

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT

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Studying for Multiple-Choice Exams

How do I study for multiple-choice style final examinations?

1. During the semester, study as suggested in *1000 Days to the Bar*, that is, attend to each of the Components of Assessment-Targeted Study each week in each course.
 - Reading and briefing every case
 - Attending every class, actively participating and taking notes
 - Transforming notes
 - Creating course summaries
 - Developing flow charts
 - Internalizing
 - Practicing answering hypothetical questions in writing.
2. If your examination will consist of only multiple-choice questions. Practice answering multiple-choice questions weekly. However, if your examination will include both multiple-choice and essay questions, you need to practice multiple-choice questions and answer hypothetical's in writing each week.
3. Before beginning to practice answering multiple-choice questions, learn the strategies involved – answering multiple-choice questions involves more than simply “knowing the law.”
4. Practice, practice, practice. Where can you find practice material? Some sources include:
 - The Finz Multistate Method (2004 edition). This 840-page publication is a compendium of 1167 questions on the six subjects tested on the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) – including Torts, Contracts, Property, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law and Evidence. The book includes a 21-page guide to handling an MBE-style question, and covers how to break the question down into it essential factual elements; how to recognize the issues; how to avoid the traps and pitfalls; and how to pick the right answer.

- 1L Subject Multiple Choice Questions and Answers. The Office of Academic Excellence Resource Center has practice questions for Property, Torts, Contracts, Evidence, Constitutional Law and Criminal Law.
- CALI website. Learn how to use the CALI site. You will find a wealth of questions, answers, explanations and tips that will prove invaluable in your multiple-choice exam studying for just about any subject. (Best of all, for most students – if your law school subscribes – CALI is free!)
- The Lexis-Nexis Questions and Answers Series. The 228 Torts questions presented in the 2003 edition of the Torts volume are mostly multiple-choice questions – even the other questions are helpful for multiple-choice studying. The series includes other first-year subjects as well.
- Siegel’s Essay and Multiple-Choice Questions and Answers. The 1998 version includes 25 essay questions and 91 multiple-choice questions. The questions cover most issues raised in Torts courses, and an index at the end of the book leads readers to the questions related to those particular issues. All multiple-choice answers are explained in detail. The series includes other first-year subjects as well.
- The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) The NCBE publishes a few booklets containing past MBE (Multistate Bar Examination) multiple-choice questions. However, their publications do not contain explanations (only answers). You can find their materials at www.ncbex.org (look under “publications,” then “study aids”).
- These resources are available in the Office of Academic Excellence Resource Center, located in the Law Faculty (Raba) Building, Room 106D and the Circulation Desk in the Law Library.
- You may also schedule an appointment to meet with the Director of the Office of Academic Support to discuss preparing for Multiple-Choice exams.