



Enthusiastic Response to Estate Agents Qualifying Examination

(3 March 2005) Registrations for the first Estate Agents Qualifying Examination this year (2005) have been enthusiastic. The number of registrants hits 1,866 which is 3 times that of the last examination held in November 2004.

The Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority, which administers the examination for the Estate Agents Authority (EAA), will accept late registration during 17 March and 18 March. Late registrants are required to pay a \$200 administration fee.

The Estate Agents Qualifying Examination is held 3 times a year. For the whole of 2004, there were a total of 1,739 registrants of whom 638 registered for the examination held in November 2004. Up to 28 February 2005, the number of registrants for the 24 March 2005 Estate Agents Qualifying Examination hits 1,866, scoring the highest since 2000.

Chairman of the EAA Professional Development Committee, Mr. Joseph Tsang Hon-ping, said, “As the property market regained its buoyancy, the number of candidates for the qualifying examinations has also increased, indicating that more people consider the estate agency profession as a career opportunity.”

Past records indicated that candidates vary in occupational backgrounds, including property management, banking, accounting, financial investment, the wholesale/retail business and construction and surveying.

Starting from July 2005, the EAA will enhance the standard of the qualifying examinations. The Estate Agents Qualifying Examination held on 24th March will be the last Estate Agents Qualifying Examination before the new examination format is launched. From July 2005 onwards, the EAA will change the format of the Estate Agents Qualifying Examination. Its duration will also be extended from the current two hours to three hours. In the revised format, the number of questions in



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Part I will be reduced from 50 to 30. At the same time Part II, which is based on case studies, will consist of 20 questions instead of the current 10. Questions in this section will test candidates' practical knowledge expected from an estate agent. In the revised format, a candidate must pass both Parts in order to pass the qualifying examination. There will be no change to the format of the Salespersons Qualifying Examination.

Besides, in order to ensure that practitioners keep themselves informed of new laws and developments in the real estate market, the EAA will update the syllabi for both the Estate Agents Qualifying Examination as well as the Salespersons Qualifying Examination from July this year. The revision will include adding the essentials of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344), covering the latest amendments of the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) Ordinance (Cap.7), and covering the new Integrated Registration and Information System ("IRIS") introduced by the Land Registry in February 2005 which replaced the Direct Access System.

In 2005, the Estate Agents Qualifying Examinations and the paper-based Salespersons Qualifying Examinations will be held on 24 March, 21 July and 10 November respectively. The Computerized Salespersons Qualifying Examinations are held every weekdays (except public holidays). The above changes to the examination format and examination syllabi will not affect the Estate Agents Qualifying Examination to be held on 24 March 2005 and the Salespersons Qualifying Examinations held up to 30 June 2005.

28 February 2005 was the registration deadline for the 24 March 2005 qualifying examination. However, late registration will also be accepted. Late registrants may obtain entry forms and "application forms for late entry" at the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority (San Po Kong Sub-office): 3/F, 17 Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon, or the Estate Agents Authority, 48/F, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Registrants may also download the forms from the EAA's website http://www.eaa.org.hk/ch_download_area.htm. Late registrants should submit the completed and signed entry form and the "application form for



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late entry”, together with a photocopy of the applicant’s H.K. Identity Card or passport to the San Po Kong Sub-office of the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority in person or through a representative during 17 March and 18 March. Applicants are also required to pay the examination fee and a HK\$200 administration fee in cash. The office hours are from 8:30am to 4:30pm (opens during lunch hour).

Passing the qualifying examination is one of the requirements for obtaining the licence. Other licensing requirements include: be at least 18 years of age, completed Form 5 or its equivalent, and fulfil the “fit and proper” requirement.

For enquiries regarding the qualifying examinations, please telephone the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority at 23280061 (ext. 322) or the EAA at 25989550. The EAA’s web address is <http://www.eaa.org.hk>.

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