

## Guidance on Using FD4 Model Answers

Model answers have been prepared for the 2013 and 2018 FD4 papers. These are provided, together with the Examiners' comments, mark scheme and sample pass scripts, as a training aid for candidates.

Sample candidate scripts have been provided for many years, and these now show where the marks were awarded. They are intended to provide a good indication of what is needed to pass FD4. They are **not** perfect answers.

The model answers were written by an experienced FD4 mentor who recognised that many candidates did not fully understand what a good FD4 answer should look like (for example, the level of detail and reasoning required) and that it is difficult to pick this up from a sample candidate script which scores at most about 70%.

Two different answers have been prepared for the 2018 paper to demonstrate that, in FD4, any reasonable, well-argued and self-consistent answer could be awarded full marks.

Answer 1 is based on the mark scheme and the Examiners' comments and therefore is intended to reproduce the Examiners' preferred answer. Answer 2 is intended to be as different as possible from Answer 1, whilst still achieving full marks. The key differences from Answer 1 are indicated in Answer 2 by coloured text. Of course, these are not the only possible answers.

The model answers are written in full sentences to make the reasoning as easy as possible to follow. The Examiners do not expect this in the exam – it is perfectly acceptable to use bullet points, tables, abbreviations etc. as the sample scripts demonstrate.

The Examiners do not expect candidates to produce a perfect answer within the time limit – hence the pass mark is (usually) 50% not 100%. The sample scripts demonstrate what is achievable within the time limit.

In some places (for example, 2018 Answer 1, claim 5, inventive step; 2018 Answer 2, claims 1-4, infringement) two different arguments have been provided which reach opposite conclusions; corresponding alternatives have been included in the amendment and advice sections. These are indicated by different coloured text. Again, this is intended to emphasise that any reasonable, well-argued, consistent answer can be awarded marks.

The author has also produced a model answer for the 2013 P6 paper. It is a single answer, intended to reflect the Examiners' preferred solution. The answer is written in a different format, intended to illustrate the underlying thought process, as a training aid. Thus, in the construction section, for each part, the reasoning is set out in blue text and the conclusion in red text to emphasise the need to provide both. The infringement and novelty sections are in table format, with an additional column for the construction (not necessary in the exam). This is included to ensure that the construction is correctly applied to the infringement and the prior art, without having to scroll back to the construction section. It should also be noted that the inventive step section is relatively short – this reflects the fact that fewer marks were available for inventive step in older papers than has been the case in more recent years.

The answers were written by an unpaid volunteer in their own time, for the benefit of candidates. The author has tried his best to remove typos, errors and inconsistencies, but would welcome constructive suggestions for improvements.