



Voting Literacy Test – Answer Key

From the 1965 Alabama Literacy Test

Potential voters were required to take Alabama’s 68 question literacy test in order to be eligible to vote. If test-takers missed more than seven questions, they would be ineligible to vote.

1. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?

_____ Public Education

_____ Employment

X Trial by Jury

_____ Voting

2. If a person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has.

Habeus corpus (immediate presentation of charges); lawyer, speedy trial, protection from self-incrimination, jury trial, protection from double jeopardy, etc.; Amendments V & VI

3. If a vacancy occurs in the U.S. Senate, the state must hold an election, but meanwhile the place may be filled by a temporary appointment made by **the governor**.

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 3

4. A U.S. senator is elected for a term of **6 (six)** years.

U.S. Constitution , Article I, Section 3

5. Appropriation of money for the armed services can be only for a period limited to **2 (two)** years.

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8 – “To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years”

6. The Constitution protects an individual against punishments which are **cruel** and **unusual**.

Amendment 8 of the U.S. Constitution

7. If no candidate for President receives a majority of the electoral vote, who decides who will become President?

House of Representatives (Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution; “...if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse * by Ballot one of them for President.”

8. Congress passes laws regulating cases which are included in those over which the U.S. Supreme Court has **co-appellate** jurisdiction.
9. Name two things which the states are forbidden to do by the U.S. Constitution.
Coin money; make treaties with foreign nations; keep troops in time of peace, engage in war (Article I, Section 10)
10. How many votes must a person receive in order to become President if the election is decided by the U.S. House of Representatives? **26 (twenty-six); majority of the states**

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution – ““But in choosing* the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each state having one Vote”

From the 1964 Louisiana Literacy Test

***Answers were left to the discretion of the test administrator.**