Legal Profession Admission Board

September 2019

Public International Law

Examiner’s comments

General observations

1. As in past examinations, all topics in the course were covered in the examination questions. In this regard, it was imperative that candidates covered the full range of Prescribed Topics: Scope of public international law; Sources of public international law; Public international law and municipal law; State jurisdiction; Immunity from jurisdiction; and State responsibility.

2. It was the expectation of the examiner that candidates would be conversant with the commentary in the Law Extension Committee’s subject guide together with the scholarly literature, decided cases, statutes and treaty provisions in the Supplementary Materials and the Public International Law Materials. In answering the questions, candidates generally displayed a sound understanding of the principles of public international law and the practical application of those principles.

3. Twenty candidates sat the examination. Final marks were in the range 65% to 87%. Thirteen candidates (65%) were awarded a Pass Distinction grade and seven candidates (35%) were awarded a Pass Merit grade.

4. As the examination was a confidential examination, these comments cannot identify the specific issues in the questions.

Questions 1, 2 and 3

Candidates were required to answer each of the three questions which comprised the examination. Question 3 was divided into three parts (a), (b) and (c) and candidates were required to answer any two parts of this question. The questions addressed different areas of public international law and ensured candidates had covered the full range of Prescribed Topics. The questions were well answered with candidates demonstrating a fine appreciation of the decided cases, statutes and treaty provisions. Some candidates enhanced the quality
and clarity of their answers by including maps and diagrams of relevant geographical areas such as the North Sea, the English Channel, the Thames estuary, the north east coast of Scotland and the high seas off the coast of Turkey.