

Updated: January 2026

KBG Chambers Mini-Pupillage Criteria and Guidance (Mark Scheme)

There are 8 areas where marks are awarded:

- 1) Academic performance, including Achievements and Awards;
- 2) Suitability for practice (including soft skills);
- 3) Quality of written communication;
- 4) Legal Experience;
- 5) Non-Legal Experience including Achievements and Awards;
- 6) Interest in law and the Bar;
- 7) Evidence of interest in KBG Chambers and to practice in the South West;
- 8) Discretionary.

Each area is marked and weighted differently – please see any notes in the marking section.

The total marks available are 44.

The areas and marks are broken down as follows:

1) Academic Performance

Marks available: 14 marks

NB:

- For candidates who have not completed their respective courses, it will include the average grades for individual modules.
- For candidates who are predicted a grade – this will also stand.

a) Bar Course (including the Bar Course with LLM)

Mark	3	2	1
Description	Outstanding	Very Competent	Competent

b) Master's degree (this does *NOT* include the Bar Course with the LLM)

Mark	3	2	1
Description	Distinction	Merit	Pass

c) Undergraduate Degree

Mark	3	2	1
Description	First Class	2:1 (Upper Second Class)	2:2 (Lower Second Class)

d) A-Levels and GCSEs

NB: Marks will only be awarded for this where the undergraduate degree has not been completed

Mark	3	2	1
Description	Mainly A*-A's (inc. 9-8s)	Mainly Bs (7-6s)	Mainly C's and lower (5s)

e) Achievements and Awards – academic-related

Mark	2	1
Description	Two or more awards or achievements.	One award or achievement.

- These awards and achievements include, but are not limited:
 - The Dean's List;
 - Awards for highest grades;
 - Subject-specific awards;
 - Winner of a moot or advocacy competition.

2) Suitability for practice (including soft skills)

Marks available: 10 marks

NB: These should be evidenced with clear examples.

a) Written advocacy

	Very Strong Evidence	Strong/Average Evidence
Mark	2	1
Description	Very strong evidence of written advocacy with an example.	Strong evidence of written advocacy with an example.

b) Oral Advocacy

	Very Strong Evidence	Strong/Average Evidence
Mark	2	1
Description	Very strong evidence of oral advocacy with an example.	Strong evidence of oral advocacy with an example.

c) Communication

	Very Strong Evidence	Strong/Average Evidence
Mark	2	1
Description	Very strong evidence of communication with an example.	Strong evidence of communication with an example.

d) Teamwork and/or initiative

Mark	1
Description	Evidence of effective teamworking and/or initiative with an example.

e) Perseverance and resilience

Mark	1
Description	Evidence of effective perseverance and/or resilience with an example.

f) Self-motivation, drive and organisation

Mark	1
Description	Evidence of effective self-motivation and/or resilience and/or organisation with an example.

g) Other interests

Mark	1
Description	Evidence of other interests including but not limited to sports and/or music that can link to skills relevant to practice.

3) Quality of written communication

Marks available: 3 marks

NB: this is assessed throughout the application and is the overall impression of the quality of the written communication.

	Very Strong Evidence	Strong Evidence	Average Evidence	Poor/No Evidence
Mark	3	2	1	0
	A perfectly written application which is an effective piece of written advocacy. No errors.	An almost-perfectly written application that is able to communicate effectively but with a few errors in style or expression.	An application that can communicate its message with some effectiveness but with errors that impact the application.	A poorly-written application containing critical mistakes and major flaws, is difficult to read and does not answer the question.

4) Legal Experience

Marks available: 2 marks

NB:

- This can include evidence of any paid or unpaid legal experience (including pro-bono).
- This can include other mini-pupillage, work experience within the legal sector (including solicitors) and marshalling.
- This may include being a magistrate.
- This may include evidence of being published.
- This may include evidence of upcoming but not yet undertaken legal experience (any activity must be confirmed and intended to be commenced within the next 6 months).

	Strong Evidence	Average Evidence	Poor/No Evidence
Marks	2	1	0
Description	This will include a few examples and evidence of legal experience of good quality.	This will include an example and evidence of legal experience of good/average quality.	This will include poor/no evidence of legal experience of poor quality.

5) Non-Legal Experience, including Achievements and Awards

Marks available: 5 marks

NB: This may include evidence of upcoming but not yet undertaken extracurricular activities and/or non-legal experience (any activity must be confirmed and intended to be commenced within the next 6 months).

a) Non-Legal Experience

	Very Strong Evidence	Strong Evidence	Average Evidence	Poor/No Evidence
Mark	3	2	1	0
Description	<p>This will show work or life experience with exceptional personal qualities that will be a base of a successful career.</p> <p>This will include multiple examples and evidence of non-legal experience of very good quality.</p>	<p>This will show other work or life experiences that will contribute to them being a well-rounded person.</p> <p>This will include a few examples and evidence of non-legal experience of good quality.</p>	<p>This will show other work or life experiences that show some evidence of being a well-rounded person.</p> <p>This will include an example and evidence of non-legal experience of good/average quality.</p>	<p>This may include an example but it does not demonstrate any relevance to the application.</p> <p>This will include poor/no evidence of non-legal experience of poor quality.</p>

b) Non-legal achievements and awards

	Very Strong Evidence	Strong/Average Evidence
Mark	2	1
Description	More than one non-legal achievement and/or award.	One non-legal achievement and/or award.

6) Interest in the law and the Bar

Marks available: 3 marks

	Very Strong Evidence	Strong Evidence	Average Evidence	Poor/No Evidence
Mark	3	2	1	0
Description	<p>This will include detailed, strong and persuasive reasons for pursuing the Bar and the law.</p> <p>This will include strong multiple examples.</p>	<p>This will show clear evidence to pursue the Bar and the law.</p> <p>This will include examples.</p>	<p>This will include evidence of wanting to know more about the Bar and some relevant knowledge.</p> <p>This may include an example.</p>	<p>Poor/No evidence of an interest in law or the Bar. Lack of knowledge and clear misunderstandings.</p>

7) Evidence of interest in KBG Chambers and to practice in the South West

Marks available: 2 marks

NB:

- Evidence can include mini pupillages undertaken or work carried out in any of KBG Chambers' practice areas.
- Evidence can include an intention to practice in the south west with reasons.

	Very Strong Evidence	Strong/Average Evidence
Mark	2	1
Description	Very strong evidence of an interest in KBG Chambers and to practice in the South West.	Strong/Average evidence of an interest in KBG Chambers and to practice in the South West. This mark may be awarded where there is only evidence for either KBG Chambers or to practice in the South West.

8) Discretionary

Marks available: 5 marks

This can be awarded based on the following:

- On a general impression of the application.
- Evidence of challenges and personal circumstances that have been overcome.
- Evidence of extenuating circumstances which may have impacted their academics/expected academics and/or progress in their academics or extracurriculars.
- Where an application shows exceptional commitment or endeavour which would not properly be recognised in the scores available under the other headings.
- Where the applicant is at the beginning of their legal career and has not yet had the time to gain the relevant experience to achieve the marks as above but shows a commendable and high-quality application.