What we will cover (13.30 - 14.40)
Session 1 – Understanding the SQE

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Topic	Speaker	Duration
SQE facts and stats	Julie Swan, Director of Education and Training (Chair)	5 mins
A deeper dive into the SQE data	Richard Hankins, Quality and Standards Director, Kaplan Assessments	25 mins
Design Principles for SQE1 and SQE2	Tim Maddison, Legal Academic Director, Kaplan SQE	25 mins
SQE evaluation	Beverley Rizzotto, Policy Manager, SRA	15 mins

What we will cover (15.15 – 16.15)
Session 2 – Supporting aspiring solicitors

Topic	Speaker	Duration
Introduction	Julie Swan, Director of Education, SRA (Chair)	2 mins
The SQE training market	Richard Williams, Policy Manager, SRA	15 mins
LPC route and transitional arrangements	Julie Swan, Director of Education, SRA (Chair)	8 mins
QWE: Myth busting	Richard Williams, Policy Manager, SRA	15 mins
Apprenticeships in practice	Kerry Gilbert, Early Careers Manager – Apprenticeships, TLT LLP	20 mins

SQE facts and stats

- 24,090 candidates have passed SQE1
- Of all candidates who have entered SQE1, 66% have passed
- 11,761 candidates have passed SQE2
- Of all candidates who have entered SQE2, 85% have passed
- The SQE1 pass rate for solicitor apprentices is 73%, across all who have received results to date
- The SQE2 pass rate for solicitor apprentices is 94%, across all how have received results to date

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A deeper dive into the data

Dr Richard Hankins
Quality and Standards Director, Kaplan

Reports by window

Reports include statistics that provide some feedback on the assessments and their performance
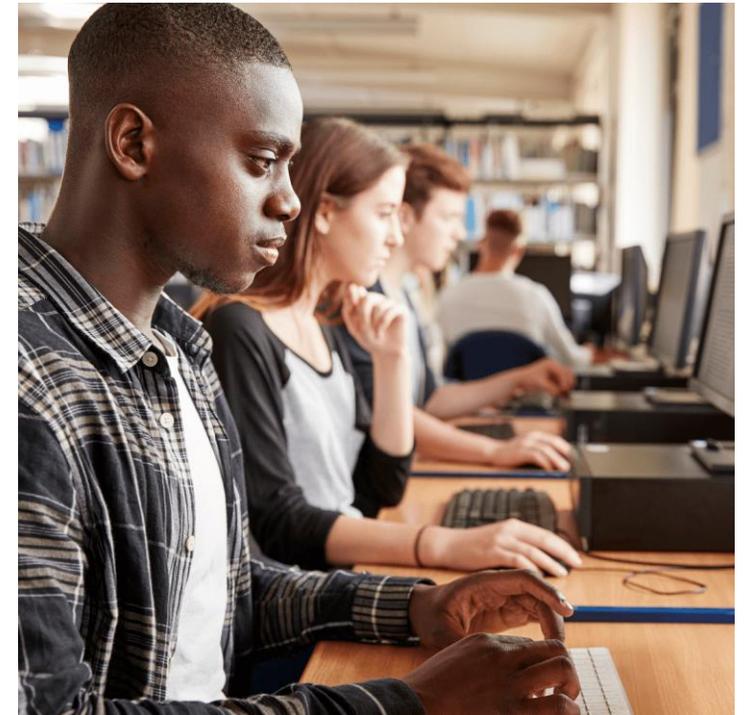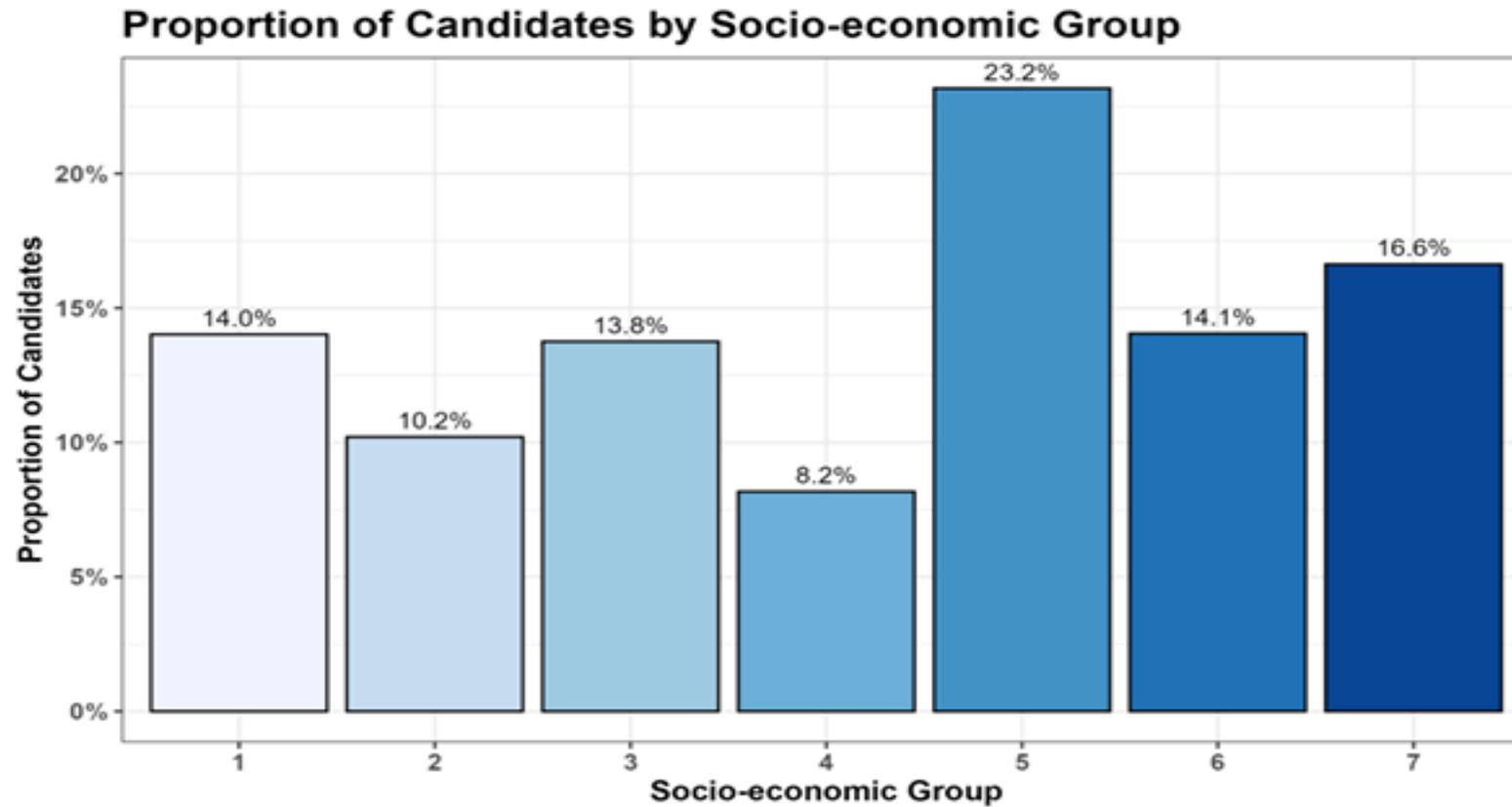
https://sqe.sra.org.uk/reports

Candidate characteristics data

- Report that looks at the characteristics of SQE candidates and factors that influence scores in the SQE

- It highlights the impacts of diversity, socio-economic background and academic history

https://sqe.sra.org.uk/reports

Socio-economic spread

Proportion of Candidates by Socio-economic Group

Scores by socio-economic group

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mean scaled score[6]	299	299	308	307	320	324	333

Engagement by ethnicity

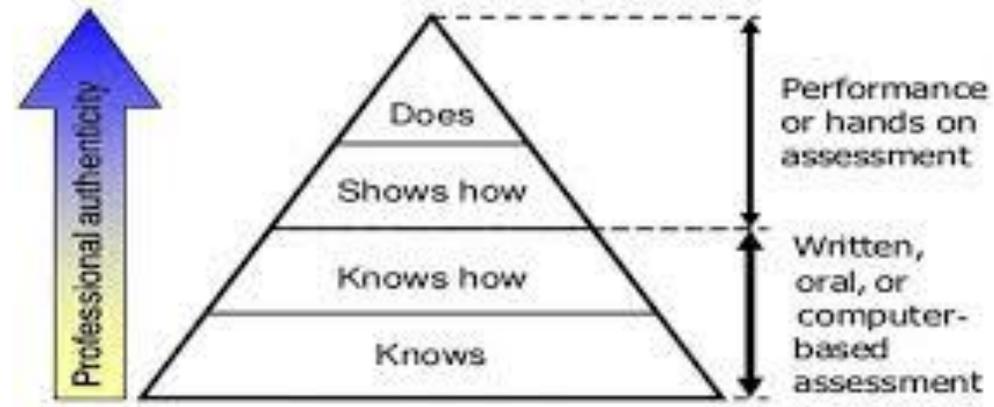|	Asian/ Asian British %	Black/Black British %	Mixed or Multiple %	Other %	White %	Undeclared %
SQE	28.4	6.6	4.9	6.1	47	7
2021 census (working age population)	10.1	4.4	2.5	2.3	80.7	NA
Lawyers in UK firms	12	3	3	1	77	4

Design Principles for SQE1 and SQE2

Tim Maddison, Legal Academic Director, Kaplan Assessments

Aims of the session

1. Provide a reminder of the design principles behind SQE1 and SQE2

2. Focus on the use of single best answer multiple choice questions in SQE1

Design Principles: Miller's Pyramid

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A Simple Model of Competence

Miller GE. The assessment of clinical skills/competence/performance. Academic Medicine (Supplement) 1990: 65: S63-S7.

Evaluating work-based learning

Miller's Pyramid and SQE1

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- SQE1: application of legal knowledge
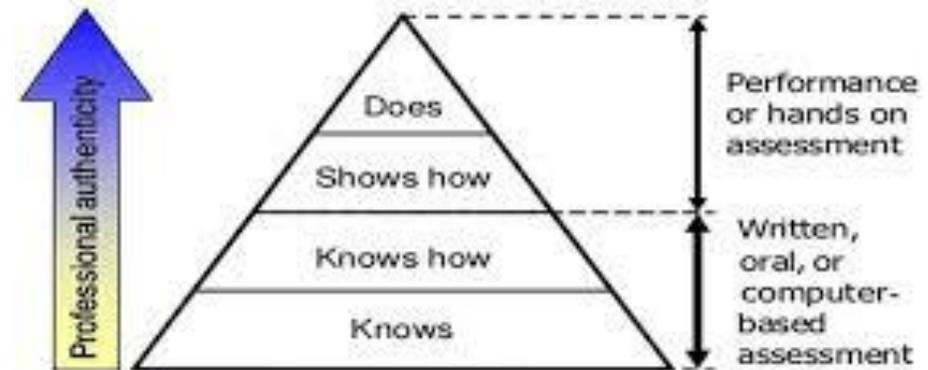
- 'Knows how'

- Statement of Solicitor Competence:

Maintain a level of legal knowledge

Draw on a sufficient detailed knowledge and understanding of their field(s) of work

Use … a broad base of legal knowledge….and detailed knowledge of their practice area.

- Authenticity?

A Simple Model of Competence

Professional authenticity

Does
Shows how
Knows how
Knows

Performance or hands on assessment
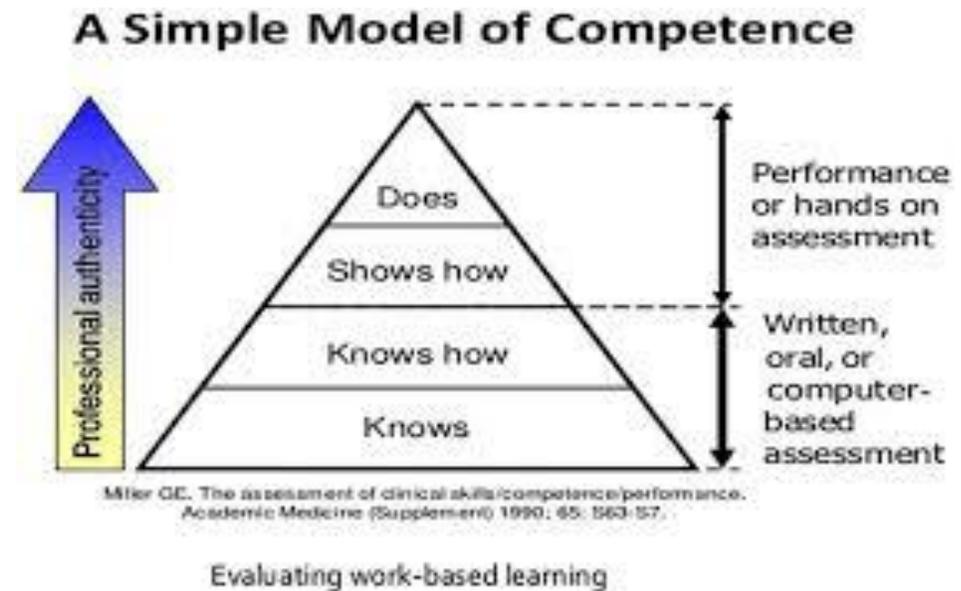
Written, oral, or computer-based assessment

Miller GE. The assessment of clinical skills/competence/performance.
Academic Medicine (Supplement) 1990; 65: S63-S7.

Evaluating work-based learning

Miller's Pyramid and SQE2

- SQE2: legal skills (written and oral)

- 16 stations

- 'Shows how'

- Statement of Solicitor Competence

- Authenticity?

A Simple Model of Competence

Miller GE. The assessment of clinical skills/competence/performance. Academic Medicine (Supplement) 1990; 65: S63-S7.

Evaluating work-based learning

What are single best answer multiple choice questions?

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Single best answer (SBA) multiple choice questions (MCQs) are used in SQE1 to assess candidates' ability to apply their legal knowledge.

- The questions do not assess simple recall
- They assess a candidate's ability to apply their knowledge to a relevant scenario
- The scenarios reflect the type of matter a newly qualified solicitor might come across in practice.

There are three components to each question:

1. The stem, which sets out the scenario.
2. The lead in, which sets out the question to be answered.
3. The five options. Each of the five options is plausible, **but only one is correct.**

Who writes the questions?

- Solicitors

- Minimum of two (usually three) solicitor subject matter experts

- Further review by two more solicitors

- SRA solicitor subject matter expert review

- Each question involves a minimum of four, usually five, solicitors.

Why are they appropriate for high stakes professional assessment?

SBAs are a well-established method of assessing the application of knowledge:

- Standardised scoring: single correct answer

- Quick and accurate marking of a large number of candidates

- Effectively sample a wide breadth of a curriculum

- Assessment of high order thinking

- Test security

- Removes the need for written expression

What are the alternatives?

- Essays

- Short answer questions

- Extended match questions

- Long answer questions

- Role play

Where else are they used?

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Accountancy:

- Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

- Chartered Financial Analysts

Medicine:

- GMC Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA)

- Royal College of Psychiatrists

- Royal College of Anaesthetists

- Royal College of Emergency Medicine

- Faculty of Intensive Care

- Royal College of GPs

- Royal College of Surgeons

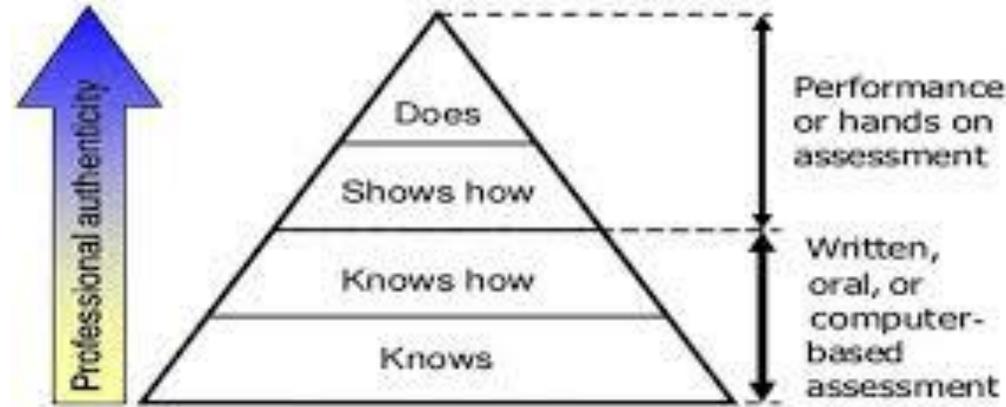- GMC Professional Linguistic Assessment Board Test

Law:

- National Conference Bar Examiners - Multistate Bar Exam

- Bar Standards Board (Civil and Criminal)

- All India Bar Exam

- China's Unified Legal Professional Qual Exam

- New York Bar Exam

- Canadian Bar Exam

- Spanish Bar Exam
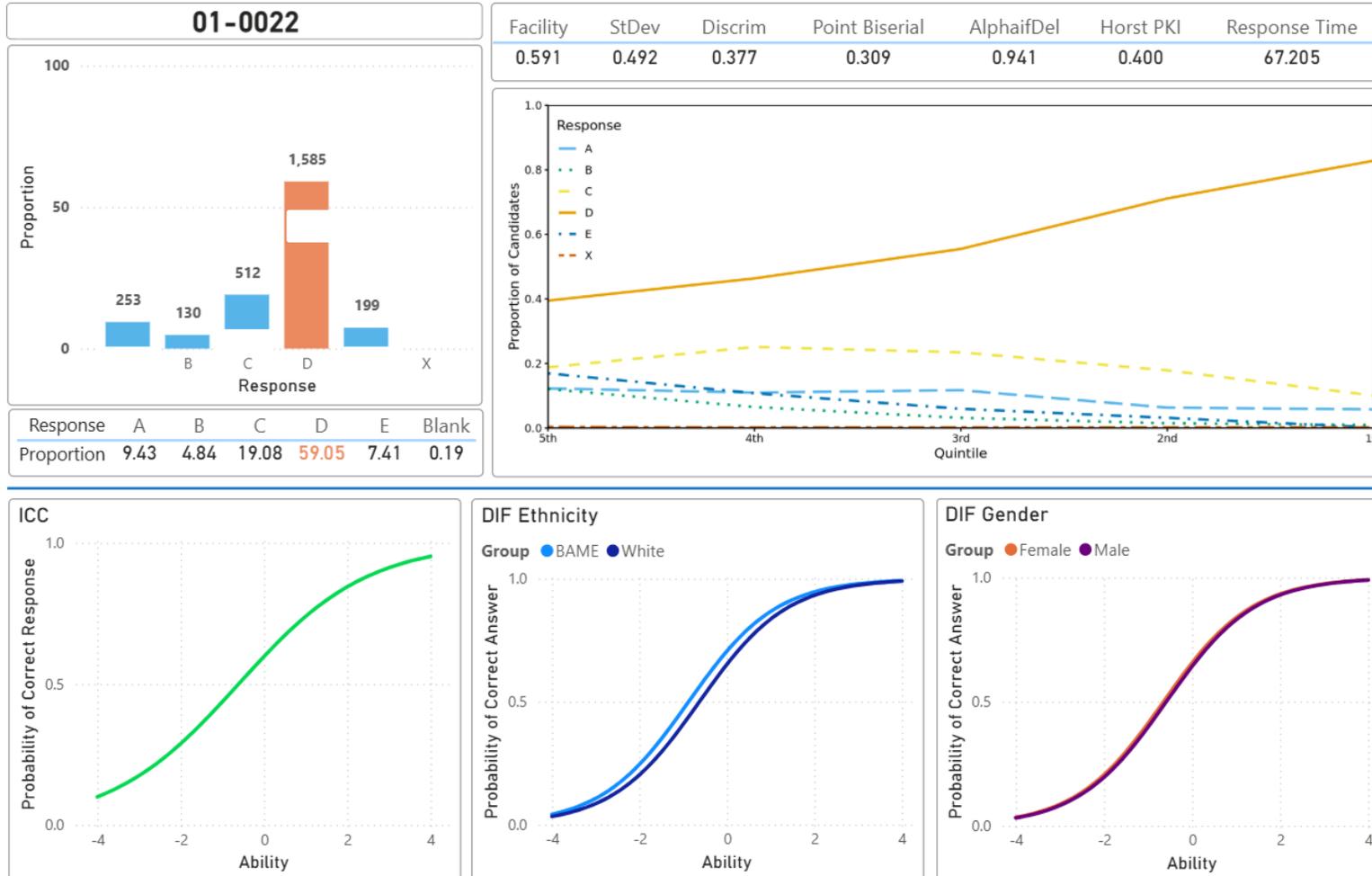
Should they be the only method of assessment?

A Simple Model of Competence

Evaluating work-based learning

Are single best answer MCQs fair?

SQE1: single best answer MCQs

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Are single best answer MCQs perfect?

• 'Cuing' effect?

• Ability to guess

How can you mitigate this?

• Question writing process

• Review the data

Where can I take a look at some?

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- 220 SQE1 sample questions

- 130 have been used in SQE1 assessments

- Data on difficulty and length provided

https://sqe.sra.org.uk/assessments/sqe1-assessments/sqe1-sample-questions

Set of questions	Percentage of candidates answering correctly
Pre-tested sample questions:	
FLK1	57.0%
FLK2	49.2%
Average	**53.1%**
SQE1 assessments:	
FLK1	57.5%
FLK2	54.9%
Average	**56.2%**

General

Where can I find out more?

- Information on the purpose of SBAs, including why this format is used to test applied legal knowledge.
- Breaks down how the questions work, outlining their structure and how candidates should approach them.
- Describes the benefits of SBA assessments, such as fairness, reliability and their use across high-stakes professional exams.

https://sqe.sra.org.uk/assessments/sqe1-assessments/sqe1-single-best-answer