

Legal Profession Admission Board

September 2022

Public International Law

Examiner's comments

General observations

1. As in past examinations, all topics in the course were covered in the examination questions, including the topic "Scope of public international law" which was the focus of the compulsory assignment. Accordingly, it was imperative that candidates, in their examination preparation, 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 material covered in the lecture course, the commentary in the Law Extension Committee's subject guide and the scholarly literature, decided cases, statutes and treaty provisions in the *Supplementary Materials*, the *Public International Law Materials* and the class handouts.
3. Twenty six candidates sat the examination. Final marks were in the range 61% to 84%. Sixteen candidates were awarded a Pass Distinction grade, seven candidates were awarded a Pass Merit grade and three candidates were awarded a Pass grade. The final marks and grades were consistent generally with past examinations.
4. As the examination was a confidential examination, these comments cannot identify or discuss the specific issues in the questions.

Questions

The examination comprised five questions worth equal marks. Candidates were required to answer any four questions. No question was compulsory.

As noted above, the questions covered the full range of Prescribed Topics. In this regard, as in past examinations, individual questions were not confined to a single topic and required consideration of issues from more than one topic. Although the questions generally were well answered with candidates demonstrating a sound understanding of the practical application of

principles of public international law, candidates might have enhanced their answers to particular questions by including rough maps or diagrams of relevant geographical areas e.g. the concave North Sea coast considered by the International Court of Justice in *North Sea Continental Shelf Cases (FRG v. Denmark; FRG v. The Netherlands)* (1969) and the indented west coast of Norway considered by the International Court of Justice in *Anglo-Norwegian Fisheries Case (UK v. Norway)* (1951).

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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