

The United States Bill of Rights Guided Notes – Sample Answers

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

RIGHT TO PETITION

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Amendment II

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS FOR A WELL REGULATED MILITIA

Amendment III

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

THE RIGHT FOR CITIZENS NOT TO QUARTER (HOUSE) SOLDIERS

Amendment IV (four)

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

PROTECTS CITIZENS AGAINST UNREASONABLE SEARCHES AND SEIZURES (CAPTURE OF ITEMS)

A POLICE OFFICER MUST HAVE A WARRANT GIVEN TO HIM BY A JUDGE AND PROBABLE CAUSE IS ALSO NEEDED

Amendment V (five)

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO TESTIFY AGAINST YOURSELF – THIS IS ALSO KNOWN AS PLEADING THE FIFTH

YOU MUST HAVE *DUE PROCESS* OF LAW (DAY IN COURT) BEFORE YOU ARE CONVICTED

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT TAKE YOUR LAND UNLESS IT PROVIDES JUST COMPENSATION, THE ACT OF GOVERNMENT TAKING LAND IS KNOWN AS EMINENT DOMAIN

YOU CANNOT BE TRIED FOR THE SAME CRIME TWICE—CALLED “DOUBLE JEOPARDY”

Amendment VI (six)

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be

confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

RIGHT TO SPEEDY TRIAL BY A JURY ; JURORS ARE SELECTED FOR THEIR LACK OF BIAS (IMPARTIAL)

YOU MUST BE TOLD OF CHARGES

YOU MUST BE PROVIDED A LAWYER IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD ONE, THIS IS KNOWN AS HAVING THE RIGHT TO LEGAL COUNSEL

Amendment VII (seven)

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SUE SOMEONE IN COURT, AND HAVE A TRIAL BY JURY, WHEN THE VALUE IN THE ARGUMENT IS MORE THAN \$20

Amendment VIII (eight)

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

NO EXCESSIVE BAIL

NO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT

Amendment IX (nine)

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

THIS DEALS WITH UNENUMERATED RIGHTS AND THE FACT THAT THE FIRST 8 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION ARE NOT THE ONLY RIGHTS THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE, .

Amendment X (ten)

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

POWERS NOT IN THE CONSTITUTION, OR FORBIDDEN, ARE GIVEN TO THE STATES OR THE PEOPLE.