

Maryland State Board of Law Examiners

PASSING STANDARD AND INFORMATION ON SCORE CALCULATION
FOR THE FEBRUARY 2017 GENERAL BAR EXAMINATION

1. An applicant's Total Scale Score for the Maryland General Bar Examination was computed using the following formula:

$$\text{Total Scale Score} = (\text{Written Test Scale Score} \times 2) + \text{MBE Scale Score}$$

2. The Written Test is comprised of the Board's Essay Test and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT). The raw score for the Written Test is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Written Test Raw Score} = \text{Sum of Board's Essay Test Raw Scores} + (\text{MPT raw score} \times 1.5)$$

3. The raw score for each of the 10 Essay Questions and the MPT Question was assigned on a relative range of one (1) to six (6) points, and a score of zero was assigned only if an answer booklet was blank or the answer was otherwise totally incorrect or unresponsive to the question. The maximum possible raw score on the Written Test was 69 points. The raw scores assigned to each applicant's written answers ranked the performance of that applicant on each written question relative to the performance on that question of all other applicants taking the Written Test.

4. An applicant's Written Test Raw Score was converted to the MBE Scale using the following formula:

$$\text{Written Test Scale Score} = [(A-B) / C] [D] + E, \text{ where:}$$

- A = Written Test Raw Score
- B = the mean of the A values across all applicants
- C = the standard deviation of the A Values across all applicants
- D = the standard deviation of the Maryland applicants' MBE scale scores
- E = the mean of the Maryland applicants' MBE scale scores

Expressed in numerical terms, the conversion formula for this examination was:

$$\text{Written Test Scale Score} = [(D/C) \times \text{Applicant's Total Raw Essay Score}] + [(CE-DB)/C]$$

or

$$\text{Written Test Scale Score} = (2.1032 \times \text{Applicant's Total Raw Essay Score}) + 38.7125$$

5. The minimum passing Total Scale Score is 406.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY: As described in the Notice to Unsuccessful Candidates, mailed with the official results letter and posted on the Board's website, the Board's re-grading policy is a procedure utilized by the Board BEFORE the examination results are released. **Once the initial grading and re-grading are concluded and the examination results are released, THERE IS NO FURTHER REGRADE PROCEDURE AND NO APPEAL IS PERMITTED.**