

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

In this paper, you should assume that a European patent application for all the Contracting States comprising the appended documents* has been filed and that the European Patent Office has issued the annexed official communication.

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 communication. The response should be a letter to the EPO, accompanied, if appropriate, by an amended set of claims. No amendments to the description should, however, be made, even if such amendments would be appropriate.

The claims should afford the maximum protection while meeting the requirements of the Convention. In your letter of response you should at least set out your arguments in support of the patentability of the independent claim(s).

If your response includes a proposal to make any part of the application the subject of divisional application(s), you should suggest a text for at least the independent claim(s) thereof and also include your arguments in support of the patentability of such claim(s).

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.

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