

Legal Profession Admission Board

September 2022

Succession

Examiner's comments

General observations

1. As the examination was a confidential examination, these comments cannot identify the specific issues in the questions. The examination covered the majority of course topics; including topics covered in the compulsory assignment.
2. The examination contained 5 questions in total, with candidates having to answer any 4 of those questions. Each of the 4 questions was worth 20 marks. The questions ranged from factual based scenarios to short answer questions; which allowed for the variety of topics to be covered. Each question either contained a longer answer question together with multiple short answer questions; or alternatively, a series of shorter answer questions. Each question had a breakdown of marks, and each candidate was required to answer the question they attempted in full.
3. In answering the questions, the candidates generally displayed an understanding of the course content. Some general observations appear below:
 - a. Most answers were reflective on the candidates having sufficient knowledge of the legislation and how sections can interact with each other.
 - b. One of the longer fact-based scenario questions saw candidates really considering the live issues before them. Their responses were reflective of an understanding of both the legislation and the issues the Court would consider relative to case law.
 - c. Most candidates seemed to manage their time well and the longer questions (which attracted more marks) were reflective of good time management in the exam and an understanding of the course materials.
4. Out of the 41 candidates who sat the examination, 36 received an examination mark of 40 or above (out of a possible 80 marks). The highest mark awarded for the examination was 77.
5. The overall course marks this semester saw sixteen students receive a Pass, ten students receive a Pass Merit, and thirteen students receive a Pass Distinction. Two students failed the course. The highest course mark was 94. Overall, marks awarded for the course were reflective on the examination results.

6. The course this semester was run in-person with two weekend schools to allow for students outside the Sydney Metropolitan area to attend lectures. The examination was largely completed online, with only a small number of students completing the examination in person.

Exam self-evaluation - Take-aways for students

Students are encouraged to consider the following points:

- Did I approach the open-book format in an honest and appropriate way?
 - Are the responses my own work?
 - Did I manage the time well?
 - Did I answer all required questions?
 - Did I address each point in each question?
 - Did I acquire enough knowledge in the course and considered it sufficiently prior to exam to be able to focus on critical thinking of each issue while responding to exam questions?
 - Did I focus on analysis, synthesis and evaluation rather than restatement of facts and information presented in the lectures and course materials?
 - Did I identify and apply the right legal principles?
 - Did I offer sufficient support to each argument and cite correct authorities?
 - Did I reach a conclusion on each issue identified and at the end of each response?
 - Where was my knowledge of this subject deficient?
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