

Books and Resources That May Be Helpful to You in Your Preparation for the California Bar Examination

Dear NWCU Student/Graduate,

I am providing you here with a list of items that will help you study for the California Bar Examination. Please take particular notice of the words that I have highlighted in yellow in the section of this message that pertains to studying for the MBE.

Bar examination experts generally agree that 'Studying for the Test' by taking practice tests is much better than getting immersed in the complete re-study, from top to bottom, of law school courses. Taking practice tests is not just a means for assessing how much you know. According to the experts, it actually helps you learn and works much better than a number of other study methods and techniques.

The books and resources mentioned in the following paragraphs, in my opinion, are together a combination that is excellent when it comes to 'Studying for the Test' by taking practice tests. I highly recommend them to you.

THE ESSAY PART OF THE EXAM – A BOOK TO BUY AND READ

For essay exam answering techniques and practice, there is a fabulous book titled [Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar](https://www.amazon.com/Essay-Exam-Writing-California-Review/dp/154381350X/ref=rtpb_4/141-0637259-2181948?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=154381350X&pd_rd_r=7d5ed52f-7c42-4584-87fe-557d67fe17fa&pd_rd_w=L01GE&pd_rd_wg=7ZQI2&pf_rd_p=c798f3da-1c00-46a6-93f7-8149d787c17f&pf_rd_r=TYJM9YC22CBNT0QBFSQ4&psc=1&refRID=TYJM9YC22CBNT0QBFSQ4), Second edition, by bar preparation experts Mary Basick and Tina Schindler. It is available from Amazon for about \$70. It is published by Wolter Kluwer. You can order the book and read reviews about it at the following URL: https://www.amazon.com/Essay-Exam-Writing-California-Review/dp/154381350X/ref=rtpb_4/141-0637259-2181948?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=154381350X&pd_rd_r=7d5ed52f-7c42-4584-87fe-557d67fe17fa&pd_rd_w=L01GE&pd_rd_wg=7ZQI2&pf_rd_p=c798f3da-1c00-46a6-93f7-8149d787c17f&pf_rd_r=TYJM9YC22CBNT0QBFSQ4&psc=1&refRID=TYJM9YC22CBNT0QBFSQ4

This book provides you with suggested format and style for your essay answers. It also provides memorization matrixes for the subjects tested on the essay part of the exam. The information provided in the book can help you write better answers to essay questions.

In addition to reading the book, I highly recommend that you start reading a very large number of past bar essay questions and selected answers to those questions for every tested subject. There are links to them on the Northwestern California University General Bar Examination Preparation 'Jump Page.'

The State Bar may reuse fact patterns of older exams over time, so I really can't overstate the value of reading and studying both the newer and the older exam questions and selected answers that you can access using those links.

Eventually, select certain essay questions and then, in self-timed sessions, write answers to them and later compare your answers to actual answers written by students taking the bar examination.

THE PERFORMANCE TEST – A BOOK TO BUY AND READ

For learning performance test techniques and practice, I highly recommend the book titled [California Performance Test Workbook](#), Second edition. It was also written by bar preparation experts Mary Basick and Tina Schindler and is published by Wolters Kluwer. It can be purchased from Amazon for about \$70. You can order the book and read reviews about it at the following URL: https://www.amazon.com/California-Performance-Test-Workbook-Preparation/dp/1543813518/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?dchild=1&keywords=California+Performance+Test+Workbook%3A+Preparation+for+the+Bar+Exam+%28Bar+Review%29%2C+second+edition&qid=1596757582&s=books&sr=1-1-fkmr0

Please know that there are a number of individual formats required for answers to performance test questions. The format needed for an answer to a performance test question depends on the exact task referenced in the question. This book provides you with the various formats that you need to know to answer performance questions. The formats and information provided in the book can help you write better answers to performance test questions.

In addition to reading it, I highly recommend that you read a very large number of past performance questions and selected answers to those questions. There are links to them on the Northwestern California University General Bar Examination Preparation 'Jump Page.'

As stated above, the State Bar may reuse fact patterns of older exams over time, so it would be good for you to read and study both the newer and the older performance exam questions and selected answers using those links.

Eventually, select certain performance test questions and then, in self-timed sessions, write answers to them and later compare your answers to actual answers written by students taking the bar examination.

THE MBE PART OF THE EXAM – AN ONLINE MBE SIMULATOR TO SIGN UP AND USE

For MBE multiple choice question and answer techniques and practice, the best thing available in my opinion is the AdaptiBar MBE simulator. You can sign on for the use of it for \$395 at the following URL: <http://www.adaptibar.com>

Reading and working with practice multiple choice questions and answers is a wonderful way to actively learn important nuances in the law that will help you on both the multiple choice and essay portions of the bar examination. Going over more than a thousand of

them can really do wonders if you, indeed, are actively involved selecting answers and then actively compare your answers to the ones that are identified as correct.

I personally think that the MBE part of the examination should receive a large amount, perhaps the greatest amount, of your attention. Your mastery of the MBE rewards you with great point-earning potential. Each correct answer raises your overall score on the bar examination and does so without any uncertainty related to subjective assessments of graders. Moreover, the nuances in the law that you learn as you practice for the MBE are the very nuances that you need to know for the handling of many essay questions. So, you get valuable knowledge for both the MBE and the essay portion of the bar examination by studying for the MBE.

Answering a thousand, two thousand, three thousand or more of the practice MBE questions is the way to go. Don't stop when you get to a point at which you are getting more than 70 percent, 80 percent or 90 percent of your answers correct. What is important is that you move on to dissect each MBE practice question and answer and, in the process, master the correct concepts that are the subject of each. Your goal should be focused entirely on learning nuances in the law by reading, thinking about and then answering the questions.

Using those books, resources and material for focused study for **5 HOURS TO 10 HOURS A DAY** will help you immensely. Studying that way is, in my opinion, probably the very best thing that you can do to prepare for the bar examination.

Best wishes,

Michael Clancey, Dean

**Northwestern California University School
of Law**