



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

OFFICE OF THE 2023 BAR CHAIR

BAR BULLETIN No. 5
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**GENERAL GUIDELINES ON
THE DIGITALIZED BAR EXAMINATIONS**

Pursuant to the Court's endeavor to modernize and permanently digitalize the Philippine Bar Examinations, the Court shall continue to use *Exemplify*, a secure computer-based program to be downloaded to and installed in the examinee's laptop, and which they will utilize in the virtual taking of the 2023 Bar Examinations, all the while physically present in their respective local testing centers.

Device and Operating System Requirements for Exemplify

Essentially, your laptop will be your examination pen and booklet. A reliable laptop is absolutely crucial to get you through all three days of the 2023 Bar Examinations.

All examinees must bring with them to the testing venue their respective laptops equipped with the most basic laptop specifications: Wi-Fi-enabled, a built-in keyboard, a working trackpad, an integrated display monitor, and sufficient battery power. Likewise, all examinees must bring their own laptop chargers.

The full list of *allowed* external gadgets, computer accessories, and personal effects¹ shall be released in a later issuance.

In the interest of examinee comfort and convenience, and even if allowed by the rules, please refrain from bringing and using external gadgets and accessories, as each examinee's allotted desk space is sufficient to hold only one laptop.

Smartphones, iOS devices, tablets, and the like are **NOT** allowed.

Version 3.3 of *Exemplify* will be utilized for the 2023 Bar Examinations. The prescribed minimum system requirements, as well as the compatible Operating Systems, may be accessed [here](#).²

Proctors will be physically present in the examination rooms to oversee the Bar Examinations. Thus, the requirements for *ExamID* and *ExamMonitor* shall not apply.

As earlier instructed by the Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC),³ examinees who intend to use MacBook laptops **must NOT update to or install macOS Sonoma or macOS 14**, whether in the *beta* version or its regular release.

Downloading and Accessing Your Exemplify Account

Qualified applicants⁴ shall be given their own individual *Exemplify* accounts.

An email containing detailed instructions on account credentials and how to download and access *Exemplify* accounts shall be sent to each examinee's BARISTA-registered email address **on August 1, 2023**.

¹ E.g., non-mechanical keyboards, wired mice, Bluetooth mice, medical gadgets and equipment, etc.

² For ease of reference, the full site address for *Exemplify*'s minimum system requirements is <https://examssoft.com/resources/exemplify-minimum-system-requirements/>.

³ For ease of reference, the full site address of the OBC Notice *re: Exemplify* and Compatibility Issues with macOS Sonoma is <https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-Bar-Notice-re-Exemplify.pdf>.

⁴ Applicants who (1) have been approved by the Court as being conditionally admitted to take the Bar Examinations (*i.e.*, have been notified of their generated Application Forms via BARISTA or email); and (2) have not complied with the requirements for withdrawal and/or request for refund.

Examinees are required to install Version 3.3 of *Exemplify* on their respective laptops **not later than August 25, 2023**. Please closely monitor your respective BARISTA-registered email inboxes (and Spam folders, for good measure) on or before the said date to verify receipt of this correspondence. If no such email is received by said date, please message the OBC’s 2023 Helpdesk under the “*Exemplify – Technical Issues*” section.

Taking the Sample Examinations

To check the compatibility of the examinees’ laptops and operating systems with *Exemplify*, three sample examinations will be made available. These sample examinations are designed to aid examinees in familiarizing themselves with the mechanics of *Exemplify* and to ease into the use of the said program.

For guidance, details on each sample examination are indicated below:

Sample Examination	When Available for Download	When to Take the Sample Examination
<i>First Sample Examination</i>	August 1, 2023	This will be conducted <i>asynchronously</i> . Thus, this may be taken and submitted no later than August 25, 2023 . This sample examination is optional.
<i>Second Sample Examination</i>	August 16, 2023	This will be conducted <i>synchronously</i> . Thus, this may be taken and submitted only on August 17, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon . This sample examination is optional.
<i>Third Sample Examination</i>	August 18, 2023	This will be conducted <i>asynchronously</i> . Thus, this may be taken and submitted no later than August 25, 2023 . This sample examination is mandatory.

There is great benefit in participating in all three sample examinations.

Please note that the taking of the third sample examination is mandatory for all Bar examinees.

Failure to take the third sample examination will result in the deactivation of the *Exemplify* account of the non-complying examinee.

Please also note that the laptop that you intend to use in taking the sample examinations must be the same laptop that you will use in taking the actual Bar Examinations.

“Best Practices”

To ensure the seamless operation of *Exemplify*, all examinees are highly encouraged to adopt the following “best practices” pertaining to the digital aspect of the Bar Examinations:

1. Disable all antivirus software installed in your laptop during the three days of the Bar Examinations. You may re-enable your antivirus software at the end of every afternoon examinations.
2. Uninstall all unnecessary software to avoid program conflicts or technical issues.
3. Turn off automatic system updates before and during the examinations.

The list of “best practices” shall be updated regularly and shall be accessible [here](#).

Frequently-Asked Questions and Exemplify Manual

To further orient the examinees with *Exemplify*, a comprehensive Manual shall be released **on or before July 31, 2023**.

All Bar examinees are enjoined to monitor the section updates on the Digitalized Bar Examinations under the Frequently-Asked Questions for the 2023 Bar Examinations.⁵

The Court is committed to ensure that all aspects of the 2023 Bar Examinations shall proceed as carefully planned. I ask this year's examinees to diligently read the Court's announcements and abide by them, so that they may be adequately supplied with practical information to minimize their difficulties, if not avoid them altogether, as the examinations approach.

For your information and guidance.

July 15, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. P. L. Hernando", written over a horizontal line.

RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO

Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines
Chair, 2023 Bar Examinations

⁵ For ease of reference, the full site address for the Frequently-Asked Questions for the 2023 Bar Examinations, which includes a section on the Digitalized Examinations, is <http://tinyurl.com/2023BarExamsFAQs>.