Remote Exam Frequently Asked Questions

Does the remote bar exam test the same content as the in-person exam?

- The subject matter tested on the remote bar examination will be the same as the content covered on an in-person exam. Although there will be half as many Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) questions, each subject matter will be represented proportionally, similar to 1/2 of a typical 200 item MBE.

What is the exam format and schedule?

- The exam will consist of a performance test, six essay questions, and 100 multiple-choice Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) questions administered over a three-day period for applicants testing under standard conditions.

- Applicants must sit for all sessions of the exam and make a good faith effort on each to have their answers graded.

- The examination is closed book. No access to notes, study aids, or any other type of assistance of any kind is permitted. Study aids may not be present in the exam room.

- The exam will be on October 5, 6, and 7, 2020.

  - On Monday, October 5, there will be two test sessions. One will include the performance test for which the Board has decided applicants should receive an additional 15 minutes (a total of 105 minutes) to answer the question. The second session will include two essay questions and applicants will have 90 minutes to complete both of those questions. Applicants must provide their answers to each essay question in a separate screen.

  - On Tuesday, October 6, there will be two test sessions. Each will be 90 minutes and include 50 MBE questions. Applicants may navigate back and forth between questions during each session.

  - On Wednesday, October 7, there will be two test sessions. Each session will include two essay questions and applicants will have 90 minutes to complete both questions. Applicants must provide their answers to each essay question in a separate screen.

  - During the Performance Test ONLY -- Applicants may take one bathroom break of up to five minutes during this test session, if necessary.
Standard testing will be according to the following schedule. Each session will require a separate password to begin.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>October 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:00 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Login and begin session 1, Perf. Test</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1:15 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Login and begin session 2, Quest. 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>October 6</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11:45 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Login and begin session 3, MBE 1-50</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1:45 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Login and begin session 4, MBE 51-100</td>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>October 7</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10:00 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Login and begin session 5, Quest. 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Login and begin session 6, Quest. 5 &amp; 6</td>
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The schedules for applicants testing with accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act will vary from the standard schedule. Board staff will communicate specific test schedules for applicants approved for accommodations.

All times communicated by the Board will be Eastern Time (ET). Applicants taking the exam in other time zones must adhere to the Board-issued schedule regardless of their local time (e.g., a session scheduled to start at 10 a.m. must be started at 9 a.m. Central Time).

At the start of each session, applicants will access a password for the session and complete the login process. Both of these actions will require an internet connection. Only upon successfully advancing to the question content, when internet access will be blocked by the software, will the timer set for the session (e.g. 90 minutes) begin to countdown.

What is the cut score? Will there be a regrade process?

As with an in-person exam, the required score to pass is a 272. The Board has hired a psychometrician who will assist the board in scaling the essays and performance test answers to the 100 MBE questions. The weight for each section will remain 55% for the PT/essay section.
and 45% for the multiple-choice section. Out of an abundance of caution, the Board will expand the pool of answers below the pass line that it gives a second review. All applicants receiving a combined score of 262-271 will be included in a re-read process and have their PT and six essay answers re-read and re-graded by a different grader. The re-read graders are not aware of the scores originally given. Through this process, a final grade will be determined. Pursuant to Pa. B.A.R. 221, the grading of the bar examination answers is final and is not subject to judicial review.

What software will the Board require for the October remote exam?

- Applicants will use ExamSoft’s Examplify software to take all portions of the exam.
- Additional detailed technological requirements are available at:
  - Mac
  - Windows
- The Board office will message applicants through the Online Bar Application (pabarapplication.org) when the software is available for installation.
- Applicants must install and register Examplify on the computer that they will use to take the exam.
- After installation, applicants will take two mandatory mock exams. If possible, applicants should take the mock exam in the same environment and conditions in which they will take the actual exam.

How do I download and test the software?

- Please consult this overview on downloading and taking mock exams with Examplify to see the proper steps for this.

What are the features of the Examplify software?

- The remote exam will be administered using ExamSoft’s latest Examplify software.
- Examplify utilizes a component called ExamID to collect your photo through your computer’s webcam. Examsoft will use facial recognition to compare this picture with your baseline photo at the start of each exam session to verify your identity.
- Examplify utilizes a component called ExamMonitor that will use your camera and microphone to record you as you take the exam. After the exam, Examsoft will use artificial intelligence and human proctors to conduct a preliminary review of the audio/video files. ExamSoft will subsequently provide the files to the Board for review.
The collection of biometric information through ExamID and ExamMonitor is governed by ExamSoft’s privacy policy. ExamSoft’s proctoring partners are bound by this policy as well. The information is used only for the purpose of providing the services described above to clients, is never sold, and in the case of the remote bar exam will be retained only until the Board specifies it no longer needs the files. Files available to human proctors are anonymized and no information about the identity of the applicants is available to the proctor.

Applicants will find ExamSoft’s terms of use.

Why do I see a "Check your passwords" prompt from Google Chrome shortly after registering Examplify?

Applicants who utilize Google Chrome’s recently updated password manager may find that Chrome runs an automated review of their stored passwords. This feature warns the user if any of their stored usernames and passwords are newly found among a collected list of over 10 billion known compromised credentials. This scan is not related to the Examplify software, though the storage of any new set of credentials, including those used to access the ExamSoft website, may inspire a new automated scan depending on your device, operating system, and Chrome/Google settings. Applicants should feel free to follow the browser-issued instructions regarding safe password management. ExamSoft has posted some information about this, including a link to an article further explaining Google Chrome’s notifications.

What is ExamSoft’s policy on anti-virus software?

Internet is required for a short period before exam start to retrieve the exam password from the ExamSoft-hosted applicant website and also to verify identity via ExamID. Anti-virus software should remain active throughout these steps and be disabled only when internet is no longer needed. This is done automatically by the software while securing the device at exam start; manually disabling anti-virus is not required. However, Examplify may recommend that you manually disable antivirus and certain other applications. This is done to expedite the security process. If you choose to manually disable your anti-virus software, you may disable your internet connection after locating the password and prior to closing anti-virus or any other applications. If you disable anti-virus manually, we recommend the following common-sense best practices:

- Disable internet prior to disabling anti-virus
- Utilize a secure private network
- Re-launch anti-virus before accessing any websites or applications that utilize the internet
As with an on-site exam, internet access is required for the upload of exam files, including proctoring video files. This process can be completed at the end of all exam sessions and once anti-virus is re-enabled.

What are the computer requirements for the remote exam?

- Applicants must use a computer that is running the Windows 10 or MacOS operating systems and has a working webcam and microphone.

- Applicants may not use more than one computer monitor to take the exam.

- Applicants will need internet connectivity to start each session. However, applicants will not need to have an internet connection when they are taking the exam itself.

- Applicants may use external standard or ergonomic keyboards and equipment such as a mouse. These items may be wireless. Applicants will likely find that a mouse with a wheel is useful for scrolling through the question.

- Regarding the performance test and essays-
  - Applicants will have virtual scratch paper by using a “notes” area of the software. Applicants will be able to copy and paste text between the notes and answer sections. Any information applicants write in the notes area will not be recorded as part of an answer or graded.

  - Physical scratch paper will be permitted ONLY for the Performance Test. Applicants who wish to use this may have up to four pages of paper at their desk. Applicants using physical scratch paper must show the front and back of the pages to the camera and demonstrate that they are blank at the start of the session. Physical scratch paper is not permitted for any other session.

- Spell check will be enabled.

- No content can be printed.

- Applicants will be able to access a mock exam and to gain familiarity with the software features.

- MBE

  - Applicants will be able to strike through answers that they believe to be incorrect, but must affirmatively indicate the answer they wish to select. Merely leaving a single un-struck choice will not suffice as an answer.

  - Applicants will be able to skip or flag questions to return to them later within a session. Once the session is over, applicants will not be allowed to return to those 50-questions.
➢ The Board will include sample multiple-choice questions as part of a mock exam so that applicants can practice with these features.

**Does ExamSoft have any further resources to address technical issues?**

➢ Please consult the list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) presented from ExamSoft on Examplify use.

➢ Technical support information on Examplify can be found [here](#).

**Where may I take the exam?**

➢ Applicants will need a quiet room with internet access where they can be alone and uninterrupted during the exam. Other people or pets may not be in the room during testing.

➢ [The Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA)](#) has agreed to coordinate a matching program for applicants that do not have access to a quiet space with internet to test. Firms and other member-organizations will post available conference room or office space on the PBA website. Interested applicants will contact the organization offering space directly. The PBA will remove that offer from the list when a match occurs.

**What are the testing conditions for the remote exam?**

➢ Applicants can find answers to this question [here](#).

**When will results be available?**

➢ The Board of Bar Examiners expects to release results by mid-December 2020.

**Is it possible to cancel my registration for the remote exam?**

➢ Applicants that do not wish to participate in the remote exam may ask the Board to defer their registration to the February 2021 exam.