

Landmark Supreme Court Cases Graphic Organizer - **SAMPLE ANSWERS**

| Name of Case | Year | Essential Question of Case | Constitutional Issue(s) | Outcome - Decision | Related Constitutional Amendment (if applicable) |
|-------------------------------|------|--|----------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> | 1803 | <p>Do the plaintiffs have a right to receive their commissions?</p> <p>Can they sue for their commissions in court?</p> <p>Does the Supreme Court have the authority to order the delivery of their commissions?</p> | Judicial Review | The Supreme Court ruled in Marbury's favor, but said that a section of the act of Congress Marbury mentioned was unconstitutional. The Court also said it had the power of judicial review, the power to decide whether certain laws and government actions are unconstitutional. | N/A |
| <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> | 1819 | Was the establishment of a bank by Congress constitutional? Did the state of Maryland violate its authority by imposing a tax on the bank? | Implied Powers of Congress | In 1819, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the creation of the bank was constitutional. | N/A |
| <i>Dred Scott v. Sandford</i> | 1857 | Was Dred Scott free or a slave? | Right to Property | 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. | 5th Amendment |

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| <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> | 1896 | Is Louisiana's law requiring racial segregation on its trains an unconstitutional violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment? | Equal Protection Clause | In a 7-1 decision, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Ferguson. The U.S. Supreme Court determined that "separate but equal" segregation was not discrimination. | 14th Amendment |
| <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> | 1954 | 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? | Equal Protection Clause | In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Brown. The U.S. Supreme Court determined that "separate but equal" segregation was not equal in public education. | 14th Amendment |
| <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> | 1963 | 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? | The right to Counsel and Due Process Clause | The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Gideon in a unanimous decision. The Court upheld the Sixth Amendment right that all defendants must be appointed a lawyer if they cannot afford their own attorney. | 6 th Amendment 14 th Amendment |
| <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> | 1966 | 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? | Self Incrimination | In a 5-4 opinion, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Miranda. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Fifth Amendment protection from self-incrimination. | 5 th Amendment |

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| <i>Korematsu v. United States</i> | 1944 | Was the exclusion of Americans of Japanese descent constitutional? | Due Process Clause | In a 6-3 decision on December 18, 1944, the Supreme Court ruled that the evacuation order that Korematsu violated was valid.. | 5th Amendment |
| <i>Mapp v. Ohio</i> | 1961 | Was the evidence gathered from Mapp's house protected by the Fourth Amendment? | The Right to Privacy/ Search Warrant | In a 6-3 decision the Supreme Court overturned the conviction of Dollree Mapp. In Mapp v. Ohio, the Supreme Court clarified the exclusionary rule to expand to state criminal prosecutions as well. | 4th Amendment |
| <i>In re Gault</i> | 1966 | Were the procedures used to commit [arrest] Gault constitutional under the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment? | Due Process Clause | 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. | 14 th Amendment |
| <i>United States v. Nixon</i> | 1974 | 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. This case set the precedent that being president does not make one above the law. | N/A |

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| <i>Regents of the University of California v. Bakke</i> | 1978 | Can race be a determining factor in college admissions? | Equal Protection Clause | In a 5-4 decision, the Court voted to require the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) to admit Bakke to its medical school. The Court wrote that any racial quota system in a state-supported university violated both the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment. | 14th Amendment |
| <i>Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier</i> | 1987 | Did the principal's deletion of the articles violate the students' rights under the First Amendment? | Free Speech | The Supreme Court ruled against the students in a 5-3 decision. The Court rules the First Amendment does not prevent school officials from using reasonable authority over the content of school-sponsored publications. | 1st Amendment |
| <i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> | 2008 | Do the parts of the District of Columbia law that limit the licensing of handguns and require licensed firearms to be kept nonfunctional in the home violate the Second Amendment? | Right to bear arms | In a 5-4 decision, the justices ruled that the ban on registering handguns and the requirement to keep guns in the home disassembled or nonfunctional with a trigger lock mechanism violated the Second Amendment. | 2nd Amendment |