

# FIFTEEN BEST MULTISTATE PRACTICE TIPS

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## MAXIMIZER PERFORMANCE TEST WORKSHOP

**1. Break up your daily MBE practice into three sessions.** This regimen will better allow you to readily work your MBE exercise into your day-to-day bar prep routine. And it will make your practice more productive as you'll spend less time rereading stale fact patterns (if you tackle a page before checking the answer section) and you'll be able to maintain focus for the duration of the training session. (Also, this spread allows for the rotation of subjects noted below at #3.)

**2. Do 10-15-20 questions each session.** The number of questions you do per session depends on how comfortable you feel on the MBE. You can look to your LSAT score, which is a "predictor" for MBE aptitude and success, for guidance regarding your study intensity; a low score on the LSAT indicates an objective test-taking weakness, in which case do 20 questions every session (or for as many sessions as possible given your daily schedule); an average LSAT merits 15 per session; a high LSAT, the 'need' to do only 10 (that's still 30 each day).

Bar repeaters can base the amount of each exercise on their last scaled MBE score: below 1350, do 20 per session; 1350-1500, do 15; above 1500, 10. Don't do more than 25 questions per session as you will become inefficient and less able to gain a handle on your (greater number of) mistakes. If work or other commitments are an issue, try to do at least 10-item sessions, and then equalize with larger workouts later in the day and/or week (but still no more than 25 at a time). You will do *full simulations later*.

If you start prepping early, you may ramp up over time to a desirable number of sessions and/or items per session: start at 10 items per session (or 1 session each day) when three months out; 15 per (or 2 sessions daily) when two months out; and 20 per (for each of 3 sessions daily) during the month of the exam.

**3. Focus on a different subject each session.** For the first two weeks of your substantive review, you'll necessarily be ready for only 2 or 3 subjects; but as you cover new material, incorporate the new subject into a rotation (heavy on the latest subject – to get it up to speed – while revisiting earlier subjects every third day). This will eventually allow you to rotate through all seven subjects thrice every week! This rotational pattern will keep the law fresh for you as you turn your focus forward to new subjects.

**4. Alternate between two sets of practice materials.** Every set of course materials has an "editorial style" that you will subconsciously tune into for answer cues (thus giving you a false sense of security), so don't practice just one set of materials at a time. Shift between two sets in order to break the "spell". For instance, Monday-Tuesday, use your primary set of materials (e.g., Barpassers, Rigos or Kaplan); Wednesday-Thursday, use your secondary set (e.g., Bar/Bri, or Emanuel's Strategies & Tactics for the MBE, Adaptibar, Reed, etc.); keep shifting. Two sets at a time. Guaranteed to keep you guessing!

**5. Don't i.d. the "correct" pick in your printed materials; mark your correct choice off-book.** Ditto your rejected picks. Keep your materials clean/usable for a second pass (of just your mistakes). Go ahead, work up the fact pattern as you've been taught, and cross off the picks you reject; just be sure that after you record your answer on a separate answer sheet you also cross off (or line through, "x", or circle, highlight, etc.) your pick. The point is to ensure that the picks remain re-pickable for another day. And don't circle the trigger fact or the logic tumbler that you missed; keep the fact pattern re-usable as well.

**6. Keep track of the questions you get wrong.** Sure, look up the answers and make flashcards, tapes, a missed rule journal, etc., for the missed law; but beyond the band-aids, you need to confirm your mastery of each item. Tag the items to be 'revisited'; mark off those item #s on a separate "Re-Do Sheet." Keep a sheet for each MBE subject; when one is filled (with your choice of 10-15-20 items), start the next.

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**7. Realize a near-miss is as good as a miss!** If, in review, you realize you got the correct pick for the wrong reason, mark it down as a miss, and include it with the other misses for follow-up re-testing. (Some online or computer programs allow for this.)

**8. Wait two weeks to re-visit your misses.** Give your short-term memory time to “take a dump” of these fact/option patterns. Mark a future certain date and session (your most alert time of the day is recommended) in your day-planner, wall chart or tablet. Then, come two weeks, let’s see if your MBE rehab program is working. For early July/February practice, cut the waiting period to a week.

**9. Keep track of all misses during re-testing.** Same process: collect misses on a new sheet and leave the fact patterns, calls and picks clean for another go-round. You’ll probably collect 30-50 double-misses in each subject. This is your “Hit List” or “S###t List” (rhymes with first choice) as these tricksters are the bane of your MBE existence. At least now you know where you’re weak. Software can often be set to do it for you.

**10. Tackle your S###t List.** The week-10 days before the bar, hunker down with these bad boys and finally master your problem areas in law, reading comprehension and logic interplay – before they show up on the actual exam.

**11. If Timing is of the Essence.** Use a simple (egg) timer to keep yourself “honest” – CVS and Bed, Bath & Beyond have pocket-size digitals with count-up and countdown timing; they cost \$10-20. In timing yourself (especially if you’ve had trouble with timing on such tests), reduce your timing every week. Thus, the MBE-allotted time of 36 minutes for 20 questions gives way to 35 minutes in your second week of study, then 34 minutes, etc., down to 30 minutes for each session. You’ll have time to spare on the actual exam. Some computer programs allow you to set your timing (average per item); adjust accordingly.

**12. Time off for Bad Behavior.** Take off 1-2-3 sessions (one full day or some night/morning combo) each week; that is, you need do only 18 sessions per week. Two simulated exams will make up for any ‘down time’.

**13. MP3 your MBE.** Record missed law for playback during daily commute to your bar class or study site or for double duty while exercising or getting in your daily 30-minute fartlek (google it).

**14. Get a second opinion.** Use the NCBE’s MBE-AP as a neutral diagnostic exam midway through your studies. There are four available tests; you might do one each Saturday morning – the succeeding two-three Saturdays after your course’s simulated MBE (or in lieu of same if you’re a DIY repeater). Revisit misses!

**15. Share this page.** Like The Hunger Games where you need for someone to be your ally before you try to ultimately kill each other, during the bar – on the MBE, you need for everyone to do as well as possible because **the applicant pool’s performance sets the bar pass rate**. (It’s the *written* section where you are competing against each other.) So tell your friends – and even your frenemies – about these tips because the better everyone does on the MBE, the more people pass. And that ‘more people’ includes YOU.

**It’s really that simple. It is. And, what, no one told you that?! Well, now go tell someone else...and so on.**

This program of MBE study should increase your MBE scores. A lot. For other tips on how to maximize the effectiveness of your study time, keep watching this page: [mbeinitiative.com](http://mbeinitiative.com)