

Update to Revise SQE Wills and the Administration of Estates

Following the increase in the Statutory Legacy from £270,000 to £322,000, the following changes have been made to the book:

P73: Table 5.1:

If there is both a surviving spouse *and* a child or children: (1) The surviving spouse will receive the 'statutory legacy' (currently **£322,000....**)

P77: Key term: statutory legacy:

This is a fixed amount from the estate which is currently the sum of **£322,000....**

P78: Practice example 5.3:

Final line of scenario: Keira's estate (excluding her personal chattels) was worth approximately **£802,000**.

First sentence of answer: As well as all of Keira's personal chattels, Hester will receive the first **£322,000** of the estate.

P83: Question 2, Answer B:

The wife is entitled to **£322,000** as the statutory legacy.....

P84: Question 3, Answer B:

The administrators have the power to give the husband the first **£322,000** of the estate and half of the residue, and the sister the other half.

P86: Question 2:

The correct answer was E. Remember that this is a beneficial joint tenancy and the key characteristic of a beneficial joint tenancy is *survivorship*: that is, when the man dies, his interest automatically passes to his brother. A was therefore incorrect because although the wife is entitled to the cash as part of the statutory legacy, she can make no claim on the man's share of the property. B is doubly incorrect, first because although the wife would be entitled to **£322,000** if that sum were available, the only available sum is £25,000; and second because even if the property was not jointly owned, the wife still could not demand it as appropriation because she has never lived in it. C is incorrect both because the wife is entitled to the cash and because she is not entitled to the share of the property. D is incorrect because the parties are still married until a final decree of divorce is made: the fact that she has commenced divorce proceedings is not relevant.