

AIBE XXI: A Tougher Examination or a Wake-Up Call for the Legal Profession?

If you appeared for AIBE XXI, chances are that you walked out of the examination hall with a thought that many candidates seemed to share:

"This did not feel like the AIBE we were expecting."

For years, the examination carried a reputation of being heavily dependent upon Bare Acts and indexing skills. Many students believed that with sufficient familiarity with statutory materials, clearing the examination was largely manageable.

But has that perception begun to change?

AIBE XXI appeared to test something beyond the ability to locate provisions. Candidates encountered questions that required conceptual understanding, application of legal principles, and familiarity with judicial reasoning. This raises an important question:

Should a professional licensing examination test a candidate's ability to find the law, or their ability to understand and apply it?



At first glance, a more demanding examination may not seem problematic. After all, advocates are entrusted with significant professional responsibilities. It is reasonable to expect that an individual entering the legal profession should possess a sound understanding of law rather than merely an ability to navigate statutory texts.

However, the discussion should not end there.

If professional examinations are becoming more rigorous, should examination authorities not also be held to higher standards of transparency and accountability?

This question becomes particularly important because AIBE is not merely another examination. For thousands of law graduates, it represents the final step before entering legal practice. A delay in results, ambiguity in evaluation, or administrative irregularity does not merely affect marks—it affects careers.

Students spend years pursuing legal education. They invest time, effort, money, and aspirations into building a future within the profession. When concerns arise regarding examination administration, it is ultimately the candidates who bear the consequences.

Therefore, perhaps the real debate is not whether AIBE XXI was difficult. The more important debate is this:

As professional examinations evolve, are our examination systems evolving with the same commitment to transparency, fairness, and accountability?



**"Beyond
Bare Acts.
Towards Competence."**