
Preface

The Ultimate Guide to the Uniform Bar Exam presents the critical reading, writing, and analysis skills that students need to be successful on the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) using *real* bar exam answers from *real* bar exam takers. The three of us have collectively been teaching law and bar students for a combined 40 years or so. In those combined years, much has changed about the bar exam. Namely, more and more states are rapidly adopting the Uniform Bar Exam to keep up with the demands of our society. Having worked with students preparing for the Uniform Bar Exam since it was first introduced in 2011, our goal with this book is to enable you to pass the UBE from a position of power, and not from a position of fear. The bar exam is not an exam to be feared; it is an exam to be taken and passed.

This book was born to help students overcome a common source of bar exam fear—the infamous “sample answer” of bar exam writing practice. All three of us are keenly aware that these answers are written by bar professors (like us) with no time constraints and unlimited resources with which to consult. Students often get frustrated and panic, striving towards these impossibly “perfect” answers, ignoring their real progress as a result. We are not ignorant to the fact that these sample answers are unrealistic and could not have been written in the actual time allotted on the exam while being completed closed-book. This is *not* to say that sample answers like these are not an important teaching mechanism, but they are better utilized in learning the law and learning the important aspects of writing a good essay answer. In this book, however, we want to *show* you what has been done under actual bar exam time constraints. We will provide our commentary on these real bar exam answers and, most importantly, put you in the position of power by giving *you* the opportunity to step into the shoes of a bar exam grader and provide your own commentary.

Additionally, as states rapidly adopt the Uniform Bar Exam, there is often confusion and fear of the unknown. And even if you are well aware of the components of the UBE and how it tests you, we wanted to create one book that would provide you with *all* of the answers about everything UBE (well almost everything, because we couldn't very well make this book 2,000 pages).

Part One of the *Ultimate Guide* begins with an Introduction that explains what the UBE is, the terminology used on the UBE, what is tested on the UBE, and how to study for the UBE. We provide you with helpful Keys to Success on how to plan your time, memorize, and prepare for the UBE, so you are ready to implement the best strategies from Day One of your bar exam preparation.

Part Two takes you through the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) by comparing real bar taker MEE answers from throughout the score range. We give you the opportunity to take your own deep dive into grading these real bar taker MEE answers, first by comparing multiple answers to the same MEE question, and later by honing in on the details that set apart solo MEE answers. You will walk away from this section knowing not just what separates a 1 from a 3 from a 6, but also what pushes a 5 up to the coveted 6.

Part Three takes you through the Multistate Performance Test (MPT), exploring the major types of MPTs you are likely to encounter on your bar exam, walking you through multiple MPTs from start to finish, and comparing real bar exam MPT answers. Timing is everything on the MPT, and you will walk away from this section knowing your strengths and weaknesses so you can focus your MPT practice on the areas that will give you the most bang for your buck on your MPT score.

In both Part Two and Part Three, we teach you our step-by-step approach for tackling these types of written questions to maximize your written score on the UBE. Throughout these chapters, we use *real* MEE questions and MPTs from past bar exams, and provide you with *real* bar exam answers from *real* bar exam takers, along with the score those answers earned from *real* bar exam graders. All bar exam answers used in this book are copied over as they were written by these bar exam takers, during the bar exam, to showcase *exactly* what the student wrote and *how*. This means that the answers include typos, spelling errors, and spacing issues, along with most of their original formatting. The names of the bar exam takers have been changed, but the scores have not.

Part Four teaches you a step-by-step approach to the multiple-choice questions found on the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) section of the UBE. With a separate chapter covering each of the seven subjects tested on the MBE, we teach you how to methodically approach any MBE question you may face on your bar exam and simulate this process by working through sets of MBE questions right alongside you.

Now, we recognize that it may have been a few years since you last saw some of the subjects tested on the bar exam, or perhaps you weren't able to take classes covering everything tested on the UBE. Don't worry—we've got you covered! Our Appendices provide you with all of the law that you might need to answer the questions used in this book, allowing you to focus on the skills you need to master to maximize your UBE score. The Appendices also contain tracking sheets for your MBE preparation, as well as an index of the real MEE and MPT answers used in the book, along with their respective bar exam scores. As an added bonus, we have included Mini Sheets, written by Professor Brittany Raposa, to give you an added edge on learning the substantive law needed for the UBE.

We loved writing this book as much as we know you will love passing the bar exam!

—Melissa, Antonia, and Tania