

# Assessing skills in SQE1 and SQE2

# SQE skills – where are we?

- SQE1 pilot: what did we pilot?
  - 2 legal writing tasks and 1 legal research task
  - Each candidate (for pilot purposes) did this twice
- SQE1 pilot: findings
  - SQE1 skills model not defensible
  - Insufficiently reliable or accurate
  - An unclear standard: “Threshold skill level to enable candidates to work effectively in professional legal services in an unqualified capacity”
- Now seeking stakeholder views on skills across SQE1 and 2

# The assessment – a reminder

## **SQE1**

### **Functioning Legal Knowledge Assessments**

- Substantive and procedural law: includes all QLD/CPE foundation subjects and LPC core subjects
- Test of application of fundamental legal principles
- Computer-based assessment

### **Possible Practical Legal Skills Assessment**

- Legal writing, research or case analysis?

# The assessment – a reminder

## SQE2

### Practical Legal Skills Assessments

- Client interviewing, completion of attendance note, advocacy, case and matter analysis, legal research, legal writing and legal drafting
- Criminal Practice, Dispute Resolution, Property, Wills and the Administration of Estates, Business Practice
- Simulated role plays/written tasks
- Pilot will test different options for SQE2 design

# Skills assessment design questions

- Should we assess skills in SQE1 or is assessment at SQE2 sufficient?
- Should there be a choice of contexts in which legal skills are assessed in SQE2? Alternatively, should all candidates take the same assessment, or a combination?

# Options for SQE1 skills

## Option 1:

- No skills in SQE1 - assess skills only in SQE2

## Option 2:

- FLK 1 (90% marks) + written skills exercise (10% marks) = single pass fail point
- FLK 2 (90% marks) + written skills exercise (10% marks) = single pass fail point
- Written skills exercise set at admission standard

# Views?

Analysis of these alternative options:

- Advantages
- Disadvantages
- Mitigations
- Market impacts

# Models being piloted for SQE2

1. Specialisms only: candidates take legal skills assessments in two contexts of their choice, from: Civil Litigation; Criminal Litigation; Company/Commercial; Property Law and Practice; Wills and Probate.
  2. Uniform exam: all candidates take the same exam, which samples across all legal skills and all contexts.
  3. A combination: candidates have their legal skills assessed through an exam combining one context of their choice with a sample of all skills and all contexts
- In all of these options questions are designed to test fundamental legal principles a solicitor should know; not detail which might be looked up.



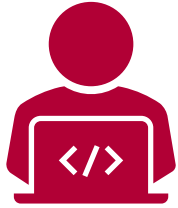
# SQE2 skills questions to discuss

## Pilot is exploring optionality and comparability: principle of fairness

1. Given the specialised nature of the solicitors profession and the generic nature of the qualification, is a specialised or a uniform exam more appropriate?
2. Does it matter if the consequence of setting an exam where candidates take different specialisms results in a standard which is not uniform across all specialisms and therefore for all candidates?
3. Does a uniform exam make it harder to prepare through qualifying work experience or are legal skills a generic addition to knowledge covered in the MCT?
4. How might the three options affect the qualifying work experience you offer through your law clinics?
5. How might these options affect the SQE preparatory training you offer either for SQE1 or SQE2?
6. Would you need to supplement qualifying work experience with training for SQE2 for all or only some of these options?
7. What legal materials should be provided to candidates for SQE2 (given exercises test broad principles not detail) and does the extent of legal materials provided affect your views?

Any questions?

# Keep in touch



Send your queries to  
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SQE resources  
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