



**INFORMATION FOR UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**  
**OCTOBER 2023 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION**

The October 2023 First-Year Law Students' Exam consisted of four essay questions and one session of one hundred multiple-choice questions testing Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts. The passing score for the First-Year Law Students' Examination is a total scaled score of 560 or higher. The enclosed letter indicates your assigned grades on the essay portion of the examination, your total raw written score, your raw totals on the multiple-choice portion of the examination, your total scaled written score, your converted multiple-choice score, and your total scaled score.

**GRADING**

The anonymity of the applicant was preserved throughout the grading process. Applicants were assigned code numbers (Exam Enrollment numbers) that were not known to the graders or applicants until the results of the exam are released. The Committee of Bar Examiners is aware of the importance of the First-Year Law Students' Exam to each applicant and has established procedures calculated to ensure a fair system of grading.

An applicant's raw multiple-choice score will equal the number of questions answered correctly. Through a process known as "equating," the multiple-choice raw scores will be converted to a scale with a theoretical maximum of 400 points. Because there are multiple forms of the exam, this process adjusts for the possible differences between forms and administrations of the exam in the average difficulty of the particular version of the exam that the applicant takes.

On the essay portion of the exam, applicants are initially graded on a basis of 400 maximum possible points. An applicant can earn up to 100 raw points on each of the four essay questions. The raw essay scores were converted, or "scaled," to a distribution that has the same mean and standard deviation of multiple-choice scale scores. Scaling was performed to adjust for the possible differences between the difficulty of the essay questions and/or grading standards from one administration to the next. As a result, an applicant's scaled essay score will not be affected by the differences between administrations in the difficulty of the essay questions or fluctuations in grading standards.

Your result letter indicates your essay grades, total raw written score, your raw totals on the multiple-choice portion of the exam, your total scaled written score, your converted multiple-choice score, and your total scaled score. An applicant's total score on the exam is the sum of the applicant's scaled scores on the multiple-choice and essay portions. Equivalent weight is given to each of the two portions in arriving at the total scaled score.

To confirm your total scaled score:

### **Converted multiple-choice score**

Add your three multiple-choice scores. The sum of these scores is your total raw multiple-choice score. Insert this value into the following formula:

Converted multiple-choice score = (Total raw multiple-choice score x 3.6110) + 20.2680

### **Scaled written score**

Add your four essay grades. The sum of these is your total raw written score. Insert this value into the following formula:

Scaled written score = (Total raw written score x 2.1228) - 319.2054

Your total scaled score is the sum of the two products above.

## **RETURN OF ESSAY ANSWERS**

Applicants' essay answer files are posted to the Applicant Portal for four weeks (until January 5, 2024). Please print/save copies for your records.

## **INSPECTION OF THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE PORTION OF EXAM**

You may inspect the multiple-choice portion of the exam, in a proctored situation, at the Office of Admissions - San Francisco or Los Angeles. One and a half hour appointments may be scheduled at 10:30 a.m. or at 1:30 p.m., December 18 through January 26, 2024. Appointments must be made in advance and will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. You are limited to a single appointment and note taking is not permitted. To make an appointment, please email the Office of Admissions at [Admissions@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:Admissions@calbar.ca.gov) and a staff member will contact you to set an appointment. Please remember to specify which of the two State Bar offices you plan to visit, San Francisco or Los Angeles.

## **FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAM STUDY AIDS**

Essay Questions and Selected Answers for the past several administrations of the First-Year Law Students' Exam are available [online free of charge](#). Those for the October 2023 exam will be posted approximately 4-6 weeks after the release of results. Any requests for exam Essay Questions and Selected Answers from earlier administrations of the exam must be submitted using the [First-Year Law Students' Exam Study Aids Form](#) and accompanied by the appropriate fee(s).

## **CREDIT FOR LAW STUDY COMPLETED**

An applicant who is required to pass the First-Year Law Students' Exam will not receive credit for any law study until the applicant passes the exam. An applicant who passes the exam within three consecutive administrations of first becoming eligible to take the exam will receive credit for all law study completed to the date of the administration of the exam passed, subject to any restrictions otherwise covered by the [Admission Rules](#). An applicant who does not pass the exam within three consecutive administrations of first becoming but who subsequently passes the exam will receive credit for his or her first year of law study only. If any of the first three administrations of the First-

Year Law Students' Exam includes the June 2020 administration. That exam shall not be counted towards the requirements above.

FYLSXUnsuccess.1023