

Examiners' Comments on the 2025 Examination

Head V: Principles of Common Law

The examination paper consisted of four parts:

Part A (Constitutional Law and Introduction to Legal System);

Part B (Law of Contract);

Part C (Introduction to Law of Torts);

Part D (Criminal Law).

The 2025 Head V Examination Paper covered a total of 4 legal domains, with 2 questions set for each domain. The questions revolved around the topics of constitutional law, law of contract, law of torts and criminal law. Candidates were free to select one question from each of the four domains to answer. Candidates were allowed 45 minutes to read the examination paper containing a total of 8 questions. During this period, candidates may decide which four questions they would like to answer. Candidates must respond orally in English within 2 hours. The examination was conducted and assessed by two examiners.

Overall speaking, the majority of candidates were quite familiar with the statutory provisions involved in the relevant questions. They also demonstrated a good understanding of the principles of common law and equity, as well as the relevant case law. They were able to apply their knowledge appropriately to the questions posed. Many candidates encountered difficulties in language expression when answering questions, showing signs of struggling to articulate their thoughts effectively. A relatively common weakness among candidates was also the evident lack of familiarity with local Hong Kong case precedents. When responding to examiners' questions, candidates tended to focus primarily on citing foreign cases to support their answers. In the future, candidates will need to pay greater attention to this aspect.

This year, a total of 22 candidates participated in the examination, marking one of the highest number of participants in Head V Examination history. The number of candidates represented a multiple-fold increase compared to previous years. The level of difficulty of the examination questions was comparable to that of previous years. The pass rate for this year stood at 64%, which was slightly lower than that of the last year.