

Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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1. When should a suspect being interviewed receive a break?

- A. Every hour of interrogation**
- B. Once the officer decides**
- C. Approximately every two hours**
- D. Only if requested by the suspect**

2. What is the purpose of mock assessments in SQE preparation?

- A. To assess a candidate's theoretical knowledge**
- B. To prepare candidates for the exam format and identify areas for improvement**
- C. To provide a platform for group discussion**
- D. To eliminate the need for practical assessments**

3. When should a section 17 notice be served regarding commercial leases?

- A. When the lease is being renewed**
- B. When the landlord seeks payment from a guarantor**
- C. When the occupant vacates**
- D. When repairs are needed on the property**

4. What is the purpose of SQE's 'Character and Suitability' requirement?

- A. To evaluate academic performance in law school**
- B. To ensure candidates meet professional conduct standards**
- C. To assess candidates' networking skills in the legal community**
- D. To determine the financial stability of the candidates**

5. What skills are particularly emphasized in SQE2 assessments?

- A. Research and analysis only**
- B. Negotiation and mediation skills**
- C. Practical legal skills like advocacy and client representation**
- D. Only administrative skills**

6. How are candidates assessed in SQE1?

- A. Through oral presentations with a panel**
- B. Via multiple-choice questions based on legal principles and rules**
- C. By written essays on legal theories**
- D. Through practical skills demonstrations**

7. What is a key requirement for entry into the SQE?

- A. Candidates must have practical experience in a law firm**
- B. Candidates must have a qualifying law degree or equivalent legal knowledge**
- C. Candidates must pass a language proficiency test**
- D. Candidates must complete a volunteer internship**

8. What defines a vested interest?

- A. An interest that is conditional**
- B. An interest that is uncertain**
- C. An interest that is unconditional**
- D. An interest that is temporary**

9. What is the aim of the 'Dispute Resolution' module in SQE1?

- A. To prepare candidates for judicial roles**
- B. To assess knowledge of civil litigation processes, negotiation tactics, and alternative dispute resolution methods**
- C. To focus on property law disputes**
- D. To teach the principles of criminal law**

10. When is a co-accused not considered a competent witness?

- A. When they plead not guilty**
- B. If the trial is conducted in private**
- C. When there are no separate trials**
- D. If they are related to the defendant**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. C

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Explanations

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1. When should a suspect being interviewed receive a break?

- A. Every hour of interrogation
- B. Once the officer decides
- C. Approximately every two hours**
- D. Only if requested by the suspect

A suspect being interviewed is entitled to receive a break approximately every two hours. This is in line with the guidelines set out in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and its associated codes of practice, which emphasize the need for reasonable breaks to ensure the suspect's welfare during an interview. The rationale behind this guideline is to prevent fatigue, which can impair a suspect's ability to effectively understand and respond during questioning. While a break every hour might seem beneficial for the suspect's comfort, there is no specific legal requirement mandating a break at that frequency. The option for a break to be given at the discretion of the officer lacks the structure needed for maintaining consistent treatment of suspects. Lastly, the idea that breaks should only be taken upon request by the suspect disregards the proactive responsibilities of law enforcement to ensure the suspect's well-being during what can be a stressful process. Thus, the requirement for breaks approximately every two hours is designed to balance the needs of law enforcement with the rights and health of the suspect.

2. What is the purpose of mock assessments in SQE preparation?

- A. To assess a candidate's theoretical knowledge
- B. To prepare candidates for the exam format and identify areas for improvement**
- C. To provide a platform for group discussion
- D. To eliminate the need for practical assessments

The purpose of mock assessments in SQE preparation is primarily to prepare candidates for the exam format and identify areas for improvement. Mock assessments simulate the actual exam conditions, allowing candidates to become familiar with the structure, timing, and type of questions they will encounter in the SQE. This practice helps to build confidence and reduce exam-related anxiety. Additionally, mock assessments provide valuable feedback to candidates regarding their performance. By identifying specific strengths and weaknesses, candidates can focus their study efforts on areas that need further development, ensuring a more targeted and effective preparation strategy. This approach ultimately enhances their overall readiness for the actual exam. In contrast, assessing a candidate's theoretical knowledge primarily involves studying theory rather than testing their application under exam conditions. While group discussions can be beneficial for collaborative learning, they are not the main objective of mock assessments. Lastly, practical assessments cannot be eliminated because they play a crucial role in providing a real-world understanding and application of legal principles, which are essential for becoming a competent solicitor.

3. When should a section 17 notice be served regarding commercial leases?

- A. When the lease is being renewed**
- B. When the landlord seeks payment from a guarantor**
- C. When the occupant vacates**
- D. When repairs are needed on the property**

A section 17 notice relates to the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, specifically concerning the right of a landlord to claim possession of a property under a commercial lease. This type of notice is typically served when a landlord wishes to terminate the lease and take back possession of the premises, especially if they are seeking to enforce the lease against a guarantor for unpaid rent or other obligations. In the context of the options provided, serving a section 17 notice is relevant when a landlord takes action against a guarantor who is responsible for the lease obligations. This scenario indicates that the landlord is seeking payment and potentially planning to pursue possession of the property due to default on lease terms. Other options do not align with the primary intention behind a section 17 notice. For instance, serving a notice when a lease is being renewed would not typically involve a section 17 circumstance, as renewals usually focus on extending existing terms rather than terminating them. Similarly, a notice isn't necessary when the occupant vacates, as this marks the end of the tenant's obligations under the lease. Lastly, when repairs are needed on the property, this situation primarily falls under maintenance obligations and does not trigger the need for a section 17 notice, which deals with lease termination and

4. What is the purpose of SQE's 'Character and Suitability' requirement?

- A. To evaluate academic performance in law school**
- B. To ensure candidates meet professional conduct standards**
- C. To assess candidates' networking skills in the legal community**
- D. To determine the financial stability of the candidates**

The 'Character and Suitability' requirement of the SQE is fundamentally aimed at ensuring that candidates meet the professional conduct standards necessary to practice law. This requirement reflects the legal profession's commitment to upholding integrity, ethical behavior, and the trust of the public. By assessing a candidate's character, the SQE seeks to evaluate attributes such as honesty, respect for the law, and the ability to conduct oneself in a manner befitting a legal professional. This aspect is crucial because solicitors must handle sensitive information, navigate complex legal situations, and make decisions that can significantly impact clients and the community. In essence, confirming a candidate's character and suitability helps to protect the interests of clients and the public at large, ensuring that those allowed to practice law are reliable and uphold the values and standards expected within the profession.

5. What skills are particularly emphasized in SQE2 assessments?

- A. Research and analysis only**
- B. Negotiation and mediation skills**
- C. Practical legal skills like advocacy and client representation**
- D. Only administrative skills**

The focus of SQE2 assessments is on practical legal skills, particularly those that are essential for effective advocacy and client representation. This part of the assessment is designed to evaluate candidates' ability to apply their legal knowledge in realistic scenarios, where they must interact with clients, handle case files, and demonstrate their courtroom abilities. Skills such as presenting arguments persuasively, effectively communicating with clients, and understanding courtroom procedures are vital for a solicitor's role. While research and analysis, negotiation, mediation, and administrative skills are important in the legal profession, they are not the primary focus of SQE2. The emphasis is on hands-on application of law in practice, including skills that directly impact a solicitor's ability to represent clients and advocate for their interests.

6. How are candidates assessed in SQE1?

- A. Through oral presentations with a panel**
- B. Via multiple-choice questions based on legal principles and rules**
- C. By written essays on legal theories**
- D. Through practical skills demonstrations**

In SQE1, candidates are assessed through multiple-choice questions that focus on legal principles and rules. This format is designed to evaluate a candidate's understanding and application of key legal concepts across various areas of law, such as contract, tort, criminal law, and equity and trusts, among others. The emphasis on multiple-choice questions allows for a broad coverage of material and tests the candidates' ability to analyze scenarios and identify the correct legal principles that apply. This assessment method is particularly effective for providing an objective measure of knowledge retention and legal reasoning skills. It requires candidates not just to memorize legal rules but also to demonstrate their understanding of how these rules apply in different contexts. By utilizing multiple-choice questions, the SQE1 effectively assesses a candidate's readiness to practice law in a dynamic legal environment, where quick and accurate decision-making is critical.

7. What is a key requirement for entry into the SQE?

- A. Candidates must have practical experience in a law firm**
- B. Candidates must have a qualifying law degree or equivalent legal knowledge**
- C. Candidates must pass a language proficiency test**
- D. Candidates must complete a volunteer internship**

The key requirement for entry into the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) is that candidates must have a qualifying law degree or equivalent legal knowledge. This requirement is fundamental as it ensures that all candidates possess a baseline of legal understanding and the theoretical framework necessary to engage effectively with the SQE assessments. A qualifying law degree typically covers essential subjects such as contracts, torts, and criminal law, which are crucial for practicing as a solicitor. The concept of equivalent legal knowledge acknowledges that not all candidates will possess a traditional law degree; those who have gained substantial legal knowledge through alternative means, such as work experience or non-law degrees followed by legal conversion courses, may also qualify. This inclusivity allows for a broader range of candidates, fostering diversity within the legal profession. While practical experience in a law firm, language proficiency tests, and volunteering may enhance a candidate's application and skills, they are not foundational requirements for entering the SQE. Therefore, having a solid legal educational background is essential for preparing candidates for the challenges of the examination and their future roles as solicitors.

8. What defines a vested interest?

- A. An interest that is conditional**
- B. An interest that is uncertain**
- C. An interest that is unconditional**
- D. An interest that is temporary**

A vested interest is defined as an interest that is unconditional, meaning that the individual holding the interest has a definite and secure claim to it that cannot be taken away or altered based on future events. This kind of interest arises when certain conditions or contingencies have been satisfied, ensuring the holder's right to the property or benefit at a specific point in time. In contrast, a conditional interest would depend on a future event occurring, which may not guarantee the holder's claim indefinitely. Similarly, an uncertain interest implies that the rights of the holder are not clearly established or may hinge on uncertain factors. A temporary interest means that the benefit or right does not last indefinitely and might expire after a certain period or condition. Thus, only an unconditional interest, as described in the answer, accurately reflects the nature of a vested interest.

9. What is the aim of the 'Dispute Resolution' module in SQE1?

- A. To prepare candidates for judicial roles**
- B. To assess knowledge of civil litigation processes, negotiation tactics, and alternative dispute resolution methods**
- C. To focus on property law disputes**
- D. To teach the principles of criminal law**

The aim of the 'Dispute Resolution' module in SQE1 is to assess candidates' knowledge of civil litigation processes, negotiation tactics, and alternative dispute resolution methods. This module is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how disputes are resolved within the legal framework, emphasizing practical skills and legal principles that future solicitors will need in their day-to-day practice. By focusing on civil litigation, it prepares candidates for the various stages of litigation, including pre-action procedures, claim processes, and court rules. Understanding negotiation tactics is crucial for encouraging settlements and resolving disputes outside of court. Furthermore, the study of alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediation and arbitration is vital in today's legal landscape, where many disputes are resolved without resorting to litigation. Mastery of these areas enhances a candidate's ability to effectively serve clients seeking resolution to their legal disputes. This module does not primarily focus on specific areas such as property law disputes or criminal law principles, as those are addressed in other modules within the SQE framework, which is why those choices do not align with the core aim of the Dispute Resolution module.

10. When is a co-accused not considered a competent witness?

- A. When they plead not guilty**
- B. If the trial is conducted in private**
- C. When there are no separate trials**
- D. If they are related to the defendant**

A co-accused is not considered a competent witness when there are no separate trials. This is because the legal principle of "mutual accusation" can arise in situations where co-defendants are involved in the same trial. When co-accused individuals are tried together, the potential for one co-accused to provide testimony against another can create a conflict of interest or lead to a violation of the right to a fair trial. In such scenarios, the law prevents such testimony to ensure that the trial process remains just and that each defendant's rights are preserved. Other options do not impact the competency of a co-accused as a witness in the same way. For example, if a co-accused pleads not guilty, that plea does not inherently render them incompetent as a witness; their ability to testify would depend on the specific circumstances and regulations governing their testimony. Conducting a trial in private does not exclude a co-accused from being a competent witness either, as it pertains more to the public's access rather than the witness's status. Lastly, relationships with the defendant, such as familial ties, may influence the testimony's credibility but do not automatically deny their competency as a witness unless specific legal statutes apply.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://solicitorsqualifying.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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