



Online Bar Review

Welcome to PASS

This handout supplements the Introduction and Welcome Lecture

ESSAY EXAMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

Your answer should demonstrate your ability to analyze the facts in the question, to tell the difference between material facts and immaterial facts, and to discern the points of law and fact upon which the case turns. Your answer should show that you know and understand the pertinent principles and theories of law, their qualifications and limitations, and their relationships to each other.

Your answer should evidence your ability to apply the law to the given facts and to reason in a logical, lawyer-like manner from the premises you adopt to a sound conclusion. Do not merely show that you remember legal principles. Instead, try to demonstrate your proficiency in using and applying them.

If your answer contains only a statement of your conclusions, you will receive little credit. State fully the reasons that support your conclusions, and discuss all points thoroughly.

Your answer should be complete, but you should not volunteer information or discuss legal doctrines which are not pertinent to the solution of the problem.

Unless a question expressly asks you to use California law, you should answer according to legal theories and principles of general application.

ORGANIZATION OF ESSAY TOPICS

Group One

Torts
Contracts
Real Property
Remedies

Group Two

Constitutional Law
Criminal Law & Procedure

Group Three

Evidence
Civil Procedure

Group Four

Wills & Trusts
Community Property

Group Five

Corporations

Group Six

Professional Responsibility

Essay Writing Approach

Step One: Read, Read, Read

- A. Interrogatory First
- B. Fact Pattern
- C. Interrogatory Again

Step Two: Organize and Analyze

- A. Organizational Analysis: Look to Interrogatory First
 - 1. Parties
 - 2. Transactions
 - 3. Theories of Law
- B. Precise Analysis

Step Three: Write and Weave

- A. "Tell a Story"
- B. Detailed Factual Analysis

Step Four: Reread the Question (Optional, but suggested)