

Study Manual:
*Tips and Basics for the
Patent Bar*

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A few words about this book

This Study Manual is a preparatory aid for those preparing to take the patent bar examination. This exam covers topics found in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP).

You will find more information explaining IP Enterprise's line of study aids at the [Patent Education Series](#) website, or you may feel free to contact us via email or the toll free number listed below.

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Hello;

Thank-you for downloading your free copy of the “Study Manual: Tips and Basics for the Patent Bar”. I know you will find it useful in your preparation for the patent bar exam.

If you would like more background on the Patent Bar exam and what it is for, please visit us at our [Patent Bar Exam News site](#).

IP Enterprises is committed to the success of those interested in patent law through the affordability and quality of its patent bar exam prep materials. Therefore, we are interested in any feedback or improvements you may have for our series of patent bar exam prep aids. Any suggestions for new study aids that would make your preparation easier and more productive are also appreciated. Please feel free to call the toll free number to order or send an e-mail in regards to our line of patent bar exam prep aids.

I wish you the best of luck on the exam!

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Ginger - President
March 2004

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Chapter I: Overview of the Test

The patent bar exam is currently a 100 question multiple choice exam. It will be administered via computer by [Prometric](#), a reputable testing agency, beginning in April 2004. Test takers may not bring anything into the exam, but will have access to the PTO's online, searchable Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (MPEP) in pdf form. This online MPEP is the only reference material that may be accessed throughout the entire test. In addition, the testing facility will also provide scratch paper and a pencil, both of which will be collected at the end of the exam.

The exam consists of a morning and an afternoon session. Each session consists of 50 multiple choice questions and each one must be completed in 3 hours. You will have to answer at least 70 out of the 100 questions total in order to pass. It is expected that there will be a one hour lunch break between the two sessions.

In the past, the Patent Bar exam was only administered twice a year, but now that it is computerized, interested individuals may take the exam at any time of the year they wish. Once you have been admitted to sit for the exam, you will need to schedule an

appointment to take the Patent Bar at one of the hundreds of Prometric testing facilities throughout the country.

One point to note is that not just anyone may take the patent bar exam. You must prove to the PTO that you possess the proper background in science or engineering in order to sit for the exam. The new Patent Bar admissions bulletin should be released in early spring of 2004. Once this admissions bulletin has been posted, you may submit your application at any time throughout the year. There will no longer be application deadlines. Check out the [new admissions bulletin](#). Our [Patent Bar News](#) site also provides you with a summary of the application requirements.

Once you have submitted your application to sit for the exam, the PTO will determine whether or not you qualify. Initially (in early spring of 2004), you should expect the turn-around time to be a little delayed due to a rush of applications. Once the application numbers have settled down, the PTO has expressed that they hope to respond to applications to sit for the exam within 2-4 weeks.

What happens after you've been accepted?

If accepted to sit for the exam, the PTO will provide you with a 90-day window for scheduling your exam with a Prometric testing center. The exam must be taken before this 90-day window expires. Therefore, you should definitely begin your study preparations before ever submitting an application. Early preparations will only help ensure that you are ready to take the exam before the 90-day window has expired. We suggest that you wait until you have completed Step II of our strategy (or at the very least, started it) before applying to take the exam. Most people will probably pay this warning no heed, but don't be like most people. Most people don't pass this exam the first time around!

The cost of the exam is expected to be as follows:

- a nonrefundable application fee of \$40
- a registration examination fee of \$200
- a service fee to Prometric for \$150

After you take the Patent Bar exam, you will not find out right away whether you passed or failed. At least not if you take an exam in early spring of 2004. Early test takers will probably have to wait a few weeks to be notified of their results via mail. Eventually, Prometric will have a 'real time' grading system in place.

One last point to make is that an individual who fails the exam will not be allowed to re-take it for 60-days. Appeals will no longer be accepted by the PTO.

What will the test set-up be?

On the day of your scheduled test date, be sure to bring a current ID with you. The exact types of identification that are considered appropriate will be outlined for you by Prometric and your PTO Patent Bar acceptance form.

In the past, test takers had to report to the testing facility no later than 8:30 a.m. on the day of the test. It is assumed that the computerized exams will start at approximately the same time, but the Prometric testing center will provide you with the specifics when you schedule your exam. Once the test begins, you will have no more than three hours to complete the first section of the exam consisting of 50 multiple choice questions. You will have access to a searchable form of the MPEP on your computer terminal, some scratch paper and a pencil.

At the end of the three hour test period, you will have a one hour break for lunch and when you come back, you can expect another set of 50 multiple choice questions. Once again, you will have another three hours to complete this section of the exam. You will have access to a searchable MPEP on your computer terminal, some scratch paper and a pencil.

You may assume that because you will have access to the MPEP on your computer testing terminal, the test will be easy and you won't have to memorize too much material. An assumption like this will almost certainly cost you time and money by resulting in a failing score! The truth is; no one ever has enough time to look up even half the answers, let alone all of them. The test covers far too much material. You may have the time to look up the topics covered in approximately 10-15 questions per test session if you read quickly and are familiar with the organization of the MPEP, although even this may be a bit of an overestimation.

The day of the exam, you should plan to spend the entire day at the testing facility. It is wise to arrive a half hour early and expect to be there until about 5 p.m.

Prior to the day of the test, you should locate the test facility. Make sure you know how to get there. Also, search for the bathrooms, parking spaces, a place to eat lunch and anything else you can think of. The day of the test will be stressful enough; you won't need to add any more stress to it.

Make sure to be well rested the night before the test. Of course, eat a good breakfast the morning of the test and make sure you have access to a good lunch. If you do plan to travel for lunch, be sure to keep track of the time and arrive back early.

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