

Sample Answers Landmark Supreme Court Cases

Year	Name of Case	Essential Question of Case	Constitutional Principle(s)	Outcome - Decision	Impact -Why is this a Landmark Case?
1803	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i>				This case established the power of judicial review.
1857	<i>Dred Scott v. Sandford</i>	Was Dred Scott free or a slave?	13 th Amendment, Sections 1 and 2 and 14 th Amendment, Section 1	In a 7-2 decision, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Sandford.	U.S. Supreme Court held portions of the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional in violation of the Fifth Amendment, treating Scott as property, not as a person.
1896	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>	Is Louisiana's law requiring racial segregation on its trains an unconstitutional violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment?	13 th Amendment, Sections 1 and 2 and 14 th Amendment, Section 1	In a 7-1 decision, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Ferguson.	U.S. Supreme Court determined that "separate but equal" segregation was not discrimination.
1954	<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>	Does the segregation of children in public schools only on the basis of race deny the minority children of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment?	14 th Amendment, Section 1	In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Brown.	U.S. Supreme Court determined that "separate but equal" segregation was not equal in public education.
1963	<i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i>	Did the state court's failure to appoint a lawyer for Gideon violate his right to a fair trial and due process of law as protected by the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments?	6 th Amendment and 14 th Amendment, Section 1	The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Gideon in a unanimous decision.	U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Sixth Amendment right that all defendants must be appointed a lawyer if they cannot afford their own attorney

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1966	<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i>	Does the police practice of questioning individuals without notifying them of their right to a lawyer and their protection against self-incrimination violate the Fifth Amendment?	5 th Amendment and 14 th Amendment, Section 1	In a 5-4 opinion, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Miranda.	U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Fifth Amendment protection from self-incrimination.
1966	<i>In re Gault</i>	Were the procedures used to commit [arrest] Gault constitutional under the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment?	14 th Amendment, Section 1	In an 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that Gault being sent to the State Industrial School was a clear violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.	U.S. Supreme Court determined that juvenile courts must comply with the Fourteenth Amendment.
1974	<i>U.S. v. Nixon</i>	Is the President's right to protect certain information, using his "executive privilege" power, completely protected from judicial review?	Executive Privilege	In a unanimous decision, the Court ruled in favor of the United States and against President Nixon.	U.S. Supreme Court limited executive privilege.
1987	<i>Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier</i>	Did the principal's deletion of the articles violate the students' rights under the First Amendment?	1 st Amendment	The Supreme Court ruled against the students in a 5-3 decision.	U.S. Supreme Court determined that the First Amendment does not protect all types of student speech in school.