

# SQE

# THE NEW WAY TO QUALIFY AS AN ENGLISH SOLICITOR

## 1 ACADEMIC DEGREE OR EQUIVALENT



All candidates must either:

- ✓ Have a degree in law
- ✓ Have a degree in a discipline that is not law
- ✓ Have completed an apprenticeships scheme
- ✓ Be foreign qualified lawyers
- ✓ Paralegals and Legal Executives may also be eligible to apply

## 2 LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

All candidates must complete a work-based experience of at least 18 months before they can apply to become solicitors

- ✓ Periods of experience acquired under a formal training contract, or through working in a student law clinic, as an apprentice or a paralegal, or through a placement as part of a sandwich degree could all contribute to this requirement



- ✓ Foreign lawyers can gain the experience in their home jurisdiction. It need not be in the law of England and Wales

- ✓ Work experience will not be formally assessed. Instead, candidates' competence would be tested via SQE stage 2

## 3 SOLICITORS QUALIFYING EXAMINATION (SQE) ASSESSMENTS

All candidates must pass the two stages of the SQE

### STAGE 1

#### 6 X FUNCTIONING LEGAL KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENTS

Assessing legal knowledge in a practical context through a set of assessments which integrate substantive and procedural law:

- Principles of Professional Conduct, Public & Administrative law, and the Legal Systems of England & Wales
- Dispute Resolution in Contract or Tort
- Property Law and Practice
- Commercial and Corporate Law and Practice
- Criminal Law and Practice
- Wills and the Administration of Estates and Trusts



**Timing**  
The first five of the six assessments are three hours long and consist of 120 questions. One assessment (Wills and the Administration of Estates and Trusts) is two hours long and consists of 80 questions, because the curriculum being tested is shorter

**Format**  
These assessments use computer-based, objective testing, employing a single best answer (SBA) question format - consisting of a stem, lead-in question and five possible options where only one is the best response. All of the assessments would include unflagged ethical questions

#### 1 X PRACTICAL LEGAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT

- 1 x Legal Research Task
- 2 x Written Tasks

**Timing**  
The assessment lasts three hours

**Format**  
This part consists of computer-based research and writing tasks and is intended to test whether candidates have a threshold skill level to enable them to work effectively in professional legal services in an unqualified capacity

### STAGE 2

#### 2 X 5 PRACTICAL LEGAL SKILLS ASSESSMENTS

There are five skills assessments:

1 Client Interviewing (1 hour 30 minutes - 30 minutes preparation time, 30 minutes to carry out an interview, and 30 minutes to produce an attendance note)

2 Advocacy/ Persuasive Oral Communication (1 hour 10 minutes - 60 minutes preparation time and 10 minute presentation)

3 Case and Matter Analysis (1 hour 30 minutes - 60 minutes preparation time and 30 minutes discussion)

4 Legal Research and Written Advice (3 hours)

5 Legal Drafting (3 hours)



✓ The Client Interviewing, Advocacy/ Persuasive Oral Communication, and Case and Matter Analysis assessments involve role-play exercises. The Legal Research and Written Advice and Drafting assessments are completed on a computer

✓ All five assessments must be taken and passed in the same two practice contexts of the candidate's choice from the following list, making a total of 10 assessments:

- |          |                    |                   |                                 |  |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1        | 2                  | 3                 | 4                               | 5  |
| Property | Dispute Resolution | Criminal Practice | Commercial & Corporate Practice | Wills and the Administration of Estates & Trusts |

## LOCATIONS AND FREQUENCY OF ASSESSMENTS

Two assessment windows per calendar year



**STAGE 1**  
All Assessments

+

**STAGE 2**  
✓ Legal Research & Written Advice  
✓ Drafting

Available in designated examination centres in England and Wales and internationally

**STAGE 2**  
✓ Client Interviewing  
✓ Advocacy/Persuasive Oral Communication  
✓ Case & Matter Analysis

Available in designated examination centres in England and Wales only



## ENTRY RULES

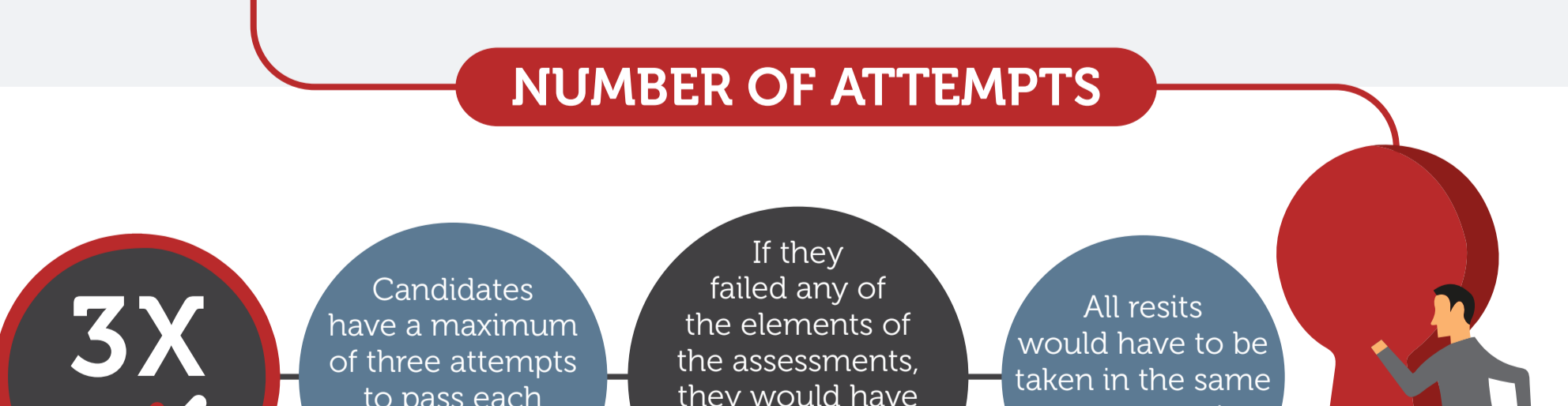


All candidates must take all stage 1 and stage 2 assessments in a single assessment window

Candidates must first pass all seven elements of stage 1 assessments before they can attempt stage 2 assessments

Candidates must take at least all five stage 2 assessments in one of their chosen practice contexts in the same assessment window. They can elect to take all ten stage 2 assessments in the two chosen practice contexts in the same assessment session

## NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS



6 years

## PERIOD OF VALIDITY

Candidates must pass all stage 1 and stage 2 assessments within six years from attempting the first stage 1 assessment to the date they receive their final result for the stage 2 assessment

## 4 SRA CHARACTER AND SUITABILITY REQUIREMENTS

All candidates would need to demonstrate they are fit to enter the profession & uphold the moral & ethical standards consumers expect of solicitors



**CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE AN ENGLISH SOLICITOR!**