

Bar Ilan University on Top in Israeli Bar Exams with Highest Passing Rate in the Country

By Ella Levi-Weinreb
(Globes Financial
Newspaper Journalist)

36% of the interns who took the qualifying exams of the Israeli Bar Association last week – failed. The Grade Point Average (GPA) for the exam was 65.9, less than two points above the failing grade, which was set at 64 points.

This is according to the exam results and statistics published today (Wednesday) by the Bar Association in relation to the exam which took place at the "Ganey HaTarucha" last week (Tuesday). 2595 male and female interns sat the exam. According to the Bar results, 74% of those tested for the first time passed, but their GPA was not much higher than the lowest passing grade, scoring only 68.5 points. The data published today is far worse for those interns taking the exam for the second and third time. Only 48 out of 195 taking it for the second time passed, with an average failing score of 56.5 points; and only 17 out of 243 interns trying their luck for the third time or more were able to meet the challenge, they did so with a failing GPA of only 49.6 points. The data reinforces the examinees' complaints which have swamped the various legal forums

Bar Association Results by Institutions

Place	Number of examinees	Passing percentages
Bar Ilan University	111	95
Hebrew University	157	93
Tel Aviv University	153	90
Haifa University	104	82
The College of Management	280	80
The Interdisciplinary Center	138	78
Netanya College	230	71
The Academic Center of Law and Business	219	69
Sha'arei Mishpat	250	69
The Ono Academic College	453	63

concerning what they believe to be hurdles deliberately placed in their path in order to cause them to fail and thereby block their entrance into the profession. After a three and a half hour exam, some of the examinees left crying, many of them certain of their failure. The written exam is made up of 100 questions in five chapters, and in order to succeed in it the examinee must answer 65 questions correctly overall, or 60% of the questions in each chapter. According to the final results, 934 interns who had invested many years and a great deal of money to fulfill the dream of becoming a lawyer, failed to meet these requirements.

The Bar Association has stated that since, according to the data, only 7% of the examinees who take the Bar's written exam for the third time or more, actually pass, this justifies the Bar's approach of imposing a second-internship for repeated failing examinees. The GPA of examinees taking the exam for the third time or more was low, at around the 50% mark. According to the Head of the Bar Association, Yuri Guy-Ron, "The format of the current exams is scandalous. I have been saying this for years; the time has come for the Ministry of Justice to finally table a bill in this matter, in order to change the format of the exam.

The Bar Association will under no circumstances artificially block the profession; however it will explicitly require and demand top professional standards."

Bar-Ilan on top
In first place according to the percentage of examinees passing the May 2011 exam is Bar-Ilan University, with 95% passing with a GPA score of 73.3. Situated in second place behind it is the Hebrew University with 93% passing the exam, with a GPA score of 74.2. In third and fourth places are Tel Aviv University with 90% of examinees passing and Haifa with 82% passing; and in fifth place is the College of Management with 80% of examinees passing the exam. **(From Globes, Israel's daily financial newspaper, May 12, 2011)**

