

The 1940 Bar Examinations

(An Analysis)

By DR. ISIDORO PANLASIGUI
 Head, Department of Psychology, College of Education, U. P.

The Government of the Commonwealth gives examinations for the different professions such as law, medicine, etc. No one is allowed to practice these professions unless he is qualified by passing the examination given by the government.

Every year such examinations are given. Every year different colleges and universities are represented in these examinations. The different institutions seem to feel that the results of these examinations are an index to their standards of instruction. It should be so. Those institutions whose graduates obtained higher ratings and higher percentages of passing should be considered higher in standard than those whose graduates obtained less.

The 1940 Bar Examinations

1. The results of the 1940 bar examinations as published by the newspapers show the following facts:

a. Of the 957 who took the examinations, 672 or 70.2% passed.

b. Of those who passed, the first ten came from the following institutions:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. University of the Philippines | 5 |
| 2. Far Eastern University | 2 |
| 3. Ateneo de Manila | 1 |
| 4. Philippine Law School | 1 |
| 5. University of Manila | 1 |

Total 10

c. The first of the ten with a rating of 94.35% came from the Ateneo de Manila.

d. The first four of the ten, in their order, came from Ateneo de Manila,

Philippine Law School, Far Eastern University, and the University of Manila.

2. Several questions may be asked at this juncture. What is the meaning of the above facts? Has the College of Law, University of the Philippines, a lower standard than the first four institutions? Are the achievements of the first ten students sufficient criteria to indicate the standard of the institutions they represent?

Before we answer these questions let us consider the following facts gathered from statistical analysis of the data.

Statistical Facts.

The following facts are culled out from the ratings of the students from the five institutions represented in the 1940 bar examinations by 20 or more students. Mention should be made that the ratings here considered are the ratings of only those who passed the tests.

1. When we consider the mean ratings of only the first ten (See Table I) from each of the five institutions the order from the highest to the lowest is:

1. University of the Philippines
2. Philippine Law School
3. Ateneo de Manila
4. University of Manila
5. Far Eastern University

2. When we consider the mean ratings (see Table II) of all the students who passed the 1940 bar examinations, the order of the five institutions is:

1. University of the Philippines
2. Ateneo de Manila
3. Far Eastern University
4. Philippine Law School
5. University of Manila

Note the change of the order—the University of the Philippines is always first in the two comparisons. The Philippine Law School, second in the first, dropped down to fourth in the second, and the Ateneo de Manila jumped to second. The University of Manila dropped down to the last and the Far Eastern University jumped to third.

The differences of the mean (see Table III) are all statistically significant except those between the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila; Ateneo de Manila and Far Eastern University; Far Eastern University and the Philippine Law School; and the Philippine Law School and the University of Manila.

From Table III we can see that the University of the Philippines, based on the differences of the mean ratings of the graduates who passed the bar examinations is significantly superior to all except Ateneo de Manila. This exception is perhaps due to the fact that the Ateneo de Manila is represented by only twenty students. Since the Ateneo de Manila is third place when the comparison is based on the ratings of the first ten students (see Table I) there is a strong indication that the University of

the Philippines is significantly superior to Ateneo de Manila.

3. When we compare the five institutions on the basis of overlapping we have the following percentages of students equal to or better than the average student from the University of the Philippines:

- 45% of those of Ateneo de Manila.
- 27% of those of Far Eastern University,
- 10% of those of the Philippine Law School, and
- 6% of those of the University of Manila.

Stating these facts in another way, we may say that 56% of the students of the University of the Philippines are equal or superior to the average students of Ateneo de Manila; 70%, 85%, 93% are equal or superior to the average students of the Far Eastern University, Philippine Law School and University of Manila respectively.

Conclusion

Based on the above analysis of results one is compelled to conclude that the College of Law of the University of the Philippines is superior to the other institutions.

TABLE I

The Mean Ratings of the First Ten Students from each of the Five Institutions:

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Rating</i>
1. University of the Philippines	91.9
2. Philippine Law School	89.0
3. Ateneo de Manila	88.8
4. University of Manila	88.5
5. Far Eastern University	87.9

TABLE II

The Mean Ratings of All the Students from the Five Institutions:

<i>Institution</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>PEm</i>
1. University of the Philippines	105	85.21	4.507	0.296
2. Ateneo de Manila	20	84.55	5.104	0.769
3. Far Eastern University	42	82.809	3.971	0.413
4. Philippine Law School	131	79.335	4.606	0.271
5. University of Manila	131	78.461	4.287	0.252

TABLE III

The Difference of the Mean Rating:

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>PEdiff</i>
*Univ. of the Phil.—Ateneo de Manila	0 660	0 823
Univ. of the Phil.—Far Eastern Univ.	2 401	0 508
Univ. of the Phil.—Phil. Law School	5 875	0 401
Univ. of the Phil.—Univ. of Manila	6 749	0 388
*Ateneo de Manila—Far Eastern Univ.	1 741	0 872
Ateneo de Manila—Phil. Law School	5 215	0 815
Ateneo de Manila—Univ. of Manila	6 089	0 809
*Far Eastern Univ.—Phil. Law School	3 474	0 493
Far Eastern Univ.—Univ. of Manila	4 348	0 483
*Phil. Law School—Univ. of Manila	0 874	0 370

*Not significant.

TABLE IV

The Distribution of Ratings of Individual Students from the Five Institutions.
(Grades are rounded to integral marks)

<i>Grades</i>	<i>P.L.S</i>	<i>U.M.</i>	<i>U.P.</i>	<i>F.E.U.</i>	<i>A.deM.</i>
94	0	0	0	0	1
93	1	1	2	1	0
92	0	0	4	1	1
91	1	1	5	0	1
90	2	1	10	0	1
89	1	0	8	1	1
88	2	3	9	2	2
87	3	3	5	1	0
86	8	5	10	2	1
85	5	3	9	4	2
84	5	3	8	9	2
83	5	3	9	0	0
82	7	7	8	6	0
81	11	7	1	4	4
80	6	9	4	3	2
79	2	7	2	1	0
78	12	11	4	3	0
77	4	5	1	1	0
76	8	10	1	2	1
75	48	52	5	1	1
Total	131	131	105	42	20