

# TECHNICAL REPORT ON THE OCTOBER 2022 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION

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December 26, 2022

The First-Year Law Students' Examination has two parts, multiple-choice and essay. The multiple-choice section consists of 90 items<sup>1</sup> dealing with Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts. Multiple-choice raw scores (i.e., number of items answered correctly) were equated to the June 1998, 2015, and 2020; and October 2017 exams using 20 items that were common to each of these exams. The equating formula was as follows:

$$\text{Multiple Choice Scale} = (3.871 \times \text{raw multiple-choice score}) + 17.083$$

The essay section consisted of four questions in the same subjects as the multiple-choice test. Scores were assigned to answers on a 40 to 100-point scale in 5-point intervals. The candidates' raw total essay scores were scaled to a score distribution that had the same mean and standard deviation as their multiple-choice scores using the following formula:

$$\text{Essay Scale} = (2.4877 \times \text{raw essay total score}) + -358.7336$$

A candidate's total scale score was the sum of that candidate's multiple-choice and essay scale scores. Candidates with total scores of 560 or higher pass and those with scores below 540 fail. Candidates in the 540 to 559.9999 range have their essay answers and all their scores reviewed by a member of the Committee's Examination Development and Grading Team.

Of the 238 candidates who took the exam, 40 had total scale scores of 560 or greater and 178 had total scale scores that were below 540. Of the 20 candidates in the reappraisal range, 16 passed. The total number passing (56) was 24% of the total number of takers. The table below summarizes the main test statistics for the multiple-choice, essay, and total scores for the applicants completing the exam. There was a 0.60 correlation between their essay and multiple-choice scores.

Score	Raw Scores		Scale Scores		Score
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Reliability
Multiple-Choice	56.22	13.95	234.71	54	0.89
Essay	238.55	21.71	234.71	54	0.77
Total			469.42	96.64	0.89

The mean raw scores on the Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts sections of the multiple-choice test were 18.91, 19.52, and 17.78. The corresponding standard deviations were 5.60, 5.09, and 4.99.

<sup>1</sup> On this exam, 20 experimental items were included; 10 were retained.