

Examiners' Comments on the 2001 Examination

Head IV: Accounts and Professional Conduct

Candidates were required to pass both segments: accounts and professional conduct. The majority of students failed in both segments; a small number, however, failed just one segment. Candidates must ensure that they allocate a proper proportion of the time for each segment.

As regards the candidates' performance in the professional conduct segment, candidates failed largely because they did not identify the relevant issues of conduct raised by the questions and deal with them appropriately. Many of the answers were rather superficial and lacked thorough analysis. It is important that candidates:

- (i) identify the issues of conduct;
- (ii) identify the relevant provisions of the Code or case authority; and
- (iii) apply the relevant provisions of the Code or case authorities to the question.

As regards the candidates' performance in the accounts segment, candidates failed for the following reasons:

- (i) they did not spend sufficient time in answering the question;
- (ii) they failed to read the question and in turn answer with particularity to the specific points that were being addressed in the question; and
- (iii) the candidates just repeated the Solicitors' Accounts Rules and failed to apply the rules to the issues that were being put to them by the question.