

December 12, 2021

Dear Students,

Important clarification on Tomax-based quizzes, based on questions raised by students

As already announced, in the coming semester, some quizzes will be conducted in [certain courses](#) using the Tomax platform, in the faculties of social sciences, law, education, Jewish studies and humanities.

The quizzes will be **beneficial**. What that means is that **the quizzes will only serve to raise your course grade and not lower it, on condition that you take the quiz.**

In other words – if your quiz grade is lower than the grade on your final assignment, it will not be counted when computing the grade for the course. Conversely, if your quiz grade is higher than the rest of your assignment grades for the course, it *will* count toward your final grade for the course.

Students who **cannot** take the exam must log into the [simulation exam](#) and gain some experience with the Tomax platform through it.

Students who do not wish to download the platform to their personal computer and cannot come to campus for the quiz, may execute the simulation exam on special stations set up for that purpose on campus. Details on availability, location of stations and reserving a slot on them will be sent at a later time.

All students in the courses selected for the trial must use at least one of the methods offered in order to be prepared for using the platform in the final exams. Students who do not take the quiz nor the simulation exam will not obtain a grade for the course.

Overlapping exams

If you have been scheduled for two quizzes at the same date and time, choose the one you wish to take. Since the quiz is beneficial, you will not suffer any consequences for not having taken the other one. You will not need to take the simulation exam either, since when you take one of the quizzes on the platform, your record will already indicate that you have tried out the platform.

If you are scheduled for several quizzes that do not overlap, you need to take only one of them. If you choose to take them all, you may.

Over 30,000 exams have already been taken on the Tomax platform since January, 2020 in the different departments at Bar-Ilan University alone (and tens of thousands more in other academic institutions).

The software is completely secure! To this day not a single case has arisen of any harm to the computer of a Bar-Ilan student as a result of the platform. The platform has been fully tested and verified by Bar-Ilan's information security officer, after setting number of conditions that Bar-Ilan accepted and fully implemented.

So why online exams?

What are the advantages?

It's all taking place at home – You won't need to come to campus to take your exams; you can take them in the comfort and security of your own home.

What you put in is what comes out – You can take your exams and get grades that are fair return on your hard work.

Exams in a quiet environment – You may take your exams in a quiet environment, without other examinees or proctors breaking your concentration.

Internet crashed? No problem – An internet disconnect will not affect you; you can continue with your exam even if the internet crashed or you have a power failure. You'll be able to submit the exam when the internet comes back up.

Illegible handwriting? No problem – Students with illegible handwriting will not lose points due to inability of the instructors to read their writing.

Privacy above all – The Tomax platform does not violate privacy. The Tomax platform does not invade the examinee's computer, does not take control over it and does not access any personal files on the personal computer of the examinee. The platform only locks the computer at the time of the exam; immediately upon completion of the exam, all functions become available once again. It also allows continuous filming of the examinee during the exam, with an AI (artificial intelligence) component that identifies suspicious movements and noises, in order to preserve exam integrity. The evaluation process of the platform was accompanied by Bar-Ilan's privacy protection supervisor. This supervisory authority is an external enterprise and Bar-Ilan is obligated to operate in accordance with its guidelines.

We're here for you – In preparation of the launch of the new system, a support and training mechanism has been put into place to prepare you for using the new platform. You have already received instructions and videos, and you will see how easy and intuitive the new platform is. All materials are available and kept up to date on the [Exam Office website](#).

Telephone/WhatsApp – A support system will be available by phone at *9392 to help steer you through technical issues that may come up when you log in to the new platform.

Bar-Ilan University is proud to be one of Israel's pioneers in using a secure remote exam platform, and to be part of a group of institutions around the world leading this venture and understanding its potential. We call on you to become engaged and enjoy the many advantages of online exams.

Wishing you the best of luck on your quizzes!