



Solicitors  
Regulation  
Authority

# Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE)

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# What is the SQE?



- A single, robust, examination all aspiring solicitors will have to take
- To be introduced on 1 September 2021
- Everyone will meet the same high standards in a consistent way
- We will no longer specify routes to admission as a solicitor

# Opportunities for firms



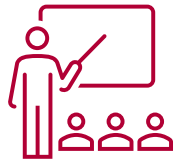
Better guarantee of standards



Better information to help recruitment



Greater flexibility to recruit staff

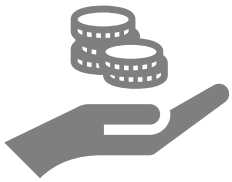


Flexibility over training and development

# Opportunities: apprenticeships



500+ solicitor apprentices since 2016



Costs of training and assessment paid through apprenticeship levy



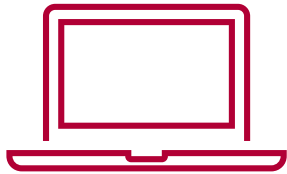
Apprenticeships for school leavers and graduates



- [apprenticeship.gov.uk](https://www.apprenticeship.gov.uk)
- [sra.org.uk/students/resources/solicitor-apprenticeship-qa](https://www.sra.org.uk/students/resources/solicitor-apprenticeship-qa)
- [lawsociety.org.uk](https://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

# SQE1

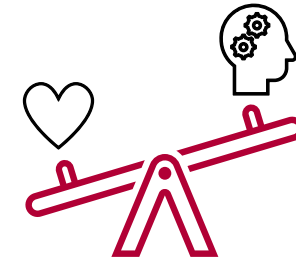
## Functioning Legal Knowledge Assessments



Two 180-question examinations - 10 hours in total



FLK - test ability to identify legal principles and apply them to client problems and transactions



Unflagged ethics questions throughout

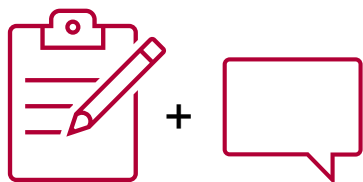


- Business Law and Practice
- Dispute Resolution
- Contract
- Tort
- Legal System of England and Wales
- Public Law
- Legal Services



- Property Law and Practice
- Wills and Admin of Estates
- Solicitors Accounts
- Land Law
- Trust
- Criminal Law and Practice

# SQE2 Practical legal skills assessments



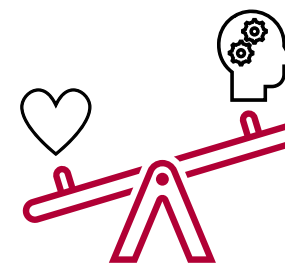
16 written and oral tests - 14 hours in total



Simulating tasks carried out by a solicitor in practice



Tests practical legal skills and functioning legal knowledge equally



Unflagged ethics questions throughout



### **Six** skills assessed

- Client interviewing and attendance note
- Advocacy
- Case and matter analysis
- Legal research
- Legal writing
- Legal drafting



### Across **five** contexts

- Criminal Litigation
- Dispute Resolution
- Property Practice
- Wills and Intestacy, Probate Administration and Practice
- Business organisation rules and procedures



# Read more about the detail



- SQE1 Assessment specification
- SQE1 sample questions



- SQE2 Assessment specification
- SQE2 sample questions



- Visit [sra.org.uk/sqe](https://sra.org.uk/sqe)

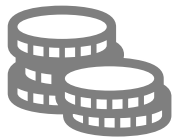
# Sitting the SQE



2 exam sittings per year at start  
3 attempts in 6 years from 1<sup>st</sup> sitting



Wide geographic network for SQE1 and SQE2 written tests – UK and international  
Limited number of centres for SQE2 oral skills (Cardiff, London and Manchester)



SQE cost: SQE1 £1,558; SQE2 £2,422



First SQE1 sitting - 8 and 11 Nov 2021  
First SQE2 sitting April 2022

# Qualified lawyers



SQE replaces QLTS – the same assessment for everybody



Qualified lawyers = people with practice rights




No requirement for QWE



Application process for exemptions – where people can demonstrate that their home qualification is equivalent in content and standard to SQE

# Transition to SQE



Students who have started along the existing route in September 2021 have a choice – finish current route or complete SQE



So any QLD students in audience – you are in transitional cohort



Any non-law degree students thinking about GDL need to have:

- either accepted a GDL or training contract offer by 1 Sept 2021 **AND**
- actually started their GDL by 31 Dec 21 or training contract by 31 Aug 22



This is a summary!

Please check detail at: [www.sra.org.uk/students/sqe/transitional-arrangements](http://www.sra.org.uk/students/sqe/transitional-arrangements)

# What is Qualifying Work Experience?



Any experience of providing legal services enables an individual to develop some or all of the competences outlined in the Statement of Solicitor Competence



Can be obtained in England or Wales or overseas – does not have to be in organisation we regulate



Must be at least two years working full time or the equivalent on a part time basis



Can be obtained in up to four separate organisations providing legal services. There is no minimum or maximum prescribed length for each individual placement and can count a current and a previous role

# Who can confirm QWE?



A solicitor or COLP (who we regulate) within the organisation where the placement took place. Does not need to hold a practising certificate



A solicitor working outside the organisation where the placement took place who has direct experience of the work of the individual completing QWE and who has:

- Reviewed their work during the relevant period of work experience.
- Received feedback from the person or persons supervising their work.

# What is confirmed?



Exposure to some or all of the competences – BUT solicitor not confirming competence

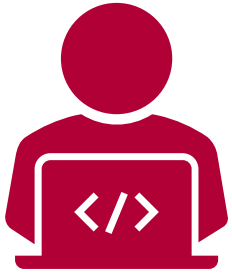


The length of work experience/placement carried out



That no issues arose during the work experience that raise questions over the individual's character and suitability – BUT solicitor not making assessment of character

# Keep in touch



Send your  
queries to  
[sqe@sra.org.uk](mailto:sqe@sra.org.uk)



SQE resources  
[sra.org.uk/sqe](http://sra.org.uk/sqe)



Join our SQE  
[LinkedIn group](#)



Monthly SQE  
Update bulletin  
[sra.org.uk/sqeupdate](http://sra.org.uk/sqeupdate)



# Your views



We are consulting on our draft business plan 2021/22 –  
[www.sra.org.uk/consultations](http://www.sra.org.uk/consultations)



Outlines how we will allocate our resources and budget



Consultation runs from 6 May to 25 June



Tells us your views by joining our webinar on 19 May –  
[www.sra.org.uk/events](http://www.sra.org.uk/events)