

Becoming a QPIP: *My Perspective*

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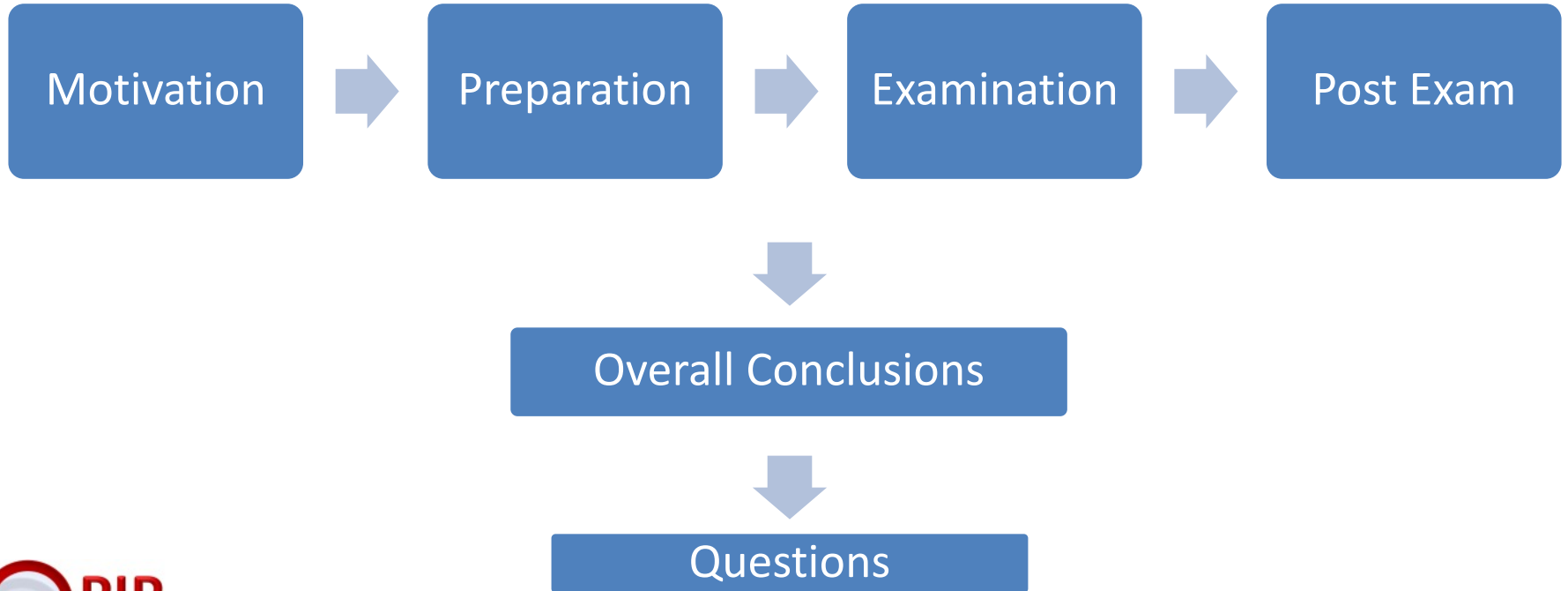
BSc (Hons) PhD QPIP

Principal IP Analyst at Victor Green & Company

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My QPIP Journey



Motivation



Long standing aspiration



Scope for recognition & career progression



Desire to encourage/mentor others



'Nothing to lose'



Opportunity to enhance & consolidate knowledge



Can re-sit individual exam parts



Colleague took 2021 exam & had positive experience



Why didn't I take the PER route or sit the 2021 exam?



Workload/timing



Ongoing PER requirement prohibitive at time



What if I don't pass?



Preparation

Enrolment

Application form

 Signed letter from employer

 Used employer's job management system to help with this

 Curriculum Vitae

 I had to update


 Templates available on QPIP website and submitted electronically

 Took around 3 hours to gather the required information

 Small fee to pay (by the week prior to exam)

 User account for the QPIP website is then created for you

My 'real' work ended-up being my main preparation

 Whilst undertaking real-world searches I made bullet point notes of my processes and the reasoning behind them

– became a template for cases studies during the exam



Preparation (continued)



Studying/training



'Skills & Competencies Schedules I & II' – read in detail & looked up anything I wasn't sure about using web sources and the resources listed in the 'Suggested Reading List'



Schedule I - useful for the case study parts of the exam



Schedule II - useful for the theoretical parts



Didn't undertake mock exams, but read past papers together with the sample answers



Gave myself a 'crash course' in patent landscapes



Around 15 hours in total, spread out over the month prior to exam



Practical preparations



Joined the online information and Q&A session



Familiarised myself with test platform - demonstration video and test environment



Day before - set up desk, made sure I had everything I needed, tested webcam etc.



Notified colleagues that I would need databases, made sure I recalled passwords



Got a good night's sleep!



Examination

 Sat exam in Feb 2022 - 6 parts over two days (break day in between):

Day 1 (Tues 22/02/22)	Day 2 (Thurs 24/02/22)
Opposition/Validity/Novelty Case Study (4hrs)	Patent Infringement Case Study (4 hrs)
<i>1 hr break</i>	<i>1 hr break</i>
General Theory (30 mins)	Patent Landscape Theory (50 mins)
<i>15 mins break</i>	<i>10 mins break</i>
Categorisation Analysis Case Study (3 hrs)	Patent Landscape Case Study (3 hrs)

 Ability to sit exam remotely very convenient

 Break day appreciated - can also take comfort breaks during but clock keeps ticking

 Exam interface/platform





 Found platform easy to navigate and use, despite some technical issues

 Technical support available during exam – quick to respond and very helpful



Examination (continued)






Case Studies

-  Took time to consider each subject offered and make my choice
-  Focussed heavily on explaining my understanding of the questions asked & the rationale behind my decisions, rather conducting the search & obtaining results
-  Used bullet points I had made during exam preparation as a template
-  Used databases most familiar to me

Theory Parts

-  Targeted towards legal and non-subject specific matters - a little 'luck of the draw'
-  Answered questions I knew first, then went back to those I was less sure about

Overall, the exam duration, content & difficulty felt about right

-  Ran out of time for most exam parts
-  Landscape case study by far the most challenging for me
-  As a life sciences searcher I do a lot of sequence/structure searching, but this is not tested
-  Had no sense of whether passed or not
-  Tiring, challenging...but also a little bit fun!



Post Examination

 Gave a short informal talk to my colleagues about my experience

 Received results by email in mid-July 2022 – **passed** 😊!

 Detailed breakdown of marks for each part are provided

 Did well in all parts except the landscape case study - *just* passed

 Provided with electronic (PDF) certificate showing personal Registration No.

 Added to the QPIP register

 Given your own personal dashboard on QPIP website

 Shortly afterwards notified of **Susan Helliwell Commemorative award**

 Surprised, but delighted & proud

 Award came with keepsake & certificate

 Reimbursed for having professional photograph taken for website

 Annual fee and CPD requirement to maintain status

 Easy to register & keep track of CPD activities using personal dashboard

 Reminders of fees and CPD points due are sent



Overall Conclusions



Positives/benefits of certification . . . *so far!*



Pay increase



Many messages of congratulations



Both becoming a QPIP & the Susan Helliwell award have enhanced recognition of myself & the company I work for



New networks & opportunities



Marketing/promotional tool



Increased awareness & understanding of my work in others



Enhanced my overall knowledge & confidence



Provided motivation to increase & pass on that knowledge



Quality of my companies training programme has improved



Thank you to all the ISBQPIP volunteers



Congratulations to all 'QPIPs' and the 2023 Susan Helliwell Award winner



Enjoyable and rewarding experience, can honestly say no negatives
If you are thinking about it, go for it!



Questions?

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