
FEBRUARY 2027 STUDY ROADMAP

Early Start Through Exam Week | November 2, 2026–February 24, 2027

A clear progression from substantive understanding and essay structure to integration, simulation, and exam-day control.

The Purpose of Early Start

Early Start is a runway into full bar preparation. It is not designed to recreate the intensity of the main course months in advance. The goal is to deepen understanding of difficult concepts, establish a repeatable essay-writing method, and give students enough practice to enter the main course with confidence rather than confusion.

EARLY START PROMISE: Two subjects and two written essays each active week, supported by one full walkthrough, two BarWinners model answers, and a short self-review process.

Phase 1: Early Start

November 2–December 20, 2026 | Seven active weeks

This phase is self-paced and intentionally manageable. Calendar dates are suggested anchors, not hard daily deadlines. Students may move assignments within the same week and may begin open-book and untimed. Timing and closed-book conditions should be added only after the student's structure and analysis are stable.

What Students Are Building

- Substantive understanding: understand the elements, policy, and practical operation of difficult doctrines instead of attempting premature memorization.
- Issue spotting: recognize the issues that naturally travel together and identify both major and minor issues.
- Element spotting: break each issue into its elements and map the relevant facts to each element.
- Writing structure: use a predictable Issue Heading → Rule → Application → Conclusion rhythm.
- Analysis: explain why a fact proves or weakens an element, using “showing” and “because” language.
- Independent review: compare completed work to a BarWinners model answer and repair weak analysis paragraphs.

The Weekly Rhythm

1. Review the short approach guide and selected subject materials for both subjects.
2. Watch the subject lectures as needed. Students may divide lectures into shorter sessions.

3. Write one essay for each subject. Early attempts may be open-book and untimed, but each essay should be fully written.
4. Watch one 15–25 minute walkthrough for the week's more instructive essay.
5. Review both BarWinners model answers only after completing the essays.
6. Complete one short fact-to-element analysis repair or issue-spotting drill.

There is no required Performance Test during Early Start. MBE work is optional and should be limited to a small, targeted subtopic set connected to the week's subjects. Routine essay submission, grading, coaching, or daily check-ins are not required unless separately offered.

Seven-Week Early Start Schedule

WEEK	SUBJECTS	PURPOSE
WEEK 1 NOV. 2–8	Contracts/Remedies + Torts	Build the fact-to-element analysis method. Write Marta's Fishing Shop and Patron Gun. Complete the Torts walkthrough.
WEEK 2 NOV. 9–15	Civil Procedure + Criminal Law/Procedure	Practice ordered frameworks and separating constitutional questions from procedural questions.
WEEK 3 NOV. 16–22	Community Property + Evidence	Organize classification issues and learn how evidence issues travel in clusters.
WEEK 4 NOV. 23–29	Real Property + Professional Responsibility	Thanksgiving flex week. Move either essay within the week if needed; do not double the next week.
WEEK 5 NOV. 30–DEC. 6	Wills & Trusts + Constitutional Law	Practice structured checklists for multi-doctrine questions and identify the densest tested element.
WEEK 6 DEC. 7–13	Business Associations + Weak Subject Choice	Use agency, partnership, or corporations as assigned, then revisit one individual weakness.
WEEK 7 DEC. 14–20	Integration: Two Subject Choices	Repeat two different subjects based on missed issues, weak analysis, or incomplete rule knowledge.

December 21–27 is a holiday flex period. Students may catch up if useful, but no new essay is required. The main course transition begins December 28.

How to Write During Early Start

Use a Consistent Formula

Bar writing is formulaic. Students should choose a clear heading style, state the governing rule accurately and concisely, analyze the facts in relation to the rule's elements, and close the issue with one sentence. Consistency frees up attention for the part of the essay that matters most: analysis.

BARWINNERS ANALYSIS FORMULA: “Here, the facts state that [specific fact], showing [element] because [reason the fact proves or weakens the element].”

Use Every Relevant Fact

Do not merely repeat facts or announce that an element is satisfied. Identify the fact, name the element it affects, and explain the logical connection. When the facts support competing inferences, develop both arguments and explain which is stronger. Conclusions are required, but they should remain brief.

Control Depth by Issue Weight

- Major issues receive the fullest rule treatment and fact-by-fact analysis.
- Medium issues receive a complete rule and focused application.
- Minor issues receive a concise rule, the key facts, and a short conclusion.

Students should not give every issue equal space. The density of the facts usually signals where the examiner expects the greatest analysis.

Phase 2: Main-Course Integration

December 28, 2026–January 24, 2027

The main course becomes the primary schedule. Students expand from two-subject Early Start weeks into systematic subject coverage, more frequent essays, regular MBE work, and the introduction of Performance Tests. Early Start assignments should not be carried forward as an additional workload; their purpose is to make this transition easier.

- Begin mixing open-book and closed-book essay work.
- Increase MBE practice by learned subtopic before moving to mixed sets.
- Introduce the Performance Test method and complete assigned PT work.
- Continue reviewing missed issues and repairing weak analysis rather than merely counting completed questions.

Phase 3: Simulation and Memorization

January 25–February 14, 2027

Students now shift toward exam conditions. Memorization intensifies after the legal frameworks and writing habits have context. Timed essays, mixed MBE sets, Performance Tests, and simulation work reveal remaining weaknesses and build endurance.

- Practice issue allocation and pacing within each essay, not merely the overall 60-minute limit.
- Use active recall for rules that have already been studied and applied.
- Review every practice set for the reason an answer or analysis failed.
- Assign targeted repairs based on simulation results.

Phase 4: Taper and Exam Week

February 15–24, 2027

The final phase is about steadiness. Students maintain recall and pacing with shorter, deliberate work while protecting sleep, confidence, and logistical readiness. The February 2027 California Bar Examination is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, and Wednesday, February 24.

- Continue short issue-spotting and rule-recall exercises.
- Use light, purposeful MBE sets rather than exhausting volume.
- Review the individual exam-day plan, testing logistics, identification, materials, and travel arrangements.
- Stop adding new systems. Reinforce the approach already practiced.

FINAL MINDSET: You are not trying to know everything. You are training yourself to execute predictably under pressure.