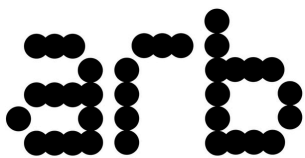


**Prescribed Examination Guidance Booklet  
(Part D)**

# Frequently Asked Questions



**Architects  
Registration  
Board**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What are Prescribed Qualifications?

Prescribed qualifications are qualifications gained from schools of architecture with courses that are approved by ARB. This is why the Board's examination is called the Examination for Equivalence to Prescribed Qualifications.

## 2. What is meant by Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3?

Part 1 A qualification gained at first degree level which has normally involved three years' full time study (or an equivalent period if you have studied part time).

Part 2 A qualification gained at second degree, or diploma level, which has normally involved two years' full time study (or an equivalent period if you have studied part time).

Part 3 A final professional examination which follows recently completed 24 months practical experience under the direct supervision of a professional working in the construction industry 12 months of which should have been undertaken in the EEA, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man under the direct supervision of an architect.

## 3. Can I sit Part 1 and 2 Examination at the same time?

It is not possible to sit for both examinations on the same day. You must pass ARB's Examination for Equivalence to Prescribed Qualifications at Part 1 Level before applying to sit the ARB's Examination for Equivalence to Prescribed Qualifications at Part 2 level.

## 4. My qualification is recognised by the RIBA. Does this mean I am exempt from sitting the examination?

No. ARB does not directly prescribe ('recognise') any qualifications awarded outwith European Economic Area countries. This position is neither affected in any way by the awarding body being in a particular country, nor recognition provided by other organisations. Any applicant who does not directly hold the appropriate prescribed qualifications must pass the ARB's Prescribed Examination at the applicable level if they wish to proceed towards registration as an architect in the UK.

## 5. What are supplementary materials?

Supplementary materials are the documents listed in the checklist (item 10) of the examination application forms.

## 6. What are the ARB Criteria that I am to be examined against?

The ARB criteria are detailed in the examination process document called Prescription of Qualifications: ARB Criteria. When applying for Part 1, the General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2 as a whole should be read along with the Graduate Attributes for Part 1. Similarly, for Part 2, the General Criteria should be read along with the Graduate Attributes for Part 2. No weightings are given to the areas within the General Criteria, however examiners will expect to see that architectural design constitutes at least half the work examined.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 7. What is the Comparative Matrix?

ARB has provided a Comparative Matrix Template for you to use. It is essential that all candidates understand the importance of evidence of the correct standard being specifically mapped to the relevant criteria if their application is to succeed. When you fill out your Comparative Matrix you should:

- (a) list your materials, and
- (b) describe how the materials prove that you have the requisite skills and accomplishments that relate to the ARB criteria for your level of examination.
- (c) specify using the Key provided in the Matrix Template whether your work cited is academic, professional or other such as a competition entry.
- (d) ensure any statement in the matrix is backed up by supporting material.

## 8. Is the Prescribed Examination a qualification recognised in line with the Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC?

The Prescribed Examination is no longer a mutually recognised qualification which ARB can 'sign-off' as part of automatic recognition. Anyone with Directive rights will therefore have to rely on alternative arrangements for recognition where they have passed the Prescribed Examination after June 2011.

For further information about this, please contact the Registration Department at ARB on 020 7580 5861 and a member of the Registration Team will be able to advise you.

## 9. Do I need to study for the examination?

You don't have to study for the examination, but we do advise you to look at the criteria carefully and ensure that you have enough material that will meet all the criteria. You can use academic work; work from practice and any other work to demonstrate compliance with the criteria.

If there are areas where you feel your evidence is deficient, you will need to address the deficiencies - perhaps by reworking an existing design to meet the criteria, or generating an entirely new design.

## 10. Can I submit the same supporting material for Part 1 and Part 2?

This is perfectly acceptable, but please note the different graduate attributes applied to Part 1 and 2. It is important to understand the difference in breadth and depth between Part 1 and 2.

## 11. Can I submit work I have completed on my Part 2 course?

Yes. You can use any work you feel adequately addresses the criteria.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 12. What are the Examiners looking for in terms of Cultural Context?

Architects do not design in a vacuum but design in context with other buildings of different size, use and complexity from different periods in history. The designs need to consider the cultural context within which new buildings sit in terms of scale, massing and use of materials, not necessarily mimicking other buildings but respecting the setting such buildings are placed in.

## 13. I already have an edited portfolio of work I use for job interviews - can I just use this work for the purpose of the Prescribed Exam?

It is not a good idea to rely on this, as examiners will need to see a more comprehensive portfolio which should include the 'messy work' such as sketches and design development etc.

## 14. Some of my academic work isn't very good and I'm therefore reluctant to present it.

It is perfectly permissible for you to be reflective about any item of work you present, and you can annotate the work to inform the examiners what you would now do differently. You can also add in or rework material as you see fit.

## 15. Can you expand a little more about GC3?

GC3 Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design. GC3 The graduate will have knowledge of:

1. how the theories, practices and technologies of the arts influence architectural design;
2. the creative application of the fine arts and their relevance and impact on architecture;
3. the creative application of such work to studio design projects, in terms of their conceptualisation & representation.

Reflecting the globally influential work of the great Modernist architects and the often indistinct boundaries between their architectural projects and other design work related to furniture, ceramics, painting, theatre design etc, this criterion refers to conceptual and practical inter-relationships between the milieu of the fine artist and the architect. Graduates of architecture should demonstrate that they understand architects may refer to the fine arts through:

- creatively considering and analysing relationships between the histories of art and architecture, particularly through written work.
- developing the strategic direction and intellectual content of design studio projects by inventive reference to the work and thinking of artists. (in any genre, and using any medium.
- innovative attitudes to the execution of drawings, models, and any associated media (analogue and digital film, video, online postings etc) representing ideas about architecture.

# Frequently Asked Questions

16. My work was completed overseas and my work including my thesis is not in English, what should I do?

You can annotate drawings and translate text accordingly. Your annotations should be sufficient to enable examiners to gain a full understanding of drawn work being presented. You will be required to provide the original of your thesis together with a summary in English, typically one or two A4 pages.

17. My thesis/dissertation is extremely long. Should I provide the entire document?

Yes, but you should also provide a précis or abstract of any written supporting material where the number of words might make it impossible for the examiners to review during the time available.

18. How many projects should I submit?

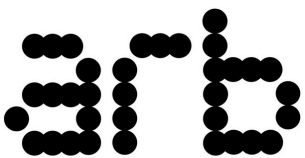
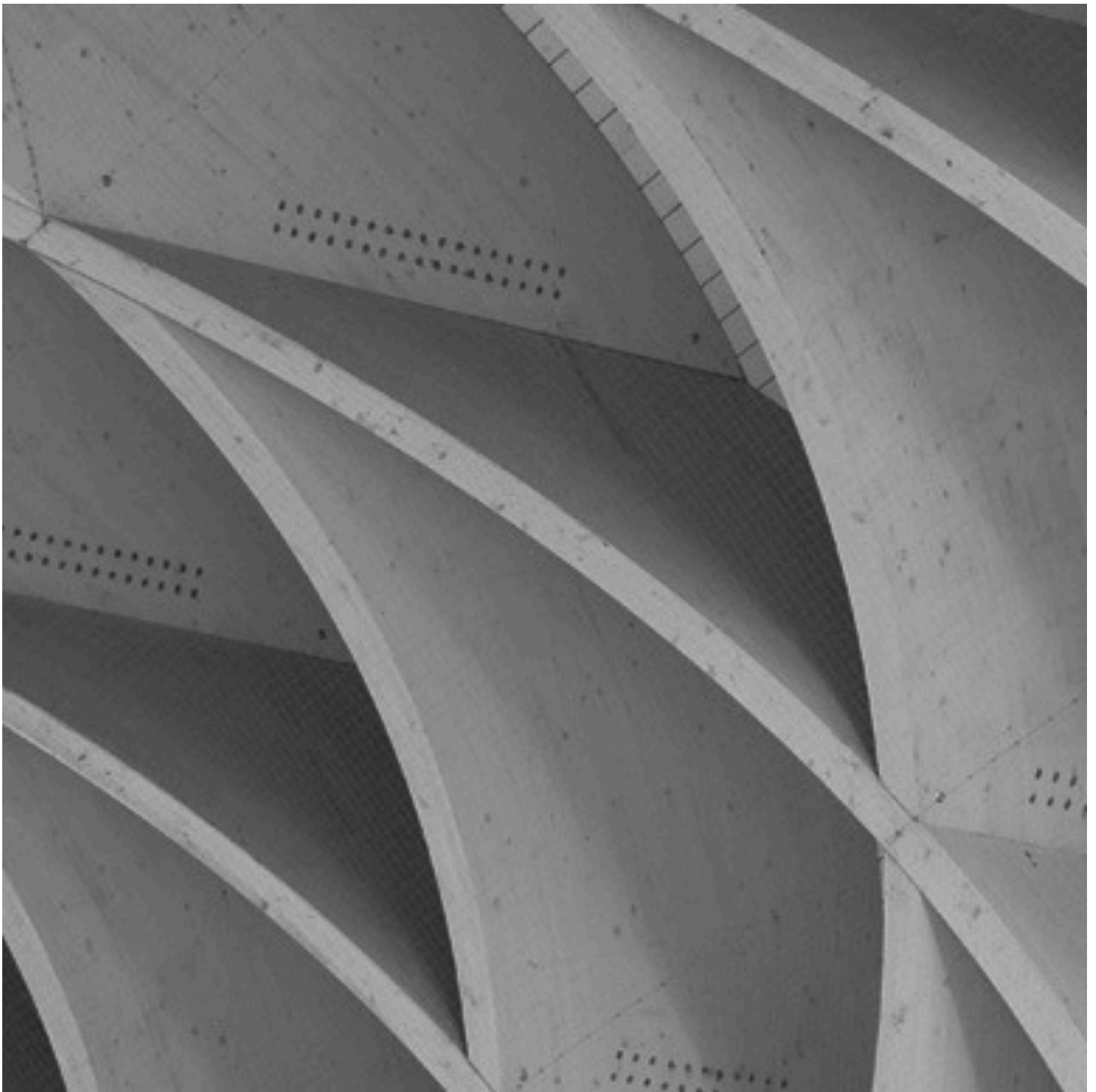
You are expected to provide at least two holistic design projects to demonstrate presentations using a variety of media and to generate a broad range of project types. These projects should be supported by working drawings and documents to demonstrate how and why you made the choices you did, and the ideas tested and discarded. See Examination Guidance Booklet A for further information.

19. Can I submit my syllabus and transcripts to demonstrate compliance with the criteria?

Your syllabus and transcripts are not in themselves evidence on which examiners can rely, you will therefore need to provide work completed within the programme which demonstrates compliance with the criteria.

20. Useful information

Some schools of architecture and other providers of education run workshops to assist candidates in their preparation to sit the Board's examinations at Parts 1 and 2. If you would like further information about these, please email [info@arb.org.uk](mailto:info@arb.org.uk) or call the Registration Department at ARB on 020 7580 5861, and a member of the team will be able to advise you.



**Architects  
Registration  
Board**

For more information please contact  
the Architects Registration Board  
8 Weymouth Street, London W1W 5BU  
Web: [www.arb.org.uk](http://www.arb.org.uk)  
Email: [info@arb.org.uk](mailto:info@arb.org.uk)  
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7580 5861  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7436 5269