Board of Law Examiners
Appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas

Texas Bar Examination
General Instructions – February 2021 Texas Bar Exam

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Daily Testing Schedule

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<th>Daily Schedule</th>
<th>Tuesday MPTs &amp; MEE</th>
<th>Wednesday MBE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Session</td>
<td>3 hours of testing</td>
<td>3 hours of testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructions begin at</td>
<td>(2 MPT tasks)</td>
<td>(100 MBE multiple choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>questions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td>12:00 – 1:30</td>
<td>12:00 – 1:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approximate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon Session</td>
<td>3 hours of testing</td>
<td>3 hours of testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(6 MEE essay questions)</td>
<td>(100 MBE multiple choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>questions)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No additional time will be granted to anyone arriving late. No exceptions will be made under any circumstances.

Texas Bar Exam Security Policy

1. Secure Area

Each exam site has a designated Secure Area. Restrooms are located within the Secure Area. If you leave the Secure Area during a testing session, you cannot re-enter it during that testing session, and you may be disqualified from the entire exam. Do not leave the Secure Area during any testing session to use the restroom, smoke, eat, drink, or for any other reason.

2. Required Items

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

- Admission Ticket
- Valid, unexpired government-issued photo identification

3. Permitted Items

In addition to the Required Items listed above, you are permitted to bring the following items into the Secure Area on both testing days:

- Pencils, erasers
- Keys, key cards
- Cash, credit cards
- Sweater or jacket
- Prescription medicine, in its original packaging
- Prescription eye glasses (no cases, no dark lenses)
- Contact lenses, in individual containers (no boxes)
- Items pre-authorized in a written Courtesy Arrangement For Health-Related Condition
- One clear plastic bag to hold Permitted Items listed above
- One clear plastic bag or opaque container containing individually-wrapped feminine hygiene products

The following items are also permitted on Tuesday only and are not permitted on Wednesday:
- Pens, highlighters
- Authorized laptop, extension cord, external mouse, external keyboard, cooling stand

4. Courtesy 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 Permitted, such as medical supplies or lactation pumps, or if you believe you need any special courtesy arrangements to address health-related conditions, please contact your Licensure Analyst as soon as possible for instructions on how to request courtesy arrangements.

Requests received after February 1 may not be considered for a February exam. Requests received after July 1 may not be considered for a July exam. (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. Provided Items

We will provide the following at each test site:
- Clocks or countdown timers, which will be clearly displayed and plainly visible from each seat at each test site
- Water fountains or bottled water
- Foam ear plugs
• Tissue
• Cough drops

6. Prohibited Items

Anything not listed above as a Required Item, Permitted Item, or Provided Item is Prohibited in the Secure Area. Cell phones are Prohibited. If you bring a cell phone or any other Prohibited Item into the Secure Area, you may be immediately disqualified 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.

Examples of Prohibited Items include:

✓ Study materials
✓ **Cell phones**, smart watches, fitness trackers, and any other electronic device
✓ Watches of any type, digital watches, analog watches, timers, clocks
✓ Mechanical pencils
✓ Pencil sharpeners
✓ Food and beverages (including water, candy, gum, mints, cough drops)
✓ Cameras, scanners, recorders
✓ Hats, scarves, headgear (except religious items)
✓ Headphones, **ear plugs**, or any sound suppression device (other than foam ear plugs that will be provided by the Board)
✓ Billfolds, wallets, cardholders
✓ Calculators
✓ Smoking materials
✓ Backpacks, purses, tote bags
✓ Erasable pens, correction fluid/pens
✓ Weapons and guns—even if you have a license to carry a concealed handgun
✓ Anything not listed as a Required Item or a Permitted Item
7. Empty Pockets

Any pockets in your clothing must be empty. Place all of your Permitted Items in a clear plastic bag.

8. Communications

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.

9. When Time is Called

Writing or typing after a “STOP” command is called is a 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 or they will not be graded. Laptop examinees must upload their answers by the stated deadline. No late answers will be accepted. Once you have turned in your exam, you may not retrieve it for any reason. No overtime is allowed. Violation of any instruction related to exam security may result in the nullification of your exam.

10. 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. 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—you cannot use your laptop to read notes, check e-mail, or browse the internet. Once 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.
**Honor Pledge**

At the end of each testing session of each exam session, you will be given time to write the Honor Pledge, in your usual handwriting, affirming that you have not violated the Security Policy (Items 1-10, above), cheated, or otherwise compromised the integrity of the Bar Exam, 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. If you cannot honestly write the pledge on any given day, you must contact a proctor.

**Disruptive Behavior**

Disruptive behavior in any form will not be tolerated. The site administrator has sole discretion in determining what constitutes disruptive behavior and is authorized to dismiss from the Secure Area any examinee who creates a disturbance. An examinee who is dismissed for disruptive behavior might not be allowed to return, which could result in the examinee’s exam not being graded.

**Exam Day Procedures**

1. **Safety Plan**
   - Your health, and the health of all examinees, is important. **Do not come to the exam if you are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms.** Message your analyst, and we will transfer your fees to the July 2021 exam.
   - **Review these CDC guidelines, and do not come to the exam if these guidelines recommend that you self-isolate.**
   - If you have been tested because you have or likely have COVID-19 and are awaiting your results, do not come to the exam. Message your analyst, and we will transfer your fees to July 2021 exam.
   - Cooperate with health officials as needed for contact-tracing.
   - You must wear a mask at all times while at the exam site.
   - You must abide by our published Safety Plan for this exam. We will deliver the final Safety Plan to examinees with their Admission Ticket.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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 permitted 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:

- Take your printed test materials (all question books, answer books, and/or grids), your Admission Ticket, and your photo ID to your designated proctor table.
- Take your photo ID with you.
- When you return, show your photo ID to your proctor, who will confirm your identify and return your test materials and Admission Ticket to you.

5. **10-minute Warning**

The Board will announce when 10 minutes remain in each session. If you are still in the Secure Area, you will be required to stay in your seat for the remainder of the session, and until you are dismissed.

6. **Marking in Test Books**

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

7. **Scratch Paper**

You cannot bring your own scratch paper for any testing session.

8. **Exam Material Security**

Before we dismiss examinees from a testing session, we must account for all test materials. 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. As always, we appreciate your cooperation.

9. Withdrawing From the Bar Exam

If you decide not to take this Bar Exam, then 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 grade 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.

Day 1: Morning Session - MPT

1. Multistate Performance Tests (MPTs)

- Two MPTs will be administered during the 3-hour Day 1 Morning Session.

- Each MPT is a 90-minute test designed to test your ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation and to complete a task a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish. For more information about the MPT, see “About NCBE Exams” at www.ncbex.org.

- Both MPTs will be handed out at the beginning of the session. You may work on the MPTs in any order you wish, and you may divide your time between the MPTs as you wish.
• We will announce the halfway point of the MPT session.
• We will not provide scratch paper for the MPTs, but you may write on any blank pages in either MPT book.
• The MPT is owned by NCBE and is a secure exam protected by US copyright laws. You may not remove or attempt to remove any original, duplicated, or recorded test materials, notes, or reconstructed test questions or answers from a testing room by any means.
• NCBE and the Board of Law Examiners strictly prohibit reproducing or disclosing any MPT questions or answers by any unauthorized means to any person or to any public forum at any time, including after the exam, until the questions have been publicly released by NCBE or the Board of Law Examiners. This includes disclosing the substance or details of any test question fact pattern or answer, in whole or in part, by email, blogs, online social or professional networking sites, or any other unauthorized means.
• Disclosure of test content could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, cancellation of your test scores, denial of your bar application on character and fitness grounds, and/or disciplinary action if you have been admitted to practice law.

2. If you use a laptop for the MPTs
• 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. The contents of the question book will not appear in any Exam360 screen.
• You will type your response to the each MPT into the appropriate Exam360 screen. There are no character limits for this response.

3. If you handwrite the MPTs
• You will receive 2 question books and 2 answer books.
• Write your answer in 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 book, 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 graded.
• We have provided ample room for you to write a complete and thorough answer. However, if you use all the pages and need more answer space, you may ask a proctor for assistance.

Day 1: Afternoon Session - MEE

1. Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)
   • The Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) consists of six questions to be answered in a 3-hour session. The purpose of the MEE is to test the examinee’s ability to (1) identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation; (2) separate material which is relevant from that which is not; (3) present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well-organized composition; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation.
   • Topics covered in the MEE can be viewed here.
   • Each MEE essay question is graded on a scale where a 6 is the highest possible score and 0 is the lowest possible score. These grades are converted to the same scale of measurement as that used for the MBE.

2. If you use a laptop for the MEE Essay Questions
   • 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 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.

3. If you handwrite the MEE Essay Questions
   • You will receive 1 book containing 6 essay questions. The essay questions will be numbered.
   • You will receive 1 answer book with 6 sections. The sections will be numbered.
   • Write your answer to Question 1 in the section of the answer book that is labeled Question 1, and write your answer to Question 2 in the
section labeled Question 2, and so on.

- Write your answer in **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 section. Use both sides. Do not skip lines. Do not write in the margins.

- We have provided enough pages in each section for you to write a complete and thorough answer. However, if you use all of the pages in a section and need more answer space, you may ask a proctor for The MEE is owned by NCBE and is a secure exam protected by US copyright laws. You may not remove or attempt to remove any original, duplicated, or recorded test materials, notes, or reconstructed test questions or answers from a testing room by any means.

- NCBE and the Board of Law Examiners strictly prohibit reproducing or disclosing any MEE questions or answers by any unauthorized means to any person or to any public forum at any time, including after the exam, until the questions have been publicly released by NCBE or the Board of Law Examiners. This includes disclosing the substance or details of any test question fact pattern or answer, in whole or in part, by email, blogs, online social or professional networking sites, or any other unauthorized means.

- Disclosure of test content could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, cancellation of your test scores, denial of your bar application on character and fitness grounds, and/or disciplinary action if you have been admitted to practice law.

**Day 2: Multistate Bar Examination**

- 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. The MBE covers the following subjects: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts. All subjects are covered in both the morning and the afternoon sessions. For more information about the MBE, see “NCBE Exams” at www.ncbex.org.

- The MBE is machine-graded 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. Do **not** bring pens or highlighters.
• You must enter your answers on the answer grid, before time is called. Answers circled in the question book will not be graded.

• 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 collect and account 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.

• The MBE is owned by NCBE and is a secure exam protected by US copyright laws. You may not remove or attempt to remove any original, duplicated, or recorded test materials, notes, or reconstructed test questions or answers from a testing room by any means.

• NCBE and the Board of Law Examiners strictly prohibit reproducing or disclosing any MBE questions or answers by any means to any person or to any public forum at any time, including after the exam. This includes disclosing the substance or details of any test question fact pattern, option choices, or answer, in whole or in part, by email, blogs, online social or professional networking sites, or any other means. Disclosure of test content could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, cancellation of your test scores, denial of your bar application on character and fitness grounds, and/or disciplinary action if you have been admitted to practice law.

Release of Results

Sometime in April, 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.

Texas Law Component and 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 passing the Bar Exam, requirements for licensing also include:

- Completing the Texas Law Component
- 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.

If you do not satisfy all licensing and admission requirements within 2 years of the date we notify you of your passing Bar Exam score, the score will be void. Rule 2(b).

**Portability of Texas Bar Examination (UBE) Score**

You may transfer the score you earn on the Texas Bar Examination (UBE) to any other jurisdiction that accepts UBE scores. Note that each UBE jurisdiction sets its own minimum passing score, which may be higher than, equal to, or lower than Texas’s minimum passing score. Also, each UBE jurisdiction has its own application process, fees, and character and fitness requirements. For more information, visit the NCBE’s website.

**The Examination Review Process**

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 Texas 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 Texas 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 Texas Bar Examination, we will provide you with a written Informal Review of your performance on all components of the Texas Bar Examination, as provided by Rule 11. This Informal Review will be provided to you without the need for a written request. The Informal Review will include your final scaled score on each component of the exam: Multi-State Performance Test, Multi-State Bar Examination, and the Essays. It will also include your national percentile ranking on each subject matter area of the MBE.

Scoring and Weighting

The Texas Bar Examination (UBE) consists of the 2 MPT tasks, 6 MEE essay questions, and 200 MBE multiple choice questions. The highest possible total scaled score across these parts is 400 points. A total scaled score of 270 or higher is required for licensure in Texas.

The relative weights of the parts are as follows:

- Multistate Performance Tests (MPT): 20%
- Multistate Essay Examination (MEE): 30%
- Multistate Bar Examination (MBE): 50%

(1) The Multistate Performance Test (MPT) tests an applicant’s ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation by completing a task that a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish. Further information regarding the MBE can be found at www.ncbex.org.

The MPT is graded on a scale where a 6 is the highest possible score and 0 is the lowest possible score. These grades are converted to the same scale of measurement as that used for the MBE.

(2) Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)

The Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) consists of six questions to be answered in a 3-hour session. The purpose of the MEE is to test the examinee’s ability to (1) identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation; (2) separate material which is relevant from that which is not; (3) present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well-organized composition; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation. Topics covered in the MEE can be viewed here.

Each MEE essay question is graded on a scale where a 6 is the highest possible score and 0 is the lowest possible score. These grades are converted
to the same scale of measurement as that used for the MBE.

(3) The Multistate Bar Examination is a multiple-choice test. It contains approximately 175 questions that are used to calculate an applicant’s score and another 25 questions that are being pretested for future exams. The pretest questions are not used to calculate an applicant’s MBE score. Raw MBE scores (the number of questions answered correctly) are equated (“scaled”) to adjust for possible differences in average question difficulty across administrations of the exam. As a result of this procedure, a given MBE scaled score indicates about the same level of performance regardless of the particular administration of the exam on which it is earned. The maximum scaled score on the MBE is 200 points. Topics covered in the MBE can be viewed here.

For More Information

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

- Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) subject matter outline and sample test questions
- Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) subject matter outline and sample questions
- Multistate Performance Test (MPT) tests, summaries, and point sheets
- Information on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)