

Deputy District Judge (Civil) Selection Exercise 2009 -10

Qualifying Test

All eligible applicants will be invited to a written qualifying test, set for 13 January 2010 (an additional date may be added if there are a sufficient number of applications).

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 around England and Wales, 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 case studies requiring applicants to analyse the information provided, identify issues and apply the relevant law (details of which will be provided). It will test the following qualities and abilities:

- **Intellectual Capacity** (ability to quickly absorb and analyse information)
- **Personal Qualities** (sound judgement, decisiveness and objectivity)
- **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 and is set in a civil jurisdiction. The questions will concern issues such as whether or not to adjourn, admissibility of witness evidence, setting aside judgements, conflict of interest and control of the court room.

All applicants will sit the same test, which is framed so that specialist knowledge is not intended to give anyone an advantage. 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.

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 District Judge (Civil) 2008-09 exercise are now available at <http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/selection-process/selection-exercises/in-progress/190.htm>. This material is provided by way of an illustrative example of the structure and format of the test a candidate can expect to face.