

## Civic IQ Questions

Your Name

Your Address (please include zip)

(8 pts) Name Pennsylvania's two United States Senators

(4 pts) Name of United States Congressman or woman:

(4 pts) Name of Pennsylvania State Representative

(4 pts) Name of Pennsylvania State Senator

Please choose the best answer below (each question worth 5 pts):

The best way to describe what happens when the United States Constitution is in conflict with the Pennsylvania Constitution is:

- A) The United States Constitution reigns as the supreme law of the land and it always has the final word in conflicts with the Pennsylvania Constitution;
- B) The Pennsylvania Constitution only reigns supreme where it provides the people of the Commonwealth greater, but not lesser, rights than the United States Constitution provides;
- C) The Pennsylvania Constitution reigns supreme as the final word on the law in Pennsylvania, so when it disagrees with the United States Constitution, the courts must follow what the Pennsylvania Constitution says;
- D) The United States Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, is the final arbiter of disputes between state constitutions and the United States Constitution and, as such, it reigns supreme in determining what rights Pennsylvania citizens have under their constitution; and
- E) All of the above have been true at various times in our nation's history as courts in both the state and federal system have changed their interpretations of the relationship between the two constitutions over time.

The best way to describe how Pennsylvania selects judges to its appellate courts is:

- A) Judges are elected for 10 year terms and then they are voted to be retained again for an additional ten year term.
- B) Judges are selected by a Bar Association panel, nominated by the Governor and approved by the Senate.
- C) Judges are selected by a Bar Association panel, nominated by the Governor and approved by the Senate for three year terms, then voted on by the people.

D) Judges are selected by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate and serve for life absent bad behavior.

E) Judges are elected every four years.

For the following questions, these are the choices:

A) United States Constitution

B) Pennsylvania Constitution

C) Both constitutions

D) Neither constitution

Each question is worth 3 pts:

1) This constitution's preamble gives gratitude to Almighty God and invokes His guidance.

2) The right to bear arms is more strongly worded in this constitution.

3) Which constitution protects against unreasonable search and seizure?

4) Which constitution provides protection against gender discrimination?

5) This constitution announces that all men are born equally free.

6) Which constitution gives 18 year olds the right to vote?

7) The right to clean air and water is found in this constitution.

8) Which constitution provides for numerous rights for criminal defendants such as speedy trial, confrontation of witnesses, jury trials, and no double jeopardy?

9) This constitution acknowledges that the people have the right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they think proper.

10) Which constitution allows for the free exercise of religion?

For the following questions, these are the choices:

A) United States Supreme Court

B) Pennsylvania Supreme Court

C) United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals

D) Court of Common Pleas

Each question is worth 3 pts:

1) The First Lady of Pennsylvania sits on this court.

2) This is the only true trial court in the list above.

3) There are nine members of this court.

4) This court generally hears cases before panels of three judges.

5) This is the only court which has never been headed by an African-American.

6) The Chief Justice of this court must retire at the end of the year in which he or she turns 70.

7) This court hears the fewest cases each year.

8) This court serves as the local court for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

9) This court serves the same role as the Supreme Court of New York.

10) Mike Fisher, who lost to Ed Rendell in the last race for Governor, sits on this court.

Essay Question: (Limit 100 words)

What is the greatest strength and greatest weakness of our Constitutional system of government?

What grade do you think you received on this Civic IQ?

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

Less than a C