



Candidates browsing through medical papers before sitting the examination at Wah Yan College, Hongkong.

1,130 'doctors' take first part of exam

Only 20 out of 1,150 candidates did not show up for Part I of the licentiate examination for unregistrable doctors yesterday.

The examination consisted of multiple choice questions on professional knowledge.

Some candidates called the questions fair and said candidates who failed would have only themselves to blame.

But others complained that

the syllabus was too broad and it was impossible for them to be fully prepared.

The Secretary of the Licentiate Committee, Mr Ian Young, commented: "There was no evidence of dissatisfaction among the candidates. In fact one of them said the questions were very easy."

The examination was held in five centres, two on Hongkong Island and three in

Kowloon. Of the 1,562 "doctors" eligible for the three-part examination, only 1,150 registered.

Five organisations last month voted to boycott the examination. They are the Non-Commonwealth Medical Graduates Association, the Association of Chinese University Medical Graduates, the Union of Medical Graduates of China, the Association of Practitioners of Societies' Clinics and the Chinese Medical Research Centre.

Part II of the examination, a written English paper which has sparked the boycott, will be held on April 15. Part III, an oral examination on professional knowledge, will be held in July.

Candidates will be required to pass Part I before taking Part II, and to pass Part II before taking Part III.

Ordinarily, they will be allowed three attempts at each part, subject to the discretion of the examination sub-committee. Candidates who fail Parts II or III in three attempts will be required to retake Part I.

Subject to review by the Licentiate Committee, the examination will be held annually.