

How To Pass FD2

Top Tips

- Read all the “Covid-19 - Essential Information For Candidates” information on CIPA’s website ([link](#)) for details of the exam format. I’m *not* planning to cover this today.

- Do the PEBX / ProctorExam Trial.

- There’s a practice answer sheet for drawings for FD2.

- Make sure your earliest dependent claims (i.e. claims 2 and 3) are your safety-net / fallback / strongest dependent claims:

2018 Examiners’ Comments (ECs): *Candidates whose Claim 1 lacked novelty over the [prior art] were given the benefit of the doubt if all other features were present in Claim 1 and [the main distinguishing feature] appeared in an early dependent claim.*

- Use terminology given in the paper where possible:

2014 ECs: *Suitable wording for Claim 1 was provided in the question paper, though candidates continue to create their own lexicons without providing definitions. This can make understanding a paper both difficult and time-consuming...*

2016 ECs: *For the avoidance of doubt, the text that is provided includes all the language and terminology that the Examiners expect to see in the claims and candidates are advised to use this rather than trying to make up their own terms to describe the invention.*

- Review the sample scripts for the last few years’ papers. They show where marks were awarded.

- When trying to identify the invention (= what will be claimed), try *not* looking at the drawings. They can lead you to think the invention is narrower than it is since they show one or more specific embodiments of the invention.

- Remember that the drawings can include features not described in the text part of the paper. Dependent claims to such features often attract marks if the features aren’t trivial.

- Order the dependent claims logically, try to avoid awkward dependencies, and pay attention to antecedence.

- Know terms for describing what the figures show, e.g. side, plan, underneath, perspective, exploded, sectional, part-sectional, part-cutaway, etc. You can, and should, learn these and what they are before the exam.

- Don’t forget an abstract if the paper asks for one!