



RESITTING SQE1 - JANUARY 2027

The Comeback Guide

Read your result. Fix the cause. Pass in January.

14 weeks to January
FQPS Academy - SQE Prep

UPDATED OCTOBER 2026

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The Ultimate SQE Success Guide.*

This guide is part of a series.

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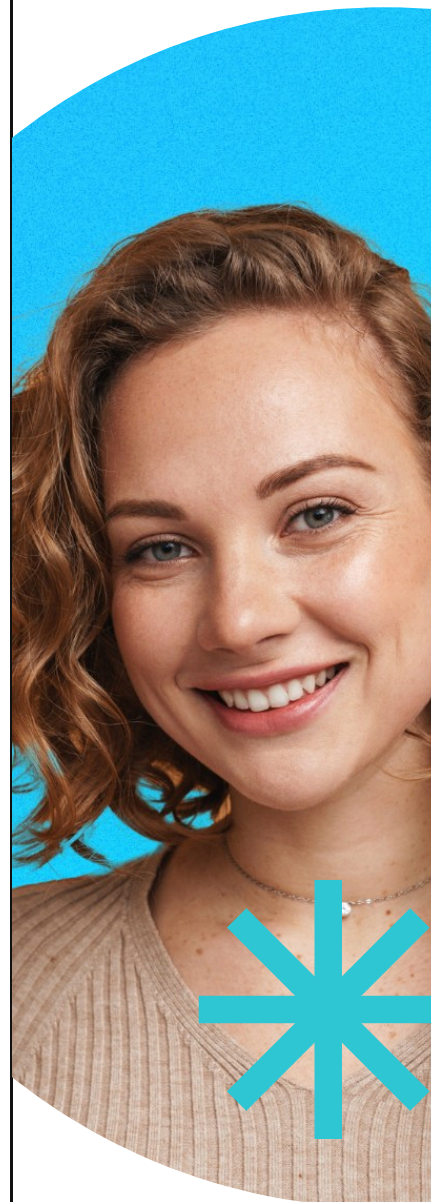
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You are not starting again.
You are starting ahead.

What is This Guide?

A practical route from **a failed SQE1 result to a pass in January 2027**: how to read the feedback the SRA gives you, the rules that apply to your resit, how to find what actually went wrong, and a **14-week plan** that starts on Monday 5 October.

Who This Guide is For?

- Candidates who did not pass FLK1, FLK2 or both in July 2026
- Anyone resitting after an earlier sitting
- First-time candidates who want a diagnostic way to plan
- Tutors, supervisors and families supporting a candidate

Why It Matters?

A resit is not a rerun. You already know a large part of the syllabus, and your result tells you where the marks went. The candidates who turn it around are the ones who **change their method**, not just their hours, and who prepare for the **new January 2027 format** rather than the one they sat.



Before anything else

Take a breath. Not passing SQE1 is hard, and it is also **common**: you are in the company of thousands of capable people, many of whom will qualify. The numbers below are not there to cheer you up. They are there to show you that a resit is a well-trodden route, and that how you prepare for it matters.

42%

SQE1 pass rate in July 2026, for candidates who sat both papers. Most of the cohort, 58%, did not pass.

67%

of candidates who sat just one FLK in January or July 2025 passed it (SQE Annual Report 2025).

10-15%

The SRA says January pass rates have been higher than July's by 10 to 15 percentage points in each of the last three years.

Sources: SQE1 July 2026 Statistical Report and SRA news, 29 September 2026; SQE Annual Report 2025. Past rates do not predict any one candidate's result.

Read Your Result



What your result shows

Your result is in your SQE candidate account, **separately for FLK1 and FLK2**. Here is what each line means for your resit.

On your results page	What it tells you
Attempt number	Which of your three attempts at that FLK this was.
Deadline to pass SQE	Six years from your first attempt at any SQE assessment. Your resits must fit inside it.
Scaled score to pass	"This will always be 300." Scores run from 0 to 500.
Your scaled score	Derived from your number of correct answers. Its distance from 300 is the best single measure of how far you have to go.
Correct answers	Your raw score. It can be out of fewer questions than were set, if questions were found invalid and removed.
Quintile	Where you sat in the cohort for that FLK as a whole : 1 is the top fifth, 5 the bottom fifth.

The practice-area breakdown

Below the headline result you get a **scaled score out of 500 for each practice area**, including Ethics and Professional Conduct. Solicitors Accounts is not listed as an area of its own. The SRA says these scores "should be considered cautiously as being indicative of your overall knowledge", because each area has relatively few questions, and that "the assessment is compensatory in nature": you can pass an FLK with a weak area, or fail it with a strong one.

How close was the line?

In July 2026 the median scaled score was **300** for FLK1 and **297** for FLK2. The median sat right at the pass mark, so if you were close, a focused plan can move you across it.

What you won't get

No question-level feedback, no re-mark and no copy of your answers. A data request returns only a 1/0 list by question number, which the SRA says gives no insight into topics.

Sources: sqs.sra.org.uk, Understanding your SQE1 results; SQE1 July 2026 Statistical Report (29 September 2026).

Your next step is **the Results Decoder** overleaf. It combines your practice-area scores with a baseline mock, so you are not relying on a handful of questions per area.



The Results Decoder

Turn your result into a priority map

FILL IN DURING WEEKS 1-2 · PRACTICE AREAS AS LISTED ON YOUR SRA RESULTS PAGE

1

Copy each **practice-area scaled score** from your results page, and write it against 300 (for example -45 or +12).

2

Sit a full-length baseline mock in the 2027 format and write your **score for each area** in the Baseline box. FQPS mocks do not cover Ethics yet: rate Ethics from your SRA score.

3

Tick **A, B or C**. Your A subjects lead each Rebuild week; C subjects get short weekly question sets.

PRACTICE AREA	2027 SESSION	SRA SCORE	VS 300	BASELINE	A	B	C
FLK1							
Business Law and Practice	Session 1				☐	☐	☐
Dispute Resolution	Session 1				☐	☐	☐
Legal Services	Session 1				☐	☐	☐
Contract Law	Session 2				☐	☐	☐
Tort	Session 2				☐	☐	☐
Legal System	Session 2				☐	☐	☐
Ethics and Professional Conduct	Every session				☐	☐	☐
FLK2							
Wills and Intestacy	Session 1				☐	☐	☐
Land Law	Session 1				☐	☐	☐
Trusts Law	Session 1				☐	☐	☐
Property Practice	Session 2				☐	☐	☐
Criminal Liability	Session 2				☐	☐	☐
Criminal Law and Practice	Session 2				☐	☐	☐
Ethics and Professional Conduct	Every session				☐	☐	☐

Solicitors Accounts has no score of its own on your results page. From January 2027 it is tested in both FLK2 sessions: with Wills (session 1) and with Property (session 2).

A - Rebuild

Below 300 on your result and weak on your baseline. These lead your Rebuild weeks.

B - Repair

Weak on one measure only. Targeted question sets and error-log review.

C - Keep warm

At or above 300 and solid on your baseline. Short weekly sets so they stay strong.

The Rules of Your Resit



Three attempts per paper

"Three attempts at FLK1 and three attempts at FLK2", within six years. The six years start on the first day of your first attempt at any SQE assessment, and your results page shows the deadline.

Resit only what you failed

Passed one FLK? You resit only the other, and your pass carries forward within the six years. Failed both? You must retake **both in the same window**.

No resitting a pass

"You cannot resit an assessment you have already passed to improve your mark." Your earlier pass stands as it is.

SQE1 before SQE2

You must pass SQE1 before you can book SQE2, unless you hold an exemption. Any October SQE2 seat you had reserved was released.

Fees from September 2026

Resit of one FLK: **£1,003**. Both: **£2,006**. You pay the fee in force when you book the resit, and resit fees are VAT exempt.

After a third fail

You cannot book again until your six-year window has expired. You then reapply and start again, and earlier passes are not carried forward.

Important: if something goes wrong in January

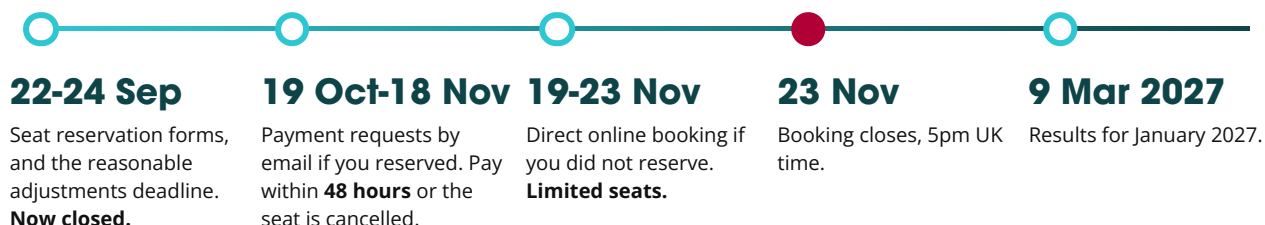
Report it to an invigilator **before you leave the test centre**, then submit a **mitigating circumstances claim** in your candidate account by **16:00 UK time on the fifth working day** after that FLK. An accepted claim discounts the attempt, so it does not count towards your three, and can lead to a refund of 75% (illness or personal circumstances) or 100% (an error in running the assessment, or bias). It never changes your marks. Telling the test centre is not a claim on its own.

Sources: SRA SQE Assessment Regulations (regs 4.3, 4.6, 7.1-7.5); sqa.sra.org.uk pages on resits, fees and mitigating circumstances, accessed 1 October 2026.

January 2027: what is different for you

Your booking route, the format and the syllabus have all moved since July. Check each one now.

Booking: key dates



A new format, for re-sitters too

The SRA's own words: "These changes will apply to all candidates – both first sitters and re-sitters."

- 170 questions per FLK (was 180), 85 per session (was 90)
- 2 hours 33 minutes per session: about 108 seconds a question
- Each session covers a fixed group of subjects

A refreshed syllabus

The SRA's annual review of the FLK applies from 1 September 2026, so **January 2027 is the first SQE1 sitting it affects**. Check your July notes against the changed lines rather than rewriting them; our SQE 2027 Changes guide lists every one.

Law cut-off for January 2027: **11 September 2026**.

Paper	Window	Session 1	Session 2
FLK1	11-15 Jan	Business Law and Practice; Dispute Resolution; Legal Services	Tort; Contract Law; Legal Systems
FLK2	18-22 Jan	Wills and the Administration of Estates; Solicitors Accounts (wills); Trusts Law; Land Law	Property Law and Practice; Solicitors Accounts (property); Criminal Liability; Criminal Law and Practice

Need reasonable adjustments? The deadline for January was 24 September. Later applications are considered only in exceptional circumstances, and candidates with adjustments do not book through the candidate account: contact the Accessibility team at accessibility@sqa.org.uk now.

Sources: sqa.org.uk booking windows and January 2027 SQE1 pages; SQE website news, 10 September 2026. Dates checked 1 October 2026: confirm on sqa.org.uk before you act.

Find What Went Wrong



Most failed attempts come down to one or two of four causes. Be honest about which are yours: each one needs a different fix, and more hours only fix the first.

Knowledge gaps

SIGNS

- Low feedback in whole subjects
- Questions where you did not recognise the topic at all

WHAT TO CHANGE

- Relearn those subjects against the SRA's FLK lines, not your old notes
- Short, frequent question sets on the gap, with explanations

Application

SIGNS

- You knew the law but picked a plausible distractor
- Two options often looked right

WHAT TO CHANGE

- For every miss, write why each wrong option is wrong
- Practise identifying the precise issue before reading the options

Timing

SIGNS

- Rushed or guessed questions near the end
- Long stalls on early questions

WHAT TO CHANGE

- Train to 108 seconds a question with checkpoints (chapter 5)
- Flag and move on: never spend three minutes on one question

The day itself

SIGNS

- Illness, a disrupted night, a technical problem or acute anxiety
- A big gap between mocks and the real result

WHAT TO CHANGE

- Rehearse full days: two sessions and the break, at your booked time
- If something went wrong at the test centre, see the SRA process on page 06

Why method matters

In 2025, **25%** (January) and **20%** (July) of candidates on a second attempt at the whole of SQE1 passed, against 60% and 46% of first-time candidates. Looking at each paper separately, between 40% and 49% of second-attempt candidates passed FLK1 or FLK2, against 50% to 66% at the first attempt (SQE Annual Report 2025, table 5). The SRA suggests resitters consider taking more time, more work or more training. Our view: change what you do, not just how long you do it.

The ten-minute self-audit. Open your result and your last two mocks side by side. Where they agree, you have a knowledge or application gap. Where your mocks were strong and the result was weak, look first at timing and the day itself.



The 14-Week Comeback Plan

The four phases

Fourteen weeks run from **Monday 5 October 2026** to **Sunday 10 January 2027**, the day before the FLK1 window opens. Candidates resitting only FLK2 have at least one more week, because the FLK2 window is 18-22 January; if you are resitting both papers, FLK1 still comes first, from 11 January.

WEEKS 1-2

Reset

Decode your result. Sit a full baseline in the new format. Build your priority map and confirm your booking route.

WEEKS 3-9

Rebuild

One session block a week, priority subjects first. Learn, then question, then a timed 85-question session.

WEEKS 10-12

Rehearse

Full timed papers under real conditions, with the 60-minute break. Christmas week planned, not ignored.

WEEKS 13-14

Refine

Fix your ten most frequent errors, hold your pace, sleep, and sort the logistics.

A Rebuild week

Our suggested rhythm for weeks 3 to 9. Swap days to fit work, but keep the shape: depth early in the week, timed practice at the end, one real day off.

MON Learn

Priority subject: relearn against the FLK lines

TUE Learn

Same subject, then 30-40 untimed questions

WED Question

Second subject in the same session block

THU Question

Mixed questions across the block, with ethics

FRI Review

Error log: patterns, not just answers

SAT Timed

One 85-question session in 153 minutes

SUN Rest

Fully off. Recovery is part of the plan

How many hours?

Our guide: **15 to 25 hours a week**, depending on how far you were from the pass mark and on your other commitments. In our experience, steady weeks beat heroic ones.

One paper or two?

Resitting **both** FLKs: rotate all four sessions through the Rebuild weeks. Resitting **one**: alternate its two sessions, so each gets three full weeks, and use the extra time for depth on your priority A subjects.

Week by week

Dates for a January 2027 sitting. The coloured bar shows the phase. Pin it up and cross off each week.

Wk	Dates	What you do	End-of-week checkpoint
1	5–11 Oct	Decode your result (page 05). Sit a full FLK in the 2027 format under exam conditions: two 85-question sessions, 60-minute break.	Baseline score; error log started
2	12–18 Oct	Sit the other FLK the same way (one-paper resitters: review every baseline question instead). Fill in your priority map. Confirm your booking route (page 07).	Priority map done
3	19–25 Oct	Your weakest session block. Priority A subject first, then the rest of the block. Payment requests start 19 October: pay within 48 hours.	Timed session 1
4	26 Oct–1 Nov	Your second-weakest session block.	Timed session 2
5	2–8 Nov	Third session block (one-paper resitters: back to your weaker session).	Timed session 3
6	9–15 Nov	Fourth session block (one-paper resitters: your other session).	Timed session 4
7	16–22 Nov	Weakest block again: only the lines still wrong in your error log. No seat yet? Direct booking opens 19 November, 10am.	Timed session 5; seat paid or booked
8	23–29 Nov	Second-weakest block again, same method. Booking closes 23 November, 5pm.	Timed session 6
9	30 Nov–6 Dec	Sweep the pervasive topics: ethics in every subject, Solicitors Accounts in both FLK2 contexts. Catch up on anything slipped.	All four blocks seen; weakest two seen twice
10	7–13 Dec	Full timed FLK1 (or your paper) with the break. Two days reviewing every question.	Mock score vs baseline
11	14–20 Dec	Full timed FLK2 (or a second mock of your paper). Review, then targeted fixes.	Mock score vs baseline
12	21–27 Dec	Christmas week: two timed sessions on priority A subjects; 25–26 December off.	Two sessions done
13	28 Dec–3 Jan	Fix your ten most frequent error types. At most one timed session a day.	Top ten errors closed
14	4–10 Jan	Light review only. Rehearse the day: route, ID, start time, food for the break. Sleep.	Ready for 11 January

FLK1 window 11–15 January; FLK2 window 18–22 January 2027. Full-length mocks can come from FQPS or your provider: what matters is the 2027 shape. The SRA's free sample questions are useful extra practice, but the SRA says they are not designed to be a full mock exam.

Technique for the New Format



Your pacing checkpoints

From January 2027 each session is 85 questions in 2 hours 33 minutes: about **108 seconds a question**. Split the session into five blocks of 17 and glance at the clock as you reach each one.

Question 17

0:31

elapsed (h:mm)

Question 34

1:01

elapsed (h:mm)

Question 51

1:32

elapsed (h:mm)

Question 68

2:02

elapsed (h:mm)

Question 85

2:33

time called

How to work a single best answer question

1

Read the last line first

Know what you are being asked (advice, outcome, next step, best option) before you read the facts.

2

Name the issue

Say the legal point to yourself before looking at the options, then check for an ethics point too.

3

Eliminate

Strike out what is wrong in law, then what is right but does not answer the question.

4

Choose and move

Pick the best of what is left. Unsure? Flag it, answer it anyway, and go.

Use the new grouping

Each session now covers a fixed set of subjects, so session 2 is a genuinely fresh start. A hard first session tells you nothing about the second: reset in the break.

The 60-minute break

Eat, drink, move, and do not replay session 1. You must be back within 50 minutes to re-register for session 2; if you are late, you will not be admitted. Rehearse this in weeks 10 to 12.

Pro tip: if you are more than one checkpoint behind, flag the question in front of you, pick your best answer and move on. A guess costs nothing extra; running out of time with questions unseen does.

Mind & body

A resit is a mental game as much as a legal one. Disappointment, embarrassment and doubt are normal, and they fade faster when you have a plan. These are the habits we see in candidates who come back strongest.

Protect your sleep

Memory consolidates while you sleep. Keep a regular bedtime, especially in weeks 13 and 14, and shift towards your exam-day wake-up time a week before.

Keep one day off

A real day off each week is part of the plan, not a reward for finishing it. Tired revision produces errors you then have to unlearn.

Tell one person

Choose one person who knows your exam dates and your plan. Saying it out loud makes it real, and gives you someone to check in with in week 7, when motivation often dips.

Measure trends, not days

One bad timed session means nothing. Track your timed scores week by week: the line matters, not the point.

“

FROM THE FQPS TEAM

A failed sitting is a result, not a verdict. It tells you where the marks went. What you do in the next fourteen weeks decides where they go next time. ”

Your Sunday check-in

What went well? One thing from this week you will keep doing.

What did the error log say? The pattern behind this week's misses.

What changes next week? One adjustment, written into the plan.

If it is more than exam nerves. If low mood, anxiety or stress is affecting your sleep, health or daily life, talk to your GP. LawCare, the mental health charity for the legal community, supports law students and people training to qualify: lawcare.org.uk.

Change the method, not just the hours

Doing the same thing for longer usually produces the same result.

If you revised by reading, switch to questions first. If you did thousands of questions, slow down and write why each wrong option is wrong. The fix depends on the cause you found in chapter 3.

Don't restart the syllabus

You already hold a large share of the marks. Protect them and go after the gap.

Keep your strong subjects warm with short weekly question sets, and spend most of your time on your priority A and B subjects from the decoder.

Make the error log your textbook

One line per mistake: the subject, the rule, why you got it wrong.

By week 9 your log shows your patterns: misread facts, a confused rule, a distractor type you keep falling for. Those patterns are your Refine weeks.

Bonus Tip - Start in the 2027 format

Your baseline should look like the exam you will sit, not the one you sat.

Two full-length FQPS mock papers in the January 2027 format, one FLK1 and one FLK2, are free when you register: 85-question sessions with the 60-minute break, timed like the real day. They do not yet include Ethics or Solicitors Accounts questions. See page 16.

Your Resit Readiness Checklist

Tick each line as it becomes true. If a line is still empty in week 12, that is where your last two weeks go.

Admin

- ☐ My January 2027 seat is paid or booked before booking closes on 23 November (page 07)
- ☐ I know my attempt number and my "Deadline to pass SQE" (page 04)
- ☐ If I need reasonable adjustments, I have contacted the Accessibility team
- ☐ I know how to claim mitigating circumstances if something goes wrong on the day (page 06)
- ☐ I have checked the ID I need and the route to my test centre

Diagnosis

- ☐ I have decoded my result and filled in my priority map (page 05)
- ☐ I have sat a full-length baseline in the 2027 format, both sessions with the break
- ☐ I know which of the four causes cost me marks (chapter 3)

Rebuild and rehearse

- ☐ Every session block has had at least one full Rebuild week, and my two weakest have had two (one-paper resitters: three each)
- ☐ My error log shows fewer repeats week on week
- ☐ I hold 108 seconds a question and reach every checkpoint on time
- ☐ I have sat at least one full paper at my booked start time, with the 60-minute break

The last fortnight

- ☐ My ten most frequent error types are closed
- ☐ My sleep is on my exam-day schedule

Start in the 2027 format

STEP 1

Create a free account

No card required. One full-length FLK1 mock and one full-length FLK2 mock in the January 2027 format are added, and the credits never expire.

STEP 3

Review every question

Go back through every question you missed and add each one to your error log.

STEP 5

Follow the 14-week plan

One session block a week, timed practice at the weekend, full papers in December.

STEP 2

Sit your baseline

Weeks 1 and 2: two 85-question sessions per paper, each drawing only on that session's subjects, with the 60-minute break.

STEP 4

Fill in your priority map

Combine your SRA feedback with your baseline to choose your priority A, B and C subjects.

STEP 6

Go further when you're ready

See what each FQPS plan includes on our [pricing page](#).

FQPS SQE1 Mocks. Built for January 2027.
Your baseline for week one.

Create a free account

Full-length FLK1 + FLK2 mocks

Free



Supporting - candidates

We are committed to the success and well-being of every student.



Not sure which plan fits your resit, or how to split your weeks between FLK1 and FLK2? Write to us and a person will answer.

support@fqps.co.uk

A failed sitting is a result, not a verdict. Use this guide to plan the attempt that counts, and write to us if you want a second opinion on your plan.



Prepare for SQE1 and
SQE2 with our SQE
courses.



Practice questions, full-length
SQE1 mocks in the 2027 format
and free guides like this one,
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