Chartered Membership Supplementary Examination

Wednesday 8 February 2023

Structural Engineering Design and Practice

09.30 – 13.00

A period of fifteen minutes is provided for reading the question paper, immediately before the commencement of the examination. Candidates are not permitted to write in answer sheets, or on drawing paper or to use a calculator during this time. Candidates must satisfy the Examiners in ONE question.

Important

The written answer to the question selected and any A3 drawings must bear the candidate’s number and the question number at the bottom of the page. Only the answer sheets supplied by the Institution may be used. The candidate’s name should not appear anywhere in the script.

Notes to Candidates

1. TO PASS THE EXAMINATION, CANDIDATES MUST ACHIEVE AT LEAST 40 MARKS.
2. Candidates should note that Figures are produced to illustrate the question and are not necessarily drawn to scale. Figured dimensions should be followed.
3. A fair proportion of marks will be awarded for the demonstration of an understanding of fundamental engineering concepts, as distinct from calculation of member forces and sizes.
4. In all questions 100 marks are allocated across three parts.
5. The Examiners are looking for sound structural designs. It should also be remembered that aesthetics, economy and function are important in any competent engineering scheme.

6. Any assumptions made and the design data and criteria adopted must be stated.
7. Clear drawings and sketches are required. They do not have to be to a defined scale, but should be in proportion.
8. Candidates will not be allowed to include any previously prepared calculations, notes, sketches, diagrams, computer output or other similar material in their answer sheets or A3 drawings. Any previously prepared information submitted by candidates will be ignored by the examiners.
9. Candidates may not bring into the examination room any electronic devices capable of wireless communication, optical photography or scanning.

The following devices are not permitted: Mobile phones, Laptops, notebooks or portable computers and similar devices, iPads, tablets and similar devices, E-readers (e.g. Kindle) and similar devices, Cameras, optical scanners and similar devices.

Any candidates arriving at the examination room with such devices will be asked to switch them off and place them in a sealed bag kept by the Invigilator for the duration of the exam, which includes the lunch period.

10. This paper is set in SI Units.

Now read ‘Reminder’ on page 3.
Chartered Membership Supplementary Examination, a reminder from your Examiners

The work you are about to start has many features in common with other examinations which you have tackled successfully but it also has some which are unusual.

As in every examination you must follow carefully the NOTES FOR CANDIDATES set out for your guidance on the front cover of this paper; allocate the available time sensibly and set out your work in a logical and clear way.

The unusual requirement of the examination is that you demonstrate the validity of the training and experience that you have acquired in recent years.

The Institution must be satisfied that you are able to bring all the various skills you are expected to possess to the effective solution of structural design problems whether or not the problem is presented in terms that are within your actual experience.

Chartered Structural Engineers must have the ability to design and a facility to communicate their design intentions. Where you are required to list and discuss possible structural solutions you must show by brief, clear, logical and systematic presentation that you understood the general structural engineering principles involved.

In selecting and developing your design you should also remember the guidance given in the Institution's report, Structural design - achieving excellence, and in particular:

(1) “the structure must be safe”,
(2) “a good design has certain typical features – simplicity, unity and necessity”,
(3) “the structure must fulfil its intended function”.

If you have difficulty in deciding the correct interpretation of a question, pay particular attention to point 6. notes to candidates, on the front cover. The examiners will take into account your interpretation – and the design you base on this – if this is clearly stated at the beginning of your answer.
NOTE: All dimensions are in metres
Q1. Lakeside Café and Bar

Client’s requirements

1. A two-storey octagonal building with a roof-top cafe is to be constructed adjacent to an existing lake. See Figure Q1.
2. Elevations are to be 50% glazed to take advantage of the surrounding views.
3. Structural support is to be placed within the external envelope with a maximum of one internal column.
4. Floor to floor height is limited to 5.0m with a minimum internal clear height of 3.5m between floors.

Imposed loading

5. Café roof area 3.0 kN/m²
6. First and ground area 3.0 kN/m²

Site conditions

7. The site is on the outskirts of a city. Basic wind speed is 45m/s based on a 3 second gust; the equivalent mean hourly speed is 24m/s.
8. Ground conditions are the same across the site:
   - Ground level – 1.0m  topsoil / unsuitable fill
   - -1.0m to – 6.0m  Gravel, N value 15
   - Below - 6.0m  Rock with N > 30

   Groundwater was encountered at -1.5m below ground level.

Omit from consideration

9. Detail design of the lift/elevator and stairs.

DESIGN (100 marks)

a) Prepare a design appraisal with appropriate sketches indicating two distinct and viable solutions for the proposed structure including the foundations. These must include appropriate concept calculations to justify each scheme. Review and critically appraise the schemes and identify the solution you recommend, giving reasons for choice. (60 marks)

b) Identify and prepare detailed drawings to outline the critical details within the chosen scheme. (20 marks)

c) Prepare a detailed outline construction programme which must reflect the method of construction. (20 marks)
NOTE: All dimensions are in metres

FIGURE Q2
Q2. Faculty Building

Client’s requirements

1. A new four-storey faculty building is to be constructed in an existing university situated on the outskirts of a city. The academic facility is 56.0m long and 28.0m wide at Level 1. See Figure Q2.
2. A conference hall is to be provided at Level 4. The cantilevered areas at the east and west ends of the conference hall must not be supported from below Level 4. See Figure Q2.
3. Two 8.0m x 4.0m lift/elevator/stair/service cores are to be provided to serve all the floors. Twelve external columns spaced at not less than 12.0m apart are permitted between Level 1 and Level 4 / Lower Roof. No internal columns are allowed at Level 1 and in the conference hall at Level 4. No more than two internal columns are permitted at Level 2 and Level 3.
4. Clear floor to ceiling height is to be 5.60m at Level 1, 4.60m at Level 2 and Level 3 and 6.20m in the conference hall at Level 4. A structure-free ceiling zone of 400mm is required at all the levels for services.
5. The maximum eaves height must not exceed 30.0m above Level 1. The roof of the conference hall can take any profile as long as it would not result in water ponding; however, highest roof cladding level must not exceed 32.0m above Level 1.
6. The entry and exit doors are to be at least 4.0m wide and 2.5m high on the east side of the building.
7. No internal vertical cross bracing is permitted in the functional space of the building at all levels.
8. Level 1 facades shall be 75% glazed, and the remaining facades are to have stone cladding.

Imposed loading

9. Roof
   - Level 4 (Conference hall) = 5.0 kN/m²
   - Level 4 (Lower roof) = 1.5 kN/m²
   - Level 2 and 3 = 5.0 kN/m²
   - Level 1 = 7.5 kN/m²

Loadings include allowances for finishes, ceiling and services.

Site conditions

10. Basic wind speed is 40m/s based on a 3-second gust; the equivalent mean hourly wind speed is 20m/s.

Ground conditions

11. Ground Level to 0.5m
    - Topsoil/Fill
    - 0.5m to 1.0m
      - Loose sand and gravel N=8
    - 1.0m to 2.0m
      - Medium dense sand N=12
    - 2.0m to 7.0m
      - Dense sand N=40
    - Below 7.0m
      - Rock, allowable bearing strength = 1500 kN/m²

Ground water was observed at 5.0m below ground.

Omit from consideration

12. Detailed design of staircase, fishpond, glazed façade and cladding.

DESIGN (100 marks)

a) Prepare a design appraisal with appropriate sketches indicating two distinct and viable solutions for the proposed structure including the foundations. These must include concept calculations to justify each scheme. Review and critically appraise the schemes and identify the solution you recommend, giving reasons for your choice (60 marks)

b) Identify and prepare detailed drawings to outline the critical details within the chosen scheme. (20 marks)

c) Prepare a detailed outline construction programme, which must reflect the method of construction. (20 marks)
FIGURE Q3

PLAN VIEW OF EXISTING BRIDGE

- Navigable river
- Narrow access roads either side of bridge
- To Main Road
- 25.0 X
- 10.0m middle span
- No Through Road

ELEVATION X - X

- Approach Road
  - Slope 1:10
- Timber bridge deck on steel girders 100m away from Main Road
- Bridge Deck 0m
- High Water Level -5m
- Low Water Level -7m
- Riverbed -9m
- Average depth of chalk layer -10m

TYPICAL CROSS SECTION OF BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE

- 38mm thick longitudinal timber planks on 150mm wide 200mm deep traverse joists at 400mm centres
- 550mm deep steel beams at 2.5m centres
- 5.0
- 2.5m

NOTE: All dimensions are in metres, do not scale
Q3. Access bridge to private housing estate

Client’s requirements

1. An existing bridge serves a small private housing estate. The bridge is in a poor state of repair and a recent bridge inspection report has confirmed that the bridge structure is not sufficient to carry the load of a fire engine. Strengthening or replacement of the bridge is required as soon as possible and the solution must be economical.
2. The approach road to the bridge cannot accommodate any heavy construction equipment including cranes.
3. Residents will need to be temporarily relocated during any periods when the bridge is not useable. Solutions should consider this and minimise duration of any closure of the existing bridge.

Imposed loading

4. Vehicular traffic loading 10kN/m²

Site conditions

5. The site is a rural area within 5 miles to sea, peak flow velocity in river 0.75m/s
6. Basic wind speed is 46m/s based on 3-second gust; the equivalent mean hourly speed is 23m/s
7. Ground conditions - silt deposit over chalk. Safe bearing capacity of the chalk 500kN/m²

Omit from design consideration

8. Hydrodynamic effects and wave forces may be ignored.

DESIGN (100 marks)

a) Prepare a design appraisal with appropriate sketches indicating two distinct and viable solutions for the proposed structure including the foundations. These must include appropriate concept calculations to justify each scheme. Review and critically appraise the schemes and identify the solutions you recommend, giving reasons of your choice (60 marks)

b) Identify and prepare detailed drawings to outline the critical details within the chosen scheme (20 marks)

c) Prepare a detailed outline construction programme which must reflect the method of construction (20 marks)