

PRE-EXAM MEMO – TRADE LAW ACADEMY 2023

This memo is addressed only to those participants in the Academy who are planning to sit the final exam towards the award of the Certificate of Graduation that acknowledges that the candidate has completed all the requirements for graduation and successfully passed the exam. The Certificate of Graduation may be awarded with or without distinction.

Please bear in mind that in order to sit the exam you must have **attended:**

- a) at least six General Course sessions (i.e. 12 hours of General Course sessions); **AND**
- b) at least two full Specialization Courses (i.e. all 8 hours of any 2 Specialization Courses).

Attendance is tracked by **live Zoom attendance** (by minutes attended overall). Participants who plan to sit the exam will be expected to have read the assigned materials for the courses and the exam questions may relate to such.

Memo on How to Prepare for the Exam on Saturday, 27 May 2023

Exam Format

The form of the exam is 'at home' with 'open books'. However, as a matter of honor, you commit not to seek advice or help from anyone else. In addition the use of ChatGPT or equivalent software is strictly prohibited. This will be checked by tracking software.

The exam form you will receive will contain **6 questions** (2 relating to the General Course and 1 from each Specialization module). You will need to answer the questions relating to the General Course and 2 Specialization questions of your choice. **In total, your exam answer should cover 4 questions.**

There is a strict word limit for the answers. **You are required to do a word count and place at the beginning of each question the number of words. Failure to do so will disqualify the answer.** The word limit is a maximum. It is entirely possible to answer any of the questions with fewer words.

You will have **7 hours** to complete the exam. Plan your time carefully. Give yourself some time to think about the question; sketch for yourself the principal points you plan to make. Then draft the answer. Allow yourself time to enable you to go over your answers and edit them to be a clear and effective way of presenting. Understanding the question and having a good answer can be compromised by careless or unclear writing.

The exam is on a Pass/Fail basis. **To pass the exam you must answer the General Course question plus two others.** Outstanding exams will have their Graduation Certificate marked with Cum Laude (With Distinction).

Submitting Your Exam Answers

The Exam will be available online from 10am Singapore Time. The answers **must be uploaded by 5pm Singapore Time**. Give yourself a few minutes margin to upload. Do not begin uploading at the very last minute, especially if you have unstable internet connection.

You should use this URL https://cil.nus.edu.sg/2023_exam_27may2023/ to see the exam questions and the submission form in the page to upload your exam answers.

1. Do not forget to put your name on the exam exactly as you would like it to be on the Graduation Certificate should you pass the exam.
2. Below your name you must write the following statement: **I confirm on my honor that I attended at least six General Course sessions and two Specialization Courses. I further confirm on my honor that my answers are mine alone and that I did not use ChatGPT or equivalent AI software.**
3. In case of glitches in the system – these happen from time to time – you may email your exam to yvette.f@nus.edu.sg / cil.events@nus.edu.sg within the same time parameters.

The Content of the Exam

The Exam is neither a Memory Test nor a simple Comprehension Test. You will not be asked a question such as: Explain the Principle of Least Restrictive Measure and its Importance. Instead, it will test your ability to apply the fundamental principles we studied to concrete hypothetical situations or analyze one of the cases, or a portion of a case, you were required to read or the parts of the GATT/WTO Agreements you were required to read.

Here is an example (based on class discussion – obviously if the hypothetical was raised in class, it will not feature in the exam.):

The UK is rabies-free and wishes to remain such. They require all imported pets to be (a) vaccinated and (b) be put into quarantine for six months at a cost to the importer of Sterling 600. Analyze this situation in the light of the relevant GATT provisions.

Here is an example of the second type of question:

Reread carefully paragraphs XX of Case YY which was part of the Reading Assignment for the class. What is the doctrinal or policy significance of this portion of the judgment?

Preparing for the Exam

The best preparation would be to go carefully over the notes or recordings of the class, but in particular to read most carefully and critically the very few provisions of the Agreements and cases which were assigned.

FAQs

Q. What if I believe that there are relevant missing facts from the question which impede me from a complete analysis?

A. Explain the would-be relevance of the facts which in your view are necessary to answer the question and how different factual elements would impact the answer.

Q. What if the question, or part of it, does not make sense to me?

A. Do **not** email yvette.f@nus.edu.sg / cil.events@nus.edu.sg or other CIL addresses. Assume that all other participants are facing the same problem and answer to the best of your ability.

Q. What if I realize that I am running out of time?

A. Under no circumstances leave a question blank for this reason. Try and sketch out the major points of your answer without turning the sketch into a fully drafted answer. It might be sufficient to pass.

Good Luck!

Joseph Weiler

April 20, 2023