

Bill of Rights Quiz

© 2004 by Tina Terry – BillofRightsPayson@yahoo.com

Note: The definitions of all words in the Constitution, the Preamble and the Bill of Rights are assumed to be the meanings they had when these documents were written.

"On every question of construction carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed."

--Thomas Jefferson to William Johnson, 1823. ME 15:449

"Strained constructions... loosen all the bands of the Constitution."

--Thomas Jefferson to George Ticknor, 1817. FE 10:81

1. This man was chosen as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, but he did not attend it because, he said, "I smell a rat!" He later refused to support the ratification of the U.S. Constitution unless there was a written Bill of Rights as part of it; he insisted on this written list of individual rights that no federal/central government would have the right to take away from free American citizens:
 - a) George Washington
 - b) Patrick Henry
 - c) George Ticknor
 - d) Thomas Jefferson
 - e) John Hancock

2. The Bill of Rights contains ____ Amendments.
 - a) Twenty-seven
 - b) Eleven
 - c) Ten
 - d) Five
 - e) One

The Preamble to the Bill of Rights states: ***"The conventions of a number of the States having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution."***

3. In the Preamble, the word "*misconstruction*" means:
 - a) Construction problems one finds during a home inspection.
 - b) A badly worded sentence.
 - c) Misguided missiles and construction damage caused by them.
 - d) Wrong or mistaken meaning or misunderstanding.
 - e) The same as "abuse."

4. In the Preamble, the word "*beneficent*" means the opposite of:
 - a) Doing or causing good.
 - b) Having unlimited power.
 - c) Doing or causing evil or bad.
 - d) Unable to tell the difference between good and evil.
 - e) Being institutionalized.

5. In the Preamble, the term "*restrictive clauses*" refers to:
 - a) The Amendments contained in the Bill of Rights.
 - b) Being allowed to do anything one wants whenever and wherever one wants.
 - c) Being grounded because of bad behavior.

- d) Not having enough time to do all one's homework.
 - e) Incomplete sentences.
6. In the Preamble, the words "*its powers*" refer to:
- a) The powers described as belonging to the U.S. Congress in the Constitution.
 - b) All the powers of the federal government.
 - c) The powers of government set out in the newly adopted U.S. Constitution.
 - d) All of the above.
 - e) None of the above.
7. How many of the Amendments in the Bill of Rights contain the word "*people*?"
- a) None of them.
 - b) All of them.
 - c) Five.
 - d) Four.
 - e) Seven.
 - f) For 20 extra points, name which specific Amendments contain the word "*people*."
8. The word "*people*" throughout the Bill of Rights refers to:
- a) The National Guard.
 - b) Every human being in the world.
 - c) Everyone living in Washington, D.C.
 - d) Individual American citizens.
 - e) Elected officials only.
9. In the Seventh Amendment, one finds mention of:
- a) Fifty dollars.
 - b) The right to a trial by jury.
 - c) Entering a courtroom.
 - d) Talking to a judge when he is wearing his robes.
 - e) Committing a crime.
10. In the Ninth Amendment, the term "*the enumeration*" means:
- a) The ability to count to 100.
 - b) The numbering of nations.
 - c) The listing.
 - d) The number of people in America.
 - e) The inability to count.
11. In the Second Amendment, the term "*well regulated*" means:
- a) Forbidden by law.
 - b) Well trained and properly equipped.
 - c) Restricted by good regulations.
 - d) Told what to do by regulators.
 - e) Observed and regulated by government officials at all times.
12. In the First Amendment, one finds the right of:
- a) Freedom to practice one's religion.
 - b) Freedom of speech and of the press.
 - c) Freedom to peacefully meet with people you want to meet with.
 - d) All of the above.
 - e) None of the above.
13. In the Third Amendment, the word "*quartered*" means:
- a) Cut into four pieces.
 - b) A type of horse.

- c) Left alone.
 - d) Paid a sum of money equal to a quarter of a dollar.
 - e) Sheltered and housed.
14. In the Fifth Amendment the words “*to be a witness against himself*” refer to:
- a) Self-incrimination.
 - b) Incrimination of other people.
 - c) Lying to the police.
 - d) Confessing your sins in church.
 - e) Someone who is watching himself do things.
15. In the Tenth Amendment, the word “*reserved*” means:
- a) Saved for an Indian reservation.
 - b) Calling a restaurant to book a table.
 - c) Saved for or delegated to exclusively.
 - d) Being quiet in manner and speech.
 - e) Being saved for a special occasion.
16. In the Fourth Amendment, the term “*probable cause*” means a:
- a) Good reason for assuming that a criminal charge has sufficient evidence.
 - b) Good reason for assuming that someone is a bad person at heart.
 - c) Good reason for assuming that someone has hidden motives.
 - d) Good reason for assuming the police are always right.
 - e) Good reason for assuming a false identity.
17. In the Eighth Amendment, the word “*bail*” refers to:
- a) What you do in a boat when it is sinking.
 - b) A bribe paid to a public official.
 - c) The amount of money it costs to pay the salary of a bailiff.
 - d) The amount of money you pay to hire an attorney.
 - e) None of the above.
18. In the Fifth Amendment, the words “*due process*” refer to:
- a) A process of collecting money that is owed or due someone.
 - b) A process of law in its regular course of administration through courts of justice.
 - c) A process of law written by lawyers while trying a case in court.
 - d) A process of finding out who is owed or due a payment.
 - e) A process of collecting evidence by local police.
19. In the First Amendment it is stated that:
- a) Congress isn’t allowed to meet except every other year.
 - b) Congress isn’t allowed to forbid people to yell “Fire!” in a crowded theatre.
 - c) Congress isn’t allowed to set up a state religion.
 - d) Congress isn’t allowed to take away people’s property without due process.
 - e) Congress isn’t allowed to bear arms.
20. In the Second Amendment, the word “*infringed*” means:
- a) Violated, intruded, taken away or encroached upon.
 - b) Invaded and conquered.
 - c) Cut into thin strips to make a fringe.
 - d) Located inside the fringe of a physical area.
 - e) Entered into.
21. In the Ninth Amendment, the word “*disparage*” means:
- a) Dislike.
 - b) Declare of lower or lesser value.

- c) Deny.
 - d) Enumerate.
 - e) Castigate.
22. In the Seventh Amendment, the word “*suits at common law*” refer to:
- a) Criminal cases.
 - b) Suits that attorneys are required to wear in court.
 - c) Suits that can be purchased commonly at stores everywhere.
 - d) Civil law suits.
 - e) Uncivilized law suits.
23. The Ninth and Tenth Amendments are similar in their content in that they both:
- a) Are found at the end of the Bill of Rights.
 - b) Protect the right of citizens to keep and bear arms.
 - c) Mention “the militia.”
 - d) Protect the rights of soldiers during wartime.
 - e) State that the powers of the federal government are strictly limited to those stated in the Constitution.
24. In the Fifth Amendment, the word “*jeopardy*” refers to:
- a) Competition for prizes.
 - b) Danger of losing one’s life or a danger to one’s body.
 - c) Daring.
 - d) A TV game show.
 - e) Judgment.
25. In the Tenth Amendment, the word “*respectively*” means:
- a) With respect to personal freedom.
 - b) Each, individually.
 - c) With reservation.
 - d) Forbidden.
 - e) Reflectively.
26. The Sixth Amendment guarantees in all criminal prosecutions:
- a) The right to face one’s accusers.
 - b) The right to a speedy and public trial.
 - c) The right to have assistance of Counsel.
 - d) The right to not have excessive bail.
 - e) All of the above except “d.”
27. The First Amendment protects your right to:
- a) Complain to the government using any means whatsoever, including violent means.
 - b) Have elected officials write back to you when you complain.
 - c) Petition the government for redress of grievances.
 - d) Raise armies.
 - e) A fair trial.
28. In the Fifth Amendment, it is stated that:
- a) No one can force you to take soldiers into your house, except during wartime.
 - b) No one can have his lawfully owned property taken away without due process of law.
 - c) No one has to let the police into his home under any circumstances.
 - d) No one can be forbidden from practicing his religion.
 - e) No one can be punished using cruel and unusual punishment.
29. The Bill of Rights was ratified on:
- a) December 11th, 1791.

- b) December 7th, 1944.
- c) December 25th, 1776.
- d) December 15th, 1791.
- e) July 4th, 1776.

30. In the First Amendment, the word “*redress*” means:

- a) To set right, remedy, repair.
- b) To get dressed again.
- c) To dress in red.
- d) To rebuke.
- e) To confess.

31. Circle all of the following statements that are true:

- a) All countries of the world have a Bill of Rights just like ours.
- b) Our Bill of Rights specifically lists and protects the right of every citizen to have decent housing, health care and an education.
- c) Our Bill of Rights is a list of individual rights that no government has the right to take away from free citizens.
- d) In the Declaration of Independence it is stated that “inalienable” rights come from our “Divine Creator,” and among those are “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”
- e) The words “rights” and “privileges” are exactly synonymous with each other, and therefore they mean the same thing; because of this, we can change the title of the Bill of Rights and call it “The Bill of Privileges” without any change of meaning whatsoever.

32. In the Declaration of Independence, the word “*inalienable*” when referring to rights means:

- a) Aliens from other planets have all the same rights American citizens have.
- b) People have the right to have a decent home, car and education whether they can pay for it or not.
- c) Able to be changed.
- d) Cannot be strange or alien.
- e) Cannot be given away or taken away.

33. Without the “inalienable” rights set out in the Bill of Rights, American citizens could be subject to:

- a) Being prosecuted and imprisoned for their religious beliefs. (China, many Moslem countries.)
- b) Being forced to belong to a government religion (many Moslem countries), or worship only as the government permits (China, many Moslem countries.)
- c) Being prosecuted, imprisoned (Cuba, China) and/or murdered for their political opinions, or their ethnic backgrounds (Zimbabwe, Rwanda.)
- d) Being prosecuted and imprisoned without a trial (Cuba and many other dictatorships.)
- e) Being denied a jury trial in a criminal case. (Ditto.)
- f) Being subject to secret courts and secret law. (Ditto.)
- g) Having their property seized and confiscated by the government without due process of law. (Ditto.)
- h) Being tortured to confess to having committed crimes – whether they actually committed these crimes or not. (Ditto.)
- i) Having their homes invaded and searched by the police or military at any time and for any reason, or whenever police and those in power feel like it. (Ditto.)
- j) Being forbidden to own guns (Britain, Australia, Mexico, many other countries), swords or laser pointers. (Australia.)
- k) Having their phones tapped without a court order. (Many countries.)
- l) Being prosecuted and imprisoned simply for disagreeing with government officials. (Cuba, China, many countries.)
- m) Being prosecuted and imprisoned for voting for the “wrong” candidate. (Most dictatorships.)

- n) Being forbidden to associate freely with friends and family. (Most dictatorships.)
- o) Being forbidden to read or own the Bible (many Moslem countries, China); the Koran; the Torah (many Moslem countries), or other religious writings.
- p) Being forbidden to attend religious services not approved of and/or licensed by the government. (Many Moslem countries, China.)
- q) Being forbidden to own or read books not approved of by the government. (Canada, many Moslem countries, Cuba, China, most dictatorships.)
- r) Being forced to have soldiers live in their homes whenever the government says they have to do so. (Most dictatorships.)
- s) Being forbidden to have representation of counsel when accused of a crime. (Most dictatorships.)
- t) Being prosecuted and convicted without being told what crime they're being accused of, or by whom. (Most dictatorships.)
- u) Being prosecuted and imprisoned for saying or writing things that offend government officials or other citizens. (Cuba, China, many Moslem countries, some European Union countries, most dictatorships.)
- v) Being silenced and/or prosecuted and imprisoned for unpopular speech and opinions. (Cuba, China, many Moslem countries, some European Union countries, most dictatorships.)
- w) Being forbidden to hurt other people's feelings by speaking or writing one's opinion. (Some American college campuses, some European Union countries, most dictatorships.)
- x) Being forbidden to peaceably assemble. (Most dictatorships.)
- y) Having their homes searched without a warrant. (Most dictatorships and countries in which the burden of proof of innocence is on the individual.)
- z) Being considered to be guilty until proven innocent instead of innocent until proven guilty. (Many countries.)
- aa) All of the above.

31. Bill of Rights Day is being celebrated in Payson:

- a. On December 11th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- b. At the Tonto Apache Gym.
- c. By as many citizens as possible from Payson and other places.
- d. By citizens of all ages who are grateful to have and be protected by the Bill of Rights.
- e. All of the above.

Some quotes from those who were there when the Constitution and its Bill of Rights were written and ratified, and who had a direct hand in the founding of our country, and the creation and preservation of its foundational documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution & the Bill of Rights.

"You have rights antecedent to all earthly governments; rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws; rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe." – Founder John Adams, Second President of the United States.

"Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." – Founder and First President of the United States, General George Washington

"Under the law of nature, all men are born free, every one comes into the world with a right to his own person, which includes the liberty of moving and using it at his own will. This is what is called personal liberty, and is given him by the Author of nature, because necessary for his own sustenance." – Founder, co-author of the Declaration of Independence and Third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Richard Price, Jan. 8, 1789

"Here we see a regular process – a government issuing out of a constitution formed by the people in their original character, and that constitution serving, not only as an authority, but as a law of control to the

government. It was the political bible of the state. Scarcely a family was without it. Every member of the government had a copy; and nothing was more common when any debate arose on the principle of a bill, or on the extent of any species of authority, than for the members to take the printed constitution out of their pockets, and read the chapter with which such matter in debate was connected.” – Thomas Paine in Rights of Man (1792)

“If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.” – George Washington

“The said Constitution [shall] be never construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press, or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms.” – Founder Samuel Adams of Massachusetts at the Massachusetts' U.S. Constitution ratification convention (1788)

“The only foundation of a free Constitution is pure virtue, and if this cannot be inspired into our People, in a greater Measure than they have it now, they may change their rulers, and the forms of Government, but they will not obtain a lasting Liberty. They will only exchange Tyrants and tyrannies.” – Founder & Second President John Adams

“The strongest reason for people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.” – Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to William S. Smith, Nov. 13, 1787

“God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.” – Founder Daniel Webster

“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” – John Adams, in his 10/11/1798 address to the military as Second President and Commander-in-Chief

“I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.” – Thomas Jefferson, from his autobiography

“Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined.” - Patrick Henry, from J. Elliot's, "Debates in the Several State Conventions", 45, 2d ed. Philadelphia (1836)

“The Constitution shall never be construed... to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.” – Samuel Adams

“Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6000 years, may not happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, for if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world.” – Founder Daniel Webster

“Whether this new government will provide a blessing or a curse ,will depend upon the use our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed upon us. If they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they of a contrary character, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone can exalt them as a nation. Whoever, thou art, remember this, and in thy sphere practice virtue.” – Founder Patrick Henry

“ “[A] good moral character is the first essential in a man, and that the habits contracted at your age are generally indelible, and your conduct here may stamp your character through life. It is therefore highly important that you should endeavor not only to be learned but virtuous.” – George Washington

"Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." – Founder Benjamin Franklin

"Our Constitutional government might perish in an hour, by the folly, corruption, or negligence of its only keepers, the People; if they do not trouble themselves to learn the history, purpose, and meaning of the Constitution." -- Joseph Story, Professor of Law, Harvard University and Justice of the United States Supreme Court (1811-1845)

"The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people; it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government, lest it come to dominate our lives and interests." – Patrick Henry

"Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?" – Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Amos Cook (1814)

"Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us." – Thomas Paine

"A country cannot subsist well without liberty, nor liberty without virtue." – Daniel Webster

"There is but one straight course, and that is to seek truth and pursue it steadily." - George Washington

"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains or slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death." – Patrick Henry

"How soon we forget history... Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master." – George Washington

"In questions of power, then, let no more be said of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution." – Thomas Jefferson, from "Notes on the State of Virginia" (1784)

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it." – Thomas Paine