OCTOBER 2020 BAR EXAM FAQS

On July 16, 2020, the California Supreme Court directed the State Bar of California to administer the California Bar Examination online on October 5–6, 2020. The Court also asked the State Bar to provide a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to applicants regarding the online administration of the exam. FAQs related to the provisional licensure program are posted here. These FAQs are a living document. They are subject to revision and will be supplemented and updated as additional information and questions come to the attention of the State Bar. Please also refer to these key dates and deadlines leading up to exam day.

- Format of the Exam
- Technological Requirements
- Features of the Exam Software
- Exam Integrity
- Scoring, Scaling, and Grading
- In-Person Exam Administration
- Exam Logistics
- Testing Accommodations

FORMAT OF THE EXAM

1. What will the exam look like? What can I expect on the day(s) of the exam?
   - A full timed exam schedule for both days is now posted on the exam website with the timeframes included for your breaks and the log-on periods.
   - Day one of the exam will be comprised of five one-hour essay questions with a one-hour lunch break.
   - Day two of the exam will be comprised of 100 multiple-choice questions (split into two 50-question sessions tested over 90 minutes each) and a 90-minute Performance Test after a one-hour lunch break.
   - You will have a 15-minute break between each session (essay question, PT, or multiple-choice), and then 10 minutes after the break to successfully log back into the next exam session.

Note: Attorney applicants are now testing over two days; day one for the essay questions and the afternoon of day two for the Performance Test.
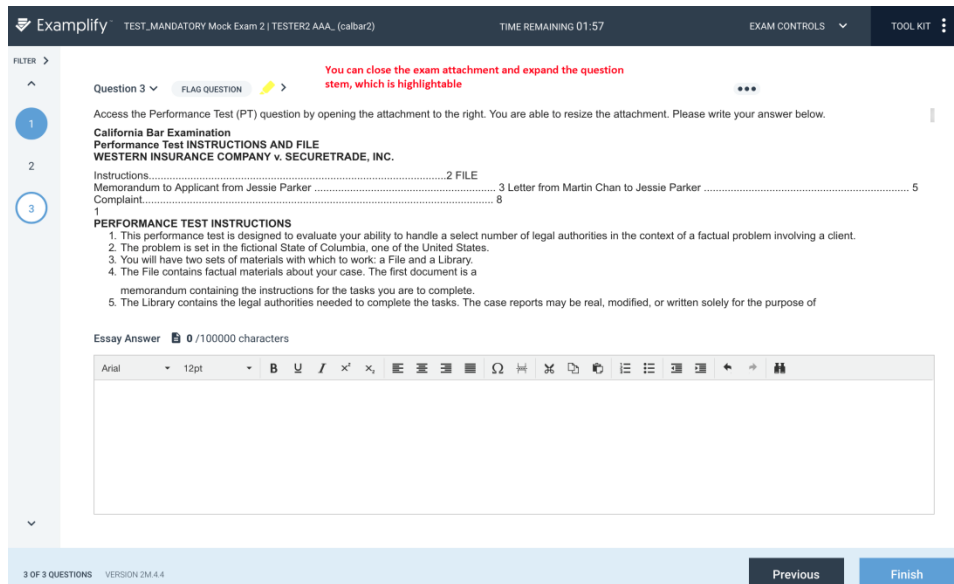
2. During the exam, may I go back and edit answers from prior questions?
   - **Essay and Performance Test (PT)–No**. To ensure the integrity of the exam, applicants will be given access to the questions one at a time. After each

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one-hour essay is taken, you will no longer have access to that essay. The same is true for the PT. You will not be able to go back to prior questions and edit your answers.
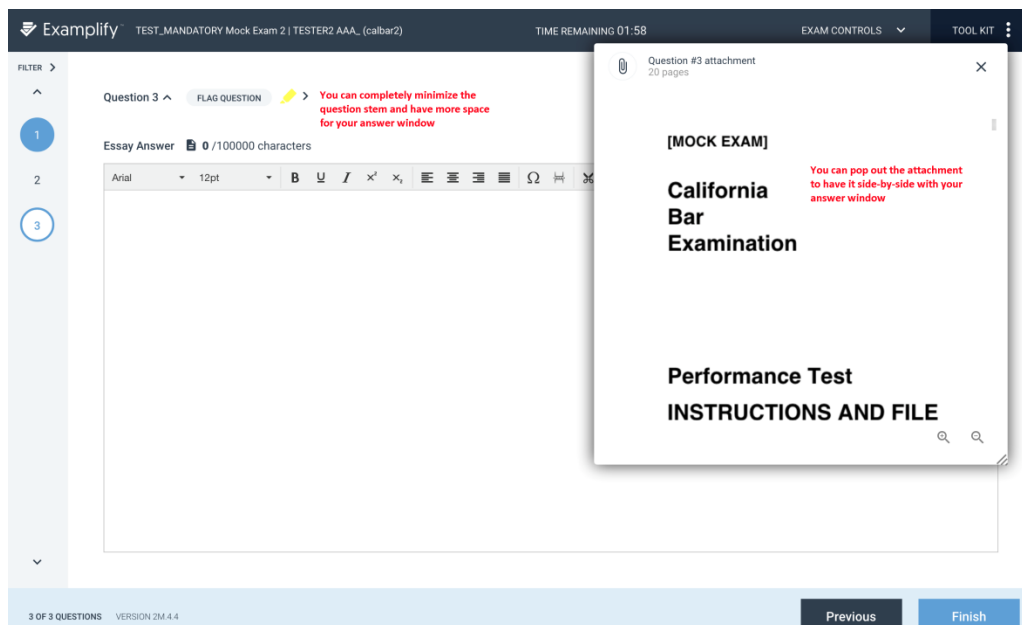
- **Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)–Yes**. The exam is administered over two 90-minute sessions each comprised of 50 multiple-choice questions. You have the ability to flag multiple-choice questions that you would like to return to during that session. Once the session is over, you will not be allowed to return to those 50-questions.

3. What will it look like when I'm taking the PT? Will I be required to scroll through the entire PT File and PT Library to get to the blank page where I begin typing my answer?
- It was discovered during the mock exams that highlighting was not available within the PT. Changes were made to address this problem. The PT file, library, and instructions will now both appear in two places:
  1. In the question stem above the answer window (the same place that essay questions are found in that section of the exam). In the question stem, you will be able to scroll up and down and highlight within the file and library.

2. In an attachment as a PDF (as displayed in the mock exam). The PDF attachment cannot be highlighted, but it can be popped out beside the answer screen so that they may be viewed together. The size of the PDF can be increased or reduced, and the PDF can be moved around the screen.

- The PT instructions will also be separately accessible for reference both before and during the timed exam session.
- The mock exam will not be updated to allow you to practice on the PT in this format. This video demonstrates what the PT will look like.

4. How many multiple-choice questions will there be?
   - The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) is providing 100 MBE questions for the remote/online exam.

5. Is there a break during the exam?
   - There will be a 15-minute break between each one-hour essay question session, a 15-minute break between each 90-minute multiple-choice session, and a break before the 90-minute Performance Test. There will also be one-hour lunch break. Other than scheduled breaks, you are not permitted to leave the view of the web camera, unless you finish the session early and proceed to upload your answers.

6. Is the exam open book?
   - No. Applicants are not permitted the use of unauthorized materials or equipment during the administration of the exam, including electronic equipment, notes, study aids/materials, or books. Applicants are expected, as future officers of the Court, to follow the rules of conduct governing the administration of the exam. Violation of exam rules will result in a Notice of violation of exam rules (referred to as a Chapter 6 notice), which may be accompanied by sanctions and/or a negative moral character determination.

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. What kind of computer, accessories, and Internet access do I need to take the October 5–6 online bar exam?

   Laptop: Desktop computers are not allowed for security reasons**.** Exam software provider ExamSoft currently does not support iPad, Surface Pro or other tablets.

   Webcam: A functional internal webcam is required for ExamID and ExamMonitor. You may not use any virtual camera software with ExamID or ExamMonitor.

   ExamSoft system requirements:

   Microphone: Required for ExamMonitor

   Hard Drive Space: at least 2 GB Free HDD Space

   Memory: 8 GB (8 GB recommended, 4 GB required)

   Mac Operating System: 10.13, 10.14, or 10.15

   Windows Operating System: 10 (Version 1803, 1809, 1903, or 1909)

   Operating System: 32-bit and 64-bit Versions of Windows 10

   Alternate versions of Windows 10, such as Windows RT and Windows 10 S, are NOT supported at this time.

Only genuine U.S. English versions of Windows Operating Systems are supported.

CPU Processor: 2.0 ghz Intel i3 processor or equivalent

RAM: 4GB or higher

Internet Speed/Bandwidth: Min 2 Mbps Upload speed

2. Can I use two monitors? Can I hook another monitor to my laptop?
   - No, for exam security reasons, you will not be able to attach another monitor to your laptop, and the software will be able to detect if additional ports on your laptop computer were used during the exam.

3. What if I lose Internet connectivity during the exam?
   - Internet connectivity is not required throughout the exam. In fact, your Internet will be blocked off once you are logged into an exam session. During the exam, you will need Internet for the log-on period, (i.e., when you access the external website for the exam session password, and when you log back into the system to verify your identification and start the next session). You will also need an Internet connection to upload your answer files, but that does not need to occur synchronously as you finish each exam session. You will be allowed to upload your answer files once the exam has concluded.
   - If your Internet connection disconnects or malfunctions for any reason during the log-on periods for the exam session, you will be able to obtain a resume code from ExamSoft technical support and enter the exam session before the end of the log-on period. At no point will applicants be able to enter the session after the close of the log-on period.
   - In the event of a large outage affecting many test-takers, a universal resume code would be posted at www.examsoft.com/calbaronline.

4. What part(s) of the exam require Internet?
   - You need Internet at the beginning of each exam session (essay question, PT, or multiple-choice) to access the exam session password and to log into the system and verify your identification. You do not need connectivity throughout and are prohibited from connecting while you are in a session and answering the question(s).
   - You also need an Internet connection to upload your exam answer files and video files by the required date (typically by noon the day after the exam concludes).

5. I heard students had difficulty getting their passwords during the First-Year Law Students' Exam (Baby Bar). What are you doing to address that?
   - The passwords will be posted on www.examsoft.com/calbaronline and updated throughout the day(s) for each session. Your practice accessing the password and the website through the mock exam process helped familiarize you with the website URL where the passwords will be posted. We encourage you to bookmark the URL. As a backup, the passwords will also be posted to https://bar.examsoft.io/calbaronline and be sent via ExamSoft email.
   - For those who have **extended time, extended days, or are attorney applicants** (do not have to take the MBE), your passwords will be posted here: www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/October-2020-Bar-Exam-Passwords, and be sent via State Bar email as a backup. Note: We will use the same email address you provided to ExamSoft during the mock exams.

6. What should I do if my computer freezes during the exam?
   - Do NOT attempt to exit from the exam, as you will be unable to re-enter.
   - To reboot the device, press and hold the power button of the device until the device is completely off. Wait five seconds, then restart the device.
   - If this does not restart the exam session, contact ExamSoft support immediately at 1-888-816-3065.

7. How can I ensure that my camera is working correctly and recording my video?
   - Click on the "Monitoring" icon on the top middle of your screen to show the video being captured. During the mandatory mock exams, you will be asked to practice and confirm that you have done this. Check that your camera is properly positioned when you begin, so you are fully in frame throughout the exam.

8. How can I ensure that the baseline image used to verify my identity is captured correctly?
   - Have a light or a window in front of you to ensure that your face is well lit for the photo.
   - Your baseline identity photo will be taken and approved by you during the first of two mandatory mock exams taken prior to exam day. You will be asked to verify your identity with your baseline photo at the start of the second mandatory mock exam.
   - If you are unable to enter the exam because of a problem with the verification process, contact ExamSoft support at 1-888-816-3065 to resolve the issue before exam day.

9. Is ExamSoft able to deliver 30,000 exams at one time?
    - Through August 18, ExamSoft delivered more than 982,000 proctored exams for 2020. In June, ExamSoft successfully delivered about 167,000 synchronous, remotely proctored exams for a single high-stakes assessment across a diverse population and dispersed geographic location.

10. Do I need to disable my antivirus software before taking the exam?
    - ExamSoft recommends pausing any antivirus software prior to starting a secure exam. Although many common antivirus applications are confirmed to have no known conflicts with the exam software, there is always risk that a new update to your antivirus software will prevent the exam software from working effectively.
    - You may test your antivirus software during the mock exam process to verify that there are no conflicts.
    - According to ExamSoft, the following commonly used antivirus applications have been confirmed to have no known conflicts with Examplify, and are thus excluded from being automatically shut down at exam start: Ad-Aware, anti-virus, Avast anti-virus, AVG anti-virus, AVG Watch Doganti-virus, Avira anti-virus, BitDefender anti-virus, ESET anti-virus, Kaspersky anti-virus, McAfee anti-virus, Microsoft Anti-Malware Service, Microsoft anti-virus, Quick Heal anti-virus, and WebRoot anti-virus.

11. Should I be concerned that ExamSoft will have access to sensitive information such as passwords on my laptop?
    - The State Bar has been assured by ExamSoft that its applications do not store and do not have access to any password information on exam-takers devices. To learn what information ExamSoft collects and what they do with that information, see [ExamSoft's privacy policy.](#)

12. ExamSoft's technical support has been difficult to reach during the mock exam process. How can applicants be confident that their calls will be answered on exam days?
    - The State Bar is aware of the issues related to ExamSoft's customer support resources and has been working with the company to resolve them as soon as possible.
    - ExamSoft has assured the State Bar that the company will have many more customer service representatives available on exam days.
    - In response to these concerns and other issues, the State Bar is also extending the deadline for applicants to take the mock exams to September 23.

- In addition to its call center, ExamSoft provides a chat help feature. To use it, make sure you are using a preferred web browser (Chrome or Firefox) and your popup blocker is disabled.
- You can always send an email to support@examsoft.com with your issue and that will create a case number and a ticket on ExamSoft's end for tracking.

13. How do I complete my laptop certification?
- This process has changed from previous years. There is no formal certifying email that will be sent. Here are the steps you must take to confirm that your laptop is ready for exam day:
    1. Download Examplify and register with ExamSoft.
    2. Download and take the required two mock exams.
    3. Upload your mock exam answer files to ExamSoft by September 23.
    4. Download the eight California Bar Exam files between September 28 and October 2.
- You will receive email confirmation from ExamSoft for each exam file you download. When you have received all eight confirmations, you are confirmed ready for the exam.
- You may check your status and view your download/upload by launching Examplify from your laptop. 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.

14. How does the software confirm my identity? What happens if the examination software does not recognize my face?
- ExamSoft uses facial recognition technology to flag potential issues for human investigation. If the software does not recognize your face, you will still be able to proceed with the examination without having to take additional steps on exam day. The admittance bulletin has been updated to reflect this.

15. How can I practice using the remote proctoring software if I've already taken the two mandatory mock exams?
- Beginning Monday, September 28, mock exam #2 will be available to retake before exam day. It is not required, but will enable you to practice using the updated version of Examplify. Launch Examplify from your laptop and log in using the Exam Takers box to download the exam.

FEATURES OF THE EXAM SOFTWARE
1. Will digital scratch paper be available during the exam?
- Digital scratch paper will be available during all parts of the bar exam (including the MBE) and will be limited to approximately 70,000 characters, which is more than the 16 pages of physical scratch paper allowed at our in-person exams.

- The Notes section (digital scratch paper) can be closed at any time by clicking on 'Tool Kit' or 'Close Tool Kit'. It can be reopened by clicking on 'Tool Kit' again. Once closed, the entire window where the applicant can type and where the question text is displayed will be extended. Applicants can also hide the question text by clicking the down arrow next to question. This will enlarge the typing space as well.

2. Will I have access to physical scratch paper?
   - You are prohibited from bringing in and using physical scratch paper during the exam for the essay questions on day one and the multiple-choice questions on day two. Digital scratch paper will be provided in the exam software.
   - You **will** be allowed to have eight pages of physical scratch paper (both sides must be blank) for the **Performance Test** on the afternoon of day two of the exam. You will be required to hold up to the camera the front and back of each piece of scratch paper you are using for the PT session. Along with the paper, you may have nondigital pens, nonmechanical pencils (with eraser incorporated; no separate erasers) and pen-style highlighters. These writing implements are only allowed for the PT session.
   - Please be aware that the font size on the digital scratch paper cannot be enlarged. Any text pasted into the answer file will match the font used in the answer file. Those applicants granted certain testing accommodations and applicants who will not be taking the exam on a laptop computer will have access to scratch paper at the in-person test centers.

3. What editing and reviewing features are common to the essays, PT, and multiple-choice?
   - You may highlight words or phrases in the exam question text that appears above the answer text screen for the essay and PT questions. However, you will not be able to highlight text in the PT file and library that are contained in the PDF attachment that allows you to pop out that document to view alongside the answer text screen. (See Question #3 under [Format of the Exam](#)).
   - You may cut and paste language from the digital scratch paper into your answer window.
   - The software was not designed to allow you to cut and paste from the question stem into your answer window or into the virtual scratch paper. The State Bar recently learned that test takers have discovered a workaround to this limitation. We are sharing this workaround in the interest of fairness and providing the same experience to all test takers. Test takers may highlight text in the question stem and, while holding down the mouse, use their operating system's copy-and-paste shortcuts (Windows Control C and Control V, Apple Command C and

Command V) to copy the highlighted text in the answer window. To become familiar with this functionality, you may retake an optional mock exam #2 before exam day.

- You will not be able to print out exam question fact patterns or any part of the test.

4. What additional editing and reviewing features are available on the **multiple-choice portion** of the exam?
    - The software allows you to strike through answers you believe to be incorrect as you read over multiple-choice questions. However, please be aware that you must still select a **correct** answer, and not just strike through incorrect ones.
    - The software also allows you to flag multiple-choice questions that you wish to return to later (within the same exam session time period).

5. Will there be any ability to practice using the system so I can get used to the technology and the set-up?
    - Yes, you will be required to take a mock exam in order to practice with the software, practice accessing the landing page, and to establish your baseline photo ID for the exam day itself.
    - Additionally, actual past California essay and Performance Test questions will be loaded into the system so that you can practice taking the exam in this format.

6. If applicants are allowed to set timed reminders in the software, when may I set the timed reminder?
    - You will be able to set the timed reminder after you start the exam. Once you start the exam, you can set up to two reminders. A timer will automatically count down the allotted time for the session as well.

7. Will I be able to choose the order of the essays?
    - No. You will not be able to choose the order of the essays.

EXAM INTEGRITY
1. Will my webcam be recording me during the entire exam?
    - While you are logged into an exam session, the remote-proctored exam will be continuously recorded and monitored by artificial intelligence and human proctors, and any and all anomalies or suspicious behavior will be flagged accordingly.

2. What are common reasons an applicant might receive a Chapter 6 Notice for violating exam rules?
    - Having a prohibited item in the exam room.
    - Leaving the view of the webcam.

- Not having the webcam centered on your face completely.
- Using an unauthorized electronic device.
- Exiting the exam room outside of scheduled breaks/lunch.
- Having others (including pets) in the exam room while you are testing.
- Suspected cheating on the exam.

This list is not inclusive; applicants must adhere to all exam rules and policies.

3. Will I have to wait until the exam and monitoring files upload before starting the next session?
   - No. Once the exam session is complete and your device reconnects to the Internet, your exam and video monitoring files may begin to upload. If the files are not fully uploaded before the start of the next session, the upload will pause and will resume once an Internet connection is re-established after the exam is completed.

4. How do I verify that my exam files and ExamMonitor files have uploaded?
   - The dashboard will list the status of the exam "Completed." Otherwise, it will say "Pending Upload."

5. What do you do after I upload my exam video? Who reviews the video? What is the process?
   - Artificial Intelligence (AI) will initially review applicants' video logs. Any events flagged by the AI will then be screened by two additional rounds of human proctor review to determine if the video in fact shows a situation that may reveal a violation of exam rules, including suspected cheating, by the applicant.
   - The encrypted video files do not include identifying information about you. Each proctor reviewing the files completes a rigorous background check and certification. They are trained to be neutral and objective in feedback. See ExamSoft's privacy policy for more information.
   - Any determination of potential violations will be made after a third level of review by staff of the State Bar.
   - Applicants suspected of violating exam rules will be issued a Chapter 6 Notice specifying the exam breach.
   - Chapter 6 notices are then reviewed by Office of Admissions management to verify whether or not the Chapter 6 should be affirmed and, if necessary, what sanction will be imposed.
   - Indisputable conduct violations will not be subject to an administrative hearing.
   - Those applicants who have sanctions imposed may request an administrative hearing for disputable violations.
   - During the hearing process, applicants will be given the opportunity to review the evidence supporting the determination of a violation and provide a response thereto.

- Under State Bar Rules 4.71-4.74, The State Bar has the burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence that a violation occurred.
- The procedure allows for disputable staff determinations to be reviewed by the Committee of Bar Examiners and ultimately the California Supreme Court.

6. May I have books in the exam room?
   - During the essay questions on day one and the MBE questions in the morning of day two, you may not have books or papers of any kind within view or reach of your desk in the exam room. Notes, study aids, or other exam resources are strictly prohibited throughout the exam. Physical scratch paper will be allowed for the Performance Test on the afternoon of day two of testing. This will be limited to eight pages of blank paper that you will show to the camera

7. May I bring beverages or food into the exam?
   - You may not have any food, water, coffee, or other beverages in the exam room.

8. May I bring a pillow or cushion into the exam room?
   - You may bring one pillow or cushion into the exam room. However, the pillow or cushion may not be in a cover or case. There must not be any writing on the pillow or cushion.

9. If having a cell phone in the exam room is grounds for a Chapter 6 violation and possibly suspected cheating, what happens if I need to call ExamSoft for technical support?
   - If you need to call ExamSoft support during the log-on period for an exam session, you may leave the exam area, use your phone and call, as you are not in an active exam session and not logged into exam material.

10. If I need water to take medication, will water be allowed on the table?
    - No, you may not have any beverages in the exam room. There are multiple breaks built into the testing day which hopefully will coincide with any need to take medicine during the exam. If you need access to medicine outside of these break times, then you may need to take the exam in person.

11. Am I allowed to have an external keyboard or mouse?
    - External standard or ergonomic keyboards and equipment such as a mouse are allowed. These items may be wireless.

12. Am I allowed to use earplugs to block out noise?
    - Yes, you may use foam earplugs. However, you may not use headphones or earbuds.

13. Am I allowed to have a face mask in the room?
    - Yes, you may have a face mask. There may not be any writing or designs on the mask.

14. I am worried about my power failing during the exam. Will laptop power banks and mobile Wi-Fi hotspots be allowed?
    - You may have a laptop power bank for backup laptop battery power.
    - As noted under Technological Requirements, Internet connectivity is needed only for the log-on periods and to upload your answer files. If the Internet connection disconnects or malfunctions for any reason during a log-on period, you will be able to obtain a resume code from ExamSoft technical support to enter the next exam session before the end of the log-on period. The State Bar is allowing dedicated mobile hotspot devices. The hotspot must be out of reach of the test taker and out of view of the camera, but can be in the exam room. Cell phones are not permitted as hotspots if use in this way requires that they be in the exam room.

15. Should I be concerned that ExamSoft will have access to my biometric data?
    - ExamSoft has assured the State Bar that the biometric data it collects is used only for the purpose of providing remote proctoring services and is never sold. The data will be purged when the State Bar has completed its review of the video recordings to confirm exam integrity.
    - On September 25, the California Supreme Court directed the State Bar to submit, within 60 days, a timetable for destruction of all applicants' personally identifiable information retained by ExamSoft and its third-party providers.

16. Is it true that a new feature of Apple devices allows test takers to breach the exam's integrity by accessing information stored on other Apple devices?
    - ExamSoft deployed a software update to Examplify 2.4.6 on September 28 to fix this issue. You must download the update before you may download the exam files.
    - In extensive testing performed by ExamSoft before the software patch was made available, there has been no evidence that the shortcut can still be employed.
    - ExamSoft's tools can detect and flag whether prohibited cutting and pasting of this kind is done. In addition, the software records and flags other anomalous activity that might indicate cheating, including shutdowns.
    - It is the State Bar's utmost priority to administer a fair exam for all while maintaining the integrity and security of the exam process.

17. How is ExamSoft ensuring that the exam files that applicants have downloaded to their computers can't be accessed in advance?
    - The exam files downloaded onto applicants' computers are encrypted and unlocked using randomly generated passwords with a minimum of 18 characters, making any decryption of the exam files prior to the exam day incredibly complex.
    - Do not attempt to alter the config files associated with your exam files. This will prevent you from accessing the exam files and you will not receive additional downloads of the exam files.

SCORING, SCALING, AND GRADING

1. How will the bar exam be scored?
    - General Bar applicants will have their pass/fail status based on equal weighting of the written portion (50 percent) and MBE portion (50 percent).
    - Applicants taking the Attorney's Exam are exempt from the MBE and will have their pass/fail status based solely on the written portion (100 percent).
    - The California Supreme Court has lowered the passing score for the October Bar Exam from 1440 to 1390. The new 1390 passing score will apply prospectively to future administrations of the California Bar Exam.
    - The Supreme Court issued a [determination](#) on retroactivity of the 1390 cut score on August 10, 2020. They have declined to apply the new passing score retroactively to prior administrations of the exam.

2. Why do we need the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) anyway?
    - The multiple-choice questions are, in and of themselves, an important component of the bar exam, as they help to determine an examinee's competence to practice law.
    - The MBE is used to scale the bar exam, as the sum of all scores assigned by the Graders on the written portion of the exam are converted to the same units of measurement as that used for the MBE.
    - We have been assured by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) that the 100 questions provided for the online exam have been formulated with the same standard and rigor as all prior administrations.

3. How does scaling work?
    - For the online administration, a 100-question MBE-like multiple-choice test provided by the NCBE will be given. The NCBE will neither score this exam nor equate it.
    - The State Bar is working with our psychometrician on a plan that strives to sustain high exam reliability while maintaining a standard that is reflective of

past exams. The methodology centers on converting scores on the 100-item multiple-choice exam to an MBE-like score, by employing a raw-to-scale conversion plan that utilizes NCBE's historic MBE raw-to-equated scale score transformations.

4. What if I want to stop the exam part way through? Will I be deemed to have failed the exam?
   - To be considered as having taken the October California Bar Exam, you must be in attendance at all sessions of the exam and must upload a complete set of answer files and a complete set of video files.
   - If you miss any session of the exam, you will not be considered as having taken the exam and your responses will not be graded. You will also not be eligible for a refund.

5. When will results from the exam be released?
   - Currently, the State Bar does not expect to deliver the exam results until mid-January 2021, but is actively working on shortening the grading timeline so that applicants receive their results on an expedited schedule.

6. If I am unsuccessful on the exam, when will my answer files be released?
   - Typically answer files are released within four weeks after posting the exam results; however, the State Bar is working on expediting that timeline.

IN-PERSON EXAM ADMINISTRATION

1. What are the safety precautions in place for those taking the exam at an in-person test center?
   - Those applicants coming to testing centers in-person will be required to sign a COVID-19 Code of Conduct and attest that they have not been symptomatic for the prior 14 days, exposed to any individuals who have tested positive in the prior 14 days, nor tested positive themselves.
   - In-person applicants will be physically distant from other applicants and staff, they will be required to wear a facial covering, and will have their temperature taken at the exam site.
   - Any applicants exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be directed to immediately leave the testing location.

2. Will those approved for testing accommodations be required to take the fall bar exam in person?
   - The answer depends on the accommodations granted and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If a determination is made to grant one or more accommodations, it will also be determined whether the accommodations can be effectively provided and securely administered in a remote environment. If

the accommodation can be effectively provided remotely, the applicant will not be required to take the exam in-person.

3. If I do not have a quiet place to take the exam, can I take the exam in person?
   - Yes, so long as you are determined to have extenuating circumstances justifying an in-person exam. A form will be sent for you to acknowledge that you have read all of the testing conditions and to describe your extenuating circumstances, which you must sign under penalty of perjury. If your extenuating circumstances provide sufficient justification, you will be provided with an in-person testing space.
   - The Supreme Court, in its letter dated July 16, 2020, urged "law schools to assist those graduates who lack Internet access at home, or who have home environments not amenable to two days of uninterrupted exam, by employing the same and similar measures, including the use of school facilities and equipment, that schools have utilized to allow students to complete the Spring 2020 semester."

4. If I have registered as a hand-writer, what happens to me?
   - You will have the option to convert to a remote test taker, and if you have extenuating circumstances, or lack access to technology entirely, you can apply for in-person testing space.
   - All laptop users must pay the required laptop fee.

5. Are applicants allowed to take the exam in a room with other people or bar examinees?
   - To maintain the security of the exam, you must be alone in the exam room during the administration of the October 2020 exam.
   - No other individuals may be present in the room in which you elect to take the exam.

EXAM LOGISTICS
1. What are the application deadlines, refund deadlines, testing accommodations deadlines?
   - The final deadline to register for the October Bar Exam was Friday, July 24 (at 11:59 p.m.).
   - Additional deadlines have been posted [here](#).

2. Can foreign applicants take the online exam?
   - Eligibility for who may sit for this exam has not changed. If you have been deemed eligible for the October bar exam and can meet all the outlined testing conditions for a remote exam, you can take the test from any location. All test takers, regardless of location, will be taking the exam at the same time. All times

identified for the exam are Pacific Daylight Time. Depending on your location, the actual time of day for you may vary.

3. If I have been granted a testing accommodation which would require that I take the exam in person, but would rather waive that accommodation to test remotely, is that allowed?
    - Applicants can choose to waive their accommodations and take the online remote exam without the accommodations. They don't have to withdraw from the exam.

4. I am no longer interested in taking the October 2020 California Bar Exam. How do I request a refund?
    - Refund requests must be made by September 8, 2020, through a General Request in the Applicant Portal. Please use the subject line: **Request for refund for the Fall 2020 Bar Exam**.

5. Can you please verify what California's eligibility guidelines will be on whether a student may take California's Bar Exam on October 5–6 if the student also sat for another state's July 28–29 or September 30–October 1 exam?
    - NCBE is offering bar exam materials to jurisdictions for two additional administration dates so that as many people as possible have at least one opportunity to test in 2020. The multiple dates are intended to enable jurisdictions to offer a bar exam during the remainder of 2020 while also observing federal, state, and local health guidelines regarding COVID-19. While each jurisdiction determines its own rules for eligibility to sit for the bar exam, we anticipate that adherence to federal, state, and local health guidelines will place pressure on a jurisdiction's ability to provide seating for candidates. **Therefore, candidates should not view the additional dates as an opportunity to test in multiple jurisdictions or to test multiple times in a single jurisdiction.**
    - Candidates shall affirm that they do not, and will not, plan to sit for any other jurisdiction's bar exam administration in July, September, or October 2020 during which NCBE tests are used. Jurisdictions should prohibit candidates from participating in the remotely administered test if they will sit for any of these in-person administrations of the bar exam, as such participation may provide an opportunity for non-bona fide candidates to gain access to NCBE's copyright-protected test material.

6. Will the State Bar still be charging late fees with the final filing deadline change?
    - No, we are in fact going through the process of refunding ALL late fees previously charged. Please make sure your email and mailing address are up to date in the applicant portal in case we need to mail a check.

7. Is there any way to expedite the review of my moral character application?
   - No, moral character applications are processed in the order in which they are submitted and received. The duration of a moral character investigation varies due to factors such as the volume of applications received in a given period and whether timely responses to requests for information are received from the applicant or others. Generally, it takes a minimum of approximately 180 days, or six months, to process a moral character application.

8. If I take the exam on a laptop, in person, will I be given paper materials (a paper copy of the PT file and library, for example)?
   - No, unless paper materials are part of your granted testing accommodation, you will be using the same exam software and question delivery in person as those testing remotely. In-person applicants will use virtual scratch paper for all exam sessions, except for the eight pages of blank, physical scratch paper for the PT, which remote applicants are also allowed to have.

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

1. If I have been granted as a testing accommodation the ability to get up and stretch during the exam, and have not been granted other accommodations that are not amenable to online remote administration, will I be required to test in-person?
   - No. If you have been granted as a testing accommodation the ability to get up and stretch during the exam, and have not been granted other accommodations that are not amenable to online remote administration, you may test remotely so long as you stay in view of the web camera while you get up and stretch.

2. If I have been granted as a testing accommodation the ability to bring food and/or beverages into the secured testing area, and have not been granted other accommodations that are not amenable to online remote administration, will I be required to test in-person?
   - No. If you have been granted as a testing accommodation the ability to bring food and/or beverages into the secured testing area, and have not been granted other accommodations that are not amenable to online remote administration, you may test remotely.

3. If I have been granted as a testing accommodation extra testing time on the exam, will I be required to test in-person?
   - Maybe. If you have been granted as a testing accommodation extra testing time on the exam, in order to test remotely you will need to have the same percentage of extra testing time for each session of the exam *and* be able to stay in view of the web camera for the duration of each question session as required by the Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Testing Conditions for the October

2020 California Bar Exam. For an applicant who has been granted double testing time on any portion of the exam, that means staying in view of the web camera for up to three hours, or until the applicant submits their answer file. If you have been granted extra testing time and you have a different amount of extra testing time for different sessions of the exam and/or you feel you will **NOT** be able to stay in view of the web camera for the duration of each question session, you may elect to waive or reduce your extra testing time or test in-person with your accommodations as granted. If you wish to make such an election, please fill out the [Extra Testing Time Testing Accommodation Election Form](#) and return it to the State Bar's San Francisco office as soon as possible but no later than September 4, 2020.

4. If I have been granted as a testing accommodation the ability to wear religious or other headwear during the exam, will I be required to test in-person?
   - No. If you have been granted as a testing accommodation the ability to wear religious or other headwear during the exam, and have not been granted other accommodations that are not amenable to online remote administration, you may test remotely.

5. If I have been granted as a testing accommodation the ability to use speech recognition software, such as Dragon Speech Recognition, and/or screen reader software, such as JAWS software, will I be required to test in-person?
   - Yes. Unfortunately speech recognition software, such as Dragon Speech Recognition, and screen reader software, such as JAWS software, are not compatible with the State Bar's exam software. As a result, applicants who have been granted the use of speech recognition software and screen reader software will be required to test in-person in order to utilize these accommodations.

6. If I have been granted as a testing accommodation the ability to receive my exam materials in a larger font size, will I be required to test in-person?
   - Maybe. While the font size of the online exam questions (essays, PT, and multiple-choice) can be enlarged to 72-point font, the font size of the digital scratch paper is 14-point font and cannot be enlarged. If you have been granted as a testing accommodation the ability to receive your exam materials in a larger font size, and you will be able to enlarge the view of your digital scratch paper, you will be required to test in-person in order to utilize this accommodation.

7. If I have been granted a testing accommodation that is not explicitly addressed by these FAQs but is otherwise incompatible with the Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Testing Conditions for the October 2020 California Bar Exam, will I be required to test in-person?

- Yes. If you are unable to abide by the Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Testing Conditions for the October 2020 California Bar Exam while utilizing one or more of your granted testing accommodation(s), you will be required to test in-person in order to utilize all of your granted testing accommodation(s).

8. What if I don't know if the accommodations I have been granted will work in a remote environment?
    - First, you should review the Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Testing Conditions document, along with the FAQs, so you are familiar with the remotely proctored environment. If you are still unsure of whether or not you can test remotely, please submit a request via your Applicant Portal to review your granted accommodations.

9. If I have been granted a testing accommodation that I believe is compatible with the Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Testing Conditions for the October 2020 California Bar Exam, can the State Bar determine that it is not compatible and cannot be administered remotely?
    - Yes. If the State Bar at any time determines in its sole discretion that any of your granted testing accommodation(s) cannot be administered remotely, the State Bar may require that you test in-person in order to utilize any such accommodations.

For technical support, contact ExamSoft tech at 1-888-816-3065.

10. If I have a need for paper exam materials (questions and/or scratch paper) related to my disability, but have not already requested an accommodation for them, can I still make that request and what do I need to do?
    - Yes. You must submit a request in writing explaining the need for paper exam materials, which must be reasonably related to your disability. In addition, you must submit a note from a specialist/medical provider documenting the need for paper exam materials and the relationship to the disability. In order to be provided with paper exam materials, you must test in-person at a test center assigned by the State Bar. Your request must be received in your Applicant Portal as soon as possible, but no later than September 18, 2020.

11. The deadline to appeal the outcome of my Testing Accommodation petition was August 21. After I read the Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Testing Conditions document, however, I feel that I have good cause to appeal after the August 21 deadline. What can I do?
    - If you believe you have good cause to appeal the outcome of your Testing Accommodation petition after the August 21 deadline, you may submit a General Request through the Applicant Portal with the subject line: Testing Accommodations Appeal, Good Cause for Late Submission and detail as

specifically as possible in your request your reasons for late submission along with any supporting medical or other documentation. All such requests must be received in the Applicant Portal by September 11.The State Bar will evaluate all such requests on a case-by-case basis to determine whether good cause exists for the late submission. If good cause is found by the State Bar, in its sole discretion, your appeal will be considered as if it were timely filed. An example of good cause to appeal after the August 21 deadline might include that you did not learn until the release of the Testing Conditions document that you wouldn't have physical scratch paper, making the denial of your request for 1 and ½ time more problematic in light of your specific needs, and you tried since August 7 to get the necessary documentation from your medical provider but they couldn't give you an appointment until August 25. Note that the fact that you received the outcome of your Testing Accommodation petition after the August 21 deadline does not in and of itself constitute good cause to appeal after the August 21 deadline. Petitions for Testing Accommodations received on or near the July 24 deadline may not be processed in time for an applicant to appeal the outcome before the examination as explained in [Rule 4.84(B) of the Rules of the State Bar](#).

UPDATES

10/2/2020
- Modified question #3 under Technological Requirements
- Modified question #5 under Technological Requirements
- Modified question #10 under Technological Requirements
- Modified question #14 under Technological Requirements
- Modified question #16 under Exam Integrity
- Added new question #17 under Exam Integrity

9/25/2020
- Modified question #3 under Format of the Exam
- Modified question #5 under Technological Requirements
- Added new question #14 and #15 under Technological Requirements
- Modified question #3 under Features of the Exam Software
- Added new question #15 and #16 under Exam Integrity

9/18/2020
- Added question #11 and #12 under Technological Requirements
- Modified question #5 under Exam Integrity

9/10/2020
- Modified question #3 under Format of the Exam
- Added question #11 under Technological Requirements
- Modified question #3 under Features of the Exam Software

- Modified question #14 under Exam Integrity

9/2/2020
- Modified question #3 under Features of the Exam Software

8/31/2020
- Modified question #1 under Technological Requirements
- Added questions #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10 under Technological Requirements
- Added questions #3, #4, #12, and #13 under Exam Integrity
- Modified question #5 under Exam Integrity
- Modified question #1 under Exam Logistics
- Added question #10 and #11 under Testing Accommodations

8/14/2020
- Modified question #1 under Format of the Exam
- Modified question #1 under Scoring, Scaling, and Grading

8/12/2020
- Modified question #1 under Technological Requirements

8/7/2020
- Added new FAQs related to testing accommodations
- Modified question #1 under Technological Requirements
- Added new question #8 under Exam Logistics

7/27/2020
- Modified question #3 under Technological Requirements
- Modified question #2 under Features of the Exam Software
- Modified question #1 under Scoring, Scaling, and Grading
- Modified question #2 under In-Person Exam Administration

7/21/2020
- Added new question #9 under Exam Integrity
- Added question #5 under Exam Logistics
- Added question #6 under Exam Logistics
- Added question #7 under Exam Logistics