



8th Amendment to the United States Constitution Explained - Quiz

To view the article that this quiz is based on, please go to:

<https://constitutionus.com/constitution/amendments/the-8th-amendment-to-the-united-states-constitution-explained/>

Q1. What does the 8th Amendment prohibit?

- A. Excessive bail and fines, and cruel and unusual punishments
- B. Unreasonable searches and seizures
- C. The right to bear arms
- D. Freedom of speech

Q2. When was the 8th Amendment ratified?

- A. December 15, 1791
- B. July 4, 1776
- C. March 1, 1781
- D. September 17, 1787

Q3. Who was a proponent of banning cruel and unusual punishment in the Commonwealth Declaration of Rights?

- A. George Mason
- B. Thomas Jefferson
- C. Samuel Adams
- D. James Madison

Q4. What was one of the Anti-Federalists' fears regarding the new Constitution?

- A. Congress would use cruel punishments to oppress people
- B. The President would have too much power
- C. States would lose their sovereignty
- D. Taxes would be too high

Q5. What is one of the debates surrounding the 8th Amendment?

- A. Whether the death penalty constitutes cruel and unusual punishment
- B. Whether it applies to state governments
- C. Whether it guarantees the right to privacy
- D. Whether it allows for mandatory sentencing

Q6. What standard does the court use to determine if a punishment is cruel and unusual?

- A. There is ongoing debate about the standard
- B. The punishment must be physically torturous
- C. The punishment must be historically unprecedented
- D. The punishment must be universally condemned

Q7. Which of the following is an example of a punishment that might violate the 8th Amendment?

- A. Life imprisonment for a parking violation
- B. A fine for speeding
- C. Community service for littering
- D. Probation for a first-time offense

Q8. What was the government like under the Articles of Confederation?

- A. Very constrained with limited power
- B. Highly centralized with strong authority
- C. Focused primarily on foreign affairs
- D. Non-existent

Q9. What is one argument against the death penalty under the 8th Amendment?

- A. It is considered a barbaric practice
- B. It is too expensive
- C. It is not effective as a deterrent
- D. It is only used in certain states

Q10. What does the 8th Amendment emphasize regarding punishment?

- A. The punishment should fit the crime
- B. Punishments should be severe to deter crime
- C. Punishments should be standardized across states
- D. Punishments should be left to the states to decide

Answer Key

1. Q1: A
2. Q2: A
3. Q3: A
4. Q4: A
5. Q5: A
6. Q6: A
7. Q7: A
8. Q8: A
9. Q9: A
10. Q10: A