



INSTITUSI JURUTERA MALAYSIA

The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia

Bangunan Ingenieur, Lots 60/62, Jalan 52/4, Peti Surat 223 (Jalan Sultan),

46720 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

Tel: 60-3-79684001/ 4002 Fax: 60-3-79577678

E-mail : sec@iem.org.my IEM Homepage: <http://www.myiem.org.my>

THE PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Questions applicable to Section B of the Essay as at 1.1.2011

Questions on Regulations on Professional Conduct

The main purpose of these questions is to provide an opportunity for the candidates to demonstrate their professionalism. A candidate should have gained some understanding of the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct before entering for the Professional Interview.

A candidate would be expected to demonstrate:-

- (a) That he has thought sufficiently about the role of the engineer in the society vis-à-vis his Professional Conduct.
- (b) That he can write in clear and concise manner that is intelligible to laymen.

Candidate would be expected to answer only 1 question out of 2 selected by the Examiners from among the 13 questions listed below:-

1. As a young engineer, you are instructed by your employer to prepare a bankable report for a prospective project based on the information provided by your employer. You have no access to ascertain the reliability of the information provided. In light of the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct, how do you advise your employer so that you may complete your assignment with integrity?
2. You are assigned by your employer to prospect an area for an extractable material. However, in the course of your work, you discover no such object material but some other valuable material which your employer is not interested. On the other hand, the information which you have is of great importance to the adjoining interest. As an engineer can you release the particular information which you have to the other party so that the other valuable material may be explored? Please discuss taking into consideration provisions of the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct.
3. Engr X is a project engineer for a project contracted to Y Company owned by Mr Z. Mr Z tells Engr X that he is ordering the latest model of an electronic gadget for his company staff and he can get a set for Engr X at the company discounted price. Engr X agrees and pays on delivery. Did Engr X breach the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct:
"It is the responsibility of every engineer to give the highest regard to his profession and conduct himself with integrity when executing his task".

Discuss this statement in detail within the context of the Malaysian environment.

4. Professionalism cannot be taught by regurgitating the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct nor by memorizing a set of rules. Do you agree with the statement and why?
5. The IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct speaks against active self promotion and advertisement. In what ways would such restraint enhance the stature of engineers as professionals? More importantly, given the advent of the information technology age where virtual reality is becoming the norm, how would any violation of the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct be detected and dealt with?
6. You are an engineer and it is known that your project activities/plant production had caused an adverse health, safety and/or environmental (HSE) impact. To improve the HSE quality, you have to cease your project activities/plant production for a period of time, resulting in the inability to meet the required schedule and targets.

How would you handle in a situation where there is a conflict between the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct and commercial consideration?

7. Very often codes of practice suggest discretion of engineering judgement. There are merits and demerits of international codes of practice and standards as opposed to national documents within the context of the Malaysian industry and practices.

Discuss by giving examples of engineering judgement whereby such decision does not conform to an international (?) code of practice and how it is justified. Is international conformity always desirable?

8. Engineers are often entrusted with the responsibility of implementing large-scale projects involving millions of Ringgit. In view of the large amount of money changing hands, the integrity and ethical standards of engineers are being put to test. What measures can an engineer take to prevent corruption and unethical practice of cutting corners in order to safeguard the good image of the engineering profession?
9. 'Conflict of professional interest frequently arises in the working environment of an engineer'. Discuss the statement and propose the appropriate solutions for overcoming the problems.
10. Most projects are awarded on a competitive bidding basis. Supposing you had been the designated engineer of one of the bidders which was not awarded the letter of intent by the Client; and you are then approached by the 'winner' to join the Consultant Team; should you accept the second appointment? If yes, describe the situations, which might be seen as conflict of interests. If no, describe the reasons and/or clear-cut situations why you should decline the second appointment.
11. You are in a position of responsibility administering an institution of higher learning with limited resources. You have been assigned to revise the engineering curriculum and directed to increase the number of graduates. From the standpoint of professional conduct, describe the necessary curriculum contents which must be included so as not to compromise the engineering standards.
12. Corruption has undermined integrity in professional practice in the engineering industry. The professional engineer who steadfastly embraces the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct is left in a dilemma. His option is that he could just ignore it or turn whistle blower. Explain how you would handle this problem.
13. Assuming that you are the principal partner of a reputable engineering-based firm in a small state in the country. Your family is very well reputed, respected and influential, having lived and worked in the state for decades.

Leaders of a certain political party approach you seeking your assistance to campaign for them in a forthcoming state by-election. Amongst others, they have promised upon winning the said elections, to award your company with all the major projects to be awarded by the state government. It is desirable for your firm to secure new projects. Discuss critically on your actions going forward, taking account of the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct.