

Democratic Principles and the Bill of Rights

Question 1 .

Mrs. Hardy claims that Mr. Brown's dog bit her when she was out trimming her bushes. Mr. Brown said his dog would never have bitten Mrs. Hardy. Mrs. Hardy has decided to sue Mr. Brown for the money to cover her medical costs.

The 7th Amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees that Mr. Brown has the right to

- A. freedom of speech.
- B. practice a religion.
- C. a trial by jury.
- D. carry a gun.

Question 2 .

The Senate voting on a new bill is an activity related to which branch of government?

- A. executive
- B. judicial
- C. legislative
- D. cabinet

Question 3 .

John Smith has been charged with breaking into someone's house. The jury finds him to be not guilty. But later on, more facts are discovered. It now looks as if John Smith might really have committed the crime.

The 5th Amendment of the Bill of Rights says that John Smith

- A. cannot be tried for a similar crime.
- B. can be tried again if there is new evidence.
- C. can hire a better lawyer if he wants to.
- D. cannot be tried for the same crime twice.

Question 4 .

Courts decide when to send a criminal to jail. The courts' activities relate to which branch of government?

- A. administrative
- B. judicial
- C. executive
- D. legislative

Question 5 .

The 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the freedom of the press. Which of these statements **best** explains why having a free press is important?

- A. A free press lets people find out what celebrities are doing.
- B. A free press lets people find out more about community events.
- C. A free press is necessary to check the power of the government.
- D. A free press is necessary because it helps people learn how to read.

Question 6 .

Which of these is a natural right named in the Declaration of Independence?

- A. the right to a fair trial
- B. the right to bear arms
- C. the right to property
- D. the right to liberty

Question 7 .

An important part of the separation of powers is the power to tax. Which branch has the power to collect taxes?

- A. legislative
- B. judicial
- C. executive
- D. treasury

Question 8 .

In a representative democracy, people vote on

- A. who their legislators should be.
- B. what the laws should be.
- C. who should be the king.
- D. who the judges should be.

Question 9 .

Mistreating a prisoner is illegal in this country. That is because the 8th Amendment of the Bill of Rights protects citizens against

- A. people demonstrating on their lawn.
- B. having their houses searched.
- C. being tried by just a judge and no jury.
- D. cruel and unusual punishment.

Question 10 .

Natural rights can **best** be defined as rights people have

- A. once laws have been passed.
- B. before they become adults.
- C. before governments are created.
- D. once they have been married.

Question 11 .

The ability of each branch of government to limit the power of the other branches is called

- A. checks and balances.
- B. constitutional rights.
- C. executive privilege.
- D. popular sovereignty.

Question 12 .

According to the 10th Amendment, if the Constitution does not specifically give a certain power to the federal government or take that power away from the states, that power belongs to

- A. the military.
- B. the states or the people.
- C. the people alone.
- D. the states alone

Question 13 .

The House of Representatives can vote to impeach a president. This is a power that the legislative branch can use to limit the power of which branch of government?

- A. treasury
- B. state department
- C. executive
- D. judicial

Question 14 .

Amendment I: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II: A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III: No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V: No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

Amendment VI: In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed; which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII: In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII: Excessive bail shall not be required nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX: The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The Bill of Rights says that police cannot do the following things without a warrant (legal permission):

- People's bodies cannot be searched
- People's homes cannot be searched
- People's belongings cannot be searched or seized (taken)

Which amendment protects these rights?

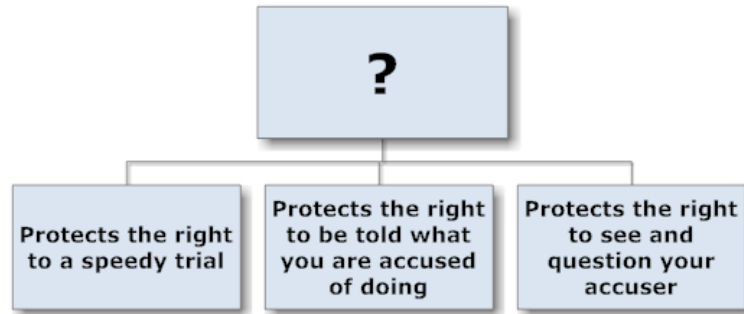
- A. Eighth Amendment
- B. Fourth Amendment
- C. First Amendment
- D. Sixth Amendment

Question 15 .

The president is commander-in-chief of the United States military. The president's activities relate to which branch of government?

- A. judicial
- B. corporate
- C. legislative
- D. executive

Question 16 .



Which amendment in the Bill of Rights completes the diagram?

- A. 1st Amendment
- B. 6th Amendment
- C. 5th Amendment
- D. 8th Amendment

Question 17 .

In the United States, there is a federal system of government. This means that

- A. the power of the government is shared by the national government and the states.
- B. national laws must be approved by all of the state governments.
- C. some of the more powerful states tell the other states what to do.
- D. the fifty states have more power than the national government.

Question 18 .

One reason why it is important that the 1st Amendment protects the freedom of religion is

- A. everyone in America practices the same religion.
- B. the government supports only one religion.
- C. the government supports many different religions.
- D. there are many different religious beliefs in America.

Question 19 .

The Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights says that people are allowed to keep and bear arms (guns). This amendment is important because it gives people the right to

- A. defend themselves.
- B. join the army.
- C. declare war.
- D. break the law.

Question 20 .

The third amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects citizens from which of the following?

- A. being denied the right to vote in elections
- B. being arrested and not getting a trial by jury
- C. being forced to let soldiers live in their homes
- D. being denied the right to free speech

Question 21 .

Which of the following **best** explains the significance of the phrase "We the People" at the beginning of the U.S. Constitution?

- A. The people are able to rewrite the Constitution whenever they want.
- B. The Constitution only applies to people living in certain states.
- C. The powers of the government listed in the Constitution come from the people.
- D. The people are able to choose the parts of the Constitution they want to follow.

Question 22 .

The fact that some rights are specifically named in the U.S. Constitution does not mean that other rights do not exist. This is guaranteed by which amendment?

- A. the 8th Amendment
- B. the 9th Amendment
- C. the 7th Amendment
- D. the 6th Amendment