

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 6.2: The Constitution and the Federal Judiciary

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

 **Before you read**

Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.

Learning Target: Describe how the Constitution structures the federal judiciary.

AP® Key Concepts

original jurisdiction
appellate jurisdiction

Federalist No. 78

 **While you read**

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

Structure of federal judiciary	Impact on other branches and state governments

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 **After you read**

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. With which statement about the federal judiciary did the delegates at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 agree?
 - A. Congress should have the power to lowering judges' salaries to keep them in line.
 - B. The federal court system should be the most elaborately designed in the Constitution.
 - C. Federal judges should serve ten-year terms, renewable only once with the Senate's consent.
 - D. The judiciary should retain a degree of independence from the other two branches.

2. Article III of the Constitution reads, in part, that "the judicial power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under the Constitution, the laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority." This sentence signifies that
 - A. the federal judiciary is the highest judicial power in the land.
 - B. the president can interpret laws.
 - C. state courts cannot decide on Constitutional matters.
 - D. the people are not sovereign, the courts are.

3. The authority of the court to act as the first court to hear a case, which includes finding of facts in the case, is known as _____.

4. If a court has appellate jurisdiction, it can
 - A. find facts of a case.
 - B. decide the case.
 - C. hear the case first.
 - D. review the decision of the lower court.

5. The Antifederalists feared that the growth of national government through an increasingly powerful judiciary would diminish the rights of
 - A. the president.
 - B. states and individuals.
 - C. the federal government.
 - D. the Supreme Court.

6. Alexander Hamilton, in *Federalist* No. 78, felt that the judicial power would not trample on the people's rights because
 - A. Congress was empowered to overturn decisions.
 - B. the president would step in to defend the people.
 - C. the people would not stand for it.
 - D. it was politically impartial.

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7. In *Federalist* No. 78, Alexander Hamilton argues that the _____ needed protection from encroachment on its limited powers by the _____.
- A. presidency; judiciary
 - B. judiciary; other two branches
 - C. Congress; the presidency
 - D. federal courts; the state courts
8. How many total justices are on the Supreme Court at present?
- A. Five
 - B. Eight
 - C. Nine
 - D. Eleven
9. Successfully _____ is a way for a president to have an enduring influence on the government and on public policy long after the end of a president's time in office.
- A. achieving election of his or her vice president
 - B. passing legislation
 - C. seeking a third consecutive presidential term
 - D. placing individuals on the federal bench
10. A president who believes in increasing the power of the federal government would MOST LIKELY nominate which person for the Supreme Court?
- A. An attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union
 - B. A federal judge who ruled that states must legalize marijuana
 - C. An attorney known to sue to stop the federal government from increasing federal spending
 - D. A federal judge who has ruled states can disregard federal laws they don't like