

What's Your Constitutional IQ?

How well do you know the U.S. Constitution? Read carefully; some questions may have more than one answer - or none.

_____ 1. The purpose of the original U.S. Constitution written in 1787 was... (A) to create a federal government and define its powers. (B) to declare independence from England. (C) to create the 13 original states. (D) to make George Washington the first president.

_____ 2. The Bill of Rights is... (A) an introduction to the original constitution. (B) the first ten amendments to the original constitution. (C) a notice of rebellion to the British monarchy. (D) any bill regarding personal rights that passes through Congress.

_____ 3. The U.S. Constitution can be amended by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress and the quarters of the states approve. (A) True (B) False

_____ 4. How many amendments are there to the U.S. Constitution? (A) 1-10 (B) 11-20 (C) 21-30 (D) more than 30

_____ 5. The Constitution gives which branch of government the most power? (A) The President (B) Congress (C) the Supreme Court (D) all equal

THE PRESIDENCY

_____ 6. Only a person born in the U.S. can be elected President. (A) True (B) False

_____ 7. In a presidential election, the candidate who gets the most popular votes automatically becomes president. (A) True (B) False

_____ 8. The President has the power to declare war. (A) True (B) False

_____ 9. In time of war or national emergency, the resident can suspend the Constitution. (A) True (B) False



_____ 10. The President, acting alone, can appoint a Justice to the Supreme Court (A) True (B) False

STATE & LOCAL RIGHTS

_____ 11. A state has the right... (A) to maintain a separate military force. (B) to declare an official state prayer. (C) to levy a tax on goods sold within the state.

_____ 12. A state may require its citizens to take a literacy test before they may register to vote. (A) True (B) False

_____ 13. A state may establish a death penalty as punishment for certain crimes. (A) True (B) False

_____ 14. A state may legalize marijuana within its borders. (A) True (B) False

_____ 15. According to the Supreme Court rulings, local schools may require students to... (A) pledge allegiance to the U.S. flag. (B) observe a moment of silent prayer. (C) participate in Bible readings in class.

THE SUPREME COURT

_____ 16. Any important court case can be appealed from the state courts to the Supreme Court. (A) True (B) False

_____ 17. The current Chief Justice of the U.S. is... (A) Warren Berger (B) William Brennan, Jr. (C) John Roberts, Jr. (D) Earl Warren

_____ 18. Brown vs. the Board of Education was a landmark Supreme Court case that dealt with... (A) abortion. (B) the rights of a person convicted of a crime. (C) racial segregation in schools.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

_____ 19. The U.S. Constitution guarantees every citizen's right to... (A) a job. (B) a free public education. (C) preach revolution. (D) own a handgun.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

_____ 20. A person can be punished for a crime

committed before he or she is 18 years old. (A) True (B) False

_____ 21. The police can search your home without your permission if... (A) you are not a U.S. citizen. (B) they have obtained a search warrant through a judge. (C) you have a criminal record. (D) you are friendly with or related to a drug dealer.

_____ 22. If you have been accused of a serious crime, you must be provided with... (A) a lawyer if you cannot afford one. (B) A trial by jury

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

_____ 23. Would you (A) favor or (B) oppose an amendment requiring the federal government to balance its budget?

_____ 24. The system of government established by the Constitution has done (A) a good job or (B) a bad job in providing for our nation's national defense.

_____ 25. Our system of government has done (A) a good job or (B) a bad job in treating all people equally.

MEMORY HELPER

PARTS OF THE US CONSTITUTION

LEJ (pronounced "ledge")

Three Branches of Government

Article I - **L**egislative
Article II - **E**xecutive
Article III - **J**udicial