



## INFORMATION ITEM

**TO:** Students-at-Law

**DATE:** March 14, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Nunavut Statutes Exam 2022: study tips and Exam content information

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This Information Note is for students-at-law preparing to take the Nunavut Statutes Exam. It provides general information to help exam takers:

- Better understand what knowledge competencies will be tested
- Know what study resources may be helpful
- Be better prepared to create a study plan
- Feel confident in navigating exam day logistics

## Format

**Part A** of the examination uses a closed-book multiple-choice format. Each multiple-choice question has four answer options, only one of which is correct. There are 60 questions each worth 1.5 marks that form the basis of 90% of your score.

**Part B** of the examination consists of 4 questions in a constructed response format. Each question has a legal scenario requiring identification and consideration of the *Model Code of Professional Conduct* and related ethical issues. These questions are worth 10 marks and form the basis of 10% of your overall exam score. One hard (paper) copy of the *Model Code of Professional Conduct* (with the commentary) will be provided to each student at the beginning of the examination.

You cannot access any outside materials during the examination.

You have 3 hours to complete the examination. It is not intended to be time pressured.

## Competencies

The Nunavut Statutes Exam tests general understanding of core legal concepts that lawyers need for safe and effective practice in Nunavut. It focuses on the territorial statutes and related legal sources contained in Appendix A.

## Difficulty

Questions vary in level of difficulty. The Law Society considers the overall difficulty level of the questions when setting the passing score.

You are not expected to memorize minute details, such as section numbers or obscure statutory provisions. Rather, you should have a general understanding of core legal concepts applicable to the relevant statutes. That said, some questions ask about specific terms, laws, or provisions that someone knowledgeable in an area would be likely to know.

Keep in mind that no candidate is expected to answer all questions correctly.

## Getting started

Lawyers need to be self-directed, lifelong learners. Learning new material, and familiarizing oneself with previously learned concepts, is a critical part of continuing professional competence. The challenge is to learn effectively and efficiently while dealing with the demands of work and life.

Here are some suggestions to get started:

- Start by reviewing the list of statutes, and legal sources that form the basis of the exam. (Find these in Appendix A)
- Identify knowledge gaps. Consider the areas in which you have little or no familiarity, as well as areas in which you should refresh your knowledge.
- Make a list of your learning priorities. Consider both the weighting of each area and your relative confidence in that area.

## Creating a learning plan

Once you have a list of your learning priorities, consider creating a learning plan specific to preparing for this examination. You may want to ask yourself the following questions:

- What tasks do I need to complete or topics do I need to cover?
- What do I already know about these topics?
- What is new for me or do I expect will be difficult for me to learn? (e.g., plan extra time for these topics)
- What approach will I take to learn this material? (e.g., note-taking, flash cards, study group)
- When will I learn this material? (e.g., identify manageable daily tasks, block time in a calendar)
- How will I assess if I have learned the material? (e.g., teach a friend, self-quiz)

The amount of time candidates need to prepare varies. It depends on what courses you took in law school and whether you learned key concepts in those areas. It also depends on your reading comprehension and the effectiveness of your study techniques.

## Improved reading

At this stage of your education and experience, you have likely developed a process for reading and learning that works for you. If, however, you are looking for ways to be a more efficient and effective reader, consider the following steps:

1. Skim material to get a high-level idea of the content (e.g. for statutes, start by understanding the purpose of the statute, as well as to whom and in what situation it applies)
2. Read the material thoroughly
3. Tell (or pretend to tell) someone about what you just read to force recall from memory
4. Review the material again

## Managing anxiety (before)

It is reasonable to expect some anxiety around a high-stakes exam. To manage anxiety, it helps to be prepared. Before the test:

- Prepare intellectually. Review the materials. Be confident in your understanding.
- Prepare emotionally. Try to enjoy some time to yourself and time with others. Try to think positively.
- Prepare physically. Try to enjoy a healthy lifestyle, including adequate rest, exercise, and nutrition. Minimize the use of stimulants.
- Prepare practically. Double-check key information like the start time, location, and protocol.

## Managing anxiety (during)

On the day of the test, dress comfortably. Arrive at the test site early to allow plenty of time. Try to be as relaxed and confident as possible. Consider whether socializing with others before the test is likely to increase or reduce your anxiety.

If you feel stress rising during the test:

- Consider taking slow, deep breaths.
- Shift focus from the anxiety to simply answering the next question.
- Remember that some questions are difficult; no one is expected to answer all questions correctly. Just do your best on each question and then move on.

For candidates who are concerned about test anxiety, consider reaching out for assistance. Nunavut Lawyer Assistance Program (NuLAP) (which is independent of the Law Society) Counselling and peer-support services are free and provided by Alberta ASSIST (1-877-498-6898).

## APPENDIX "A"

Government of Nunavut - Nunavut Legislation: <https://www.nunavutlegislation.ca/en>

Nunavut Court of Justice: <https://www.nunavutcourts.ca/>

- Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act
- Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Adoption Act
- Apologies Act, Legal Treatment of
- Business Corporations Act
- Cannabis Act
- Child and Family Services Act
- Children's Law Act
- Cities, Towns and Villages Act
- Code of Professional Conduct<sup>1</sup>
- Conflict of Interest Act
- Consumer Protection Act
- Corrections Act
- Creditors Relief Act
- Department of Justice Act
- Environmental Protection Act
- Evidence Act
- Family Abuse Intervention Act
- Family Law Act
- Family Support Orders Enforcement Act
- Financial Administration Act
- Guardianship and Trusteeship Act
- Hamlets Act
- Human Rights Act
- Insurance Act
- Inuit Language Protection Act
- Judicature Act
- Jury Act
- Justices of the Peace Act
- Labour Standards Act
- Land Titles Act
- Legal Profession Act
- Legal Services Act
- Limitation of Actions Act
- Liquor Act
- Marriage Act
- Mechanics Lien Act
- Mental Health Act
- Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act
- Nunavut Act
- Nunavut Court of Justice, Civil Rules
- Nunavut Court of Justice, Criminal Rules
- Nunavut Court of Justice, Divorce Rules
- Nunavut Agreement
- Official Languages Act
- Partnership Act
- Personal Property Security Act
- Powers of Attorney Act
- Public Health Act
- Public Service Act
- Public Trustee Act
- Representative for Children and Youth Act
- Residential Tenancies Act
- Rules of the Court of Appeal Respecting Civil Appeals (Nunavut)
- Rules of the Court of Appeal Respecting Criminal Appeals (Nunavut)
- Rules of the Law Society of Nunavut
- Safety Act
- Seizures Act
- Societies Act
- Summary Conviction Procedures Act
- Traffic Safety Act
- Unlawful Property Forfeiture
- Victims of Crime Act
- Wildlife Act
- Workers' Compensation Act
- Young Offenders Act

\*\* The content of *Regulations* is not tested on the exam \*\*

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<sup>1</sup> Not included in the multiple choice section; tested in Part B.