Bill of Rights Review

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which amendment names freedom of the press in its text?
   - A. First
   - B. Third
   - C. Sixth
   - D. Tenth

   Correct answer: A. First

   The First Amendment protects freedom of speech and the press, along with religious liberty, peaceful assembly, and petition.

2. Which amendment restricts housing soldiers in private homes?
   - A. Fifth
   - B. Second
   - C. Third
   - D. Ninth

   Correct answer: C. Third

   The Third Amendment requires an owner’s consent for quartering in peacetime. In wartime it requires a manner prescribed by law.

3. In which amendment would you find the protection against being compelled to testify against yourself in a criminal case?
   - A. First
   - B. Fifth
   - C. Seventh
   - D. Eighth

   Correct answer: B. Fifth

   The Fifth Amendment includes the privilege against compelled self-incrimination in a criminal case.

4. What does the Eighth Amendment prohibit alongside excessive bail and excessive fines?
   - A. Compelled self-incrimination
   - B. Unreasonable searches
   - C. Quartering without consent in peacetime
   - D. Cruel and unusual punishments

   Correct answer: D. Cruel and unusual punishments

   The amendment lists three limits, covering bail, fines, and cruel and unusual punishments.

5. Who presented a set of proposed amendments to the House of Representatives in June 1789?

A. Alexander Hamilton
B. James Madison
C. Thomas Jefferson
D. John Adams

Correct answer: B. James Madison
Madison introduced amendments in the House on June 8, 1789. Congress later agreed on the version sent to the states.

6. Which amendment requires warrants to describe the place to be searched and the people or things to be seized?

A. Fourth
B. Sixth
C. Ninth
D. Tenth

Correct answer: A. Fourth
The Fourth Amendment also requires probable cause supported by oath or affirmation. The description limits the scope of the warrant.

7. Which amendment addresses a defendant’s right to confront witnesses against them in a criminal prosecution?

A. Eighth
B. Fourth
C. Seventh
D. Sixth

Correct answer: D. Sixth
The Sixth Amendment specifies confrontation of adverse witnesses among a criminal defendant’s trial protections.

8. Which amendment preserves the jury trial right in certain civil suits at common law?

A. Sixth
B. Fifth
C. Seventh
D. Ninth

Correct answer: C. Seventh
The Seventh Amendment addresses civil suits at common law. The Sixth addresses criminal prosecutions.

9. Which protection in the Fifth Amendment deals with the government’s taking of private property for public use?

A. A requirement for just compensation
B. An exemption from all local taxes
C. A requirement for the owner to approve each taking
D. A right to a housing allowance

Correct answer: A. A requirement for just compensation
The final clause of the Fifth Amendment requires just compensation when private property is taken for public use.

10. Which activity is directly named in the First Amendment alongside peaceful assembly?

A. Inspecting private property without a warrant
B. Demanding an impartial jury in a civil suit
C. Requiring that a bill receive a recorded vote
D. Petitioning the government for redress

Correct answer: D. Petitioning the government for redress
The First Amendment protects the ability to petition government to address a grievance.

11. Which amendment says that listing certain constitutional rights must not be read to deny or disparage other rights retained by the people?

A. Fifth
B. Tenth
C. Ninth
D. Eighth

Correct answer: C. Ninth
The Ninth Amendment addresses rights retained by the people even when the Constitution does not enumerate them.

12. According to the Tenth Amendment, where do powers go if the Constitution delegates them neither to the United States nor prohibits them to the states?

A. To Congress whenever it is in session
B. To the states respectively or to the people
C. To the courts until Congress claims them
D. To the president for executive rulemaking

Correct answer: B. To the states respectively or to the people
The Tenth Amendment reserves those powers to the states respectively or to the people.

13. Which pair of protections appears within the same amendment?

A. Protection against excessive bail and an impartial jury in criminal cases
B. Freedom of the press and protection against double jeopardy
C. The right to petition and the requirement of just compensation
D. Notice of the criminal accusation and assistance of counsel

Correct answer: D. Notice of the criminal accusation and assistance of counsel
The Sixth Amendment covers both information about the criminal accusation and the assistance of counsel for the defense.

14. How many of the amendments Congress sent to the states in 1789 were left unratified when the Bill of Rights took effect in 1791?

A. Two
B. One
C. Three
D. Four

Correct answer: A. Two
Congress submitted 12 proposals. The states had ratified 10 by December 15, 1791, leaving two proposals without sufficient approval at the time.

15. One of the 12 proposals sent to the states in 1789 became the Twenty-Seventh Amendment in 1992. What did it concern?

A. The length of presidential terms
B. Direct election of U.S. senators
C. The timing of congressional pay changes
D. Voting in presidential elections by District of Columbia residents

Correct answer: C. The timing of congressional pay changes
The compensation amendment delays the effect of changes to members’ pay until an election for the House of Representatives has intervened.