 Institut der beim Europäischen Patentamt zugelassenen Vertreter  
Institute of Professional Representatives before the European Patent Office  
Institut des mandataires agréés près l'Office européen des brevets

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## e:EQE – Modernising the structure and timeline of the examination

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 EQE

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Art 1(1) REE

- The European qualifying examination (hereinafter "the examination") is designed to establish whether a candidate is qualified to practise as a professional representative before the European Patent Office (hereinafter "the EPO").

Art 1(4) REE

- The examination shall cover, as a minimum:
  - the drafting of claims and the introductory part of a European patent application on the basis of information normally available to a professional representative for this task;
  - the preparation of a reply to an official letter in which prior art has been cited;
  - the drafting of a notice of opposition to a European patent;
  - answering legal questions and drafting legal assessments of specific situations.

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### Constraints of "old style" testing

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- Travel required (flights, trains, subway, etc) to exam hall
  - Hotel cost
  - Many people together (no longer thinkable post covid)
  - The entire paper in one week - exhausting
  - Noisy candidates around you
  - Differences between centres and therefore unequal conditions
  - Logistics of correction (sending the papers to Munich, xeroxing and scanning)
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### Constraints of online testing

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- For health and safety reasons, a candidates cannot sit behind a computer for more than 1.5-2 hours
    - Paper exams allow for some movement and stretching of the legs for a longer sitting
  - Invigilation can only be done while the candidate is at the computer
    - With paper exams invigilation can be extended to the entire exam center and not just the candidate's desk.
    - While cheating is easier
  - Overview on screen (virtual desktop) is more limited than an actual desk
  - Required (in 2021)
    - a computer
    - the possibility to print
    - Internet connection
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**epi** **Opportunities of online testing**

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- Making use of automatic marking
  - A question base needs to be prepared and updated.
  - Making use of software and AI solutions has taken a leap forward over the last year.
- Progressive testing.
  - Asking a first part of the question first and revealing a second part after the first is concluded (not giving away the answer to the first part)
- Testing related subjects in different ways / create a level of interaction
  - E.g. in paper B: give a second letter with another objection after a break; or a letter relating to a divisional application of the earlier case after a break.
- Spreading the exam over multiple days.
  - When travelling, it is more effective to travel once for a week at the exam center

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**epi** **Timeline**

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- Training does not bring a candidate from 0 to 100% on the completion of 3 years of training.
- There is a lot to learn.
  - Some parts are easier to start with than others.
  - Those parts can be tested earlier than others.
- Testing Concepts instead of Content.
  - Inventive step features in A, B and C
  - Priority can feature in C and D
  - Allows for smaller exam parts to be offered at different times during the year.

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