

To test your knowledge and appreciation of the Bill of Rights, here are 10 questions devised after consultation with a panel of constitutional experts headed by Professor Alexander Brooks of the Rutgers University Law School and Professor Thomas I. Emerson of the Yale University Law School.

To answer the questions, check either "Yes" or "No."

1. In California, a teacher at a junior college was fired for "unprofessional conduct" because he wrote a letter to a local newspaper criticizing the county public-school system. Did the college have the right to discharge him? (Yes) (No)

2. An American tourist returned from Europe with a copy of a book by Samuel Becket. The Customs Bureau, which considered the book "pornography," confiscated it, although no court had yet judged it "obscene." Was the Customs Bureau justified in its action? (Yes) (No)

3. In Ohio, a police detective received an anonymous phone call indicating that a Mr. and Mrs. Smith were dope addicts. On the strength of the tip, the detective went to the Smith apartment. When Mrs. Smith refused to admit him, the detective broke down the door and found narcotics in a bureau drawer. Did he violate any of Mrs. Smith's freedoms? (Yes) (No)

4. Mrs. Jane Brown was arrested on a charge of passing valuable information to the Communists. She was permitted to consult her lawyer in a visitors' room at the jail. The room was "bugged"—wired with a listening device so that Federal agents could overhear the conversation. Were any of her rights infringed? (Yes) (No)

5. During the 1960 Presidential campaign, a young man handed out leaflets urging citizens to vote for neither candidate. A local law stated that a permit was necessary before handbills could be distributed, to avoid littering the streets. Was the young man within his rights, despite the ordinance? (Yes) (No)

6. George Lincoln Rockwell, the leader of the American Nazi Party, was denied permission to hold a rally in a New York park on the ground that the meeting would be "an invitation to riot and disorder." Despite the possibility of disturbance, should he have had the right to hold his public meeting? (Yes) (No)

7. Planning to travel in Europe, Mr. X applied to the State Department for his passport. His request was denied on the grounds that "confidential information" indicated he was a Communist sympathizer. The State Department refused to reveal its evidence or the source. Under the Bill of Rights, was the State Department correct in denying the passport? (Yes) (No)

8. From several clues gathered by police, it seemed fairly clear that 19-year-old Joe Doe had committed a murder. For five days, the police grilled Joe, kept him on little food and water, and awakened him in the middle of the night for further questioning. Finally, Joe confessed involuntarily, and later evidence proved him guilty. Had he been cut off from an inalienable right? (Yes) (No)

9. In Maryland, a notary public was denied a commission because he refused to swear that he believed in God. Do you think the action against him was warranted? (Yes) (No)

10. To obtain evidence against suspected gamblers, police in Washington, D.C., attached earphones to a foot-long, pencil-thin metal spike driven through the wall of the building where the gamblers met. Did the police have the right to use such methods to fight crime? (Yes) (No)



NOW COMPARE your reactions with the answers on page 14. If you hit at least seven correct answers, you have a reasonable understanding of the Bill of Rights.

"Whatever your score," comments Professor Emerson, "to answer these questions intelligently requires some appreciation of why our forefathers insisted on putting the Bill of Rights into the Constitution. On first thought, many of us look only for immediate results and don't realize the dangers of overriding individual or minority rights. It takes a mature and civilized people to make a democratic system work."

Still remaining is the problem of how the Bill of Rights concepts can be conveyed to upcoming generations. For concrete action, a recent workshop of social-studies teachers urged these remedies:

—To provide basic groundwork, two courses with the thread of liberty as the dominant theme should be required of all students in junior high schools.

—Throughout the school years, a positive presentation of the heritage, theory, and practice of American rights should be strengthened.

Watching the fireworks on the Fourth of July, let's not forget what we're celebrating. Our forefathers believed their rights were worth shedding blood for. As Justice Douglas has pointed out, in recent years we seem to have lost some of our appreciation for the importance of those rights.

"The American people," he says, "should be re-educated on their great inheritance." (Continued on page 14)