

Recorder (South Eastern Circuit) Selection Exercise 2009

Qualifying Test

All eligible applicants assessed to be of good character will be invited to a written qualifying test, provisionally set for 6 April 2009.

The qualifying test will be the sole method used to shortlist applicants for selection days for this selection exercise. Shortlisting is a competitive process, so the test is designed to be challenging, with time pressure. It will be sat under examination conditions at venues in London, with groups of applicants sitting the test together in each session. Applicants will be invited to express a preference for which session in the day to sit the test, including in the evening. Applicants will want to think seriously about whether to sit the test after a day's work.

The test will consist of questions designed primarily to test judicial aptitude, and a case study requiring applicants to analyse the information provided, identify issues and apply the law. It will test the following qualities and abilities:

- **Intellectual capacity** (ability quickly to absorb and analyse information)
- **Authority and Communication Skills** (ability to explain the procedure and any decisions reached clearly and succinctly to all those concerned)
- **Efficiency** (ability to work at speed and under pressure; ability to organise time effectively and produce clear reasoned judgments expeditiously)

The test has been devised by judges and is designed to be accessible to applicants from all backgrounds. It is set in a hypothetical jurisdiction, with all Acts and Rules (other than the Human Rights Act 1998) invented for the purposes of the test. Although questions may be set in a particular jurisdiction they are designed to test the judicial qualities and abilities above rather than applicants' experience or knowledge of a particular jurisdiction.

All applicants will sit the same test, which is framed so specialist knowledge is not intended to give anyone an advantage. We therefore do not advise that candidates spend time seeking to prepare for the test by attempting to improve their technical knowledge of any particular jurisdiction. Some questions will have no single right answer, but are designed to test applicants' ability to consider and evaluate a number of alternatives, and their general approach to a judicial issue. The test raises human rights issues but does not require specialist knowledge of human rights legislation.

All the relevant statutes and case law are provided. You will be required to read and assimilate a small number of papers and apply – as appropriate - the information contained in them. **The time allowed for the test will be one and a half hours.** You will have the choice of writing your answers by hand or using a word processing package (MS Word) on a laptop supplied by the JAC.

Example Papers

The [test and supporting materials from the first Recorder selection exercise](#) in the round - that for Recorders on the Northern, North Eastern and Wales Circuits - are now

available, as are the [test and supporting materials from the second exercise](#) in the round, that for Recorders on the Midland Circuit.

This material is provided by way of an illustrative example of the structure and format of the test a candidate can expect to face. The test will be based on the same hypothetical legislation although it may contain small variations.