



JULY 2023 BAR EXAM FAQs

These FAQs are a living document. They are subject to revision and will be supplemented and updated as needed. Please also refer to the [key dates and deadlines](#) leading up to exam day. **Deadlines will not be extended, and it is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all deadlines.**

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In-Person Exam Logistics

1. I've only taken a remote exam before. How will I be given the questions, and will there be water and restroom breaks?
 - The administration of the exam will be the same as it was prior to the remote exam administrations. Essays 1–3 will be administered together without breaks during the morning session of Day 1; then, after a lunch break, applicants will return for Essays 4, 5, and the Performance Test, which will be administered together without breaks during the afternoon session of Day 1. The morning session of Day 2 will be comprised of the first 100 Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) questions, after which there will be a lunch break. The last 100 MBE questions will be given during the afternoon session of Day 2. [Please see the full schedule here.](#)
 - Applicants will receive the questions in a paper booklet and will be given scratch paper to use if they need.
 - Applicants will be allowed access to water during the exam.
 - Applicants may leave to use the restroom, but the clock will run continuously.
2. Where are the test centers for the July exam?
 - [The test centers are listed here.](#)
3. Can I choose my test center?
 - You will select a test center when you apply for the exam in the [Applicant Portal](#).
 - Test centers are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If your preferred test center is full when you apply, you will be required to choose another option. If you have to select a second-choice test center, you can check if space becomes

available in your preferred test center and submit a test center change request to move to your desired test center.

4. Will we still use ExamSoft?
 - ExamSoft will be used, but not the video proctoring. The proctoring will be conducted live by human proctors at the exam sites. Laptop users will use ExamSoft to type and submit their answers. Please review [the laptops webpage](#) for complete instructions.
5. Will there still be mock exam questions?
 - A mock exam is still **mandatory/required** to familiarize yourself with the software. There is one required mock exam. Once you complete the mock exam, the exam files will download. [Please see the dates and deadlines here.](#)
6. What happens at an in-person site if the software crashes?
 - At an in-person test site, if your laptop or the software crashes, you can switch to handwriting the exam. You will not be able to get individual troubleshooting help onsite. You will be required to notify your proctor who will provide you with a handwriting packet.

Health and Safety Requirements/Refunds

7. Will there be COVID protocols in place?
 - We will be following all federal, state, and local guidelines and taking additional precautions if necessary.
 - Applicants can choose to wear masks during the exam. The masks will be subject to inspection at check in.
 - The health and safety requirements for the bar exam will be reviewed as needed and are subject to change.
8. What will the seating be like at the test center?
 - At a standard test center, applicants are seated at 8-foot tables, two to a table.
9. What if there is a new variant or another serious surge?
 - If public health conditions change and a public health authority relevant to the testing center locations issues different mandates for in-person gatherings, we will update all applicants for the July 2023 bar exam accordingly.
10. What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 and cannot come to the exam?
 - If you have COVID-19, or any illness, that prevents you from attending the bar exam, you may apply for the [95 percent medical refund of fees](#). Please note that medical documentation is required to be eligible for a refund.
11. I am an immunocompromised individual. Can I take the test remotely?

- It will not be possible for anyone to test remotely for the July 2023 bar exam. Because the bar exam relies on test material developed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), and NCBE is anticipating an in-person July administration with their materials, the exam will be administered in person.
- Applicants may petition for testing accommodations and request a private room; the application process requires submission of medical documentation supporting the need. The petition and all supporting documentation must be submitted and in a complete status by the final filing deadline on June 1, 2023. The deadline will not be extended.

Communications from the State Bar

12. Are there any communications I need to look for from the State Bar?

- First, make sure that you have added @calbar.ca.gov and @examsoft.com to your [safelist](#).
- Make sure to familiarize yourself with all the dates and deadlines related to the [July 2023 bar exam](#).
- Review the admittance ticket bulletin once it is posted.
- Starting six weeks before the exam, expect weekly Friday emails from the Office of Admissions.
- Applicants applying for testing accommodations will receive additional communications regarding those requests.