedure side, which is up from 48% in the previous year. 72% of candidates were able to pass all the civil procedure questions they attempted. Questions 4 and 5 proved easier as an over 80% pass rate was achieved but this dropped to 48% for question 3. This probably reflected the fact the primary focus in questions 4 and 5 was on the drafting of pleadings as opposed to question 3 which sought a memorandum of advice on security for costs. This means candidates may be better able to source drafting precedents in an open book examination than in considering advisory issues on a specific interlocutory application such as security for costs.

### **Question 3 (pass rate 48%)**

17. Question 3(1) related to security for costs and sought a memorandum of advice on the merits of a security for costs application at the stage of a case management conference and where the law firm advising the defendant had recently changed.
18. Most candidates appeared to be copying from a template in rendering their memorandum of advice hence the answers were very similar.
19. Most candidates failed to address the various discretionary factors which were embedded in the facts of the question. As such, the application of the specific facts to the principles of security for costs was weak.
20. Many candidates also failed to address the timing of the security for costs application and the impact of the recent change of solicitors on the merits of any proposed application.
21. Question 3(2) addressed a different scenario where the court had awarded judgment to the plaintiff in a certain sum and made a costs order nisi. The defendant client had filed two separate Notices of Sanctioned Payment on different dates at amounts below and above the court's awards of damages. In addition, a "without prejudice save as to costs" letter had been sent between the dates of the Notices of Sanctioned Payment.
22. While most candidates recognised the first sanctioned payment could be ignored as it was below the amount of damages awarded, many candidates failed to address the "without prejudice save as to costs" offer in the appropriate manner i.e. as the claim was a monetary one, such an offer did not attract costs consequences as under Order 2 Rules of the High Court, a sanctioned payment should have been made instead.
23. Candidates who spotted this issue did well on this question but mere recognition that a sanctioned payment above the amount of damages (as the second sanctioned payment was) and the consequences that flowed did not suffice to get a good mark. A proper consideration of the factors which might make it unjust for the court to order the plaintiff to pay the defendant's costs on an indemnity basis with enhanced interest would have also been of benefit to many candidates.

**Question 4 (pass rate 80%)**

24. Question 4 concerned the drafting of a statement of claim in a relatively simple claim for breach of contract, the plaintiff being the firm of solicitors for whom the candidate is assumed to work.
25. Most candidates appeared to be copying from a precedent. Regrettably, quite a few of them failed to adapt the precedent to the facts of the particular case. For example, quite a number described the plaintiff (a firm of solicitors) as a company incorporated under the Companies Ordinance. This is a serious error whether it arises from lack of knowledge of the law relating to business associations or simple carelessness.
26. Again, possibly copying from a precedent, many candidates over-egged their pleading. A simple breach of contract claim had added to it allegations such as breach of fiduciary duty and claims for equitable damages. Such claims were inappropriate on the facts of the case which was a simple crisp and clear claim for common law damages for breach of contract.
27. Overall, however, the standard was good and the high pass rate was pleasing.

**Question 5 (pass rate 88%)**

28. Question 5 asked candidates to draft a writ of summons with a statement of claim endorsed on it in respect of a breach of contract for non-delivery of a specific product for a specific use where the price was an agreed fee.
29. Generally speaking, candidates were able to answer the question well. For the writ itself, as marks were given for following the correct format of a writ of summons, using a precedent, as most candidates obviously did, allowed marks to be easily earned.
30. For the statement of claim, the claim was a relatively simple breach of contract case and most candidates were able to produce a passworthy draft pleading.

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## **Examiners' Comments on the 2023 Examination**

### **Head II: Civil & Criminal Procedure**

#### The Overall Performance of Candidates

1. The number of candidates who sat the Head II paper in 2023 was 86, up from 61 in the previous year. 36 candidates were given overall pass marks, resulting in a pass rate of 42%. This is a decline from the pass rate in the previous year where 39 out of 61 candidates were given overall pass marks. Pass rates seem to fluctuate and it is likely certain types of question may lead to higher and lower pass rates. The pass rates for the last five years have been 31% (2019), 77% (2020), 32% (2021), 64% (2022) and now 42% (2023).

#### The Standard and Format of the Examination

2. The Examination, as in previous years, was open book.
3. The Examination is premised on the standard to be expected from the Day One Lawyer. The Day One Lawyer is one who has completed both the academic and vocational stages necessary for professional qualification. In Hong Kong that means the LL.B (or a non-law degree and the CPE), the PCLL and the two year training contract. Day One Lawyers should have a sound base of substantive knowledge and have acquired the ability to apply that knowledge to straightforward situations. In reality those taking the examination will be more than Day One Lawyers because of experience obtained in their home jurisdictions. Even so the Panel was careful to focus on the "Day One" standard and to keep away from what might be classed as "advanced procedure" or "superior ability". A Day One Lawyer intending to practise in Hong Kong should, however, have the ability to demonstrate an appreciation of the structure, powers and responsibilities of Hong Kong's Courts and have a basic knowledge of what is required in advising and representing clients in litigious matters. They should not be a danger to the client.
4. The Panel was concerned to set questions which would test substantive knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge in a constructive, practical and common sense manner. The examination deliberately mimics the situation of a solicitor asked to advise a client about a problem, and calls for directional practical answers, sometimes against an unfamiliar factual background.

#### General Comments

5. There were five questions in the paper, and candidates were required to answer any four of those questions. The time allowed was 3 hours and 30 minutes. The first 30 minutes is intended to allow candidates an opportunity to read and digest the questions in the paper and to plan their answers before starting to write. However, candidates can start to write their answers as soon as they wish.

## Performance on individual Questions

### ***Criminal Procedure***

6. Questions 1 and 2 focused on the kinds of issues any newly qualified solicitor should be able to guide their client through in a competent manner. The overall pass rate for criminal procedure was 47%.

#### **Question 1 (pass rate 41%)**

7. Question One is divided into 8 small parts.
8. For part 1: No one mentioned the first thing is to contact the students' respective consulates. Some answered: say sorry; no case to answer; they took drugs; one said there is a defence to the charge without specification; one mentioned the detention period is 72 hours
9. For Part 2: no one mentioned the accused does not have roots in Hong Kong. One mentioned to report to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)
10. For part 3: one answered request for further particulars and Pre Action Discovery
11. For part 4: One answered: "Students have conflict but no common assault."
12. For part 5: this is a guideline not tariff
13. For Part 6: one answered to pay off the victim and offer to settle with the victim
14. For Part 7: there is a new term used 'rectified pleadings'
15. For Part 8: how can one claim an acquittal
16. Question One is a simple straight forward question and the blank books answered reflect the standard this year has fallen sharply.
17. No marks were deducted for deciphering the handwriting.

#### **Question 2 (pass rate 50%)**

18. This Question is divided into 4 parts examining 3 different areas.
19. Question 2(1) examines candidates' basic knowledge in handling a bail application. This part is relatively straight forward. Most of the candidates were able to grasp as well as to apply the fundamental principles. Some candidates gained very good marks in this part.
20. Question 2(2) is also relatively straight forward. The issue is the importance of timely guilty plea. One third full credit of discount for guilty plea would only be given when the plea was entered at the first opportunity. The percentage of discount for guilty plea would be progressively reduced at the later stages of the proceedings. Most of the candidates gained good marks in this part.



21. Question 2(3) and (4) are relatively difficult parts of this Question concerning the reversal of plea. For Question 2(3), candidates are expected to pick up the point that the accused specifically made a qualification of his plea by saying “compensated dating” which vitiated the important element of the offence of rape. This led to the issue whether it was a defence of consensual sexual intercourse. The accused’s qualification is arguably making his guilty plea equivocal. Unfortunately, most of the candidates did not analyse the facts and apply the law to the facts.
22. For Question 2(4), candidates are expected to pick up the point that the accused may raise the argument of “in the interest of justice” even if his guilty plea was unequivocal. Only few candidates could identify this point.
23. The overall performance of the candidates who answered this Question was fair.

### ***Civil Procedure***

24. The overall pass rate was 49% on the civil procedure side, which is down from 62% in the previous year but almost identical to the pass rate of 48% in 2022. The pass rate varied markedly for the three civil procedure questions ranging from 22% who passed Question 3, through 52% passing Question 4 up to 72% who passed Question 5. This probably reflects the subject matter of the questions. So Question 3 (pre-action discovery) is likely a less familiar subject to candidates than Question 4 (sanctioned offers) and particularly Question 5 (enforcement of a monetary judgment). This year's questions did not allow references to a precedent, such as drafting a pleading, which candidates often seem to find easier than answering questions on specific points of civil procedure.

### **Question 3 (pass rate 22%)**

25. Question 3 related to a typical personal injury claim, coupled with a counterclaim by the defendants against the plaintiff in the original action and an additional party.
26. There were two questions set to test the candidates' understanding of (i) pre-action discovery against non-parties (which is not uncommon in a case where the potential defendants are insured and the discovery is made against his insurers), (ii) the relevant procedures and exceptions which may be relied upon to object to a request for discovery, (iii) ability to attend to details, (iv) application of Ord 15, r3, (v) familiarity of titles to proceedings and (vi) relief which might be sought.
27. The overall total marks of this questions were low mainly because of the second question. The first question was relatively straight-forward, but many candidates did not get high marks because either they did not state all the three requirements which had to be shown to seek pre-action discovery against a non party, and many also did not go further to give a brief analysis or explain why the discovery was relevant and went to assist in the fair disposal of the matter. Of note also is that many candidates did not spot the difference between pre-action (non-party) discovery and discovery after proceedings have been commenced.

28. The second question asked candidates to produce a proforma pleading for a counterclaim without the actual substance of the pleaded counterclaim. This therefore required attention to the correct heading, the parties, the way the parties are referred to in a counterclaim, the title and the prayer for relief.
29. Most candidates got low marks on this question because of an inability to focus on detail and making simple errors.

**Question 4 (pass rate 52%)**

30. Question 4 was about the sanctioned offer procedure under RHC O 22, whereby a plaintiff can propose settlement to the defendant, with costs and interest sanctions if the defendant refuses but ultimately fails to do better.
31. The question consisted of two parts. Part (a), which was allocated the bulk of the marks, asked candidates to draft a letter to the client in a personal injury claim, explaining the procedure and asking for further instructions. Part (b) asked candidates to draft the sanctioned offer for client's approval.
32. The performance of candidates on part (a) was, on the whole, very good. However, it was noted that many of the answers were rather general, and could well have been copied out from pre-prepared notes. That is the risk of an open-book exam. Higher marks were awarded to answers which were clearly focused on the individual client's case.
33. Candidates tended not to do quite as well on part (b), although the overall pass rate was acceptable. This part required candidates to think for themselves, as they could not have anticipated the particular factual circumstances set out in the question. A few candidates who answered part (a) adequately were unable to think for themselves and were given fail marks on part (b).
34. Overall the pass rate on question 4 was acceptable and it was pleasing to note that the majority of candidates had a least a basic knowledge of this important new procedure.

**Question 5 (pass rate 72%)**

35. Question 5 was a straight forward question testing the candidate's knowledge on the various ways to enforce a monetary judgment obtained in the High Court of Hong Kong by reference to the facts given. A typo in the paper was found on the day of the examination but it was clarified with all candidates immediately and at the end, nobody was misled as to what he or she was required to answer.
36. In general, candidates did not have much of a problem in identifying all or some of the 6 ways of enforcement set out in Paragraph 10 of the Syllabus. The difference between good and bad answers generally lay in the quality of the analysis and application.
37. This examination is on, inter alia, "Civil Procedure" and the Question did ask the candidates to "... set out in brief the procedure for each means of enforcement proposed ..." so some candidates could have done better if they had made direct/more reference to The Rules of the High Court as opposed to The High Court Ordinance although the latter is the enabling statute.

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### **3. Past Examination Papers from 2021 to 2023**



**2021 OVERSEAS LAWYERS  
QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION**

**HEAD II: CIVIL AND  
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

Friday, 5 November 2021





# 2021 Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

## Head II: Civil and Criminal Procedure

### Question 1 (25 marks)

#### Part A

Abel, Cain and Zach are all fresh graduates of the University of Hong Kong having just passed the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws course. They decided to have a night out to celebrate their success in Central, Hong Kong. Having visited several bars in Lan Kwai Fong, they became intoxicated with alcohol. At one point, Cain and Zach decided to go home and sleep their drunkenness off. Abel was left alone in a bar.

At 2:00 am, Abel prepared to leave the bar, having got the impression that the final bar tab had been settled by either Cain or Zach. He was stopped by Jim, the manager, at the door, as the bill was not paid. Jim told Abel the bill was for HK\$3,000. Abel had spent all his cash at the previous establishments and did not have any credit cards. Abel explained to Jim that it was common practice for the bar tabs to be divided between him and his friends, Cain and Zach. He was prepared to settle his share of the bar bill for HK\$1,000, only Abel had no cash and needed to visit an automatic teller machine to get more. Jim would not let Abel leave. Abel tried several times to telephone Cain and Zach but neither answered his calls.

In desperation, Abel tried to push past Jim, kicking into chairs and a table as he went. A waiter, Bill, saw what was happening and tried to assist Jim. Feeling threatened by the men, Abel picked up an empty beer bottle and struck Bill with it to the head, causing him to bleed.

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 1)*

Police were called and Abel was arrested and taken back to the police station where he was allowed to sober up before interview. The next morning, when Abel had sobered up, he cried and told the police, under caution, that he did not recall any of the previous night's events.

Abel was subsequently charged with:

- Criminal damage to the table and chairs, contrary to section 60, in Part VIII of the Crimes Ordinance, Cap. 200.
- Making off without payment for the drinks contrary to section 18C of the Theft Ordinance, Cap 210.
- Assault occasioning actual bodily harm against Bill, contrary to section 39 of the Offences Against the Person Ordinance, Cap 212.

All three offence sections are attached below.

### **Question:**

(1) You represent Abel. **Advise him where his case is likely to be tried.**

**(13 marks)**

### Part B

You have recently learned that all three students, Abel, Cain and Zach are members of the Student's Union of the University of Hong Kong and took part in actions which are alleged to have contravened the National Security Law ("NSL"). As such, all three students were subsequently arrested and charged with an offence against the NSL.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 1)*



**Question:**

**(2) What is the prospect of the students obtaining bail pre-trial?**

**(12 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

**Attachment**

***Crimes Ordinance, Cap 200, Part VIII Criminal Damage to Property***

***Section 60. Destroying or damaging property***

- (1) *A person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged shall be guilty of an offence.*
- (2) *A person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property, whether belonging to himself or another—*
- (a) *intending to destroy or damage any property or being reckless as to whether any property would be destroyed or damaged; and*
- (b) *intending by the destruction or damage to endanger the life of another or being reckless as to whether the life of another would be thereby endangered,*
- shall be guilty of an offence.*
- (3) *An offence committed under this section by destroying or damaging property by fire shall be charged as arson.*

***(See over the page for a continuation of Question 1)***

### **Section 63. Punishment of offences**

- (1) *A person guilty of arson under section 60 or of an offence under section 60(2) (whether arson or not) shall be liable on conviction upon indictment to imprisonment for life.*
- (2) *A person guilty of any other offence under this Part shall be liable on conviction upon indictment to imprisonment for 10 years.*

### **Theft Ordinance, Cap 210**

#### **Section 18C. Making off without payment**

- (1) *Subject to subsection (3), a person who, knowing that payment on the spot for any goods supplied or service done is required or expected from him, dishonestly makes off without having paid as required or expected and with intent to avoid payment of the amount due shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction upon indictment to imprisonment for 3 years.*
- (2) *For the purposes of this section **payment on the spot** includes payment at the time of collecting goods on which work has been done or in respect of which service has been provided.*
- (3) *Subsection (1) shall not apply where the supply of the goods or the doing of the service is contrary to law, or where the service done is such that payment is not legally enforceable.*

### **Offences Against the Person Ordinance, Cap 212.**

#### **Section 39. Assault occasioning actual bodily harm**

*Any person who is convicted of an assault occasioning actual bodily harm shall be guilty of an offence triable upon indictment, and shall be liable to imprisonment for 3 years.*

## Question 2 (25 marks)

Your client, an 18-year old Chinese national, has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug, namely 1 kilogramme of a crystalline solid containing 0.9 kg of methamphetamine hydrochloride (known as ice). He was intercepted at the Hong Kong airport after attempting to board a plane destined for Auckland, New Zealand with the drugs in his bag.

The drugs were found inside a gaming console. They were wrapped inside plastic bags and inserted into the console's main cavity. None of the bags were marked with fingerprints, however one of the bags showed DNA material which may have come from the defendant.

On arrest, the defendant denied knowledge of the drugs. He agreed, however, that he knew that there was a powder inside the console. In a video-recorded interview with the police, he claimed he had been asked by a friend to carry the powder inside the console to his friend's grandmother who lives in New Zealand. The powder, he believed, was a kind of legal traditional Chinese medicine. His friend said it was better to carry it in a concealed way to avoid unnecessary questions and delay by ignorant border patrol officers in New Zealand. After his interview, he produced to you a series of email messages on his laptop showing that he had been told by his friend repeatedly that the console contained nothing illegal.

The prosecution's case relies on the presumption of knowledge in section 47 of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance Cap 134, which states:

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 2)*

**“47. Presumption of possession and knowledge of dangerous drug**

- (1) *Any person who is proved to have had in his physical possession—*
- (a) *anything containing or supporting a dangerous drug;*
  - (b) *the keys of any baggage, briefcase, box, case, cupboard, drawer, safe-deposit box, safe or other similar container containing a dangerous drug,*
- shall, until the contrary is proved, be presumed to have had such drug in his possession.*
- (2) *Any person who is proved or presumed to have had a dangerous drug in his possession shall, until the contrary is proved, be presumed to have known the nature of such drug.*
- (3) *The presumptions provided for in this section shall not be rebutted by proof that the defendant never had physical possession of the dangerous drug.”*

The defendant wishes to rely on the email messages to defend himself at trial.

**Question:**

- (1) **Assuming your client is permitted to rely on the messages as part of his defence, what direction would the trial judge need to give the jury on the use of the evidence in determining the guilt or innocence of your client?**

**(12 marks)**

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 2)*

The trial has now begun. At the close of the prosecution's case, the case against your client relied on his possession of the drugs (inside the console), and the possible DNA match on one of the plastic bags containing the drugs. No other evidence against him was offered.

**Question:**

- (2) Prior to commencing the defence case before the jury, what application would you make to the trial judge?

**(13 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

### **Question 3 (25 marks)**

Raymond Chen (“Mr. Chen”) is a wealthy businessman. Mr. Chen lives in Taiwan but travels to Hong Kong from time to time for business matters.

During a visit to Hong Kong in early January 2020, Mr. Chen met up with one of his long-term business partners, Mr. Henry Lau (“Mr. Lau”), who conducts his business through “Lau Trading Company Limited”, a company incorporated in Hong Kong of which Mr. Lau is the sole shareholder and one of the directors.

At the meeting, Mr. Lau told Mr. Chen that his business was not going well lately and that he was having some cash flow problems because a number of his customers have delayed in settling payments due to Mr. Lau, and in turn, Mr. Lau was unable to settle payments owed to his suppliers.

Mr. Lau mentioned that he needed around HK\$4 million to pay off outstanding business expenses in particular the payments due to his suppliers who had already threatened to sue him if they did not get paid soon.

Mr. Chen wanted to help his long-term business partner and offered to lend the money to Mr. Lau. Mr. Chen informed Mr. Lau that he would need a few days to make some financial arrangements, after which he will then have the cash available to lend to Mr. Lau.

Mr. Chen has a bank account in Hong Kong which he uses to settle business costs and expenses in HKD currency, such as payments due to his clients/customers in Hong Kong, when necessary. Mr. Chen does not maintain a large amount of money in the Hong Kong bank account and only puts in funds when needed.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 3)*

After the meeting, Mr. Chen and Mr. Lau had a number of follow up discussions over the phone regarding the details of the intended loan to Mr. Lau. Mr. Chen also arranged to transfer money into the bank account in Hong Kong for the purpose of the intended loan to Mr. Lau.

Mr. Chen and Mr. Lau met again on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020. At the meeting, Mr. Chen and Mr. Lau signed an agreement containing, inter alia, the following terms:

*“This Agreement is made on 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 between*

*Raymond Chen of 1 Tao Yuen Road, Taipei, Taiwan (“Lender”); and*

*Mr. Henry Lau of 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Lucky Building, Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong (“Borrower”)*

...

- 1. The Lender agrees to lend the sum of HK\$4 million (“the Loan”) by way of a personal loan to the Borrower on or before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.*
- 2. The Borrower shall pay interest on the outstanding principal amount of the Loan at the rate of 4% per annum which shall accrue from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 until full repayment of the Loan by the Borrower to the Lender.*
- 3. Subject to any further agreement between the Lender and the Borrower, the Borrower shall repay the Loan in full to the Lender by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (“Repayment Date”) together with all unpaid accrued interest due under this Agreement. The Borrower may repay all or part of the Loan at any time prior to the Repayment Date.*

***(See over the page for a continuation of Question 3)***

....

*16. This Agreement is subject to Hong Kong Law and any disputes shall be determined by the Hong Kong Courts.”*

Mr. Chen issued a cheque for HK\$2 million in favour of Mr. Lau, which he passed to Mr. Lau during the meeting, as part of the HK\$4 million loan. Mr. Chen told Mr. Lau that he would transfer the remaining HK\$2 million loan to him within the next few days. Mr. Lau subsequently deposited the cheque, which was duly cleared by the bank, and Mr. Chen also transferred the remaining HK\$2 million loan to Mr. Lau’s bank account in Hong Kong on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Mr. Chen returned to Taiwan in February 2020. Towards the end of 2020, Mr. Lau contacted Mr. Chen via instant messaging and the following exchanges took place:

*“28<sup>th</sup> December 2020*

*Henry Lau:*

*Hi Raymond, trust everything is going well and you are staying safe and healthy. Regarding the 4 mil loan, I would need some further time to arrange repayment to you.*

*Raymond Chen:*

*Thanks Henry and yes I am doing well. I am generally okay to give you further time to repay, but can you give me an idea how long you need?*

*Henry Lau:*

*A few more months, but perhaps to stay safe, I would say by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, and I am pretty confident that I will be able to repay the loan to you by then and I will honour the payment of interest due as per the loan agreement we signed back in January.*

***(See the next page for a continuation of Question 3)***



*Raymond Chen:*

*Ok Henry, I can agree to extend the repayment deadline to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.*

*Henry Lau:*

*Many thanks Henry for agreeing to this.”*

On 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Mr. Chen received an instant message from Mr. Lau, stating “*Hi Raymond, I have today transferred HK\$500,000 to you as partial repayment of the HK\$ 4mil loan. Please check for receipt*”. On the same day, Mr. Chen responded to Mr. Lau, stating, “*Thanks, Henry. I confirm receipt of the HK\$500,000 you mentioned*”.

Mr. Chen has received no further payment from Mr. Lau in respect of the HK\$ 4 million loan by the repayment date, and despite having sent a number of messages to Mr. Lau to enquire about the status, Mr. Lau did not provide any response to Mr. Chen.

Mr. Chen has recently returned to Hong Kong for business, and using the occasion, he has approached you and your firm seeking advice on recovery of the outstanding loan from Mr. Lau.

### **Questions:**

- (1) Explain what formal legal proceedings can be taken against Mr. Lau, how they can be commenced, and whether there are any issues which Mr. Chen needs to be aware of if he is to commence legal proceedings in Hong Kong against Mr. Lau.**

**(4 marks)**

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 3)*

- (2) Your firm, acting on behalf of Mr. Chen as the Plaintiff, has commenced legal proceedings against Mr. Lau. **Draft the necessary pleading (including headings and name of parties) required for the purpose of pursuing the formal legal proceedings against Mr. Lau. The pleading must include the necessary components to comply with any necessary procedural requirements of the Rules of Court. You may assume and state in the pleading any facts (including dates) not inconsistent with the facts/information as provided in this question which you consider are necessary for the purpose of drafting the pleading.**

**(15 marks)**

- (3) Mr. Lau appointed a firm of solicitors to represent him as the Defendant in the legal proceedings. Mr. Lau's solicitors subsequently served a pleading containing, inter alia, the following allegation:

“ ...

6. *It was agreed that Lau Trading Company Limited would be liable to repay the loan to the Plaintiff*

... ”

Mr. Chen has instructed you he has no recollection or any information relating to the above alleged agreement.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 3)*

**Explain:**

- (i) What would be the most appropriate procedural step that Mr. Chen/Plaintiff can take if he wants to seek additional information from Mr. Lau/Defendant in respect of the above allegation;**
  
- (ii) Based on your answer to (3)(i) above, draft the appropriate wording setting out the additional information which you (on behalf of Mr. Chen/Plaintiff) intend to seek from Mr. Lau/Defendant in respect of the above allegation.**

**(6 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

#### **Question 4 (25 marks)**

Your firm acts for Mr. Wong Ming San (Mr. Wong) who carries on business through his company, WMS Contractors Limited (WMS Ltd), renovating residential properties in Hong Kong.

Mr. Wong has instructed your firm with regard to legal proceedings which have been brought against him. His initial instructions are as follows:

Mr. Wong was approached by Top Peak Landlord Limited (Top Peak) to renovate a house owned by it at Papaya Garden, The Peak. The agreed price was HK\$6 million. A standard form WMS Ltd contract was signed by both parties, with an addendum, added by Top Peak, providing that if for any reason the renovation works could not be completed by 30 June 2021, Top Peak had the right to terminate the contract and would not be liable for any sum thereunder. Mr. Wong did not seek legal advice when entering into this contract.

Because of material and manpower shortages during the Covid 19 pandemic, the renovations could not be completed by 30 June 2021. Top Peak terminated the contract and demanded repayment of HK\$2,500,000, being the amount of work-in-progress payments it had made. Top Peak also threatened to sue for damages resulting from the loss of rental income. After some discussions between Mr. Wong and Top Peak, it was agreed that the HK\$2,500,000 would be refunded on condition that Top Peak would waive its threatened claim for damages. This settlement agreement was purely oral.

Mr. Wong then issued a cheque for HK\$2,500,000 in favour of Top Peak and handed it over.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 4)*

Later the same day Mr. Wong realised that he had used the wrong cheque book, that he should have drawn the settlement cheque on the account of WMS Ltd rather than on his personal account. First thing the next morning Mr. Wong instructed his bank to countermand the personal cheque. As a result the personal cheque was dishonoured by the bank on presentation.

Before Mr. Wong had an opportunity to discuss the matter with Top Peak, or consult solicitors, he was served with a writ, naming him as sole defendant. The writ was indorsed with a statement of claim seeking judgment for HK\$2,500,000, being the amount of the dishonoured cheque, plus interest and costs.

Your firm was then instructed, and you filed and served notice of intention to defend.

Before you had the time to file a Defence, your firm, as solicitors for Mr. Wong, was served with a summons and affirmation seeking summary judgment under Order 14.

The statement of claim is very short. It deals only with the cheque issued by Mr. Wong, and its dishonour, without mention of any of the background facts. The affidavit in support of the O 14 application verifies the statement of claim and produces a copy of the cheque, with the bank's "refer to drawer" notice as an exhibit.

Mr. Wong's instructions are that he is a simple man, born in the Mainland, able to understand only limited English; that he did not understand the addendum Top Peak inserted into the contract, and that he made a genuine mistake in issuing the cheque on his personal account. He wishes to protect his own personal assets, which consist largely of the flat where he and his family live, as well as his life savings in his personal bank account.

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 4)*

In the meantime WMS Ltd has become insolvent, as a result of the downturn in business and disputes with other clients. A winding-up petition has been issued against it, meaning that it is not in a position to pay any part of the HK\$2,500,000 owing to Top Peak.

A senior member of your firm has suggested that Mr. Wong may have a defence on the basis of total failure of consideration, since the written renovation contract was expressly stated to be between Top Peak and WMS Ltd. For the purpose of this question, you may assume that this suggestion is correct, or at least arguable.

**Questions:**

- (1) Prepare brief notes for your supervising partner to use in a forthcoming meeting with Mr. Wong to seek his further instructions. Your notes should set out (briefly):**
- (a) the nature of an O 14 application;**
  - (b) the consequences if the O 14 application is not opposed, or not opposed successfully;**
  - (c) what Mr. Wong could do to oppose the application, should he wish to do so;**
  - (d) whether Mr. Wong's personal assets could be at risk.**

**Your brief notes may be in point form.**

**(10 marks)**

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 4)*

**(2) Prepare a draft affirmation in opposition to the O 14 application. You should include the full heading and the full names of the parties. You should also include the necessary formal parts. If you choose to exhibit documentary evidence, you may do so simply by referring to it in the body of the affirmation without actually writing down the contents of the exhibit itself. For extra credit, you may add footnotes explaining any part of your draft.**

**(15 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

### **Question 5 (25 marks)**

You act for Mr. Xyllius Yung. Mr. Yung's was head of research in Hong Kong for Advanced Bio-Tech Corp, a Mainland Chinese bio-tech company, until his employment was terminated in 2017 with payment in lieu of notice following an internal investigation and disciplinary process, including an appeal, which ultimately found that, whilst he was not guilty of either dishonesty or recklessness, he had committed a serious error of judgement in his managerial responsibilities, including lack of control over subordinates. The date of termination was one month before the vesting date of various stock options granted to him under Advanced Bio-Tech Corp's employee incentive plan. Mr. Yung claims in his Hong Kong High Court action that the termination of his employment was in bad faith: other managers had an equal or larger responsibility for supervising the subordinates in question, but no disciplinary action was taken against them; and the primary motivation for terminating his employment was to deprive him of the benefit of the stock options. He claims damages of HKD 50 million, together with interest. In a second claim in the same action, Mr. Yung seeks an injunction restraining Advanced Bio-Tech Corp from continuing one line of research which he has claimed is dependent on the use of certain bio-tech patents, the licence for which was only granted in favour of Advanced Bio-Tech Corp for the duration of his employment and six months thereafter. Advanced Bio-Tech Corp is defending the patent infringement counterclaim on various grounds, including in particular that the line of research it is conducting does not involve any infringement of the patents. In addition to permanent injunctive relief, Mr. Yung also seeks damages for infringement based on a fair market value of the patent. There is no interim injunction in place.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 5)*



## Part A

The trial is scheduled for 15 days commencing on Monday, 28 February 2022. The trial will deal only with liability in relation to Mr. Yung's patent infringement claim, and not quantum. Both sides have submitted reports on behalf of an independent expert in relation to the patent infringement claim, addressing the question of whether there has been any infringement. Mr. Yung was able to find a suitable expert witness in Hong Kong. Advanced Bio-Tech Corp has served and filed 6 witness statements: the two internal audit officers who conducted the internal investigation; two out of the three members of the disciplinary review committee that first heard his case; and two out of three of the members of the disciplinary appeal committee that heard Mr. Yung's unsuccessful appeal from the decision of the disciplinary review committee.

The Pre-Trial Review is scheduled for hearing for 1 hour on Friday, 3 December 2021 before the trial Judge.

### **Questions:**

- (1) You have just received a letter from Advanced Bio-Tech Corp's solicitors requesting that the plaintiff consents to leave for all six of its factual witnesses to give evidence by way of video-conferencing facilities in 5 different locations – two from Singapore; one from Dubai; one from Paris; one from London and one from New York on the basis that, in the light of the Covid-19 situation, there is a real likelihood of it not being feasible for them to travel to Hong Kong to give evidence, and none of them is willing to risk doing so in the present circumstances. You know that Mr. Yung was very hopeful the witnesses would be cross-examined in person, given the allegations of bad faith made by him.

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 5)*

**Draft a suitable letter of advice to Mr. Yung explaining to him: (i) how the High Court would normally (in the absence of Covid-19) consider such an application for leave for evidence to be given by witnesses by video-conference, (ii) how the High Court may consider the Defendant's application for leave given Covid-19, and (iii) what procedural steps would be involved in the Defendant making an application for leave.**

**(7 marks)**

- (2) Mr. Yung's expert witness has indicated some reluctance to Mr. Yung to give evidence at the trial – the expert appears to be getting “cold feet”. What steps would you take to protect your client's position?**

**(5 marks)**

Part B

Following the trial, a written judgment is handed down dismissing Mr. Yung's first claim, but allowing his second patent infringement, subject to calculation of damages. The judgment does not deal with any aspect of the costs of the proceedings. The judgment contains a direction for a hearing to be scheduled to take place within 4 weeks of the date of the judgment for the purpose of (i) hearing the parties on questions of costs, and (ii) giving directions for the trial on quantum of the patent infringement claim.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 5)*

**Questions:**

- (3) Describe in outline the procedure if either Advanced Bio-Tech Corp or Mr. Yung wishes to appeal against the part of the judgment that they respectively lost.

(6 marks)

- (4) On behalf of Mr. Yung, what directions should be sought in respect of the outstanding trial on quantum and what arguments should be made in respect of the costs of the action to date?

(7 marks)

[25 marks in total]

**END OF TEST PAPER**



**2022 OVERSEAS LAWYERS  
QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION**

**HEAD II: CIVIL AND  
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

Thursday, 3 November 2022





# **2022 Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination**

## **Head II: Civil and Criminal Procedure**

### **Question 1 (25 marks)**

Dr. Wolfgang is a German citizen, a researcher and a part-time tutor for the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws course.

Zhang and Williams are two of Dr. Wolfgang's small tutor group students. Zhang is a PRC citizen and Williams is a local born British holding a HKSAR passport and a UK passport.

During the small group tutorial, Dr. Wolfgang always half-heartedly jokes with the students how little he got paid as a part-time tutor and that if the students want to pass his subject with flying colours, Dr. Wolfgang is open to accept cash bribes from the students.

All the staff and students have signed an acknowledgement letter that they are aware that soliciting offering or accepting bribes are illegal acts and be expelled from the institution immediately.

Zhang and Williams discussed amongst themselves and agreed to each offer a cash bribe of HK\$10,000 to Dr. Wolfgang to help them pass the examinations.

They each placed HK\$10,000 notes bills in a brown envelope with their names signed on the envelope and deposited the envelope in the pigeon box of Dr. Wolfgang.

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 1)*

Unknown to Zhang and Williams, their acts were all recorded by the CCTV by internal security. The contents of the envelope and the video tapes were reviewed by the Department Head and the matter was reported to The Independent Commission Against Corruption (“ICAC”).

Dr. Wolfgang, Zhang and Williams were all arrested by the ICAC one morning on suspicion of soliciting and offering bribes contrary to the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, Cap. 201.

Upon cautioned Dr. Wolfgang remained silent.

Zhang was threatened by one ICAC officer of being sent back to China and shame put upon his family that he confessed to offering bribe to Dr. Wolfgang to help him pass the examinations.

Williams upon cautioned explained the idea is Zhang’s and he was simply following Zhang.

### **Questions:**

**(1) Explain to Dr. Wolfgang, Zhang and Williams on their rights to bail and what they can offer the court to get a better chance of getting bail.**

**(7 marks)**

**(2) Would there be a conflict of interest if one firm of lawyers act for both Zhang and Williams and why?**

**(4 marks)**

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 1)*



- (3) **Zhang cannot afford private lawyers. What help can he get and why?**  
(3 marks)
- (4) **Who will be the principal witness to secure a conviction?**  
(3 marks)
- (5) **What type of sentence will the three of them get?**  
(3 marks)
- (6) **Draft a set of mitigation on behalf of Zhang and Williams.**  
(5 marks)

**[25 marks in total]**

## **Question 2 (25 marks)**

On 1 July 2022, D published a statement in a widely circulated newspaper in Hong Kong advocating that:

**“We Hong Kong Guys should join together to fight for all rights from the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by all means including resorting to serious violence, bombs and firearms!!!” (“the Advocated Slogan”).**

Shortly on 3 July 2022, D was arrested by the police officers of the National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force for investigation. In a house search conducted on the same day, some notes and loose papers were found from one of the drawers of his desk, on which there were some notes advocating and suggesting more or less the same as the Advocated Slogan even with the names of certain contact persons and proposed schedules of actions ahead. Certain statements similar to the Advocated Slogan were also found from the database of his computer. All those notes, loose papers and his computer were accordingly seized (collectively “the Seized Items”) for further investigation.

D was since detained in the police station until 5 July 2022 when he was charged with an offence contrary to Article 27 of the National Security Law (“the NSL”), which is a piece of legislation written in Chinese against acts and activities, etc. endangering national security, and passed by the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China and promulgated as the law applicable to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“the HKSAR”) effective from late night of 30 June 2020.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 2)*

The English translation of the relevant part of Article 27 reads as follows:

*“A person who advocates terrorism or incites the commission of a terrorist activity shall be guilty of an offence. If the circumstances of the offence committed by a person are of a serious nature, the person shall be sentenced to fixed-term of imprisonment of not less than five years but not more than ten years, and shall be imposed with a criminal fine or subject to confiscation of property; .....”*

At the first appearance on 5 July 2022 in the West Kowloon Magistrates’ Courts before the Chief Magistrate, being a designated Magistrate assigned to handle cases of NSL offences, the case was adjourned for 4 months for further enquiries and investigations with high possibility of laying additional charges against D for other offences under the NSL, and D (being unrepresented) was refused bail upon his bail application.

D through his family has approached you as a Hong Kong lawyer for assistance. You have since taken instructions from D in the detaining institution. From the instructions you have obtained, you learn that:

1. D, being a permanent Hong Kong resident at the current age of 55, is a practising medical practitioner specializing in gynaecology with his operated clinic in Central. He has been in the profession for about 28 years;
2. He is married with 2 children both at universities. His wife is a housewife. He resides with his family in a house at Mid-Levels, Hong Kong Island;
3. He has no previous criminal conviction record both in Hong Kong and elsewhere, neither has he ever been subject to any disciplinary enquiry or proceedings in his profession;

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 2)*

4. He has been suffering from long-term heart-disease;
5. He professes certain belief in dissatisfaction with the current Government of the HKSAR in many aspects;
6. He did not say or express anything when being asked about the Advocated Slogan or the Seized Items; and
7. He intends to apply for bail again in the upcoming adjourned hearing before the Chief Magistrate.

**Questions:**

- (1) On the issue of bail, D is anxious to know the following:
  - (a) **What is your advice on the chances of success in the bail application?**  
(6 marks)
  - (b) **What proposed bail terms and conditions you may submit to the Chief Magistrate?**  
(3 marks)
  - (c) **If the Chief Magistrate refuses bail again, what can D do?**  
(2 marks)
  - (d) **If the Chief Magistrate grants bail to D and the Prosecution is dissatisfied with it, what can the Prosecution do?**  
(2 marks)

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 2)*

- (2) Assuming that D's case is to be tried in the Court of First Instance of the High Court of the HKSAR, and in connection with the mode of trial, the Secretary for Justice ("SJ") has issued a Certificate in exercise of the power vested in him under and pursuant to Article 46(1) of the NSL directing that:

"D's case shall be tried without a jury on the following ground(s) having taken into account and considered all the relevant circumstances and information:

- (1) Protection of personal safety of jurors and their family members; and/or
- (2) If the trial is to be conducted with a jury, there is a real risk that the due administration of justice might be impaired."

("SJ's Certificate").

As a result, D's case shall be tried before a panel of three Judges designated to handle cases of the NSL offences without a jury.

**Advise D on how he can challenge SJ's Certificate if he prefers to have the trial conducted with a jury.**

**(8 marks)**

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 2)*

**(3)** Assuming that the trial is ultimately to be conducted before a panel of three designated Judges without a jury, and shortly before the first day of trial, D instructed that he was determined to plead guilty to the offence and admit the whole contents of the summary of facts pertaining to the offence. A single designated Judge in the Court of First Instance was accordingly assigned to handle D's plea and sentence. Consequently, D was convicted of the offence contrary to Article 27 of the NSL on his own plea of guilt, followed by a term of imprisonment of nine years imposed by the Judge ("the Sentencing Judge"), who held the view in connection with the sentence that the circumstances of the offence are of a serious nature.

**(a) If the Prosecution is dissatisfied with the sentence, how can it be challenged?**

**(2 marks)**

**(b) If D is dissatisfied with the sentence, how can he challenge it?**

**(2 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

### **Question 3 (25 marks)**

In January 2021, Belfast (BVI) Limited (“Belfast”) commenced a claim in the High Court against Win Win Company Limited (“WWCL”) for damages for misrepresentation and breach of warranties in relation to the sale of company, ABC Limited, from WWCL to Belfast, in the sum of HK\$15 million.

Belfast is a BVI company with a sole shareholder and director, Amy Chan, who is ordinarily resident in Hong Kong. WWCL and ABC Limited are both Hong Kong companies.

At a case management conference on 13 April 2022, the court gave leave for the parties to exchange supplemental witness statements by 31 May 2022 and for experts’ reports on the valuation of ABC Limited to be exchanged by 31 August 2022. The hearing of the case management conference was adjourned to 11 November 2022.

On 1 November 2022, WWCL changed its solicitors to your firm. By this time, the parties had already complied with all the directions as set out above and your partner considers that the matter should be ready for trial. However, your partner would like to advise WWCL on the merits of a security for costs application against Belfast.

#### **Question:**

- (1) Write a memorandum of advice to your partner in relation to the merits of a security for costs application against Belfast at this stage of the proceedings. In case you need further information/instructions, set out the same in square brackets in your draft memorandum of advice.**

**(10 marks)**

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 3)*

Assume it is now 12 May 2023.

Your firm did not make the security for costs application and the matter proceeded to trial from 24 to 27 April 2023. On 12 May 2023, Yoda J handed down his judgment in relation to the case and awarded damages to Belfast in the sum of \$10 million (inclusive of interest). In addition, Yoda J made an order nisi for costs to be taxed if not agreed.

Your partner reminds you that on the WWCL file,

- (i) On 9 September 2022, WWCL filed a Notice of Sanctioned Payment in the sum of HK\$8 million (inclusive of interest) in satisfaction of all of Belfast's claims.
- (ii) On 14 October 2022, the former solicitors of WWCL wrote a letter to Belfast's solicitors marked "without prejudice save as to costs", offering to pay HK\$3 million to top up the previous sanctioned payment, in full and final settlement of the matter.
- (iii) On 16 January 2023, on behalf of WWCL, your firm paid into court a further sum of HK\$3.5 million and filed a further Notice of Sanctioned Payment on Belfast's solicitors on the same day. The HK\$3.5 million was inclusive of interest and paid in addition to the amount paid on 9 September 2022, in satisfaction of all of Belfast's claims.

All of the above have not been accepted by Belfast.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 3)*



**Question:**

- (2) **Draft a letter of advice to WWCL to advise them whether an application should be made to vary the costs order nisi of Yoda J and if so, what would be the most appropriate costs order to be made.**

**(15 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

#### **Question 4 (25 marks)**

You are a newly admitted solicitor in an international firm known as Featherstone & Silverman LLP (“F&S”). F&S acts for China International Megabank (“CIMB”). CIMB recently acquired an office building in Central to serve as its headquarters in Hong Kong. After renovation, the building was renamed “CIMB Tower”. Of the 50 floors in the Tower, CIMB occupies 10. 30 others have been taken up by commercial tenants and 10 floors remain vacant. CIMB approached F&S to take up at least one of the vacant floors. Somewhat reluctantly F&S agreed to move to CIMB Tower because CIMB is one of its major clients.

The relocation of F&S to CIMB Tower was carefully arranged. The old office was scheduled to close after business hours on Friday, 6 May 2022 and the new one to open on the following Tuesday, 10 May 2022, after the long weekend. A vital part of the relocation was to shift and set up all the computer systems including internet and intranet in the new office so that all would be ready to go when it opened for business (the “IT work”).

On the recommendation of one of the partners, who had met Ivan Chong (“Ivan”) on a hike over Lamma Island, Hong Kong, F&S appointed Ivan to handle the IT work. Ivan had said he had considerable experience in this type of IT work, and that he had a group of friends who collaborated with him. A single page contract between F&S and Ivan was signed to complete the IT work. The contract stipulated that the IT work must be completed by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 10 May 2022 in order that the new office could be up and running seamlessly after the move.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 4)*

Unfortunately, the IT work did not go well. Over the long weekend, there were thunderstorms and heavy rain resulting in an interruption of power supply. As a result, installation of F&S's IT equipment in the new office was delayed until the lift service resumed. Also, one of Ivan's friends had failed to turn up. F&S was finally up and running in the new office, all IT work completed, by the morning of Wednesday, 11 May 2022, a delay of 24 hours.

On that Wednesday morning, the responsible partner of F&S discovered that a potential client, INJSEEKER, had given instructions by e-mail to take immediate proceedings for an urgent *ex parte* interlocutory injunction to restrain an alleged creditor from issuing a winding-up petition. Because F&S internet systems were down, the responsible partner was unaware of INJSEEKER's instructions until too late. INJSEEKER instructed another firm of solicitors to handle the matter. INJSEEKER had earlier been given, by F&S, a fee estimate of HK\$250,000 for this work, plus counsel's fees and other disbursements. F&S lost this fee income of HK\$250,000 and potentially much more if the matter were to go on to substantive dispute.

INJSEEKER was unsuccessful in the interlocutory injunction application. It is not yet known whether INJSEEKER will proceed.

F&S has now issued and served a generally indorsed writ of summons against Ivan claiming damages for breach of contract. The firm decided to handle the matter in-house rather than instruct another firm to act for it. Notice of intention to defend has been given and the file has been passed to you for further action.

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 4)*

**Question:**

**Prepare a draft statement of claim seeking damages on behalf of F&S. Your draft should:**

- (a) comply with necessary formalities;**
- (b) include a heading naming the Court and the parties;**
- (c) plead the material facts in accordance with the Rules of Court;**
- (d) include an appropriate prayer for relief; and**
- (e) indicate where and by whom the document should be signed.**

(5 out of the total 25 marks will notionally be allocated to each of the above heads. However, the final mark may be adjusted to take into account the examiner's overall impression of the quality of the draft.

Candidates who include accurate notes to explain why any part of the pleading is drafted in any particular way may expect to receive above average marks.)

**(25 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

## **Question 5 (25 marks)**

### **Questions:**

Existing clients of your firm, the Chan brothers, who own Chan Brothers Company (Hong Kong) Limited, visit your office to show the e-mail chain on pages 16-20 to the managing partner of your firm. **The managing partner asks you to draft:**

- (1) The heading of the Writ of Summons (showing the name of the Hong Kong court in which the proceedings should be issued and the parties);**

**(5 marks)**

- (2) A draft Statement of Claim, identifying with blanks and notes where further information will be required from the Chan brothers, in order to complete the Statement of Claim.**

**(20 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 5)*

Email chain:

“To: [noriyuki.morita@gmail.com](mailto:noriyuki.morita@gmail.com)  
Cc: [johnny.chan@changbroscos.com](mailto:johnny.chan@changbroscos.com)  
From: [daniel.chan@chanbroscos.com](mailto:daniel.chan@chanbroscos.com)  
1 April 2022 @ 21:45:13  
Re: Proposal - hiring Infinity Wars Endgame Iron Man suit for Hong Kong Avengers  
Fan event - July 22 - 24, 2022

Dear Morita-San,

My brother, Johnny and I, through our company, Chan Brothers Company (Hong Kong) Limited, are planning a high-profile Marvel Avengers fan event in Hong Kong for the weekend of July 22 - 24. We are very excited about this. We held a similar event last year, which was also quite profitable. We made HKD 800,000 net profit from that event. This year, we believe the event will be bigger and better. But to achieve this, we need your support. We know you are the proud owner of the original Iron Man suit used at the end of the Avengers Infinity Wars Endgame movie - the one that Tony Stark was wearing when, sadly, he died. With this suit as the centre-piece of the event, we are confident that we can at least double, if not triple, our profits this year. We know the suit is a very precious object. Our company is prepared to pay you a flat fee of HKD 250,000 for the use of the suit, just for the duration of the event, plus five per cent of the net profits.

Johnny and I look forward to your favourable response.

Yours truly,

Danny Chan  
Chairman  
Chan Brothers Company (Hong Kong) Limited  
The Penthouse,  
LaRusso Tower,  
Mills Street,  
Kowloon,  
Hong Kong”

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 5)*

“To: [daniel.chan@chanbroscos.com](mailto:daniel.chan@chanbroscos.com)  
Cc: [johnny.chan@chanbroscos.com](mailto:johnny.chan@chanbroscos.com)  
From: [noriyuki.morita@gmail.com](mailto:noriyuki.morita@gmail.com)  
2 April 2022 @ 09:30:14  
Re: Proposal - hiring Infinity Wars Endgame Iron Man suit for Hong Kong Avengers  
Fan event - July 22 - 24, 2022

Dear Danny-san,

I would be honoured if my Iron Man suit could be part of your event. I propose the following terms:

1. Flat fee - HKD 250,000 - to be paid into my bank account: Okinawa Kairo Bank, Tomigusuku Branch, Account number 001 - 442316 - 888 by no later than July 5, 2022.
2. Net profit share - 15% - to be paid into the same bank account by your company within 15 days after the event.
3. Transportation costs - to be borne by me.
4. Import expenses and cost of insurance (insurable value of suit - USD 500,000) to be borne by you.
5. Re-import expenses back to Japan - to be borne by me.
6. Suit will be delivered to Hong Kong by no later than July 20 and to leave Hong Kong by no later than July 26, to be returned to me.

Yours truly,

Noriyuki Morita  
House 17  
Tomi Village  
Near Naha  
Okinawa  
Japan”

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 5)*

“To: [Johnny.chan@chanbrosco.com](mailto:Johnny.chan@chanbrosco.com)  
From: [Daniel.chan@chanbrosco.com](mailto:Daniel.chan@chanbrosco.com)  
4 April 2022 @ 10:04:15

Danny - great news. I spoke to Noriyuki this morning. He has agreed to a net profit share of 10%. All other terms as he proposed. We can move forward! It's going to be a great event! I will start work on the design of the marketing materials, with the Iron Man suit front and centre. The marketing cost will be the same as last year - HKD 200,000. The bigger and better venue we have in mind is going to cost us HKD 108,000 for all three days. Let me know if you have any questions. Johnny.”

“To: [noriyuki.morita@gmail.com](mailto:noriyuki.morita@gmail.com)  
Cc: [johnny.chan@changbrosco.com](mailto:johnny.chan@changbrosco.com)  
From: [daniel.chan@chanbrosco.com](mailto:daniel.chan@chanbrosco.com)  
July 20 2022 @ 23:45:16  
Re: Proposal - hiring Infinity Wars Endgame Iron Man suit for Hong Kong Avengers Fan event - July 22 - 24, 2022

Noriyuki-san - tried to call you but went to voice-mail. The suit has not arrived. We have checked with customs. We have also checked with Cathay Pacific Services. They are double-checking and will come back to us in the morning, but they told us by phone that they have no record of carrying the shipment. Can you call me on +852 3535 7904 urgently? Any time, please.

Yours truly,

Danny Chan”

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 5)*



“To: [noriyuki.morita@gmail.com](mailto:noriyuki.morita@gmail.com)  
Cc: [johnny.chan@changbroscos.com](mailto:johnny.chan@changbroscos.com)  
From: [daniel.chan@chanbroscos.com](mailto:daniel.chan@chanbroscos.com)  
July 21 2022 @ 11:45:17  
Re: Proposal - hiring Infinity Wars Endgame Iron Man suit for Hong Kong Avengers  
Fan event - July 22 - 24, 2022

Noriyuki-san - we still have not been able to contact you. The suit has definitely not arrived. We have checked again with customs. We have also confirmed with Cathay Pacific Services that they have no record of carrying the shipment. Again, can you call me on +852 3535 7904 urgently? Any time, please.

If the suit does not arrive in time, what are we going to do? As you know, it was the centre piece of the whole event. We have marketed the whole event based on the suit as a centre-piece. It's not just a matter of lost profits. We will have to offer a refund of the ticket price to everyone and swallow all of the venue costs and our marketing costs. Johnny and I really cannot believe this is happening. We paid you the flat fee on time. This is going to be terrible for our reputation. We may not be able to host any event like this in future, if this does not work.

Yours truly,

Danny Chan”

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 5)*

“To: [daniel.chan@chanbrosco.com](mailto:daniel.chan@chanbrosco.com)  
Cc: [johnny.chan@chanbrosco.com](mailto:johnny.chan@chanbrosco.com)  
From: [noriyuki.morita@gmail.com](mailto:noriyuki.morita@gmail.com)  
22 July 2022 08:48:18  
Re: Proposal - hiring Infinity Wars Endgame Iron Man suit for Hong Kong Avengers  
Fan event - July 22 - 24, 2022

Dear Danny-san,

I regret that, once I double-checked the insurance policy you have arranged, it was not adequate. I am not prepared to risk the precious suit and must treat our contract as cancelled. I will retain the flat fee as reflecting the lost opportunity, but I am willing not to sue you for my share of the profits I should have earned.

Yours truly,

Noriyuki Morita”

**END OF TEST PAPER**

**2023 OVERSEAS LAWYERS  
QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION**

**HEAD II: CIVIL AND  
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

Tuesday, 14 November 2023





# 2023 Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

## Head II: Civil and Criminal Procedure

### Question 1 (25 marks)

Larry, your American national corporate partner, passed to you his attendance note he took about his son, David:

“My son David, aged 22, a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (“PCLL”) overseas student from New York, U.S.A, told me he was charged with:

1. Common assault against William Zhang, aged 21, a fellow PCLL student from China.
2. A second charge of possession of dangerous drugs namely 50 or 500 (?) gram of Marijuana. Amount of drugs is not sure!

The common assault took place in front of a small tutor group of about 10 students in the PCLL course last week.

David is on police bail pending his first court hearing next week.”

### Questions:

Larry asked you these questions:

- (1) **If you were first at the scene, what would be your first advice to David and William?**

**(3 marks)**

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 1)*

- (2) **What factors would you submit to the court to ensure that David's bail is continued next week?**  
(3 marks)
- (3) It seems that the attendance note on the second charge is not clear. **What can you do to make sure you get the brief facts before the hearing?**  
(1 mark)
- (4) **How should David plea to both charges and why?**  
(3 marks)
- (5) **What would be the sentencing guideline for David for both charges?**  
(5 marks)
- (6) David and Larry want to pay William off for not attending court. **What would be your advice to David and Larry?**  
(5 marks)
- (7) Assuming now you have a copy of the brief facts and explain to David. David wants to plea guilty before his court attendance, but David does not agree with some of the information on the brief facts. **What would be your advice to David?**  
(2 marks)
- (8) Assuming now you have the Government Chemist Certificate and it turns out that David is not in possession of dangerous drugs as charges. **What actions would you advise David?**  
(3 marks)

[25 marks in total]

## **Question 2 (25 marks)**

John is 40 years of age. He is a professional accountant working as an audit manager in an accounting firm. He is married with his wife and 2 children (aged 7 and 10) all residing in Hong Kong.

John met an 18-year-old girl, X, on “Facebook”. He made a deal with X by way of “compensated dating” that John would pay X HK\$2,000.00 for 2 hours dating (“the Deal”). They subsequently met up as agreed and went to a rented room at an hourly hotel (“the Room”).

In the Room, John asked for having sex with X. X was very scared and did not know what to do. John told X that she had to have sexual intercourse with him otherwise he would publish the Deal with X on “Facebook”. X was very frightened and asked John to allow her to leave the Room, telling him that she did not want to have sexual intercourse with him.

John refused to allow X to leave the Room until they had sexual intercourse. Sexual intercourse eventually took place.

X reported the matter to the police. John was subsequently arrested by the police. In the video recorded interview with the police, John admitted that he had sexual intercourse with X under an agreement and he did pay her money for compensated dating.

John was subsequently charged with rape.

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 2)*

## **Questions:**

- (1) John's case was brought to Court No.1 of West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts for mention. John was then represented by a solicitor under the Duty Lawyer Service. The prosecution asked for an adjournment for 4 weeks for legal advice which was granted. John made an application for bail which was rejected by the presiding magistrate.

**John seeks your advice regarding his right to bail. Advise John and specify what instructions you need to have from John for his application for bail.**

**(7 marks)**

- (2) After the prosecution obtained legal advice that John's case should be dealt with in the Court of First Instance ("the CFI") of the High Court, John's case was transferred to the Eastern Magistrates' Courts for committal proceedings.

**John concerns his rights to enjoy the credit of guilty plea at various stages of the proceedings. Advise John the applicable sentencing discounts for entering guilty plea.**

**(8 marks)**

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 2)*



- (3) In the committal proceedings, John appeared in person before a magistrate (“the Magistrate”), John pleaded guilty to the charge of rape. Subsequently, the summary of facts of John’s case (with the facts that John did have sexual intercourse with X against X’s wish) was read to him. John said he agreed to the summary of facts. In addition, he said to the Magistrate that he had sexual intercourse with X under an agreement and he did pay her money for compensated dating. He asked for lenient sentence. The Magistrate told John that he had no power to sentence John in the committal proceedings. John was then committed to the CFI for sentence.

**Pending the sentence hearing in the CFI, John seeks your advice if he may change his guilty plea at the committal proceedings to a plea of not guilty at this stage. Advise John.**

**(6 marks)**

- (4) **Would your advice in question (3) be different if John did not say to the Magistrate in the committal proceedings that he had sexual intercourse with X under an agreement and he did pay her money for compensated dating? Advise John.**

**(4 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

### **Question 3 (25 marks)**

Your firm is instructed by Bold Insurance Company Limited (“Bold”) to defend a claim for damages against its Insureds, the Incorporated Owners of Carnival Building (the “IO”) and Good Luck Property Management Limited (“Building Manager”) (collectively known as “the Insureds”) of Carnival Building (the “Building”). The claim is brought by Mrs. Fatima Lee (“Mrs. Lee”), who occupies a flat in the Building with her husband, Mr. Dennis Lee (“Mr. Lee”).

According to the information provided, Mrs. Lee fell in the Building’s lift lobby at about 9.00 a.m. on 5 June 2021. The CCTV footage in the lift lobby captured Mrs. Lee falling to the floor after walking a few steps as she came out of the lift. The CCTV also captured Mrs. Lee was able to get up by herself before a building attendant (“Mr. Chan”) came to the scene about a minute after the fall. Mrs. Lee then left the lift lobby and drove away in her car. Mr. Lee went to the building management office that evening complaining to Mr. Tsui, the supervisor of the Building Manager, that the floor was wet and slippery. He also told Mr. Tsui his wife had consulted an orthopaedic specialist that afternoon because of back pain and he reserved his wife’s right to sue. The Insureds therefore reported the accident to Bold.

Bold instructed a loss adjusting firm, Cannings, to investigate into the accident. Cannings interviewed Mr. Tsui who described the cleaning and patrol schedules. He provided to Cannings copies of the cleaning and patrol records. Cannings also interviewed Mr. Chan. He said he saw there was a small patch of brown liquid on the floor near where Mrs. Lee fell, and it looked like tea or coffee to him. Cannings visited Mrs. Lee at her flat, but she refused to talk about the accident. She told Cannings she felt great pain in her back and that Dr. Peter Poon had granted her sick leave that afternoon for 14 days, which might continue. Dr. Poon had advised her to attend physiotherapy. Cannings then reported the factual findings to Bold in a written report.

*(See the next page for a continuation of Question 3)*

On 10 September 2022, the Building Manager and the IO each received a letter before action from Ray Lam & Co. (“RL”), acting for Mrs. Lee. RL also sent a copy of the letter before action to Bold, and in the covering letter to Bold, RL requested disclosure of Cannings’ report.

**Question:**

**(1)** Bold is reluctant to disclose Cannings’ report because of what Mr. Chan said.

**Write a letter to Bold advising:**

**(a)** Whether Mrs. Lee is entitled to disclosure of Cannings’ report, and why.

**(6 marks)**

**(b)** If Mrs. Lee is entitled to disclosure, is there any ground which Bold might be able to rely on to contest the request of disclosure.

**(4 marks)**

**(c)** The procedure which RL might take to start an application for disclosure of Cannings’ report, and what Bold needs to do to oppose any such application.

**(5 marks)**

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 3)*

Bold instructed you to reject RL's request for disclosure of Cannings' report and RL decided not to press for it. Instead, they commenced legal proceedings (DCPI No. 1080 of 2023), naming the Building Manager as the 1st Defendant, and the IO as the 2nd Defendant. Your firm has instructions to file a Defence.

Before you finalize the Defence, Mr. Tsui told you that Mr. and Mrs. Lee have inserted a letter signed by both, into the letterbox of each flat. They also posted a copy of this letter in the lift lobby. In the letter, they accused the Insureds of colluding with one another to cover up the accident. They also accuse the Insureds of accepting advantages from the cleaning contractor otherwise they would not agree to the contractor falsifying the cleaning log entries. The Insureds told you that the accusations are untrue and groundless and that they must clear their respective names because the accusations have damaged their reputation. They are also concerned that Mr. and Mrs. Lee will repeat such accusations.

**Question:**

- (2) Bold agreed to you taking legal steps to assist the Insureds to clear their respective names and to seek appropriate relief.
- (a) **Draft the headings, parties, and title of the relevant pleadings.**
  - (b) **Include a prayer for relief(s) which may be appropriate for the Insureds.**

**(10 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

#### **Question 4 (25 marks)**

Your firm represents Mr. Mok Siu Lung (“Mr. Mok”), the plaintiff in a personal injury action resulting from a road accident in which Mr. Mok was injured.

Mr. Mok was a passenger in a taxi which collided with a delivery van parked on the side of the road. He is a 71-year old retiree who was on his way home after meeting friends for tea. During the journey, Mr. Mok noticed that the taxi driver had a bank of mobile telephones and other electronic devices in front of him. The driver was watching the devices, sending and receiving messages and talking animatedly when he drove the taxi right into the back of the delivery van.

Mr. Mok was thrown forward in the accident. His face hit the plastic screen affixed to the back of the headrest in front of him. He suffered cuts and bruises to the forehead. He was badly shaken by the accident and was taken to a private hospital by ambulance. In hospital, Mr. Mok was given medical treatment, and, after a period of observation, allowed to go home. After a few days rest at home, Mr. Mok returned to the private hospital for a check-up and was advised that the wounds were healing well and that he was on track for a full recovery.

Six months after the accident, the taxi driver, Mr. Chan Chi Keung, was convicted of careless driving, his 5<sup>th</sup> such conviction.

Your firm commenced proceedings in the District Court against the driver. Pleadings have now closed. Discovery has not yet taken place. Mr. Mok is anxious for an amicable settlement. At his age, he wishes to avoid the stress of a full trial, even mediation would be too stressful, he says.

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 4)*

You have obtained an expert medical report which opines that there is permanent scarring on Mr. Mok's forehead. You have also obtained counsel's advice to the effect that since Mr. Mok, being a retiree, did not lose any income, the total principal amount of damages, both general and special, should be no more than \$500,000.

**Questions:**

- (1) Prepare a letter to the client explaining the sanctioned offer procedure and counsel's advice, asking for client's instructions whether he would like such an offer to be put forward, and if so in what amount. You may assume any facts not inconsistent with those set out above.**

**(17 marks)**

- (2) Prepare a draft sanctioned offer (for client's approval) in an appropriate amount, to be enclosed with the above letter. For extra credit, you may add footnotes explaining any part of your draft.**

**(8 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

## Question 5 (25 marks)

Facts:

1. You, a solicitor, have obtained a judgment in the sum of HK\$10 million in the High Court against Mr. A for failing to repay a loan extended by Mr. B to him. Mr. A has not settled the judgment debt or any part of it to date. Obviously, he is avoiding satisfaction of the judgment debt aforesaid. A bankruptcy search indicates that Mr. A is not an undischarged bankrupt and he has never been bankrupted before.
2. Mr. A lives in a small flat in Wan Chai, Hong Kong. A land search of the Wan Chai flat indicates that its registered owner is Mr. A and it is free of mortgage. Mr. A has a Canadian passport and properties in Vancouver, Canada. You have instructions from Mr. B that Mr. A is telling everyone that he is leaving Hong Kong and not coming back anytime soon.
3. You are also instructed that Mr. A is a wealthy individual. Most of Mr. A's assets are believed to be in Hong Kong. For instance, Mr. B had heard Mr. A talking about his investments in the Hong Kong stock market and various private companies in Hong Kong. Mr. A has also spoken of his collection of paintings and art pieces. However, Mr. B does not know their whereabouts nor any details of the same.
4. Mr. B has shown you a copy of a cheque (drawn on HSBC's branch office in Wan Chai) which was given by Mr. A to Mr. B some time ago to pay interest accrued on the HK\$10 million loan. The cheque was honoured and Mr. B kept a copy of it prior to paying it in.

*(See over the page for a continuation of Question 5)*

5. Mr. B wants to know how you are going to enforce the judgment obtained. Specifically, Mr. B wants to know (a) what action can be taken through the High Court to enforce the judgment obtained on the basis of the information available to date, (b) how to find out more about the assets of Mr. A through the High Court for enforcement purposes, and (c) how to prevent Mr. A from leaving Hong Kong to avoid payment of the judgment debt.

**Question:**

**Write an advice letter to Mr. B, setting out your advice on how to enforce the judgment obtained. Your advice has to be comprehensive enough to answer the 3 enquiries set out in paragraph 5 above. You also have to explain to your client why you recommend a particular course of action and set out in brief the procedure for each means of enforcement proposed by you. If a particular course of action recommended by you is only effective for a certain time period, you need to let your client know as well.**

**(25 marks)**

**[25 marks in total]**

**END OF TEST PAPER**