

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

In this paper, you should assume that a European patent application comprising the appended documents* has been filed and that the European Patent Office has communicated the annexed official letter.

You should accept the facts given in the paper and base your answers upon such facts. Whether and to what extent these facts are used is your responsibility.

You should not use any special knowledge you may have of the subject-matter of the invention, but are to assume that the prior art given is in fact exhaustive.

Your task is now to draft a full response to the official letter. The official letter may or may not necessitate amendment of the description or claims or both and may or may not require arguments, for example as to the relevance of the prior art. You should bear in mind, in drafting your response, that the claims should afford the maximum valid protection. The response should be a letter to the EPO, but no particular form is mandatory. Any amendments should be clearly stated as insertions or deletions in the response or set out in a separate document. In any case, the amendments proposed should be sufficient to meet the requirements of the Convention as to both claims and description.

* These documents do not necessarily constitute the only or best solution to the task set in Paper A (Electricity/Mechanics).

If your response includes a proposal to make any part of an application the subject of a divisional application, you should suggest a text for at least the main claim of the divisional application and also indicate, where appropriate, your grounds for considering such claim to be acceptable. You need not however propose an introduction for any divisional application.

In addition to your elaborated solution, you may - but this is not mandatory - give, on a separate sheet of paper, the reasons for your choice of solution, for example, why you selected a particular form of claim, a particular feature for an independent claim, a particular piece of prior art as starting point or why you rejected or preferred some piece of prior art. Any such statement should however be brief.

It is assumed that you have studied the examination paper in the language in which you have given your answer. If this is not so, please indicate on the front page of your answer in which language you have studied the examination paper. This always applies to candidates who - after having filed such a request when enrolling for the examination - give their answer in a language other than German, English or French.