

**AALS New Law Professors Section – Webinar on Exam Construction and Grading**  
**April 15, 2021**  
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**Follow-up questions and discussion are welcome: [h.katz@csuohio.edu](mailto:h.katz@csuohio.edu)**

**Constructing the exam**

Sources for ideas

Writing the exam as the course goes along

Reverse engineering to draft a question

Coverage

Different question formats (fact-pattern/issue spotting, essay, short answer, multiple choice, T-F)

Using “directed questions”

Unintentional and intentional complexity

Intentional simplicity

Avoiding path dependency

Length and depth of facts

Open book vs closed book

**Grading (for both efficiency and fairness)**

Managing your expectations

Rubric vs “global” or “gestalt” grading

Teaching to the exam (in a good way)

Grading each question independently and in a different order

Grading on a separate document

Utilizing a rubric

**Other topics (as time permits)**

Multiple-choice questions

    Strategic use of multiple-choice questions

    Providing an opportunity to challenge

Adjusting the weight given to questions (do we dare discuss math?)

## Resources

General advice about teaching, as well as thoughts about constructing, grading, and reviewing exams

### ***Strategies and Techniques of Law School Teaching***

Chapter VIII Conducting the Course Review Session

Chapter IX The Sensitive Interval Between the Final Class and the Exam

Chapter X Creating the Exam

Chapter XI Grading the Exam

Chapter XII Reviewing the Exam

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=982234](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=982234)

A method of connecting classroom discussion to the exam in first year and doctrinal courses

### ***Teaching Legal Analysis Using the 'Unified Field Theory' - A Systematic Method for Instructing Students in the Fundamental Skill***

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3083005](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3083005)

The Strategies and Techniques series

Subject-specific advice for teaching core law school courses, including advice on exams

Free downloads:

<https://www.wklegaledu.com/resources/law-school-faculty/law-school-faculty>