

BAR EXAM STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

1. The Bar Exam is a national level exam administered by the Bar Council of the Maldives (BCM) with the objective of assessing the capacity of law graduates to practice in the Maldives.
2. The exam is the qualifying exam for members of the legal profession in the Maldives.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3. All examinees must possess the following qualities and must have complied with the following rules:
 - a) Examinee must be a Maldivian citizen;
 - b) Examinee must have obtained a qualifying law degree from an accredited institution;
 - c) Examinee must have fulfilled all applicable registration requirements; and
 - d) Examinee must have paid the examination fees.

APPLICATION

4. Examinees should register for the exam via the designated application form.
5. All details, personal and academic, on the application forms must be filled completely by the examinees.
6. A passport-size photo, taken according to the specified instructions, must be uploaded with the application form.
7. Examinees must upload the required supporting documents with the application form.
8. Examinees are advised to take a printout of the application form for future reference.

APPLICATION FEE

9. Examinees must make the full fee payment directly to the BCM bank account as informed to the examinees, prior to the Bar Exam.

10. Examinees must submit a receipt of deposit or transfer of payment to the BCM, upon which the BCM will issue a receipt of payment to the examinee.
 11. The application fee is a non-refundable fee, which is finalised for the exam upon the calculation of the full cost of the exam, and which will be determined by the Executive Committee of the BCM.
- EXAM CANDIDATE NUMBER**
12. Once an application and the corresponding payment have been submitted and accepted, the examinee will receive a Candidate Number for the exam.
- EXAM DATE AND CENTRE**
13. The date(s) for the exam will be announced by the BCM 90 days in advance.
 14. Exam hall(s) will be announced by the BCM on a date not less than 7 days prior to the date of the exam.
- EXAM SYLLABUS AND EXAMINABLE AREAS**
15. The exam syllabus covers practice areas in the Maldives, and the examinable areas for the year will be decided by the Executive Committee and will be published by the BCM.
 16. Detailed content outlines will be published by the BCM, at least three months prior to the date of the exam.
- EXAM FORMAT**
17. The exam is paper-based and will be a multiple-choice test.
 18. The exam is conducted in dual language, with English being the major language of testing.
 19. The question paper will have 120 multiple-choice questions on 6 subject areas. There will be no further subdivision of the 60 questions in each session by subject area.
 20. The total duration of the exam will be 4 hours, which will take place over two sessions with a break in between. Each session shall have a paper of 60 questions each.
 21. Each of the questions on the exam is followed by 4 possible answers. Examinees should choose the best answer from the stated options.
 22. Examinees should mark only 1 answer for each question. Multiple answers will not be counted. Marks are based on the number of questions answered correctly.
 23. The exam is a closed book examination. Examinees are not permitted to bring their own materials into the exam room. Answer sheets will be given to the examinees to mark the

answers. Answers will only be counted if they are marked on the provided answer sheets. It is mandatory for the examinees to use a 2B pencil only, for all the entries on the answer sheets, including the filling of bubbles. Suitable pencils will be provided. If there is more than one answer bubbled against a question, it will be considered as an incorrect answer.

24. Every correct answer carries 1 mark.

25. There is no negative marking in the exam.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

26. The results will be emailed separately to examinees.

27. The results will display the qualifying/ non-qualifying status of examinees and their individual scores.

PUBLICATION OF THE BAR EXAM RESULTS

28. The BCM may choose to publish, in part or whole, the results.

EXAM ROOM RULES

29. All examinees must strictly adhere to the following rules while the exam is in session.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

30. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the exam room. If an examinee is found to have any electronic device inside the exam room an incident report will be filed, and the matter will be reported to the Chief Invigilator (or their nominee) under the procedure for Malpractice and Improper Conduct outlined in the Assessment Rules. A finding of malpractice or improper conduct can result in an examinee failing the exam and being disqualified from sitting in the future.

31. Examinees are also not allowed to bring clocks and/or watches into the exam room. Clocks with the official time will be displayed in the exam room.

32. All materials required to complete the exam will be provided by the BCM and, as such, no items, except for required and/or allowed items as provided in the sections below, are allowed inside the exam room. Examinees may not remove these items from the exam room at any time during the exam and these items are required to be left on the examination desk at the end of the exam.

33. Any type of food or drinks, except for water as provided below, may not be taken into the exam room.

REQUIRED ITEMS

34. Examinees are required to carry their National Identity Card, Passport, OR driver's license card.

ALLOWED ITEMS

35. Clear, plastic, disposable water bottles which can be closed, are allowed to be taken inside the exam room.
36. Any medically necessary item to which an examinee requires access, must have been approved prior to the exam via the Special Accommodations Form. **Approved** medical items must be placed in a clear plastic bag, labelled with the examinee's name, and placed under the seat. If the examinee needs to use any item in the bag during the exam, they must ask for the assistance of an invigilator, who will then allow access to the bag.

DESIGNATED STORAGE AREA

37. Personal items (including, but not limited to, wallet, cash, credit card, keys, personal hygiene items, and medication) which are not permitted in the exam room may be left outside the exam room, in an unsecured designated storage area, at the examinee's own risk.
38. While the exam is in progress, examinees may not access such stored personal items.

DRESS CODE

39. Examinees are expected to be dressed appropriately for the exam. Examinees must consider layered clothing as BCM will have little control over fluctuating temperatures in the exam room.
40. Coats, jackets, and any other outerwear may be checked for **PROHIBITED ITEMS** before examinees are permitted to enter the exam room.
41. Examinees must wear quiet shoes (soft soles) as examinees may have to walk across the exam room to the restrooms during the exam.

ENTRANCE TO THE EXAM ROOM, SEATING & LEAVING THE EXAM ROOM

42. Admission to the exam room will begin 1 (one) hour prior to the scheduled exam. Identity checks will be made, and belongings will be checked prior to admitting examinees inside the exam room.
43. All seats are preassigned with the Candidate Number. Examinees must sit in their assigned seat throughout the entire exam. A chart indicating the row numbers will be posted outside the exam room.
44. Examinees must be seated 20 (twenty) minutes prior to the exam.
45. Examinees who complete the registration after 20 (twenty) minutes from the commencement of the exam testing, due to late arrival, shall not be permitted to enter the exam room. Examinees who arrive after testing has started but before 20

minutes of testing has elapsed, may be admitted to the exam room. **However, the examinees who were allowed into the exam room after the exam began will NOT be given extra time to complete the exam and they may miss hearing the exam instructions.**

46. No examinee will be permitted to leave the exam room within the first 20 minutes of the exam.
47. If the examinee arrives after the Chief Invigilator starts reading the exam instructions, they will have to wait outside the exam room, until the reading is completed, and the Chief Invigilator gives the instruction to start the exam.
48. Examinees may briefly leave for restroom facilities with the permission of an invigilator.
49. The examinee may leave the exam room if they complete the exam before the last 15 minutes of each exam session.
50. No examinee will be allowed to leave the exam room within the final 15 minutes of each exam session.
51. Time advisory warnings will be given at 15 and 5 minutes prior to the end of each exam session.
52. If the examinee leaves the test site/ building, other than at the session break, they will be deemed to have left the exam and will not be re-admitted to that session.

**EXAMINEE
DECLARATION**

53. a) Examinees sitting the exam are agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the BCM with respect to the exam, including agreeing not to disclose the contents of the exam paper to anybody, agreeing that they are fit to sit the exam, and that they do not know of reasons why they might subsequently submit a claim for mitigating circumstances related to their health or other personal circumstances.

b) Exam testing information and data, including, but not limited to, personally identifiable information, may be shared by the Bar Council of the Maldives for scoring, research, exam security, statistical and other purposes.

**INABILITY TO
COMPLETE THE
EXAM**

54. If an examinee is unable to complete the exam, the matter must be reported to an invigilator or a member of the staff of BCM immediately. The examinee will be required to turn in all test materials, complete an Exam Withdrawal Form and provided their name, Candidate Number, National Identification Number, and signature, prior to leaving the exam room. The applicable incident report will be filed.

**VIOLATION OF
RULES**

55. If an examinee withdraws from Session 1 of the exam, the examinee will not be allowed to sit Session 2 of the exam.
56. An incident report will be filed in respect of any examinee who violates any of the rules, procedures, and instructions in respect of the exam. The matter will be reported to the Chief Invigilator (or their nominee) under the procedure for Malpractice and Improper Conduct outlined in the Bar Exam Assessment Rules. A finding of malpractice or improper conduct can result in an examinee failing the exam and being disqualified from sitting in the future.
57. Violation of the rules includes not putting down the pencil and/or continuing to write or mark the answer sheet once time is called.

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