



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

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**INFORMATION FOR UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS  
JUNE 2013 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION**

The June 2013 First-Year Law Students' Examination consisted of one session of four essay questions and one session of one hundred multiple-choice questions testing Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts. The passing score for the First-Year Law Students' Examination is a total scaled score of 560 or higher. The enclosed letter indicates your assigned grades on the essay portion of the examination, your total raw written score, your raw totals on the multiple-choice portion of the examination, your total scaled written score, your converted multiple-choice score and your total scaled score.

**GRADING**

The Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) is aware of the importance of the First-Year Law Students' Examination to each applicant and has established procedures calculated to ensure a fair system of grading.

An applicant's raw multiple-choice score is the number of items answered correctly. Multiple-choice raw scores were converted to a multiple-choice converted score. This process adjusts for the possible differences in the difficulty of the multiple-choice items on different administrations of the examination. As a result, an applicant's converted multiple-choice score is not affected by the difficulty of the particular version of the examination that the applicant takes.

Applicants' answers to the essay questions are graded by attorneys who are licensed to practice law in California, with proven ability at legal analysis. They are trained and carefully supervised.

An applicant's assigned grade on an essay question can range between 40 and 100. Total raw written scores can therefore range between 160 and 400 points. Total raw written scores are converted to the same scale of measurement as that used for the multiple-choice portion. This is done to adjust for possible differences in the difficulty of the essay questions and for variations in grader standards.

An applicant's total scaled score on the examination is the sum of that applicant's converted scores on the multiple-choice and written sections. This step gives these sections equal weight in determining the total score. All applicants who receive a total scaled score of 560 or above are passed. Those who receive a total scaled score of less than 540 are failed. If the total scaled score is at least 540 but less than 560, that applicant's examination is automatically sent to reappraisal, where a member of the Examination Development and Grading Team reviews the entire examination and determines whether, taken as a whole, it merits a pass or fail. Because no score adjustments are made in reappraisal, the scores reported to applicants whose examinations were reappraised are the scores achieved after the initial reading.

The anonymity of the applicant is preserved throughout the grading process. Each applicant is assigned a code number that is not known to them until results of the examination are released.

To confirm your total scaled score:

Converted multiple-choice score

Add your three multiple-choice scores. The sum of these scores is your total raw multiple-choice score. Insert this value into the following formula:

$$\text{Converted multiple-choice score} = (\text{Total raw multiple-choice score} \times 3.8722) - 0.8909$$

Scaled written score

Add your four essay grades. The sum of these is your total raw written score. Insert this value into the following formula:

$$\text{Scaled written score} = (\text{Total raw written score} \times 2.4872) - 366.4178$$

Your total scaled score is the sum of the two products above.

RECONSIDERATION

The Committee believes that its grading system affords each applicant a fair and careful consideration of all answers on the examination and that no useful purpose would be served by further consideration by the Committee. For this reason, the Committee will not entertain requests for reconsideration unless the applicant establishes that one of the following resulted in failure or prevented the examination from being reappraised: 1) an arithmetical error in the calculation of the total written score from the final grades assigned to the written questions or in the calculation of the total multiple-choice score; or, 2) a clerical error.

Responses will only be provided to written requests that meet the criteria noted above.

INSPECTION OF THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE PORTION OF EXAMINATION AND RETURN OF ESSAY ANSWERS

**Multiple-Choice:** You may inspect the multiple-choice portion of the examination at the Office of Admissions (San Francisco or Los Angeles) nearest the location at which you took the examination from August 19, 2013 through December 20, 2013. All who may wish to review their multiple-choice answers cannot be accommodated at the same time. Appointments for a period of one and one-half hours, in a proctored situation (no notes permitted), will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. You are limited to a single appointment. Appointments to inspect your multiple-choice answers must be made in advance. To make an appointment, call the Office of Admissions: (415) 538-2300 in San Francisco or (213) 765-1500 in Los Angeles. Appointments may be scheduled at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

**Essay:** Applicants will have their essay answers mailed to the address on file approximately three weeks following the release of results.

FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION STUDY AIDS

Essay questions and Selected Answers for the past several administrations of the First-Year Law Students' Examination are available free of charge through the Office of Admissions portion of the State Bar's website at <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov>. Any requests for examination Essay questions and Selected Answers from earlier administrations of the examination must be submitted on a Document Request Form and accompanied by the appropriate fee(s).