

MASSACHUSETTS BAR EXAMINATION

TIPS FOR WRITING THE ESSAY EXAMINATION

- 1. THINK BEFORE YOU WRITE.**
Read each question carefully; think through the facts, and their necessary implications.
- 2. DO NOT RESTATE THE FACTS.**
The Examiners know what the facts are and you have no time to waste.
- 3. DISCUSS AS MANY PROBLEMS AS YOU CAN IDENTIFY.**
A grasp of all the issues is essential. For example, if you identify three issues, do not waste time on discussing only one.
- 4. EXPRESS YOURSELF CLEARLY, AS A LAWYER SHOULD.**
Avoid: ambiguous, meaningless, and rambling statements; verbosity, and long, involved sentences; undue repetition; and flippancy, slang and colloquialism.
- 5. THE PURPOSE OF THE BAR EXAMINATION IS TO TEST YOUR ABILITY TO THINK AND EXPRESS YOURSELF AS A LAWYER.**
The bar exam is designed to test your ability to apply what you have already learned to the facts of the problems such as those which might arise in your practice. The value of an answer depends not only upon your conclusions, but even more upon the evidence it displays of the elements mentioned above. Ultimately, the Examiners are not interested in knowing how many rules of law you have learned, but rather the way in which you apply the applicable rules to the facts stated.

Geoffrey R. Bok, Chairman