

BAR EXAM STANDARDS

BAR EXAM 2022 (BE2022)

- INTRODUCTION**
1. The Bar Exam (BE2022) 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 BE2022 is the qualifying exam for members of the legal profession, for the year 2022.
- ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**
3. All BE2022 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 BE2022 examination fees.
- APPLICATION**
4. Examinees should register for the BE2022 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 as one single payment, directly to the BCM bank account as informed to the examinees.
	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 BE2022 upon the calculation of the full cost of the BE2022, 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 BE2022.
EXAM DATE AND CENTRE	13.	The date(s) for the BE2022 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 BE2022.
EXAM SYLLABUS AND EXAMINABLE AREAS	15.	The BE2022 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 BE2022.
EXAM FORMAT	17.	The BE2022 is paper-based and will be a multiple-choice test.
	18.	The BE2022 is conducted in dual language, with English being the major language of testing.
	19.	The BE2022 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 BE2022 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 BE2022 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 BE2022 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 BE2022.
- NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS** 26. The BE2022's results will be published online, as well as emailed separately to examinees.
27. The results will display only the qualifying/ non-qualifying status of examinees.
- EXAM ROOM RULES** 28. All examinees must strictly adhere to the following rules while the BE2022 is in session.
- PROHIBITED ITEMS** 29. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the exam room. If you are 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 BE2022 and being disqualified from sitting in the future.

30. 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.
31. All materials required to complete the BE2022 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 BE2022 and these items are required to be left on the examination desk at the end of the BE2022.
32. Any type of food or drinks, except for water as provided below, may not be taken into the exam room.
- REQUIRED ITEMS** 33. Examinees are required to carry their National Identity Card, Passport, OR driver’s license card.
- ALLOWED ITEMS** 34. Clear, plastic, disposable water bottles which can be closed, are allowed to be taken inside the exam room.
35. Any medically necessary item to which an examinee requires access, must have been approved prior to the BE2022 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 BE2022, they must ask for the assistance of an invigilator, who will then allow access to the bag.
- DESIGNATED STORAGE AREA** 36. 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.
37. While the BE2022 is in progress, examinees may not access such stored personal items.
- DRESS CODE** 38. Examinees are expected to be dressed appropriately for the BE2022. Examinees must consider layered clothing as BCM will have little control over fluctuating temperatures in the exam room.
39. Coats, jackets, and any other outerwear may be checked for **PROHIBITED ITEMS** before examinees are permitted to enter the exam room.

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

40. Examinees must wear quiet shoes (soft soles) as examinees may have to walk across the exam room to the restrooms during the BE2022.
42. Admission to the exam room will begin 1 (one) hour prior to the scheduled BE2022. 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 BE2022. A chart indicating the row numbers will be posted outside the exam room.
44. Examinees must be seated 20 (twenty) minutes prior to the BE2022.
45. Examinees who complete the registration after 20 (twenty) minutes since the commencement of the BE2022 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 BE2022 began will NOT be given extra time to complete the BE2022 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 BE2022.
47. If the examinee arrives after the Chief Invigilator starts reading the BE2022 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 BE2022.
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 BE2022 before the last 15 minutes of each BE2022 session.
50. No examinee will be allowed to leave the exam room within the final 15 minutes of each BE2022 session.
51. Time advisory warnings will be given at 15 and 5 minutes prior to the end of each BE2022 session.

52. If the examinee leaves the test site/ building, other than at the session break, they will be deemed to have left the BE2022 and will not be re-admitted to that session.
- EXAMINEE
DECLARATION**
53. Examinees sitting the BE2022 are agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the BCM with respect to the BE2022, including agreeing not to disclose the contents of the BE2022 paper to anybody, agreeing that they are fit to sit the BE2022, 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.
- INABILITY TO
COMPLETE THE
EXAM**
54. If an examinee is unable to complete the BE2022, 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 must be filed.
55. If an examinee withdraws from Session 1 of the BE2022, the examinee will not be allowed to sit Session 2 of the BE2022.
- VIOLATION OF
RULES**
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 BE2022. 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 BE2022 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.

ENDS