



Treason and the US Constitution - Quiz

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

<https://constitutionus.com/democracy/treason-and-the-us-constitution/>

Q1. What is the origin of the word 'treason'?

- A. From the Greek word for betrayal
- B. From the Latin verb tradere, meaning 'hand over'
- C. From the Old English word for treachery
- D. From the French term for disloyalty

Q2. What was a common pre-modern definition of treason?

- A. Actions against the king
- B. Criticizing the church
- C. Refusing to pay taxes
- D. Leaving the country without permission

Q3. Where is treason defined in the United States?

- A. In the Declaration of Independence
- B. In the Bill of Rights
- C. In the United States Constitution
- D. In the Federalist Papers

Q4. What is required for a conviction of treason in the U.S.?

- A. The testimony of one witness
- B. A majority vote in Congress
- C. The testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act
- D. A confession made in private

Q5. Who can be tried for treason in the U.S.?

- A. Only U.S. citizens
- B. Anyone who owes allegiance to the government
- C. Only military personnel
- D. Only foreign spies

Q6. What was the outcome of the case Ex parte Bollman & Swarthout?

- A. Recruiting men and making plans was enough for treason
- B. An actual assemblage of troops was needed for treason
- C. Aaron Burr was convicted of treason
- D. The definition of treason was expanded

Q7. What must be proven for 'adhering to their Enemies' to be treason?

- A. Only a desire to help the enemy
- B. Only an overt act
- C. Both a desire to help and an overt act
- D. Membership in an enemy organization

Q8. Why are treason trials rare in the U.S.?

- A. Because treason is not a serious crime
- B. Because the Founders narrowly defined treason
- C. Because the U.S. has no enemies
- D. Because trials are too expensive

Q9. What was the slave Billy's case an example of?

- A. A citizen being tried for treason
- B. A slave owing no allegiance and thus not guilty of treason
- C. A foreign resident being tried for treason
- D. A successful treason conviction

Q10. What was the Founders' primary concern when defining treason?

- A. Prosecuting as many traitors as possible
- B. Preventing abuses seen in European treason laws
- C. Ensuring the king's power was absolute
- D. Making treason easy to prove

Answer Key

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