

This is a general guide intended to help you prepare and build confidence ahead of your legal interview. We do not know what will come up in your actual interview — but we wish you the very best of luck!

Section 1: Motivation and Commitment

1. Why do you want to be a solicitor?

- Show a genuine interest in law for example, problem-solving, justice, or business.
- Mention a real experience, subject, or moment that inspired you.
- Demonstrate understanding of a solicitor's day-to-day role (e.g. advising clients, drafting documents, solving disputes).

2. Why do you want to do a solicitor apprenticeship instead of going to university?

- Talk about learning on the job, gaining experience from day one, and avoiding student debt.
- Explain why this route suits your learning style (e.g. practical vs. academic).
- Show that you value early responsibility and professional growth.

3. What do you understand about the solicitor apprenticeship route?

- A 6-year programme that combines part-time study and full-time work.
- Ends in qualification as a solicitor through SQE1 and SQE2.
- Apprentices are supervised, trained, and gradually take on more responsibility.

4. Why are you applying to this firm in particular?

- Mention the firm's practice areas, values, recent work, or reputation.
- Show you've done your research refer to specific cases or initiatives.
- Link your own goals and interests to the firm's work.

5. What do you know about the firm's values and how do they align with yours?

- Identify 1–2 values from the firm's website (e.g. innovation, inclusion, collaboration).
- Give personal examples of how you've demonstrated similar values.
- Explain why those values are important to you and how they'll shape your work.

6. What do you hope to gain from this apprenticeship?

- Mention professional skills (e.g. communication, legal drafting, teamwork).
- Talk about building confidence, resilience, and legal knowledge.
- Highlight your excitement for hands-on experience and long-term development.

7. Where do you see yourself in 5–10 years?

- Say you hope to qualify as a solicitor through the apprenticeship route.
- Mention interest in progressing or developing a legal specialism.
- Possibly mentoring others or contributing to your firm's growth.

8. What would success look like for you during this apprenticeship?

- Achieving strong feedback, passing exams, and growing in confidence.
- Being known as reliable, engaged, and willing to learn.
- Building relationships with colleagues and contributing meaningfully to the team.

9. What have you done to prepare for this apprenticeship application?

- List actions: legal work experience, insight days, online research, commercial awareness reading, practice interviews.
- Highlight what you've learned from these.
- · Show initiative, effort, and reflection.

10. What motivates you to work in law?

- Explain what excites you about legal work e.g. helping people, making an impact, thinking critically.
- Mention a topic or experience that reinforced your motivation.
- Show personal drive and a long-term interest in the profession.

Section 2: Strengths and Self-Awareness

11. What are your main strengths?

- Choose 2–3 with examples (e.g. time management, curiosity, empathy).
- Link each one to solicitor skills.
- Be specific and self-aware.

12. What's one weakness you're working on?

- Choose something real but manageable.
- Talk about how you're improving it.
- Show willingness to grow.

13. What's the most challenging thing you've worked on?

- Use STAR (Situation, Task, Action, Result).
- Focus on how you stayed resilient.
- Share the outcome and what you learned.

14. How do you handle constructive criticism?

- Stay open, reflect, and improve.
- Share a time you used feedback to grow.
- Show maturity.

15. How do you manage your time?

- Mention using planners, calendars, task prioritisation.
- · Give examples from school or work.
- Show balance and reliability.

16. What motivates you when things get tough?

- Long-term goals, self-belief, personal progress.
- Share an example of staying focused under pressure.
- Highlight resilience.

17. What makes you different from other applicants?

- Share unique experiences or values.
- Back it up with examples.
- Be confident but humble.

18. How would your teachers or colleagues describe you?

- Pick 2–3 positive traits.
- Explain with evidence (e.g. feedback or results).
- Show how these traits suit the legal profession.

19. How do you stay organised with competing priorities?

- Break down tasks, use to-do lists or schedules.
- Show a structured approach.
- Mention any tools you use.

20. How do you handle pressure?

- Stay calm, plan ahead, take breaks when needed.
- Use a real example (e.g. exams or a big project).
- · Show you can think clearly under stress.

Section 3: Teamwork and Communication

21. Tell me about a time you worked in a team.

- Use STAR.
- Highlight listening, compromise, and contribution.
- Mention the outcome.

22. How do you handle conflict in a team?

- Stay professional, listen, and try to resolve early.
- · Focus on understanding both sides.
- Use a real example if possible.

23. Have you ever worked with someone very different to you?

- Respect differences and find common ground.
- · Be open-minded and flexible.
- Explain how you worked together successfully.

24. Have you ever led a team or project?

- Explain how you organised, delegated, or motivated.
- Mention challenges and how you handled them.
- Show responsibility.

25. Why is teamwork important in a law firm?

- Legal work involves collaboration across departments.
- It improves accuracy and efficiency.
- · Clients expect joined-up service.

26. Why is communication important in law?

- Lawyers must explain clearly and listen carefully.
- Clients rely on plain English, not legal jargon.
- Clear writing is essential for contracts, advice, and emails.

27. Tell me about a time you explained something complicated.

- Use a school topic, tutoring, or a task at work.
- Focus on clarity, breaking things down.
- Check the other person understood.

28. How do you handle misunderstandings in communication?

- Stay calm, ask questions, clarify respectfully.
- Check understanding without blaming.
- Be open to re-explaining.

29. What makes someone a good listener?

- Focus, not interrupting, summarising, empathy.
- Give an example where you practised active listening.
- Connect it to client work.

30. How would you deal with a difficult colleague or client?

- Stay professional, stay calm.
- Listen, try to understand their perspective.
- Escalate only if necessary.

Section 4: Legal Interest and Awareness

31. What do solicitors do?

- Advise clients, solve problems, draft documents, negotiate.
- Work across areas like commercial, family, employment law.
- Explain with confidence.

32. What area of law interests you and why?

- Choose one that aligns with your values or interests.
- Explain what excites you (e.g. variety, impact, complexity).
- Mention any related experience.

33. Have you done any legal work experience?

- Describe what you did and learned.
- Focus on what surprised or inspired you.
- Reflect on how it confirmed your interest.

34. What's a legal issue you've found interesting recently?

- Choose a recent topic (e.g. Al law, protest rights, privacy).
- Explain what happened and why it matters.
- Say what role a solicitor might play.

35. What do you know about the SQE?

- Two-part exam for solicitor qualification.
- SQE1 tests legal knowledge; SQE2 tests practical skills.
- Taken at the end of the apprenticeship.

36. How do you stay updated with legal or commercial news?

- Mention sources (BBC, FT, podcasts, LinkedIn).
- Give a recent example of something you followed.

37. Why is commercial awareness important for a solicitor?

- Clients expect advice that considers business risks.
- Helps you give better, more practical guidance.
- Builds trust and loyalty.

38. How do law firms make money?

- Through billable hours or fixed-fee client work.
- Success relies on reputation and efficiency.
- Commercial mindset is key.

39. What's a business story you've followed and what did you learn?

- Choose a relevant one (e.g. retail, Al, energy).
- Explain the legal angle and what it taught you.

40. Do you think AI will replace lawyers?

- Balanced view: Al helps with admin tasks.
- Human judgment, ethics, and strategy are still essential.
- Show awareness of tech in law.

Section 5: Resilience and Problem-Solving

41. Tell me about a time you failed at something.

- Be honest but reflective.
- Explain what you learned and how you bounced back.
- Growth mindset matters.

42. What would you do if you didn't understand a task at work?

- Ask questions, clarify, research if needed.
- Take initiative while being responsible.
- Shows maturity.

43. Describe a time you solved a difficult problem.

- Use STAR.
- Highlight logic, persistence, or creativity.
- Mention outcome.

44. How would you balance studying and working full time?

- Planning, prioritising, self-discipline.
- Give an example of balancing responsibilities.

45. What's your biggest achievement and why?

- · Choose something meaningful.
- Talk about effort, growth, or impact.
- · Reflect on how it shaped you.

46. How do you respond to feedback you don't agree with?

- Stay calm, ask questions, reflect.
- Be open to learning but explain your view respectfully.

47. How would you manage multiple deadlines in one week?

- Prioritise, break down tasks, start early.
- Avoid stress by preparing in advance.

48. Have you ever had to take initiative?

- Share a time you acted without being told.
- Show confidence and problem-solving.

49. What challenge do you expect during the apprenticeship and how will you handle it?

- Be realistic (e.g. juggling work/study).
- Share strategies like planning and support.

50. What would you do if you didn't get this apprenticeship?

- Show resilience try again, gain experience, keep learning.
- Stay positive and focused on the long-term goal.

† Final Note:

Congratulations on reaching the end of this guide!

Taking the time to prepare shows real commitment — and that already sets you apart. Whether this is your first interview or one of many, remember that every step builds your confidence, sharpens your skills, and brings you closer to where you want to be.

Be proud of how far you've come. Stay curious, stay reflective, and most importantly — believe in the value you bring.

You've got this.

— The Aspiring Legal Network