

The State Bar of California

OCTOBER 2024 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAM FAQS

These FAQs are a living document. They are subject to revision and will be supplemented and updated as needed. Please also refer to the <u>key dates and deadlines</u> leading up to exam day. **Deadlines will not be extended, and it is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all deadlines.**

- 1. Please note: The October 2024 First-Year Law Students' Exam (FYLSX) will be administered in person at Prometric test centers across California. Apart from out-of-state applicants, we may have other candidates who prefer remote testing. This preference could stem from inadequate testing space at home or the unavailability of Prometric test sites near their residence. Such applicants can request remote testing accommodations when submitting their application or submitting a general request through the <u>Applicant Portal</u>. These requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. I received an email about scheduling a practice exam with Prometric. The last time I took this exam it was through ExamSoft. What is the difference?
 - Prometric is a test vendor with a different proctoring model than ExamSoft. While ExamSoft records a test taker's experience though the webcam and reviews the videos post exam, Prometric performs proctoring in real time through a live streaming connection.
 - ExamSoft takes a baseline photo during the mock exam process and then the software matches that photo before the test taker enters each exam session. Prometric's remote proctoring system utilizes live proctors and can verify identity via a test taker's ID. Prometric will also connect you with a readiness agent prior to entering the exam, and that agent will conduct a 360-degree security check. That check will be of your exam area–including your desk area, under your desk, the corners of your room, and a check of your pockets and any jewelry. For this exam, applicants will be taking this exam at Prometric test sites.
- 2. Are there still passwords to get into the exam?
 - No. The Prometric test sites grant applicants entry into the exam and monitor when applicants exit the exam. Applicants testing remotely will be granted access by the live proctor.
- 3. Why do I have to schedule time for the practice time and the actual exam?
 - For applicants testing remotely, Prometric's system will require a readiness agent for the security check and then live exam proctors. These steps require that you schedule a testing window on Prometric's <u>landing page</u>.
- 4. I submitted a request to test remotely when I first applied; is that still allowed?
 - Yes, the Office of Admissions has those requests and will be following up on a case- by-case basis.

- 5. Are there essays on the FYLSX?
 - The essay portion of the FYLSX was eliminated beginning with the June 2024 administration. The format of the exam is 100 multiple-choice questions (MCQs), to be administered in two 90-minute sessions, with a 20-minute break between each session.
- 6. Does the Prometric software offer the same features as the ExamSoft software?
 - Similar to ExamSoft, with the Prometric software, test takers will be able to:
 - Highlight in the question stem
 - $\circ~$ You can flag questions and go back to check your answers within that section (1–50 and then 51–100).
 - There will also be a timer visible with a countdown clock for your time remaining in each session, and a pop-up warning at five minutes remaining. You will have a 20-minute break between each multiple-choice session. For more information, visit Prometric's landing page.
- 7. Since the proctoring is happening live, does this mean that I can bring food or drink to the exam session, or will I be allowed to use the restroom?
 - The same exam rules, which include prohibited items, still apply. You cannot bring food or drink into the exam session, with the exception of water. Applicants can bring a water bottle. It must be a clear, plastic container with a lid no larger than 32 ounces. It must have no labels or writing. To reduce the chance of accidental spillage, store water bottles on the floor away you're the desk area.
 - You cannot leave the view of the camera while the test session is active.
 - For the list of prohibited items and activity, please review the <u>admittance</u> <u>ticket bulletin</u>.
- 8. When can I register for the practice exam or my exam?
 - Starting on September 24, 2024, applicants who have been approved to sit for the October 2024 FYLSX can start scheduling their practice and actual exams. Notices will be sent instructing applicants to schedule. The last day that applicants will be able to schedule an exam is October 12, at the end of the day.