

UPDATED OCTOBER 2026

SQE2 READINESS CHECKLIST · WRITTEN & ORAL · 2027

Ready for SQE2?

The SQE2 readiness checklist for 2027: your window and booking, all 16 assessments as a tick grid, the marking criteria and the ethics category, timed practice gates and both kinds of exam day, then your route to admission.

BOOK IT

Eligibility, all four 2027 windows, fees, ID and venues, with the published booking dates.

PRACTISE IT

All 16 assessments, the official timings, the A-to-F criteria and the ethics category.

SIT IT, THEN QUALIFY

Written and oral day rules, what to do if something goes wrong, and admission.

16 assessments

5 half days

5 practice areas

Printer-friendly

How to use this checklist

Tick each line when it is true, not when you plan to. Start by choosing your window: everything else counts back from it.

Choose your 2027 window

WINDOW	ORAL (ATTEND ONE)	WRITTEN	LAW CUT-OFF	BOOKING	RESULTS
☐ January 2027	26-27 Jan or 28-29 Jan	2-4 Feb	26 Sep 2026	Seat forms 13 Oct, deadline 16 Oct 2026; booking closes 4 Dec 2026	20 May 2027
☐ April 2027	26-27 Apr, 28-29 Apr, 11-12 May or 13-14 May	20-22 Apr or 4-6 May	20 Dec 2026	Seat forms 5 Jan, deadline 8 Jan 2027; booking close not yet published	Not yet published
☐ July 2027	27-28 Jul or 29-30 Jul	3-5 Aug	27 Mar 2027	Not yet published	Not yet published
☐ October 2027	28-29 Oct, 9-10 Nov or 11-12 Nov	2-4 Nov	28 Jun 2027	Not yet published	Not yet published

You sit the oral and written parts in the same window, and choose your oral sitting when you book. The written days can fall before, after or between the oral sittings. The law cut-off is four calendar months before the window opens: you are examined on the law as it stood then. SQE2 results come 14 to 18 weeks after the assessment.

MY SQE2 DETAILS

Window: _____
 Oral days and venue: _____
 Written days and centre: _____
 Booking reference: _____

SQE2 IN ONE PARAGRAPH

16 assessments: four oral over two consecutive half days and twelve written over three consecutive half days, across five practice areas. One pass mark for SQE2 as a whole, with no separate pass mark for the oral and written parts. The format is unchanged. Since October 2026 ethics has its own criterion and some content changed; from April 2027 the April window is longer.

SQE2 in numbers

16

assessments: 4 oral and 12 written

5

half days: two oral and three written

6

skills, across five practice areas

300

one scaled pass mark, for SQE2 as a whole

A to F

grade for every criterion, worth 5 down to 0

£3,086

2026/27 fee, oral and written together

4

calendar months: the law cut-off before your window opens

14-18

weeks from the assessment to your results



TICK IT ONLINE

Scan to open the interactive version of this checklist. Your ticks, dates and notes save on your device, with no account needed.

fqps.co.uk/sqe/sqe2-readiness-checklist

Eligible, booked, protected

AIMING FOR JANUARY 2027? ACT THIS MONTH

Seat reservation forms for the January 2027 window are sent on **13 October 2026**, with a deadline of **16 October**, which is also the deadline for accepting a reasonable adjustments plan. Booking closes on **4 December 2026**.

First finish the pre-booking steps in your SQE account (registration, ID check, diversity survey, adjustments question): for October 2026, no form was sent without them.

ELIGIBILITY

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| ☐ | I have passed SQE1, am exempt from all of SQE1, or am on the LPC transitional route (QWE plus SQE2). I can reserve a seat while awaiting SQE1 results, but book and pay only after a pass. | before booking |
| ☐ | I know the law cut-off for my window, and I am revising the law as it stood on that date. | now |

BOOKING AND FEES

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| ☐ | I have my window's seat-form and booking dates in my calendar, and I reserve or book inside them. | see page 2 |
| ☐ | Fee paid: £3,086 for oral and written together (2026/27 fee, VAT exempt; the October 2027 fee is not yet announced). There are no payment plans. | on booking |
| ☐ | If my employer is paying, the SQE2 voucher names my sitting (a voucher does not reserve a seat). | before booking |
| ☐ | I know oral bookings cannot be rescheduled: changing them means cancelling and rebooking, and cancellation charges rise from £250 to 100% as the window nears. | on booking |

IDENTITY, ADJUSTMENTS AND VENUES

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------|
| ☐ | The name on my ID exactly matches my SQE registration. Written days need two original IDs; oral days need one photo ID. | now |
| ☐ | Reasonable adjustments: my plan is accepted by my window's seat-form deadline (16 October 2026 for January, 8 January 2027 for April). | check |
| ☐ | Oral venue noted: Kaplan runs the orals in Birmingham, Cardiff, London or Manchester, shown when booking opens. | on booking |
| ☐ | Two oral days off work (you can be on site for 4.5 to 7 hours, between 8am and 8pm) plus three written half days, with travel planned. | on booking |

My countdown COUNT BACK FROM THE FIRST DAY OF YOUR WINDOW

WHEN	DONE
12 weeks out	☐ Every skill attempted once, timed, and marked against the criteria ☐ Weakest two skills chosen as priorities
8 weeks out	☐ Every written skill practised in every practice area (page 4 grid) ☐ First full written half day
4 weeks out	☐ Structures memorised for every skill ☐ Oral practice with a partner playing client and judge
2 weeks out	☐ One written and one oral half day back to back ☐ SRA sample questions sat, timed
Final week	☐ Joining instructions read (they arrive about two weeks before) ☐ Route, ID and timings rehearsed; sleep on your exam-day schedule

All 16 assessments, ticked

Tick a box only after a **timed** attempt that you have marked against the criteria on page 5.

Oral FOUR ASSESSMENTS, TWO CONSECUTIVE HALF DAYS

ASSESSMENT	PRACTICE AREA	PRACTISED	TIMED	MARKED	READY
Oral day 1: Advocacy	Dispute Resolution	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oral day 1: Interview and attendance note/legal analysis	Property Practice	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oral day 2: Advocacy	Criminal Law and Practice	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oral day 2: Interview and attendance note/legal analysis	Wills and the Administration of Estates	☐	☐	☐	☐

Each interview and its attendance note counts as one station. On each oral day you may do the interview or the advocacy first.

Written TWELVE ASSESSMENTS, THREE CONSECUTIVE HALF DAYS

Every written day has one case and matter analysis, one legal research, one legal writing and one legal drafting exercise, so each written skill is assessed three times. Day 1: two in Dispute Resolution and two in Criminal Law and Practice. Day 2: two in Property Practice and two in Wills and the Administration of Estates. Day 3: all four in Business Law and Practice. Which skill falls in which practice area on days 1 and 2 varies, so practise every skill in every area.

SKILL	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	CRIMINAL LAW AND PRACTICE	PROPERTY PRACTICE	WILLS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES	BUSINESS LAW AND PRACTICE
Case and matter analysis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Legal research	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Legal writing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Legal drafting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

NEGOTIATION IS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

There is no negotiation station, but every sitting includes at least one assessment involving negotiation, inside the interview and attendance note, the case and matter analysis or the legal writing.

NEW SINCE OCTOBER 2026

Money laundering is now examinable in Property Practice as well as Business Law and Practice. Some practice areas are renamed to align with SQE1. Not examined in SQE2: Legal Systems (including constitutional, administrative and EU law), Legal Services (apart from money laundering and financial services) and Solicitors Accounts.

Mark yourself the way the SRA does

Every station except the interview is marked on skills and on application of law, with equal weight. Summarised from the SRA's SQE2 specification: read the full criteria there.

SKILL	WHAT THE SKILLS CRITERIA LOOK FOR
Client interview	Listening and questioning; communicating so the client understands; professional, courteous and respectful of diversity; client-focused; building trust and confidence. Marked on skills only.
Attendance note/legal analysis	Records all the relevant information; identifies next steps; client-focused advice. Plus the application-of-law criteria.
Advocacy	Appropriate language and behaviour; clear, logical structure; persuasive argument; engages with the court; includes all key facts.
Case and matter analysis	Identifies the relevant facts; client-focused advice; clear, precise, concise and acceptable language.
Legal research	Identifies and uses the relevant sources; client-focused advice; clear language. The topic may fall outside the FLK.
Legal writing	Includes the relevant facts; logical structure; content focused on the client and the recipient; language suited to the recipient.
Legal drafting	Clear language; appropriate and logical structure. Law criteria read as legally correct and legally comprehensive.

How SQE2 is marked

- ☐ Application of law means applying the law **correctly** and **comprehensively**. You need case or statute names only where the name is the label for a principle; legal research may expect citations.
- ☐ The interview is marked by the actor playing the client, on skills only; my interview notes are read with my attendance note, and crossed-out text is ignored.
- ☐ Each criterion is graded A (superior) to F (poor), worth 5 down to 0. My score is the average of the 16 stations.
- ☐ One pass mark for SQE2 as a whole, scaled to 300. A scaled 300 does not mean 60%.

The ethics category FROM 1 SEP 2026

- ☐ Ethics is now a separate, third application-of-law criterion.
- ☐ Where a station assesses an ethics point it is marked 0 to 5 and the law mark is split equally three ways; otherwise my results show N/A.
- ☐ Ethics is never flagged: I look for the issue in every file, including situations in SRA warning notices such as NDAs and SLAPPs.
- ☐ Tax figures come as an attachment when I need them; not everything in it will be relevant.

My grades log

ONE ROW PER TIMED ATTEMPT, GRADED A TO F

Ready under exam conditions

SQE2 rewards practised routines. Five timed attempts per skill is a sensible floor before the exam.

SKILL	TIME ALLOWED	TIMED ATTEMPTS (TICK EACH)
Client interview	10 min to read, then a 25 min interview	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Attendance note/legal analysis	25 min, handwritten	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Advocacy	45 min preparation, then 15 min before the judge	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Case and matter analysis	60 min, on screen	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Legal research	60 min, on screen	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Legal writing	30 min, on screen	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Legal drafting	45 min, on screen	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

A written half day is two sessions: 1 hour 30 minutes, a 15-minute break in which you cannot leave the centre, then 1 hour 45 minutes.

PRACTICE GATES

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| ☐ I have a structure for every skill that I can run from memory under time pressure. | 4 weeks out |
| ☐ I can write a full attendance note by hand in 25 minutes. | 4 weeks out |
| ☐ I can type, check and finish a written answer on screen within the time. Formatting is not marked. | 4 weeks out |
| ☐ I have done at least one full written half day and one oral half day back to back. | 2 weeks out |
| ☐ I have practised the SRA's own SQE2 sample questions, timed. | 2 weeks out |
| ☐ I have rehearsed advocacy out loud to time, standing for criminal advocacy. | 1 week out |

My structure for each skill WRITE IT, THEN RUN IT FROM MEMORY

CLIENT INTERVIEW 	ATTENDANCE NOTE/LEGAL ANALYSIS 	ADVOCACY
CASE AND MATTER ANALYSIS 	LEGAL RESEARCH 	LEGAL WRITING
LEGAL DRAFTING 		

Written days and oral days

Written days PEARSON VUE CENTRES

- ☐ Two original IDs; I report at the time in my confirmation, which stays the same on all three days.
- ☐ Phone, watch, notes and food go in the locker (a few centres use clear bags instead).
- ☐ Provided: an on-screen calculator, a whiteboard and marker, plus the platform's highlighter and copy and paste.
- ☐ The legal materials a newly qualified solicitor would look up are provided; for legal research I get sources, some of which may not be relevant. Nothing else may be brought in.
- ☐ No dress code; unscheduled breaks do not stop the clock; no leaving early.

Oral days KAPLAN VENUES

- ☐ One original photo ID; business dress with an easily removed warm layer.
- ☐ No watch: clocks are in every room. Provided: a calculator, a black pen, paper and a highlighter; water and light refreshments too.
- ☐ I wear my ID badge throughout, and I cannot leave until told at the end of the day, so I plan travel for later.
- ☐ Criminal advocacy is delivered standing, and no handshake with the client is needed.
- ☐ The client is a trained actor and the judge a solicitor: I treat both as real throughout.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

Tell an invigilator straight away, or before you leave. Then claim mitigating circumstances in your SQE account **by 16:00 UK time on the fifth working day after your last station**; the outcome comes with your results. If a claim is accepted, the attempt can be discounted with a refund, or the Board can remove the affected station and recalculate your result on 15 stations, which can turn a fail into a pass. Single stations cannot be resat.

Notes for my assessment days

From results to admission

Your results page shows your scaled score, your mark as a percentage, your quintile and a mark (5 to 0) for every criterion at every station.

Your route to admission

- ☐ A degree or equivalent qualification, validated through mySRA (£36 for UK or Irish, £54.84 for international qualifications).
- ☐ Two years' full-time (or equivalent) qualifying work experience, with no more than four organisations, each confirmed by a solicitor or a COLP.
- ☐ SQE1 and SQE2 passed (LPC route: SQE2 only).
- ☐ A mySRA account, which is separate from my SQE account, in my full legal name.
- ☐ UK background screening (£34 through Atlantic Data, with a standard DBS check; the overseas route differs), done close to applying: results last six months.
- ☐ Admission application (£100) with every character and suitability issue disclosed. The SRA aims to decide within 30 days (up to six months if there is a suitability issue).
- ☐ Admission date chosen within 30 days of approval, then a practising certificate if I will do reserved legal work.

If you did not pass

- ☐ I have read my criterion marks station by station before deciding anything.
- ☐ I know SQE2 is one assessment: I resit all 16 stations, with three attempts within six years of my first SQE assessment.
- ☐ I know an appeal is due by 16:00 on the 10th working day after results, with the £350 fee paid by phone, and that there are no re-marks.
- ☐ I have picked my next window from page 2 and checked its booking dates.

Notes



Every box ticked?

Ethics now has its own marking category in SQE2. Our free **Ethics and Professional Conduct** guide covers the Principles, the Code, conflicts and money laundering, with a method for spotting the issue nobody flags.

Free guides and printables at fqps.co.uk/downloads-tools · SQE2 preparation at fqps.co.uk/sqe/sqe2-preparation



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fqps.co.uk/sqe/sqe2-readiness-checklist

Sources: the SQE website (sqe.sra.org.uk): the SQE2 assessment specification applicable from 1 September 2026, the 2027 assessment dates, the SQE2 assessment-day, ID and fees pages, the SRA's updates of June to September 2026, and the SQE mitigating circumstances and appeals policies; and the SRA's admission, QWE and screening pages (sra.org.uk). Checked on 1 October 2026 and summarised in our own words. Dates and rules can change: always confirm with the SRA and your booking confirmation.

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