Chapter 15 – The Federal Courts
1. What is the difference between “criminal law” and “civil law”?
2. What is meant by “justiciable disputes”?
3. What are the differences between constitutional courts and legislative courts? Original jurisdiction and appellate jurisdiction?
4. What are the different levels of courts in the Federal System?
5. What is the role of the US Attorney?
6. Explain the practice of “senatorial courtesy.”
7. Name three conditions in which nominations to the Supreme Court are more likely to run into trouble.
8. Describe some of the criteria that have been important in the past in choosing Supreme Court justices.
9. What are the four key functions of the Solicitor General?
10. What is an “amicus curiae” brief? What functions do they play?
11. What is the difference between: a majority opinion, a dissenting opinion, and a concurring opinion?
12. What is the difference between stare decisis and precedent?
13. Explain “originalism.”
14. What is judicial review?
15. Judicial Activism vs. Judicial Restrain – What’s the difference?
16. Define the terms “political question” and “statutory construction” as they apply to the Supreme Court.

Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties
17. Define the term “civil liberties.”
18. What was the most important difference between the Supreme Court’s decision in Barron v. Baltimore and Gitlow v. New York?
19. Explain the importance of the 14th Amendment.
20. What is the incorporation doctrine?
21. Define the “free exercise clause” and the “establishment clause.”
23. Define the term “prior restraint.”
24. List & explain three Supreme Court Cases discussed in your book concerning free speech and public order.
25. What is a “shield law”?
26. How did the Supreme Court define obscenity in the case of Miller v. California?
27. How are the standards for winning libel lawsuits different for public figures and private individuals?
28. Define “symbolic speech.”
29. What is the FCC? What type of speech do they regulate? Give two examples.
30. What are the two facets of the freedom of assembly?
31. How are the following terms interrelated: probable cause, unreasonable searches and seizures, search warrant, and exclusionary rule?
32. What are the three guidelines for police questioning of suspects as set forth in Miranda case?
33. Why is the case of Gideon v. Wainwright important?
34. What has the Supreme Court said about the Constitutional right to privacy?

Chapter 5 – Civil Rights
35. Why are the following cases significant in American history: Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857), Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), and Brown v. Board of Education (1954)?
36. What is the difference between de jure segregation and de facto segregation?
37. What are the six major provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
38. What are four ways in which the southern states denied African Americans the right to vote?
39. What was the impact of the Voting Rights Act of 1965?
40. Explain the policy of “protectionism.”
41. Equal Rights Amendment – What did it do?
42. What is meant by “comparable worth”?
43. How has the Supreme Court dealt with the issue of sexual harassment?
44. What is the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990?
45. What is “affirmative action”? How have the courts dealt with this sensitive issue?

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