

EXPLANATION OF REPORT OF MISSOURI EXAM SCORES

A. Scores on the Essay Portion of the Exam

The essay portion of the exam consists of 10 essay questions and one MPT question. The “Report of Missouri Exam Scores” enclosed with your results letter lists the subject matters tested in the essay portion of the current exam, along with the highest possible raw score, the raw score you earned, and the average raw score of each essay question. The essays and the MPT are graded on a whole number raw scale of 0 to 12 points. The MPT, while graded on the same raw scale, carries more weight than an essay question. The MPT raw score of 0 to 12 is weighted by multiplying the assigned raw score by 2 to calculate the weighted raw MPT score. Thus, the highest possible weighted MPT raw score is 24 (12 X 2).

The raw essay scores on the ten essay and the weighted raw MPT score are added to determine a total raw essay score for each applicant. Then, the total raw essay scores are converted to essay scale scores using the standard deviation method of scaling. Scaling puts the total raw essay scores on the same 200-point scale as the MBE scale scores and adjusts for possible differences, from one exam period to another, in the difficulty of the essay questions and/or in the leniency or harshness of the grading. Essay scale scores are rounded to the nearest whole number.

B. Scores on the MBE Portion of the Exam

MBE scores are computed and reported to Missouri by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. An applicant’s MBE raw score is the number of MBE questions the applicant answered correctly. MBE raw scores are converted to scale scores to control for possible differences in question difficulty from one exam period to another. This conversion of MBE raw scores to scale scores is performed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. Your “Report of Missouri Exam Scores” sets out your MBE scale score, as well as your raw score and the average raw score by subject matter.

The National Conference of Bar Examiners offers jurisdictions the option of receiving MBE scale scores rounded to one decimal place, primarily so that applicants can more easily distinguish their MBE scale score from their MBE raw score. Missouri receives its MBE scale scores rounded to the nearest whole number.

C. Scale scores versus Raw Scores

Scale scores allow for comparison of performance from one exam period to the next, while raw scores do not. For example, an applicant who earned an essay scale score of 120 in July and an essay scale score of 125 the following February can conclude that his essay performance improved. However, an applicant who earned a raw score of 5 on the Federal Civil Procedure question in July and a raw score of 6 on Federal Civil Procedure the following February cannot conclude that his performance on that subject improved because raw scores cannot be compared from one exam period to another. An applicant can compare his performance to the average performance to reach some conclusions. For example, if the average raw score on the Federal Civil Procedure question in July was 4 (and the applicant earned a 5) and the average raw score in February was 7 (and the applicant earned a 6), he can conclude that he performed better on that subject in the July exam. The same is true for comparison

between subjects within the same exam administration (e.g., a raw score of 5 on Remedies is not better than a raw score of 4 on Trusts if the Remedies average score was 6 and the Trusts average score was 4).

D. Weighted Scale Scores and Total Weighted Scale Score

As set out in Regulation 4 to Rule 8.08, the essay portion of the exam is weighted 60% and the MBE portion is weighted 40%. A combined or total weighted scale score of 1300 is required to pass the Missouri bar exam. In computing the total weighted scale score, the applicant's essay scale score is multiplied by 6 and the applicant's MBE scale score is multiplied by 4 and the two weighted scale scores are added together. The enclosed "Report of Missouri Exam Scores" sets out your essay scale score, your MBE scale score, your weighted essay scale score, your weighted MBE scale score, and your total weighted scaled score.

E. Accuracy of Your Reported Exam Scores

Prior to release, the results of each examination are subjected to numerous rounds of verification and proofing to ensure that all scores are mathematically correct and accurately reported to you on the enclosed "Report of Missouri Exam Scores." In addition, all ten essays and the MPT of any applicant whose preliminary total weighted scale score is within a set range of the 1300 pass/fail cutscore are automatically regraded prior to release of exam results. The regrading is "blind" in that the graders do not know what scores were assigned originally. Further, we do not disclose to applicants or to the graders what the set score range is that prompts regrading. The range is set sufficiently wide, however, to encompass any applicant whose pass/fail status might be changed by regrading.

F. Finality of Exam Results

Released exam results are final. No regrading of essays or appeal is provided. Applicants may not review their essay or MBE answers.

The National Conference of Bar Examiners will hand-score (as opposed to machine-score) an applicant's MBE answer sheet for a fee of \$8.20. To request a hand-scoring of your MBE answers, please mail a check made payable to "ACT, Inc." directly to: Office of the Board of Law Examiners, 1700 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109. Include your name, SSN, and address with your check. We will submit your request to NCBE/ACT and notify you, generally about four weeks after we receive your request, of the outcome of the hand-scoring.