AN OVERVIEW OF THE CALIFORNIA BAR EXAM
Effective July 2017

The Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California recently announced that beginning with the July 2017 administration of the California Bar Exam, both the format and grading will change as follows:

KEY BAR EXAM FORMAT CHANGES

Current California Bar Exam

› Day 1:
  • CA Essays (3 questions, 3-hours)
  • CA Performance Test (1 question, 3-hours)
› Day 2:
  • MBE (200 multiple-choice questions, 6-hours)
› Day 3:
  • CA Essays (3 questions, 3-hours)
  • CA Performance Test (1 question, 3 hours)

*Written section worth 65% (39% Essays and 26% Performance Tests); MBE worth 35%

California Bar Exam (July 2017)

› Day 1:
  • CA Essays (5 questions, 5-hours)
  • CA Performance Test (1 question, 90-minutes)
› Day 2:
  • MBE (200 multiple-choice questions, 6-hours)

*Written section worth 50%; MBE worth 50%

SCOPE OF SUBJECTS TESTED
The scope of the subjects tested will not change between the Winter 2017 and Summer 2017 administrations of the California Bar Exam. This includes the scope of subjects tested on the MBE, and the California Essay and Performance Test sections. The subjects tested are:

- Business Associations
- Civil Procedure*
- Community Property
- Constitutional Law*
- Contracts*
- Criminal Law and Procedure*
- Evidence*
- Professional Responsibility
- Real Property*
- Remedies
- Torts*
- Trusts
- Wills and Succession

*indicates MBE-tested subject

MULTISTATE BAR EXAMINATION (MBE)
The Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) is developed and graded by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). This portion of the General Bar Examination is an objective six-hour examination containing 200 questions, which is divided into two three-hour sessions during which 100 questions are administered. Information regarding the MBE is available at www.ncbex.org.

CALIFORNIA ESSAY EXAM
Each one-hour essay will continue to be designed to test your ability to analyze the legal issues arising out of a factual scenario. Your answer will be expected to demonstrate your ability to apply the law and reason to a lawyer-like conclusion from the principles you adopt.

PERFORMANCE TEST
The Performance Test will continue to be a “closed universe” practical exam using instructions, actual data, cases, statutes and other reference material supplied by the examiners.

Please refer to the California Committee of Bar Examiners’ website (www.calbar.ca.gov) for additional details and other admission requirements such as Moral Character Determination, First-Year Law Students’ Examination (if applicable), Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (www.ncbex.org), and the Attorneys’ Examination.
EXPERIENCE THE NEXT LEVEL IN BAR EXAM READINESS.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY BAR EXAM PREPARATION?

Though the relative weight of each section of the bar exam will change, along with the length of the California Performance Test, there will be no changes in the scope of the subjects tested. As a result, our Performance Test Workshop, workbook and related materials will be updated to help you prepare for this new format, but the changes to the California Bar Exam will not significantly affect the rest of your bar exam preparation.

Every U.S. state bar exam, with the exception of Louisiana, uses the MBE and it’s worth 50% of the exam score in most jurisdictions. Mean MBE scores have also been falling. That’s why, earlier this year we introduced the exclusive BARBRI MBE Immersion as a new kick-off to BARBRI Bar Review. It’s also why we continue to provide the exclusive BARBRI Simulated MBE with Pass Predictor, by far your best predictor of bar exam success. Lastly, it’s why your entire BARBRI Bar Review experience is presented to you via your own Personal Study Plan, which will also reflect the coming changes.

BARBRI has the longest history of pass rate success, going back 80-plus bar exams. No other course comes close. We’ve helped more than 1.3 million law students pass the bar exam.

ESSAY ARCHITECT

Only BARBRI Bar Review has the online Essay Architect tool, which gives you immediate feedback for how to organize and construct higher-scoring essays. It lets you know right away if you’re on the right path toward developing a strong, lawyer-like answer.

NEW! MBE IMMERSION

Built upon an evidence-based approach to improving MBE performance, this two-day deep dive kicks off the BARBRI Bar Review course. MBE Immersion is designed to accelerate the pace you learn the law and, in turn, successfully answer MBE bar exam questions.

SIMULATED MBE WITH PASS PREDICTOR

The BARBRI Simulated MBE with Pass Predictor will become even more valuable beginning with the July 2016 California Bar Exam. This 200 question multiple-choice exam provides you with the most predictive results of any practice MBE because the vast majority of bar exam takers are BARBRI students. You will learn how you rank by topic on all seven MBE subjects. This is by far, your best predictor of bar exam success.

BARBRI AMP TECHNOLOGY

BARBRI AMP is a fast, highly effective way to help you master the black letter law – the foundation of the MBE subjects tested on the bar exam. It’s built right into your Personal Study Plan – only when you need it based on assessments of your bar study.

CAPTIVATING FACULTY

The BARBRI faculty for California reads like a “who’s who” of law professors, deans and legal scholars from the country’s top law schools. They are experts of the law and engaging speakers. They’ve studied the science of learning and are familiar with the trends and nuances of the exam.