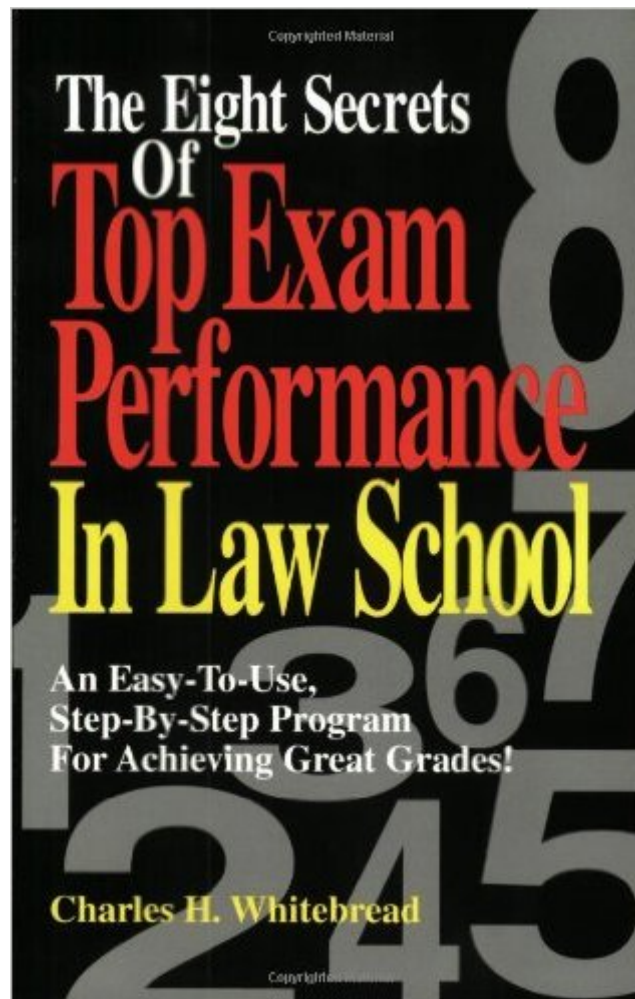


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# **The Eight Secrets Of Top Exam Performance In Law School: An Easy-To-Use, Step-by-Step Program For Achieving Great Grades!**



## Synopsis

Professor Charles Whitebread teaches students the eight secrets that will add precious points to every exam answer they write.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a good book for pre-law students and 1Ls. It gives some basic advice about how to think about and write law school exams. However, I have one big caveat, there is not a "secret" to law school test taking. The keys are to know the black-letter law cold, and to be precise and concise in your analysis, and to practice taking tests under test conditions as much as possible. This book is a good quick read for those who have never taken a law school test, or who did not perform as well as they would have liked. For those who did do well on tests this book will not provide much, if any, useful information.

This is the most important book you will read in all of law school and I have the stats to prove it. I read this book after three semesters of law school on the recommendation of a friend who said it worked - she was in the top 5% of the class - I in the top 60% YUCK! My GPA to that point was a weak 2.89. For each of the remaining three semesters that I used the techniques from the book I made the deans list and my GPA average for those semesters was a 3.6. My last semester of law school I got all A's and one B+. Use these techniques and good luck!

Reading this book, I am reminded of the admonition in the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: "Don't

Panic!" This book is filled with useless to exhortations to "stay calm" and that "panic is your enemy." But while this is all well and good, Whitebread, unfortunately, tells you little that will actually help you remain calm come exam time. Here are the basic flaws: First, this book is way too brief. Seventy pages may be easy to read the week before the exam, but in reality this will do you very little good when you are actually asked to apply these techniques. Second, Whitebread does not stress and restate the fact that it will require much practice to successfully use the techniques he describes. Third, scant attention is paid to atypical types of exams. If you get one of the rare "policy" type exams, you're in trouble! Still, Whitebread does give a lot of tips here and there they may prove useful sometime. Bottom line: Is the book worth 8 bucks? Probably not. And if this is your only guide to writing "top" exams, then you better either be one of those with a knack for writing, or satisfied with a "B". One last thought: should you buy this book, you must practice and practice and practice each of these techniques before you can really count on them.

As noted by other reviewers, the book is short, and I would add, as useless as it is brief. Wait until the author appears at your school to get a free copy. Spend your money on "Getting to Maybe" or taking the excellent LEEWS exam short-course. You may know the law, but without the ability to express it in the expected format in an organized manner at warp speed, you will find many doors closed to you forever. You will hear Whitebread's truisms a hundred times, but there is too little specificity here to help your performance.

I was surprised that Professor Whitehead sold out to such a poor product in an obvious quick profit job through marketing and an attention-grabbing title. Weak. The whole premise of this book is based on a dangerous idea that there are eight magical steps in "the" formulae for success. This is something you might want to read while waiting in line somewhere, as there's not much thought to it; however, I would recommend borrowing it as it's not worth paying any money for... Unbelievable hoax and another attempt to gouge poor, impressionable 1L's who don't know what to expect and are willing to buy into the magic formulae idea, the quick-fix approach. This "book" is so short and simple, it's something that I'd expect to see as a "how-to" on the internet for free. It's barely enough to make a pamphlet but it's printed in big font with huge, patronizing pages with the numbered steps. I paid...for some law professor (teaches at USC, does the Gilbert's Law School Legends series for Criminal Law and Procedure, which are actually much better products) to tell me that I need to issue-spot, mind how much time I'm spending on the questions, organize my answers, and listen for what your specific professor might test you on....it's so belittling. Don't bother.

Charles H. Whitebread's short treatise on how to achieve high grades in law school exams is a bit ambiguous in many instances and does not provide concrete examples of how one might actually outline through the IRAC (issues, rule, analysis, conclusion) method. Yes, he does talk about how one might start writing, but it would have been helpful if he had an actual outline of a real law school exam. If he had done so, I am sure this book would have been much more useful to first year law students who do not have the benefit of knowing what to expect. However, many of his tips are important: for instance: (1) do not start writing the moment you are able to; instead, outline your case, which may take twenty minutes, and spend the next forty minutes out of your hour writing in a clear, organized manner. The person who just starts writing without organization will get a poorer grade. (2) He says never to explain why you cannot finish on your test. Some professors won't know you were not able to finish unless you said so. Plus, you get no points for admitting your error, so why bother? (3) As long as you stick to the main points in the course, and don't focus on minute details, you probably will get an A or a B. Sounds good to me. Michael Gordon

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