

FEB 26 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-02-26

Jorge Navarrete Clerk

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA Deputy

EN BANC

ORDER CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE
CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION

The circumstances surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in California continue to severely limit the State Bar's ability to administer the General Bar Examination in the traditional mass, in-person format. Accordingly, the court hereby approves modifications to the standard schedule for the General Bar Examination as set out below.

The General Bar Examination will be administered online as a mostly remotely delivered exam over two consecutive days on Tuesday, July 27 and Wednesday, July 28, 2021. Utilizing reasonable pandemic-related precautions, the General Bar Examination will be administered in-person at the discretion of the State Bar to those applicants granted testing accommodations that cannot be effectively provided and securely administered in a remote environment, and for those with other extenuating circumstances that require them to take the test in-person rather than remotely.

The first day of the General Bar Examination will be comprised of five one-hour essay questions and one 90-minute performance test.

The second day of the General Bar Examination will consist of four 90-minute sessions during which the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) will be administered. The MBE will be comprised of 200 multiple-choice questions, split into four 50-question

sessions tested over 90 minutes each. The first 100 questions will be tested in the morning sessions, and the second 100 questions will be tested in the afternoon sessions.

The first day of testing will also constitute the Attorneys' Examination. Qualified attorney applicants are not required to take the MBE, but may opt to do so by enrolling for and taking the full General Bar Examination.

The answers to the five essay and the Performance Test questions will be graded on the basis of 700 possible raw points — representing up to 100 raw points for each of the five essay questions and up to 200 raw points for the 90-minute Performance Test question.

During the grading process, the written and MBE components will be scaled and weighted equally (50 percent assigned to each). Applicants who take the Attorneys' Examination will have their scores scaled, and the answers to the five essay and the Performance Test questions will be weighted at 100 percent.

The passing score for the General Bar Examination and Attorneys' Examination will be a total scaled score of 1390 or better out of 2000 possible points.

This order supersedes the court's November 19, 2020 order, and the court will revise or supersede this order, as necessary, for future administrations of the General Bar Examination.

CANTIL-SAKAUYE

Chief Justice