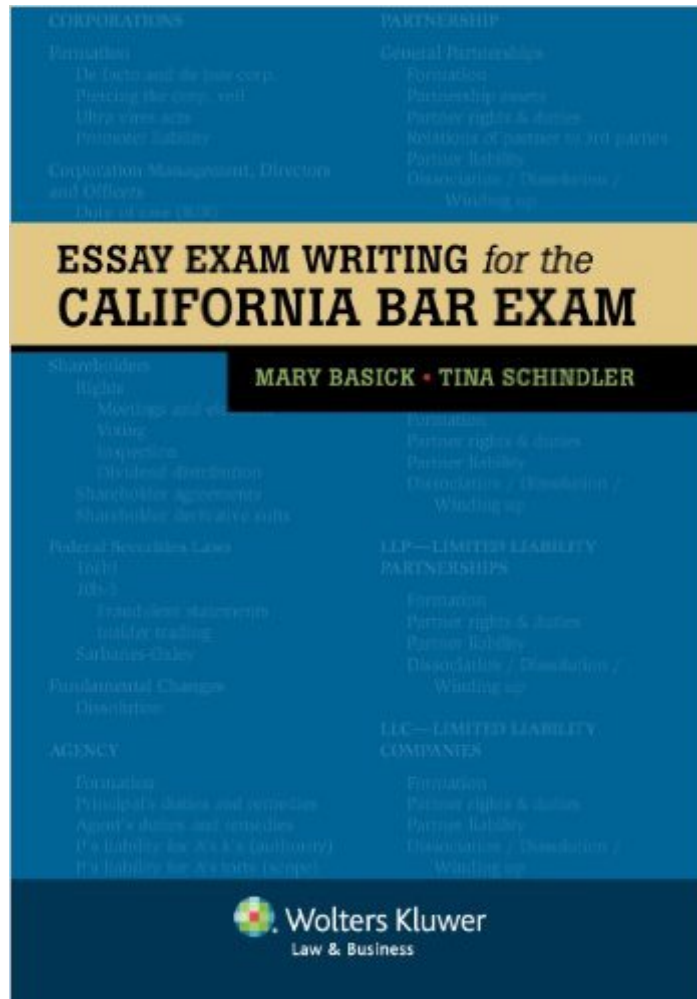


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# Essay Exam Writing For The California Bar Exam



## 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

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## 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.

This is the best book for the studying the essay portion of the CA bar. I love it more than Bar Bri. Bar Bri books are dense and overwhelming. This book makes each topic approachable and easy to understand. It also has topic checklists for you to memorize so that when you walk into an exam you just write out those checklists and you won't miss an issue. I also love how each topic has at least 6 practice essays from past bar exams and explanations for each essay. It really helps to see how to write an essay on each topic. Plus there are issue matrixes that show you how often each topic has been tested. Everyone of my friends studying for the bar has gotten this book and loved it. I highly recommend this book, but note that this is only for the essay portion. This does not cover MBE nuances or the performance test. I passed the CA bar exam on my first try, even though my GPA was ranked at the bottom of my class.

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.<sup>3</sup> Sample questions and an analysis of the answers.<sup>4</sup> 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.

This book was amazing. Let me start out by saying that I failed the July 2015 exam, and used this for the Feb 2016 exam... AND PASSED!! This book was seriously the reason for my success. I talk about it in greater detail on my blog, but briefly wanted to share my thoughts on . This book included memorization attack sheets that are super easy to copy, and take wherever you are headed. Having memorized this book and also using Kaplan, I wrote 91 practice essays the second time around and honestly had little trouble remembering rules, unlike the first time around. During the feb bar exam, I had little trouble with the essays. I wrote out my attack sheet that I had memorized and addressed the essay accordingly. I spotted enough issues to at least pass the exam on my second attempt. HIGHLY RECOMMEND as a supplement to a main course. Practice + memorizing the attack sheets = passing!

I like this book quite a bit. It has about twenty pages for each subject in an outline - it also has a lot more data in it, this is just the outline section. This is not enough to get the job done for most people - including me! But let me explain HOW I am using this book, which I picked up for 3L (of a 4L program). I got this book so I could start with the most important data first. I then go into the Gilbert's Law Summary's and read the Capsule Summary up front. Then I read the main part of the Gilbert's while I am working on other assignments... In 2L, I started off with the main outline in Gilbert's and then tried to work my way down to the finite data of most importance... working as if the most important things repeat often (and they do), but for 3L, I decided to go the other direction, narrow data to wide. In the early stages of this effort, I see some good things happening, but it will take me a whole year to see the end results. The bottom line is I use this book in support of others. Also, I did not buy ANY casebooks at all for 3L, and won't for 4L. I will be using Wikipedia and Google for all of my research to see if I can indeed use very low cost materials to succeed in the study of law!

The "tips" for approaching the essays are decent, the answer grids better than that. But the one problem with this book that I just cannot get over is the age of many of the questions. I have a hard

time believing that I'll be very well served by practicing questions from 1984 or even 1990, for that matter. A quarter of a century ago??? I want to know how the examiners are framing questions today, I want --- no, \_need\_ --- to know about the kinds of questions they're posing today. Even questions from 2000 feel a little unsafe, or in any case a little \_less\_. But 1987? Come on. This needs to be updated and significantly. I feel a little ripped off.

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