

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Old Parchment, New Problems: A 5th Grade Bill of Rights Challenge

Evaluate how the First Amendment and legal protections for the accused function in our modern town halls and courtrooms.

1. The 10th Amendment acts like a 'safety net' for power. If the Constitution doesn't specifically say the National Government can do something, who gets that power?

Answer: C) The states or the people

The 10th Amendment establishes federalism by reserving all powers not granted to the federal government to the states or the citizens.

2. If a person is on trial and refuses to answer a question that might make them look guilty, they are using their right against self-incrimination found in the ___ Amendment.

Answer: B) Fifth

The Fifth Amendment protects individuals from being forced to testify against themselves, often called 'pleading the fifth.'

3. True or False: The Ninth Amendment suggests that citizens have additional rights even if they aren't specifically listed in the Constitution.

Answer: A) True

The Ninth Amendment was written to ensure that the list of rights in the Bill of Rights wasn't seen as the 'only' rights people had.

4. A group of citizens is unhappy with a new local law. They gather peacefully in a park to sign a letter asking the government to change it. Which two First Amendment freedoms are they using?

Answer: B) Assembly and Petition

Gathering is the 'Right to Assembly,' and sending a formal request for change is the 'Right to Petition.'

5. True or False: Under the Sixth Amendment, if a person is accused of a crime but cannot afford a lawyer, the government must provide one for them.

Answer: A) True

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The Sixth Amendment guarantees the right to legal counsel to ensure a fair trial for all defendants.

6. The ___ Amendment prevents the government from forcing citizens to house soldiers in their private homes during times of peace.

Answer: B) Third

The Third Amendment was a response to British laws that forced colonists to provide 'quarters' (housing) for British troops.

7. Imagine a judge decides a person should be kept in jail for 50 years for a small littering fine. This would likely be a violation of which amendment?

Answer: C) Eighth Amendment

The Eighth Amendment forbids 'cruel and unusual punishments' and excessive fines or bail.

8. While the Sixth Amendment deals with criminal cases (like theft), the ___ Amendment protects the right to a jury trial in civil cases (like property disputes).

Answer: B) Seventh

The Seventh Amendment ensures that citizens can have their disagreements settled by a jury in civil court cases.

9. In the preamble, the phrase 'Ensure domestic tranquility' most likely means that the government's job is to:

Answer: B) Keep peace and order within the United States

Tranquility means peace, and domestic means at home; this phrase refers to keeping the country peaceful internally.

10. True or False: If a police officer searches a backpack without a warrant or a very good legal reason, they are violating the Fourth Amendment.

Answer: A) True

The Fourth Amendment protects the 'right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects' against unreasonable searches.