

SS.7.C.3.10 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	The Code of Hammurabi (1772 BC) includes laws focusing on contracts. What type of U.S. law is based on the Code of Hammurabi?	Contracts are agreements between private parties. The correct response should identify the type of law that deals with private agreements and not criminal law.
A	civil	Correct – Civil law deals with issues among private parties that do not involve criminal concerns. A contract is an agreement between two or more private parties. Contracts are part of the civil law system.
B	constitutional	Incorrect – Constitutional law deals with the interpretation and enforcement of the U.S. Constitution.
C	criminal	Incorrect – Criminal law deals with actions that lawmaking bodies determine to be crimes.
D	military	Incorrect – Military law deals with the armed services.



SS.7.C.3.10 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	Which type of law is used to help solve disputes between people or organizations?	<p>Categorize different types of laws.</p> <p>The correct answer will identify a type of law that resolves disagreements between individuals or organizations such as corporations, associations, or private universities.</p>
A	civil	Correct – Civil laws address private disputes, such as disagreements over who should pay for damaged property.
B	constitutional	Incorrect – Constitutional law helps solve disputes about the interpretation and application of the U.S. Constitution.
C	criminal	Incorrect – Criminal laws deal with crimes and punishments for committing crimes.
D	military	Incorrect – Military laws address issues that concern the U.S. military.



SS.7.C.3.10 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

<p>Question</p>	<p>The passage below is from a U.S. Supreme Court opinion announcement.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>In 1989 the court held in <i>Stanford versus Kentucky</i> that the Constitution allows states to impose the death penalty on an offender who is 16 or 17 years old when he committed the crime.</p> <p>In the interpretation of its terms we have established ...the necessity of ...standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society.</p> <p>Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments forbid imposition of the death penalty on offenders who are under the age of 18 when their crimes were committed.</p> </div> <p>Source: <i>Roper v. Simmons</i> (2005)</p> <p>According to the passage, which action did the U.S. Supreme Court find constitutional?</p>		<p>Read the U.S. Supreme Court opinion. Using evidence from the passage, select the response that best describes the Court's decision.</p>
<p>A</p>	<p>The death penalty may be imposed only on adults.</p>	<p>Correct – The passage supports this response because the U.S. Supreme Court wrote, “Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments forbid imposition of the death penalty on offenders who are under the age of 18 when their crimes were committed.” Juveniles are individuals under 18. According to the passage, juveniles should not be executed. However, the Eighth Amendment safeguards the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment even though adult executions continue.</p>	
<p>B</p>	<p>The death penalty may be imposed only on juveniles.</p>	<p>Incorrect – The passage does not support this response. According to the Court, “Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments forbid imposition of the death penalty on offenders who are under the age of 18....” Juveniles are people who are under the age of 18. According to the passage, juveniles should not be executed.</p>	
<p>C</p>	<p>The death penalty may be imposed on both adults and juveniles.</p>	<p>Incorrect – The passage does not support this response. While the Court does not discuss whether or not adults may be executed, the passages states that the “Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments forbid imposition on offenders who are under the age of 18....” Juveniles are under the age of 18. According to the passage, juveniles should not be executed.</p>	
<p>D</p>	<p>The death penalty may be imposed on neither adults nor juveniles.</p>	<p>Incorrect – The passage does not support this response because the Court does not address whether the death penalty may be imposed on adults.</p>	

