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Civil Rights

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The Fourteenth Amendment attempted to guarantee which of the following to former slaves?
   a. forty acres of farmland and a mule
   b. free university education
   c. economic equality with whites
   d. citizenship rights
   e. debt forgiveness

2. The Fifteenth Amendment guarantees citizens the right to vote regardless of __________.
   a. race
   b. gender
   c. age
   d. property ownership
   e. involvement in insurrection

3. Which of these does the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ban?
   a. poll taxes and grandfather clauses
   b. discrimination in public accommodations
   c. integration in public transportation
   d. discrimination based on sexual orientation
   e. nonviolent direct action
4. What was the primary focus at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention for activists like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott?

a. the prohibition of alcohol
b. women’s rights
c. rights for former slaves
d. ending the Civil War
e. the New Deal

5. What did Jim Crow laws mandate?

a. voting rights
b. racial segregation
c. poll taxes
d. grandfather clauses
e. Black Codes

6. What precipitated the Montgomery Bus Boycott?

a. the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” speech
b. the Greensboro, N.C., lunch counter sit-in
c. the arrest of Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Ala.
d. the Supreme Court’s decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*
e. the assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

7. Women were guaranteed the right to vote by __________.

a. *Korematsu v. United States*
b. *Reed v. Reed*
c. the Nineteenth Amendment
d. the 1964 Civil Rights Act
e. the 1965 Voting Rights Act

8. In *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* (1978), the Supreme Court determined that __________ were unconstitutional.

a. poll taxes
b. grandfather clauses
c. all forms of affirmative action
d. Jim Crow laws
e. racial quotas
9. What did the Supreme Court determine was unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education*?
   a. integrated schools
   b. poll taxes
   c. segregation of schools
   d. unequal school funding
   e. school busing

10. The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. insisted that civil disobedience aimed at ending discrimination in the South should be conducted __________.
   a. in accordance with the law
   b. nonviolently
   c. secretly
   d. anonymously
   e. with all deliberative speed

11. What provision of the Fourteenth Amendment serves as a cornerstone of our understanding of civil rights?
   a. the all men are created equal clause
   b. the equal protection clause
   c. the privileges and immunities clause
   d. the Equal Rights Amendment
   e. the grandfather clause

12. What strategy did the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) use most effectively to advance civil rights for African Americans?
   a. boycotts
   b. protests
   c. litigation
   d. nonviolent direct action
   e. marches and rallies

13. What was the basis for the Supreme Court’s decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) that upheld the constitutionality of a state law requiring segregated railroad facilities?
   a. Former slaves are not entitled to full citizenship rights because they did not immigrate to the United States willingly.
   b. Former slaves are not entitled to full citizenship rights because they were considered property under the law.
   c. The Constitution does not prohibit segregation; it only mandates equal protection under the law.
   d. Railroad transportation involves interstate commerce, which is regulated by Congress; there is no provision in federal law that prohibits segregation.
   e. Each state has the right to interpret the Constitution as it sees fit, as long as the interpretation is “reasonable and without malice.”
14. What was the Supreme Court’s rationale in the Civil Rights Cases (1883) for why Congress could not prohibit discrimination in public accommodations?

a. Congress cannot regulate public accommodations because they involve interstate commerce.
b. Congress cannot regulate public accommodations because they tend to be owned by private individuals.
c. Congress cannot regulate public accommodations because it lacks the authority to spend money without the permission of the states.
d. Congress cannot prohibit discrimination because doing so violates the First Amendment right to freedom of speech.
e. Congress cannot prohibit discrimination because there was insufficient evidence that discrimination exists.

15. What is the source of de facto segregation and discrimination?

a. practice  
b. law  
c. the Constitution  
d. Congress  
e. affirmative action

16. Under the Court’s review standards shown in Table 5.1, a law that classifies people according to __________ will be given strict scrutiny by the Supreme Court to determine its constitutionality.

a. race  
b. age  
c. disability  
d. gender  
e. sexual orientation

17. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was designed to overturn which of the following?

a. integration  
b. Jim Crow laws  
c. nonviolent direct action  
d. the Fifteenth Amendment  
e. Reconstruction

18. What was the main purpose for the March on Washington?

a. to urge Congress to adopt an antidiscrimination legislative agenda  
b. to urge the Supreme Court to overturn the separate-but-equal doctrine  
c. to urge John F. Kennedy to repudiate the actions of the freedom riders  
d. to urge African Americans to reelect John F. Kennedy  
e. to urge Congress to eliminate de facto segregation
19. If a group of people were systematically discriminated against in the past, which of the following would constitute an affirmative action policy designed as a remedy to help the members of this group overcome the legacy of discrimination?

a. a hiring policy that favors those with relatives working in government
b. a college admissions policy that gives preferential treatment to members of the group
c. a color-blind job application process to give members of this group an equal chance
d. a policy that gives extra weight to votes cast by members of the group
e. requiring all applicants for government jobs to have at least two years of prior experience

20. Which of the following accommodations would an employer most likely have to make to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act?

a. hiring a disabled person instead of an equally qualified person without a disability
b. providing better medical insurance for employees who have a disability
c. lowering expectations for the quality of work performed by employees with disabilities
d. ensuring that employees who use a wheelchair have jobs that shield them from public contact
e. installing a ramp and other physical accommodations for someone who uses a wheelchair

21. For which of the following would the Supreme Court most likely apply an intermediate standard of review to determine whether the policy is an unconstitutional violation of the equal protection clause?

a. preventing whites from attending schools designed to serve African American students
b. prohibiting those over seventy years old from working in law enforcement
c. prohibiting gays and lesbians from serving in the military
d. requiring government contractors to have a racially diverse workforce
e. having different minimum ages for men and women to marry

22. Which of the following strategies for expanding civil rights would the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. have been most likely to support?

a. sabotaging the electricity supply to the homes of segregationist leaders
b. intimidating elderly whites to discourage them from supporting Jim Crow laws
c. boycotting stores that enforced segregationist policies
d. boycotting elections to underscore the problem of African American disenfranchisement
e. vandalizing government buildings that housed segregationist politicians

23. Which of the following is an example of de jure segregation?

a. Jim Crow laws
b. the tendency for churches to be racially homogeneous
c. the small number of African American senators
d. sequestering the jury in order to ensure a fair trial
e. Title IX legislation
24. Which of the following laws would be the most likely to draw strict scrutiny from the Supreme Court when determining its constitutionality?

a. Male and female student athletes cannot compete on the same basketball team at the university level.
b. Businesses cannot discriminate against gays and lesbians in hiring and promotion decisions.
c. Those without a college degree are not eligible for upper-level civil service jobs.
d. African Americans and whites must be given equal access to the public school system, including extracurricular activities.
e. Government contracts must be awarded to a contractor who is a racial minority whenever at least 10 percent of the bidders are minority-owned businesses.

25. Which of the following situations would most likely be a violation of Title IX?

a. an election jurisdiction that does not provide bilingual ballots when there is a large bilingual community
b. a legal prohibition on hiring women for positions that are known to be hazardous to women’s reproductive health
c. a college that spends significantly more on sports programs for men than for women
d. job applications that are not made accessible to the blind
e. an employer who systematically pays women less than men for doing comparable work

26. If you were a poor, illiterate, white farmer, which of the following would help ensure your ability to vote in the South after the Civil War?

a. poll taxes
b. literacy tests
c. boycotts
d. protests
e. grandfather clauses

27. Why did southern states enact poll taxes?

a. to raise revenue for the government
b. to ensure that only people who really want to vote would do so
c. to get around the Fifteenth Amendment
d. to enfranchise former slaves
e. because literacy is necessary for democracy to function
28. How do the rational basis and the intermediate standard of review differ?

a. The rational basis standard requires an important governmental objective for classification; the intermediate standard requires the classification to be necessary.
b. The rational basis standard applies only to racial classifications; the intermediate standard applies to gender and sexual orientation classifications.
c. The intermediate standard of review is applied to a broader array of classifications than the rational basis standard.
d. It is easier for the government to demonstrate that there is a rational basis for a law than to meet the requirements of the intermediate standard.
e. Those who dislike a law will have an easier time getting it overturned if the Supreme Court applies the intermediate standard instead of the rational basis test.

29. Which of the following arguments would most likely be made by an opponent of affirmative action policies?

a. Affirmative action helps to compensate for past discrimination.
b. Discrimination is a natural part of the human experience.
c. Affirmative action discriminates on the basis of race.
d. Diversity helps Americans better understand each other.
e. Unaddressed past discrimination causes perpetual inequality.

30. Why was the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unsuccessful?

a. The states of the former Confederacy did not abide by any of the laws passed by Congress prior to 1894.
b. Congress did not have the authority to enact legislation in the South during the Civil War.
c. The Civil Rights Act of 1875 was only concerned with discrimination on the basis of age.
d. The Supreme Court said that private citizens could chose not to provide public accommodations on account of race.
e. The Supreme Court said that governments could chose not to provide public accommodations on account of race.