

Bill of Rights Scenarios

Constitutional or Not?

Name: _____

Class / Period: _____

Date: _____

Directions

Read each scenario carefully. For each one:

1. Circle whether the government action is **Constitutional** or **Unconstitutional / Likely Unconstitutional**
2. Explain **why**, using:
 - The correct amendment
 - The appropriate constitutional standard or principle

There may be situations where the answer is **“It depends.”** If so, explain what facts would matter.

Scenario 1: Freedom of Speech (1st Amendment)

A student is suspended for wearing a T-shirt that criticizes the government during a school event. The school claims the shirt was disruptive.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Scenario 2: Freedom of Religion (1st Amendment)

A public school allows students to use classrooms after school for clubs such as chess and tutoring. A student requests to meet after school for a **student-led prayer group**, but the school denies the request, stating that religious activities are not allowed on school property.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Scenario 3: Freedom of the Press (1st Amendment)

A local newspaper publishes an article critical of the mayor. The mayor demands a retraction and threatens to sue the newspaper.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Scenario 4: Right to Assemble (1st Amendment)

A group of environmental activists applies for a permit to hold a peaceful protest in a public park. The city denies the permit, claiming the park will be very busy at that time.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Scenario 5: Second Amendment Rights (2nd Amendment)

A state passes a law banning **all civilian ownership of semi-automatic firearms**. A resident challenges the law as a violation of the Second Amendment.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Scenario 6: Quartering of Soldiers (3rd Amendment)

During a national emergency, the government orders residents to house National Guard troops in their private homes.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Scenario 7: Search and Seizure (4th Amendment)

Police enter a home without a warrant after hearing loud music and claiming they suspect illegal activity. They find drugs and arrest the homeowner.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Scenario 8: Double Jeopardy (5th Amendment)

A person is acquitted of burglary charges. One year later, new evidence is discovered and the state attempts to retry the person for the same crime.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Scenario 9: Self-Incrimination (5th Amendment)

A suspect is arrested and interrogated while in custody but is not informed of the right to remain silent. The suspect makes a confession, which is later used in court.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Scenario 10: Eminent Domain (5th Amendment)

The government takes private property to build a highway and offers compensation below fair market value.

Is this constitutional?

Constitutional Unconstitutional It depends

Explanation:

Reflection Question

Answer **one**:

1. Which scenario was the hardest to decide? Why?
 2. Why do so many Bill of Rights questions depend on specific facts?
 3. Which amendment do you think causes the most disagreement today? Explain.
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