

# FINAL EXAMINATION – FIRST PART

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Final Examination ("FE-1") is provided for in the Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2011 and as detailed in the Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2011 (Apprenticeship and Education) Regulations 2001 to 2019. Please see a summary of [Regulations and Procedures for FE-1 \(from January 2020\)](#).

### 1. Can I apply to sit the FE-1?

You can apply sit the FE-1 if:

- You have passed or have been granted exemption from the [Preliminary Examination](#); **or**
- Hold a qualification at Level 7 or higher on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ); **or**
- Are currently attending a course leading to the award of a qualification at Level 7 or higher on the NFQ and have completed at least the first year of that course; **or**
- Hold a degree awarded by a university in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England or Wales. If your degree was awarded by a university in another country, you may be able to apply for exemption from the Preliminary Examination.

### 2. Can I apply for exemption from the [Preliminary Examination](#)?

You may be able to apply for exemption from the Preliminary Examination if you:

- Have completed five years' experience as a Legal Executive/Law Clerk.
- Hold a degree awarded by a university in a country other than Ireland or the UK.

### 3. How often is the FE-1 held?

The FE-1 is held twice each year, normally in Spring and Autumn.

The next sitting of the FE-1 will be held between **1 and 14 October 2024**.

### 4. When is the application closing date?

The closing date for receipt of applications is normally 6 to 8 weeks before the first examination.

The closing date for receipt of applications for the October 2024 sitting is **Friday 16 August**.

### 5. Where can I sit the FE-1?

You can choose to sit your examinations in an examination centre in Dublin **or** online.

## **Dublin Examination Venue**

The Dublin venue will be confirmed shortly after the closing date for receipt of applications.

## **Online Examinations**

Before applying to sit your examinations online please check that you meet our minimum [technical requirements](#).

### **6. Can I choose how many examinations to sit?**

Yes. You can choose how many examinations to sit.

### **7. Is there a limit to the number of times I can sit the FE-1?**

There is no limit to the number of attempts a candidate may make to pass an FE-1 subject examination, provided however that a candidate must have passed each of the FE-1 subject examinations within a period of not more than seven years commencing on the 31 December in the calendar year in which that candidate first passed one or more of the FE-1 subject examinations.

### **8. Can an undergraduate pass the FE-1?**

Any passes obtained by an undergraduate remain provisional until the candidate has provided the Society with evidence of the award of a qualification at Level 7 or higher on the Irish NFQ.

### **9. Are there any supports for candidates with disabilities?**

The Law Society welcomes applications from candidates with disabilities. Please see our [Disability Policy](#).

### **10. What are the examination fees?**

The current fee per examination is €120.

### **11. Can I get a refund of my examination fees if I do not sit an examination?**

A refund of examination fees will only be given to candidates who produce medical evidence (i.e. a medical certificate from a GP or consultant) for non-attendance. No refund will be given if a candidate is present for the examination/logs on to the examination, regardless of whether any of the examination questions were attempted.

### **12. Can I transfer examination fees to another examination sitting?**

Examination fees cannot be transferred to another examination sitting.

### **13. Are there any grants or other sources of funding available to candidates?**

Information about [funding](#) can be found on our website.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **What are the steps to qualify as a solicitor in Ireland?**

The steps to qualify as a solicitor in Ireland are as follows:

1. [Preliminary Examination](#) (for non-Graduates)

2. [FE-1 Entrance Examination to Law Society of Ireland](#)
3. [Professional Practice Course](#)
4. [In-Office Training](#)
5. [Admission to Roll of Solicitors](#)