

## A Quiz About Constitutional Rights and Liberties

How much do you know about the constitutional rights and liberties of individuals in the United State? Show your knowledge by responding either "YES" or "NO" to the 10 items. Mark an "X" in the appropriate space. Be prepared to explain your responses.

	Yes	No
1. Some people claim that the President has the constitutional right to arrest and indefinitely detain members of certain political parties who are considered dangerous to the interests of the President. Do you agree?	_____	_____
2. A convicted murderer was sentenced to die in the electric chair. However, when the executioner threw the switch, the chair did not work. The prisoner was taken back to prison and sentenced to die six days later. He claimed that placing him in the electric chair a second time would violate his constitutional rights. Do you agree?	_____	_____
3. Do people have the constitutional right to organize peaceful demonstrations to complain about decisions of government officials?	_____	_____
4. May Congress pass a law that requires a person to be a Christian to be eligible for appointment to a job in the executive branch of the federal government?	_____	_____
5. May authorities throw someone who seems to be a threat to security in jail and keep him there indefinitely, even though they have no evidence that the person has broken a law?	_____	_____
6. May Congress pass a law that requires a certain person to pay a fine, because a majority in Congress believes that the person has violated a law, even though he has never been convicted of a crime?	_____	_____
7. An unpopular group, which preaches violence and racial hatred, has asked for a permit to have a parade in your city. Quite possibly, this parade would lead to violence, because many people in the town bitterly oppose this group. The city has denied a parade permit on the grounds that such a parade will cause violence. Did the city government's decision violate the constitutional rights of this group?	_____	_____
8. May a state legislature pass a law requiring people to pay a tax in order to register to vote in public elections?	_____	_____
9. John Jones committed a certain crime and, according to the law, received a light punishment. Members of Congress believed that Jones' punishment should be more severe, so they influenced a majority of Congress to pass a law making the penalty for this crime more severe. Jones committed the crime before the passage of the new law. Nevertheless, he received the new, more severe punishment. He complained that the sentence violated his constitutional rights. Do you agree with Jones?	_____	_____
10. Children who belonged to an unpopular religion sold their church's magazines on the streets. The police stopped them because they were violating a state law forbidding children under the age of 12 to sell periodicals of any kind on the street. Leaders of the church said the police had violated their constitutional right to religious freedom. Do you agree?	_____	_____