

## CONSTITUTION 101

### Module 1: Constitutional Conversations and Civil Dialogue

#### 9.7 Test Your Knowledge

## THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND CURRENT CASES

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

- \_\_\_\_\_
1. The power of the Supreme Court to review the constitutionality of acts of the national and state governments is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Executive orders
    - b. Judicial orders
    - c. Judicial review
    - d. Line item vetoes
  2. How many justices currently serve on the Supreme Court?
    - a. 6
    - b. 8
    - c. 9
    - d. 10
  3. Which of the following is a formal constitutional requirement to be nominated as a justice of the Supreme Court?
    - a. Must be at least 40 years old
    - b. Must have participated in at least 100 cases
    - c. Must be born in the United States
    - d. None of the above
  4. To become a justice of the Supreme Court, a person must be nominated by \_\_\_\_\_ and confirmed by \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. The president, the Senate
    - b. Their home state, the president
    - c. The president, the other justices
    - d. Congress, direct popular vote
  5. What does Article III say about what courts should exist in the United States?
    - a. There must be a District Court, an Appellate Court, and a Supreme Court.
    - b. There must be a Supreme Court but Congress can establish lower courts, as well.
    - c. There can only be a Supreme Court; all other courts are illegal.
    - d. The Supreme Court must consult with the president on important cases.

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6. Article III of the Constitution says that judges of the Supreme Court will hold their offices for what period of time?
  - a. For life, pending good behavior
  - b. For two terms of four years each
  - c. Until they turn 70 years of age
  - d. As long as they keep winning reelection
  
7. *Federalist* No. 78, which focused on the judiciary department, was authored by which famous founder in 1788?
  - a. John Marshall
  - b. John Jay
  - c. James Madison
  - d. Alexander Hamilton
  
8. Why did Alexander Hamilton consider the judiciary to be “the least dangerous” branch in the government?
  - a. The judiciary holds no influence over the ability to declare war (the sword).
  - b. The judiciary holds no influence over the wealth of society (the purse).
  - c. The judges were weak by nature and easily corruptible.
  - d. Both A and B
  
9. According to *Federalist* No. 78, why could no legislative act that was contrary to the Constitution ever be valid?
  - a. The Constitution allowed only the president to make the laws.
  - b. The representatives of the people would then be superior to the people themselves.
  - c. The judges could never keep track of which laws were unconstitutional.
  - d. It would show that the Constitution was the supreme law of the land.
  
10. Which of the following statements is true of the Constitution, according to *Federalist* No. 78?
  - a. The judicial power is superior to the legislative power.
  - b. The legislative power is superior to the judicial power.
  - c. The power of the people is superior to the legislative and judicial powers.
  - d. Both the legislative and judicial powers are superior to the people.
  
11. The contested election of 1800 resulted in a tie between which two candidates?
  - a. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
  - b. Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr
  - c. John Adams and James Madison
  - d. James Madison and William Marbury

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12. Who served as chief justice of the United States during the landmark decision of *Marbury v. Madison*, that dealt with the notion of judicial review?
  - a. John Marshall
  - b. John Jay
  - c. James Madison
  - d. William Marbury
  
13. What was the Supreme Court's ruling in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*?
  - a. The Court said that Marbury was entitled to his commission.
  - b. The Court admitted that it had no authority to order Madison to deliver the commission.
  - c. The Court declared that the Judiciary Act was unconstitutional and strengthened the judicial review power of the Court.
  - d. All of the above
  
14. Justices who disagree with the Court's majority ruling can still submit their own opinions on the case. These are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Unanimous opinions
  - b. Dissenting opinions
  - c. Concurring opinions
  - d. Inflated opinions
  
15. Which of these cases would likely be heard by the justices of the Supreme Court?
  - a. A person who is on trial for a speeding ticket
  - b. A person who is accused of robbing a bank
  - c. A debate about the meaning of the Third Amendment
  - d. A debate about using fireworks during a Fourth of July celebration
  
16. How many justices must agree to hear a case before it can be argued before the Supreme Court?
  - a. All of the justices must agree to it
  - b. At least four justices
  - c. At least seven justices
  - d. The justices do not get to decide what cases the court hears
  
17. What do the justices wear while the Supreme Court is in session?
  - a. Elaborate red robes with powdered wigs
  - b. Suits and ties
  - c. Black robes
  - d. Very casual attire

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18. Who is the current chief justice of the United States?
- John Roberts
  - John Marshall
  - Judge Judy
  - Sandra Day O'Connor
19. During the Civil War, the Supreme Court consisted of 10 justices. What would be a major problem with having an even number of justices on the court?
- The Constitution says there must be nine.
  - There aren't that many chairs in the courtroom.
  - The court could be deadlocked on close decisions.
  - All of the above
20. The first African American to serve on the Supreme Court was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Frederick Douglass
  - Thurgood Marshall
  - Clarence Thomas
  - Ketanji Brown-Jackson

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##### Answer Key

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