

Board of Law Examiners  
Appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas  
**Texas Bar Examination General Instructions**

Revised July 2023

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## Texas Bar Examination General Instructions

Revised July 2023

### 1. Daily Testing Schedule

#### a. Standard testing schedule

Standard Daily Schedule	Tuesday	Wednesday
Morning Session <b>Instructions begin at 8:30 a.m.</b>	MPT 1, MPT 2 3 hrs. of testing	MBE 1-100 3 hrs. of testing
Lunch Break (Approximate)	12:00-1:30	12:00 – 1:30
Afternoon Session <b>Instructions begin at 1:30 p.m.</b>	MEE 1-6 3 hrs. of testing	MBE 101-200 3 hrs. of testing

#### b. Accommodated testing schedules

Examinees with testing accommodations should consult their individual correspondence.

#### c. No additional time

- You should be in your seat by the time your instructions are scheduled to begin. Allow yourself time to park, find the exam site, check your phone, and go through our security check-in before instructions begin.
- Instructions will begin as scheduled, even if you are not in your seat. The exam will start once instructions are completed.
- We will not give extra time to examinees who arrive late in the main exam room.
- We will not give extra time to examinees who arrive late in accommodated exam rooms.
- No exceptions.

### 2. Texas Bar Exam Security Policy

#### a. You must abide by the Security Policy

If you do not abide by the Security Policy, we will report you to the Board. The Board may require you to attend a hearing before the Board, the outcome of which could include nullification of your exam score or a finding that you lack the present good moral character required for admission to the Texas bar.

#### b. Safety procedures

If safety concerns require us to change the exam administration, we will promptly notify you.

### c. Secure Area

Each exam site has a designated Secure Area. Restrooms and water fountains are located within the Secure Area. Do **not** leave the Secure Area during any testing session to use alternate restrooms, smoke, eat, drink, or for any other reason.

If you leave the Secure Area during a testing session, you cannot re-enter it during that testing session, and we may disqualify you from the entire exam.

### d. Required Items

You must present the following items to enter the Secure Area:

- ✓ Admission Ticket
- ✓ Valid, unexpired government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport

### e. Allowed Items

In addition to the Required Items listed above, you are allowed to bring the following items into the Secure Area:

- ✓ Water in a see-through container.
- ✓ Pencils (non-mechanical).
- ✓ Pens, highlighters. (**Tuesday only**. Not allowed on Wednesday.)
- ✓ Erasers. (No sleeves, no casing, no packaging.)
- ✓ Keys, key cards
- ✓ Cash, credit cards
- ✓ Sweater or jacket
- ✓ Prescription medicine, in its original packaging
- ✓ Prescription eyeglasses (no cases, no cleaning cloths, no dark lenses)
- ✓ Contact lenses, in individual containers (no boxes, no bottles of solution)
- ✓ Individually-wrapped feminine hygiene products, which may be stored in an opaque box
- ✓ Items that have been pre-authorized in a written Special Arrangement for Health-Related Conditions
- ✓ One **clear** bag to hold smaller Allowed Items. (No semi-clear grocery bags.)
- ✓ **For laptop examinees, on Tuesday only:** Authorized laptop, external mouse, external keyboard, power cord, extension cord, and a **mousepad**. A plain mousepad is preferred. Any mousepad with writing or designs will be subject to closer inspection. *New!*

**f. All other items are Prohibited Items—you cannot bring them into the exam room**

If an item is not listed as a Required Item or an Allowed Item, then it is a Prohibited Item and you cannot bring it into the Secure Area.

Cell phones are Prohibited. If you bring a cell phone into the Secure Area, we may immediately disqualify you from the exam.

We may confiscate Prohibited Items from you and retain them as necessary for inspection. We will report violations to the Board, who could nullify your exam results, conduct a hearing into your character and fitness, and/or take other actions.

You cannot bring Prohibited Items into the Secure Area. At the February exam, and at some [July exam sites](#), you can check a phone with Mobile Lockers. In case of rain, all sites will designate a non-secure umbrella drop for umbrellas only. Otherwise, we will **not** provide any place for you to store Prohibited Items anywhere at any exam site, and **we will dispose of any unattended items we find anywhere at any exam site.**

Examples of **Prohibited Items** include:

- ✗ Study materials
- ✗ **Cell phones**, smart watches, fitness trackers, cameras, scanners, recorders, and any other electronic device
- ✗ Watches of any type, timers, clocks
- New!* ✗ Laptop privacy screens, filters, or films. We must be able to easily view the content on your laptop screen.
- ✗ Mechanical pencils
- ✗ Pencil sharpeners
- ✗ Pens and highlighters on Wednesday (MBE day)
- ✗ Lunches, snacks, food, beverages (other than water in a see-through container), candy, gum, mints, cough drops
- ✗ Hats, scarves, headgear (except religious items)
- ✗ Laptop bags, laptop sleeve, backpacks, purses, tote bags
- ✗ Headphones, **ear plugs**, or any sound suppression device
- ✗ Billfolds, wallets, cardholders
- ✗ Lip balm, tissue, lotion, eye drops, over-the-counter medicine
- ✗ Calculators
- ✗ Smoking or vaping materials
- ✗ Weapons and guns—even if you have a license to carry a concealed handgun
- ✗ Anything that is not a Required Item or an Allowed Item

### **g. Provided Items**

We will provide the following at each test site:

- Clocks or countdown timers, which will be clearly displayed and visible from each seat at each test site
- Foam ear plugs
- Tissue
- Cough drops

### **h. Empty pockets**

Any pockets in your clothing must be empty. Place your smaller Allowed Items in a clear bag. The bag can be any size and any shape. Large items such as laptops and extension cords do not have to be stored in the clear bag.

### **i. When time is called**

At the end of each session, we will announce STOP. When we say STOP, you must immediately stop writing, typing, bubbling, or otherwise working on the exam. **Writing, typing, bubbling, scrolling, reviewing answers, or otherwise working on the exam for any amount of time after we announce STOP is a serious violation of the Honor Pledge.** We will report the incident to the Board, who could nullify your exam results, conduct a hearing into your character and fitness, and/or take other actions.

All handwritten answers for all testing sessions must be turned in before or at the end of each session. Laptop examinees must upload their answers by the stated deadline. Once you have turned in your exam, you may not retrieve it for any reason. No overtime is allowed.

Violations of any instruction related to exam security may result in the nullification of your exam.

### **j. No talking during the exam**

You cannot communicate with anyone other than a proctor or Board personnel during any testing session. This prohibition includes even casual comments to other examinees in the restroom or other parts of the Secure Area during a testing session. Do not bring cell phones or communication devices of any kind to the Secure Area.

### **k. No disruptive behavior**

Disruptive behavior in any form will not be tolerated. The site administrator has sole discretion to determine what constitutes disruptive behavior and is authorized to dismiss from the Secure Area any examinee who creates a disturbance. If we dismiss you for disruptive behavior, you might not be allowed to return, which could result in your exam not being scored.

## 1. No cheating

The following acts violate the Security Policy:

- obtaining, seeking to obtain, providing, or seeking to provide access to exam questions before the start of the exam
- copying or receiving any information from any examinee during any testing session
- accessing anything other than Exam360 on your laptop at any time in the Secure Area
- communicating with anyone other than Board staff during any testing session
- writing, typing, bubbling, scrolling, or reviewing answers for any length of time after time is called
- taking exam materials into the restroom
- taking exam materials outside of the exam room
- using laptop instructions, admission ticket, tabletop, a handwriting answer book, or anything else—other than the exam **question** book—as scratch paper
- not following written and oral instructions from the Board
- engaging in any other act that might compromise the security or integrity of the Texas Bar Exam.

## 3. Honor Pledge

At the end of the last session on the last day of the exam, you will be given time to write the Honor Pledge in your usual handwriting and to sign it with your usual signature. In the Honor Pledge, you will affirm that you have not violated the Security Policy (above) and that if you observed anyone else doing so, you have fulfilled your ethical duty to report your observations to a proctor or other Board staff at the exam site.

The Honor Pledge states:

I have abided by the Texas Bar Exam Security Policy. If I am aware of anyone having violated the Security Policy, I have already reported this to Board staff.

## 4. Special Arrangements for Health-Related Conditions

If you believe that you need to bring items in the Secure Area that are not listed above as Required or Allowed, such as medical supplies or lactation pumps, or if you believe you need

any special seating arrangements to address health-related conditions, please contact your Licensure Analyst as soon as possible for instructions on how to request special arrangements. Requests for Special Arrangements must be accompanied by medical documentation.

**If you submit a request after February 1 for a February exam or after July 1 for a July exam, we may not have time to consider it.** (*Note: This paragraph does **not** apply to testing accommodations based upon a disability, which are governed by the procedures, timelines, and requirements of Rule 12.*)

## 5. Phone storage at some sites

We will provide phone storage at the February exam, and at [some July exam sites](#). At these sites, you may check your phone before the exam each day and retrieve your phone after the exam has ended for the day. **Note that if you check a phone, you will *not* be able to access it during lunch.** We will provide you with additional instructions about phone storage closer to the exam.

## 6. Laptops

If you have properly applied to use, and have properly registered, your laptop, you will use it on Tuesday. Instructions for launching Exam360 will be distributed to you on Tuesday at the exam site. **You must read and follow these instructions.**

- Bring an **extension cord**. Your outlet may be up to 8 feet away from your seat.
- Do **not** bring a laptop bag or a laptop sleeve. These items are Prohibited. You cannot bring them into the exam room and we will not provide a place for you to store them at the exam site.
- On Tuesday, you must leave your laptop at your seat in the exam room during the lunch break. Staff and security will be present in the exam room during the break to monitor laptops and other belongings.
- Once you open your laptop in the Secure Area, you must launch Exam360 immediately—do **not** use your laptop to read notes, check e-mail, or browse the internet. **Once you are in the Secure Area, accessing anything on your laptop other than Exam360 is a violation of the Honor Pledge.**

For information on using your laptop for the Bar Exam, see [Bar Exam/Laptop Information](#) on our webpage.

## 7. General procedures for exam days

### a. Examinee number

Your randomly assigned 5-digit examinee number is printed on your Admission Ticket. The Bar Exam is processed and scored entirely by examinee numbers.

## **b. Assigned seating**

You must sit in the seat marked with your examinee number. Do not change your seat without permission from a proctor or other Board staff.

## **c. Leaving your assigned seat**

You cannot leave your assigned seat during the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of any testing session (except as Allowed by Board staff in response to an emergency).

If you leave your assigned seat during an allowable period of a testing session, follow this procedure:

- Gather your printed test materials (all question books, answer books, and/or grids), your Admission Ticket, and your photo id.
- Give your test materials and Admission Ticket to your designated proctor table at the front of your section.
- Keep your photo ID with you as you use the restroom etc.
- When you return, show your photo ID to the proctor, who will confirm your identify and return your test materials and Admission Ticket to you.

If you need to leave your seat during an allowable time, do **not** simply leave your test materials unattended at your seat. Take them to your proctor, along with your Admission Ticket.

## **d. 10-minute warning**

We will announce when 10 minutes remain in each session. If you are still in the Secure Area, you must stay in your seat until the exam session is over, proctors have collected and accounted for all exam materials, and we dismiss you.

## **e. Marking in question books**

You may underline, mark, diagram, write, and make notes on all **question** books, but we will not score any such markings.

## **f. No scratch paper**

You cannot bring scratch paper for any testing session. You may make notes in your exam **question** book.

- Do **not** bring scratch paper into the Secure Area.
- Do **not** use laptop instructions, your admission ticket, your tabletop, a handwriting answer book, or anything else—other than the exam **question** book—as scratch paper.
- Do **not** write anything on your laptop instructions, your admission ticket, or



your tabletop at any time.

## 8. Exam material security

Before we dismiss examinees from a testing session, we must account for all test materials, including question books. Therefore, if you are present when time is called at the end a testing session, you must remain quietly in your seat until we account for the test materials.

Please consider this as you make plans for meeting any responsibilities you may have at the end of these testing sessions.

## 9. Withdrawing from the Bar Exam

If you decide not to take this Bar Exam, send a message to your licensure analyst through your ATLAS home page. Fees are **not** refunded and are **not** transferred to a future exam. If you want to take a future exam, you must submit a re-application and fees by the applicable deadline in Rule 9(a). (You would **not** be eligible for the special re-application deadline set out in Rule 9(f).)

## 10. Starting, but not completing, the Bar Exam

You may take the Bar Exam a maximum of 5 times. If you sit for any part of an exam, it will count as one of your 5 attempts. However, unless you make a bona fide effort to complete each section of the exam, we will not score any part of the exam, and if you want to take a future exam, you must submit a re-application and fees by the applicable deadline in Rule 9(a). (You would *not* be eligible for the special re-application deadline set out in Rule 9(f).)

## 11. General advisory

The Board of Law Examiners will do its best to provide appropriate testing conditions. Dress in layers to adjust to the temperature in the exam room. Be prepared to be flexible.

## 12. Day 1 morning session: MPT-1 and MPT-2

The Multistate Performance Test (MPT) tests fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. The MPT presents two tasks to be completed in one 3-hour session that a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish. Each task is assessed on a 6-point scale, where a 6 is the highest score, 1 is the lowest score, and a 0 is given for blank or nonresponsive answers. For more information: [NCBE website](#).

The MPT-1 and MPT-2 are both administered together in a single 3- hour testing session. It is up to you to decide how to divide your time between the two MPTs.

Answer MPT-1 in the appropriate MPT-1 answer section; and likewise, answer MPT-2 in the appropriate MPT-2 answer section.

**a. If you use a laptop for MPT-1 and MPT-2**

- You will receive written instructions to open the appropriate answer file in Exam360. (Do *not* write anything on these instructions.)
- You will receive 2 question books, one for MPT-1 and another for MPT-2. The contents of these question books will *not* appear in any Exam360 screen.
- You will type your response to MPT-1 into the appropriate Exam360 screen for MPT-1. There are no character limits for this response.
- You will type your response to MPT-2 into the appropriate Exam360 screen for MPT-2. There are no character limits for this response.
- Do not Exit until you have completed both MPT-1 and MPT-2.
- If you experience technical difficulties, an on-site technician may be able to help. You can ask your proctor for a handwriting answer book and continue working in that book. If your technical difficulties are resolved, you can then switch back to working in your laptop. After the exam, we will merge all parts of your answer together for grading.

**b. If you handwrite MPT-1 and MPT-2**

- You will receive a single question book with two answer sections, one for MPT-1 and a second one for MPT-2. Please answer each item in the correct answer section.
- Begin each answer on the first lined page of the designated answer section for that item, and continue on each lined page. Use both sides. Do not skip lines. Do not write in the margins—anything in the margins will not be scanned and thus will not be read or scored.
- Write your answers in **black ink only**. Do not use pencil, erasable pens, blue ink, or fine point pens—these do not scan well.
- Each designated answer section has ample room for you to write a complete and thorough answer. However, if you use all the pages in a designated answer section for either item and need more answer space for that section, ask a proctor for assistance.

**13. Day 1 afternoon session: Multistate Essay Examination 1-6**

The Multistate Essay Examination (MEE, or Essays) presents 6 essay questions to be answered in one 3-hour session. Each task is assessed on a 6-point scale, where a 6 is the highest score, 1 is the lowest score, and a 0 is given for blank or nonresponsive answers. Answer each Essay in

the appropriate answer section. For more information, please see the [NCBE website](#).

You may write in the question book. You may **not** bring scratch paper, and we will not provide any scratch paper. Do **not** use laptop instructions, your admission ticket, your tabletop, a handwriting answer book, or anything else—other than the exam question book—as scratch paper.

**a. If you use a laptop for the Essays**

- You will receive written instructions and a password to open the appropriate answer file in Exam360. (Do *not* write anything on these instructions.)
- You will receive 1 question book containing 6 essay questions. The essay questions will be numbered. The essay questions will *not* appear in any Exam360 screen.
- Be sure to answer each question in the correct Exam360 screen.
- There is no character limit for your answers.
- If you experience technical difficulties, an on-site technician may be able to help. You can ask your proctor for a handwriting book and continue working in that book. If your technical difficulties are resolved, you can then switch back to working in your laptop. After the exam, we will merge all parts of your answer together for grading.

**b. If you handwrite the Essays**

- You will receive 1 question book containing 6 essay questions. The essay questions will be numbered.
- You will receive 1 answer book with 6 answer sections. The answer sections will be numbered.
- Write your answer to Question 1 in the answer section that is labeled Question 1, and write your answer to Question 2 in the answer section labeled Question 2, and so on.
- Write your answer in medium-point **black ink only**. Do not use pencil, erasable pens, blue ink, or fine-point pens—these do not scan well.
- Begin your answer on the first lined page of the appropriate answer section. Use both sides. Do not skip lines or pages. Do not write in the margins.
- We have provided enough pages in each section for you to write a complete and thorough answer. If you use all the pages **in an answer section** and need more space for that answer section, ask your proctor for assistance.

#### 14. Day 2 morning session: Multistate Bar Exam 1-100

- The Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) consists of 200 multiple-choice questions, divided equally into two 3-hour testing sessions with a lunch break between sessions. For more information, including a subject matter outline, please see the [NCBE website](#).
- The MBE is machine-scored and must be taken with a No. 2 pencil or an equivalent.
- Bring enough pencils to allow for dulling and breakage.
- Do **not** bring a pencil sharpener. Your proctor will have a pencil sharpener that you can use during the exam.
- Do **not** bring pens or highlighters. Pens and highlighters are Prohibited on MBE day.
- You must enter your answers on the answer grid before time is called. We will **not** score any answers circled in the question book.
- We must account for all MBE materials before examinees are dismissed. Therefore, if you are present when time is called at the end of each of the MBE testing sessions, you must remain quietly in your seat until we have collected and accounted for all testing materials. Consider this as you make plans for meeting any responsibilities you may have at the end of Wednesday's testing sessions.

#### 15. Day 2 afternoon session: MBE 101-200 and Honor Pledge

The procedure for the afternoon session is the same as the procedure for the morning session, except that you will write and sign the Honor Pledge as instructed at the end of day.

#### 16. Results

We plan to deliver results:

February exam results: by mid-April

July exam results: by mid-October.

Please do not contact the Board's office to ask if we will deliver results before this time.

We will deliver results of the Bar Exam as follows:

- **Through ATLAS.** We will deliver your results to your ATLAS account and e-mail you a notification when the results are delivered. It is important to [keep your e-mail address updated](#) in ATLAS.
- **On our website.** We will post a list of the names and examinee numbers of successful examinees on the Board's website, [www.ble.texas.gov](http://www.ble.texas.gov). Keep your examinee number, especially if you have a common name, so you can refer to it when reviewing the pass list.

- **By first class mail.** Upon request, we will mail your results to you.

## 17. Additional licensing requirements

You cannot be admitted to the Bar of Texas unless and until you satisfy all requirements set out in Rule 2 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas. In addition to fulfilling the legal education requirement and passing the Bar Exam, requirements for licensing also include:

- Having your present good moral character and fitness certified by the Board
- Completing the [Texas Law Course](#)
- Satisfying [Rule 2\(a\)\(5\)](#)
- Scoring 85 or higher on the [Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination](#)
- Paying [fees and assessments](#) required by Article III, Sec. 2(A) of the State Bar Rules
- Enrolling in the State Bar of Texas
- Taking the [oath](#) required by Government Code §82.037.

Bar exam scores become void after 5 years. If your bar exam score becomes void before you satisfy all licensing and admission requirements, you may have to re-take the exam. Rule 2(b).

## 18. New Lawyers' Induction Ceremony

The State Bar of Texas plans to hold a New Lawyers' Induction Ceremony shortly after results are released. We will provide more information with result letters.

## 19. Exam review

Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas provides two alternative methods to review your performance on parts of the Bar Exam: formal reviews and informal reviews. Reviews are not appeals or regrades and will not result in a change to your Bar Exam score.

**Formal Reviews.** Rule 11(g) provides for a one-time formal review, which is an individual, oral review of your performance on the Bar Exam (excluding the MBE). You are entitled to a formal review if you have failed the Texas Bar Exam more than once and have not previously had a formal review. Regardless of the number of Bar Exams taken, you are entitled to only **one** formal review. We must receive your request for a formal review 14 calendar days after results are released. We will notify you of exact dates and additional procedures after we receive and process all requests.

**Informal Reviews.** If you are unsuccessful on the Bar Exam, we will provide you with a

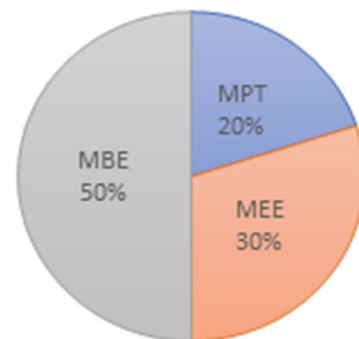
written Informal Review of your performance on all components of the Bar Exam, as provided by Rule 11. (You do not need to request an Informal Review.)

## 20. Scoring and weighting

Texas administers the Uniform Bar Exam. The minimum UBE total score required to be licensed in Texas is 270, reported on a 400-point scale.

The Texas Bar Examination has three parts, weighted as follows to calculate a UBE total score:

- Multistate Performance Test (MPT) = 20%
- Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)=30%
- Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) = 50%



## 21. For more information

[www.ble.texas.gov](http://www.ble.texas.gov)

- [Notices and Announcements](#) (home page)
- [Bar Exam Information](#)
- [Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas](#) (Rulebook tab)
- [FAQs](#)

[www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org)

- Subject matter outlines, sample questions, and other information for MPT, MEE, and MBE
- Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE)

## 22. Checklist of Required and Allowed Items

Tuesday	Wednesday	Required / Allowed Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Required: Admission Ticket
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Required: Government-issued photo id
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pencils (non-mechanical), erasers
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keys, key cards
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash, credit cards
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sweater or jacket
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prescription medicine, in its original packaging
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prescription eyeglasses (no cases, no cleaning cloths, no dark lenses)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact lenses, in individual containers (no boxes)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individually-wrapped feminine hygiene products, which may be stored in an opaque box
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Items pre-authorized in a written Special Arrangement for Health-Related Condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	One clear plastic bag to hold smaller Allowed Items. The bag can be any size and any shape. Large items such as laptops and extension cords do not have to be stored in the plastic bag.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not Allowed</b>	Pens, highlighters ( <b>Tuesday only. Not allowed on Wednesday.</b> )
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not Allowed</b>	Authorized laptop, extension cord, external mouse, external keyboard, cooling stand, mousepad. ( <b>Tuesday only. Not allowed on Wednesday.</b> )