

# Summary guidance for Solicitor Apprentices taking the End-Point Assessment (SQE2)

## Overview of the End-Point Assessment (SQE2)

SQE2 is the second and final professional exam apprentices need to complete to become eligible to seek admission as a solicitor of England and Wales. Throughout the apprenticeship process this will be known as the End-Point Assessment (EPA).

You can attempt SQE2 only once you have passed SQE1 and all gateway requirements have been completed and you, your training provider and your employer have agreed that you are ready to complete the exam.

Detailed information about SQE2 including what will be assessed, the assessment criteria and how SQE2 assessments are marked can be found in the [SQE2 assessment specification](#). You can also see sample assessment questions, details of what to expect on the day and a video of what happens when you arrive at the assessment centre.

Learn more: [Gateway Declaration](#)

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## What is the structure of SQE2?

SQE2 consists of oral and written assessments.

### SQE2 oral assessments

SQE2 oral assessments take place over two consecutive half-days. Candidates will take a total of four oral legal skills assessments.

Day 1	Day 2
Advocacy (Dispute Resolution)	Advocacy (Criminal Litigation)

Interview and attendance note/legal analysis (Property Practice)	Interview and attendance note/legal analysis (Wills and Intestacy, Probate Administration and Practice)
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Please note that different candidates may complete the assessments in different orders. Candidates may therefore start with either the interview and attendance note/legal analysis or the advocacy.

### SQE2 written assessments

The SQE2 written assessments are:

- Case and matter analysis
- Legal research
- Legal writing
- Legal drafting

SQE2 written assessments take place over three half-days. You will take a total of 12 written legal skills assessments.

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>
Case and matter analysis	Case and matter analysis	Case and matter analysis
Legal drafting	Legal drafting	Legal drafting

Legal research	Legal research	Legal research
Legal writing	Legal writing	Legal writing
Two of these exercises will be in the context of Dispute Resolution and two will be in the context of Criminal Litigation.	Two of these exercises will be in the context of Property Practice and two will be in the context of Wills and Intestacy, Probate Administration and Practice.	You will sit all assessments in the context of Business Organisations, Rules and Procedures.

You may complete the assessments in a different order to that listed.

Learn more: See the Organisation and delivery in the [SQE2 assessment Specification](#)

## What areas of law are tested on SQE2?

As provided in the SQE2 Assessment Specification, below are (1) the practice areas in which these legal skills are assessed and (2) the underlying black letter law in the Functioning Legal Knowledge (FLK) which questions in these practice areas may draw on:

<b>Practice areas in which legal skills are assessed</b>	<b>Underlying black letter law in the Functioning Legal Knowledge (FLK) which questions in these practice areas may draw on</b>
Criminal Litigation (including advising clients at the police station)	Criminal liability

Dispute Resolution	Contract law and tort
Property Practice	Land law
Wills and Intestacy, Probate Administration and Practice	Trusts
Business organisations, rules and procedures (including money laundering and financial services)	Contract law

Professionalism and ethics will be core parts of SQE2. Questions on ethics will be pervasive throughout SQE2. Ethical issues will not be flagged and candidates will need to identify any ethical and professional conduct issues and exercise judgement to resolve them honestly and with integrity.

Questions involving taxation may arise in Property Practice; Wills and Intestacy, Probate Administration and Practice; and Business organisations, rules and procedures.

Detail of the examinable content covered is given in the SQE2 Assessment Specification in [Annex 1 - Functioning Legal Knowledge for SQE2](#).

The cut off date for the law upon which you are examined in the SQE will be four calendar months prior to the date of the first assessment in an assessment window. You will be tested on the law as it stands at that date. You will not be tested on the development of the law.

**Learn more:** See the Practice areas in the [SQE2 assessment specification](#)

## The assessment standard

As provided in the SQE2 Assessment Specification, Candidates will be tested at Level 3 of the [Threshold Standard of the Statement of Solicitor Competence](#) (SoSC), that of the newly qualified solicitor (Level 3 of the Threshold Standard is also set out at Annex 2 of the [SQE2](#)

[Assessment Specification](#)). The Threshold Standard describes the level at which the competences in the SoSC should be performed upon qualification as a solicitor.

SQE2 tests the application of functioning legal knowledge. The questions in SQE2 are designed to test skills within the context of the application of fundamental legal rules and principles at the level required of a competent newly qualified solicitor of England and Wales without reference to books and notes. They are not designed to test specialist practice which is unlikely to be encountered at the level of Day One Solicitor.

Questions assess central areas that are clearly covered by the FLK.

Learn more: [SQE2 assessment specification](#)

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## Passing SQE2

**Overall pass mark.** You must obtain the overall pass mark for SQE2. There is no separate pass mark for the SQE2 oral and written assessments. For details of how the pass mark is set see section 2 of the [Marking and Standard Setting Policy](#). Marking is based on global professional judgements rather than a 'tick box' or checklist approach. The starting point for these global professional judgements is the standard of competency of the assessment set out in the [SQE2 assessment specification](#), namely that of the just competent Day One solicitor ([Threshold Standard](#)). Markers are trained to be flexible as to the approach taken by the candidate. More detailed information is provided in the policy.

**Each assessment station.** The SQE2 Assessment Specification provides you with an overview of each assessment station including the assessment objective and the detailed marking criteria, divided between skills and law where appropriate. Performance in each of these criteria will be assessed on a scale from A – F by trained assessors making global professional judgments related to the standard of competency of the assessment.

**Further guidance.** The SQE2 Assessment Specification also includes further guidance on areas such as the level of detail required by candidates and on assessment criteria, including the correct and comprehensive application of law and clear, precise, concise and acceptable language.

Learn more: See the information under Marking SQE2 in the [SQE2 assessment specification](#)

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## Sample questions

We have provided a range of sample questions to help you prepare for SQE2.

These questions will help you understand the content and format of the assessment, as well as giving an idea of its level and breadth. We provide a discussion of the answer for each question so you can see what is expected of you when you sit your assessment.

**Learn more:** [SQE2 sample questions](#)

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## Experiencing the exam before the day

You can also experience a simulation of the written exam before you sit SQE2, including sample questions and how the exam will look and work. This includes the search function for the sources for legal research.

**Learn more:** [SQE2 exam functionality on Pearson VUE](#)

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## Reasonable adjustments

We are committed to making sure that a candidate is not disadvantaged by reason of a disability in demonstrating their competence and we welcome applications for reasonable adjustments from candidates with disabilities or other conditions.

Once you have registered and activated your SQE account, you can request reasonable adjustments prior to booking each assessment, up to the booking deadline. We will make adjustments on a case-by-case basis, in line with our [reasonable adjustments policy](#) and the supporting evidence you provide.

**Learn more:** [Reasonable Adjustments](#)

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## On the day of the assessment

### SQE2 written

The written assessments will take place at your chosen Pearson VUE test centre. After you have booked your assessments, we will send you an email for each assessment day, confirming the time at which you must report to the assessment centre, the location, and duration of your assessment.

When you arrive at the Pearson VUE test centre, you will complete registration, including an [ID check](#).

This [video](#) shows what happens when you arrive at a Pearson VUE test centre.

## SQE2 oral

The oral assessments will take place in an oral assessment centre, either in London, Manchester or Cardiff.

After you have booked your assessments, you should receive confirmation emails for each assessment day, confirming the time at which you must report to the assessment centre, the location, and duration of your assessment.

When you arrive at the oral assessment test centre, you will complete registration, including an [ID check](#).

**Learn more:** [SQE2 assessment days](#)

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## After the assessment

You will get your results approximately 14-18 weeks after sitting SQE2. We will send you an email notifying you that the results are available in your SQE account.

Results will only be provided within your account and will not be sent out to you. The results will also be sent to your training provider on the same day.

**Learn more:** [Results and resits](#)