

## The Breakfast Club

### Constitutional Minute for 22 June 2021

#### Can You Pass This 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics Test from 1954?<sup>1</sup>

1. List the 20 cabinet positions and the names of the people who currently hold these positions.
2. List the names of the current Supreme Court Justices.
3. In 1-2 sentences each describe the purpose of each of the Constitutional Amendments.
4. What is the Bill of Rights?
5. Who is President of the U.S.?
6. Who is Vice-President of the U.S.?
7. What is an un-written law?
8. What are two things necessary to any good government ?
9. What is the plan of government of the U.S. called?
10. What is a constitutional law?
11. What is an unconstitutional law?
12. Which body can declare a law unconstitutional?
13. The constitution grants all law-making powers to which body?
14. What are the two houses of Congress called?
15. Why did the Framers design a government with two houses of Congress?
16. How is the number of State's representatives decided?
17. Who is the current Speaker of the House?
18. For how many years is a Senator elected?
19. Who is the presiding officer of the Senate?
20. When can the Vice-President vote in the Senate?
21. What does President Pro Tempore mean?
22. How long does each numbered Congress last?
23. On what date does Congress convene each year?
24. Does the President have the authority to call the Congress into special session?
25. To which branch of government is given the responsibility to enforce the laws?
26. Who succeeds the President if he dies while in office?
27. What kind of citizen must the President be?
28. What is the minimum age to be President?
29. Who administers the oath of office to the President?
30. On what date does a new President take office?

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<sup>1</sup> To see the actual test of 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Kenny Hignite (who got a 98.5% on the test), go to <https://powerhournation.com/how-kenny-hignite-became-famous-1954-american-constitution-8th-grade-test/>

31. Which body of government must consent to treaties before they become effective?
32. What is considered the supreme law of the land in the U.S.?
33. What is considered to be a quorum of the members of Congress?
34. What is a filibuster?
35. How many Justices are on the Supreme Court?
36. What is a writ of habeas corpus?
37. What is a bill of attainder?
38. What is an ex post facto law?
39. Who has the power to grant pardons?

Note: Notice the absence of Multiple Choice or True False questions. This is a test that verifies knowledge, not just association.

Some recent Polls of Americans:

Of every 100 Americans:

- ☞ 10 (college graduates) believed “Judge Judy” sat on the United States Supreme Court. (2016)
- ☞ 38 failed the standard citizenship test. (2011)
- ☞ 39 were unable to name any of the rights secured by the First Amendment. (2016)
- ☞ 41 could not name the current Vice-President. (2010)
- ☞ 64 could not name the three branches of government. (2014)
- ☞ 77 (between the ages of 18 and 34) could not name one of the senators representing their state. (2015)

Bottomline: How is your understanding of the U.S. Constitution?