

2021-2022 Know Your Constitution Quiz

1. This year (2021) marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of which Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
 - a. 19th Amendment
 - b. 23rd Amendment
 - c. 25th Amendment
 - d. 26th Amendment
2. What Amendment gave persons of all races the right to vote?
 - a. Fifteenth Amendment
 - b. Fifth Amendment
 - c. Tenth Amendment
 - d. Article II
3. In a criminal action, the right to confront witnesses is found in the:
 - a. First Amendment.
 - b. Fourth Amendment
 - c. Sixth Amendment
 - d. Fourteenth Amendment.
4. According to the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which persons are citizens of the United States?
 - a. All persons born in the United States
 - b. All persons naturalized in the United States
 - c. All persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States
 - d. All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction
5. Upon what evidence can someone be convicted of treason against the United States?
 - a. A confession in open court
 - b. The testimony of one witness to an overt act
 - c. The testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act
 - d. Either (A) or (C)
6. The first amendments to the Constitution were ratified in 1791. When was the most recent amendment ratified?
 - a. 1971
 - b. 1984
 - c. 1992
 - d. 2001

7. Which of the following has the power to *try* an impeachment?
- The Senate
 - The House of Representatives
 - The United States Supreme Court
 - The President
8. Which Amendment prohibits “poll taxes” (charging a fee to vote)?
- Twenty-First Amendment
 - Fifth Amendment
 - Fourteenth Amendment
 - Twenty-Fourth Amendment
9. Of the following powers, which one does NOT belong to the Congress?
- The power to grant pardons for offenses against the United States
 - The power to borrow money on the United States’ credit
 - The power to establish Post Offices
 - The power to maintain a navy
10. In order to be established, the U.S. Constitution had to be ratified by Convention in how many states?
- 7
 - 9
 - 11
 - 13
11. For the President of the United States to ratify a treaty, she/he must obtain the advice and consent of:
- Three-fourths of Senate.
 - Two-thirds of the Senate.
 - One-half of the House of Representatives.
 - Three-fourths of Congress.
12. Which of the following activities does the Constitution prohibit a state from doing?
- Coining and printing money.
 - Making laws.
 - Conducting a census of its citizens.
 - Imposing a sales tax on goods and services.

13. The power of impeachment is vested in the:
- Attorney General
 - House of Representatives
 - Senate
 - Supreme Court
14. Which provision of the Constitution provides that the United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government?
- Article IV
 - Article V
 - Article VI
 - There is no such guarantee in the Constitution.
15. Which provision of the Constitution provides that the Constitution shall be the supreme law of the land?
- Article III
 - Article IV
 - Article V
 - Article VI
16. Which of the following rights is NOT explicitly mentioned in the First Amendment?
- Free exercise of religion
 - Freedom of speech
 - The right to privacy
 - The right to peaceably assemble
17. Which provision of the Constitution provides that in times of peace no soldier shall be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner?
- Third Amendment
 - Fifth Amendment
 - Twelfth Amendment
 - No provision of the Constitution protects this right
18. Which provision of the Constitution safeguards the right to be free from excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishments?
- Sixth Amendment
 - Seventh Amendment
 - Eighth Amendment
 - None of the above

19. The Eighteenth Amendment, which prohibited the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within the United States, was repealed by which amendment?

- a. Twentieth Amendment
- b. Twenty-First Amendment
- c. Twenty-Second Amendment
- d. The Eighteenth Amendment has not been repealed.

20. Both the 15th and 19th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution address the issue of:

- a. Abolition
- b. Women's Rights
- c. Taxes
- d. Voting

21. According to the Constitution, the terms of the President and Vice President end at noon on what day?

- a. January 20th
- b. President's Day
- c. November 7th
- d. December 31st

22. How long must a person be a citizen of the United States before being able to become a Representative in the House of Representatives?

- a. Four years
- b. Seven years
- c. Eight years
- d. There is no citizenship requirement for being able to become a Representative.

23. How old must a person be to be eligible to be President?

- a. 18
- b. 21
- c. 30
- d. 35

24. What provision contains the Double Jeopardy clause?

- a. Article I
- b. Fourth Amendment
- c. Fifth Amendment
- d. Seventh Amendment

25. The right of citizens of the United States who are 18 years of age or older to vote is protected by which provision of the Constitution?

- a. Article VI
- b. Thirteenth Amendment
- c. Nineteenth Amendment
- d. Twenty-sixth Amendment

26. The legislative powers of the Federal Government are vested in the:

- a. Congress
- b. President
- c. Supreme Court
- d. All of the above

27. Money shall not be drawn from the United States Treasury unless:

- a. Congress has passed and the President has signed an appropriation for such money
- b. The President has issued an Executive Order authorizing the expenditure
- c. The Supreme Court has ordered the payment of such money
- d. Any of the above

28. Which of the following is a duty of the Vice President?

- a. To be Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives
- b. To be President of the Senate
- c. To be Chairman of the President's Cabinet
- d. To be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

29. Private property may not be taken for public use without:

- a. A trial by jury
- b. Just compensation
- c. A valid warrant
- d. Private property may never be taken for public use

30. A State can be punished for denying the right of any of its citizens to vote by:

- a. Reducing the number of its Representatives.
- b. Reducing the number of its Senators.
- c. Imposing a fine.
- d. Withholding funding of all federal programs.

31. Members of the House of Representatives serve terms lasting:
- a. One year
 - b. Two years
 - c. Four years
 - d. Six years
32. The process by which Senators are selected by each state was changed by which Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
- a. Sixteenth Amendment
 - b. Seventeenth Amendment
 - c. Eighteenth Amendment
 - d. Twenty-first Amendment
33. Assuming that a State only has one representative in the House of Representatives, how many electors shall the State appoint to select the President as a part of the Electoral College?
- a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Four
34. A law criminalizing peaceful protests in public would most likely violate which of the following constitutional amendments:
- a. First Amendment
 - b. Fourth Amendment
 - c. Fifth Amendment
 - d. Tenth Amendment
35. Which act requires a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress?
- a. Impeaching and trying the President
 - b. Declaring War
 - c. Confirming an appointment to the Supreme Court
 - d. Overruling the President's veto
36. How many future Presidents of the United States signed the Constitution?
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4

37. All legislation raising revenue must originate from the:

- a. House of Representatives
- b. Senate
- c. President
- d. Department of the Treasury

38. Members of the United States Senate serve terms lasting:

- a. Two years
- b. Four years
- c. Six years
- d. Eight years

39. Who is prohibited from receiving an emolument from any king, prince, or foreign state?

- a. Any person holding an office of profit or trust under the United States unless the President grants consent.
- b. Any person holding an office of profit or trust under the United States unless Congress consents.
- c. Only persons holding elective office.
- d. All United States Citizens.

40. The Constitution does not explicitly provide for which of the following?

- a. The size of the President's Cabinet
- b. The power of the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional
- c. A right to privacy
- d. All of the above

41. The Attorney General serves in which branch of the Federal Government?

- a. Legislative
- b. Executive
- c. Judicial
- d. None of the above

42. Which of the following activities does the Constitution prohibit a State from doing?

- a. Coining and printing money
- b. Making laws
- c. Conducting a census of its citizens
- d. Imposing a sales tax on goods and services

43. What provision of the Constitution gives us the right to confront our accusers in criminal matters?

- a. Article I, Section 9
- b. Article III, Section 3
- c. Fifth Amendment
- d. Sixth Amendment

44. The President of the United States is empowered to grant a pardon except in cases of:

- a. Impeachment
- b. Conviction of First Degree Murder
- c. Theft involving sums exceeding \$1 million
- d. Treason

45. The Preamble to the Constitution begins:

- a. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."
- b. "When in the course of human events..."
- c. "We the people of the United States..."
- d. "Four Score and Seven Years ago..."

46. Who of the following was NOT present at the signing of the Constitution?

- a. Alexander Hamilton
- b. Benjamin Franklin
- c. John Adams
- d. James Madison

47. At the time of the Constitution's ratification, U.S. Senators were chosen by whom?

- a. Popular Vote
- b. State Governors
- c. State Legislatures
- d. State Courts

48. The Electoral College method of selecting a President is established in:

- a. Article I
- b. Article II
- c. Article III
- d. Article IV

49. Which of the original 13 states did not send a delegation to the Constitutional Convention?

- a. South Carolina
- b. Rhode Island
- c. Connecticut
- d. Georgia

50. Since the original ratification of the U.S. Constitution, what has been the longest interval (in years) without a Constitutional Amendment being adopted?

- a. 18 years
- b. 29 years
- c. 43 years
- d. 61 years

KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION ESSAY QUESTION

2021 – 2022

A federal program of the United States extends benefits to needy individuals who are elderly, disabled, or blind. To receive the benefits, a person must reside in the United States. Anyone who resides outside the United States for thirty consecutive days forfeits their benefits. For purposes of these benefits, the government defines “the United States” in a way that excludes territories like Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

For purposes of this question, we’re going to discuss three hypothetical litigants:

- Ricardo is a disabled Hispanic man. He started receiving benefits while living in Texas but moved to Puerto Rico to care for his sick wife—they believed the weather in Puerto Rico was better for her condition. He has lived in Puerto Rico for several years now and does not intend to leave.
- Franz is an elderly man who traces his ancestry to Germany. After he retired, he decided to move to Germany. He began receiving benefits while living in Michigan, but he’s now lived in Germany more than thirty consecutive days.
- Nneka is a Nigerian woman who came to the United States (California, specifically) as a refugee. Although she is not a United States citizen, she started receiving benefits under a rule that allows “qualified” aliens (including refugees) to do so. A different rule allows aliens to receive benefits if they are subject to “battery or extreme cruelty” by a family member while living in the United States. While in California, Nneka is the victim of domestic violence by her husband. She fears for her and her children’s safety and flees with them back to Nigeria, where her family remains. She has now been in Nigeria for more than thirty consecutive days. During litigation, Nneka is able to introduce evidence that shows women are victims of domestic violence disproportionately more often than men.

The United States sues Ricardo, Franz, and Nneka for overpaid benefits. Each of them challenges the constitutionality of the law that would force them to forfeit benefits for residing where they do for more than thirty consecutive days.

In an essay of 200 to 1000 words, discuss the cases through the lens of constitutional law. You may want to consider the following questions.

- 1) What arguments could each litigant raise? What likelihood do they have of succeeding?
- 2) If any litigant raises an argument based on equal protection, what level of scrutiny should apply?
- 3) How do the cases differ from one another?
- 4) The example of Ricardo is borrowed from a case that will go before the Supreme Court this fall. In that case, the United States argues that earlier precedent has already answered the relevant questions and Ricardo must lose. Do you agree?

To be successful, an essay need not discuss every litigant or every issue. You may choose to discuss one issue deeply, rather than all possible issues, if that calls to you. A successful essay is one that engages with the material thoughtfully, carefully, and intelligently, especially if the essay uses legal analysis and case citations to make its arguments. This is an open-ended question, and you are free to take any position you wish.