

Information for Candidates Preparing for PEB Qualifying Examinations

In order to help candidates as they plan their examination preparation, the PEB has carried out an analysis of recent examination. This analysis is also likely to be of interest to staff in firms who provide support and guidance for trainee attorneys.

Foundation Certificate Examinations

There are high pass rates for FC examinations and so relatively few candidates re-sit them.

Session	Re-sitters	FC1	FC2	FC3	FC4	FC5
2021	Number	0	1	1	7	4
	Number passing	N/a	1	1	5	4
	Pass rate	N/a	100%	100%	71%	100%
2022	Number	6	4	2	5	6
	Number passing	5	2	1	4	3
	Pass rate	83%	50%	50%	80%	50%

A small number of candidates combine Foundation re-sits with attempting Final examinations.

Combined FC re-sits and FD units	Session	1 FC 1 FD	1 FC 2 FD	2 FC 1 FD	2 FC 2 FD	Other
Number of candidates	2021	2	5	3	1	2
	2022	5	2	1	3	1

Candidates combining FC re-sits with FD examinations		FD1	FD2	FD3	FD4
2021	Number of candidates	10	4	5	3
	Number of candidates passing the FD unit	2	1	1	2
	Pass rate for the FD unit	20%	25%	20%	67%
2022	Number of candidates	8	4	5	1
	Number of candidates passing the FD unit	4	1	4	1
	Pass rate for the FD unit	50%	25%	80%	100%

Final Diploma Examinations

The highest number of re-sit attempts are for FD4.

Session	Number of times unit was attempted in the previous 5 years	FD1	FD2	FD3	FD4
2021	1	44%	36%	56%	51%
	2	25%	42%	73%	39%
	3	10%	50%	0%	38%
	4	0%	50%	33%	38%
	5	0%	50%	N/A	23%
	Pass rate – all candidates	33%	38%	57%	44%
2022	1	58%	47%	82%	67%
	2	51%	43%	92%	49%
	3	40%	25%	100%	50%
	4	30%	0%	0%	52%
	5	15%	0%	n/a	40%
	Pass rate – all candidates	50%	44%	82%	58%

Table 5 was compiled from Candidate Survey response data. It is therefore an indicator rather than a fully accurate representation of the percentage of FD4 candidates who have re-sat in the recent examination sessions.

Session	None or one	Two	Three	Four	Five or more
2020	75%	9%	8%	1%	7%
2021	73%	15%	5%	3%	4%
2022	66%	15%	8%	4%	7%

As reported by candidates, the percentages who have re-sat FD4 one or more times appears relatively consistent in the past three sessions. However, the percentage of candidates with either one or no previous attempts at FD4 has dropped from 75% in the 2020 examination session to 73% in 2021 and to 66% in 2022. With the exception of the 2021 session, FD4 pass rates have steadily improved since 2018 when the pass rate was exceptionally low. This would appear to have resulted in lower percentages of re-sit candidates as reported in the Candidate Survey data.