

Speaker 1: Welcome to the Extra Mile podcast for bar exam takers. There are no traffic jams along the extra mile when you're studying for your bar exam. Now, your host, Jackson Mumey, owner of the Celebration Bar Review.

Jackson Mumey: Well, hey, everyone, welcome to Episode 63 of the Extra Mile podcast. This is Jackson. I'm really glad to have you with us today. I hope that your studies are going well. If you are getting ready for the February 2016 exam, obviously, the countdown is really well under way for you and you got a lot going on. If you're planning on taking the exam later than that, you can enjoy having a little luxury of time here, but definitely the fact that you're checked in with us today means that you're thinking about the bar, and we're glad to have you with us. If you are just finding us, and this is the first time you're with us, glad to have you here. You can subscribe to our podcast at celebrationbarreview.com. There's a link at the top of the page that says podcast, and that will actually give you access to all the prior episodes, as well as show notes and a link. Or you can go to iTunes and subscribe there.

If you're subscribing, we would love to get your honest rating and review of the episodes. Well, today, we're going to do something a little different. Earlier in the day today, I did a Periscope session and if you're not familiar with Periscope, it's this very odd, weird little thing in which you take your smart phone and you flip it on your self. You start talking and people start texting you as you're talking and little hearts come up. It's live and it's really using the Twitter platform. It's a little less formal, and it's a little weird, to be honest, but I found it was a great opportunity to just get some information out to people. I liked what ultimately came out of it. We talked about how to raise your Multistate Bar Exam score by 15 points. That should get your attention, I think, if you're taking the exam. I wanted to share the content of that Periscope session with you all today.

During the session, I'm going to talk about the traditional way that people take Multistate questions. Then, I'm going to introduce you to a concept that was popularized in culture by the author Malcolm Gladwell. He wrote a book called Blink, but you might know him for the Tipping Point, and any of that will link to that book in the show notes. Then, we're going to talk a little bit about some of the research and methodology that we did at Celebration Bar Review using, literally, thousands of data points to evaluate how people answered Multistate questions.

Then, I'll actually show you the technique that we used to raise Multistate scores. It's a different way of answering questions and I definitely encourage you to stick around for that. Then, I'll show with you a little bit of the results. Let me just say, the results from doing this approach, which we've been doing now for probably the last five plus years, so ten or more exams, continued to be really outstanding. I think it's definitely worth you paying attention and sticking with us to hear about it. I hope that you'll be with us and get through that. Without any further words from me and by way of introduction, I'm going to jump into our Periscope recording and I'd love to get your comments and

thoughts about that. Let's look at how to raise your Multistate score by 15 points or more.

Again, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Jackson and I own Celebration Bar Review. MBE and the bar exam comes up in 27 days and there's a lot going on. Let me talk first about how people traditionally take an MBE multiple choice question. I want to describe that and then I want to show you what I would prefer and suggest that you do differently. Here's what traditionally happens, you read the question on an MBE carefully, and then you look at the four answer choices. If you're like most people, what you do is you start trying to eliminate answer choices. You start saying, "Well, answer choice A and B look like they might have the wrong outcome, so I'm going to deliberately avoid those. Then, C and D, maybe those are the right ones." Again, I'm not a police officer, I'm a law professor, two different things, but the idea is that between C and D, you'd get this choice and you start saying, "Well, could it be C or could it be D?"

Maybe you start looking at the different parts and language of the question, like if and only if or unless, some sort of qualifying words in the answer choices. Now, typically, for most bar exam takers, that's going to take you 30 seconds up to a minute and a half, maybe two minutes, to start eliminating, trying to identifying answers. Maybe you're going through a list of elements or rules in your mind and you're trying to figure out, "Well, did the examiners mean this or maybe they meant something a little different." You keep going back and forth and back and forth, and it's really difficult to get at those questions, that's why the MBE is so hard for most people. Even after they've studied them, even after they've worked. That's the traditional approach, and if you're someone who has taken the MBE and you've had trouble finishing a hundred questions in the three hours that's given, unless you have accommodations, you undoubtedly know what I'm talking about.

It's a lot of fine line distinctions and a lot of things that are difficult to work with. All right, so that's the traditional way that people study and take MBE questions and it's not terribly successful. The scores nationally on the MBE have been dropping over the past few years pretty dramatically, in fact, across the board. Well, that's not the way that I teach going through the MBE and so let me talk about something a little different. Now, some of you may have heard of a book by an author, by the name of Malcolm Gladwell, the book is called Blink, B-L-I-N-K. Blink is a really good layman's discussion of this intuitive part of our brains that works in a different realm than our conscious brains. It's the pre-brain, or the pre-conscious brain, or sometimes it's called the whole mind. There's been an extraordinary amount of studies that have been done all over the United States and the world.

As people have gone through and done these studies, what they've discovered is that up here on the front of our brains, we've got a limited capacity of ideas that we could hold at any one time. In our pre-conscious brain, which I'll refer to

as the back of the head, we obviously have much more capacity and much more ability. It's the part of your brain that works automatically all the time. Well, what Gladwell did in *Blink* was he popularized the idea that when people use their intuition, their gut feeling, their inner voice, something of that nature, they tend to be more accurate in their perceptions and their ability to achieve outcomes that otherwise probably were beyond their reach. He's not the only one that's certain about it by any means, but if you're looking for a really good, quick read of this topic I think that's as good as any.

Now, taking that work that's been done on a number of research institutions and a lot of the brain research that's been done over the last 15 or 20 years, we developed a different approach to the MBE. In our online course, we have the ability to track, when you take a question, how long it takes you to answer the question, and what your results are going to be. Here's the interesting hypothesis that we had going in. Our original assumption was that the longer someone took to answer a question, the better off they be. In other words, the higher the score they get, the longer they went. We assume the curve in which if you've got time and correctness, we assumed that the longer the time went on the bottom axis, the higher the score would go. It would be a curve that would go up, like that. We got literally thousands and thousands of data points as our students went through and did all of these practice, multistate questions over many, many years.

A few years ago, I sat down with those data points and started really digging in. Looking at the research that had been done in the educational field and the brain field, I thought, "Well, this is really counter intuitive. I don't think this is going to be what it should be. It should be the opposite, that the quicker you decide, the higher your score would be." I thought that the curve would go the opposite direction. Well, it turns out I was right. The faster someone answer the question, the higher the likelihood of getting the answer correct. Now, that's startling because it flies right in the face of what you've been taught to do probably most of your life, which is think about the problem. Figure it out. Resolve it, fix it, and then move on from there. In fact, that's not the best way to answer the question. Indeed, what we discovered was that after someone had read the question carefully, and read the answer choices carefully, the faster they made up their mind, the quicker that they move, the higher the probability of success.

I'll just let that sink in for a minute, because if you buy that concept, it changes virtually everything you do in the way that you answer a multistate or any multiple choice question. Let me detail the process for you that we would recommend you go through to improve your MBE score. Step one is to read the question itself thoroughly and carefully. Get it totally comfortable so that you understand what the problem is, the fact pattern and the call of the question. Don't try to rush through that at all. Step two, is to read all four of the answer choices as evenly and carefully as you can, that is, do not prejudge them at all. Just read them, read each choice. Make sure that you understand what the

choice is saying, what its outcome is, what its language and detail is, but read each one of the choices. Make sure you read all four of the choices. Then, step three, which is the part that will surprise some of you, make an instant decision.

Do not try to eliminate incorrect answers. Do not try to analyze the problem. Don't try to do something more with it than make a choice. What happens is, you read the question, you read the answer choices, you finish reading answer choice D fully and completely. At that moment, when you're done reading D, instantly decide, make a snap decision, A, B, C, and D. Now, let me be clear about this, I am not asking you to close your eyes and throw a dart at the dart board. I'm asking you after you've read all four answer choices, to immediately jump and choose one of those four. When you do that, then move it to your scantron sheet. Now, this part is absolutely critical. Do not, under any circumstances, go back and change that answer, no matter what you think is going on. The only exception would be that if you selected in your mind answer choice D, let's say, and you went to the scantron and you marked bubble C by mistake, then obviously, I want you to change that.

Outside of that, no changes whatsoever. Now, what you'll discover when you do this is that you have an intuitively greater chance of being successful. Now, I recognize that for many of you, that will be total heresy and you can't bring yourself to do it because you've spent all this time studying. Well, you're still taking advantage of all your study time in this approach, but now, what you're doing is all that study information which was back here, at back of your head, is now getting the opportunity to express itself instantly through the intuitive sense, the blink sense, if you will. When you stop to think through the answer choices, what you're doing is putting up a roadblock, a diversion, between what's in the back of your head, the pre-conscious mind and the conscious mind. The conscious mind simply is a eye-dropper in comparison to the fire-hose that's in the back of your head.

The fire-hose of information that you've got is everything you've learned in law school, everything you've learned in life, everything you've learned studying for the bar, it is all of that information put together. The weird part is, when you answer the questions this way, your score will go up. Now, it's a great time, with 30 days to go to the exam, for you to start practicing that methodology by trying some of the practice exams. Just do it. Here's the reality, if you got the question wrong in practice, it doesn't make any difference because it doesn't account for anything, but you're also going to read the answer explanation or review the answer. Whether you got it right or wrong, you're going to do exactly the same thing afterwards, so why not try to do the right step, okay? Why not try this and see how it works for you. When you do that, what you're going to begin to discover is that with more practice and experience, your scores will actually start going up, that you'll do better and you'll be able to answer the questions faster.

In our experience, when students take this approach, they're typically able to get through a hundred questions instead of taking three hours to do it. For most people, it takes between two hours and two and a half hours. I've had people doing it in as little as an hour and ten or an hour and fifteen minutes and pass the bar exam on each section. In other words, it really improves your productivity and your performance and instead of guessing at the end, which is what a lot of people do, now, you've avoided that problem entirely. I want to invite you to try that approach and the more you do it, the more you trust it, the better it gets. That's one of the beauties of it. This is absolutely the time to start practicing and trying that approach. Now, does it work? The answer is yeah, it works really, really well. We've had students raised their overall bar scores.

We had a Texas student who raised his bar scores 85 points just by doing this technique on the multistate and in fact bringing the same approach into his essay writing. We had students raise their scores by 20 points or more on the multistate and everyone of the last exams, including these change of adding Federal Civil Procedure. We saw this enormous jumps when people started using this approach, sometimes, in conjunction with our photo reading, which you could find on our website, but really just doing it straight up. They were seeing gains of 15 points or more on their scale of multistate score. The question is, what would a gain of 15 points do for you in the multistate? Well, I think for most of you, it would be a game changer. I invite you to try this method, to start trying the quick approach to answering the questions rather than dragging through and trying to evaluate and figure them out. Now, if you'd like to know more about this general approach to study, if you are not in our course, I invite you to go to our website, at celebrationbarreview.com.

On that site, you'll see a button for a free master class called, How to Make the NEXT Bar Exam Your LAST Bar Exam. In that 90-minute master class, we'll be talking about the steps that passing bar takers need to know. Some of the background and deeper [dive 00:15:55] behind what I've just shared with you today about the MBE, and I would love to have you join me for that master class. It's totally free, and all you got to do is register and hop on board with us. Again, it's at celebrationbarreview.com, you'll see a button when you get to the site there that says, save my seat or reserve my seat. Go ahead and do that and jump on. I hope this is helpful to you. I really encourage you to try this and see what happens to your practice scores. See if they don't in fact start to go up the more that you trust your ability to just use your intuition and answer these questions right as they come up.

I hope it's a good, successful study day for you and thanks for joining us today. I will come back to you again soon. Bye-bye for now. Well, I hope you found today's podcast valuable, and if you did, I'd like to invite you to subscribe to the Extra Mile podcast. You can do that in one of two ways. You can go to iTunes and subscribe there, or you can go to our website, celebrationbarreview.com, click on the podcast link at the top of the page where you'll find our show notes and all of the past episodes and you can subscribe from there. Now, if you'd like

even more of the Extra Mile than we offer in these podcasts, I want to also invite you to join our private Facebook Group called, The Extra Mile. This is a community of current and past successful bar takers who've come together for advice, support, information, and some terrific resources. We've put together the Extra Mile as a monthly paid subscription offering and I want to just share with you some of what's involved and some of the benefits you're going to receive when you join the Extra Mile Facebook Group.

First, and I think most significantly, you'll receive access to our popular economical Bar-U course as part of the membership. Bar-U provides digital lectures and outlines and selected questions for seven State Bar Exams, California and New York, Florida, Texas, Georgia and New Jersey, in addition to all of the uniformed bar exam jurisdictions and the multistate bar exam. Now, membership in Bar-U alone would normally cost you about a hundred dollars a month, but it's free with your paid subscription to the Facebook Group. I think you'd find this a great way to just have access to substantive current material, lectures, and outlines for all of the subjects that are on the bar exam. In addition to that, members of our Facebook group receive access to our online writing workshop course that contains four lectures on essay writing, plus sample question and model answers. That course sells \$499.95 all by itself, so definitely a value when you're part of the Facebook group.

All of our Facebook group members will receive free seats for three brand new master classes we're doing this year. These are being offered to the public, actually, for sale, for \$50 per class, but they're free to our Facebook group members. The topics of these new master classes, which are presented in conjunction with our partners at learning strategies will be On Abundance for Life and Living the Law of Attraction and Rapid Reading Made Easy. They're three topics that I've extensively taught as ways to enhance and improve your bar exam scores and your study, and I think you're going to find them really valuable. In addition to all of that, our Facebook members will get my proprietary exam predictions for each exam, and you'll receive our exclusive video countdown leading up to the upcoming bar exam. On top of all of that, and maybe even most significantly, you'll get the support and the advice that comes from a community of people who really want to see you succeed on the bar.

Our past bar students who've been successful have generously agreed to come on and offered their insights and advice, and I come in to the site on a daily basis to offer additional resources and to do Q&As. I really encourage you to check this out. In the show notes, you'll find the link to sign up for this Facebook group. One other thing about it, there's a five day free trial, so you can actually sign up and not have anything charged until you've been able to experience it for yourself. When you take all of the benefits together, it's several hundred dollars worth of resources available for only \$77 a month. There's no requirement to continue the subscription, it's every 30 days until you cancel. I

really invite you to join us there on the Extra Mile. Well, that's it for today. Thanks for being with us and we'll see you on the next episode.

Speaker 1:

Thanks for listening to the Extra Mile podcast for bar exam takers at www.celebrationbarreview.com.