

# RESOURCE PACKET: SCOTUS



The Federal Courts

Civil Liberties and Public Policy

Civil Rights and Public Policy

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

## EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW

In the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), you will expand your knowledge as you test the constitutionality of public policy. Through the study of the Bill of Rights and landmark Supreme Court cases, you will prepare for the civil rights and civil liberties portions of the AP Exam and will engage with these topics in a Supreme Court project cycle.

### Vocabulary Concepts and Terms:

<p><b>Federal Courts</b></p> <p>standing to sue  class-action suits  amicus curae briefs  original jurisdiction  appellate jurisdiction  senatorial courtesy  opinion  stare decisis  precedents  original intent  judicial implementation  <i>Marbury v. Madison</i>  judicial review  judicial restraint  judicial activism  litigants  rule of four  trial courts  appellate courts</p>	<p><b>Civil Rights</b></p> <p>civil rights  <i>Dred Scott v. Sanford</i>  Thirteenth Amendment  Fourteenth Amendment  Fifteenth Amendment  Equal Protection Clause  “separate but equal”  <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>  <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>  de facto segregation  de jure segregation  Civil Rights Act (1964)  Voting Rights Act (1965)  poll taxes  Grandfather Clause  Equal Rights Amendment  comparable worth  Title IX: Education Act of 1972  Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)  affirmative action</p>
<p><b>Civil Liberties</b></p> <p>civil liberties  First Amendment: Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause  <i>Barron v. Baltimore</i>  <i>Gitlow v. New York</i>  Fourteenth Amendment: Due Process Clause  prior restraint  obscenity  libel  slander  symbolic speech  commercial speech  due process amendments: Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Fourteenth  probable cause  unreasonable search and seizure</p>	<p><b>Civil Liberties (Continued)</b></p> <p>exclusionary rule  self-incrimination  plea bargaining  Eighth Amendment: cruel and unusual punishment  right to privacy  selective incorporation doctrine</p>

**SUGGESTED TEXT MATERIALS:** Ch. 4, 5, and 16 (Edwards, George C. III, Martin P. Wattenberg, Robert L. Lineberry. *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy*. New York: Longman, 14th Edition)

## FRQs

*Respond fully to each of the following prompts in complete sentences.*

### Federal Courts

1. The judicial branch is designed to be more independent from public opinion than are the legislative or executive branches. Yet, the United States Supreme Court rarely deviates too far for too long from prevalent public opinion.
  - (a) Describe two ways in which the United States Supreme Court is insulated from public opinion.
  - (b) Explain how two factors work to keep the United States Supreme Court from deviating too far from public opinion.

### Civil Liberties

2. Initially, the United States Constitution did little to protect citizens from the States. In the Twentieth Century, the Supreme Court interpreted the Constitution to protect the rights of citizens from state governments in a process referred to as incorporation.
  - (a) Define selective incorporation.
  - (b) For two of the following, explain how each has been incorporated. Each of your explanations must be based on a specific and relevant Supreme Court decision.
    - rights of criminal defendants
    - First Amendment
    - privacy rights

### Civil Rights

3. "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."  
Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, 1870

Despite the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, voter turnout among African Americans was low throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Over the past 50 years, civil rights policies have changed substantially, along with a significant increase in African American voter turnout.

- (a) Explain how two measures taken by some states prior to the 1960s affected voter turnout among African American citizens.
- (b) Facing discrimination in the voting booth, many African Americans turned to alternative forms of political participation. Describe two alternative forms of political participation that helped bring about changes in civil rights policies.
- (c) Choose one of the forms of political participation you described in b and explain why it was effective in changing civil rights policies.