



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: CALIFORNIA BAR EXAM EXPERIMENT PHASE ONE

These FAQs are a living document. They are subject to revision and will be supplemented and updated as needed.

- [General Information](#)
- [Application Process](#)
- [Testing Format and Content](#)
- [Testing Accommodations](#)
- [Proposed Bar Exam Score Adjustment](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. What is the California Bar Exam Experiment?

The California Bar Exam Experiment will occur in two distinct phases. Phase One will test new multiple-choice questions developed by Kaplan Exam Services, LLC, and the new platform for remote and test center exam delivery ahead of the February 2025 California Bar Examination. Despite these changes, the bar exam's content and subject areas will remain the same, and those featured in the experiment are also the same.

Phase Two will separately explore test taker performance under different exam conditions including remote and in-person exam delivery, various time limits, and access to additional resources.

2. When will the experiment take place?

Phase One will occur on November 8, 2024. Phase Two will be conducted as an additional day for the July 2025 California Bar Examination.

3. Am I eligible to participate in Phase One of the experiment?

Any applicant who is registered with the State Bar and intends to sit for the California Bar Examination in February or July 2025 is eligible to participate in Phase One of the experiment, including third- and fourth-year law students and repeat bar exam takers.

4. Will everyone who applies for Phase One of the experiment be allowed to participate?

There are limited spots available for Phase One. The State Bar may allow all eligible applicants to participate in the experiment or may randomly select from those who applied.

5. Am I eligible to participate in Phase Two of the experiment?

Phase Two will be open to applicants approved to sit for the July 2025 bar exam. A randomly selected group may be invited to participate in the experiment. More information will be available at a later date.

6. Do I have to participate in both phases of the experiment?

No. Participation in either phase of the experiment is optional. Interested individuals must meet the eligibility requirements for each phase of the experiment. If you qualify for both phases, you can choose to apply for either one, both, or neither of them.

7. What should I do if I have additional questions about the experiment?

Please email the Office of Admissions at experimentalexam@calbar.ca.gov.

APPLICATION PROCESS

8. Where can I apply for Phase One of the experiment?

The application form for Phase One of the experiment is separate from the Applicant Portal used for other State Bar exams. Applicants can apply to participate in the experiment by completing the [online application form](#).

Some applicants registered with the State Bar may receive an email inviting them to apply. If you do not receive an email invitation, but meet the eligibility requirements, you can still apply using the online form. Also, if you have received the invitation email but are awaiting your July 2024 exam results, the invitation is not an indication of your exam results.

9. Where can I apply for the opportunity to participate in Phase Two of the experiment?

Additional information about the application process for Phase Two of the experiment will be released at a later date.

10. What is the application deadline for Phase One?

The application for Phase One will close at 11:59 p.m. (PT) on October 13, 2024. Applicants must submit a complete application and be registered with the State Bar by the deadline to be eligible.

11. I am in my last year of study and have not registered as a law student with the State Bar, but I would like to participate in Phase One of the experiment. When is the deadline to register?

Applicants must be registered with the State Bar by the application deadline to be eligible. The State Bar will review registration requests as quickly as possible, but approval before Phase One of the experiment is not guaranteed. If you are not already registered, please do so immediately in the [Applicant Portal](#).

12. How will I know if I will be participating in Phase One?

The Office of Admissions will contact applicants via email to confirm whether or not an applicant will be participating in the experiment. There is limited space, so the State Bar may allow all applicants to participate or make a random selection from those who applied.

TESTING FORMAT AND CONTENT

13. What content is being tested in the experiment?

Phase One will be a multiple-choice exam, covering the same seven subject areas tested on the multiple-choice day of the California Bar Exam, except with questions developed by Kaplan Exam Services, LLC. This exam will require less than two hours of testing for standard test takers.

Phase Two will be a separate study that will feature multiple-choice and essay questions. It will also require less than two hours of testing for standard test takers, but some test takers will receive additional time as part of the experiment conditions being tested. The subject areas featured in the experimental exams are the same as those on the California Bar Examination.

14. How is the experimental exam being delivered?

The State Bar is testing a new exam delivery platform that may be used for the February 2025 California Bar Examination. This approach will allow most test takers to take the exam remotely online on their own computer, while others will take the exam in person at test centers where computers are provided. Participants will be asked whether they prefer remote or in-person testing, but due to the limited space, an applicant's preference is not guaranteed.

15. How do I prepare for the experiment?

Applicants should continue to study and prepare as they would for the California Bar Examination. While the State Bar is developing new multiple-choice questions, it did not alter the scope of the exam. The same subject areas will continue to appear on the bar exam and those subject areas will also be featured in the experiment.

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

16. How do I request testing accommodations for Phase One of the experiment?

The State Bar will process requests for testing accommodations for Phase One separate from the process for other State Bar exams. Applicants must request testing accommodations for Phase One through the [online application form](#) by 11:59 p.m. (PT) on October 13, 2024.

When requesting testing accommodations, please note that Phase One will consist only of multiple-choice questions. An approved testing accommodation for the experiment does not guarantee that the same accommodation will be granted for a future State Bar exam.

17. How do I request testing accommodations for Phase Two of the experiment?

Additional information about requesting testing accommodations for Phase Two of the experiment will be released at a later date.

18. What if I have already been granted a testing accommodation for a previous State Bar Exam?

Applicants requesting the same testing accommodations for Phase One as previously granted by the State Bar will receive the accommodations applicable to multiple-choice questions.

19. When is the deadline to submit a testing accommodations request for Phase One?

Applicants must submit a complete testing accommodation request as part of the [online application form](#) to participate in Phase One by 11:59 p.m. (PT) on October 13, 2024. Applicants who submit their requests near the deadline to apply for Phase One of the experiment may not be able to exhaust all administrative remedies before Phase One, such as requesting a review of a denial of some or all of the requested testing accommodations. Applicants are encouraged to submit requests as soon as possible.

A request that is incomplete by the application deadline for the experiment shall not be processed. Deadlines will not be extended for incomplete requests.

20. What documentation may be required for my testing accommodations request?

You may be required to submit certain documentation along with your testing accommodations request. A testing accommodations request is not considered complete until all required documents have been provided. Those who have previously received testing accommodations for another high-stakes exam or from their law school or college may be asked to submit a previous approval letter. Applicants may also be required to submit the [Qualified Professional Certification Form for the Experimental Bar Exam](#).

21. Can I request a review of the decision on my testing accommodations application for the experiment?

Applicants may request a review by staff no later than 11:59 p.m. (PT) on October 20, 2024. If an applicant's request for accommodations is denied, they may seek review of that decision by the Committee of Bar Examiners for a future State Bar exam.

22. How will I know if my testing accommodations request has been approved?

The Office of Admissions will contact applicants via email to confirm if a request for testing accommodations has been approved.

PROPOSED BAR EXAM SCORE ADJUSTMENT

23. What is the California Bar Examination score adjustment proposal?

The State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners has recommended to the Supreme Court that a bar exam score adjustment of up to 40 points be applied in 2025 for those who participate and perform well on the experimental exams. The purpose of the score adjustment is to ensure that participants are highly motivated to participate in the experiment in good faith and that the resulting data analysis will closely replicate an actual exam. A similar score adjustment was offered by the State Bar as part of studies conducted in 1980, which yielded data and findings that played a role in the creation of the Performance Test.

The proposal is currently pending before the Supreme Court, and it is not yet approved.

24. If the score adjustment proposal is approved, how will participation in either phase of the experiment impact my future bar exam score?

Applicants who participate in Phase One and meet a minimum threshold of performance will be eligible to receive a policy-determined scale score adjustment on the multiple-choice section on their first bar exam attempt in February 2025 or July 2025. Applicants who participate in Phase Two and meet a minimum threshold of performance will be eligible to receive a policy-determined scale score adjustment on the written section of the July 2025 exam. Applicants may participate in both phases.

25. If the score adjustment proposal is approved, how will the minimum threshold of performance be determined?

State Bar psychometricians will analyze performance data and recommend a minimum threshold score for each phase and experimental group. The minimum threshold is meant to ensure that participants are taking the exam in good faith and that the resulting data analysis will closely replicate an actual exam.

26. If the score adjustment proposal is approved, how will the score adjustment be determined?

After each phase of the experiment is complete, the State Bar's psychometrician will analyze the data and recommend the magnitude of the adjustment to the Committee of Bar Examiners, informed by the data. The number of points to award as the scoring adjustment will be made as a policy determination by the committee. The same number of points will be awarded to each participant who reaches the minimum threshold of performance in their respective experimental grouping.

Once the committee determines the number of points to award, any scoring adjustments will be made only after the State Bar's grading, scaling, and reappraisal procedures and processes have been completed.

27. If the score adjustment proposal is approved, how will the score adjustment be applied?

An applicant's score on the experiment will be utilized if and only if: (1) the applicant did not pass the regular California Bar Examination based upon the usual scoring procedures, and (2) the applicant's score on the experiment is above the minimum

threshold of performance as determined by the State Bar's psychometrician.

28. What happens if I don't do well on the experiment?

There will not be a penalty for those who do not score well in either phase of the experiment.