



Solicitors Qualifying Examination: what it means for law firms

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What is the SQE?





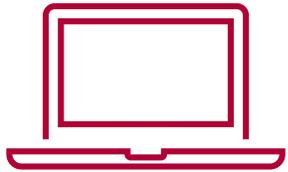
If you have started to train under the LPC route, you have choice to continue, or to switch to SQE.

In general, last QLD/CPE programmes start autumn 2021. Then, everyone must take SQE



Details are complex - check them out on our website!
sra.org.uk/transitional-arrangements

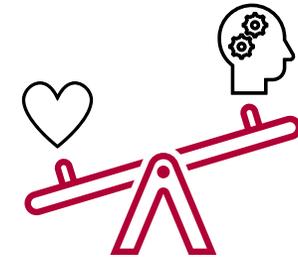
SQE1 Functioning Legal Knowledge



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

SQE1 Functioning Legal Knowledge



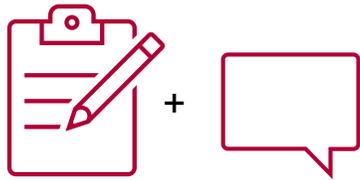
- Business Law and Practice
- Dispute Resolution
- Contract
- Tort
- Legal System of England and Wales
- Public Law
- Legal Services



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

SQE2

Practical legal skills assessments



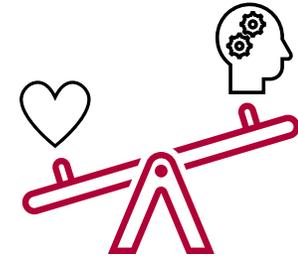
16 written and oral tests - 14 hours in total



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

Training and recruitment



Funding through apprenticeships



Tailor training to meet your business needs



Better information to recruit staff



Better guarantee of standards

What is QWE?



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 done in England or Wales or overseas – does not have to be in an organisation we regulate



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



Can be done in up to four separate organisations providing legal services

Benefits of QWE for firms



Flexibility in qualification



Practical exposure to competencies required to be a solicitors and assessed in SQE



Opportunities to offer QWE



Training & development aligned to your business

Confirming QWE



A solicitor or COLP (who we regulate) within the organisation where the work experience took place



A solicitor working outside the organisation where the experience took place who has direct experience of work

- Reviewed their work during the relevant period
- Received feedback from supervisor

What is confirmed

-  Exposure to some or all of the competences – but solicitor is **not** confirming whether individual is competent
-  The length of work experience/placement carried out
-  Whether or not there are character and suitability issues
-  Should be confirmed if it meets our criteria

Things to consider

- How will confirming QWE work if or when you are approached by a candidate:
 - Who will it be? How they check?
- How will you manage retrospective claims?
 - Are you keeping records, for example, are you recording the details of temporary employees and the work they carried out?
- What will recording QWE look like in your firm?
- How will you manage employee expectations around QWE and qualification?
- Can you take advantage of flexibility to support your recruitment?

What does good QWE look like



Diverse and varied work that provides exposure to a wide range of competences



Opportunities for reflection on performance to identify both strengths and areas of development



Exposure to professionalism and to ethical issues



Effective supervision throughout the placement

Further resources



SQE assessment:
sqa.sra.org.uk



Wider qualification info:
sra.org.uk/sqa



SQE webinars:
youtube.com/SRA solicitors



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