

QUALIFIED LAWYERS TRANSFER TEST – SYLLABUS

Applicable to the November 2026 Examinations

The Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test comprises:

An oral examination in Professional Conduct and a written examination in: -

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| Paper 1 | Constitutional Law and Criminal Law or Constitutional Law and Company Law (at the option of the candidate) |
| Paper 2 | The Law of Contract and the Law of Tort |
| Paper 3 | Land Law and Conveyancing |
| Paper 4 | Probate and Taxation |
| Paper 5 | Solicitors' Accounts |
| Paper 6 | European Union Law |

This examination is offered by the Society twice every year usually in June/July and October/November. Each examination paper may comprise problem or essay type questions or a combination of both. The pass mark for each paper is 50%.

Every candidate for the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test must first obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from the Education Committee to sit the Test. The Education Committee will also determine on receipt of the appropriate application form and documentation, what subject or subjects the applicant is required to take.

Legislative Sources

Candidates may only bring into the examinations the original, unmarked (except for highlighting and underlining) publications. Supplemental material purchased from the Law Society is not acceptable.

The syllabus for each of these subjects is as follows: -

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - ORAL EXAMINATION

The Professional Conduct examination comprises an oral examination of approximately 15 minutes. Candidates may be questioned on any of the following topics: -

1. The Rules of Professional Conduct
2. The Relationship between Solicitor and Client
3. Conflict of Interest
4. Privilege and Confidentiality
5. The Relationship between the Solicitor and the Courts
6. The Relationship between the Solicitor and Third Parties;
7. The Relationship between Solicitors
8. The Relationship between the Solicitor and Counsel
9. The Solicitor in Practice
10. The Remuneration of the Solicitor

RECOMMENDED READING

Solicitor's Guide to Professional Conduct, 4th Edition, (2022), Law Society of Ireland.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2015

Legal Services Regulation Act 2015

Professional Practice, Conduct and Discipline Regulations

Legal Services Regulation Act (Advertising) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 644 of 2020).

Solicitors (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Regulations 2020, S.I. 377 of 2020

Criminal Justice (Money Laundering And Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Act 2021, Solicitor AML Update, Law Society of Ireland

Guidance Notes for Solicitors on Anti-Money Laundering Obligations, (2010 and 2018) Law Society of Ireland.

PAPER 1 - CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND CRIMINAL LAW OR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND COMPANY LAW

This examination will comprise a four-hour examination during which two out of four questions must be answered in Section A of the paper (Constitutional Law) and two out of four questions from Section B (Criminal Law) or Section C (Company Law)

SECTION A - CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The syllabus embraces selected aspects of the constitutional law of Ireland as found in Bunreacht Na hÉireann 1937 (as amended) and in the relevant case law. Although all topics are equal in importance, especial emphasis will be placed on fundamental constitutional rights because of their contemporary importance in litigation.

The topics included in the syllabus are as follows:-

- The concepts of the People, the Nation and the State
- Sovereignty
- Relationship between International and/or regional law and the Irish constitutional system
- Separation of Powers
- Constitutional Interpretation
- Constitutinality of Legislation
- Judicial Review
- Locus standi
- Consequences of a declaration of unconstitutionality
- The Oireachtas (Main Principles)
- The Executive
- The President
- The Courts
- The Attorney General (main functions and principles)
- Enumerated personal rights
- Unenumerated personal rights
- Emergency Powers of the State

LEGISLATIVE SOURCES

Candidates are permitted to take an unmarked copy of the Constitution into the examination.

RECOMMENDED READING

A thorough knowledge of the principles of the Constitution as developed in the leading cases is essential. Cases can be found in *The Irish Reports* and *The Irish Law Reports Monthly*.

Summaries of cases are published in *The Irish Digests*. More recent cases are also available on courts.ie and on baillii.org.

Casey, *Constitutional Law in Ireland*, 3rd Ed, (2000), Round Hall Sweet & Maxwell.

Oran Doyle and Tom Hickey, *Constitutional Law: Text, Cases and Materials*, 2nd Ed, (2019), Clarus.

Forde and Leonard, *Constitutional Law of Ireland*, 3rd Ed, (2013), Bloomsbury Professional.

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh *Kelly: The Irish Constitution*, 5th Ed, (2018), Bloomsbury Professional.

A useful starter textbook is Kavanagh, *Constitutional Law in Ireland*, 2nd ed, Clarus Press (2022)

O'Reilly & Redmond, *Cases and Materials on the Irish Constitution*, (1980), Law Society of Ireland.

SECTION B - CRIMINAL LAW

The syllabus comprises the substantive Criminal Law of Ireland and criminal procedure.

The substantive field of Criminal Law comprises an understanding of the current law governing the major criminal offences including:

- a) Offences against the person
 - (i) Murder
 - (ii) Manslaughter (including vehicular manslaughter)
 - (iii) Infanticide
 - (iv) Assaults
 - (v) Rape, sexual assault and other sexual offences
 - (vi) Abduction
 - (vii) False Imprisonment

- b) Offences against property
 - (i) Theft
 - (ii) Robbery
 - (iii) Making Gain or Causing Loss by Deception
 - (iv) Obtaining Services by Deception
 - (v) Making Off without Payment
 - (vi) Unlawful Use of a Computer
 - (vii) False Accounting
 - (viii) Burglary
 - (ix) Aggravated Burglary
 - (x) Handling Stolen Property/Possession of Stolen Property
 - (xi) Forgery/Offences Relating to False Instruments
 - (xii) Arson
 - (xiii) Criminal Damage

Criminal procedure in the syllabus embraces:

- a) Pre-trial procedures, police powers and bail;
- b) Procedures governing the trial of summary and indictable offences.

STATUTES

A large proportion of Irish Criminal Law is codified. Set out below is a short list of the more important of these statutes. This list is not intended to be exhaustive but a guideline.

Offences Against the Person

- Offences Against the Person Act, 1861
- Domestic Violence Act, 1996
- Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2002

- Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885
- Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1935
- Criminal Law Rape Act, 1981
- Criminal Law (Rape) (Amendment) Act, 1990
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act, 2006
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) (Amendment) Act, 2007
- Sex Offenders Act, 2001
- Criminal Justice (Sexual Offences) Act, 1993
- Sexual Offences (Jurisdiction) Act, 1996
- Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998
- Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act, 2008
- Infanticide Act, 1949
- Criminal Law (Suicide) Act, 1993
- Criminal Law (Incest Proceedings) Act 1995

Offences Against Person and/or Property

- Criminal Damage Act, 1991
- Forgery Acts (1861-1913)
- Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud) Offences Act, 2001
- Criminal Law Act, 1976
- Firearms Acts, 1925, 1964 and 1971, and Firearms and Offensive Weapons Act, 1990
- Offences Against the State Acts, 1939, 1940, 1972 and 1998
- Treason Act, 1939
- Emergency Powers Act, 1976

Offences Against Public Order

- Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994, 2003
- Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977, 1984
- Criminal Justice (Drug Trafficking) Act, 1996
- Road Traffic Acts, 1961, 1968, 1984, 1994, 1995, 2002, 2003 and 2006

Miscellaneous Provisions

- Criminal Law Act, 1997

- European Arrest Warrant Act, 2003
- European Convention on Human Rights Act, 2003
- Criminal Justice Acts, 2006, 2007, 2009
- Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997
- Criminal Assets Bureau Act, 1996
- Proceeds of Crime Act, 1996
- Criminal Justice Act, 1994
- Criminal Justice Act, 1999
- Bail Act, 1997
- Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act, 2009
- Criminal Justice (Surveillance) Act, 2009

Evidence

- Criminal Justice (Evidence) Act, 1924
- Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence) Act, 1990
- Criminal Evidence Act, 1992

RECOMMENDED READING

McAuley and McCutcheon, *Criminal Liability* (2nd ed), (2022), Round Hall Sweet & Maxwell.

Charleton, McDermott, Herlihy and Byrne, *Criminal Law and Evidence* (2nd ed) (2020), Bloomsbury Professional.

Campbell, Cusack, Kilcommins and O'Sullivan, *Criminal Law in Ireland: Cases and Commentary* (2nd ed), (2021) Clarus Press.

Walsh, *Criminal Procedure* 2nd Ed (2016), Round Hall.

O'Malley, *The Criminal Process* (2009) Round Hall.

McIntyre, McMullan and O'Toghda, *Criminal Law* (2012) Thomson Roundhall.

Charleton, *Criminal Law: Cases and Materials*, (1999), Butterworths.

Quinn, *Criminal Law in Ireland* (2002) Magh Itha Teoranta.

De Blacam, *Drunken Driving and the Law*, 3rd Ed., (2003), Round Hall.

Hanly, *An Introduction to Irish Criminal Law*, 3rd Ed., (2014), Gill and Macmillan.

Smith & Hogan *Criminal Law* 14th Ed., (2015) Butterworths.

Smith & Hogan *Criminal Law: Cases and Materials*, 10th Ed., (2009) Butterworths.

Cases can be found in the Irish Reports and the Irish Law Reports Monthly. Candidates should also consult Byrne & Binchy, *Annual Review of Irish Law*. Useful articles appear in the Irish Criminal Law Journal, the Irish Jurist, the Irish Law Times and the (English) Criminal Law Review.

SECTION C – COMPANY LAW

This examination must be answered on the basis of the law contained in the Companies Act 2014.

Candidates are required to have a sound knowledge and understanding of the concepts, principles and rules of Company Law in Ireland, and are expected to be fully familiar with the law relating to the following matters:

Types of Companies and Business Organisations - Companies and other Legal Forms of Business Organisation; Sole Traders; Partnerships; Registered Companies; the History of Registered Companies; The European Community Dimension in Irish Company Law; The different types of companies recognised by the Companies Act 2014: the private company limited by shares ("LTD"); the designated activity company ("DAC"); the public limited company ("PLC"); the company limited by guarantee ("CLG"); unlimited companies ("UC"), and external companies.

Formation and Registration - Formation and registration of companies; Registration; Statutory Obligations Incidental to Registration of companies; Conversion from one type of company to another. Promoters' Duties: Corporate Promoters; Fiduciary Duties of Promoters; Breach of the Promoter's Fiduciary Duty; Promoters' Transactions with a Company.

Company's constitutions (including memorandum and articles of association) - Constitutional documentation; The Memorandum of Association; The Nature of the Memorandum of Association; The Clauses in the Memorandum of Association; Association; Alteration of the Memorandum of Association; The Articles of Association; The Nature of the Articles; Alteration of the Articles of Association; Informal Alteration of the Articles of Association by Shareholders' Agreement; The Relationship between the Memorandum and the Articles; The Construction of the Constitution; The Statutory Contract; Shareholders' Agreements.

Incorporation and Its Consequences - Incorporation and its Consequences; Registration, and Issue of the Certificate of Incorporation; Effect of the Certificate of Incorporation; The Consequences of Incorporation; Separate Legal Personality; Limited Liability; Transferability of Interests; Perpetual Succession; Common Seal; Floating Charges; Corporate Litigation; Security for Costs; Enforcing Judgments and Orders Against a Company.

Lifting the Veil - Disregarding Separate Legal Personality in all its manifestations whether by the Courts or by Statute or otherwise.

Corporate Contracts - Corporate Contracts: Form and Formalities; Oral, Written and Contracts under seal; The Requirement to have a Seal; Attestation of the Common Seal; Powers of Attorney; Pre-Incorporation Transactions; The Authority of Corporate Agents.

Authority of Corporate Agents and Capacity of Companies - Actual Authority of Corporate Agents; Ostensible Authority of Corporate Agents; Corporate Representations; The Indoor Management Rule/ Rule in *Turquand's Case*. The abolition of the objects clause for LTDs and conferment of full contractual capacity;

Corporate Capacity and Ultra Vires for other types of companies with objects clauses; The Objects Clause; Substantive Objects and Ancillary Powers; Express and Implied Powers; Corporate Enforcement of Ultra Vires Contracts; Prevention of Ultra Vires Actions; Recovery of Money given Ultra Vires by a Company; Reform of the Doctrine of Ultra Vires.

Corporate Governance - The Division of Powers: Members and Directors; Delegation of Powers to Directors; The Resurgence of Members' Powers; The Powers Retained by Members; Directions to Directors. Directors; Appointment of Directors; Disqualification and Restriction of Directors; Removal of Directors; Status and Remuneration of Directors. The Secretary: Appointment, Status, Functions and Duties. Auditors: Appointment, Qualifications; Removal, Resignation and Replacement, Rights and Liabilities.

Members' and Directors' Meetings - Members' Meetings; Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings; Ordinary and Special Resolutions; Notice of Members' Meetings; Notice of Business to be Conducted at a Meeting; The Quorum and Other Formalities; Voting at Members' Meetings; Minutes of Members' Meetings; Registration and Lodging of Resolutions; Decisions by Sole Members of Single-Member Companies; Informal Resolutions of the Members. Directors' Meetings: Purpose of Directors' Meetings; Notice of Directors' Meetings; Meetings and Decisions by Sole Directors.

Duties of Directors and Others – To whom owed. Duties to creditors. General Duties of Directors at Common Law; The Nature and Source of Duties; The codification of fiduciary duties in the Companies Act 2014; The Exercise of Directors' Powers; Directors' Conflicts of Interests; Competition with the Company; Directors' Duties of Care, Skill and Diligence; Directors' Statutory Duties; Directors' Duties on Insolvency; Reckless Trading; Criminal Fraudulent Trading; Civil Fraudulent Trading; Misfeasance.

Statutory Regulation of Transactions Involving Directors and Companies - Disclosures concerning Directors and Secretaries; Contracts Involving the Directors and the Company; Substantial Property Transactions; Loans, Quasi-loans, Credit Transactions, Guarantees and the Provision of Security In Favour of Directors and connected persons. The Summary Approval Procedure provided for by the Companies Act 2014.

Financial Statements - Books of Account; Introduction; Contents of the Books of Account; Location of the Books of Account; Form of the Books of Account - Inspection of the Books of Account; Liability for Failure to Keep Proper Books of Account. The Annual Accounts; Accounting Principles; Application to different sized companies; The Profit and Loss Account; The Balance Sheet; The Notes to the Accounts; The Directors' Report; The Auditors' Report; Group Accounts.

Investigations and Inspectors - Appointment of Inspectors; The Conduct of the Investigation; Powers of Inspectors; Minister's Power to Impose Restrictions on Shares and Debentures; The Inspectors' Report; The Costs of the Investigation; Other Investigations and Inquiries.

Shares and Membership – Introduction - Membership; Those who May Become Members; The Register of Members; Shares; The Legal Nature of Shares; Formal Requirements Relating to Shares; Allotment of Shares; Shareholders' Rights and Duties; Classes of Shares; Conversion of Shares; Liens on Shares; Forfeiture and Surrender of Shares; Disclosure of Interests in Shares.

Share Transfer – Transferability and Restrictions; Directors' Powers to Refuse Registration; Pre-Emption Rights on Share Transfer and Allotment; Compulsory Transfers of Shares; Compulsory Transfer of shares.

The Maintenance of Capital - The Rationale; Redemption of Shares; Acquisition by a Company of Its Own Shares; Assisting the Purchase of a Company's Own Shares; Court Sanctioned Capital Reduction; Court Ordered Capital Reduction; Distributions and the Payment of Dividends; Miscellaneous Capital Maintenance Rules; Meetings On A Serious Capital Loss.

Shareholders' Remedies – Minority Shareholder Protection - Oppression: Section 212 of the Companies Act 2014; Disregarding Members' Interests; "Affairs of the Company" and "Powers of Directors"; The Rule in *Foss v. Harbottle*; Derivative Actions and Exceptions to *Foss v Harbottle*.

Debentures and Charges – Debentures. Transfer of Debentures; Secured Debentures: Mortgages and Charges; Mortgages and Fixed Charges; Fixed Charges on Book Debts; Floating Charges; Negative Pledge Clauses; Events Which Affect Assets Subject to Floating Charges; Crystallisation of Floating Charges; The Causes of Crystallisation; The De-Crystallisation of Floating Charges; Retention of Title Clauses Which Constitute Charges.

Registration of Charges - The Register of Charges; The Consequences of Non-Registration; The Conclusiveness of the Register of Charges; Registrable Charges. The two-stage registration procedure provided for by the Companies Act 2014; Judgment Mortgages; Non-Registrable Charges; Charges Over Property Outside of the State; Charges Created by Foreign Companies; Late Registration of Registrable Charges.

Receivers - Appointment of a Receiver; Duty Owed by Debenture Holders; Qualifications of Receivers; Resignation and Removal of Receivers; The Effect of the Appointment. The Status of a Receiver; The Duties of Receivers; Liabilities of Receivers; The Powers of Receivers.

Examinerships and Schemes of Arrangement – The Appointment of an Examiner; The Effects of Court Protection; The Position of Creditors; The Powers of Examiners. The Examiner's Reports and Schemes of Arrangement; Examiner's Remuneration, Costs and Expenses. Schemes of Arrangement; Arrangements & Reconstructions; The Court's Power to Sanction an Arrangement.

Winding-Up and Striking Off Companies - Members' Winding Up; Creditors' Voluntary Winding Up; Compulsory Court Winding Up. Voluntary Liquidators; Provisional Liquidators. Official Liquidators. Striking Off the Register; Restoration to the Register of Companies.

Matters Arising in a Winding- Up - Powers to Obtain Information; Examination. Powers of Civil Arrest; Freezing Corporate Assets in a Liquidation; Preventing Execution, Attachment of Property and Judgment Mortgages; Disclaiming Onerous Property. Post-Commencement Dispositions; Fraudulent Preference; Fraudulent Dispositions of Property; Invalidating Certain Floating Charges; Contribution by Related Companies to the Assets; Pooling the Assets of Related Companies; The Distribution of Corporate Assets, Priorities.

Statutes

Candidates should note that they must be familiar with, and may take into the examination *unmarked* copies of the following:

The Companies Act 2014
Companies (Accounting) Act 2017
Companies (Amendment) Act 2017
The Companies (Statutory Audits) Act 2018
The Companies (Amendment) Act 2019
The Companies (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Covid-19) Act 2020

OR

Bloomsbury Professional's Companies Act 2014 (most recent edition)

Candidates should be familiar with company case law. Candidates should also be familiar with all EU Directives and Regulations on Company Law currently adopted and implemented in Ireland and have an awareness of relevant Directives and Regulations awaiting implementation.

Recommended Reading:

Any of the following texts:

Courtney, *The Law of Companies* 4th Ed, (2016) Bloomsbury Professional.
Hutchinson, Keane on *Company Law* 6th Ed, (2024) Bloomsbury Professional.

Supplemental Reading:

Courtney (ed), *Bloomsbury Professional's Guide to the Companies Act 2014*, (2015) Bloomsbury Professional. **(Please note that this publication cannot be brought into the examination as it contains commentary on the legislation).**

Courney & Curtis, *Bloomsbury Professional's Company Law Guide 2017* (2017) Bloomsbury Professional.

Thuillier, *Company Law in Ireland*, 2nd Ed., (2015) Clarus Press.

Cahill, *Company Law Compliance and Enforcement*, (2008) Bloomsbury Professional.

Lynch Fannon Murphy, *Corporate Insolvency and Rescue*, (2nd ed; 2012) Bloomsbury Professional.

Ussher, *Company Law*, (1986), Sweet & Maxwell.

Candidates should consult articles and notes in leading journals of relevance to the syllabus and current editions of English texts such as those by Gower and Davies, *Principles of Modern Company Law*, 10th Ed., (2016) Sweet & Maxwell.

PAPER 2 - LAW OF CONTRACT AND LAW OF TORT

This paper will comprise a four hour examination during which candidates will be requested to answer two out of four questions from Section A (Contract) and two out of four from Section B (Tort).

Section A - Contract

- a) Principles surrounding the formation of a contract namely offer, acceptance, consideration, intention to create legal relations and capacity.
- b) Exemption clauses;
- c) Illegality - voidable, void and unenforceable contracts;
- d) Privity of contract (and exceptions thereto), Assignment;
- e) Mistake, misrepresentation, duress, undue influence and other vitiating factors;
- f) Discharge, frustration;
- g) Quasi-Contract;
- h) Breach and remedies;
- i) Consumer Protection.

Statutes

Candidates may bring the following unmarked statutes into the examination:

Sale of Goods Act 1893 and the Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act 1980 (in full or part thereof, either separately or a consolidated version)

The Consumer Rights Act 2022 (in full or part thereof)

Recommended Reading

Clark, *Contract Law in Ireland* 9th Ed, (Round Hall 2022)

Recommended Reading

Clark, *Contract in Ireland*, 9th Ed, (2022), Round Hall.

Clark & Clarke, *Contract, Cases and Materials*, 4th Ed, (2008), Gill & Macmillan

Friel, *The Law of Contract*, 2nd Ed, (2000), Round Hall Sweet & Maxwell

Supplemental Reading

Articles on contract published in the Irish journals especially The Irish Jurist (old and new series), The Irish Law Times, The Dublin University Law Journal, The Commercial Law Practitioner and The Gazette of the Law Society of Ireland should be consulted by candidates.

SECTION B - LAW OF TORT

Candidates are required to have a sound knowledge and understanding of the principles of Tort. They are expected to have a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the law relating to the following matters:-

1. The nature and function of the Law of Tort
2. Causation (both factual and legal). Remoteness of damage: Novus Actus Interveniens and recklessness. The direct consequence and reasonable foreseeability rules.
3. Concurrent wrongdoers, joint and several tortfeasors.
4. Negligence, including:-
 - a) The duty and standard of care;
 - b) Proof of negligence;
 - c) Affirmative duties;
 - d) Physical and economic loss;
 - e) Nervous shock;
 - f) Professional negligence;
 - g) Negligence on the roads;
 - h) Negligent care of children.
5. Product liability.
6. Occupiers' liability.
7. Employers' liability.
8. Public Authorities.
9. Liability of Vendors, Lessors, Builders and Public Authorities for quality and fitness of purpose.
10. Liability of the State.
11. Vicarious Liability.
12. Trespass to the person and trespass to land.
13. Statutory Duties and Rights.
14. Defamation.
15. Nuisance (both public and private).
16. The Rule in Rylands v. Fletcher.
17. Liability for injuries caused by animals.
18. Liability for fire.
19. Passing Off
20. Fatal Injuries and Survival of Actions on Death.
21. Damages.
22. Defences (contributory negligence, assumption of risk, and illegality).
23. Limitation of actions; accrual of causes of action; multiplicity of actions; survival of causes of action.

Candidates will be expected to be familiar and to demonstrate familiarity, with the underlying statutory foundation to each ingredient of the prescribed syllabus in cases where such statutory foundations exist. Candidates must also demonstrate familiarity with appropriate case law.

Recommended Reading

McMahon & Binchy, *Casebook on the Irish Law of Torts*, 3rd Ed., (2005), Tottel.
McMahon & Binchy, *Irish Law of Torts*, 4th Ed., (2013), Bloomsbury.
Quill, *Torts in Ireland*, 4th Ed., (2014), Gill & Macmillan.

Supplemental Reading

LRC Consultation Paper on Limitation of Actions (LRC CP 54 – 2009).
Brennan & Hennessy, *Forensic Accounting*, (2001), Round Hall - chapter 12.
Byrne, *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Law in Ireland*, 2nd Edition, (2008) NIFAST.
Canny, *Limitation of Actions*, 2nd Edition (2016) Round Hall.
Carolan & O'Neill, *Media Law in Ireland* (2010) Bloomsbury (Chapters 6 & 7).
Casey, Brady, Craven & Dillon, *Psychiatry and the Law*, 2nd Edition (2010) Blackhall Publishing.
Cox & McCullogh, *Defamation: Law and Practice* (2014) Clarus Press.
Craven & Binchy, *Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004*, (2005), First Law.
Dorgan & McKenna, *Damages* (2015) Round Hall.
Healy, *Medical Malpractice Law* (2009) Round Hall.
Holohan & Curran, *Lawyers' Professional Negligence and Insurance*, (2012) Round Hall.
Jennings, Scannell & Sheehan, *The Law of Personal Injuries* 2nd Edition (2016) Round Hall.
Kelly, *Neighbours and the Law* (2012) Clarus Press
Kerr, *The Civil Liability Acts* 5th Edition (2017) Round Hall.
Maher, *The Law of Defamation* (2011) Round Hall.
Shannon, *Health and Safety Law and Practice* 2nd Edition (2007) Round Hall.
Tully, *Tort Law in Ireland* (2014) Clarus Press.
Witting, *Street on Torts* 15th Edition, (2018), OUP.

Candidates should consult Byrne & Binchy, Annual Review of Irish Law, (published since 1987) and the chapters on Ireland in the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law Yearbooks (published since 2001, see <http://www.ectil.org/>) for recent developments in Ireland.

PAPER 3 - LAND LAW AND CONVEYANCING

This examination will be four hours in length and candidates will be requested to answer four out of eight questions. The examination paper will not be divided into sections and, as the subjects of Land Law and Conveyancing are intertwined, questions may well contain a mix of both.

- 1) Modern Irish land and conveyancing law
 - a. Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009, reform and modernisation
 - b. Continuing influence of equity, principles and remedies
- 2) Ownership of land, including
 - a. Estates and interests in land
 - b. Operation of future interests in land
- 3) Incorporeal Hereditaments, including
 - a. Easements
 - b. Profits à prendre
 - c. Rentcharges
 - d. Restrictive covenants
 - e. Licences
 - f. Rights of residence
- 4) Co-ownership of land, including
 - a. Joint tenancies
 - b. Tenancies in common
- 5) Settlements and trusts of land, including
 - a. Variation of trusts
 - b. Powers of appointment
- 6) Mortgages, including
 - a. Nature and creation
 - b. Rights and responsibilities of parties under a mortgage
 - c. Judgment mortgages
- 7) Succession Law, including
 - a. Wills
 - b. Intestacy
 - c. Administration of Estates
- 8) Landlord and tenant law, including
 - a. Nature, creation and determination of landlord and tenant relationship
 - b. Assignment, subletting and covenants
 - c. Statutory rights and responsibilities of the parties
- 9) Registration of land
 - a. Registry of Deeds
 - b. Land Registry
 - c. Registration of Deeds and Title Act 2006
- 10) Adverse possession, including

- a. Basis and requirements of the doctrine
- b. Operation and effect of the doctrine

11) Family Property, including

- a. Family Home Protection Act 1976
- b. Family Law Act 1995
- c. Family Law (Divorce) Act 1996

12) Conveyancing law, including

- a. Contracts for sale, including formation, contents and conditions
- b. Title, including deduction, investigation and requisition
- c. Possible impact of planning law (especially Planning and Development Act 2000) and family property provisions (point 11 above)
- d. Deeds, including drafting, construction, form and contents
- e. Completing the transaction and post-completion remedies

Candidates may bring unmarked copies of the following into the examination.

Succession Act 1965

Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009

Recommended Reading:

Wylie, *The Land and Conveyancing Reform Act 2009: Annotations and Commentary*, (2023), Bloomsbury Professional.

Wylie J CW, *Wylie on Irish Land Law 6th edn* (2020) Bloomsbury Professional.

Adanan and Maddox N., *Irish Land Law - A Casebook*, (2020) Round Hall.

Lyall, *Lyall on Land Law* 5th ed (2023) Roundhall.

PAPER 4 - PROBATE AND TAXATION LAW

This examination will be four hours in length and candidates will be requested to answer three out of four questions in Section A - Probate and three out of four questions in Section B - Taxation. For instance candidates may be required to provide advice, do calculations or draft a document or an extract from a document.

SECTION A - PROBATE

- a) Principles governing testate and intestate succession
- b) Drafting a Will - Statutory requirements and format
- c) Spouses and Children's rights, relevance of the Status of Children Act and Family Law legislation and actions to disinherit a spouse or a child.
- d) Principles and procedures governing the extraction of a Grant of Probate from the initial taking of instructions to final extraction of the grant, including relevant affidavits, forms and applications and procedures - Grant of Probate, Grant of Administration with Will annexed and Grant of Administration Intestate
- e) Limited and Special Grants, Grants to Trusts Corporations,
- f) Contentious and non-contentious Probate applications, rival applications.
- g) Domicile and foreign grants, second and subsequent grants
- h) Caveats, citations, subpoenas and petitions
- i) Amendment and revocation of grants
- j) Valuation of property, Protection of Assets
- k) Order of Payment of assets, Distribution, appropriation, joint property, undertaking, costs, accounts and notice periods
- l) Taxation implications including income tax and probate tax.

Recommended Reading

Casey, Courtney, O'Connell and Stephenson, *Wills, Probate and Estates*, 6th Edition (2018), OUP.

Spierin, Wills, *Irish Precedents and Drafting*, 2nd edition, Bloomsbury Professional 2013

Keating on Probate, 5th Ed., Round Hall, Sweet & Maxwell (2015)

Mongey, *Probate Practice in a Nutshell*, 2nd Edition (1998)

Spierin with Fallon, *The Succession Act, 1965 and Related Legislation; A commentary*, 4th Ed., Bloomsbury Professional (2011)

Dowling, *The Irish Probate Practitioners Handbook*, Roundhall (2013)

Law Society Manual, *The Wills, Probate and Estates* (editor P. Courtney) 6th Ed., OUP (2018).

SECTION B - TAXATION

The taxation element of the Probate and Taxation examination will consist of four questions out of which candidates will be required to answer three. These questions will cover the areas of CAT, CGT, Stamp Duty, VAT, Income Tax and Corporation Tax. Questions asked will be problem questions involving the application of taxation principles to a given fact scenario.

For instance, candidates might be expected to be able to calculate the CAT due on a gift or inheritance or the CGT due on a disposal. Candidates will be expected to have knowledge of relevant legislation except legislation enacted in the six-month period before the examination.

a) Capital Acquisitions Tax

Capital Acquisitions Tax Consolidation Act, 2003 (as amended) including:

- Part 1 Definitions, meaning of on a death
- Part 2 Gift Tax, liability in respect of joint tenants, disponent in certain connected dispositions
- Part 3 Inheritance Tax
- Part 4 Sections 26 to 30 inclusive (the value of property for tax)
- Part 5 All provisions including discretionary trusts, break-up of settlements, future interests, relief from double aggregation, powers of appointment, powers of recognition and cesser of liabilities
- Part 6 Returns and assessments
- Part 7 Payment and recovery of tax, Interest and Penalties
- Part 8 Appeals
- Part 9 Exemptions (including Section 72/73 policies)
- Part 10 Reliefs

b) Capital Gains Tax

Basic principles of CGT relating to individuals contained in the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 (as amended) including:

- Part 2 Basic principles
- Part 19
- Death/Settled property
- Exemptions and reliefs including the following:-
- Principal private dwelling (section 604)
- Family business reliefs (sections 597 - 599)
- Compensation and insurance money (section 536)
- Development land
- Anti-avoidance (sections 549 - 550; section 579; sections 589 - 590)
- Transfers of value derived from assets, debts, options (sections 540-543)
- CGT relating to conveyancing transactions, trusts and settlements and the break up thereof.

c) Stamp Duty

General principles as contained in the Stamp Duty Consolidation Act, 1999 (as amended) including territoriality, time limits, penalties, adjudication, calculation of duty, exemptions, sub-sales, exchange
Heads of Charge (conveyances/transfers on sale, voluntary transfers, leases, mortgages, bonds/covenants)
Anti-avoidance legislation in connection with leases, sub-sales and stocks and securities
Transfers between associated companies

d) Value Added Tax

Sources of VAT law. Advising on VAT audits and its rules (Registration, returns, etc.), and calculating of VAT on acquisitions and disposal relating to:

1. Property transactions, and
2. Solicitors

e) Income Tax

Basic principles and computation rules. To calculate all sources of income to include all provisions in relation to rents, leases and premiums.

f) General Anti-Avoidance (section 811, Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997)

g) Corporation Tax

Basic Principles.
Accountancy Periods.
Basis of assessment.
Computation.
Territoriality.

Recommended Reading

Bohan and McCarthy, *Capital Acquisitions Tax*, 4th Ed., (2013), Bloomsbury Professional

Donegan, et al, *Irish Stamp Duty Law*, 5th Ed., (2009), Tottel Publishing

Power and Scully, *The Law and Practice of Irish Stamp Duty*, 6th Ed, Irish Tax Institute (2013)

Keogan and Scully, *The Law of Capital Acquisition Tax Stamp Duty and Local Property Tax: Finance Act 5th Ed*, Irish Tax Institute (2015)

Irish Tax Institute editions of the following - Taxation Summary, Income Tax, Corporation Tax, VAT, CAT, CGT and Stamp Duty.

Law Society Manual, *Capital Taxation for Solicitors* 2nd Ed., OUP, (2012)

Supplemental Reading

Revenue Commissioners, *Notes for Guidance Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997*, (available on www.revenue.ie), latest edition.

E-Briefs and material published on www.revenue.ie.

Statutes

Candidates may bring unmarked copies of the legislation below into the examination.

- Succession Act, 1965 as amended.
- The following Irish Tax Institute (ITI) publications.
 - The Direct Tax Acts
 - The VAT Consolidation Act 2010
 - CAT Consolidation Act and Stamp Duty Consolidation Act

OR

- Capital Acquisitions Tax Consolidation Act, 2003 (as amended by subsequent Finance Acts).
- Stamp Duty Consolidation Act, 1999 (as amended by subsequent Finance Acts).
- Value-Added Tax Consolidation Act, 2010 (as amended by subsequent Finance Acts).
- Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 (as amended by subsequent Finance Acts).

PAPER 5 - SOLICITORS' ACCOUNTS

This examination will be three hours in length and candidates will be requested to answer four out of five questions. Candidates will be expected to have covered the following topics in detail:

1. Double entry to Trial Balance
2. Office and Client Ledger Accounts
3. Bank Reconciliation Statements
4. Basic Final Accounts
5. Solicitors Accounts Regulations (Statutory Instrument No. 516 of 2014)
6. Bills of Costs

Recommended Reading

Solicitors Act-Statutory Instrument 36 of 1954
Solicitors (Amendment) Act - S.I. 37 of 1960
Solicitors (Amendment) Act - S.I. 27 of 1994
Solicitors (Amendment) Act - S.I. 19 of 2002
Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act - S.I. 14 of 2008
Solicitors (Amendment) Act - S.I. 19 of 2008
Legal Services Regulation Act - S.I. 65 of 2015
Solicitors Accounts Regulations (Statutory Instrument No. 516 of 2014)

Supplemental Reading

Dale Kay and Janet Baker: *Solicitors Accounts – A Practical Guide*, (2003), Oxford University Press

Frank Wood, *Business Accounting*

Halberstadt, *Accounts for Solicitors*, 5th Ed., (1995), Sweet & Maxwell

PAPER SIX - EUROPEAN UNION LAW

The examination will be three hours in duration and candidates will be requested to answer four out of eight questions. Candidates should understand and be able to explain the legal basis of the European Union and its Institutions. They should be able to assess the establishment and effect of a new legal order at European level, and its inter-relationship with the Irish legal system. They should understand the legislation making process and have a thorough knowledge of the case law of the ECJ/CFI (now renamed "the General Court") in the areas covered by the syllabus. Candidates in particular should ensure that they are familiar with the Four Freedoms and the case law associated with those Freedoms, as some of these key Freedoms always feature significantly in the examination.

The subject can be divided as follows:

Sources of Community Law

- a) Primary Sources - the Treaties establishing the European Community, in particular the EEC Treaty, the Single European Act 1986, the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty), the Amsterdam Treaty, the Nice Treaty, the Lisbon Treaty.
- b) Secondary Legislation - Regulations, Directives, Decisions, Recommendations and Opinions
- c) Amendment and Revision of the EC Treaties.
 1. The European Union Institutions, with special emphasis on
 - (a) the legislation making process; and
 - (b) the jurisdiction and powers of the General Court (formerly the Court of First Instance) and the European Court of Justice
 2. General Principles of Law, with special emphasis on:
 - a) Fundamental Human Rights
 - b) Equality of Treatment/Non Discrimination
 - c) Legal Certainty
 - d) Proportionality
 - e) Right to a Hearing
 - f) Principle of Legitimate Expectation
 - g) Subsidiarity
 3. Judicial review of EU law and its enforcement, in particular actions for annulment of an act of an EU institution and preliminary references from national courts.
 4. The Supremacy of EU law and its relationship with national law:
 - a) The direct effect of EU law and direct applicability of EU law
 - b) Preliminary references to the European Court of Justice
 - c) The application and enforcement of EU law
 - d) Acts and Statutory Instruments necessary to implement EU law including the European Communities Act 1972 and the European Communities (Amendment) Act 1973
 - e) The process of EU legislation making
 - f) State liability for non-implementation and mal-implementation of EU law
 5. Substantive rules governing the free movement of goods to include:

- a) Customs Duties and Charges of Equivalent Effect
 - b) Prohibition of Quantitative Restrictions and derogations from the Prohibition.
 - c) Internal Taxation
- 6. Substantive rules governing free movement of natural or legal persons to include:
 - a) Free Movement of Workers
 - b) Freedom of Establishment
 - c) Freedom to provide and to receive Services
 - d) Limitations on Free Movement
- 7. Free Movement of Capital and Payments
- 8. EU Competition Law - a detailed understanding will be required of both private sector competition and public sector competition rules and jurisprudence.
- 9. The Regulation of State Aids
- 10. EU Social Policy with special emphasis on gender-based equality, in particular in relation to Equal Pay and Equal Treatment.

Legislative Sources

Candidates are permitted to bring unmarked copies of any edition of the following publications into the examination as legislative sources:

The Consolidated European Community Treaties, including the Single European Act and the Treaty on European Union and Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union; or

Foster, (Ed), Blackstone's EU Treaties and Legislation; or

Conor Duff and Anthony Walsh, European Union Treaties and related secondary legislation (Clarus Press 2020).

Recommended Reading:

Candidates are recommended to have studied in detail the relevant sections from the following selection of texts:

Barnard & Peers, EU Law, 2nd Ed., (2017) Oxford University Press.

Cahill, Kennedy, Power, European Law, 5th Ed., (2012), Oxford University Press.

Hartley, The Foundations of European Community Law, 8th Ed., (2016), Oxford University Press.

Steiner & Woods, Textbook on EU Law, 13th Ed, (2017), Oxford University Press.

Craig & De Burca, EC Law: Text, Cases & Materials, 7th Ed., (2020), Oxford University Press.

Chalmers, Davies and Monti, EU Law, 4rd Ed., (2019), Cambridge University Press.