

# Summary guidance for Solicitor Apprentices taking the on-programme assessment (SQE1)

## Overview of the on-programme assessment (SQE1)

SQE1 is the on-programme assessment for solicitor apprentices. You must pass SQE1 before you can take the end point assessment, which is SQE2. Subject to specific exemptions, all individuals, including apprentices, who wish to qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales by taking the SQE must complete SQE1.

SQE1 can be taken at any point during the apprenticeship, however, it is likely that your training provider will discuss an expected date with you in advance. SQE1 must be passed before you can take SQE2.

The [solicitor apprentice plan](#) provides information about on-programme and the end point assessment, work based assessment and recognition of prior learning and experience.

**Learn more:** [Apprentices](#)

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## What areas of law are tested in SQE1?

SQE1 is a computer-based single best answer multiple choice test exam and will involve two assessments. There will be 360 questions in total - 180 in each assessment - covering the following subject areas:

- Business Law and Practice; Dispute Resolution; Contract; Tort; Legal System of England and Wales; Constitutional and Administrative Law and EU Law and Legal Services (Functioning Legal Knowledge 1 (**FLK1**))
- Property Practice; Wills and the Administration of Estates; Solicitors Accounts; Land Law; Trusts; Criminal Law and Practice (Functioning Legal Knowledge 2 (**FLK2**))

Ethics and Professional Conduct will be examined pervasively across the two assessments above. SQE1 assesses areas of law and practice which are set out in detail in the assessment specification. The blueprint can be found in Annex 4 of the SQE1 Assessment Specification. This indicates the

different subject areas to be assessed as a proportion of that paper and we would advise you to read through the notes to understand the blueprint.

In order to pass SQE1, you must achieve the overall pass mark for both FLK1 and FLK2. If you pass one of the papers, you only need to re-sit the other paper at your next attempt.

All aspects of the SQE1 assessment are compulsory.

**Learn more:** [SQE1 Assessment Specification](#)

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## The assessment standard

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 6 of the SQE1 Assessment Specification). The Threshold Standard describes the level at which the competences in the SoSC should be performed upon qualification as a solicitor.

SQE1 tests the application of functioning legal knowledge. The questions are designed to test the application of fundamental legal principles which can be expected of a newly qualified solicitor of England and Wales without reference to books and notes. They are not designed to test matters of detail which a newly qualified solicitor would be expected to look up.

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

**Learn more:** [SQE1 Assessment Specification](#)

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## Sample questions

We provide 90 sample questions to help you prepare for the assessment. These questions can help you understand the content and format of this assessment, as well as offering insight into its level and breadth. They can also help your training provider plan SQE training and exam preparation.

The pass mark for each sitting of SQE1 will be set by the Exam Board. The pass mark for SQE1 will vary between different sittings of the assessment, to ensure that the standard of the assessment remains consistent from one sitting to the next. To help give an indication of the standard, on these two sets of 45 sample questions, the pass mark would be likely to be in the range 55% - 60%. For more information on marking SQE assessments and determining the pass mark please refer to the [Marking and standard setting policy](#).

**Learn more:** [SQE1 Functioning Legal Knowledge sample questions](#)

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## Experiencing the exam before the day

You can also experience a simulation of the exam before you sit SQE1, including sample questions and how the exam will look and work.

**Learn more:** [SQE1 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. 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

Your SQE1 assessments will take place in a Pearson VUE test centre. After you book 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.

If you have booked to take SQE1 and you have not received this yet, please contact the [Candidate Services Team](#).

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

**Learn more:** [SQE1 assessment day](#)

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## After the assessment

You will get your results approximately 6-10 weeks after sitting SQE1.

We will send you an email notifying you that the results are available in your SQE account. Results will only be posted within your account and will not be sent out to you. The results will also be sent to your training provider.

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