Assessment: The Bill of Rights

Mastering the Content

Circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. In 1788, why did several states refuse to approve the U.S. Constitution?
   A. It did not list the rights of the people.
   B. It did not include the branches of government.
   C. It did not indicate who would be the chief executive.
   D. It did not allow for changes to be made in the future.

2. Which of these best describes James Madison’s role in the creation of the Bill of Rights?
   A. judge
   B. author
   C. reporter
   D. opponent

3. Which of these is one purpose of the Bill of Rights?
   A. to determine the election process
   B. to limit the power of government
   C. to rewrite the Constitution
   D. to outline the responsibilities of Congress

4. Which of these describes Thomas Jefferson’s belief about government and religion?
   A. He believed religion should guide government policy.
   B. He believed in the separation of religion and government.
   C. He believed taxes should pay for the construction of churches.
   D. He believed that only members of a religion should serve as president.

5. What is included in the First Amendment to the Constitution?
   A. the basic freedoms of all people
   B. the three branches of government
   C. the structure of the federal system
   D. the responsibilities of the president

6. Which of these groups is responsible for protecting the rights listed in the Bill of Rights?
   A. president
   B. governors
   C. federal courts
   D. representatives

7. Which of these is not included in the First Amendment?
   A. freedom to vote
   B. freedom of speech
   C. freedom of religion
   D. freedom to assemble
8. Examine the table.
   To which of these experiences did these three amendments respond?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Right to bear arms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Amendment</td>
<td>Right to bear arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Amendment</td>
<td>Right to refuse the quartering of troops in homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Amendment</td>
<td>Protection against searches and seizures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. slavery in America  
B. American Indian relocation  
C. British rule in colonial America  
D. immigrant treatment in America

9. How does freedom of the press help maintain a democratic society?
   A. It provides jobs for journalists.  
   B. It allows citizens to be informed.  
   C. It prevents politicians from giving opinions.  
   D. It requires newspapers to charge a low price.

10. Which of these would not be protected by the First Amendment?
   A. criticizing officials in an editorial  
   B. debating controversial issues in class  
   C. promoting ideas that are unpopular  
   D. damaging property in a protest march
11. Examine the table.

Why are these two amendments included in the Bill of Rights?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ninth Amendment</th>
<th>Rights retained by the people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tenth Amendment</td>
<td>Powers reserved to the states</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. to prevent the addition of rights  
B. to give states the power to limit rights  
C. to allow for changes to the Constitution  
D. to keep a balance of power and rights

12. Which of these is a responsibility of the right to freedom of the press?

A. to tell the truth  
B. to print every day  
C. to write creatively  
D. to interview celebrities

13. Which of these guarantees that a group has the right to gather to protest a tax they think is unfair?

A. the right to privacy  
B. the right to assemble  
C. the right to bear arms  
D. the right to worship freely

14. The Second Amendment is often at the center of debate in this country. Which of these rights does it protect?

A. the right to own guns  
B. the right to pay taxes  
C. the right to public education  
D. the right to vote in elections

15. What is meant by the “due process of law” included in the Fifth Amendment?

A. The government must follow rules as it carries out the law.  
B. If you are accused of a crime, the law does not guarantee your rights.  
C. If you are accused of a crime, the law requires you to pay a fine.  
D. The government cannot deny freedom to convicted criminals.

16. What does the Ninth Amendment say about rights not listed in the Constitution?

A. There are rights beyond those listed.  
B. Rights not listed do not exist according to the law.  
C. Rights not listed must be added to be considered rights.  
D. The rights listed are the only ones approved by the states.
Applying Social Studies Skills

Use the table and your knowledge of social studies to answer these questions.

Legal Rights and Protections in the Bill of Rights

| Before being charged with a crime, you are protected from |
| a search of your property without a search warrant. |
| arrest by the police without a warrant or good reason. |
| After an arrest, you have the right to |
| remain silent when questioned. |
| talk to a lawyer. |
| have a grand jury hearing to weigh the evidence against you. |
| Once indicted, you have the right to |
| know the charges against you. |
| reasonable bail. |
| a speedy trial. |
| a jury trial. |
| At your trial, you have the right to |
| question witnesses against you. |
| call witnesses in your defense. |
| refuse to answer questions that could harm you. |
| be defended by a lawyer. |
| If found innocent, you are protected from |
| double jeopardy. |
| If found guilty, you are protected from |
| excessive fines. |
| cruel or unusual punishments. |

17. Which group is most affected by the rights and protections listed in the table?
   A. immigrants
   B. government workers
   C. people accused of a crime
   D. people who are unemployed

18. Read the statement below.
   Once a person is found guilty of a crime, he or she no longer has any rights.
   Based on the information in the table, is this a factual statement? Write a sentence to support your answer.

19. Which words in the table show that a person’s right to privacy is protected?
Exploring the Essential Question: What freedoms does the Bill of Rights protect and why are they important?

Follow the directions to complete the item below.

20. When the first Congress met in 1789, some representatives did not think adding a Bill of Rights to the Constitution was necessary. Suppose you are one of the representatives who support amending the Constitution to add a list of the people’s rights. In a short, three-paragraph essay, persuade your fellow representatives to approve the addition of the Bill of Rights. In your essay, include
• your reasons for wanting the Bill of Rights to be included.
• a brief scenario that (1) points out the importance of one of the amendments and (2) explains how it will affect people’s lives.

Make sure to convey your ideas clearly, using standard English.