

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the Illinois Bar Examination scheduled for February 23-24, 2021

What is the format of the remote bar examination?

For applicants testing on the regular schedule, the remote bar examination will consist of eight, 90-minute test sessions administered over two days, February 23 and 24, 2021. On February 23, two morning sessions will consist of one Multistate Performance Test (MPT) item each. In the afternoon of February 23, the two sessions will consist of three Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) questions each. The four sessions on February 24, will each consist of 50 Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) questions each.

Applicants with accommodations requiring a different schedule should refer to their determination letter(s) and any follow-up information for their amended schedule.

What is the schedule for the February 2021 remote exam?

The remote exam will be administered on the following schedule (all times are Central Time):

Tuesday, February 23, 2021:

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM (CT) MPT (1 MPT task)

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (CT) MPT (1 MPT task)

12:30 PM to 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM to 3:30 PM (CT) MEE (3 questions)

4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (CT) MEE (3 questions)

Wednesday, February 24, 2021:

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM (CT) MBE (50 questions)

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (CT) MBE (50 questions)

12:30 PM to 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM to 3:30 PM (CT) MBE (50 questions)

4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (CT) MBE (50 questions)

The schedules for applicants testing with accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act may vary from the standard schedule addressed above. Applicants testing with accommodations should refer to their determination letter and/or any follow up letters from the Board concerning their schedules and any other modifications that are being made for the exam.

Is the remote bar examination being administered on February 23-24, 2021 a Uniform Bar Examination (UBE)?

Yes.

Is the exam open book?

Absolutely not. Under no circumstances may you have books, papers, or anything on your work surface during the exam sessions except for the MPT, and for other pre-approved items due to accommodations allowed in advance of the exam.

Must I be physically present in Illinois in order to sit for the exam?

No. It will be administered remotely. Only if you are required to test in person will you need to be in Illinois.

Regardless of your physical location, all times for the exam will be in the Central time zone (Chicago, Illinois).

What software vendor is Illinois using to administer the exam?

Illinois will use ExamSoft. Visit bar.examsoft.com and examsoft.com/ilbar for information on system requirements, equipment requirements and recommendations, support, policies, and proctoring through ExamSoft.

When must I register with ExamSoft?

ExamSoft will contact applicants directly by email soon with instructions for registering your computer, downloading the software, downloading and taking the mandatory mock exams and downloading the required exam files. ExamSoft registration will open on January 14, 2021 and will close on January 29, 2021. After January 29, 2021 and prior to the dates of the Remote Exam, ExamSoft will contact applicants with instructions for downloading the required exam files for exam day. **It is extremely critical that you comply with all deadlines as they will not be extended for any reason. If you do not download and take the mock exams on time, you will not be able to sit for the exam on February 23-24, 2021.**

If I sit for the February 2021 exam will I need internet?

Yes. This will require reliable wifi to download the software and to take the two required mock exams prior to exam day. You will also need wifi on the day of the exam prior to each exam session in order to obtain the password and start the test session. Once you have started a test session, you will not need internet. Internet is also necessary in order to download answer and monitoring files. Internet is not required during the actual test sessions.

How will the exam be administered and what are the required conditions for my test space?

For applicants that do not have specific accommodations that require in-person testing, the exam will be administered remotely. The applicant will be required to be in a room, alone, with no other people, pets, extraneous noises, or distractions. The room must be free of identifying information such as diplomas, licenses, or other items. You must ensure that the room has good lighting, especially in front of you so that your face is visible. You must remain seated in sight of the camera during the entire test session, with your entire face visible at all times. There will be a break between sessions to stretch, use the restroom, take medications, and the like. It will require a computer, microphone and camera that meets minimum system requirements. We highly recommend using a laptop with an internal microphone and camera. Make sure your equipment meets these requirements. See the requirements here:

<https://examsoft.force.com/emcommunity/s/article/Exemplify-Minimum-System-Requirements-for-Windows>

<https://examsoft.force.com/emcommunity/s/article/Exemplify-Minimum-System-Requirements-for-Mac-OS-X>

You may have only one monitor. We recommend using an internal computer camera as opposed to an external camera. Your camera must be mounted so that we can see the front of your face AT ALL TIMES.

Applicants are solely responsible for obtaining their own computers, microphones, cameras, equipment, wifi, and acceptable space in which to take the exam while being proctored remotely. If your equipment fails or your space is unacceptable, you will not be able to take or continue with the exam, and it will not be grounds for modification of your final score. Make sure your equipment is in working order and your space is acceptable.

What features will examinees be able to use within the exam software?

You WILL be able to:

On the MEE and MPT questions:

View the question and your response at the same time. For the MPT, you will be able to open the MPT library attachments and view both the attachment and the exam response on the screen.

Highlight within the questions.

Use up to approximately 30 pages of “virtual scratch paper” to outline your answers.

Cut and paste text within the response and from the virtual scrap paper.

On the MBE questions:

Highlight within the questions.

Cross out unwanted answers.

Navigate forward and backward, and skip and return to unanswered questions.

You WILL NOT be able to:

- Use more than one monitor.

- Highlight within the MPT attachment.

- Cut and paste or drag and drop text from the question or the MPT library to your written response.

- Underline, circle, or cross out text within the MEE and MBE questions or the MPT materials.

- Use physical scratch paper, notes, or any other physical reference materials. If you are determined to have used physical scratch or note paper at any time during the exam other than the MPT, or with a preapproved accommodation, you will be investigated for cheating, resulting in a potential negative impact on character and fitness for admission.

We recommend practicing powering down and up while in Exemplify as well.

You are required to complete a registration process and two mock exams between January 14 and January 29, 2021 and will therefore have opportunities to familiarize yourself with the software.

Can I handwrite for the February 2021 exam?

No, unless you have an accommodation that requires you to handwrite. This is a remote examination administered electronically by computer.

How does remote proctoring work?

You must remain in your seat with your **face fully visible at all times** during the 90-minute session. The software will record audio and video of you, to be uploaded along with your answer files.

From there, the audio and video files will be analyzed and will flag any unusual behaviors, movement, or sounds. The flagged footage is reviewed by trained proctors to determine if further investigation is needed. If additional investigation is needed, you will be contacted by IBAB staff for clarifications and responses to questions if necessary. The mere existence of a flag is not cause for concern. For example, the flag could be a dog barking, or a doorbell, which can be cleared on human review. These human proctors will have no information as to the identity of the individual being reviewed.

What items are prohibited?

Absent a specific and pre-approved accommodation, you may NOT have:

1. **any** electronic device besides your computer, external camera (if using), mouse, and keyboard. You may not have a second monitor. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, fitness trackers, watches, headsets, headphones, radios, stereos, clocks, or anything digital, programmable, Bluetooth/Internet capable, or anything other than your registered computer, and associated mouse/keyboard/camera/microphone.
2. paper of any kind, except during the MPT
3. writing instrument of any kind except during the MPT
4. earplugs or anything on or in your ears
5. scarves, hats, hoodies, or anything covering your head, face, and ears (except for items approved in advance, such as hearing aids and religious wear); however, if you are testing in a location that will require you to wear a mask, you may do so. You may be asked to pull it down for identification.
6. food or drinks (absent prior approval)
7. more than one monitor
8. any item within your reach other than the items delineated in Number 1 on this list.

What may cause me to be flagged for violating the rules?

This is not an all-inclusive list. Some actions that may cause suspicions of cheating include:

1. possessing or using electronic devices
2. pets or people in the room
3. paper, books, writing implements, or any item on the desk except the computer, camera (if using), keyboard, and mouse
4. getting up from your seat, or leaving the room
5. going off camera
6. not having your face in the camera view at all times
7. eyes not on the screen for extended periods of time
8. talking or listening to another person talking
9. inappropriate attire or lack of attire – this is still a bar exam
10. any other suspected cheating

Will there be technical support?

You will be provided with instructions on how to call ExamSoft, who can attempt to assist you. No extra exam time will be given.

When can we expect to see results from the February 2021 exam?

At this point we cannot say. We understand time is of the essence, and we will strive to make sure grading occurs quickly, but accurately. Check our website for updates on when results will be posted.