

3.2 First Amendment: Freedom of Religion

Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflect a commitment to individual liberty.

1. The first Congress added a Bill of Rights to the original Constitution. The Bill of Rights was added to increase the loyalty of the people. What fundamental worry did the Bill of Rights address?

- a. A national government that was too strong
- b. A central government that was too weak
- c. A national government that could not tax
- d. State governments with not enough power

2. The primary goal of the Bill of Rights when it was ratified was to

- a. Limit the power of the central government
- b. Increase the power of the central government
- c. Divide power between federal and state governments
- d. Itemize the peoples' fundamental liberties

3. The First Amendment also protects our religious freedom. Not only are we free to exercise the religion of our choice but also the government cannot establish any one religion over the other. The Lemon Test prescribes the rules regarding any apparent cooperation between church and state. All of the following make up the Lemon Test EXCEPT

- a. The government's action must have a secular purpose
- b. The government's action must not have the primary effect of advancing or inhibiting religion
- c. The government's action must not result in an excessive entanglement with religion
- d. The government's action cannot involve federal funding

4. Who serves as the ultimate guardian of our civil liberties?

- a. The Congress
- b. The President
- c. The Courts
- d. The People

5. Two clauses of the First Amendment deal with our religious liberty. They are

- a. Free exercise and establishment
- b. Free exercise and separation
- c. Separation and establishment
- d. Prohibition and establishment

6. The Supreme Court in Everson vs. Board of Education (1947) established this language as the law of the land when it came to the relationship between government and religion.

- a. "Wall of separation"
- b. "Protected inside the church gate"
- c. "The public square is protected by free speech"
- d. "In civil liberties we trust"

7. In Engel vs. Vitale (1962) the Supreme Court faced severe criticism for ruling this practice unconstitutional.

- a. Proselytizing on street corners
- b. Tax credits for private schools
- c. Public school prayer
- d. Bibles available in public libraries

8. What constitutional clause did the Supreme Court use to rule in the Engel case?

- a. Necessary and proper clause
- b. Free Speech clause
- c. Establishment clause
- d. Free Exercise clause

9. In this case the Supreme Court ruled that the Amish, a religious group, was exempt from complying with compulsory education attendance laws.

- a. Everson vs. Board of Education (1947)
- b. Wisconsin vs. Yoder (1972)
- c. Employment Division vs. Smith (1990)
- d. Lemon vs. Kurtzman (1971)

10. What constitutional clause did the Supreme Court use to allow religious exemptions to certain state laws?

- a. Necessary and proper clause
- b. Free Speech clause
- c. Establishment clause
- d. Free Exercise clause