

Tips for Taking the Georgia Bar Examination

1. Why students fail:

- Lack of concentrated preparation. You need 6 to 8 weeks of full-time study.
- Misunderstanding the nature of the examination. The Bar exam is a problem-solving test. You need to demonstrate your grasp of legal principles, your ability to analyze facts, and your ability to draw logical conclusions from the application of relevant legal principles to the facts.
- Passive studying.
- Failure to understand all the facts and use of facts.

2. Know what subject matter is covered on the examination:

- Part B, Section 6 lists the subjects for which you are responsible.
- More than one subject may appear in a single question.
- Professional responsibility and remedies usually are tested in the context of another subject.
- MBE Information pamphlet, available at www.ncbex.org, contains subject matter outlines of the Multistate Bar Examination subjects.
 - Old MBE questions and answers may be obtained on the same web site for a modest price.
 - Old MPT questions and grading outlines may also be purchased.

3. How to prepare:

- Write answers to essay questions. Practice first for completeness. Identify your weaknesses and review those subjects. Then, practice writing answers within time constraints. Old questions and sample answers are available at www.gabaradmissions.org.
- Practice and analyze types of MBE questions. Use the questions from actual tests for practice.

4. Writing answers to the Georgia essay examination:

- Budget your time and stick to your time budget.

- Read and understand the question. The “calls” of the question should direct your approach to the answer.
- Spend at least one third of the 45 minutes reading the question and organizing, then outlining, your answer.
- Analyze factual issues and apply legal principles to reason to a conclusion.
- Organize your answer using a phrase outline.
- Write a concise, legible answer.

Do’s and Don’t’s for the Essay Examination

Do’s:

1. Use the word “because.”
2. Think before you write. Organize and outline your answer before you start writing in the bluebook.
3. Answer only the questions asked: the “calls” of the question.
4. Pay attention to facts designed to eliminate issues. For example, if the facts state that a complaint was “properly served,” do not discuss the adequacy of service.
5. Understand and adopt the role assigned to you by the “call” of the question. If you are asked to be an advocate, interpret the facts to make the best case for your client.

Don’t’s:

1. Define terms or recite “black letter law.”
2. Assume facts not in the question.
3. Use buzz words or abbreviations.
4. Repeat the facts unless necessary to understanding the answer (the Bar Examiner knows the facts very well).
5. Be so practical as to dismiss legal issues. The examination is a test of your legal abilities, not your business prowess.

Test Wisdom – Three Suggestions

1. Plan what you want to accomplish during each week of bar preparation. Stick to the goals that you establish.
2. Recognize that the bar examination is different from a law school examination. The Bar Examiners want you to demonstrate that you understand the law applicable to the facts presented in the questions. Demonstrate your legal reasoning ability by analyzing the legal implications of the facts, not by writing an essay on black letter law.
3. Relax the night before the examination and get a good night's sleep. Plan your route to the exam site and your accommodations well in advance. Arrive early. Leave study materials at home.