

## Feedback from the May 2015 Exams

During the May 2015 exam sessions a total of 62 candidates sat the chartership exam over three days. The pass rate was 79%, which compares favourably with the May 2014 and November 2014 exams, both achieving 80% pass rates.

The examiners reported an number of findings based on the candidates who sat the exam in May. These are listed below.

- **Formulate clear, concise answers**

Those candidates who were unsuccessful in the November exam struggled to give clear, concise answers to the questions presented. Experience shows that this is a combination of exam nerves, and the candidate's lack of understanding of the syllabus. The P2C offers an excellent qualify assurance process by requiring the mentor and supervisor to confirm readiness for the exam. That said, candidates should prepare themselves for the exam by reading [Pathway to Chartership Oral Examination – Notes for Candidates](#). The examiners are looking for strong, clear answers that are explained with relevant examples. There is only one way to achieve this, practice, practice and practice!

- **Discuss your syllabus topics**

Examiners repeatedly recommend that candidates discuss the syllabus topics with their mentor, other practitioners, and within study groups. This encourages candidates to be able to talk with confidence to different audiences, and develop knowledge on areas of the syllabus not directly linked to their work. If you don't have a study group within your area, please register with [Talking Landscape](#) to find groups that you might be able to join in. If travel is a problem then you should consider using Skype, or create your own study group.

- **Use the mock exams, and create your own**

Every year examiners recommend mock exams as an important strategy in preparation for the exam. Mentors and their candidate carry out a mock exam in realistic exam scenarios, so that a candidate has an idea of the questions, the setting, and the time frame they will have to answer within the exam. If other CMLI colleagues are available then they too can play an important role in helping candidate prepare. It should be remembered that a mock exam is the opportunity for the candidate to practice demonstrating their knowledge in a clear, concise way. Mock exams also help candidates identify areas of the syllabus where their knowledge is not as strong as they would like.

It is also recommended that candidates carry out a mock exam with another mentor. This helps candidates to prepare answering questions about the syllabus in a more realistic exam situation.

- **Remember to Update CVs**

In their preparation for each exam, examiners review Pathway logs and the candidate's CV. CVs are extremely useful to an examiner, helping them get a better understanding of the candidate's experience to date. An up to date and relevant CV can increase a candidate's chances of passing the exam.

Some candidates still fail to follow this advice, and in doing so are at risk of failing the exam. Candidates must ensure they are well prepared, and that the P2C offers examiners all the information they need. Hints and tips on what to include in your CV can be found on the Pathway section of the [LI's website](#).