

The Bar Exam Handbook

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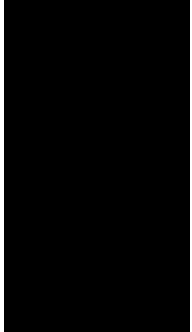
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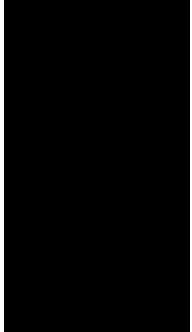
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STENZON

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Are you writing the Ontario Bar Exam soon? The full and final version of the LexPD Ontario Bar Indices is now available!

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INTRODUCTION



LexPD is a legal education and consulting firm. We are a pre-accredited CPD provider for the Law Society of British Columbia (LSBC) and offer accredited CPD courses for the Law Society of Ontario (LSO). As we grow, we hope to offer accredited hours for all 10 law societies.

In addition to offering continuing professional development courses, we prepare Canadian and foreign-trained law students for their Ontario bar exams. To date, we have worked with over 3600 licensing candidates and over 10,000 candidates have used our study materials to aid them with their exams.

We also offer courses to internationally trained legal professionals going through the NCA accreditation process with the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.

*"developing legal
minds"*

– @lexpd.ca

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WHAT DO WE OFFER

We offer:

- Advice
- Bar Essentials Courses
- Bar Exam Bootcamp
- Private Tutoring
- Study Materials (Index)
- Practice Exams with detailed reporting and insights



Anyone can give you a score

OntarioBarExam.com is the practice exam platform built by LexPD, an Ontario licensing exam tutoring company that has been preparing candidates for the Barrister and Solicitor examinations for over a decade. We are the people who sit across a table from candidates and work out why they lost the marks they lost.

That is where the platform came from. After enough years of doing this one candidate at a time, the same problem kept turning up. Everybody knew their score. Almost nobody knew what to do about it.

What we offer. Eight full mock exams, four Barrister and four Solicitor. Each is 160 questions over four hours and thirty minutes on a server-kept clock, organised into sections by area of law, with two attempts included. Alongside them, 28 practice quizzes: three in each of the seven areas of law, and seven on Professional Responsibility, which appears on both papers and is the material candidates most often leave too late.

Every question is created in-house to entry-level competency standards and reviewed and approved by our tutors.

We also publish the LexPD index, the one other prep companies license, and two free tools that need no account: a study planner and an exam pacer.

Why it is different.

A score tells you where you stood on one morning. It does not tell you what to open tonight.

So every report opens with a ranked list of what to fix first, ordered by the marks actually at stake on your paper rather than by your lowest percentage. A twenty point hole in a small section looks twice as bad as a ten point hole in a large one and is worth half as much, and candidates reliably study the wrong one.

Underneath that, your answers are cut two ways: by area of law, and by the lawyering competency each question tested, with the cross-section between them. That turns "I am weak in Civil Litigation" into something you can act on.

Then the things a score cannot show you. The questions you answered quickly, never flagged, and got wrong, which you cannot find by reviewing because you were sure of them. Where your accuracy gives out across four and a half hours. Whether your flagging is a reliable instrument or noise. And where a category is too small to judge honestly, we name it and say so rather than printing a number you would go and act on.

Anyone can give you a score. We tell you what to study.

OntarioBarExam.com

PLANNING FOR THE BAR EXAMS: HOW LONG WILL THIS ACTUALLY TAKE?

09

Ask ten candidates and you will get ten numbers, most of them too small. The honest answer depends on how fast you read and how many days you can genuinely give it. But it is arithmetic, and arithmetic can be done.

The Barrister materials run to roughly 890 pages, the Solicitor materials to roughly 1,126. Sitting both is about 1,694 rather than 2,016, because the first fifteen chapters of Professional Responsibility and the appendices are identical across the two sets. You read them once. That saving of 322 pages is the strongest practical argument for taking both papers together.

Then decide how many times you are reading it. We recommend twice. The first pass is comprehension: you are building a map of where things live, and almost nobody retains enough from it to answer questions under pressure. The second is much faster, and it is where recognition turns into recall. Once is a real constraint for plenty of people rather than a failure.

Now your own pace. Someone studying around five hours a day covers 45 to 60 pages. Measure yours rather than trusting ours: read for an hour the way you actually study, with your phone where it normally is, and count.

Our study planner does the sum for you. Put in your exam date and it works backwards to the day you need to start. Tell it which days you work full time and those days get a smaller target, because nobody reads fifty pages around a nine-hour shift, and a plan that pretends otherwise is wrong by week two.

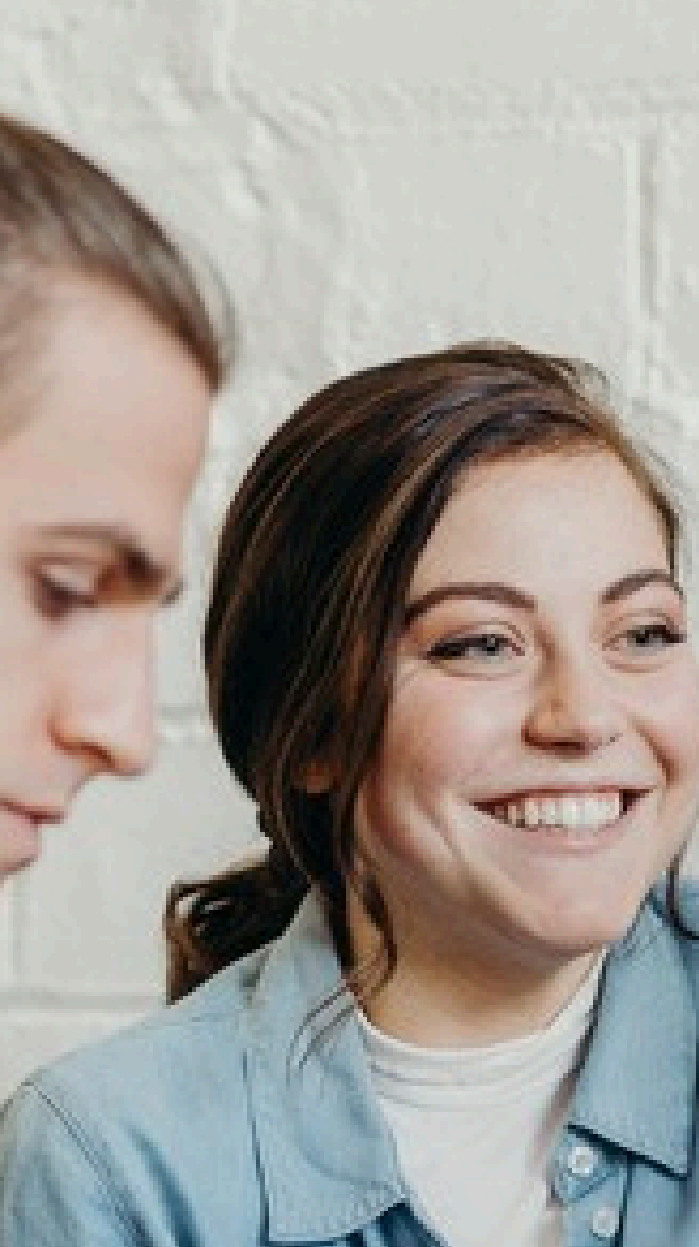
It also books a fun day every week, as part of the plan rather than whatever is left over. Burnout ends more study plans than difficulty does, and it tends to arrive around week six.

What comes out is a calendar, one month to a page, telling you which subject to read on which day and which pages. Criminal Law Monday to Thursday, Family Law Friday. Print it and put it on the wall.

One number to brace for: both papers, read twice, six days a week, is about fourteen weeks. Most candidates guess eight.

Free, and no sign-up: OntarioBarExam.com/study-planner





What are you sitting?

Both, same sitting (1,694 pages)

Sitting both reads Professional Responsibility and the appendices once, which is why it is not the two totals added together.

Barrister exam date

2026-11-12

Solicitor exam date

2026-11-26

The Solicitor paper is usually about two weeks after the Barrister one. With both dates in, your Barrister reading is scheduled to finish before the Barrister exam and the Solicitor revision goes in the gap. Confirm both dates with the Law Society.

Pages on a full study day

50

Most candidates studying about five hours a day cover 45 to 60. Measure your own: read for an hour the way you actually study, then multiply.

Pages on a day you also work

20

20 is realistic around a full working day. Be honest here rather than optimistic.

How many times will you read the materials?

Twice (recommended)

Twice is what we recommend, and it is what most candidates manage. Once is a real constraint rather than a failure. Each pass after the first is much faster, so a third costs far less than the first did.

Your week

Mark the days you work full time. Those days get a smaller reading target instead of the plan pretending they are the same as any other.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Fun day

Study da

Study da

Study da

Study da

Study da

Study da

Print or save as PDF

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Criminal Law (1st) pp. 489-498	2 Family Law (1st) pp. 499-548	3 Family Law (1st) pp. 549-598	4 Family Law (1st) pp. 599-636	5 Public Law (1st) pp. 637-686
6 Fun day	7 Public Law (1st) pp. 687-714	8 Appendices (1st) pp. 715-764	9 Appendices (1st) pp. 765-814	10 Appendices (1st) pp. 815-864	11 Appendices (1st) pp. 865-890	12 Business Law (1st) pp. 147-196
13 Fun day	14 Business Law (1st) pp. 197-246	15 Business Law (1st) pp. 247-296	16 Business Law (1st) pp. 297-346	17 Business Law (1st) pp. 347-396	18 Business Law (1st) pp. 397-446	19 Business Law (1st) pp. 447-490
20 Fun day	21 Estate Planning (1st) pp. 491-540	22 Estate Planning (1st) pp. 541-590	23 Estate Planning (1st) pp. 591-618	24 Real Estate (1st) pp. 619-668	25 Real Estate (1st) pp. 669-718	26 Real Estate (1st) pp. 719-768
27 Fun day	28 Real Estate (1st) pp. 769-818	29 Real Estate (1st) pp. 819-868	30 Real Estate (1st) pp. 869-918			

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WHAT IS AN INDEX

It is a guide that contains keywords and/or patterns that assist you to locate essential information in your material for the purpose of answering the bar exam questions.

For over 14 years, LexPD has provided instruction and study materials to thousands of bar candidates and our Barrister & Solicitor Indices include an index for each of the following topics: PR, Civil Litigation, Criminal Law, Family Law, Public Law, Business Law, Estate Planning, Real Estate, and an index for each appendix (Rules of Professional Conduct and the LSO Bylaws).



For more information, please email info@lexpd.ca

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OUR INDEX PROCESS



with Liran Kandin

In this guide, I hope to give you some insight into our process of producing an index for the Ontario bar exams. I've personally been involved in producing at least 9 complete sets of indices and there are three key ingredients in getting everything to click.

Team Members - you need to have reliable and competent team members. This can sometimes be a challenge for us because the process of vetting and selecting candidates is time consuming. We are fortunate to be able to pick from a pool of highly talented individuals. Our company tutors hundreds of law students every year, so we're not limited to selecting members from one university. This year, for example, our team members include graduates from NYU, UofT and UofO as well as top candidates from other law schools. In previous years we've had pools of students from UofT, Ottawa and McGill as part of the same team.

Unlike other indexing groups, our team is kept small because we can control the quality and maintain consistency with a smaller group, whereas other groups can have upwards of a 100 contributors.

Leadership & Consistency - In addition to selecting reliable and competent team members, someone needs to take charge of the group to ensure everyone is working well together. Being law graduates, many team members are opinionated and have strong differing views on how things should function.

This can be disastrous for an indexing group where all the members have to work together and follow the same standards to produce a consistent index of high quality that everyone can easily follow.

I have managed our indexing group for over nine years and for the last six years, I've hired a practising lawyer and former indexing group member, to help lead the team. Between the two of us, our group members can confidently rely on our experience to answer their concerns quickly. Our team meets regularly to discuss best practices and answer questions. In addition to our regular team meetings, our team communicates daily through a group chat where they communicate their questions and concerns. This ensures that all the members are on the same page and applying one set of standard rules throughout all sections of our index.

Solid Base of Terms - The final key ingredient to producing a reliable index is having a solid base of terms to work off of. Since our first year of producing an index, the number of terms in our index has increased by nearly 60%. It took several years to refine that base and ensure that terms that were no longer in the materials were not lingering around. We also came up with detailed instructions for our members to follow to make sure that we are constantly cleaning up old terms that are no longer found in the materials and adding terms to strengthen existing sections and newly added sections of the index. No terms are deleted or added to our index without a final review from either myself or the other lawyer on our team.

THE THREE PHASES OF PREPARING OUR INDEX

Quality Control

Previously, I discussed three important ingredients that are essential to creating a solid index. I'd like to walk you through a fourth, and probably the most important ingredient, testing & quality control. Before we release the final version of the index, we release the pre-release index. What is a Pre-Release version of the index? The Pre-Release is not our official version of the index and is typically released around May of each year. The purpose of getting the pre-released version is so that you can download the index and begin exploring and testing it as you study. You are welcome and encouraged to notify us if you come across any discrepancies in our materials. Our team of students will also be testing the index in their final phase III testing. Within a couple of weeks, if we do find any additional corrections, we will send out an updated version of the index. Typically, phase III testing is about fine-tuning the index and we do not expect there to be major updates. We do not recommend that you print out the Pre-Release version of the index until phase III testing is completed.

What are the three phases of testing?

Today I want to talk about our process for testing our index. We've broken down the process into three unique stages, which we like to call Phase I, II, and III. Although it is nearly impossible to have a perfect index, we do our best to give you a product that we would personally rely on. To get there, we go through some rigorous testing.

Phase I: This phase begins when we receive all the completed parts of our index back from the students preparing their individual topics. Once all that information is received, we have two Ontario licensed lawyers start the first phase of testing.

Our group members are instructed to use a colour coding system when they index. Green is for highlighting new terms created, usually as a result of additions to the LSO materials. Red represents terms that no longer appear in the index and yellow represents terms that are confusing or may need a second look at. No terms are added or deleted from our index without the review of our lawyers. This process usually takes 1-2 weeks to complete. In addition to going through and approving or rejecting the highlighted terms, we have a sorting system that allows us to catch terms that fall outside the range of where those terms are supposed to lie within the materials. This system allows us to spot if there are any substantial errors because a student may have forgotten to index an entire chapter or section.

Phase II - In the second phase of testing, we assign group members a specific index that they did not personally work on. During this phase, students attempt practice questions for their assigned topic and go through the index as they personally study and prepare for the subject. This phase typically lasts about a week. At the end of this phase, each of our group members receives the Pre-Release version of our index and we also make a limited number of them available to the public.

Phase III - This phase lasts about 2 weeks and is the fine-tuning phase. Our group members are free to study any topic they wish. As they prepare, they'll notify us if they find any discrepancies in the index. We may also receive corrections from individuals who purchased the Pre-Release version of the index. If there are any corrections, then we'll send out an update to everyone who purchased the early release.



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BEING A PART OF THE INDEXING TEAM

By Xiaoyu Hu

J.D. Graduate - University of Ottawa

As someone who knew nothing about indexing and the process of how to use them for the bar, contributing to the indexing process was an extremely helpful way to get acquainted with the bar materials. Helping with this process helped me understand and think about the materials from a different perspective. It allowed me to synthesise the materials while annotating them to consider the bigger picture. My main takeaway from contributing to this indexing process was learning how to develop a study strategy before even beginning my formal bar prep. This process allowed me to think about how to find materials on the day of the exam while both making the index and studying rather than focusing solely on getting through the readings for each day. Indexing is a tedious but important process - contributing to the indexing process not only helped me visualize my strategies for bar preparation but it was a rewarding experience to connect with a few others also in the same process.

Learning how to use the index is a form of studying in itself. Even though I was part of the process to build the index, continuing to practice with the index every few days has made the studying process feel more productive. Even though I'm still currently in the process of studying for the bar, my biggest tip to others would be to use the index simultaneously while studying. Although I contributed to making the index, it still takes time to practice and understand how to use the index effectively. For example, when I first started using the index to search for terms, it would take me multiple attempts to find the term I was looking for. However, as I practiced more, finding specific terms became easier as I became comfortable with how the index was structured. As I study, I try to think of what terms might show up in the index and direct my annotation on the materials based on those ideas.



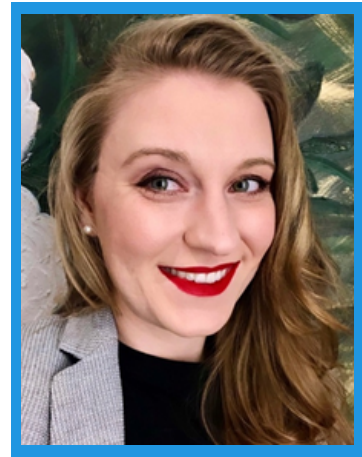
Terms often come up in different orders throughout the index and helping with this process meant I had an opportunity to really understand the ins and outs of how to search for those terms.

Overall, contributing to the indexing process is one that I would recommend to any student studying. Contributing to this process got me into the mindset of studying and looking for specific ways to think about terms/topics. It helped me analyze the terms on a deeper level than I think facilitated an even more interactive study experience. I felt that I was thinking about keywords and terms, what to look for while studying, how to highlight, and how I would find my materials on the day of the exam. After helping with the indexing process, I felt more confident going into my materials already knowing how topics/sections were structured, what key terms, and phrases to look for as well as keeping the index in the back of my mind.



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INDEXING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE ONTARIO BAR EXAMS



By Tiffany Sillanpää

Indexing Your Way Through The Ontario Bar Exams

I recently had the privilege of working with LexPD's Ontario Bar Indexing group again this year. I was an indexer in 2020/21 and have overseen the subsequent indexing groups for four years now. Under the guidance of Liran Kandin and myself, both of whom are practicing lawyers, this team of Ontario Bar students collectively read through the official LSO Bar materials to identify and index keywords and phrases that would be essential to success on both the Solicitor and Barrister exams. We then peer-reviewed the index by having each group member use it on a sample bar exam in a subject they did not personally index. Finally, the index is reviewed by a few sets of eyes outside the team for accuracy and completeness.

Having passed the Ontario Bar, I cannot emphasize how incredibly valuable a well-built index is to passing the Bar. The sheer volume of information on the Ontario Bar exams, and the detail to which questions may test your knowledge, make memorization incredibly difficult if not impossible. There are simply too many fine details to remember and employ under the exams' time constraints.

The LSO knows this, of course, which is why both the Barrister and Solicitor examinations are open book. Much like they would in actual practice, exam writers are permitted to look-up details they can't remember in the official Bar materials during the exam. However, without an effective way to find information quickly, this open book format can create a false sense of security.

You simply do not have time to self-navigate the incredible volume of material within the time allotted. Having an index, however, which presents the information in easy to navigate alphabetical format, makes finding information quick and efficient thus turning the bar materials into an incredibly valuable resource to have in the exam room.

There is a learning curve, however and using your index is not something you should leave until exam day. Every practice exam you do is an opportunity to get familiar with your index and finesse your index-augmented exam technique for success. Here are some of my top tips:

1) Tab your Index, not just the Materials Adding alphabetical tabs to your index will help you find keywords faster. The LexPD index is designed for this, as it ensures that each new letter starts on a new, odd numbered-page so you can easily print and tab your double-sided copy.

For some subjects, it may also be helpful to double-tab your index by using a different colored tab for the second letter of each index word (e.g. "Arbitration" would be tabbed "A" and "AR"). This will help you pin-point terms more efficiently in cases where there are multiple pages of terms under a single letter.

2) Start with the call of the question Before you can use your index to help you answer a question, you'll need to figure out which sub-topic within the main subject the question is testing. Each question on the Bar Exam is labelled by major subject (e.g. Criminal Law, Real

Continued...

Estate, etc.) but within those subjects you have various sub-topics (e.g. murder, assault, conveyancing, leases). By starting with the call of the question (e.g. usually the last sentence) and analyzing which subtopic the question is testing, you will ensure that red-herring facts within the fact pattern don't derail you. You'll also have some ideas around what terms you might be looking for. If the call of the question doesn't hint at the subject matter or sub-topic you can also skim through the answer choices to glean this information from them.

3) Identify a Keyword Based on the call of the question and close reading of the facts, you should have a clear idea of what keyword you need to look for in the index. For instance, if the question is asking you what a wife's options are to make her ex-husband pay outstanding spousal support, and the facts tell you that she has registered her support order with the provincial authorities, you may look for the words "Enforcement" or "FRO" within your Family Law index. The LexPD index endeavours to arrange terms in as many logical sequences as possible so that no matter how you think through an issue or organize terms in your head, you'll find what you are looking for with ease. For instance, in the example above, you would find an index term under the letters "E" (e.g. Enforcement - Support Orders or Enforcement - FRO) and "F" (e.g. FRO - Enforcement) and "S" (e.g. Support Orders - Enforcement - FRO) among other options.

4) Find the Information in the Bar Materials
The final step is to flip to the information in the Bar materials themselves. Beside each indexed term, you'll find a chapter number, page number, column indicator, and section number (e.g. 62 - 518A - 2.14) so you can quickly find the information. The column indicator is particularly useful as well, since it tells you what side of the 2-columned bar material page to read.

While these steps may sound lengthy and hard to master, the more you practice the faster you'll get at employing your index effectively. If you are looking for an Index to use on your upcoming Bar Exams, you can purchase printable copies of the LexPD Indexes for one or both exams by going to <https://www.lexpd.ca/indices>.

Happy Studying!
Tiffany

**LEX
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*DEVELOPING
LEGAL MINDS*



**LEX
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20

OUR BAR CRASH COURSE

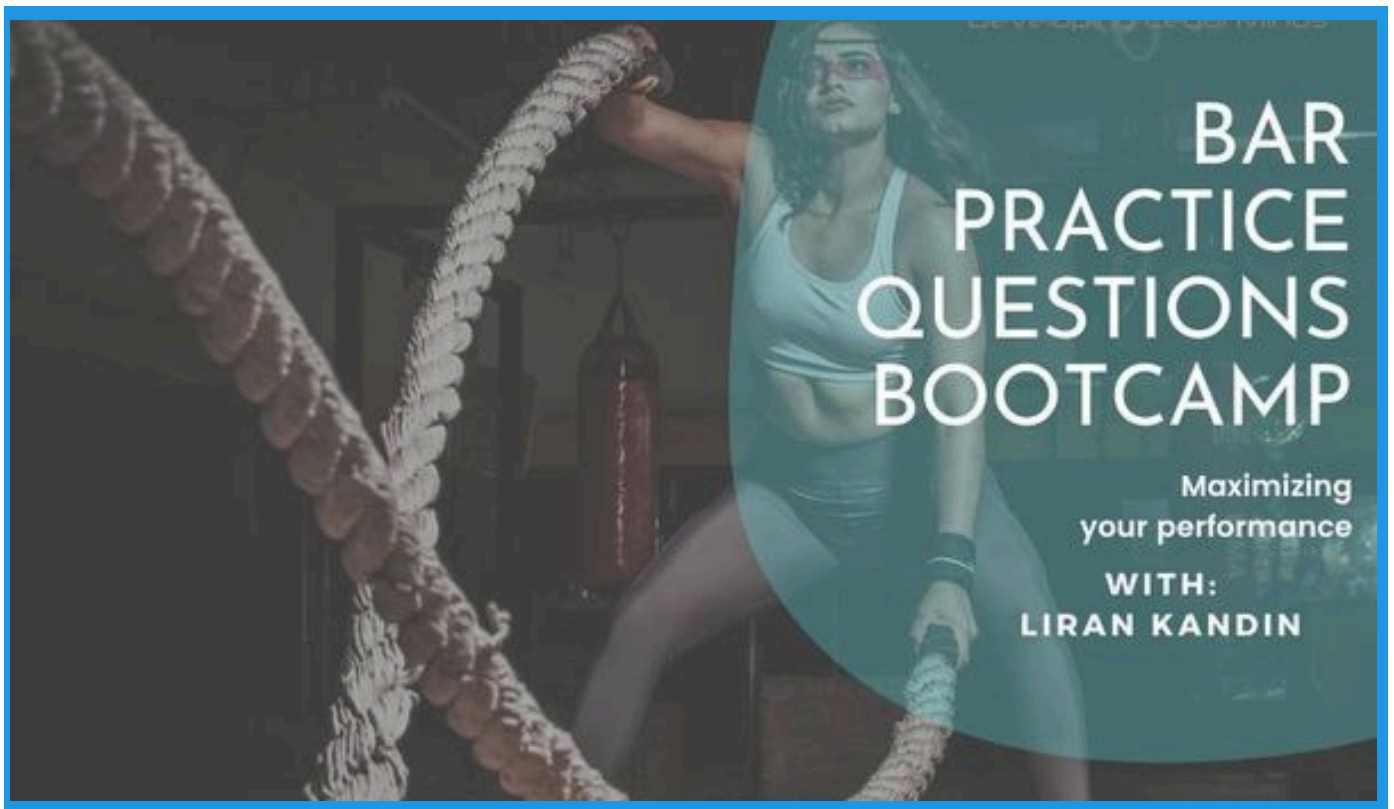


Our Bar Essentials Course is taught by Liran Kandin. Liran has prepared over 3600 licensing candidates over the past fourteen years.

This on-demand course provides licensing candidates with an overview of the Ontario Barrister and Solicitor exams. It walks you through the structure of the exam, how to best organize your materials and study efficiently. The course will introduce you to indices and how they should complement your studies. There is a section of the materials that focuses on speed reading and retention. The instructor also teaches exam techniques to master multiple-choice questions. You will go through practice exam questions to apply the techniques you will be learning in the course. Finally, you'll be discussing indices, charts, and practice exams.

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BAR PRACTICE QUESTIONS BOOT CAMP



Sign up for our Bar Practice Questions Boot Camp! This course takes place over five separate days across a few months, providing you with essential skills to apply uniform exam strategies, effectively use your index, and improve both efficiency and accuracy. Join Liran Kandin's sessions, where he will guide you through practice questions and help sharpen your logical reasoning skills. Plus, you'll have an accountability partner to keep you on track and ensure you're meeting your study goals.

For more information on our bar boot camp email us at info@lexpd.ca

22 **BAR EXAM PACER**

Am I behind?

There is a moment in every licensing examination, usually past the two-hour mark, when you look up from a fact pattern you have read twice and not understood, and realise you have no idea whether you are on schedule.

The arithmetic is not the hard part. 160 questions in four hours and thirty minutes is about a minute and forty seconds each. But that is not the number you need at minute 137. What you need is whether you should be further along than this, and working that out in your head, already rattled, is not a calculation anyone does well.

So use a pacer. It is one page you keep on the desk. Find the reading on the clock in front of you in the time column, and the number beside it is the question you should be on. Ours has a table for a clock counting down and one for a clock counting up, because working out which way the room's clock runs is a poor thing to be doing in your first minute.

Check it rarely, every ten or twenty questions or at the section breaks. A pacer you consult constantly becomes a source of anxiety rather than a cure for one. Bring it into your practice exams so glancing at it is automatic, and so you learn what your own drift looks like before it costs you anything.

There is one more thing, and it is why we rebuilt this as a page rather than leaving it as a spreadsheet. Every pacing chart we have seen is built for a four-and-a-half-hour paper. If the Law Society has granted you additional time, that chart is calibrated to a clock you are not writing on. Follow it and you will rush a paper you were given the time to do properly. Ours asks how long your examination is. There are presets for 25% and 50% extra time and for double time, and a box for anything else. Every row rebuilds around your number. You do not tell us, and you do not tell anyone. No account, no email address, no form, no box to tick declaring an accommodation. Your accommodation is a matter between you and the Law Society.

Free, and no sign-up

[Download Here](#)



The Law Society of Ontario (LSO) Barrister and Solicitor bar exams are significant hurdles on the path to practicing law in Ontario. The sheer volume of material (approximately 1000 pages per exam) can feel overwhelming, especially if you did not attend law school in Canada and the content is unfamiliar. Having recently navigated these exams several years after graduating law school in another country, I wanted to share some tips that made a real difference for me.

Your General Study Strategy

- Make a study schedule (please!!): This might sound obvious, but you need a well-structured study schedule. Depending on how much time you have and how many reads of the material you are planning, draft a schedule that breaks down the number of pages you should read per day. Leave a few days before each exam to schedule a general review and practice questions. Breaking up my reading into manageable chunks helped me stay on track without feeling engulfed by the mountain of material.
- Read the materials twice: Aim to read all of the assigned materials at least twice (including the Rules of Professional Responsibility and By-Laws). The first read should focus on grasping foundational concepts, while the second allows you to solidify your understanding and identify key details.
- Actively engage with the material: Try not to just passively read the materials on your couch. Grab a pencil to underline key concepts and jot down notes or summaries in the margins and highlight important rules or legislative provisions.
- The LSO loves Professional Responsibility: This cannot be stressed enough: master the Professional Responsibility content. This area consistently features heavily on both exams. If you find yourself running out of time and can't manage a second full read-through, prioritize re-reading the Professional Responsibility chapters, including the Rules of Professional Conduct and By-Laws.
- Don't forget your downtime: Studying for the bar exams is not exactly a party, so be sure to have at least one day a week when you are not thinking about the laws of Ontario. Your schedule should incorporate full days off from studying each week. I promise resting your brain will be more productive in the long run.
- Use sample questions to practice your Index: I would not have passed the LSO exams without an Index. Use sample questions (some are provided below) to practice navigating the materials efficiently using your Index. Familiarize yourself with how the information is organized and where to quickly locate specific rules or concepts. LexPD Indices are available here: <https://www.lexpd.ca/indices>.
- Simulate the real deal: Take at least one 4.5 hour timed Barrister or Solicitor sample exam using your LexPD Timing Sheet. This allows you to identify areas where you need to improve your speed and/or recall.
- Deferring your exam is not the end of the world: Your mental and physical well-being is more important than being a licensed lawyer in Ontario. If you are feeling very stressed and consistently unable to focus, consider deferring your exam. It's better to take the exam when you feel prepared and in a good headspace.

The Week Before

- Adjust your sleep schedule: Start setting your alarm at the time you will need to wake up on exam day (and go to bed earlier). A good week of sleep is more important than any last-minute cramming of material.
- Limit timed exams: In the final week, limit yourself to one timed exam. Save your energy for the time pressure on exam day. Focus on reviewing your notes and Index and taking practice questions instead. If you are working, consider asking for a few days off before your exam.
- Know your route: Drive to the exam center to familiarize yourself with the location, parking options, and entrance. Knowing the commute time and other logistics in advance will eliminate unnecessary stress on exam day.

Exam Day

- Stick to your routine: Eat your usual breakfast and do what you would do on a typical non-study day. I strongly discourage studying on the morning of your exam.
- Mindset matters: Bring some levity to your morning. Watch a funny video, send a quick voice note to a supportive friend, or listen to your favourite music. A relaxed start can make a big difference.
- Write down your LSO Candidate Number on your study materials.
- Make absolutely sure you have your Pacer Sheet with you for both exams!
- Pack smart: Only bring what you need for the exam. This includes your permitted study materials, a clear plastic water bottle and snack.
- Skip Coat Check: Leave your coat, cellphone, and any other impermissible items in your car or at home. This will save you from the long waits at Coat Check before and after the exam. Refer to the official LSO Exam Rules for a comprehensive list of permitted items: Rules and Protocol for Licensing Examinations

- Give it your best: Even if you walk into the exam feeling less prepared than you hoped, try your best.

Free Practice Resources:

- Sample LSO Questions: Practice the official sample questions provided by the LSO.
- Link: [Guide to licensing examinations | Law Society of Ontario](#)
- Sample US-based MPRE Practice Questions: The US Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) covers similar ethical principles to the Ontario Professional Responsibility section. Practicing these questions can be a valuable supplement to your studies.

Link: [MPRE Sample Test Questions](#)

PREPARING FOR THE LICENSING EXAMINATIONS

Study Materials

The Licensing Examinations are developed with reference to the Law Society-provided study materials. No external material or information is required. Although an index is highly recommended. Candidates should review the Law Society study materials at least twice in preparation for the Licensing Examinations. You can access the materials digitally once you have purchased them from the Law Society. You will need to print the materials yourself as the Law Society no longer provides printing services. The Law Society updates the materials once a year and new materials are usually released in late April.

How to prepare:

It takes time to prepare for the license exam. The following tips and best practices can help you prepare, but there is no substitute for spending time building a solid knowledge base.

Create a Schedule

In this guide, we have an article titled Planning for the Bar Exams. This piece gives you a breakdown of the study materials and shows you the best way to prepare a study schedule. Start getting ready early so that your study schedule will be a lot more manageable and will give you time to attempt practice questions.

Maintain a regular study schedule: As with any appointment, set aside a specific time to study and stick to that time. It is a good idea to study during the time of day that you are scheduled to write your exam. If this is not possible, then at least attempt to do this for the last few days before your exam.

Twenty-minute increments

Most people struggle to focus beyond twenty-minute increments. If you use those increments efficiently, you can have a much more productive day than simply locking yourself in a room for ten hours at a time. This means you need to eliminate all distractions including electronics such as your phone, smartwatch, and even your pager if you still have one and you're still reading the guide. Three separate twenty-minute sessions will likely be more productive than a full hour-long study session. A full three-hours of preparation that are broken down into smaller increments will be more productive than someone who is preparing for 5 hours a day. Rather than cram all your studying into a full-day filled with distractions, study efficiently and use the rest of the time to do something you enjoy.

Reading your study materials

The Law Society materials can be overwhelming. There is a lot of reading to get through and some of the topics may be difficult or flat-out boring. Your goal is not to memorize or fall in love with the topics. The idea is to understand the topics as best you can. If you're using an index and charts, it's a good idea to have them with you while you are reading so you can test out some of the terms as you go through the materials and start to get familiar with how your index works.

Watch out for excessive highlighting!

The purpose of marking up your materials is so that you can locate answers rather quickly during the exam. You will find that much of the materials seem important and appears to require highlighting. If you find yourself highlighting a substantial portion of the text, you're definitely doing something wrong.

If you think about the way the materials are organized, they are super condensed summaries of subjects you would learn in law school. For example, the Public Law chapter is roughly 74 pages in length, and yet it covers major courses like constitutional law, administrative law, and indigenous law. It is understandable that everything on the topic would seem important as they crammed three courses into only 74 pages. However, you must resist the urge to highlight and need to focus only on extremely important issues or nuances. At a minimum, we recommend that legal tests be marked in one colour, while the exceptions to the tests or rules are highlighted in red. You're often tested on your knowledge of the exceptions and sometimes those exceptions are found on a different page than the legal test. Flipping through the materials quickly to spot red highlights can be incredibly useful during the exam.

Organizing your Print Materials for Open-Book Examinations

At the sitting of a Licensing Examination, you are permitted to bring both your own study materials (including, e. g., charts, summaries, indices, and dictionaries) and the Law Society study materials into the testing area. Prior to binding materials, we strongly recommend that you feed your LSO materials through a double-sided scanner so you can save all of your annotations in case you may have to re-sit one of the exams. The Law Society requires you to leave behind all your materials in the examination room after your exams are completed and you will regret not having scanned those materials beforehand.

The exam tests you on one single topic at a time and will tell you specifically which subject you're being tested on. For example, you'll find a cover page that states "Business Law". You then work on business law questions only until you come across the next topic in the examination. As such, it is good to organize your materials by topic. We preferred floppy ring binders as they're a lot easier to flip through than some of the binding options available. Since you are only tested one topic at a time, you will need to have two binders in front of you, along with the index for each.

The first binder is the topic you are being tested on, the second binder should be your professional responsibility binder that also includes the appendices (rules of professional conduct and the by-laws). The PR topic is tested throughout the exam so you will need that topic in front of you throughout both the barrister and solicitor exams. If you are using the LexPD index, you will notice that there are blank pages purposefully inserted through the document. This was intentional so that when you print your index, a new letter will always begin on the right-hand side of the page. We did this so licensing candidates can purchase tabs (A-Z) and insert them into the index. We highly recommend doing this, it will save you time on the exam. Alternatively, you can use post-it notes to tab the different letters in your index.

Multiple-Choice Exam Strategy

All elements of each licensing exam are multiple-choice. Candidates need to choose the best answer from four possible options. This means that there may be more than one "correct" answer, but one answer is going to be better than the other options. To avoid picking the wrong answer, we strongly advise you to employ the process of elimination whereby you do not select your answer choice until you have properly reasoned through all the answers choices to eliminate the wrong ones. This is a key strategy that should not be overlooked. Make sure that you are keeping the correct pace on the exam and that you do not fall behind. If you are stuck on a question, use the process of elimination to get narrow down the answer choices. If you still cannot figure out the answer, use your index to find the answer in your materials. If you are still stuck, you take your best-educated guess and move on. Try not to spend more than three to four minutes on a question.