



**EAA will enhance the standard of Qualifying Examinations
from July**
Nearly 1000 registrants for the March Examination

(24 February 2005) The Estate Agents Authority (EAA) will enhance the standard of the Qualifying Examinations starting from July 2005. This arrangement will be implemented from the second Estate Agent's Qualifying Examination of the year, to be held on 21 July 2005. The first Estate Agent's Qualifying Examination in 2005 will be held on 24 March which will be the last Estate Agent's Qualifying Examination before the new examination format is launched.

Chairman of the Authority's Professional Development Committee, Mr. Joseph Tsang Hon-ping, said, "To ensure that new practitioners meet the professional standard and fulfil the many practical requirements of the job, the Authority considers it necessary to raise the level of the Qualifying Examinations as a means to enhance protection for the public."

Up to this morning (24 February), 942 registrations for the 24 March Estate Agent's Qualifying Examination have been received. The number of registrants for the last Estate Agent's Qualifying Examination, held in November 2004, was 638.

Starting from July 2005, the Authority will change the format of the Estate Agent's 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 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 Salesperson's Qualifying Examination.

Besides, in order to ensure that practitioners keep themselves



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informed of any laws and developments in the real estate market, the Authority will update the syllabi for both the Estate Agent's Qualifying Examination as well as the Salesperson's 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.

The Estate Agent's Qualifying Examination is organized three times each year. In 2005, the Estate Agent's Qualifying Examinations will be held on 24 March, 21 July and 10 November respectively. The Computerized Salesperson's Qualifying Examination are held several days during the week. The above changes will not affect the Estate Agent's Qualifying Examination to be held on 24 March 2005 and the Salesperson's Qualifying Examinations held up to 30 June 2005.

Registration procedures for the 24 March 2005 Qualifying Examination are given below.

Entry forms may be obtained at the following locations:

Estate Agents Authority: 48/F, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (Southern Centre): 12/F, 130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority (San Po Kong Sub-office): 3/F, 17 Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon

Although the period of registration by post has passed, applicants may register in person or through a representative by paying the examination fee first and submitting the examination fee receipt (Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority copy), the completed and signed entry form and a photocopy of the applicant's H.K. Identity Card



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or passport to the San Po Kong Sub-office of the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority on or before 28 February. The office hours are 9:00am to 4:30pm (opens during lunch hour).

Apart from that, the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority will accept late registration from 17 March to 18 March. Late registrants are required to pay a \$200 administration fee.

Passing the Qualifying Examination is one of the requirements for obtaining the licence. 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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