

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 10: First Amendment: Speech, Press, Religion, Assembly, and Petition
10.7 Test Your Knowledge

FIRST AMENDMENT: SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION, ASSEMBLY, AND PETITION

Complete the questions in the following quiz to test your knowledge of basic ideas and concepts covered in this module.

1. Generally speaking, speech in America can only be limited by the government _____.
 - a. When the government feels criticized
 - b. When it is intended to and likely to cause lawless action, including violence
 - c. When a joke becomes offensive
 - d. None of the above
2. The First Amendment's text states who shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press?
 - a. Congress
 - b. The president
 - c. The Supreme Court
 - d. State governments
3. Which of these rights is *not* addressed in the First Amendment?
 - a. Freedom of religion
 - b. Right to petition
 - c. Right to assemble
 - d. Right to a jury trial
4. The Supreme Court has said that this type of speech is covered by the First Amendment.
 - a. Talking
 - b. Printed speech
 - c. Speech on the internet
 - d. All of the above
5. According to the Constitution, the First Amendment protects a speaker from abuses by _____.
 - a. The government
 - b. Private employers
 - c. Private schools
 - d. All of the above

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6. The Supreme Court, which heads this branch of government, has frequently declared that the government cannot regulate speech based on its content.
 - a. Legislative branch
 - b. Executive branch
 - c. Judicial branch
 - d. Electoral branch

7. During the early years of our nation, if someone were to criticize a state or local official, the state's governor for example, the First Amendment would not protect that citizen from punishment for that speech. The First Amendment was seen to only apply to _____.
 - a. Anti-Federalists
 - b. The federal government
 - c. Loyalists
 - d. State governments

8. What is true about the freedom of conscience?
 - a. It can be regulated by the local government only.
 - b. It's an unalienable right because people have a right and a duty to think for themselves.
 - c. It's an alienable right that we give to the national government.
 - d. It has nothing to do with the First Amendment.

9. The two clauses central to the protection of the freedom of religion in the First Amendment are the _____ Clause and the _____ Clause.
 - a. Establishment, Restricted Exercise
 - b. Prayer, Recommended Reading
 - c. Establishment, Free Exercise
 - d. State sponsoring, Church building

10. Supreme Court justices do not always agree about constitutional issues, including the freedom of speech. In such cases, justices who do not agree with the majority opinion and would rule differently can write their own opinions, which are called _____.
 - a. Concurring opinions
 - b. Dissenting opinions
 - c. Unanimous opinions
 - d. Inflated opinions

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11. During the presidency of John Adams, the passage of this legislation made it a crime to criticize the president (but not the vice president).
 - a. The Alien and Sedition Acts
 - b. The Bill of Rights
 - c. The Articles of Confederation
 - d. The Neutrality Proclamation

12. In which document did Thomas Jefferson write that “the opinions and belief of men depend not on their own will, but follow involuntarily the evidence proposed in their minds”?
 - a. The Virginia Constitution
 - b. The Declaration of Independence
 - c. The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom Bill
 - d. The Kentucky Resolution

13. Fill in the blanks of this famous opinion of the First Amendment by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. “The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in _____ shouting fire in a theatre and causing a _____.”
 - a. Loudly, Disruption
 - b. Truthfully, Orderly Evacuation
 - c. Falsely, Panic
 - d. Not, Fire drill.

14. Justice Louis Brandeis articulated his beliefs about the freedom of speech in this Supreme Court case from 1927.
 - a. *Schenck v. United States*
 - b. *Whitney v. California*
 - c. *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*
 - d. *Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L.*

15. Finish this famous quote about the freedom of speech from Louis Brandeis in 1927: “If there be time to expose through discussion the falsehood and fallacies, to avert the evil by the process of education, the remedy to be applied is_____.”
 - a. A suspension of our First Amendment rights
 - b. More speech, not enforced silence
 - c. Enforced silence
 - d. Another Sedition Act

16. Fill in the missing word from Justice Robert Jackson’s statement in *West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette* (1943) “If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in

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politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or _____ citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.”

- a. Help
 - b. Beg
 - c. Ask
 - d. Force
17. Today, the Supreme Court protects free speech rights _____.
- a. Less than it ever has before
 - b. More strongly than at any time in our history
 - c. About the same as it did during the American Revolution
 - d. When Congress is in recess
18. Which of these is true about freedom of speech?
- a. It makes representatives accountable to “We the People.”
 - b. It’s necessary for the discovery of truth and the rejection of falsehood.
 - c. It allows the public discussion that is necessary for self-government.
 - d. All of the above
19. The First Amendment does *not* protect certain types of “low value speech,” which includes _____
- a. Defamation
 - b. True threats
 - c. Fighting words
 - d. All of the above
20. In the *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969) case, a group of high school students were disciplined by the school for wearing black armbands in symbolic protest of which war?
- a. The Vietnam War
 - b. World War II
 - c. The Korean War
 - d. The Iraq War

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Answer Key

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. D
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. D
11. A
12. C
13. C
14. B
15. B
16. D
17. B
18. D
19. D
20. A