



**INFORMATION FOR UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS
NOVEMBER 2020 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION**

The November 2020 First-Year Law Students' Examination consisted of four essay questions and 100 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 exam, your 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.

GRADING

The anonymity of the applicant is preserved throughout the grading process. Applicants are assigned code numbers, or Exam Enrollment numbers, that are not known to them until results of the exam are released. The Committee of Bar Examiners is aware of the importance of the First-Year Law Students' Examination 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 will be converted, or "scaled," to a distribution that has the same mean and standard deviation of multiple-choice scale scores. Scaling is 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.

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. Applicants need a total scaled score of 560 or higher to pass the exam.

Applicants' essay answers are posted to the Applicant Portal until **April 2, 2021**. Please print/save copies for your records.

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:

$$\text{Converted multiple-choice score} = (\text{Total raw multiple-choice score} \times 3.9665) - 8.4123$$

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:

$$\text{Scaled written score} = (\text{Total raw written score} \times 2.0852) - 279.8078$$

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

RECONSIDERATION

The committee believes that its grading and administrative systems afford each applicant a full and fair opportunity to take the exam and a fair and careful consideration of their answers on the exam, and that no useful purpose would be served by further consideration by the committee. For this reason, the committee will consider requests for reconsideration only when an applicant establishes with documented evidence that one of the following resulted in failure or prevented the exam from being properly graded: (1) an arithmetical error in the calculation of the total written score from the grades assigned to the written questions or in the calculation of the total multiple-choice score; or (2) a clerical error.

The committee will not extend reconsideration based on challenges to its grading system or the judgments of its professional graders. Requests for reconsideration submitted by or on behalf of an unsuccessful applicant must be in writing and meet the criteria specified above. Requests not meeting those criteria may be summarily denied on that basis, without further explanation.

INSPECTION OF THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE PORTION OF EXAMINATION

Multiple-Choice: You may inspect the multiple-choice portion of the exam at the Office of Admissions (San Francisco or Los Angeles) nearest the location at which you took the exam from March 1, 2021, through April 9, 2021. All who may wish to review their multiple-choice answers cannot be accommodated at the same time. Appointments for a period of one and one-half hours, in a proctored situation (no notes permitted), will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. You are limited to a single appointment. Appointments to inspect your multiple-choice answers must be made in advance. To make an appointment, email the Office of Admissions at Admissions@calbar.ca.gov. Appointments may be scheduled at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please be aware that the State Bar of California is currently operating under a Healthy Office Plan that mandates the following:

All visitors are required to have their temperature checked upon entry into the building. Temperatures will be checked using touchless thermometers. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be allowed to enter the building.

FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION STUDY AIDS

Essay Questions and Selected Answers for the past several administrations of the First-Year Law Students' Examination are available online free of charge [here](#). Any requests for exam Essay Questions and Selected Answers from earlier administrations of the exam must be submitted using the [First-Year Law Students' Examination Study Aids Form](#) and accompanied by the appropriate fee(s).