

NAILING



THE BAR

FREE
Study Schedule
for First-Year (1L)
Law Students

Using NAILING THE BAR Books

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FREE 18-Week First-Year Law Student Study Schedule

www.PracticalStepPress.com

SURVIVING AND TAKING CONTROL OF THE 1L EXPERIENCE. The first year of law school is often a big practical joke. Whether you find it funny or not simply depends on whether you are in on the joke, or its gullible target.

The purpose of this Study Schedule is to help first-year law students avoid the mistakes that make being a "1L" a miserable experience for most students. The way for you to do that is to take control, "think outside the box", have a plan of action, and do things differently.

[**Inside Tip #1:** One of the most stupid things you can do as a 1L is to join a "study group". There are two kinds of people in a study group. Those who are dull and lazy, and those hampered by the dull and lazy people in their "study group".]

First year law professors always tell students to buy a set of very expensive books that provide very little benefit. At a minimum they will assign a "casebook" and "hornbook", and tell the students to read extensive passages out of those books. Typically they also tell students to NOT use "canned briefs" and "commercial outlines" which are actually cheaper and more helpful.

If professors are asked questions, they seldom answer them. Professors are more likely to respond to your questions with questions of their own, and never give you any help. This is the "Socratic Method." That sounds very intellectual, but it really doesn't give you any help.

[**Inside Tip #2:** Many "law professors" simply do not know the subject matter they are teaching very well, even if they have taught it for many years. Few have written a book on the subject, or on any other subject, and some use the "canned briefs" and "commercial outlines" to prepare for teaching the class!]

You may have seen the old movie, **The Paper Chase**, in which Professor Kingsfield (played by John Houseman) delights in humiliating a 1L (Timothy Bottoms). That is fiction, of course, but art imitates life and vice versa. And the "study group" in that movie accurately reflects reality!

Most "sheeple" in your class will do exactly what they are told to do, join a "study group, spend hours on end reading materials that provide little insight, and meekly suffer this torture. Then at the end of a very miserable and expensive year, some of them may be expelled because they ended up at the bottom of the class.

This Study Schedule will tell you to do things a very different way. Logically, you cannot take control of the 1L experience, and get a head start and advantage over the rest of your class if you are doing exactly the same foolish things everyone else is doing.

So the first thing for you to decide is whether you want to flock with the sheep, or think "outside the box", control of your future, and run with the wolves.

This Study Schedule covers the first 18 weeks of law school, the first semester of law school, because that is when it matters most. If you ace that first semester, the rest of law school will sail by smoothly. And to nail that first semester there are a lot of things to do in a hurry.

THE CORE CLASSES. Every U.S. law school teaches the "core classes" of Crimes, Contracts, and Torts in the first year. And almost every law school also teaches about Articles 1 and 2 of the UCC. This Study Schedule focuses on those "core classes".

1L students typically take other classes, but they vary so widely it is impractical to add those into this schedule. But you can easily apply the principles and concepts of this Schedule to those other classes.

This Study Schedule is intended to cover the first semester at an ABA law school, beginning with the first of August and ending around the first of December. When academic calendars vary from that approach this schedule can be easily adjusted to meet the circumstances.

Get the Syllabus for Each Class. Your professors will almost certainly issue class syllabuses. Get the syllabuses and study them. Adjust this Study Schedule to match the study sequence your law professors have chosen to follow.

Calendar Your Exam Dates. You will usually have mid-term exams, and those will probably be around the first week of October. However, this varies among law schools. In any event your mid-term exams in the first year of law school are the most important of your entire law school career. Be sure to calendar those mid-term exams and plan your studies around them!

Adjust this Schedule to Match Your Sequence of Instruction.

- Crimes is usually a 3 unit class (3 hours a week for one semester). And professors usually start the class with study of **crimes against property**. (e.g larceny). However some law professors start with **crimes against the person**. (e.g. murder) And most professors teach about **vicarious liability** (e.g. conspiracy, accomplice liability) last. But this varies a lot.
- Torts is usually a 6 unit class (6 hours a week for one semester or 3 hours a week for two semesters). And professors usually start the class with study of the **intentional torts** and **tort defenses**.
- Contracts is usually a 4 unit class unless it includes study of the UCC, and in that case it is usually a 6 unit class. Professors almost always start the class with study of **contract formation**. Contracts classes may cover only "the common law of contracts" and in that case the UCC is addressed in a following class that is often called "Sales".

HYPERLINKS TO THE WEB: Use the hyperlinks embedded in this Schedule to quickly access referenced materials on the web. To return quickly to the Schedule use -

- Alt + Tab on a PC; or
- Command + Tab on a Mac (the Command key is the ⌘ key).

HYPERLINK YOUR LAW LIBRARY: This schedule has embedded hyperlinks to the eBooks listed below.

1. [eBook - Simple Contracts & UCC Outline \(O-1e\)](#)
2. [eBook - Simple Torts Outline \(O-2e\)](#)
3. [eBook - Simple Crimes Outline \(O-3e\)](#)
4. [eBook - Simple Remedies Outline \(O-10e\)](#) [See **Inside Tip #10** below]
5. [eBook - 333 Multiple-Choice Questions for First-Year Law Students \(MQ1e\)](#)
6. [eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams \(ABCe\)](#)

If you have any of these eBooks put them in the same folder with this FREE Study Schedule. Then you can immediately leap to the referenced materials by just clicking on the links. And you can annotate both this Schedule and your eBooks by using the “sticky note” and “highlight” features of Adobe Reader.

[**Note:** If you get a an Adobe Reader “SECURITY WARNING” when hyperlinking between eBooks that says, “This document is trying to access:...” this is an Adobe Reader PC bug. To eliminate it, select **Edit > Preferences, Security (Enhanced)**, uncheck the box under “**Sandbox Protections**” that says “**Enable Protected Mode at startup**”, exit Adobe Reader, and then restart. (After this you may, or may not have to use Alt+tab to see all web links).]

LAW LIBRARY FOLDER STRUCTURE. You can put any or all of these eBooks and this FREE Study Schedule in any folder with any name. That law library folder can have any name but the FREE Study Schedule and other eBook files must have the following names. Linking only seems to work on computers at this time, not on iPhones, iPads, etc.

1. FREE 1L Study Schedule.pdf
2. O-1e.pdf
3. O-2e.pdf
4. O-3e.pdf
5. O-10e.pdf
6. MQ1e.pdf
7. ABCe.pdf

If you link from this schedule to your other eBooks this FREE Study Schedule will close. But you can return to the FREE Study Schedule by using:

- [Alt + ← on a PC](#) (hold down Alt and hit left arrow) or
- [Command + ← on a Mac](#) (hold down the ⌘ key and hit left arrow).

If you move about within any linked eBook and want to return to this FREE Study Schedule you may have to enter this more than once to get back to where you started if you moved around to different outline pages.

These same books are available in paper form at the following links:

1. [Simple Contracts & UCC Outline \(O-1\), ISBN 978-1-936160-06-8](#)
2. [Simple Torts Outline \(O-2\), ISBN 978-1-936160-07-5](#)
3. [Simple Crimes Outline \(O-3\), ISBN 978-1-936160-08-2](#)
4. [Simple Remedies Outline \(O-10\), ISBN 978-1-936160-30-3](#) [See **Inside Tip #10** below]
5. [333 Multiple-Choice Questions for First-Year Law Students \(MO1\), ISBN 978-1-936160-34-1](#)
6. [How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams \(ABC\), ISBN 978-1-936160-00-6](#)

THE ULTIMATE GOAL. The goal of this Study Schedule is NOT to make law school easy for you. **Nothing about law school is ever going to be easy.** In your first semester as a 1L you should plan on studying about 52 hours a week, 8 hours a day, Monday through Saturday, and 4 hours on Sunday. After that, in the second semester, things get easier.

The goal of this Study Schedule, and all of Nailing the Bar's products, is to help you use your time more EFFECTIVELY so you can learn the law better, learn the law faster, and develop the skills you need to succeed on law school and bar exams instead of spending hours and hours lost in an expensive and ultimately fruitless "**paper chase**" like Timothy Bottoms did in that old movie.

Month 1 (August)

Week 1. Two weeks before your first classes. Consider your first day of classes to be like "D-Day". If you don't want to be left behind by the rest of your class you have to get a lot of things done before then.

- 1) Get your professors' class syllabuses for Crimes, Contracts and Torts;
- 2) Note the exam dates in the syllabus and mark them on your calendar;
- 3) Do NOT waste your money on the assigned or "required" hard-cover casebooks and hornbooks! Casebooks are books which present case decisions. Hornbooks are "encyclopedias" that ramble on about various legal issues. Both of these products are a waste of time and money. And almost nothing in them is ever tested on exams. So these just end up being very **expensive door-stops**.

Instead of wasting your time and money on door-stops -

- Get "canned briefs" to match the assigned casebooks for each of your classes.

[For example, if the assigned casebook is "Tort Law: Responsibilities & Redress; 3rd Edition" by Goldberg, Sebok & Zuprusky, which retails for \$157, replace that with the canned briefs that match that book, such as "Casenote Legal Briefs: Torts, Keyed to Goldberg, Sebok & Ziprusky, Third Edition" which only costs about \$34 and will save you hours and hours of valuable time.]

- There are two popular series of canned briefs, both readily available -
 - **Casenote Legal Briefs and Legalines.**
 - Casenotes are probably the most popular but some students prefer Legalines.
 - Sometimes canned briefs for a particular casebook can only be obtained from one of these two publishers.
 - Be sure to order the right series that matches the latest edition of the casebook the professor has assigned.

[Inside Tip #3: If you have already bought casebooks and hornbooks you can return them to the vendor to get a refund as long as you have not written in them. If you keep them too long they have almost no resale value.]

- 4) Obtain access to the assigned hornbooks and photocopy the Table of Contents! Some nice person in your class is bound to have purchased the hornbooks. Or you might find it at the campus bookstore. Just ask if you can look at the book. You can even photo the table of

contents with your phone. That Table of Contents will tell you what your reading assignments are about.

For example: If your Crimes professor says, "Read Chapter 13 in the hornbook," the Table of Contents for that book might tell you that chapter is about "Larceny".

5) Then download the following eBooks -

- [eBook - Simple Contracts & UCC Outline \(O-1e\)](#)
- [eBook - Simple Torts Outline \(O-2e\)](#)
- [eBook - Simple Crimes Outline \(O-3e\)](#)
- [eBook - Simple Remedies Outline \(O-10e\)](#)
- [eBook - 333 Multiple-Choice Questions for First-Year Law Students \(MO1e\)](#)
- [eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams \(ABCe\)](#)

These books are also available in paper form (see intro above).

[Inside Tip #4: If you follow these instructions you will learn the law you need to know for exams better, and learn the law you need to know faster, AND save about \$900.]

6) Go to an office supply store (possibly on-line) and get the following three things -

- a) A small voice-activated recorder to record professor's lectures. They are inexpensive and the best investment you ever made. Get batteries too.
- b) A packet of index cards (3" x 5" cards). These are for the flash cards you will create later.
- c) A box of labels that you can print on your computer and that will fit on those 3" x 5" cards. Avery 5263 labels are a possible choice. They are 2" x 4".

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Week 2. The week before your first classes - Classes generally start in the third week of August. The class syllabuses (that you got in Week 1 above) will give you heavy reading assignments in both the casebooks and the hornbooks. Reading those wastes a lot of time without providing much understanding. Instead, be prepared for the first class by completing the reading assignment using the canned briefs and **Simple Outlines** from Nailing the Bar.

Read these introductory materials -

- 7) **Crimes:** Read “[Criminal Law Overview](#)” (Chapter 1, pp. 1 – 15), “[Solicitation and Conspiracy](#)” (Chapter 2, pp. 16 - 20), and “[Attempted Crimes](#)” (Chapter 13, pp. 59 – 64) in Nailing the Bar’s **Simple Crimes Outline (O-3e)**. (2 hours)
- 8) **Contracts:** Read “[Contract Formation](#)” (Chapter 1, pp. 1-23) and “[Contract Enforceability](#)” (Chapter 2, pp. 24 – 38) in Nailing the Bar’s **Simple Contracts & UCC Outline (O-1e)**. (3 hours)
- 9) **Torts:** Read “[Tort Law Overview](#)” (Chapter 1, pp. 1-2), “[Causation in Tort](#)” (Chapter 2, pp. 3-6), “[Remedies in Tort](#)” (Chapter 3, pp. 7-13), “[Liability in Tort](#)” (Chapter 4, pp. 14-21), and “[Strict Liability Causes of Action](#)” (Chapter 5, pp. 22-23) in Nailing the Bar’s **Simple Torts Outline (O-2e)**. (2 hours)
- 10) **Assigned Cases.** Read the canned briefs for the cases that you have been assigned to read from the casebook. You will get a better understanding in a fraction of the time.
- 11) **Case Briefs.** Write your own "case briefs", on your computer, with the following information for each assigned case:
 - a) The basic facts;
 - b) The legal issue or rule of law being decided;
 - c) The Court decision's rationale; and
 - d) The conclusion reached by the Court.
- 12) **Hornbook Reading Assignment.** Look at the class syllabus and hornbook Table of Contents for the subjects you are supposed to study for your class. Then use **Simple Outlines** from Nailing the Bar instead to study those subjects. You will learn more, and learn it faster. Instead of focusing on ancient history and odd cases that will never be tested on exams, **Simple Outlines** focus on the law you need to know for exams..

For example: If your reading assignment for Crimes is, " Chapters 13 in the hornbook," and the Table of Contents for that book says that chapter is about "Larceny", read about "Larceny" (Chapter 7) in the **Simple Crimes Outline (O-3e)**. You will learn everything you need to know about larceny for exams faster, with a better understanding of the law, and you will save yourself hours of frustration.

Week 3. This is your first week of classes. Typically you have about 5 more weeks of instruction before your mid-term exams and 14 weeks to your finals. From this point on the week of your mid-term exams is the new "D-Day" and adjust this schedule after this to that new critical date.

- 1) Print out your "case briefs" and take them to class with you. If you are called on by the professor to "brief the case" just stand up and read the "case brief" you have prepared in the manner above.

[**Inside Tip #5:** Do NOT let the professor know you are using canned briefs! So don't have your Casenotes or Legalines book on your desk where it can be seen!]

- 2) Go to your first classes, sit in the front row, and record your professor's lecture with your voice-activated recorder. While you are in the front, most of the sheeple will try to sit in the back of the room because they are afraid of the professor.

[**Inside Tip #6:** DO NOT ASK the professors for permission to record them. Just do it. If professors object, tell them it is a reasonable accommodation because you suffer from "aural deficit disorder". Mention the ADA and that is the last you will hear from the professor. Alternatively, say you can't hear well from where you are seated and don't want to miss anything.]

- 3) In class, take notes on major points of the professor's lecture.

[**Inside Tip #7:** Invariably, the professors are going to say something that you don't quite hear, but your recorder will pick it up. Professors blurt things out quickly at the very end of the class, when the sheeple in the back of the room are shuffling their chairs around, putting on their backpacks and heading for the door. What did he say? Maybe he said the mid-term exam is not going to cover some of the material listed on the syllabus! If you are sitting near the professor with the recorder you will know what the professor said, and the sheeple in the back of the room have no clue.]

- 4) As soon as possible after class, transcribe your notes into word processing documents. Name the files "**My Contracts Notes**", "**My Torts Notes**" and "**My Crimes Notes**". Flesh the notes out, and replay your recorder to pick up the parts of the lecture you did not hear well in class. Do this every night! This is where to invest the time you saved by not reading the casebook and hornbook. Make your notes clear, organized and logical. After you have transcribed your notes you can erase or tape over the lecture tapes. You don't need them anymore.

Week 4. This is the second week of your classes. This is around the last week in August, and you have about 5 weeks until the mid-term exams; 13 weeks to finals. It may seem early, but this is the time to start thinking about **EXAMS!**

[**Inside Tip #8:** In class LISTEN to the professor. Keep your hand down and your mouth shut unless the professor calls on you to speak. Nobody wants to hear your opinion.]

- 1) Find out the frequency and type of exams you will face.
 - a) Your law professor may give you weekly quizzes. But the vast majority of law professors only give two exams in each class, a mid-term and a final.
 - b) You may also face some multiple-choice exams. But that is also very unusual. The vast majority of law professors only give "essay question exams".
- 2) Get copies of the past exam questions in Crimes, Torts and Contracts given at your law school in prior years. Frequently these are available from the Student Bar Association (SBA). Ask your student bar representative. They may also be on file in the school library or administrative office. Ask the librarian and office staff. They may also be able to provide past student answers which received high marks on those same questions. Some of these exam questions will be from mid-terms and some will be from final exams.

Often all past exams in all classes are bundled together, and these might be sold by the SBA. In that case buy the whole package and just focus on Crimes, Torts and Contracts for now.

- 3) Read those past mid-term exam questions given at your law school and make a list of the issues that were being tested. Essay exams are organized around ISSUES. If your professors drafted the prior years' exam questions, they will probably test the very same issues again!
- 4) If you were able to get any student answers that received high marks at your school in past years, study them and list the issues those students discussed. If you have made a list of the issues you saw on the same questions, compare what you saw to what the better students saw. How many "issues" did you miss?

[**Inside Tip #9:** Professors will drone on forever about the historical development of the law, but NONE of that is tested on exams, and NONE of it is relevant to the actual practice of law! You can see that by just looking through the past exams given at your law school. Don't memorize dates or any case names either, except for a very few important cases which are cited in the **Simple Outlines**. The rest of it is just a lot of pointless blather.]

5) Remedies: Skim the entire [Simple Remedies Outline \(O-10e\)](#). (one full day).

[Inside Tip # 10: Now you are probably saying, “We are not taking a “Remedies” class in the first year of law school. That class comes much later. So why is this fool asking us to study remedies so early when we don’t really have to?”

Here is why. Contracts and Torts professors drone on about remedies but ball it all up. They mention “specific performance” and “equity” but they don’t really explain it in detail. They say things like “award of damages”, “restitutionary damages”, “punitive damages” and “quantum meruit”. What a lot of rot. No such thing!

Semantics is the mother’s milk of attorneys. An attorney must pay attention to syntax, semantics, language and use *le mot juste*! (Google it!) As soon as you hear a professor say, “award of damages” you should simply groan because you are dealing with a fool who slops words around like he is feeding the hogs.

So I say, pick up a summary understanding of remedies early. If you don’t, by the time you finish the first year of law school your head will be screwed on so sideways you won’t be able to think straight. Later in law school you will take a “Remedies” class, but by then it will be a brain salvage operation. So instead of going through that torment it is better if you spend a few dollars and one day to learn a little about the remedies that can be awarded in contract and tort actions. You don’t have to understand it in depth. But you will probably keep coming back to it later to review it. And that will save you a lot of suffering later.]

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Month 2 (September)

READING ASSIGNMENTS. After classes start the professor may announce or change the reading assignment for the subsequent classes instead of following the class syllabus. Adjust your coverage of the cases and subject matter in the **Simple Outlines** as appropriate.

CONTINUED CLASS ACTIVITIES. Continue to read the canned briefs and **Simple Outlines** to prepare for each class, go to every lecture, take notes, record the lectures and transcribe your notes on your computer, just as you were told to do for the previous month. This is a continuing routine you need to do for the rest of the year.

Week 5. Third week of instruction. Usually you have about 3 more weeks of instruction ahead of you before mid-term exams. Time to start learning how to write answers for **ESSAY EXAMS**.

- 1) Look at each of your class syllabuses to see the ISSUES that will be tested on your upcoming mid-term exams. Your review of the past mid-term exams given at your school also will show this. For example, offers, larceny, assault, battery, etc.
- 2) Read Chapters 1- 15 in Nailing the Bar's [eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams \(ABCe\)](#). This is introductory material explaining how to answer essay questions on law school and bar exams.

[**Inside Tip #11:** The most important skill to learn for law school and bar exam essay answers is to know your required legal elements and use the following syntax structure -

Here {this required legal element} because {"this fact was given"}.

For example,

D intentionally entered the land of another because he "went in V's house".]

3) **Make your own flash cards and memorize your rule statements!**

- a) Do NOT buy "ready made" flash cards! Make your own to learn the law better and quicker. Here's how -
 - i) Get the ISSUES and RULES for your flash cards from the "Issues and Answers" sections in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)** - [Answering Contract & UCC Questions](#) (Chapter 16), [Answering Tort Questions](#) (Chapter 17), and [Answering Criminal Law Questions](#) (Chapter 18).

- ii) Create a "mail merge" document on your word processor. The way to do that varies between word processors, but they all end up with pretty much the same result.

For example, Using Word for Windows 2002 open a new, blank document. Then use **Tools > Letters and Mailings > Mail Merge Wizard**. Select "Document type" of "Labels". Select "Next: starting document." Then select "Label options" and pick the type of labels you are going to use (e.g. Avery 5163). Select "Ok". Then under "Select starting document" pick "Use current document".

That leaves you with a window divided up into sections, one for each label on the sheets of labels you are using.

At that point you can close the "Wizard" and simply type in the information to appear on your flash cards.

- iii) Write the ISSUE on one label.

For example, "What is a LARCENY?"

- iv) Then write the RULE statement on the next label. Underline the required legal elements that must be proven. You can even number the elements.

For example, "LARCENY is the 1) trespassory 2) taking and 3) carrying away of the 4) personal property of 5) another with 6) intent to permanently deprive."

- v) When you are done SAVE the file. You can come back to it later and edit it.

- vi) Then put the labels you bought earlier into your printer, PRINT the document, stick those labels on your cards and voila!

- 4) **Memorize your RULES.** Use the recorder with the flash cards you created to memorize the rule statements you need to write down quickly on exams. They are marked, **Important!** in this Chapter. Just read the ISSUE on your cards, look away, and recite the rule statement into the recorder. Then turn over the card, play back your recitation, and see if you got it right. If you don't have a private place to do this, go park your car somewhere like a public park and do it in your car. If the cops see you they might think you are a pervert. But just tell them you are a law student and they will know you are just a harmless nut.

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Week 6. You are at mid-way to the mid-term. You have completed 3 weeks of instruction and typically there are 3 weeks of instruction ahead before the week of your mid-term exams. About 11 weeks to finals. Your mid-terms in the core subjects are the most important exam you ever take.

- 1) Go to the [California State Bar](#) website and get past questions concerning the ISSUES that will be tested on your up-coming mid-terms.
 - a) Go to the website home page, select "[Bar Exam](#)" from the "Quick Links" menu on the left, then "[Past Exams](#)" from the next "Quick Links" menu, and then under the "First-Year Law Students' Examination" select "[Selected Answers](#)".
 - b) These questions and answers are applicable to ALL law school and Bar Exam exams. Nothing here is peculiar to California.
 - c) Find and download THREE (3) essay questions that involved the issues that will be tested on your mid-terms. Get ONE Contracts question, ONE Torts question and ONE Crimes question.
 - d) Along with those, download the matching student answers that received high marks.
- 2) Write three essay answers in a 3-hour timed setting. Write answers for those questions that you just downloaded from the California State Bar in a three hour timed setting. No cheating!
- 3) Compare your answers to the "Selected Answers" you downloaded. Did you miss issues? Did you nail all of the required legal elements? How many times did you say "because" in your answers? You really need to say "because" TEN OR MORE TIMES in your essay answers. If you had trouble remembering your rule statements, ran out of time, and failed to say "because" enough, take note of that fact.
- 4) Continue practicing with the **flash cards and recorder** until you know those "**Important!**" rules by heart.
- 5) Read Chapters 1 - 3 in Nailing the Bar's [eBook - 333 Multiple-Choice Questions for First-Year Law Students \(MO1e\)](#). Testing yourself with multiple-choice questions is the fastest way to learn the fine-points of the law. So read these introductory comments.

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Week 7. 2 more weeks of instruction before mid-term exams; 10 weeks to finals.

- 1) Test your knowledge of Contracts. Take [Test #1 – Contracts - Terms and Formation](#) in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - 333 Multiple-Choice Questions for First-Year Law Students (MQ1e)**. (1 hour) After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #1 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours) These answers are **HYPERLINKED** to Nailing the Bar's **Simple Outlines**, and that allows you to learn more, faster, than any other resource available.
- 2) Test your knowledge of Torts. Take [Test #5 – Intentional Torts and Defenses](#). (1 hour) After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #5 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours)
- 3) Test your knowledge of Crimes. Take either [Test #8 – Criminal Law Fundamentals and Crimes Against Property](#) OR [Test #9 – Crimes Against the Person / Vicarious Liability / Defenses](#). (1 hour) This choice depends on whether your professor has started the class with study of **crimes against property** or **crimes against the person**. After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #8 Answers and Explanations](#) or [Test #9 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours)
- 4) Write essay answers to three practice questions in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)**, one for each of your core classes. If the suggestions below do not agree with your class structure adjust accordingly and write answers to some of the other practice questions.
 - a) For Contracts write an answer to [Practice Question 16-1](#), contract formation Do this in a one-hour timed setting. Do not use one second more than an hour! If you can't do it in an hour, tear it up and start all over again. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 16-1](#). Compare it to your own answer. Count the number of times you said "because" and count the number of issues you missed.
 - b) For Torts write an answer to [Practice Question 17-8](#), intentional torts. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 17-8](#). As before, compare it to your own answer.
 - c) For Crimes write an answer to [Practice Question 18-18](#), arson, embezzlement, larceny by trick. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 18-18](#). As before, compare it to your own answer.

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Week 8. This is the week before your mid-term exams. About 10 weeks to final exams. Adjust this Study Schedule as necessary.

- 1) **Pay particularly close attention to the professor this week for announcements** changing the scope of the mid-term exams! Professors often write their exam questions the week before the exam, and they may realize they have not finished lecturing about a particular subject that was listed on the class syllabus (e.g., third-party beneficiary contracts). So they may announce **the mid-term will NOT cover that subject**. AND they may blurt this out at the very end of their lecture, when the sheeple in the back of the room are all heading for the door and making a lot of noise. Be sure to have your recorder in place to pick up that crucial information!
- 2) Take [Test #2 – Contracts - Interpretation and Enforceability](#) in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - 333 Multiple-Choice Questions for First-Year Law Students (MQ1e)**. (1 hour) After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #2 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours)
- 3) IF your mid-term will cover negligence, take [Test #6 – Torts - Negligence and Defenses](#). (1 hour) Usually the mid-term does not cover negligence. After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #6 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours)
- 4) Keep memorizing the rule statements you need to know for the mid-term with your **flash cards** and **recorder**. Do this until you can recite all of the "**Important!**" rule statements by heart.
- 5) Write three MORE essay answers to practice questions in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)**, one for each of your core classes.
 - a) For Contracts write an answer to [Practice Question 16-5](#), common law modification, breach, remedy. As before, do this in a one-hour timed setting. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 16-5](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - a) For Torts write an answer to [Practice Question 17-10](#), products liability. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 17-10](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - b) For Crimes write an answer to [Practice Question 18-19](#), attempt, mistake of fact, mistake of law. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 18-19](#). Compare it to your own answer.

- 6) You have now finished the nine assigned essay answers. But if you want to write a few more, please do. But now it's time to compile your Course Outlines.
- a) Take the word processing files where you have recorded the notes you took in class (e.g. **My Contracts Notes**, **My Torts Notes** and **My Crimes Notes**) and copy each of them into duplicate files named "**Contracts Outline**", "**Torts Outline**" and "**Crimes Outline**".
 - b) For each of those "Outline" files, change the "View" to "Outline View". If you are using Word for Windows this is done by selecting the **View** menu and then **Outline**. Other software applications also have this capability.
 - c) Within the "Outline View" for each of your class outlines, start moving text around into a comprehensive outline of the subject matter. Place each note you have recorded under the subject heading to which it pertains and define its "level" of importance. For example, move all of your notes concerning "Larceny" to one location under that heading.
 - i) You will find that your professors have made very disjointed comments about each subject. Often professors will lecture on a subject (e.g. Larceny), move on to other subjects, and then return to the prior topic and make additional comments days later.
 - ii) Often the professors have repeated themselves, and occasionally they have made conflicting statements.
 - iii) Often you have read about conflicting case decisions with one Court going this way and another Court deciding exactly the opposite.
 - iv) Resolve these conflicts and distil your notes down to a condensed, concise outline of the subject matter. Distinguish and reject case decisions conflict with the majority of modern Courts.
 - v) Your end product should be less than 10 pages long.
 - d) The purpose of this exercise is NOT to create the outline. The end product is of little value. The purpose is that the process of creating that end product RESOLVES THE CONFUSTION you suffer from reading about weird case decisions and listening to the professors' rambling approaches to the subject matter. Save the final product for your final exams, but don't worship it like the holy grail.

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Month 3 (October)

Week 9. This is the week of your mid-term exams. Generally this is around the end of September / beginning of October. And you will have about 8 more weeks before final exams. But if you fail the mid-terms you might as well pack it up and go home because students that fail the first mid-terms almost never do well enough on finals to survive.

- 1) If you followed the schedule above,
 - a) You have written **9 practice essays**, three essays for each class;
 - b) You have answered **132** to possibly **165 multiple-choice questions**;
 - c) You have created your own **flash cards**;
 - d) You have condensed all of your disjointed class notes into **concise logical outlines** of the subjects;
 - e) You know your RULES of law and the **REQUIRED LEGAL ELEMENTS**; and
 - f) You have learned to habitually nail those required legal elements with a "**BECAUSE**"!
- 2) If you have done that, you are ready for mid-terms and will be at the top of your class.

[**Inside Tip #12:** IF you did what you were told to do above, **things get much easier from this point on.** Much of what you need to do and learn to survive your first year of law school simply has to be done BEFORE mid-term exams. After that it simply gets easier.]

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Week 10. This is the week after your mid-terms. You have about 7 more weeks after this until final exams.

CONTINUED CLASS ACTIVITIES. Continue to read the canned briefs and **Simple Outlines** to prepare for each class, go to every lecture, take notes, record the lectures and transcribe your notes on your computer, just as you were doing before. You can transcribe them onto the same files you were using before - (e.g. **My Contracts Notes**, **My Torts Notes** and **My Crimes Notes**). Just be sure you can tell where the previous notes ended and where these new notes begin.

- 1) Look at the class syllabuses and **determine the scope of instruction** for the rest of the course - the ISSUES that will be covered.
- 2) For a second time read the "Issues and Answers" sections in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)** - [Answering Contract & UCC Questions](#) (Chapter 16), [Answering Tort Questions](#) (Chapter 17), and [Answering Criminal Law Questions](#) (Chapter 18).
- 3) **Make flash cards for the issues / subjects that you previously skipped.** For example, you may now need to memorize your RULE for **Murder** because Crimes professors often cover **crimes against the person** in the last half of the course. So make a flash card for that. There are 143 commonly tested ISSUES listed in Chapters 16 - 18 of Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)**, and you should have a flash card for every one of those issues!
- 4) Keep memorizing the rule statements you need to know for the final with your **flash cards** and **recorder**. Do this until you can recite all of the "**Important!**" rule statements by heart.

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Week 11. This is the second week after the mid-terms. You probably have about 6 weeks until finals.

- 1) Go back to the "[Past Exams](#)" on the [California State Bar](#) website.
 - a) Download THREE (3) more essay questions. This time get questions that involve the additional issues that will be tested on your finals. Get ONE Contracts question, ONE Torts question and ONE Crimes question.
 - b) Also download the "[Selected Answers](#)" for those questions.
- 2) Write three essay answers in a 3-hour timed setting. Write answers for those questions that you just downloaded from the California State Bar in a three hour timed setting. No cheating!
- 3) Compare your answers to the "Selected Answers" you downloaded. Did you miss issues? Did you nail all of the required legal elements? How many times did you say "because" in your answers? You really need to say "because" **TEN OR MORE TIMES** in your essay answers. If you had trouble remembering your rule statements, ran out of time, and failed to say "because" enough, take note of that fact.

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Week 12. This is the third week after the mid-terms. You probably have about 5 weeks until finals.

- 1) Write three essay answers to practice questions in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)**, one for each of your core classes. As before, if the suggestions below do not agree with your class structure adjust accordingly and write answers to some of the other practice questions.
 - a) For Contracts write an answer to [Practice Question 16-4](#), contract defenses. As before, do this in a one-hour timed setting. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 16-4](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - b) For Torts write an answer to [Practice Question 17-9](#), negligence. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 17-9](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - c) For Crimes write an answer to [Practice Question 18-16](#), accomplice and conspiracy liability. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 18-16](#). Compare it to your own answer.

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Week 13. This is the fourth week after the mid-term exam, around the week of Halloween. The results of the mid-term exams should be posted by this week. When the grades are posted you will not be at the bottom of the class, the pressure will be off, and you can actually start enjoying yourself.

- 1) Write three essay answers to practice questions in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)**, one for each of your core classes.
 - a) For Contracts, write an answer to [Practice Question 16-6](#), common law remedies. As before, do this in a one-hour timed setting. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 16-6](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - b) For Torts write an answer to [Practice Question 17-12](#), invasion of privacy. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 17-12](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - c) For Crimes write an answer to [Practice Question 18-15](#), attempt, homicide, res gestae, depraved heart. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 18-15](#). Compare it to your own answer.

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Month 4 (November)

Week 14. This is four weeks before finals. Time to finish honing your understanding of the fine points of the law by taking the remaining multiple-choice exams from Nailing the Bar's **eBook - 333 Multiple-Choice Questions for First-Year Law Students (MQ1e)**.

- 1) Take [Test #3 – Contracts - Third Parties and Remedies](#). (1 hour) After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #3 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours)
- 2) IF your mid-term did not cover negligence, take [Test #6 – Torts - Negligence and Defenses](#) now. (1 hour) After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #6 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours)
- 3) Take EITHER [Test #8 – Criminal Law Fundamentals and Crimes Against Property](#) OR [Test #9 – Crimes Against the Person / Vicarious Liability / Defenses](#). (1 hour) This choice depends on which of these exams you already took in preparation for the mid-term exam. After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #8 Answers and Explanations](#) or [Test #9 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours)
- 1) Write essay answers to practice questions in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)**, one for each of your core classes.
 - a) For Contracts, write an answer to [Practice Question 16-3](#), third parties. As before, do this in a one-hour timed setting. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 16-3](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - a) For Torts write an answer to [Practice Question 17-13](#), nuisance. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 17-13](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - b) For Crimes write an answer to [Practice Question 18-17](#), murder. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 18-17](#). Compare it to your own answer.

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Week 15. This is three weeks before finals.

- 1) IF your class has covered the UCC, take [Test #4 – UCC](#). (1 hour) Otherwise this will be covered in a trailing course. After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #4 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours)
- 2) Take [Test #7 – Torts - Defamation / Products Liability / Miscellaneous](#). (1 hour) After taking that test, read the Answers and Explanations for the questions you missed ([Test #7 Answers and Explanations](#)). (2-3 hours)
- 3) Write essay answers to practice questions in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)**, one for each of your core classes.
 - a) For Contracts, IF your class has covered the UCC, write an answer to [Practice Question 16-7](#), UCC formation, breach and remedy. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 16-7](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - c) For Torts write an answer to [Practice Question 17-11](#), defamation. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 17-11](#). Compare it to your own answer.
 - d) For Crimes write an answer to [Practice Question 18-20](#), murder. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 18-20](#). Compare it to your own answer.

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Week 16. This is two weeks before finals, and often this is the last week of instruction. Often this last week is used for review rather than additional lecture.

- 1) **Pay particularly close attention to the professor this week for announcements** regarding the scope of the final exams! Professors often write their final exam questions this week, and they may drop hints about what is on the exam. Be sure to have your recorder in place to pick up that crucial information!
- 2) Write essay answers to practice questions in Nailing the Bar's **eBook - How to Write Essays for Contracts, UCC, Torts and Crime Law School and Bar Exams (ABCe)**, one for each of your core classes.
 - a) For Contracts, IF your class has covered the UCC, write an answer to [Practice Question 16-2](#), UCC and acceptance with varying terms. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 16-2](#). Compare it to your own answer.

- b) For Torts write an answer to [Practice Question 17-14](#), miscellaneous torts. Afterwards read and study [Sample Answer 17-14](#). Compare it to your own answer.

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Week 17. This is usually the week of the Thanksgiving holiday, the last week in November, and the week before finals. Often there are no classes held this week.

- 1) **Update your class outline** with the additional notes compiled since the mid-term.
 - a) Copy the class notes you have recorded since the mid-term exam and append them to your class outlines which you were told (above) to name "**Contracts Outline**", "**Torts Outline**" and "**Crimes Outline**". To do this just "copy" the notes you have taken since the mid-term in "**My Contracts Notes**", "**My Torts Notes**" and "**My Crimes Notes**", and "paste" them to the ends of your files named name "**Contracts Outline**", "**Torts Outline**" and "**Crimes Outline**".
 - b) Then in each of those outline files, in "Outline View", move the text around to create a concise outline the same way you did before. For example all of your notes that pertain to "third party beneficiary contracts" should be in one place.
- 3) If you have followed the instructions above,
 - a) You have written a total of **24 practice essays** (26 if your Contracts class includes the UCC);
 - b) You have answered a total of **264 multiple-choice questions** (333 if your Contracts class includes the UCC);
 - c) You have created your own **flash cards** (at least 143 of those); and
 - d) You have condensed all of your disjointed class notes into **concise logical outlines** of the subjects;
- 3) If you have done that, all you need to do this week is **review the materials and enjoy Thanksgiving!**

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Month 5 (December)

Week 18. This is FINALS WEEK! Often this is about the first week in December. If you have done the work recommended above, you should come out near the top of the class.