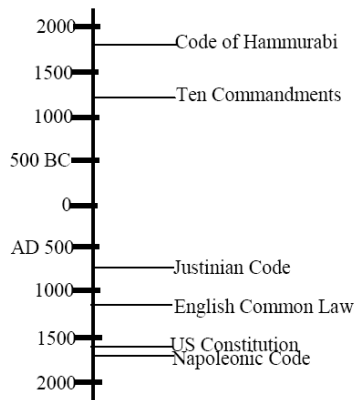


Sample Test: Law, Past & Present

- Which of the following statements best describes the Magna Carta?
 - written by Thomas Jefferson, it declared independence from King George
 - it was an agreement to protect the nobles' privileges and uphold their authority against King John while granting certain rights to all land holders
 - it outlined the separation of powers that were needed between the federal government and state governments
 - it was a charter to set up colonies in the New World
- Which term describes a system of law that is based on precedent and customs?
 - common law
 - criminal law
 - civil law
 - constitutional law

Use the timeline and your knowledge of social studies to answer question 3 and 4.



- Which of the following would be the best title for the above timeline?
 - Law in America
 - Early Law
 - The Development of Law
 - The Decline of Law
- Which of the following was the first known system of written law?
 - Code of Hammurabi
 - Ten Commandments
 - Justinian Code
 - Napoleonic Code
- Which statement *best* reflects a major purpose of laws?
 - laws, when broken, allow the government to impose fines and bring in revenue
 - laws ensure people do not speed and commit murder
 - laws are set to humiliate people who make wrong choices
 - laws are to keep the peace and prevent violent acts

6. What was one outcome of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*?
- A. delegates of the Second Continental Congress agreed that the colonies must break away from Britain and its laws
 - B. the Revolutionary War started
 - C. Thomas Paine was convicted of treason
 - D. many colonists were persuaded to remain loyal to King George

Use the excerpt below and your knowledge of social studies to answer question 7.

You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

7. Which legal term best describes the above excerpt?
- A. legal code
 - B. moral code
 - C. philosophy of law
 - D. rule of law
8. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects the views of John Locke?
- A. He believed that good government is based on a social contract between the people and the rulers.
 - B. He believed that people were best protected when the majority of power lay in the hands of their rulers and rulers are entrusted to make the best decisions for the people.
 - C. He believed that all power should lay with the people, and that a just society involves the people having the right to self-protection and preservation.
 - D. He believed that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish any government they see fit, since governments were generally ran by tyrants.
9. Jeff was hit in the eye when someone threw a ball across the park. His emergency room visit cost him a lot of money so he has decided to sue the person who threw the ball. Under which type of law will he sue?
- A. criminal law
 - B. administrative law
 - C. statutory law
 - D. tort law
10. Which term is used to describe laws that seek to prevent people from deliberately or recklessly harming each other or each other's property?
- A. international law
 - B. constitutional law
 - C. criminal law
 - D. civil law

11. North Carolina's State Bureau of Investigation has original jurisdiction in which of the following types of investigations?
- A counter terrorism; counterintelligence; organized crime; government fraud
 - B drug investigations; arson investigations; election laws; computer crime investigations that involve crimes against children
 - C crimes that involve two or more states
 - D crimes that involve national security and foreign corrupt policies
12. Which term refers to offenders being sentenced based on the severity of their crime and on the extent and gravity of their prior criminal record?
- A structured sentencing
 - B mandatory sentencing
 - C mandatory minimum sentencing
 - D alternative sentencing
13. Which official is the chief law enforcement officer for a county in North Carolina?
- A district attorney
 - B chief of police
 - C sheriff
 - D mayor
14. Which of the following statements is true of North Carolina magistrates?
- A Magistrates are appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.
 - B Magistrates are one of the three judicial officials who can perform marriage ceremonies.
 - C In the absence of a judge, magistrates have the power to issue sentences for criminal cases.
 - D In criminal cases, magistrates issue warrants, set bail, accept guilty pleas and payments of fines for traffic violations and minor misdemeanors.
15. Which of the following is the *best* way for a citizen to be informed about the laws they are expected to follow?
- A ask a friend
 - B remain informed through the media, public hearings, and town meetings
 - C watch crime shows on televisions and read mystery novels
 - D run for public office
16. Which of the following is an example of elected officials effectively informing its citizenry?
- A participating in political debates
 - B hosting a tree lighting ceremony at the White House
 - C allowing a group of students to have their picture taken with the Mayor
 - D elected officials playing golf at a public course
17. What is a special interest group?
- A a group of government officials assigned to study a particular topic and to determine if it should be considered on the floor of Congress
 - B a group of legislators who determine whether a bill becomes a law
 - C a group of individuals who volunteer with a non-profit organization that they are interested in
 - D organizations made up of people with some common interest who try to influence government decisions

Use the following poster and your knowledge of social studies to answer question 18.



18. Which statement most accurately explains the purpose of the poster?
- A The poster is a citizen campaign against police brutality and unfair ticketing.
 - B The poster is a campaign to encourage citizens to wear their seatbelts, while informing them that if they do not they will receive a ticket.
 - C The poster is an awareness campaign to inform citizens of the danger of not wearing their seatbelts.
 - D The poster is an educational campaign on how to properly wear a seatbelt.
19. The National Rifle Association is an example of
- A a lobbyist group
 - B a Republican group
 - C a Democratic group
 - D a group of politicians who collect antique rifles
20. Which of the following is an example of an economic interest group?
- A The National Council of Senior Citizens
 - B The National Organization for Women
 - C The Chamber of Commerce
 - D The League of Women Voters
21. Which term describes a notice directing someone to appear in court to answer a complaint or a charge?
- A referendum
 - B summons
 - C bill
 - D ticket
22. Which of the following institutions oversees the prison system?
- A Department of Motor Vehicles
 - B Department of Corrections
 - C Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - D State Bureau of Investigation
23. “As _____ of North Carolina, I am working hard to protect the people of our state from crimes and scams. I also provide legal representation and advice to all state government departments, agencies, and commissions.” Which job title correctly completes the blank?
- A Attorney General
 - B State Trooper
 - C District Attorney
 - D Governor

24. Jerry was arrested and imprisoned for grand theft auto. Within one month of his release, he was again arrested for the same crime. Which term *best* describes Jerry’s behavior?

- A negligent
- B recidivist
- C temporary insanity
- D not criminal

25. “An eye for an eye” is an example of which type of punishment?

- A retribution
- B deterrence
- C rehabilitation
- D incapacitation

26. Which of the following is an example of rehabilitation?

- A death penalty
- B fines
- C counseling
- D jail

27. Which statement most accurately explains “three-strikes” laws?

- A Three strikes laws are statutes enacted by state governments which require courts to hand down a mandatory and extended period of incarceration to those convicted of a serious criminal offense on three or more separate occasions.
- B Three strikes laws are laws in which criminals convicted of murder automatically receive the death penalty upon their third conviction.
- C Three strikes laws are local laws pertaining to juvenile crime. Once a juvenile commits three separate crimes, they are automatically sent to juvenile detention.
- D Three strikes laws were created to reduce the prison population by releasing convicted felons who have had three or less altercations while incarcerated.

Base your answer to question 28 on the quotation below and on your knowledge of social studies.

. . . The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it. . . .

— Article I, Section 9, Clause 2, United States Constitution

28. This clause of the Constitution expresses which of the following ideas?

- A civil liberties are absolute in any country, under any circumstance
- B revolution is essential to democracy
- C a person can seek relief from unlawful detention of himself or another person
- D local laws can be repealed by federal authorities

Answer Key

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. D
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. D
10. C
11. B
12. A
13. C
14. D
15. B
16. A
17. D
18. B
19. A
20. C
21. B
22. B
23. A
24. B
25. A
26. C
27. A
28. C