

Bar Standards Board

Centralised Exam Board

Professional Ethics Pupillage/Work Based Learning Assessment Syllabus 2025-26

Issued October 2025

INTRODUCTION

This syllabus has been prepared for the purposes of the Professional Ethics pupillage/WBL assessment for the academic year 2025-26. Successful completion of the assessment aims to:

- distinguish between pupils who are ready to receive their Full Practising Certificate;
- safeguard the public by ensuring that those who are authorised to practise (by having received their Full Practising Certificates) have fulfilled the ethical requirements set out in the Professional Statement;
- ensure a strong, ethical profession.

The Professional Ethics pupillage/WBL assessment will be devised with reference to the source materials as set out in this document. Accordingly, with careful study of the materials and sections highlighted herein, candidates will be able to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the principles that underpin the Professional Statement, enabling them to prepare fully for the Professional Ethics pupillage/WBL assessment.

NAVIGATION

The syllabus is set out into two parts, A and B. Each part is divided between source materials.

Part A relates to subject matter which **WILL** be examinable and form the basis of assessment questions. When sections of the Handbook are referred to, the material included is all rules and guidance within those sections. Where other documents are referred to, unless otherwise stated, the entirety of that text will be examinable.

Where source material refers to additional references within a particular rule or guidance paragraph, unless otherwise indicated, candidates will not be required to study material beyond the details contained within the rule or guidance paragraph.

Part B of the Syllabus makes reference to material which **WILL NOT** be examined as part of the assessment; however, candidates will be required to understand the principles contained therein to meet the outcomes of the Professional Statement.

PART A

The BSB Handbook version **4.8**

Part 1: Introduction

Part 1 A-D

Part 2: The Code of Conduct

A – Application

B – Core Duties

C – The Conduct Rules

C1 – You and the Court

C2 – Behaving Ethically

C3 – You and Your Client*

*Candidates **WILL** be expected to be familiar with the principles that arise in the cases set out in gC86, namely:

English & American Insurance Co Ltd & Others -v- Herbert Smith, ChD 1987; (1987) NLJ 148; and,

Ablitt -v- Mills & Reeve (A Firm) and Another, ChD (Times, 24-Oct-1995).

C4 – You and Your Regulator **

Candidates **WILL NOT be expected to go beyond the principles set out within gC93 in referring to the cases contained therein.

C5 – You and Your Practice

D – Rules Applying to Particular Groups of Regulated Persons

D1 – Self-employed barristers, chambers and BSB entities

D2 – Barristers undertaking public access and licensed access work

D4 – Unregistered barristers

D6 – Price and service transparency rules for self-employed barristers, chambers and BSB entities

Part 3: Scope of Practice, Authorisation and Licensing Rules

B – Scope of Practice

B1 – No practice without authorisation

B2 – Provision of reserved legal activities and of legal services

B3 – Scope of practice as a self-employed barrister

B4 – Scope of practice as a BSB Entity

B5 – Scope of practice as a manager of a BSB Entity or Employed Barrister

B6 – Scope of practice as a manager of an authorised (non-BSB) body or as an employed barrister (authorised non-BSB body)

B7 – Scope of practice as an employed barrister (non authorised body)

B9 – Legal Advice Centres

B10 – Barristers authorised by other approved regulators

Equality Rules

[Supporting Information for Chambers BSB Handbook Equality Rules](#) (BSB Document) *Updated 3 December 2021*

- Sections 1, 2, 8, 9, 12

[Supporting Information for BSB Authorised Bodies](#) BSB Handbook Equality Rules (BSB Document 2019)

- Sections 1, 2, 8, 9, 12

Code Guidance*

**Not to include appendices unless otherwise stated*

Guidance: Practising Rules and Requirements

[Unregistered Barristers Guidance](#) (Oct 2019)

[Public Access Guidance for Barristers](#) (Oct 2019)

[Conducting Litigation Guidance](#) (September 2024)

Guidance on the Transparency Rules

- [Introduction to the Guidance](#)
- [Mandatory transparency rules for all self-employed barristers, chambers and BSB entities Mandatory rules on price, service and redress transparency for everyone \(Updated November 2023\)](#)
- [Additional mandatory transparency rules for those undertaking Public Access work](#)

Guidance: Administration of a Barrister's practice

[First Tier Complaints Handling Guidance](#) (Updated June 2024)

[Referral and Marketing Arrangements Guidance](#) (October 2019)

[Confidentiality Guidance](#) (October 2019)

[Investigating and Collecting Evidence and Taking Witness Statements Guidance](#) (September 2020)

Guidance: Professional Conduct of Barristers
Reporting Serious Misconduct of Others Guidance (October 2019)
Clash of Hearing Dates Guidance (October 2019)
Guidance for barristers using social media (September 2023)
Guidance on the regulation of non-professional conduct (September 2023)
<u>Crown Prosecution Service Publications</u>
The Code for Crown Prosecutors, 8th edition – October 2018 (CPS)
Farquharson Guidelines: Role of Prosecuting Advocates , January 2020 (CPS)
<u>Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing</u>
Part 2A (Specific Guidance for Barristers & Advocates) of the Legal Sector Affinity Group Anti-Money Laundering Guidance for the Legal Sector (Executive Summary only) and Addendum to the LSAG Part 2A Guidance (Executive Summary section only)
<u>Vulnerability</u>
Youth Proceedings Competences (Updated April 2025)
Identifying Vulnerability in Witnesses – March 2017 (The Advocate's Gateway)
<u>Bar Council Guidance</u>
Documents disclosed to Counsel by mistake (March 2023)
Considerations when using ChatGPT and generative artificial intelligence software based on large language models (January 2024)

PART B

Candidates are expected to have an understanding of the principles contained within the following provisions, in order to properly deal with the issues that arise during the course of practice. However, Candidates will not be examined on these provisions for the purposes of the Professional Ethics Assessment.

PART B	
The BSB Handbook version 4.8	
Part 3: Scope of Practice, Authorisation and Licensing Rules	
C – Practising Certificate Rules	
C1 – Eligibility for practising certificates and litigation extensions C2 – Applications for practising certificates and litigation extensions by barristers and registered European lawyers C3 – Practising certificate fees and litigation extension fees C4 – Issue of practising certificates and litigation extensions C5 – Amendment and revocation of practising certificates and litigation extensions C6 – Applications for review	
Part 4: Qualification Rules	
C – The CPD rules	
Part 6: Definitions	
Definitions	
Code Guidance – Transparency Rules	
<u>Additional best practice on transparency for everyone</u>	

<u>Data Protection</u>
GDPR Bar Council Guide for Barristers and Chambers (December 2020)
<u>Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing</u>
Part 2A (Specific Guidance for Barristers & Advocates) of the Legal Sector Affinity Group Anti-Money Laundering Guidance for the Legal Sector (main text) and Addendum to the LSAG Part 2A Guidance (main text)
<u>Misuse of Artificial Intelligence</u>
R (Ayinde) v Haringey LBC [2025] EWHC 1040 (Admin)