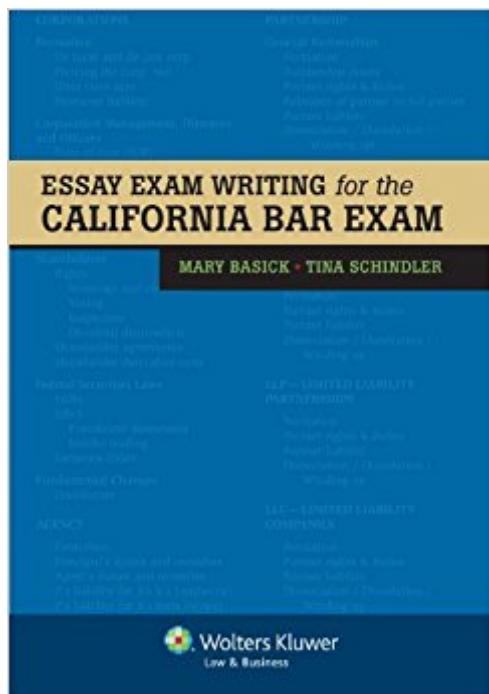


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# Essay Exam Writing For The California Bar



## **Synopsis**

Based on the authors' proven-effective methodology, *Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam* contains everything you need to pass the essay portion of the California bar exam. Your roadmap to success, it combines instruction and practice in essay writing, fact analysis, and issue spotting, with a remarkably efficient review of substantive law. Along the way, you'll learn how to manage your time, develop a strategy for improving your testing performance, and ensure the consistent quality of your answers. *Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam* From beginning to end, it's all here! The elements of a passing essay: Format, Issues, Rules, Analysis, Conclusion How to spot the issues and cite the rule correctly How to use the facts to craft effective analysis Making it easy for the exam grader to locate your analysis of the issues Practice Essays and Answer Grids based on analysis of previous California bar exams Sample essay answers that provide a model of a passing answer Self-assessment and strategy how much time to spend on each issue in light of time constraints Troubleshooting tips to improve exam performance An efficiently condensed, user-friendly review of substantive law Focusing on the relationships among the rules Prioritizing most-frequently-tested topics Issues Tested Matrix--a detailed graph that analyzes the questions asked in each subject over the past 25 years, broken down by sub-topic frequency Issues Checklist--a one-page list of the issues tested in each subject, organized to aid issue spotting Memorization Attack Sheet--a bulleted list of the rules that apply to the Issues Checklist--a tool for memorization that also reinforces issue-spotting skills Annotated Rule Outline--a more complete version of the rules, in grammatically correct language--annotated with fact triggers , where helpful, to assist with issue spotting

## **Book Information**

File Size: 226941 KB

Print Length: 944 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Up to 4 simultaneous devices, per publisher limits

Publisher: Aspen Publishers (January 8, 2013)

Publication Date: January 8, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00AYJRQNG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #292,428 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #33

in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation >

Professional > Bar Exam #161 in Books > Law > Legal Education > Test Preparation #171

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Law > Administrative Law

## **Customer Reviews**

After paying over a thousand dollars for a commerical test prep course (Themis), I failed every single essay on the July 2013 CA bar exam. With just this book and the past exams available for free on the CA bar website, I passed the February 2014 exam. I found that Themis' course wasted so much time "teaching" every minute detail of the law that it left me with little energy for the single most important test-prep strategy: TAKE AS MANY PRACTICE EXAMS AS POSSIBLE.

PERIOD. This book helps you with this most-important strategy for the following reasons:(1) The rule outlines provide all the rules you need to know, written very concisely in the way the bar examiners want you to regurgitate them on the exam.(2) The book includes 6 sample essay questions for each subject with answer outlines that identify the "must-get" issues, making self-grading your own essays a breeze.(3) If you're having trouble with analysis, there are couple sample answers for each subject written by the actual author (i.e., not student samples) that you can learn from and practice imitating. In short, this book is the reason I passed the bar exam.

I, like most law students, was very stressed about the bar exam. Of course, I took one of the standard bar prep courses. However, this book was extremely helpful. I would go so far as to say that, if you are one of those people who does not need to listen to lectures, it is all you need to pass the essay portion of the exam. I was lucky enough to pass the first time, and I attribute at least part of my success to this book. The book has the following features:1. A very short (one or two page) outline of each essay subject.2. A longer, (but still pretty short) comprehensive subject outline. This is one of the best features of the book. I did not find anything in my exam (July 2014) that was not covered in this outline. Much better than all the outlines I got from the bar prep course.3. Sample questions and an analysis of the answers.4. General tips and advice on writing the essays. A friend of mine, who had failed on his first try, but succeeded on his second, recommended this book to me,

and told me how much it helped him the second time around. I totally agree, and have been recommending this book to my friends that still have to take the bar exam.

Let me first say, I have never taken the time to write a review on before. However, I have to share with others just how helpful this book was for me during bar-preparation. I honestly believe this book was a major factor in me passing the bar on my first attempt. Often, we are overwhelmed and distracted by having way too much information in front of us at once. The amount of information we are expected to store in our brains all at the same time is essentially impossible. This book is an excellent tool in narrowing your focus to what is most important. I used this book during my last week of studying and in between each session and it truly helped in incomparable ways to snap out of the confusion. The short and succinct outlines for each topic are what makes this book so useful. By looking at those outlines before each session, I learned to narrow my focus to the bare minimum. It also is a great way to keep the basics fresh in your head right before taking each section of the exam. You are able to go in and see in your brain the very last thing you looked at- the cause of action (and thus your heading), and a bullet point for each element that you will make a separate heading. This is key to success on the bar exam. Great issue spotting with simplicity in answers and clearly marked headings for bar examiners to see with ease. This book also provides a chart of all the tested subjects and how often they were tested. This assists in predicting what subjects could be tested on your exam. While the sample essays and answers are also effective, many of those can be found on the bar website or in other essay books. What makes this book unique is what was discussed above. Happy studying!

I've taken (and passed) three different state bar exams on the first try. In my experience and from talking to colleagues, 50% of the bar exam is about how good you are at taking tests. 50% is adequate study. This book is unique because it helps with both. I used second hand BarBri books and this book to pass CA. It was not my first bar admission, but I studied much less overall than my first state's exam. I also paid much less in study materials. I would recommend you use this book as follows: buy either Kaplan or BarBri books second hand. Spend 5% of the time you have available for study learning about the MPT and doing anything else you need to do to get mentally prepared. Spend 60% studying MBE subjects and doing practice questions. Spend 35% using this book and completing or outlining the practice essay questions in this book, reading the answers, and the explanations in this book. (I found it particularly useful in the final 30 hours before the test.) Obviously you should adjust the above percentages if you are particularly strong in one area of the

bar exam already - or disregard my advice altogether if you don't think it is the best for you. At the end of the day, the Bar Exam is a statistics game. You can't possible memorize everything about every subject so your best bet is to learn the most about the most tested subjects. This book breaks it down for you and shows you what you need to know, what it would be good to know, and what you can completely BS. The best study guide I have ever used or owned without any question. Final note: I own both the Kindle and physical copy of this book. Ditch the Kindle for this one. Much easier to study the hard copy.

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