

Fact Sheet about the February 2007 Multistate Performance Examination

1. The Maryland Bar Examination will include one Multistate Performance Test (MPT) question as part of the written test administered on Tuesday, February 27, 2007.
2. The MPT is designed to test an applicant's ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. Each test evaluates an applicant's ability to complete a task which a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish.
3. The materials for each MPT include a File and a Library. The File consists of source documents containing all the facts of the case, including a memorandum from a supervising attorney assigning the specific task the applicant is to complete. The Library may contain cases, statutes, regulations or rules. The applicant is expected to extract from the Library the legal principles necessary to analyze the problem and perform the assigned task.
4. Detailed information about the MPT is available on the website of the National Conference of Bar Examiners at www.ncbex.org. On that site is a downloadable Information Booklet, free sample tests and point sheets (suggested answer outlines) from 1999 through 2001, MPT summaries through 2006, and more recent MPT tests and point sheets available for purchase from the on-line store.
5. Beginning in February 2007, Maryland's written test will consist of 10 Maryland Essay questions with a time allotment of 25 minutes each and one MPT question with a time allotment of 90 minutes. The morning session of the written test will consist of 7 Maryland Essay questions with a total session writing time of 2 hours and 55 minutes. The afternoon session of the written test will consist of 3 Maryland Essay questions and one MPT question with a total session writing time of 2 hours and 45 minutes. The total length of the written test (morning plus afternoon writing time) will be 5 hours and 40 minutes.
6. The MPT will be weighted twice as much as a single essay question. The total raw score for the written test will be computed as follows:

Total Written Test Raw Score = Sum of the individual raw scores for each essay question (which may range from 0 to 6) + (MPT raw score x 2). The MPT also will be graded on a raw score range of 0 to 6.

The highest possible written test raw score, therefore, will be 72.

7. The total written test raw score will be scaled to the Multistate Bar Examination scale. The total scale score for the Maryland Bar Examination will be computed as follows:

Total Scale Score = (Written Test Scale Score x 2) + MBE Scale Score