Government Bridge Week #8

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Identify the rights in the Bill of Rights and how they protect individuals and limit the power of government.

PROCEDURES: Day 1: Background information and multiple choice questions  
Day 2: Scenarios and Constructed Response  
Day 3: Constructed Response question that focuses on one of the amendments.

WORK TO BE RETURNED: Assignment 1: Complete the multiple choice questions using the background information and your own knowledge.  
Assignment 2: Read the scenarios carefully and then fill in which amendment applies to the situation. Then answer the short constructed response.  
Assignment 3: Opinionated constructed response question

RESOURCES: https://www.ushistory.org/us/18a.asp

Background Info:

The Bill of Rights is the name given to the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution. James Madison introduced the original bill that proposed the amendments in 1789, and the ten amendments below were ratified on December 15, 1791.

Rights and Protections Guaranteed in the Bill of Rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Rights and Protections</th>
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| First     | • Freedom of speech  
            • Freedom of the press  
            • Freedom of religion  
            • Freedom of assembly  
            • Right to petition the government |
| Second    | • Right to bear arms |
| Third     | • Protection against housing soldiers in civilian homes |
| Fourth    | • Protection against unreasonable search and seizure  
            • Protection against the issuing of warrants without probable cause |
| Fifth     | • Protection against  
            ○ trial without indictment  
            ○ double jeopardy  
            ○ self-incrimination  
            ○ property seizure |
| Sixth |  ● Right to a speedy trial  
     |  ● Right to be informed of charges  
     |  ● Right to be confronted by witnesses  
     |  ● Right to call witnesses  
     |  ● Right to a legal counsel |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| Seventh |  ● Right to trial by jury |
| Eighth |  ● Protection against  
     |     ○ excessive bail  
     |     ○ excessive fines  
     |     ○ cruel and unusual punishment |
| Ninth |  ● Rights granted in the Constitution shall not infringe on other rights. |
| Tenth |  ● Powers not granted to the Federal Government in the Constitution belong to the states or the people. |

**Vocab. Words:**

- Bear arms - to own or carry weapons
- Probable Cause - Having enough evidence to arrest and individual
- Indictment - A formal charge
- Seize - to forcibly take possessions from someone

**Understanding the Bill of Rights**

The Bill of Rights remains an active force in contemporary American life as a major element of CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. The meaning of its protections remains hotly debated. For example, the privilege to bear arms to support a militia, which appears in the second amendment, produces significant political controversy today.

More sweepingly, the extension of the Bill of Rights to protect individuals from abuse not only by the federal government, but also from state and local governments remains an unsettled aspect of Constitutional interpretation.

Originally, the protections were solely meant to limit the federal government, but with the fourteenth amendment's guarantee in 1868 that no state could deprive its citizens of the protections in the Bill of Rights this original view began to be expanded. To this day the SUPREME COURT has not definitively decided if the entire Bill of Rights should always be applied to all levels of government.
Assignment 1

Directions: Answer the multiple choice questions below.

Which of the following best describes the Bill of Rights?

A. The Bill of Rights establishes that the United States has declared independence from Great Britain, and that the new nation will be governed by the people.
B. These amendments explain how people accused of a crime should be treated in the United States.
C. These amendments guarantee rights for citizens, limit some of the powers of the federal government, and reserve some powers to the states and the public.
D. The Bill of Rights asserts that freedom of speech is the most important right promised to American citizens.

What is the purpose of the Bill of Rights?
A. to avoid potential abuses of power under the Constitution
B. to encourage states to adopt the Constitution
C. to ensure the power of Congress and state legislatures
D. to restrict the constitutional rights of U.S. citizens

According to the first amendment, which of the following would be illegal?

A. citizens protesting outside the White House
B. a television show critical of the President
C. a law establishing one official religion in a state
D. a petition complaining about congressional corruption

Which amendment protects people from being tortured if they are convicted of a crime? The ________ Amendment.

A. Seventh
B. Sixth
C. Eighth
D. First

In all criminal prosecutions, "the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state". Which amendment says this?

A. Sixth
B. Seventh
C. Second
D. Tenth

Assignment 2

Directions: Read each situation below very carefully. Next use the information in the packet to name the amendment or Bill of Right that is being exercised in each of the following situations in the space provided.

Kevin was stopped by a police officer on his way home from school. The police officer wanted to search Kevin’s backpack because he heard a teenage boy had just robbed the corner store. Kevin said to the officer, “Do you have a warrant?” The officer said, “no.” Kevin informed the officer that he could not search his bag because it violated his rights._____________________________

Joseph, a recent immigrant to the United States, was driving around the city of Los Angeles and noticed that there were churches and temples from several different religions located throughout the city. He was amazed at the fact that people in the United States could practice and worship any religion of their choice._____________________________

Nowhere in the Constitution does it talk about what part of the federal government is in charge of education. Today each individual state controls and sets the standards for their state’s educational System.____________________________
Nancy visited one of her elderly neighbors and noticed that she had a gun locked away in one of her cabinets. During the visit, Nancy turned to her neighbor and asked, “Why do you have a gun in your house?” Her neighbor simply said, “I am exercising my right to own a gun legally.”

On January 10, 2002, Gerard was arrested for trespassing on his neighbor’s property. When he appeared before the judge to set his trial date, the judge told him his trial would take place on January 24, 2006. Juan immediately informed the judge that this date was unacceptable.

Congress wants to find ways to cut costs because of the soaring budget. Congress passes a law to require American citizens to house US soldiers in their homes during peacetime.

Part 2: Constructed Response; please answer the question in at least 5-8 sentences.

Question: Which amendment do you think is the most important for America today? Explain your answer.

Part 3: Critical Thinking Question; If we did not have a set of rules or guidelines for the people of our country to follow, what would people do to maintain order?

What problems do you think would arise if our country had no rules?

Assignment 3

Directions: Answer the constructed response below using at least 8 sentences (a paragraph). Make sure to answer all parts of the question, and include examples to support your answer.
Question: Focus on the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights. Explain what this amendment offers, then use specific examples from American history or current events to show how and why the First Amendment is particularly important to the way this country functions.