

DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTEGRATED QUESTION SETS



AccessLex Spring Sync **Workshop**

[#AccessLexSpringSync2025](#)

Panelists



Antonia Miceli

Professor of Practice

Director, Bar Success Program

Arizona State University

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law



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Panelists



Allie Robbins

Managing Director, Academic
Programs and Partnerships

Helix Bar Review®



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Panelists



Shawn Shepard
Managing Editor
Helix Bar Review®



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WHAT ARE INTEGRATED QUESTION SETS?

NextGen UBE Format

3 180-minute blocks potentially structured as:



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Integrated Question Set Style

- Based on a single scenario or stimulus
- Follow a newly licensed lawyer through a portion of the life of a client matter
- Provide examinees with “file” material outlining relevant facts for the matter; may also provide “library” material with relevant law



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Counseling Set vs Drafting Set

Counseling Set

- Assesses *primarily* client counseling, advising, negotiation, and dispute resolution skills (**i.e., Group B Skills**)
- Involves answering a collection of questions based on a single scenario or case

Drafting Set

- Assesses writing and editing skills (**i.e., Group D Skills**) not easily covered by longer written portions of the exam
- Involves drafting/editing one document based on a single scenario or case



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Counseling Sets

- Also test Group A and Group C Skills
- Format is short-answer questions and multiple-choice questions
 - 6 questions total
- Multiple-choice questions are different types
- Facts are introduced at beginning of set
- Intro may include file materials and law
- Information may also appear in vignettes later in set
- Will cover more than one subject area



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Drafting Sets

- 1 prompt with instructions on writing or editing task
- All information (i.e., facts, file, library) provided up front



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HELPING STUDENTS APPROACH INTEGRATED QUESTION SETS

The Purpose of the IQS

**Real World of Lawyering =
Multiple Areas of Law + All Your Lawyering Skills
(Not One Subject and IRAC)**



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IQS Have a Predictable Structure

- **First: Background Info**

- You (the student) are an attorney
- Your supervisor has asked you to work on a specific client matter
- May include some legal resources (especially for unstarred or non-core topics)
- May include supplemental documents central to the client matter:
 - Transcripts of client conversations or interviews
 - Emails, letters, or other correspondence between relevant parties
 - Copies of contracts, police reports, etc.



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First Background, Then Questions

Counseling Sets

- 6 questions
 - 2 MPC
 - 4 Short Answer
- Most introduced by short vignettes

Drafting Sets

- 1 question
- Asks you to engage in a short drafting exercise



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Counseling Set Question Types

2 Multiple-Choice

- 1 with 4 choices, pick 1
- 1 with 6 choices, pick 2
 - Partial credit available

4 Short Answer

- Indicates manner of response
 - “list ...” vs. “briefly explain...and provide one argument ...”
- Specifies length of answer expected
 - 1 sentence or phrase → 3-5 sentences
- Partial credit available if seeking more than one answer
- Goal: narrowly tailored, concise, and accurate



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Drafting Set Questions

- **1 prompt**
- **Asked to either draft or revise**
 - Draft a short legal document
 - Identify 4-5 errors within a legal document and propose revisions to fix those errors
- **Goal: Stay focused and concise**
 - Short paragraphs
 - Each revision and explanation = 2-3 sentences max (no drawn out IRAC)



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Strategy: Pay Attention to the Clock

- **2 IQS per 180-minute NextGen UBE Block**
 - Each IQS \cong 24 min
- **Don't waste time previewing** all the questions in an IQS



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Strategy: Don't Skip Around

- **Skipping around risks confusion**
 - May draw upon facts that have already been introduced prior to a question
 - May not consider facts that are provided later in the set



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Strategy: Don't Look Back

- **No hinging**

- Each question is completely independent of the others



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Strategy: Pace Yourself

- **Consistent and steady progress**
 - Counseling Sets: Divide into Background Info + 6 questions
 - Drafting Sets: Divide into Number of Tasks and/or Sections in Document
 - Bank extra time for when you need it



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Strategy: Use Headings in Drafting Sets

- **“List by number ...” =**
 - “Paragraph [#]:”
- **Revise and explain =**
 - “Revision:”
 - “Explanation:”
- **No direction?**
 - Mirror the draft document
 - Add in Explanation heading



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Goal for You and Your Faculty:

- **Integrate the IQS format into law school assessments**
 - Make your own
 - Adopt AccessLex Building Bar Skills Modules
- **Don't have to go all in – can also adopt question types**
 - “Select two” MPC questions
 - Short answer questions



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WRITING YOUR OWN INTEGRATED QUESTION SETS

What's the Goal for Your IQS?

- To begin acquainting students with Foundational Skills/Concepts/ Principles in a law school assessment?
- To get 3L students ready for the bar exam?

**Drafting considerations are
different depending on your goal!**



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Considerations for Law School Assessments

- Write questions that promote the Foundational Skills/Concepts/Principles
 - Be *influenced* by the CSO, not constrained by it
- Vary the form to meet your class needs



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Easy Ways to Bring NextGen UBE into Law School Assessments

- Frame facts around the examinee as attorney
 - “You are an associate,” “your client is a company”
- Use “primary documents” to set the stage
 - Move away from omniscient narrator storytelling
- Use a realistic scenario
- Include client “goals, objectives, and constraints”



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Considerations for Bar Exam Prep

- Conform to the question styles and amounts
 - Counseling sets
 - 4 short answer/2 multiple-choice
 - Try to make at least one MCQ a 6-option format
 - Drafting sets
 - 1 question
- Use the Foundational Skills task lists
 - Counseling sets
 - Focus primarily on B tasks
 - Drafting sets
 - Test D tasks



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Considerations for Bar Exam Prep

- Adhere to Foundational Concepts and Principles
 - Give proper treatment to starred versus unstarred topics
 - Provide law for unstarred topics OR present them in an issue-spotting context
- Bring in multiple subject areas plus Ethics



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Considerations for Bar Exam Prep

- Conform to time constraints
- Pay attention to point allocations
 - Short answers have 2 components
 - “List two arguments,” “List two facts”
 - “Briefly explain (1) an applicable rule (2) an argument”
 - “Identify (1) an argument (2) a supporting fact”
 - Drafting sets have 4-5 editing/drafting components



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Considerations for Bar Exam Prep

- Provide guidance on answer length AND expectations
 - “The length of each answer should be about one to two sentences”
 - “Credit is not given for duplicative revisions to multiple paragraphs”
 - “Assume bracketed material is correct”



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A large, stylized speech bubble graphic in a light blue color, centered on a dark blue background. The bubble has a tail pointing towards the bottom left. Inside the bubble, the word "QUESTIONS?" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the text, there are several horizontal lines of varying lengths, suggesting a list or a series of questions.

QUESTIONS?