

SUPPLEMENT SHOPPING LIST (2025)

You don't need to get lost in supplement hell where you have a bunch of stuff that you don't need to use.

This is a guide to getting the most effective bang for your buck. I've listed exemplary supplements that I've personally used and evaluated, or that others have used and recommended. There are countless other resources out there, some of which you may prefer. The key is to be deliberate about what you need for yourself.

[Quick comparison table – pick your budget](#)

[Quick description of supplements](#)

Rationales and usage tips for each budget level and estimated cost

- [Unlimited \(\\$550–\\$1,400\)](#)
- [Reasonable \(\\$500–\\$800\)](#)
- [Standard \(\\$450–\\$570\)](#)
- [Bootstraps \(\\$75–\\$250\)](#)
- [Pacifist \(\\$0\)](#)

You can mix and match (or ignore) based on your situation. I describe why I picked certain supplements for your budget so that you can be thoughtful about which ones you choose to use.

These lists consider supplements beyond what you may already get from a prep course (which in itself is merely a supplement to your self-study).

If you're not enrolled in a prep course, you may want to grab a commercial outline elsewhere. For example, you could buy, borrow, or barter course books and materials from classmates or other students (such as on forums, Facebook groups, Reddit, etc.). I recommend Barbri books from the last 1-2 years—at least the Conviser Mini Review (CMR) outline. More on this in the [Pacifist description](#).

Now, study supplements that will enhance your learning should you choose to get them...

SHOPPING LIST – COMPARISON TABLE

Blue ✓ means it has a price. ✓+ is optional. Orange ✓ means it's free.

Budget Item	Unlimited \$550–\$1,400	Reasonable \$500–\$800	Standard \$450–\$570	Bootstraps \$75–\$250	Pacifist \$0
MBE-specific resources					
UWorld	✓	✓	✓		
AdaptiBar					
Emanuel's S&T Vol. 1	✓	✓	✓+	✓	
Emanuel's S&T Vol. 2	✓			✓+	
NCBE sample MBE questions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MTYLT MBE Frequency Chart	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UBE-specific resources					
MEE aids – paid	✓	✓			
MEE aids – free	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MPT aids – paid	✓	✓			
MPT aids – free	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
California-specific resources					
BarEssays	✓ (Premium)	✓ (Premium)	✓ (Standard)	✓+ (Standard)	
MTYLT Essay Answer Bank	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MTYLT CA essay & issue locator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam (Basick)	✓	✓	✓+	✓+	
California PT Workbook (Basick)	✓	✓			
General resources					
Past Exam and Answer Archive (essays and performance tests)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MTYLT Essay Answer Bank	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MTYLT PT Cheat Sheet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bar review course (Barbri) outlines, books, etc.	✓/✓	✓/✓	✓/✓	✓/✓	✓
Magicsheets & Approsheets	✓	✓	✓	✓+	

SHOPPING LIST

Quick description of supplements

Base recommended equipment: Barbri materials that are at most 1-2 years old, at least the Conviser Mini Review (CMR) outline. Possibly also the Essay Workbook, the Performance Test Workbook, and/or the MBE Workbook. Alternatively, consider similar materials from Themis.

You may see other students selling them on forums, Reddit, Facebook groups, eBay, Craigslist, or Amazon. You could ask a classmate who doesn't need their materials anymore. (For example, I got Barbri books from a classmate I barely knew in exchange for a scone and a gift card.)

For the MBE

UWorld MBE QBank (\$449/\$404 with discount) – Online MBE study tool with visual explanations and charts. Comes with 2,000+ questions (NCBE-licensed + simulated). Old NCBE questions are not used but are reformulated to reflect current testing styles.

- Test drive it [here](#)
- My review [here](#)
- Get 10% off with discount code kept updated [here](#)

AdaptiBar MCQ Simulator (\$495/\$445 with discount) – Online MBE study tool that adapts to your strengths and weaknesses as you do real MBE questions. Comes with 1,600+ questions (NCBE-licensed + simulated).

- Test drive it [here](#)
- My review [here](#)
- Get 10% off with discount code kept updated [here](#)

Emanuel's Strategies and Tactics for the MBE – Volume 1 (8th Edition) (\$50-80) – 635 real MBE questions on paper selected to cover a broad range of issues. 670+ questions total. Excellent explanations. Includes a 200-question practice exam.

Emanuel's Strategies and Tactics for the MBE – Volume 2 (4th Edition) (\$40-70) – 445 real MBE questions on paper and organized by specific issues. 465 questions total.

I no longer recommend **NCBE Study Aids** for MBE prep because most, if not all, of the questions there will be covered by one or more of the above tools, and not all of the Study Aids come with answer explanations.

NCBE sample questions (free) – 21 MBE questions released by the NCBE (no explanations).

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Quick description of supplements

For essays and performance tests

Check [here](#) for downloadable past exams and sample answers. This will be your main source of practice exam questions.

For California, I've uploaded going back to 2001. See also [CA essays going back to the '80s in text format](#).

For the UBE (MEE and MPT), they go as far back as 2011.

MEEs and MPTs from 2014-2019, and answers and analyses, are also available at the NCBE. Some free, some paid:

- [MEE study aids](#)
- [MPT study aids](#)

Your **state bar website** may also have study materials.

MTYLT Performance Test Cheat Sheet (free)

MTYLT Performance Test Toolkit – Included with your files.

If you're studying for the **California Bar Exam**, consider these:

BarEssays (\$225 premium/\$175 standard) – repository of past exam answers, quick list of issues

- Get \$25 off with discount code kept updated [here](#)

MTYLT essay answer bank (free) – Small collection of real graded answers from 2013 July, exclusive to MTYLT and not available on BarEssays.

Essay and issue locator: [CA essay frequency & issue chart \("wiki" spreadsheet\)](#)

Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam by Mary Basick and Tina Schindler (~\$50-100) – Several breakdowns of past CA essays and sample answers, and outlines for each subject.

California Performance Test Workbook by Mary Basick and Tina Schindler (~\$50-75) – Tips on time management and analyses of CA PTs.

Other supplements

Magicsheets + Approsheets (\$197) – Condensed attack outlines and issue checklist and flowcharts for essay writing.

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

Unlimited “my employer will reimburse me for everything anyway” budget

Estimated cost \$550–\$1,400

Here, we assume a blank check for all your bar prep needs. You’re fortunate enough to have an essentially limitless budget, whether you have a sponsor or other means.

Your main MBE resources will be:

- (1) **UWorld** or **AdaptiBar** for the full set of real questions (check out the reviews and trials for both to see which you prefer; use discount code [here](#))
and
- (2) **Emanuel’s *Strategies & Tactics for the MBE* – Volume 1** for the paper-and-pencil experience as well as the subject primers and helpful answer explanations by the author. **Volume 1** includes a full 200-question practice exam.

If you’re enrolled in a prep course, feel free to supplement with their simulated questions. Still, use the above as the main source of practice questions.

The real questions are the same in UWorld and AdaptiBar, but the simulated questions are different (since, you know, they make their own). You could get both if you really want to see all the simulated questions. However, this is probably not necessary.

We may as well as get **Emanuel’s Volume 2** for questions and explanations for specific issues you want to examine further.

Also look at the **NCBE’s sample MBE questions**. These are straight from the makers of the MBE, so they’re as authentic as you can get.

Essays and PTs: I’ve organized past exams and sample answers (going back to 2001 for CA and 2011 for UBE), [here](#). This is your main source of past exam questions.

I also offer the [Performance Test Cheat Sheet](#) and **Performance Test Toolkit** (included with your files) to walk you through various concerns you may have about the PTs/MPTs and present an approach to structuring and answering them in time.

If you haven’t grabbed them yet, I offer [Magic sheets](#) condensed attack outlines and [Appro sheets](#) issue checklists and flowcharts for essays. Use them to get working knowledge of the issues and rules, and to practice and memorize with.

If you’re taking the California exam: Refer to [BarEssays](#) and my [essay answer bank](#) as your source of reference answers as you answer or outline past essay questions.

When you compare your answers/outlines to good (65 or over) and subpar (below 65) answers, you’ll see patterns in which issues and rules you should discuss on a similar problem, and how to approach particular subjects and issues.

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

Get the premium version (\$50 extra) for annotations and model answers from graders.

If you want to locate certain subjects or issues, you can check the community-maintained [CA essay frequency & issue chart](#).

You may also want to grab *Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam* and *California Performance Test Workbook* by Mary Basick and Tina Schindler.

If you're taking the UBE: The NCBE offers some free [MEE study aids](#) and [MPT study aids](#).

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

Reasonable “my employer may reimburse me, but I don’t want to look like a jackass” budget

Estimated cost \$500–\$800

You have a decent budget but maybe don’t want to indulge in a shopping spree. Perhaps you’re strong enough in one area or want to be conscious about getting things you don’t need. While we won’t be grabbing everything like we’re eating Costco samples, we can still gather a solid collection of tools.

Your main MBE resources will be:

- (1) **UWorld or AdaptiBar** for the full set of real questions (check out the reviews and trials for both to see which you prefer; use discount code [here](#))
and
- (2) **Emanuel’s *Strategies & Tactics for the MBE – Volume 1*** for the paper-and-pencil experience as well as the subject primers and helpful answer explanations by the author. **Volume 1** includes a full 200-question practice exam.

If you’re enrolled in a prep course, feel free to supplement with their simulated questions. Still, use the above as the main source of practice questions.

Emanuel’s Volume 2 is probably not needed unless you want to drill specific topics, since UWorld, AdaptiBar, and Volume 1 will cover the current style of questions.

Also look at the **NCBE’s sample MBE questions**. These are straight from the makers of the MBE, so they’re as authentic as you can get.

Essays and PTs: I’ve organized past exams and sample answers (going back to 2001 for CA and 2011 for UBE), [here](#). This is your main source of past exam questions.

I also offer the [Performance Test Cheat Sheet](#) and **Performance Test Toolkit** (included with your files) to walk you through various concerns you may have about the PTs/MPTs and present an approach to structuring and answering them in time.

If you haven’t grabbed them yet, I offer [Magic sheets](#) condensed attack outlines and [Appro sheets](#) issue checklists and flowcharts for essays. Use them to get working knowledge of the issues and rules, and to practice and memorize with.

If you’re taking the California exam: Refer to [Bar Essays](#) and my [essay answer bank](#) as your source of reference answers as you answer or outline past essay questions.

When you compare your answers/outlines to good (65 or over) and subpar (below 65) answers, you’ll see patterns in which issues and rules you should discuss on a similar problem, and how to approach particular subjects and issues.

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

Get the premium version (\$50 extra) for annotations and model answers from graders.

If you want to locate certain subjects or issues, you can check the community-maintained [CA essay frequency & issue chart](#).

You may also want to grab *Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam* and *California Performance Test Workbook* by Mary Basick and Tina Schindler.

If you're taking the UBE: The NCBE offers some free [MEE study aids](#) and [MPT study aids](#).

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

Standard budget

Estimated cost \$450–\$570

You're probably funding bar prep "on a budget" while wanting to make the most out of your study time.

Your main MBE resources will be:

- (1) **UWorld or AdaptiBar** for the full set of real questions (check out the reviews and trials for both to see which you prefer; use discount code [here](#))
and optionally
- (2) **Emanuel's *Strategies & Tactics for the MBE* – Volume 1** for the paper-and-pencil experience as well as the subject primers and helpful answer explanations by the author. **Volume 1** includes a full 200-question practice exam.

Emanuel's Volume 1 is optional since **UWorld** or **AdaptiBar** will mostly cover the questions provided here.

If you're enrolled in a prep course, feel free to supplement with their simulated questions. Still, use the above as the main source of practice questions.

Also look at the **NCBE's sample MBE questions**. These are straight from the makers of the MBE, so they're as authentic as you can get.

Essays and PTs: I've organized past exams and sample answers (going back to 2001 for CA and 2011 for UBE), [here](#). This is your main source of past exam questions.

I also offer the [Performance Test Cheat Sheet](#) and **Performance Test Toolkit** (included with your files) to walk you through various concerns you may have about the PTs/MPTs and present an approach to structuring and answering them in time.

If you haven't grabbed them yet, I offer [Magic sheets](#) condensed attack outlines and [Appro sheets](#) issue checklists and flowcharts for essays. Use them to get working knowledge of the issues and rules, and to practice and memorize with.

If you're taking the California exam: Refer to [Bar Essays](#) and my [essay answer bank](#) as your source of reference answers as you answer or outline past essay questions.

When you compare your answers/outlines to good (65 or over) and subpar (below 65) answers, you'll see patterns in which issues and rules you should discuss on a similar problem, and how to approach particular subjects and issues.

The premium version is not necessary here. The standard version will include all the real graded answers. A select few will even have annotations and model answers from graders. Try to review those while studying the answers.

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

If you want to locate certain subjects or issues, you can check the community-maintained [CA essay frequency & issue chart](#).

You may also want to grab *Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam* and *California Performance Test Workbook* by Mary Basick and Tina Schindler.

If you're taking the UBE: The NCBE offers some free [MEE study aids](#) and [MPT study aids](#).

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

Bootstrap “I’d rather buy instant ramen and cans of tuna with my funds” budget Estimated cost \$75-250

You’re running off savings with little to no income. You have other expenses like loan payments, taking care of family, candles, etc. Or you simply want to minimize costs.

For the minimalist, **Emanuel’s *Strategies & Tactics for the MBE – Volume 1*** will be your go-to resource for the MBE. It has tips for each subject and excellent answer explanations that you can review for questions you get right *and* wrong. You will get the best value by reading this book cover to cover. It covers a broad range of issues over 670+ questions (plus a 200-question practice exam). I suggest redoing problems anyway (see Chapter 8 of the Big Playbook), so this will keep you fairly occupied.

To get more questions, consider **Volume 2**.

You won’t be using **UWorld** or **AdaptiBar** to save on cost.

Also look at the **NCBE’s sample MBE questions**. These are straight from the makers of the MBE, so they’re as authentic as you can get.

If you’d like to scrape together more MBE questions, check out [BarPrepHero](#) for their sample MBE-style questions. My weekly emails also include a weekly MBE Q&A every Wednesday (AdaptiBar sample questions).

If you’re enrolled in a prep course, feel free to supplement with their simulated questions. Still, use the above as the main source of practice questions.

Speaking of prep courses, make good use of any materials from them. They have outlines, practice questions, and model answers you can study (particularly how the model answers set forth issues and rules in essays).

Essays and PTs: I’ve organized past exams and sample answers (going back to 2001 for CA and 2011 for UBE), [here](#). This is your main source of past exam questions.

I also offer the [Performance Test Cheat Sheet](#) and **Performance Test Toolkit** (included with your files) to walk you through various concerns you may have about the PTs/MPTs and present an approach to structuring and answering them in time.

If you have the budget, I offer [Magicsheets](#) condensed attack outlines and [Approsheets](#) issue checklists and flowcharts for essays. Use them to get working knowledge of the issues and rules, and to practice and memorize with. But most outlines should work, especially if you have ones from a prep course. Compare samples and find one that you like.

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

Regardless of which bar exam you're taking, your state bar organization or law school may offer have preparation material. Check their website and see what you find.

If you're taking the California exam: Optionally, refer to [BarEssays](#) as your source of reference answers as you answer or outline past essay questions.

If you get BarEssays, the premium version is not necessary here. The standard version will include all the real graded answers. A select few will even have annotations and model answers from graders. Try to review those while studying the answers.

Alternatively, I also offer a free [essay answer bank](#). It has real graded essays from 2013 and will give you an idea of what graders are looking for (and can be a substitute for **BarEssays**).

When you compare your answers/outlines to good (65 or over) and subpar (below 65) answers, you'll see patterns in which issues and rules you should discuss on a similar problem, and how to approach particular subjects and issues.

If you want to locate certain subjects or issues, you can check the community-maintained [CA essay frequency & issue chart](#).

You may also want to grab *Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam* and *California Performance Test Workbook* by Mary Basick and Tina Schindler.

If you're taking the UBE: The NCBE offers some free [MEE study aids](#) and [MPT study aids](#).

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

Pacifist budget

Estimated cost \$0

You want to do this thing without spending any more money than you already have. Hardcore!
Or just running on fumes.

Bar prep is, at its core, a self-study endeavor. The general approach for each subject is to review the issues and rules for each subject, attempt questions to apply the issues and rules, and rigorously check your answers (or essay outlines) against the model answers.

To do this, all you need are three things:

1. Source materials: Outlines, flashcards, lectures, etc. + questions you can practice with
2. How-to knowledge: Not just WHAT to study but HOW to study (which I cover in Passer's Playbook)
3. Your will to act: Your ability to motivate yourself to start and execute on what you need to do (practice and feedback)

Where can you obtain practice questions?

- I've organized past essays/PTs and sample answers (going back to 2001 for CA and 2011 for UBE), [here](#). **This is your main source of past exam questions.**
- Sample MBE questions can be found at places listed below.
- Borrow or get used prep company materials.

When you go hunting for materials, ideally look for books and materials from Barbri that are no more than 1-2 years old so that you're keeping current with the tested law.

Try to obtain at least Barbri's Conviser Mini Review (CMR) outline, and possibly the Essay Workbook, the Performance Test Workbook and the MBE Workbook. If possible, ask around forums and classmates for used copies that you can get from someone wanting to get rid of theirs. You might have to cover shipping. You might also spot used copies on Amazon or eBay.

In terms of raw materials, I prefer Barbri for its gold standard outlines and model essay answers. Their model answers are good at showing you the *relevant issues* and the *order of presenting those issues*.

For the MBE: Look at the **NCBE's sample MBE questions**. These are straight from the makers of the MBE, so they're as authentic as you can get.

If you're using secondhand materials as described above, you'll mostly be working with simulated questions from a prep company.

SHOPPING LIST

Rationales and usage tips

There are other places where you can scrape together free MBE questions, such as [BarPrepHero](#) for their sample MBE-style questions. My weekly emails also include a weekly MBE Q&A every Wednesday (AdaptiBar sample questions).

I also offer the [Performance Test Cheat Sheet](#) and **Performance Test Toolkit** (included with your files) to walk you through various concerns you may have about the PTs/MPTs and present an approach to structuring and answering them in time.

Regardless of which bar exam you're taking, your state bar organization or law school may offer have preparation material. Check their website and see what you find.

If you're taking the California exam: I offer a free [essay answer bank](#). It has real graded essays from 2013 and will give you an idea of what graders are looking for (and can be a substitute for [BarEssays](#)).

When you compare your answers/outlines to good (65 or over) and subpar (below 65) answers, you'll see patterns in which issues and rules you should discuss on a similar problem, and how to approach particular subjects and issues.

If you want to locate certain subjects or issues, you can check the free [CA essay frequency & issue chart](#).

If you're taking the UBE: The NCBE offers some free [MEE study aids](#) and [MPT study aids](#).

In sum: Past essays and performance tests are readily available [here](#). MBE questions will be mostly simulated questions. You may need to find secondhand source materials.

But you'll find creative ways to acquire study resources, whether you go the pacifist route or take on a job.

It's now up to you to continue to apply what you've learned.