

Dear Applicant:

The practice of law demands precision and accuracy. To ensure that your MSLAT is properly recorded and reviewed, we ask that you precisely and accurately follow these directions:

1. Print your name at the top right corner of **EACH** page that you use.
2. Write only on the front side of each sheet of paper.
3. You must answer **BOTH** questions comprehensively and completely in essay format. Remember to give supporting reasons and explanations for each assertion that you make. Label the answer to each question at the top left corner of each page, i.e. Question #1, and Question #2.
4. The test is untimed. Take as much time as you need to write a well-organized and careful answer.
5. Proofread your answer for spelling and grammatical errors. You may not consult a dictionary or thesaurus.
6. When you are finished, count the total number of pages that you used. Then number each page at the top right corner, under your name. For example, if you wrote on 5 pages, number your pages consecutively like this: 1 of 5, 2 of 5, 3 of 5, 4 of 5 and 5 of 5.
7. When you are finished, return the question, your answer, and legal pad to the interviewer. If the interviewer is unavailable, leave your MSLAT with the admissions assistant, main office staff or library assistant.
8. MSL's commitment to fostering an ethical environment that produces honest, moral attorneys begins from the moment you submit your application. We administer the MSLAT under an honor system, and expect that you will not discuss the MSLAT question or answer at **ANY** time with **ANYONE**.

Fred Franklin is 24 years old and an only child. His parents both attended law school. Fred's mother excelled in law school and got a job with a prestigious firm. His father completed his law degree but was unable to pass the bar exam after repeated attempts. He became a very successful carpenter. While Fred was growing up, his parents discussed legal issues often. Though these discussions frequently turned into angry fights, Fred found them fascinating, and he became interested in law himself. Both of his parents encouraged him to pursue this interest.

Though Fred scored only average on intelligence tests, he worked very hard in high school and earned all A's and B's. He was accepted at a respected liberal arts college, where he declared a double major in government and philosophy. Fred found his college courses difficult; though his excellent study habits enabled him to manage the large volume of work, he often struggled to understand concepts that many of his classmates seemed to grasp easily. He frequently visited his professors during their office hours for extra help. One professor suggested that Fred hire a tutor, and Fred took her advice. With his tutor's help and a lot of hard work, Fred obtained a 3.3 grade point average for his first semester, placing him in the top 25% of his class. Fred did very little socializing during this time.

When Fred went home for winter break, his parents told him they were getting a divorce. Fred was very upset by the news of the divorce and had trouble concentrating when he returned to school. Though he continued to work with his tutor and to put in long hours studying, lack of concentration caused many of the study hours to be ineffective, and his grades plummeted. In his second semester, Fred achieved only a 1.8 GPA. He had never before received such poor grades, and he was inconsolable. He fired his tutor, dropped his philosophy major, and decided to take more "easy" courses the following year. Though his parents encouraged him to rehire his tutor and to keep on trying, Fred declared the effort "a waste of time."

Fred earned slightly below average grades during the rest of his college career, though his GPA never fell as low as 1.8 again. With fewer hours devoted to studying, Fred had more time to socialize. Though he was never a party going type, he and his friends enjoyed gathering in small groups, discussing politics and social issues, and smoking marijuana. In the middle of Fred's sophomore year, he and a group of friends became very active in a local soup kitchen, devoting 10 to 15 hours a week to organizing, preparing, and serving meals. Fred continued to work at this soup kitchen until graduation.

During his senior year of college, Fred became involved with a 17 year-old woman who attended the local high school. She became pregnant and decided to keep the baby, though neither she nor Fred wanted to get married. Fred's parents contributed to the young woman's medical expenses during her pregnancy.

Fred graduated in the 40th percentile of his class and went to work full-time in his father's carpentry business. He became a skillful carpenter and enjoyed the work. He also became a coordinator for a soup kitchen in his hometown, devoting 20-25 hours a week to the job. When high school friends asked him whatever happened to his plans for law school, he replied, "I decided it just wasn't for me—too high-pressure." Though he kept up with his child support payments, he had no contact with his son during this time. His marijuana use remained heavy.

One year after graduation, Fred began dating Jean, a woman his own age who had a four-year-old daughter, Eva. Six months into their relationship, Jean asked Fred to babysit Eva for the weekend while she visited friends in another state. Fred agreed, though he had a carpentry project he needed to finish.

On the Saturday he was babysitting, Fred smoked some marijuana and went to his basement workshop, bringing Eva with him. As he was cutting a two-by-four on his table saw, the saw blade hit a nail lodged deep in the wood. The nail shot out of the wood and hit Eva, who was not wearing goggles, in the eye.

Fred rushed the child to the hospital where, after a few terrifying hours, doctors told him that the child's vision would not be permanently damaged. When Jean learned of the circumstances surrounding Eva's injury, she was furious at Fred, though she did not end their relationship.

As a result of this incident, Fred decided that he had a problem with marijuana use. He found a support group for habitual marijuana users who wanted to kick the habit, and attended 2-3 meetings a week. After two months with the group, Fred decided that he'd like to try individual counseling as well. Through work with his therapist, Fred gradually came to feel that he had been using marijuana to avoid painful issues in his life, such as his parents' divorce, his own self-doubts, and his lack of a relationship with his son.

At present, Fred has not used marijuana for ten months. His relationship with Jean continues; he has apologized to both Jean and Eva for the role he played in Eva's injury. Recently, Jean left Eva with him overnight while she attended a wedding. Fred has not yet developed a relationship with his own son, though he has begun calling the child's mother regularly to inquire about him.

Fred believes that he has overcome his addiction, and he is proud of the achievement. He's regained some of his lost confidence, and has renewed his old goal of becoming a lawyer. Knowing that his academic record might interfere with his acceptance to law school, Fred enrolled in graduate level night courses in economics and writing at a local university last semester. He received B's in both courses. Because he knows that law school will be a great emotional and intellectual challenge, he has asked his parents to support him financially if he matriculates, and they have agreed. He will continue to volunteer at the soup kitchen 15-20 hours a week; he hopes to focus his law

practice on issues of homelessness and aging, and he doesn't want to "lose touch" with that world while he attends school.

Fred has submitted an application to the Massachusetts School of Law. In his written personal statement, he lists the following as his primary reasons for wanting to attend law school: 1. "A desire to help the homeless and disenfranchised"; 2. "A need to prove to myself that I can succeed in a difficult academic pursuit"; 3. "A wish to be a role model my child can be proud of."

QUESTION #1: State all the reasons why Fred Franklin should be admitted to MSL.

QUESTION #2: State all the reasons why Fred should be denied admission to MSL.

In answering the foregoing two questions, please be aware that every fact in the above fact pattern bears on whether Fred should be admitted to MSL or denied admission. In other words, no fact is extraneous.

This test is untimed. We would advise you to take pains with it rather than to hurry through it. We are not interested in your speed. We are interested in your thoroughness, your ability to understand and develop sound reasons pro and con, and your ability to write.