

Pre Test: Organization of the Federal Courts

Name: _____

Directions: Read each of the questions or statements below, then choose the correct answer from those provided.

1. Name the system of government in which power is divided between one national government and other, smaller state or regional governments.
 - a. Federalism
 - b. Jurisdiction
 - c. Diversity
 - d. Bankruptcy

2. State courts hear all of the cases not specifically selected for federal courts. This is called ____ jurisdiction.
 - a. Diversity
 - b. Federal Question
 - c. Limited
 - d. General

3. Federal courts can only hear certain kinds of cases. This is called ____ jurisdiction.
 - a. General
 - b. Limited
 - c. Juvenile
 - d. Malpractice

4. A married couple is seeking a divorce. Will this case be heard in state or federal court?
 - a. State
 - b. Federal

5. Your 1st Amendment right to free speech has been violated. Will this case be heard in state or federal court?
 - a. State
 - b. Federal

6. What does the Constitution call the federal courts, other than the Supreme Court?
 - a. State Courts
 - b. Inferior Courts
 - c. Traffic Courts
 - d. Juvenile Courts

7. Which court is considered the “court of last resort” in the federal system?
 - a. District Courts
 - b. Courts of Appeals
 - c. Supreme Court
 - d. Bankruptcy Court

8. Name the specialized federal court where people and businesses can file if they can no longer pay their bills.
 - a. District Courts
 - b. Courts of Appeals
 - c. Supreme Court
 - d. Bankruptcy Court

9. Which courts are the trial courts of the federal system?
 - a. District Courts
 - b. Courts of Appeals
 - c. Supreme Court
 - d. None of the above

10. Which courts review the decisions of the federal trial courts?
 - a. District Courts
 - b. Courts of Appeals
 - c. Supreme Court
 - d. Bankruptcy Court

11. How many Justices are there on the U.S. Supreme Court?
 - a. Six
 - b. Ten
 - c. Nine
 - d. Eleven

12. How many Justices must agree to take a case in order for it to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court?
 - a. Four
 - b. Six
 - c. Nine
 - d. One

13. What is issued when the U.S. Supreme Court agrees to review a case?
 - a. Writ of certiorari
 - b. Court of last resort
 - c. Legal precedent
 - d. Court of appeals

14. What is the term for a legal example that will be followed by the courts in similar cases in the future?
- Writ of certiorari
 - Court of last resort
 - Legal precedent
 - Court of appeals
15. About how many cases does the U.S. Supreme Court review per year?
- 10-20
 - 75-85
 - 500
 - 10,000
16. How long is the term of office for Article III (federal) Judges?
- Seven years
 - Four years
 - Twenty years
 - Life
17. This type of federal judge works as an officer of the court, to assist the district court judges with preliminary matters in criminal cases. They can also preside over civil trials if all parties consent.
- Senior Judge
 - Bankruptcy Judge
 - Magistrate Judge
 - Appellate Judge
18. This type of federal judge works as an officer of the district court to preside over hearings between debtors and creditors.
- Senior Judge
 - Bankruptcy Judge
 - Magistrate Judge
 - Appellate Judge
19. Who appoints federal judges?
- The Senate
 - The House of Representatives
 - The Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
 - The President of the United States
20. Who confirms the appointment of federal judges?
- The Senate
 - The House of Representatives
 - The Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
 - The President of the United States

21. Federal judges are protected from the influence of the other two branches of government, and from popular opinion, leaving them free to make decisions based on the law. This is called ___.
- a. Rule of Law
 - b. Judicial Independence
 - c. Article III
 - d. Federal Judiciary
22. TRUE OR FALSE. When a new president takes office he or she can fire all of the federal judges and start over.
23. TRUE OR FALSE. Federal judges must run for re-election every seven years.
24. TRUE OR FALSE. Federal judges can't be punished by a reduction in salary.
25. TRUE OR FALSE. Federal judges can be impeached for committing a crime, and be removed from office.

Judicial Learning Center – Pre Test – Organization of the Federal Courts

Dear Teachers:

Each of the pre/post-tests covers one of the main sections from the Judicial Learning Center’s Student Center. The tests can be given in full, or you can use them as a test bank from which to select questions.

It is recommended to give the same test before and after the unit of study to check progress.

Organization of the Federal Courts – Pre/Post Test KEY

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. B

6. B
7. C
8. D
9. A
10. B

11. C
12. A
13. A
14. C
15. B

16. D
17. C
18. B
19. D
20. A

21. B
22. FALSE
23. FALSE
24. TRUE
25. TRUE