



OCTOBER 2023 LEGAL SPECIALIST EXAMINATION ADMITTANCE TICKET BULLETIN

Applicants taking the October 2023 Legal Specialist Examination should carefully read this bulletin prior to the day of the exam, as it contains important information that you will need to know.

Exam Schedule

The exam will be administered on Tuesday, October 24, 2023. The exam will be offered online to all applicants, and will be remotely proctored. In-person exam administration will be provided to those for whom online remote proctoring is not available and to those with approved testing accommodations that cannot be effectively provided and/or securely administered in a remote environment.

Applicants must use a laptop and must be logged into the system by the posted password release time of 8:00 a.m. The exam will begin immediately following establishment of the applicant's identity and delivery of instructions. You must be logged into the system no later than password release time of 2:00 p.m. for the afternoon session. Every session begins with reestablishment of your identity.

All in-person applicants should arrive no later than 7:30 a.m. The exam will begin immediately following the instructions. You should plan to arrive at least 30 minutes early for check in and to locate your assigned room. Arriving late to the test center will not alter the start time of your exam.

Applicants granted extended time may have different schedules, which are communicated to them individually in advance of the exam.

As soon as the exam starts, it will be administered with the following schedule:

Essay Questions 1 & 2—60 minutes
20-minute break

Essay Questions 3 & 4—60 minutes
20-minute break

Essay Questions 5 & 6—60 minutes
20-minute break

Essay Questions 7 & 8—60 minutes

Lunch break—60 minutes

Multiple-Choice Questions 1-38—76 minutes

20-minute break

Multiple-Choice Questions 39-75—74 minutes

Exam Description

The Legal Specialist Examination is comprised of eight short essay questions and 75 multiple-choice questions. The parts of the exam may not be taken separately.

In the morning, the exam will be administered in four, one-hour sessions (one-hour per two essay questions). A 60-minute break for lunch will occur after the essay sessions.

In the afternoon, the multiple-choice questions will be split into two 76-minute and 74-minute sessions, each containing 38 and 37 questions, respectively.

Applicants with disabilities who are granted extended time accommodations will have different schedules, which will be communicated to them prior to the exam.

On the essay portion of the examination, applicants are graded on a scale of 1 through 5, with 5 being the top score. Thus, an applicant can earn up to 5 raw points on each of the eight essay questions. Applicants are asked to analyze each essay, determine the applicable law and apply the facts to the law as completely as possible. Case citations are not required unless the case is a seminal case in the field.

An applicant's multiple-choice raw score will be the number of items answered correctly; no penalty is deducted for incorrect multiple-choice answers, so it is to your benefit to answer all questions.

If an applicant is absent for any portion of the exam, the applicant will be considered as having not taken the exam and their answers will not be graded.

The California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) judges the validity of the exam, and at its discretion, may determine that the result of any test, any part of any test, or any individual's score is not valid. Should the CBLS invalidate any part of the test, or if any individual's test is declared invalid, or for any reason any part of the test cannot be graded, at its discretion, the CBLS may decide to make a pass/fail decision on the basis of the valid portion of the applicant's test product available to the CBLS.

For applicants with disabilities who have been granted accommodations that include an extended day schedule, the number of testing days will be specified in their Testing Accommodations Notice.

Examination Administration Rules and Policies

Failure to follow exam rules while the exam is in session will result in notice to the State Bar of California of a violation of exam rules. Conduct that results in a violation of security or disrupts the administration of the exam, which includes but is not limited to having unauthorized items with you during the exam (such as cell phones, digital watches and timing devices, notes, etc.), writing or typing after time has been called, attempting to cheat or avoid/override the remote proctoring system, or leaving the view of the camera while the exam is in session will result in notice to the State Bar of a violation of exam rules, or in some cases, can lead to sanctions to be determined by the CBLS.

Applicants may not wear hats, caps, hoods, or any other type of headwear during the exam unless the headwear is for religious purposes. Religious headwear (i.e., hijabs, yarmulkes, etc.) may be subject to inspection, if such inspection is required in order to verify the identity of the applicant or if there is suspected cheating.

In addition, applicants who are testing in person are expected to maintain a professional attitude toward other applicants, staff, proctors, and other exam personnel at all times. Behavior that is abusive or disruptive may result in dismissal from the test center and will be reported to the State Bar or the CBLS for appropriate action. It is expected that all applicants will demonstrate integrity, honor, and ethical behavior during all exams administered by the State Bar of California.

The remote-proctored exam will be continuously monitored by artificial intelligence and human proctors, and any and all anomalies or suspicious behavior will be flagged accordingly. Flagged video files will be reviewed by the State Bar, and conduct violations determined to be serious will result in strict sanctions. Sanctions may include but are not limited to a zero for the flagged exam session, a zero for the entire exam, as well as a referral to attorney discipline or any additional sanctions the CBLS may impose. For less serious conduct and rule violations, the State Bar or the CBLS may take whatever action it deems appropriate.

Only the following items are allowed in the exam areas without prior approval. All items are subject to inspection at the in-person test centers:

- Valid government-issued photo ID
- Eyeglasses (no cases or sunglasses)
- Religious headwear
- Foam earplugs (cannot be wireless earbuds and must not be connected to any mechanism or device, but can be connected to each other)
- Feminine hygiene items
- Inhalers
- Diabetes-related items and equipment (does not include food or drinks)
- Eyedrops in single-use vials
- One back support (without a cover)
- One orthopedic cushion (without a cover)
- One standard-size pillow (without a case)

- One footrest
- Splints, braces, casts, crutches, wheelchair
- Hearing aids
- TENS units
- Disability-related items that have been approved through the testing accommodations petition process

The following laptop accessories are allowed:

- Separate keyboard
- Mouse (wired or wireless)
- Laptop riser/stand no higher than 4"
- Solid color mouse pad with no writing on it

Additional Instructions for In-Person Test Takers

Applicants who will be testing in person are allowed to have the following items in addition to those listed above:

- The admittance ticket with no writing on it (detach ticket from instructions above prior to arrival at the test center)
- Silent analog watches
- Prescription medications (does not include cough drops)
- Cash (must not have extraneous writing on it)
- Credit/debit cards that might be needed for the lunch breaks
- Keys
- Face masks (with no patterns or extraneous writing on them)
- Protective gloves

Applicants who are handwriting or have certain testing accommodations may be allowed the following: nondigital pens (standard blue or black ink), nonmechanical pencils (with eraser incorporated; no separate erasers), pen-style highlighters (must not be used on answers), nondigital timers and nondigital clocks measuring 4" x 4" or smaller.

Applicants who will be handwriting their exam answers must bring their own standard blue or black ink ballpoint pens. Applicants must also bring their own pencils for the multiple-choice portion of the exam (several sharpened pencils are recommended). Mechanical pencils are not permitted. Pencil sharpeners and separate erasers will not be allowed into the exam room. Please note that, whether testing remotely or in person, applicants cannot have wallets, tissues, lip balm, cough drops/throat lozenges, gum, candy, or other food or drinks in the exam room. Water and tissues will be available nearby at the in-person test centers. Applicants testing in-person with an online format because of extenuating circumstances will not have access to these items during testing; only during breaks.

During the in-person sessions, only the items listed above are allowed in the exam room, **except** for applicants taking the Bankruptcy Law; Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law;

Immigration & Nationality Law; or Taxation Law exam, who may also bring an unmarked code book. If you need additional items due to a disability, you must request them through the timely filing of a Testing Accommodations Petition.

If unauthorized items are brought into the exam room, either intentionally or inadvertently, they will be confiscated or noted, and the applicant will receive a Notice of Exam Violation and possibly additional sanctions imposed by the State Bar or the CBLs. In accordance with the State Bar's policies, applicants will receive a score of zero for any session during which they are found to have brought an unauthorized electronic device, such as a cell phone, digital watch or timer, or activity tracker device (e.g., Fitbit) into the exam room, as well as any additional sanctions the State Bar or the CBLs may impose.

General Instructions: Remote Proctored Administration

The system will prompt you to establish your identity at the beginning of each session (at the start and after each break). However, if the system cannot confirm your identity, you will be able to proceed with the exam, but your video will be reviewed later.

The following conduct is prohibited:

- Leaving the view of the webcam outside of scheduled breaks.
- Any attempt to bypass or avoid the remote proctoring mechanisms and protocols, or to obtain or receive assistance on the exam.
- Individuals (other than the applicant) entering the exam room.
- Possession of cell phones or other electronic devices, including a tablet or additional computers in the exam room, or connected remotely to any other devices or equipment in the exam room.
- Possession of notes, study aids, or other papers or exam resources in the exam room, including scratch paper.
- Possession of any digital timers, watches, or clocks in the exam room (the exam software has a built-in timer that allows applicants to set timed reminders).
- Possession of books of any kind in the exam room within view or access during the exam session. An exception is made for applicants taking the Bankruptcy Law; Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law; Immigration & Nationality Law; or Taxation Law exams only, who may bring an unmarked code book as specified.
- Possession of food or beverages in the exam room, including but not limited to coffee and water (unless you have been granted a testing accommodation that allows for these items).
- Smoking in the exam room.
- Possession of any item(s) other than the allowed items listed in the Admittance Bulletin in the exam room (unless you have been granted a testing accommodation that allows for these items).
- Possession of any radios, stereos, or other devices/equipment (including smart home devices such as Google Home or Alexa) that can make audible sounds in the exam room. Any such items must be turned off at all times during the exam and scheduled breaks.

If items other than those allowed are detected during the exam, you will be flagged by the system and a corresponding sanction may be issued after review by State Bar staff.

You are not allowed to make notes from memory prior to the start of the exam session. Laptop users may not access any notes or other documents at any point during the exam.

The exam is electronically timed, and applicants can set an additional timer in the system. Applicants are encouraged to keep track of their own time.

Please note that extra time is not granted to any individual applicant for any reason. If you attempt to continue completing the exam after the session has ended, you will receive a Notice of Exam Violation.

You should use the restroom before the start of each exam session. You will not be permitted to use the restroom or leave the view of the web camera during the exam session.

If you leave the exam area during the exam session, you will be issued a Notice of Exam Violation, and you will receive a score of zero for the entire exam.

No Smoking: In-Person and Remote Examination Instructions

Smoking is not allowed during any exam session, both in-person and remote. Smoking is prohibited at test centers located in buildings that do not allow smoking in accordance with city ordinance. Regardless of whether smoking is prohibited, any applicant who exits the secure exam area in order to smoke while the exam is in progress will not be allowed to re-enter to complete the exam.

Laptop Computer Users

After you have been notified that your admittance ticket is available, you are eligible to have your laptop registered for use during the exam. You must download and install the required security software onto your laptop (Exemplify with ExamID and Exam Monitor), and you must complete the registration process by **October 20, 2023**, with the completion of both mock exams. Complete the following steps to make sure your laptop is ready for exam day:

1. Download the required security software (Exemplify) onto your computer and register with ExamSoft.
2. Take the two required mock exams and upload the answer files by **October 10, 2023**.
3. Download the six exam answer files by **October 20, 2023**.

Confirmation: After you have downloaded the six exam files, you will be advised via email by ExamSoft that you have done so. Those confirmation emails are the only certification that your laptop is ready for the exam. You may check your status and view your download/upload history online by launching Exemplify from your laptop and confirming you have the six downloads. Log in using the Exam Takers box, click the Exam History button to review your record, and confirm that you have downloaded the exam and mock exam files, and have

uploaded the mock exam answer files. **You should have a total of six answer files for the October 2023 Legal Specialist Examination.**

It is the responsibility of applicants using laptops to timely upload their six exam files containing their answers to the eight essay questions (four files, each containing two essay responses), and their answers to the 75 multiple-choice questions (two files, one for each part). Applicants must also timely upload their video files for each exam session, for a total of six video files. Applicants who fail to upload their answer and video files by the published deadline will have a deduction of 10 scaled points taken from their scaled score. Applicants who fail to upload their answer and video files within two weeks of the published deadline will be given a grade of zero for each answer that is not received by the State Bar Office of Admissions by the published deadline. Applicants are expected to comply with the published deadlines; there are no waivers of the deadlines or the sanctions that will be imposed as a result of applicants' failure to upload their exam and video files.

General Instructions: In-Person Administration

1. Your admittance ticket contains your applicant number, your State Bar number, and your specialty exam. Do not write anything on the ticket. You will be required to show your ticket to the proctor when you enter the test center. You must keep it in your possession throughout the exam.
2. If items other than those allowed are brought to the test center, you will be required to leave them at your own risk outside of the exam area. The State Bar, CBLS, Office of Admissions staff, and proctors assume no responsibility for the safekeeping of items that you bring to the test center. You are not permitted access to those items while the exam is in session.
3. You should bring any small permitted personal items (e.g., prescription medication, foam earplugs, pens, etc.) into the exam area in a small, clear plastic bag. Larger items, such as pillows, do not need to fit into the clear plastic bag that holds your smaller items.
4. Proctors will provide you with seating information upon your arrival to the test center.
5. Upon arrival, you will be provided with a badge that will be your identification credential during exam administration, which you may be required to show at any time. The badge must be fastened so it can be easily seen by the proctors. You will be told to relocate the badge if it is not placed appropriately. The badge must be left at your seat during the lunch break.
6. During the exam, you will be required to show a valid government-issued photo ID (e.g., Driver's License, California Identification Card, or Passport) for the purpose of identity verification. You must carry this photo ID card at all times during the exam.
7. Those applicants that are handwriting their answers will be instructed to write their applicant number, name, and signature in the upper right-hand section of each of their answer book covers at the beginning of each written exam session (essays). Do not write notes, outlines, answers, time schedules, or make any marks on the inside or outside of your answer book covers. Prior to grading, your personal information will be removed after a code number has been assigned. Thereafter, answers are identified by a code number only; nothing about an individual applicant is known to the graders.

8. You are not allowed to make notes from memory prior to the start of the exam session. If you are using your laptop, you may not access any notes or other documents on your computer after you have entered the secure examining area. Physical scratch paper is not permitted during any session of the exam. Some applicants with documented disabilities requiring them to have physical scratch paper will be accommodated. Nothing written on scratch paper will be graded. You must not make notes or write anything on your admittance ticket. If writing is found on your admittance ticket, the ticket will be confiscated, and you will be issued a Notice of Exam Violation.
9. If you are handwriting your answers, there is a separate answer book for each written question, and you must be certain that the answer to Question No. 1 is written in the book for Question No. 1, etc. Answers written in a wrong answer book or typed in the wrong answer window while using Exemplify, or more than one answer typed in the text box screen while using Exemplify, require special handling and could delay the grading of an applicant's answer.
10. If you handwrite your exam answers and need additional lined paper to write your answers during the exam, raise your hand and a proctor will provide you with what you need.
11. If you are handwriting, you should do so as legibly as possible. A ballpoint pen with standard blue or black ink must be used to write your answers. Answers to the essay questions written in pencil are not acceptable. Only nonmechanical pencils may be used for the multiple-choice portion of the exam. Neither highlighters nor white-out may be used on your answers to the essay questions.
12. If you are testing with paper multiple-choice exam materials, all answers to the multiple-choice portion of the exam must be marked on the Scantron answer sheets provided. If you have circled or otherwise marked your answers in the question booklet, extra time to transfer answers to the answer sheet will not be granted. Only answers properly marked on the answer sheets will be scored.
13. If you are testing with paper exam materials, exam questions and any used scratch paper may not be taken out of the exam room. After completing each session of the exam, the exam questions and used scratch paper must be placed in the envelope designated for that purpose.
14. If you handwrite your exam answers, it is your responsibility to turn in your written exam answers to the proctors. If you leave the test center with your answers, the answers will not be graded.
15. The exam is electronically timed, and you are encouraged to keep track of your own time since wall clocks are not provided. Laptop users will have the ability to set two timers while in the exam session.
16. Timing devices (i.e., watches and clocks) that are allowed to be brought into the exam test centers are to be used solely for the determination of the passage of time. They cannot have a digital display, must be absolutely silent, and cannot be larger than 4"x4". Timing devices that are digital, programmable, and/or make noise are not permitted. If found, they will be confiscated, and the applicant will receive a Notice of Exam Violation.
17. Writing and typing of answers must be completed when time is called. Please note that extra time is not granted to any individual applicant for any reason. If you attempt to write anything after time has been called, you will receive a Notice of Exam Violation.

18. Restrooms and water will be available at each test center. Applicable to applicants who are NOT required to use the online remote-proctored version of the exam: You should use the facilities before taking your seat so you have time to go over the instructions prior to the start of each session. Extra time to use the restroom will not be granted. You will not be permitted to use the restroom or leave your seat during the last several minutes of the exam session (5 to 15 minutes depending on the session). After time is called, you will not be permitted to use the restroom or leave your seat until all materials are collected and inventoried. If you fail to remain seated after being advised to do so, or while the exam materials are being collected and inventoried, you will receive a Notice of Exam Violation. Applicable to applicants who are required to use the online remote-proctored version of the exam: You should use the restroom before taking your seat at the start of the exam session. If you leave the view of the webcam at any time while the exam is in session, you will be flagged by the AI proctor and you will receive a Notice of Exam Violation, as well as a score of zero for the exam session.
19. If you leave the secure exam area during the exam session, you will not be permitted to return for the purpose of completing your exam answers. For applicants who are required to use the online remote proctored version of the exam, if you leave the secure exam area during the exam session, any answer typed thereafter will not be graded.
20. The proctors' chief function is to proctor the exam; however, if asked, the proctors will attempt to assist with any problems that may arise.
21. If there is an emergency of any kind, you should remain seated and wait for instructions on how to proceed.

In-Person Test Center Environment

While every effort will be made to keep the environment of the test center comfortable and quiet, there are times when events, conditions, or actions of third parties occur that are beyond the control of the State Bar or the CBLs. For instance, the temperature of the test center may fluctuate due to the weather or the test center's cooling/heating equipment; applicants should be prepared for either warm or cold temperatures. Efforts will be made to keep the test center quiet, but there may be forces outside the control of the State Bar or the CBLs that prevent such an environment from being guaranteed. You should come prepared to accommodate noises, such as those made by other applicants taking the exam, proctors carrying out their duties, people entering/exiting the exam room, equipment inside or outside the test center that may make sounds while operating, other meetings or conventions in the same facility, etc. Earplugs of the type specified earlier are strongly recommended.

Exam Attendance Policy

If you do not attend or are unable to complete a required, scheduled exam session, you will be considered a partial exam taker and your exam will not be graded. For instance, if you are taking the exam in person, if you are absent for the first morning session, you will not be allowed to take any remaining sessions of the exam. If you are absent for any portion of the exam, you will be considered as having not taken the exam and your written answers will not be graded. Applicants must make a good faith attempt to complete each session of the exam for which they are present. Failure to do so may lead to receipt of a Notice of Exam Violation and being prohibited from attending any remaining exam sessions.

Late Login to the System

Applicants testing in-person and arriving at the test center after one hour of testing time has elapsed will not be permitted to enter the test center for any portion of the exam.

Applicants testing remotely and logging in more than 10 minutes after the latest start time for that exam session has elapsed will not be permitted to begin the exam session that has started and will be locked out of the question in progress. Any answers to questions in subsequent exam sessions will not be graded or scored.

Address Change

Applicants are encouraged to notify the Office of Admissions of a change of address as soon as possible. Applicants are able to update their profile with the new address by accessing their account through the [Applicant Portal](#).

Admittance Ticket

Applicants will receive an email alerting them when admittance tickets are ready to be printed. The admittance can be located in the exam case record through the [Applicant Portal](#). Admittance tickets only need to be printed for applicants testing in person.

Further Communication

For particular questions regarding your status or the other requirements for certification, you should contact the State Bar's Legal Specialization Unit in the Office of Admissions by sending an email directly from your [Applicant Portal](#). If you need to contact the office by telephone, the following telephone numbers are provided:

Legal Specialization, Office of Admissions
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-538-2120

Legal Specialist Examination Results

Results from the October 2023 administration of the Legal Specialist Examination will be available to applicants through their Applicant Portal on March 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Communications regarding exam results will be sent to the applicant's contact information on file. Please note that applicants will not be able to change their contact information the week before the exam results are released.