

## Laptop Use Information

The Vermont Board of Bar Examiners is pleased to announce examinees will be permitted to use personal laptop computers which have installed and registered **ExamSoft's SofTest™** software for the essay portion of the Bar Examination. This exam will be administered using **ExamSoft's FlexSite** Internet-based exam delivery option and is being offered to all examinees who have filed their application for admission for the examination, and who sign up and complete registration of SofTest. ExamSoft Worldwide, Inc will manage signup and registration of SofTest.

### To use a laptop for the essay examination you must:

- Download and register SofTest onto the computer you will use on exam day (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- Confirm your laptop computer meets the minimum specifications listed below
- Ensure your laptop is configured for access to the Internet
- Complete and return a **Mock Exam** using SofTest *prior* to the published registration deadline
- Have experience using computers
- Agree to handwrite your examination in the event of a hardware/software malfunction or power failure.
- Agree to not remove, delete or uninstall SofTest or any SofTest program files until results have been published.

### To participate you must:

- Complete the Examination Application and pay the non-refundable/non-transferable fees.
- Install the SofTest software onto your laptop by February 15 for the February exam and July 15 for the July Exam. The software will be available for downloading from ExamSoft's Web site from February 1 – 15 and July 1 - 15.
- Complete and return a **Mock Exam** using SofTest *prior* to the published registration deadline

## ExamSoft FAQ's

### Who is ExamSoft?

**ExamSoft Worldwide, Inc.** is a software developer specializing in computerized assessment and assessment administration programs.

### What is SofTest™?

**SofTest** is a high stakes assessment program developed and licensed by **ExamSoft** that enables exam takers to securely take examinations downloaded to their own laptop computers by blocking access to files, programs and the Internet during an exam.

## What is FlexSite?

**FlexSite** is **ExamSoft's** Internet-based exam delivery option. Using **SofTest**, you will *download* your exam(s) prior to exam day and *upload* your answer(s) after the exam via the Internet. You **WILL NOT** require Internet connectivity during your exam(s). You **WILL** require Internet connectivity to download your exam(s) and upload your answers(s).

## Will there be Internet Connectivity at the Test Site?

Yes. It is expected that you will upload your answers before you leave the exam.

## What are the recommended minimum system requirements for using SofTest?

SofTest can be used on virtually any modern computer (i.e. purchased within the last 3-4 years). Specific system requirements are noted below.

It is not possible to take secure exams through a virtual operating system such as Microsoft's Virtual Machine, Parallels or VMware, VMware Fusion or any other virtual operating system environment. Although SofTest can be installed and registered on virtual platforms, it will only be enabled for non-secure Practice Exams.

### PC Requirements:

- CPU = 1 GHz Pentium III or Industry Equivalent
- RAM = 1 GB
- Drives = 50 MB of free space
- Operating System = English 32-bit Versions of Windows XP, 32-bit and 64-bit Versions of Windows Vista and Windows 7. SofTest may not be used in virtual operating systems.
- Software = Internet Explorer 7.0 or later
- Internet Access for SofTest Installation, Exam Download and Upload
- Screen Resolution must be 1024x768 or higher
- Administrator level account permissions

### Mac Requirements

A native Mac version of SofTest is now available! When you attempt to download SofTest, the native Mac version will appear, if it is available to you. In order to use SofTest on your Apple Macbook or Macbook Pro natively, you must have:

- CPU = Intel processor
- RAM = 512 MB
- Drives = 50 MB or higher free disk space
- Operating System = MAC OS X 10.5.8 or higher (Leopard or Snow Leopard). SofTest may not be used in virtual operating systems.
- Software = Internet connection for downloading/uploading exams
- Administrator account

## How do I sign up and register?

Sign up and registration instructions will be mailed to you by February 1 for the February exam and July 1 for the July exam.

## What is the SofTest Registration Process?

The Registration Process records you as an applicant who has been properly enrolled to take their exam on computer *and* provides you a copy of SofTest to install on your computer. It confirms you have downloaded and installed SofTest, registered your copy of SofTest and downloaded your exam(s) so you may use your computer on exam day.

## How can I check to make sure I have Registered successfully?

Once you register SofTest, you will be advised on-screen and via email that you have done so successfully. You will also receive email confirmation for each exam file downloaded. You may also access your registration status online.

## What is the Mock Exam?

The Mock Exam confirms your laptop is compatible with SofTest and enables users to familiarize themselves with how to open; write and upload answer files *prior* to exam day. The Mock Exam **must** be completed by the registration deadline to ensure your computer has been configured properly for use on exam day. Failure to do so will require you to handwrite your exam(s) on exam day.

## How do I get a copy of the Mock Exam?

One copy of the Mock Exam will be automatically downloaded after you have registered your copy of SofTest. You will receive email confirmation the download has occurred along with instructions on how to complete the Mock Exam.

## How will know if my Mock Exam answer file was returned?

A visual 'progress status' (blue bar) is displayed as the upload takes place. When the upload is complete, a 'success' message is displayed on screen. An email confirmation is then sent to the email address provided when you registered.

## May I practice with the software?

Yes. There are two options. We **STRONGLY** urge you to take advantage of both.

**Internet Delivered Mock Exam** – Additional copies of the Mock Exam are available to familiarize you with SofTest. Internet connectivity is **only** required to download an additional copy of the exam file and upload the answer file. **NO** Internet connectivity is required while taking the exam. Instructions for downloading additional copies of the Mock Exam, taking it and uploading the answer file may be found at <http://www.examsoft.com/fsei>

**Practice Exam Built into SofTest** - After registering **SofTest**, launch the program by double-clicking the **SofTest** icon on your Windows Desktop and then click 'Launch SofTest' When **SofTest** opens click the "Practice Exam" button. This enables you to familiarize yourself with the **SofTest** exam environment and word processing features. The Practice Exam *cannot* be saved and *no answer file* will be uploaded. You may use this Practice Exam as many times as you wish.

## **What if I have problems or questions?**

For all software support issues and questions, please visit <http://support.examssoft.com>. You may also watch several instructional videos on SofTest use and the overall Bar process at <http://www.examssoft.com/softestbar>.

You may also want to visit ExamSoft's Frequently Asked Questions web page located at [www.examssoft.com/barfaq](http://www.examssoft.com/barfaq). Technical support from ExamSoft will also be available to you via email at [BarSupport@examssoft.com](mailto:BarSupport@examssoft.com) or by phone M-F 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM EST at 866.429.8889. Please do not contact the Vermont Board of Bar Examiners with questions regarding SofTest software.