



**FEBRUARY 2026 CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION:  
INFORMATION FOR UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

**GRADE INFORMATION**

The California Bar Exam comprises both the two-day General Bar Exam and the one-day Attorneys' Exam.

If you did not achieve a passing score on the General Bar Exam, you will be able to view the following information through your [Applicant Portal](#): the raw scores for your answers to the five essay questions and the one performance test (PT) (referred to as your written scores), your total raw and scale written scores, your scale score on the 200-item Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), and your total scaled score, which combines the written section and the MBE. Also reported for the MBE will be local (State of California) and national percentile rank information, which indicates the percentile rank for your performance in the seven MBE content areas and the MBE total score. For example, if 80.4 is listed after Civil Procedure, this means that you scored higher than 80 percent of all examinees who took this bar examination (nationally) on the civil procedure questions; only 19.6 percent received a score above yours.

If you took the Attorneys' Exam, you will be able to view the following information through your [Applicant Portal](#): the raw scores for your answers to the five essay questions and the one PT, your total raw and scale written scores, and your total scaled score.

If you participated in the November 2024 bar exam study and answered at least 28 of the 49 multiple-choice questions correctly, a scale score adjustment of 40 points was applied to the multiple-choice section of your General Bar Exam. This adjustment translates to a 20-point increase in your total scaled score. The adjusted scale score was used to calculate the final total score reflected in your result letter. The score adjustment is applied only to your first attempt at the General Bar Exam since the November 2024 bar exam study. Emails are sent the same day that results are released to those who received this scale score adjustment.

To pass the exam, an applicant must have a total scaled score of at least 1390 out of a possible 2000 points.

**Your written scores for each question are reflected by reference to the following question numbers:**

- Question 1: Real Property
- Question 2: Contracts
- Question 3: Professional Responsibility
- Question 4: Civil Procedure
- Question 5: Community Property
- Question 6 (PT): Write Brief in Support of Client's Motion – Evidence

### **SCALING INFORMATION**

The State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners uses a scoring procedure designed to ensure the level of difficulty of the exam remains consistent with previous administrations of the exam. The statistical technique, called [scaling](#), converts scores on the written section to the same units of measurement used for the MBE scale score. This adjusts for possible differences in average question difficulty and grading across different administrations of the exam. This adjustment is used to ensure that an applicant's likelihood of passing is not affected by any variation across administrations.

On the written section of the exam, applicants could achieve a maximum of 700 points. An applicant could earn up to 100 raw points on each of the five essay questions and on the PT. The grade on the PT is doubled in the calculation of the total raw written points. The raw written score is translated to the 2000-point MBE scale using the formula described below. An applicant's total scaled score is the scale MBE score multiplied by .50 plus the written scale score multiplied by .50.

Attorney applicants who took the Attorneys' Exam have their scores on the written section placed on the same scale of measurement used for the General Bar Exam, but, as they are exempt from the MBE, their pass/fail status is based solely on the written section.

### **Calculate Your Written Scale Score**

Double the assigned PT grade and add the resulting value to the sum of your five raw essay grades. The total is your raw written score. Insert this value into the following formula:

$$\text{Written scale score} = (\text{Raw written score} \times 4.0700) - 399.0100$$

If you took the Attorneys' Exam, your total scaled score is equal to your written scale score. If you took the General Bar Exam and wish to calculate your total scaled score on your own:

$$\text{Total scaled score} = (\text{MBE scale score} \times .50) + (\text{Written scale score} \times .50)$$

## **PHASED GRADING**

All written answers submitted by applicants who completed the exam in its entirety are read and graded at least once before pass/fail decisions are made. To pass the exam in the first phase of grading (after one reading), an applicant must have a total scaled score of at least 1390 points out of 2000 possible points. Those with total scaled scores below 1350 after one reading fail the exam.

If the applicant's total scaled score is at least 1350 but less than 1390 after one reading, all the applicant's answers are read a second time by a different set of graders. If the applicant's averaged total scaled score after two readings is 1390<sup>1</sup> or higher, the applicant passes the exam. Applicants with an average total scaled score of less than 1390 fail the exam.

## **ACCESS TO EXAMINATION ANSWERS**

Unsuccessful applicants may access their essays and PT answers through the [Applicant Portal](#). You may save or print a copy for your records. The answer files will be removed from the Applicant Portal on May 29, 2026.

The MBE portion of the California Bar Examination is a secure exam owned by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). The NCBE does not permit the review of MBE questions, answers, or the answer sheets completed by applicants. Only scale MBE scores and percentile rank information are provided to the State Bar. Raw scores are not available.

## **PRACTICAL TRAINING OF LAW STUDENTS — TERMINATION OF CERTIFICATION**

Pursuant to rule 3.8 of the Rules of the State Bar, an applicant may no longer continue in the Practical Training of Law Students Program as a certified law student once the results from the first bar exam for which they are eligible are released.

## **TRANSFER OF MBE SCORES TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

The NCBE will transfer your MBE score to admitting authorities in other jurisdictions upon request and payment of a fee. An MBE Score Transfer Request may be completed and submitted online through the [NCBE's website](#).

## **BAR EXAMINATION STUDY AIDS**

"Selected Answers" are exam answers that were assigned high grades during grading and were written by actual applicants who passed the exam after the first phase of grading. They are

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<sup>1</sup> To prevent applicants from failing by less than one point, following the calculation of the total scaled score after the second read, pursuant to CBE policy, any score between 1389.0001 and 1389.9999 is rounded to 1390 and deemed a passing score.

published following the release of results for each administration of the exam. Essay Questions, Performance Tests, and Selected Answers for the past several administrations of the California Bar Examination are available free of charge on the [Past Exams webpage](#).

Selected answers from this administration are expected to be available on the [Past Exams webpage](#) to view, download, and print at home in June. The past practice of allowing hard copy orders of the selected answers has been discontinued.

MBE study aids are available for purchase online through the NCBE. Additional information is available on the [NCBE's website](#).

### **APPLICATION TO TAKE THE JULY 2026 CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION**

The administration of the July 2026 California Bar Examination is scheduled for July 28–29. If you were unsuccessful on the February 2026 exam, you may register for the July exam as an “immediate repeater.” Immediate repeaters may register for the July 2026 California Bar Examination immediately after the release of results. For applicants requesting testing accommodations on a future bar exam, please refer to the [Testing Accommodations webpages](#).