



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT Questions

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1. The Bill of Rights is:

- a. The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
- b. The statement police must read to you when you are arrested.
- c. The opening paragraph of the Declaration of Independence.
- d. The Preamble of the U.S. Constitution.

2. How does the First Amendment begin?

- a. "Four score and seven years ago...."
- b. "When, in the course of human events...."
- c. "Freedom of speech and of the press shall not be abridged...."
- d. "Congress shall make no law...."

3. The First Amendment protects students while at school.

- a. True
- b. False

4. Which of the following is *not* a right explicitly protected by the First Amendment?

- a. Press
- b. Privacy
- c. Assembly
- d. Religion

5. The Constitution prohibits public school teachers from teaching about religion in school.

- a. True
- b. False

6. Which of the following categories of speech is *never* protected by the First Amendment?

- a. Indecent speech on the Internet
- b. Four-letter words
- c. Obscenity
- d. Nudity

7. The First Amendment protects a person's right to burn (including burning) the American flag as a form of political protest?

- a. True
- b. False

8. Bart is ticked off. To make time for more standardized testing, the public school he attends has decided to reduce recess to three minutes a day. To protest the school's decision, he publishes a one-page flyer that says "Recess Rules! Standardized Testing Drools." As he has seen many other community activists do before, he takes his flyers to the town square, where he peacefully offers copies to passerby. Which of the following acts probably violates his First Amendment rights?

- a. A police officer politely orders Bart to stop distribution and go home
- b. A local merchant, an ardent support of standardized testing, angrily rips the flyers out of Bart's hands and shreds them
- c. Bart's mother, embarrassed by the all the hullabaloo, confiscates the flyers and grounds him for two weeks
- d. All of the above

9. At what age does the First Amendment officially begin to protect a person's free speech rights?

- a. 18
- b. 21
- c. 16
- d. None of the above

10. Which of the following are true statements?

- a. The First Amendment prohibits government officials from establishing an official religion
- b. The First Amendment restricts government officials from interfering with an individual's exercise of his or her religious beliefs
- c. Both statements are true
- d. Neither statement is true

11. Which of the following categories of speech is *never* protected by the First Amendment?

- a. Expression intended and likely to incite imminent lawless action
- b. "True Threats"
- c. Clear and immediate threats to national security
- d. All of the above

12. Can a reporter be sent to jail for refusing a judge's order to reveal the identity of his or her news source?

- a. Yes
- b. No

13. A local 14-year-old girl was recently found guilty of masterminding a dog-knapping ring, which had shaken the community for months. Though the legal proceedings were closed to the public because she was charged as a minor, a trusted source has confirmed that the judge today sentenced the girl to four years in a juvenile detention center. You are the editor of the community newspaper who must decide how to cover the story. Which of the following options would the First Amendment protect?

- a. Because the girl is a minor and the proceedings were closed to the public, you choose not to publish the story.
- b. You publish the story with accurate details of the crime and the girl's sentence but, because she is a minor, you withhold her name.
- c. You run the story with accurate details of the crime, her sentence, her name and a photo of her entering court with her parents.
- d. All of the above options are legal.

14. Which of the following categories of speech is *never* protected by the First Amendment?

- a. Use of racial epithets
- b. Ridiculing a person's ethnicity
- c. Speech that demeans a person's gender
- d. Speech that violates a person's legal right to privacy

15. The government can ban song lyrics that most people would find offensive.

- a. True
- b. False

- 16. Which of the following categories of speech is *never* protected by the First Amendment:**
- a. Copyright infringement
 - b. Ridiculing a person's sexual orientation
 - c. Indecent speech
 - d. Lying
- 17. The First Amendment limits the authority of school officials to stripsearch students.**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 18. While the First Amendment restricts their authority to actually censor the press, government officials *are* must be permitted to simply read or view highly controversial news stories before a commercial newspaper or TV station publishes or airs them for the general public.**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 19. The First Amendment prohibits private schools that accept government funding from censoring or punishing students who participate in lawful and peaceful on-campus speech activities.**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 20. Which student is most likely to prevail on his or her First Amendment claim?**
- a. Rebecca wants to challenge the school's dress code that prohibits students from wearing micro-mini-skirts in school.
 - b. Rob wants to challenge a school policy that prohibits students from wearing flip-flops to class.
 - c. Rachel wants to challenge a school policy that prohibits her from wearing an anti-war T-shirt to school.
 - d. Reggie wants to challenge a school policy that prohibits students from dying their hair bright, non-natural colors.
- 21. The church/state clause of the First Amendment prohibits students from praying in class before a test.**
- a. True

b. False

22. Students cannot be forced to pledge allegiance to the flag.

- a. True
- b. False

23. Betty is upset with her public school's proposed new dress code policy. She writes a column in which she explains why she opposes the policy. In the column, she criticizes the principal for using inaccurate statistics to support his position and urges her classmates to contact the school board to urge them to vote against the policy. Which of the following would be protected by the First Amendment?

- a. Using her home computer, Betty posts the column on her personal Web site.
- b. Betty publishes the column on a flyer that she created at her mom's office. She offers the flyer to classmates as they enter school in the morning.
- c. Betty includes the column as part of a press release that she sends to local media. Following an interview with a local TV station, her comments criticizing the school policy and the principal are seen throughout the community.
- d. The First Amendment protects all of the above.

24. A public school can lawfully enact a campus speech code that prohibits "harassing, demeaning, highly offensive or insulting speech based on one's actual or perceived race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other personal characteristic."

- a. True
- b. False

25. A press pass gives reporters a First Amendment right to trespass on private property when covering the news.

- a. True
- b. False

26. Which of the following categories of speech is *never* protected by the First Amendment?

- a. Hate speech
- b. Defamation

- c. Profanity
 - d. Harsh criticism of a person's religious beliefs
- 27. Where a public school fully funds its student newspaper, public high school principals have unlimited authority to dictate its content.**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 28. The First Amendment does not protect which of the following religious beliefs?**
- a. Islam
 - b. Satanism
 - c. Christianity
 - d. The First Amendment protects all of the above
- 29. A group advocating same-sex marriage has applied for a permit to march down Anytown's Main Street. The town's mayor — knowing the issue is highly controversial — has called for a special election in which the town's voters will decide whether the permit is granted. Which of the following statements is true?**
- a. The mayor's plan is illegal.
 - b. The mayor's plan is legal.
 - c. Whether the mayor's plan is legal or illegal depends on the outcome of the vote.
 - d. It depends in which state Anytown is located since the law can vary significantly.
- 30. Which of the following categories of speech is *never* protected by the First Amendment?**
- a. Deceptive or misleading advertising
 - b. Speech advocating that marijuana be legalized
 - c. Speech that mocks a person's political views
 - d. Erotic literature

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