

1. Mr. Smith would like to run for a Senate seat in Massachusetts. He is 49 years old and has been a citizen of the United States all of his life. He lives in New York and is registered to vote in that state. He owns a house in Massachusetts and visits there occasionally. His business is in Albany, New York. Can Mr. Smith run for the Massachusetts Senate seat? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

2. The president is trying to balance the budget to begin reducing the national debt. One part of his program is to raise income taxes. Into which house of Congress must the president try to get his tax increase bill introduced to see it become law? Why? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____ -

3. Congress sends the president a bill which calls for an increase of ten percent in Social Security payments to the elderly. The president and his advisers believe that this is a bad idea because it will cause inflation and increase the budget deficit. However, the president is reluctant to veto the bill because a large segment of the population is more than 60 years old and Social Security is important to them. A. Can the president simply ignore the bill, neither vetoing nor signing it, and allow it to pass without taking any direct action? Why or why not?
Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

B. Reconsider question 3 in light of the fact that Congress has voted to adjourn for the year in five days. What difference will this make to the president's decision on how to respond to the social Security bill?
Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

C. The president eventually vetoes the Social Security increase bill. Many members of Congress believe that the bill is vital to their elderly constituents. What can Congress do to make sure the bill is passed in spite of the president's veto?
Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

4. The following are possible topics of bills that might be presented to Congress. Determine whether Congress has the power to deal with each topic and explain why or why not.

A. Congress raised the national debt ceiling by \$1 billion.
Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

B. Congress wishes to give one of the nation's oldest and most respected ambassadors the title of "duke" in recognition of her service to the country. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

C. Congress closes an air force base and any army post.
Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

D. Congress buys 15 new trucks for the U.S. Postal Service.
Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

E. Congress wishes to regulate the rates charged by bus lines, railroads, and airlines.
Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

5. The governor of a coastal state claims that her state is being threatened by chips from a neighboring country. To counteract the threat, her state makes a treaty with another foreign nation for mutual defense. Is the governor within her constitutional rights to take this action? Why or why not?
Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

6. Colorado has six representatives and two senators. How many electors does it have? Why?
Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

7. A presidential candidate loses the popular vote in the election but wins a majority of votes in the electoral college. Does she become president? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

8. Mr. Ziegler wishes to run for president in the 2016 election. He was born in Seattle, Washington in 1990. Mr. Ziegler has worked for an oil company for the last fifteen years and is now stationed with that company in Houston, Texas, where he has established residency. He is a member of the Republican Party. Can Mr. Ziegler be president? Why or why not?

Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

9. One morning, Barack Obama orders 1000 American troops to Afghanistan to serve as military advisors. The president does not ask Congress for a declaration of war and instructs the troops not to engage in combat. Is the president acting within his constitutional powers? Why or why not?

Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

10. After World War I, President Wilson went to Europe to help write the peace treaty that ended the war. Was President Wilson acting within his constitutional powers when he helped negotiate the treaty? Why or why not?

Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

B. Was the treaty binding on the United States as soon as Wilson signed it? Why or why not?

Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

11. Supreme Court Justice Emerson is alleged to have accepted a bribe in a case concerning a large corporation. If the allegation is true, can Justice Emerson be removed from office? Why or why not?

Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

12. The United States has a treaty with Canada concerning fishing rights off the coast of the two countries. U.S. officials find boats belonging to a U.S. fishing company in violation of this treaty. Does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction in this case? Explain Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

13. A large number of people in the United States want a constitutional amendment passed that would force the federal government to balance the nation's budget each year. However, the people cannot get a single member of Congress to introduce the amendment. Is there any legal way people can bypass the Congress and still get the amendment passed? Explain. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

14. The president nominates Ms. Kite to an office in his cabinet. Ms. Kite belongs to a small, but unpopular religious sect. Her religious beliefs become an issue during her confirmation hearing in the Senate. Although Ms. Kite's experience and education qualify her for the post, she is denied confirmation by the Senate. Does Ms. Kite have constitutional grounds to protest the Senate's action? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

15. The owner of a large newspaper prints some of her political opinions which are critical of the policies of the president. She then appears on television and repeats her views. Could she be arrested for printing or speaking ideas that are opposed to the government? Amendment _____

16. An executive steals \$100,000 from her company. An accountant finds evidence of the crime, but not enough to convict the executive at her trial and she is found not guilty. Three months later, the accountant finds documents that would prove conclusively the executive stole the money. Can anything be done about the executive at this point? Amendment _____

17. A man is held in prison for a year before he is brought to trial. His bail is set at \$1 million, much more than he can pay. At his trial he is not told the crime with which he is charged. He asks to have a lawyer, but is told they are all busy at this time. In what four ways was this man's constitutional rights denied? Amendment _____ & _____

18. During a police drama series on television, two policemen walk into a man's apartment and seize some rifles. The man shows the police the licenses for the guns and the sales receipts to prove that he owns them legally. Despite his protest, the police confiscate the weapons. For what two reasons is it unlikely that his scene would take place in real life? Amendment _____ & _____

19. Below is a list of ideas found in the Bill of Rights: Write the number of the amendment in which each idea is found:

- a. _____ freedom of speech
- b. _____ the states keep all powers not given to the federal government
- c. _____ right to a speedy and public trial
- d. _____ cruel and unusual punishments are illegal
- e. _____ freedom of religion
- f. _____ indictment by grand jury before trial
- g. _____ right to assemble peacefully
- h. _____ freedom from search and seizure except by a warrant
- i. _____ right to a trial by jury in criminal cases
- j. _____ right to bear arms
- k. _____ freedom of the press
- l. _____ trying someone for the same crime twice is illegal
- m. _____ accused persons have the right to be informed of the charges against them
- n. _____ no quartering of troops in civilian homes
- o. _____ right to petition the government
- p. _____ a person cannot be forced to testify against himself or herself
- q. _____ a person has the right to be confronted with the witnesses against him or her in a trial
- r. _____ a person can make witnesses appear in his or her favor
- s. _____ a person cannot be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law
- t. _____ rights enjoyed by U.S. citizens cannot be taken away on the grounds that they do not appear in the Constitution
- u. _____ the government cannot take private property for public use unless it pays the owner for the property
- v. _____ right to trial by jury in civil cases
- w. _____ no excessive bail can be imposed

20. Below is a list of ideas found in Amendment 11-27. Write the number of the amendment in which each idea is found.

- a. _____ slavery abolished
- b. _____ federal income tax started
- c. _____ alcoholic beverages prohibited
- d. _____ separate voting for president and vice-president in the electoral college
- e. _____ president can only be elected to two terms
- f. _____ judicial power of the US does not cover suits brought by the citizens of one state against another state
- g. _____ former slaves granted the right to vote
- h. _____ District of Columbia granted presidential electors
- i. _____ eighteen-year-old granted the right to vote
- j. _____ former slaves made citizens of the United States
- k. _____ officers who rebelled against the government no longer allowed to hold office
- l. _____ direct election of senators
- m. _____ women granted the right to vote
- n. _____ congressional sessions begin January 3 of each year
- o. _____ prohibition repealed
- p. _____ poll taxes cannot be used to prevent people from voting in federal elections
- q. _____ all pay raises for members of Congress begin with the next session of Congress
- r. _____ the vice-president becomes acting president when the president is ill.
- s. _____ inauguration of the president is January 20

21. The president is assassinated. Her vice-president takes office and serves as president for three years. He then runs for president, is elected, and serves another four years. Can this president now run for another term? Why or why not?
Amendment _____

22. The Republican candidate for president wins the election but dies of a heart attack three days before inauguration day. Who becomes president? Amendment _____

23. A black woman tries to vote in her home state, but is told she is ineligible. At the polling place she sees only white males voting. She believes her rights have been denied. What two amendments can she use to support her view? Explain.
Amendment _____

The Legislative Branch: Article I Specific

Read through Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

1. The presiding officer of the House is the Speaker of the House. **Section 2, Clause 5**
2. A Representative must be a citizen for seven years, twenty-five years old, and live in the state.
3. All bills must be passed by the House and the Senate, and presented to the President.
4. The Vice President is the presiding officer of the Senate.
5. No state can make a treaty with a foreign country.
6. The governor has the authority to call an election to fill a vacancy in the House of Representatives.
7. Expulsion can be used to remove a member of either house of Congress for an infraction of the rules.
8. A person convicted by the impeachment process can still be tried in a regular court if he or she violated U.S. law.
9. Congress has the power to borrow money on the credit of the United States.
10. Congress has the power to make all laws which are necessary and proper to execute all other powers (Elastic Clause).
11. Congress has the power to establish post offices.
12. Congress has the power to declare war.
13. Congress cannot grant titles of nobility.
14. All revenue bills must originate in the House of Representatives.
15. Congressmen are paid a salary out of the treasury of the United States.
16. A term in the Senate is six years for each senator.
17. Congress has the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization.
18. Two Senators from each state were appointed by state legislatures (not elected by popular vote).
19. Congress is required to assemble at least once per year.
20. Congress is required to keep a record of its meetings, including a record of the votes of its members.

Record at least ONE "discussion point" something you found interesting or question you may have from reading through Article I of the Constitution.