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Answer Key: Your Constitutional Blueprint: 6th Grade Rights and Governance Quiz

Examine 10 complex scenarios where constitutional amendments clash with state power, moving beyond simple definitions to deep judicial analysis.

1. A state passes a law requiring all students to attend a specific state-run youth group on weekends. This law most likely violates which core concept of the Ninth Amendment?

Answer: B) The existence of unenumerated rights held by the people

The Ninth Amendment clarifies that just because a specific right isn't listed in the Constitution (like parental rights or privacy), it doesn't mean the government can infringe upon it.

2. Article VI includes the 'Supremacy Clause.' If a state law and a federal law conflict regarding trade between states, which outcome does the Constitution mandate?

Answer: C) The federal law takes precedence

Under Article VI, the Constitution and federal laws made under its authority are the 'supreme Law of the Land,' meaning they override conflicting state laws.

3. Which principle allows the government to take private land for public use, provided they give the owner 'just compensation' under the Fifth Amendment?

Answer: B) Eminent Domain

Eminent Domain is the power of the government to take private property for public use (like a highway), but the Fifth Amendment requires they pay a fair price for it.

4. The Tenth Amendment serves as a 'reservoir' of power, meaning any authority not specifically granted to the federal government belongs to the states or the people.

Answer: A) True

This is the essence of federalism; if the Constitution doesn't give a specific power to the national government, it remains with the states.

5. During a civil trial involving a dispute over \$5,000, which amendment guarantees the right to a jury trial rather than just a judge's decision?

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Answer: C) Seventh Amendment

While the Sixth Amendment deals with criminal trials, the Seventh Amendment protects the right to a jury in civil (lawsuit) cases.

6. The process of 'Impeachment' is a check the legislative branch holds over the executive branch. Which body has the power to hold the actual trial for removal from office?

Answer: C) The Senate

Under Article I, the House impeaches (accuses), but the Senate acts as the jury and conducts the trial to decide on removal.

7. The Constitution prohibits the government from requiring a specific 'religious test' or oath for anyone seeking to hold public office.

Answer: A) True

Article VI, Clause 3 specifies that no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification for any office or public trust in the United States.

8. Which scenario best illustrates a violation of 'Double Jeopardy' protected under the Fifth Amendment?

Answer: A) A person is tried for a crime, found innocent, and then tried again for the exact same crime with new evidence.

Double Jeopardy means the government cannot try someone twice for the same offense once a verdict (like innocent) has been reached.

9. What is the name of the 'clause' in Article I, Section 8 that allows Congress to make laws necessary for carrying out its listed powers, often called the 'Elastic Clause'?

Answer: B) The Necessary and Proper Clause

The Necessary and Proper Clause allows the federal government's power to stretch (like elastic) to cover issues not specifically named in 1787.

10. The Third Amendment, which prevents the forced quartering of soldiers in private homes, has been a major factor in dozens of Supreme Court cases over the last ten years.

Answer: B) False

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The Third Amendment is actually one of the least litigated parts of the Bill of Rights because the practice of forced quartering ended after the colonial era.