TEXAS BAR EXAMINATION
SCORING AND WEIGHTING

I.   TEXAS BAR EXAMINATION COMPONENTS

The Texas Bar Examination (TBE) has four parts. The highest possible total scaled [1]score across these parts is 1000 points. A total scaled score of 675 or higher is required for passing. The relative weights of the parts are as follows:

Multistate Performance Test (MPT) = 10% (scaled score divided by 2)
Procedure & Evidence (P&E) = 10%   (scaled score divided by 2)
Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) = 40%   (scaled score x 2)
Texas Essays (Essays) = 40%   (scaled score x 2)

A.   MULTISTATE PERFORMANCE TEST

The Multistate Performance Test (MPT) tests an applicant's ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation by completing a task that a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish. The MPT consists of one 90-minute question, in which the examinee is furnished with a file of source documents and a library of research materials to be used in accomplishing the task. The MPT requires examinees to: (1) sort detailed factual materials and separate relevant from irrelevant facts; (2) analyze statutes, cases, and administrative materials for principles of law; (3) apply the law to the relevant facts in a manner likely to resolve a client's problem; (4) identify and resolve ethical dilemmas, when present; (5) communicate effectively in writing; and (6) complete a lawyering task within time constraints. The MPT is graded on a scale where a 6 is the highest possible score and 0 is the lowest possible score. These grades are converted to the same scale of measurement as that used for the MBE.

B.   PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE QUESTIONS

The Procedure & Evidence (P&E) portion contains forty (40) short answer questions on Texas and federal procedure and evidence: twenty (20) questions on civil procedure and evidence and twenty (20) questions on criminal procedure and evidence. The answers to each question are graded on a 0 to 5 point scale. Thus, the maximum possible raw score on each section is 100 points. The raw scores on the Civil and Criminal sections are then converted to a common score distribution that weights the sections equally and allows for direct comparison of scores between these two sections.

C.   MULTISTATE BAR EXAMINATION

The MBE is a multiple-choice test. It contains approximately 190 questions that are used to calculate an applicant's score and another 10 questions that are being pretested for future exams. The pretest questions are not used to calculate an applicant's MBE score. Raw MBE scores (the number of questions answered correctly) are equated ("scaled") to adjust for possible differences in average question difficulty across administrations of the exam. As a result of this procedure, a given MBE scaled score indicates about the same level of performance regardless of the particular administration of the examination on which it is earned. The maximum scaled score on the MBE is 200 points. Further information regarding the MBE can be found at www.NCBEX.org.

D.   TEXAS ESSAY QUESTIONS

The TBE also includes twelve (12) Texas Essay questions. Each essay question is graded on a scale where 25 is the highest possible score and 0 is the lowest possible score. The raw scores on each essay question are then converted to a common score distribution that weights the questions equally and allows for direct comparison of scores across the twelve questions.

II.   METHOD OF SCALING SCORES

A.   MPT raw scores (on the 6-point scale) are converted to a score distribution that has the same mean and standard deviation as the MBE scaled scores.

B.   The sum of the converted Civil and Criminal P&E scores is scaled to a score distribution that has the same mean and standard deviation as the MBE scaled scores.

C.   The sum of the converted ESSAY scores is scaled to a score distribution that has the same mean and standard deviation as the MBE scaled scores.

D.   The formula below is used to compute the total scaled score, rounded to the nearest whole number:

MPT (scaled score divided by 2) + P&E (scaled score divided by 2) + MBE (scaled score x 2) + Texas Essays (scaled score x 2) = Final Score

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[1] Scaling is done to insure fairness between exams from one administration to another and between questions within any given exam.