

## Civics Exam Court Cases Study Guide

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) established the power of judicial review; asserting the Court's authority to determine the constitutionality of law.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) defined the boundaries of the Necessary and Proper Clause; asserting that Maryland's tax on the Bank of the United States was unconstitutional.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824) defined the boundaries of the Commerce Clause; asserting that only the national government could regulate interstate commerce.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Scott v. Sanford* (1857) denied legal standing to slaves and former slaves; saying that, as non-citizens, they could not sue in federal court.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) upheld laws that allowed racial segregation; establishing the doctrine of "separate but equal."

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) overturned laws that allowed racial segregation; asserting that "separate is inherently unequal."

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Gitlow v. New York* (1925) held for the first time that the First Amendment's protection of free speech extended to state law; even though the Court upheld Gitlow's conviction for advocating anarchy.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Near v. Minnesota* (1931) held that the First Amendment's protection of free press extended to state law; establishing that prior restraint on publication was unconstitutional.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Cantwell v. Connecticut* (1940) held that the First Amendment's guarantee of the free exercise of religion extended to state law; protecting the right of Jehovah's Witness to go door-to-door.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947) held for the first time that the First Amendment's protection against the establishment of religion extended to state law; although they upheld the statute allowing states to reimburse parents for the cost of sending children to private, religious schools.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Yoder v. Wisconsin* (1972) held that compulsory education beyond 8<sup>th</sup> grade violated the rights of Amish families and their free exercise of religion.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* (2002) held that Ohio's school voucher program, which included private religious schools, did not violate the Establishment Clause.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Schenck v. U. S.* (1919) concluded that speech representing a "clear and present danger" is not protected by the First Amendment; upholding Schenk's conviction under the Espionage Act.

The U.S. Supreme Court case of *Korematsu v. United States* (1944) supported the internment of Japanese-American citizens of the United States during World War II.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of U. S. v. O'Brien (1968) concluded that the burning of draft cards was not protected by the First Amendment; maintaining that the destruction of draft cards impeded Congress' power to "raise and support armies."

The U. S. Supreme Court case of Tinker v. Des Moines (1965) concluded that the wearing of black armbands to protest the war in Vietnam in high school was protected by the First Amendment; recognizing that the students' actions constituted symbolic speech.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of Morse v. Frederick (2007) concluded that the wearing of graphic t-shirts in high school was not protected by the First Amendment; asserting that the school had a "compelling interest" in deterring drug use by students.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier (1988) established that principals could censor the content of high school student newspapers as long as their actions were "reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns."

The U. S. Supreme Court case of New York Times v. Sullivan (1964) established that public officials could not sue for libel unless they could show "actual malice; with knowledge that they are false or in reckless disregard of their truth."

The U. S. Supreme Court case of Miller v. California (1973) defined obscenity as lacking "serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value."

The U. S. Supreme court case of Mapp v. Ohio (1961) held that unlawfully obtained evidence cannot be used against the accused in court; establishing the "exclusionary rule."

The U. S. Supreme Court case of Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) established that defendants have the right to an attorney at trial; applying the Bill of Rights Sixth Amendment guarantee to the states.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of Miranda v. Arizona (1966) established that suspects must be informed of their right to remain silent; applying the Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination to the states.

The U.S. Supreme Court case of McDonald v. Chicago (2010) established that the right to "keep and bear arms" applies to states as well as the federal government; overturning Chicago's ban on handguns.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of Baker v. Carr (1962) established the "one person, one vote" rule for drawing of legislative redistrict boundaries.

The U.S. Supreme Court case of Texas v. Johnson (1989) permitted the burning of the American flag as free speech.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade (1973) established a woman's right to an abortion

The U.S. Supreme Court case of Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992) enabled states to regulate a woman's access to an abortion.

The U.S. Supreme Court case of *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) declared that limits on election spending were unconstitutional.

The U.S. Supreme Court case of *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* (2010) held that independent campaign expenditures by corporations were protected by the First Amendment.

The U. S. Supreme Court case of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* (2014) held that “closely held” corporations were not required to cover contraceptives for female employees.

The United States Supreme Court case of *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) held that laws banning interracial marriage were unconstitutional.

The United States Supreme Court case of *Cruzan v. Director* (1990) held that the “clear and convincing evidence” standard applied to the right to die; allowing the family to decide when to remove a patient in a persistent vegetative state from feeding tubes and breathing machines.

The United States Supreme Court case of *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003) held that laws banning same-sex sexual activity were unconstitutional.

The United States Supreme Court case of *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) held that gay marriage was protected by the U.S. Constitution; maintaining that the right to marry was a fundamental liberty protected by the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.

In the U. S. Supreme Court case of *Youngstown Sheet and Tube v. Sawyer* (1952), the Court limited the President’s power to seize private property; arguing that the President’s power as Commander in Chief was not so broad as to include labor disputes in times of war.

In the U. S. Supreme Court case of *U. S. v. Curtiss-Wright* (1936), the Court upheld the President’s ability to impose an embargo on arms sales; recognizing that the President has broad authority in foreign affairs.

In the U. S. Supreme Court case of *Nixon v. Fitzgerald* (1982), the Court held that the President is absolutely immune from civil damages caused by official acts; acknowledging that the President is not immune from criminal charges.

In the U. S. Supreme Court case of *Clinton v. Jones* (1997), the Court held that the President is not immune from civil damages caused by unofficial acts; thereby allowing Jones to sue President Clinton for actions allegedly taken during his time as Governor of Arkansas.