

HSA

Maryland High School
Assessment



GOVERNMENT

Public Release 2008

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Sample A

The mass media is sometimes referred to as “the fourth branch of the government” because it

- A endorses all governmental policies
- B influences public opinion
- C is a powerful federal agency
- D is paid for with federal taxes

Sample B

On January 1, 1999, the euro became the common currency for eleven European countries.

The adoption of the euro created a region based on a common

- F political ideology
- G defense strategy
- H economic interest
- J cultural characteristic



1 In the United States political process, special interest groups

- A vote for candidates favoring their views
- B vote on bills favoring their cause
- C conduct voting in the House and Senate
- D supervise voting on election day

2 Which of these is a characteristic of the United States system of government?

- F State governments may choose to ignore national laws.
- G The executive and legislative powers of government are combined into one branch.
- H The executive branch of government can choose to dissolve the judicial branch.
- J The powers of government are divided between the national and state governments.



3 Read the excerpt below.

“No [business] shall discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability . . . in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement, or discharge [firing] of employees. . . .”

—*from the Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990*

Based on the excerpt, the Americans with Disabilities Act is most concerned with

- A social equality
- B national security
- C student education
- D consumer protection

4 Which of these was an effect of the Supreme Court decision in *McCulloch v. Maryland*?

- F It guaranteed the right to an attorney in criminal cases.
- G It established the separate but equal doctrine.
- H State laws that conflicted with federal laws became unconstitutional.
- J Congress had only those powers that were stated in the Constitution.

5 Read the information below and use it to answer the BRIEF CONSTRUCTED
BCR RESPONSE that follows.

Governments sometimes make rules that restrict their employees from speaking to the press about their jobs.

- Explain which rights this rule might violate.
- Should governments be permitted to restrict their employees from speaking to the press about their jobs? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



- 6** Which of these could result if a state's population declined over time?
- F increased funding from Congress for social programs
 - G reduced representation in the House of Representatives
 - H reduced representation in the United States Senate
 - J greater number of electors to the Electoral College

7 Read the excerpt below.

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution . . . are reserved to the States . . . or to the people. . . ."

— Article 3, Maryland Declaration of Rights

Which of these principles of government is described in the excerpt?

- A Citizens elect representatives in government to make laws.
- B Each branch of government has different responsibilities.
- C State governments exist at the will of the federal government.
- D Powers are divided among different levels of government.

8 Which of these would most likely be involved in resolving a border dispute between China and Vietnam?

- F United Nations
- G North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- H International Red Cross
- J North American Free Trade Agreement



9 Study the chart below.

INSTRUMENTS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Instrument	Function
Interest Rate	Interest rate charged to banks by other banks or the Federal Reserve
Reserve Requirements	Requirements on the amount of funds banks must hold in reserve against deposits
Open Market Operations	The buying and selling of United States government securities in the open market

Based on the chart, which of these would be a result of open market operations by the Federal Reserve System?

- A interest rates on loans decrease
- B new types of currency are created
- C the operating hours of banks change
- D the size of the money supply changes



10
BCR Read the information below and use it to answer the **BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** that follows.

In 2002, the Maryland General Assembly voted to purchase undeveloped land on the Chesapeake Bay before a construction company could purchase it. The state plans to use the land as a park for recreational activities.

- Describe the opportunity costs and the benefits of the purchase.
- Is it appropriate for the state government to buy undeveloped land? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

11 Which of these is an example of separation of powers?

- A Representatives rewrite a bill in committee meetings.
- B Representatives hold hearings to hear public opinion.
- C The President enforces a law passed by Congress.
- D The President fires a cabinet member who is performing poorly.



12 Which of these government agencies is directly responsible for monitoring business competition?

- F Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- G Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- H Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- J Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

13 In which of these circumstances will a judge grant a *writ of habeas corpus*?

- A the accused person is charged with negligence
- B the accused person is being held without cause
- C the accused person is under the age of eighteen
- D the accused person is a repeat offender

14 Which of these influenced the Supreme Court's decision in the *Tinker v. Des Moines* case?

- F The opinions of the protesters were the same as the majority of students.
- G The school board agreed with the students' opinions.
- H There was evidence that the students received good grades.
- J There was a lack of evidence that the students' actions disrupted learning.



15 **BCR** Read the information below and use it to answer the **BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** that follows.

In a civil case, plaintiffs and defendants often reach out-of-court settlements instead of bringing a case to trial.

- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of an out-of-court settlement.
- Should judges and attorneys encourage out-of-court settlements? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

16 Which of these is the goal of a state law to reduce air and water pollution?

- F expanding the economy
- G promoting economic equity
- H protecting individual rights
- J protecting public health

17 According to the 2000 census, the population of Frederick County increased by 30 percent since 1990.

Which of these most likely occurred as a result of the population change?

- A more school construction
- B less tax revenue
- C less housing construction
- D more open space



18 Why do some nations adopt command economies during wars?

- F to increase the standard of living
- G to discourage the growth of monopolies
- H to focus resources on essential industries
- J to satisfy demand for consumer goods

19 Read the news headline below.

**GOVERNMENT FINES
COMPANY FOR FAILING TO
CORRECT HAZARDOUS
MACHINE PARTS**

Based on the headline, which of these is a purpose of this action?

- A to protect workers from injury
- B to teach workers how to use machines
- C to make new machine parts
- D to find jobs for unemployed workers



20 The United States Census Bureau projects that the percentage of people over 85 years old will triple in the next fifty years.

What federal government action could best help the United States adjust to this demographic trend?

- F granting college scholarships to low-income students
- G providing low-interest loans to first-time home buyers
- H increasing the minimum wage
- J funding health care services

21 Read the information below and use it to answer the **BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** that follows.

BCR

**CONGRESS TO VOTE
ON DEBT RELIEF**

The United States Congress is expected to vote on a bill that would forgive the debts of poor nations. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) supports the bill and has been encouraging such debt relief. If a poor nation's debt is erased, the money saved by debt relief must be used for development programs.

- Why does the International Monetary Fund (IMF) support debt relief for poor countries?
- Explain whether or not you think Congress should support the bill.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



- 22** Which of these is an example of following the rule of law?
- F Citizens vote for a new amendment.
 - G The General Assembly approves the governor’s budget.
 - H Political parties hold a convention to nominate candidates.
 - J The governor is impeached for wrongdoing.

- 23** Which of these actions would most likely violate civil rights laws?
- A an airline bans smoking on flights
 - B a school system requires a dress code for students
 - C an employer refuses to consider senior citizens for jobs
 - D a police department uses written tests to help select recruits

- 24** Which of these would not require regional cooperation by local governments?
- F raising the property tax in Baltimore City
 - G maintaining the water quality in the Chesapeake Bay
 - H building a transportation system from Baltimore to Annapolis
 - J solving traffic congestion problems in metropolitan Washington, D.C.

25 Read the information below.

In 1990, the United States government sued the state of Virginia at the request of a female student seeking admission to the all-male Virginia Military Institute (VMI). The Supreme Court ruled that VMI must admit women who meet the college’s admission requirements.

Which issue was addressed by the Supreme Court in this case?

- A limited government
- B economic scarcity
- C popular sovereignty
- D equal protection



26
BCR Read the quotation below and use it to answer the **BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** that follows.

“It usually takes a hundred years to make a law, and then after it has done its work, it usually takes a hundred years to get rid of it.”

—Henry Ward Beecher

- Do you agree or disagree with this quote about the law-making process in the United States?
- How could the law-making process be improved? Explain your answer.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

27 Which of these is an economic benefit of the federal minimum wage law?

- A Workers are guaranteed a certain income.
- B Employers are encouraged to hire more workers.
- C Employers are required to train more workers.
- D Workers are allowed to organize into unions.



28 The government provides a lawyer to a person who cannot afford one if that person is

- F preparing a will
- G filing for divorce
- H being sued by a business partner
- J being charged with a serious crime

29 Read the excerpt below.

“No freeman shall be taken or imprisoned . . . unless by the lawful judgement of his peers, or by the law of the land.”

—Magna Carta, 1215

Which of these constitutional protections is based on the principle described in the excerpt above?

- A the right to petition the government
- B the right to vote
- C the right to a trial by jury
- D the right to bear arms



- 30** Congress may respond to United States Supreme Court rulings by
- F declaring rulings of the court invalid
 - G rewriting a law overturned by the court
 - H deciding which lawyers may argue the case
 - J determining which justices will review a particular case

- 31** Which of these is the main economic cost of the federal government removing taxes on imported goods?
- A a decline in the number of people who visit the United States
 - B a reduction in the number of countries willing to trade with the United States
 - C a reduction in the ability of United States businesses to compete with foreign companies
 - D a decline in employment opportunities for United States workers with foreign companies

32 Study the political cartoon below.

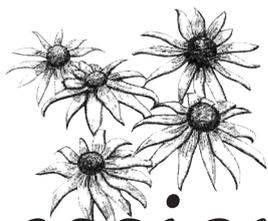


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What would be the role of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the situation shown in the cartoon?

- F setting prices for the sale of electricity across the United States
- G preventing companies from developing their own clean air policy
- H deciding how much energy the United States should produce
- J ensuring that companies follow pollution control laws





Session **2**

33 Read the quotation below.

“... let us resolve to wage an unrelenting [continuous] battle against poverty and for shared prosperity so that no part of humanity is left behind in the global economy. . . .”

—*President Bill Clinton,
at the United Nations,
September 21, 1999*

Which of these topics is most related to the excerpt?

- A arms reduction
- B climatic changes
- C military deployment
- D development assistance

34 The Baltimore Metropolitan Council and the Maryland Department of Transportation administer a grant program that helps area businesses establish ways that employees can work from home.

Which of these is most likely the purpose of this program?

- F to improve public roads
- G to decrease urban sprawl
- H to reduce traffic congestion
- J to provide computer training



- 35** The role of a grand jury is to determine
- A whether there is enough evidence for an indictment
 - B what evidence may be admitted during the trial
 - C how much money should be awarded in a court case
 - D whether the defendant in a trial is guilty or innocent

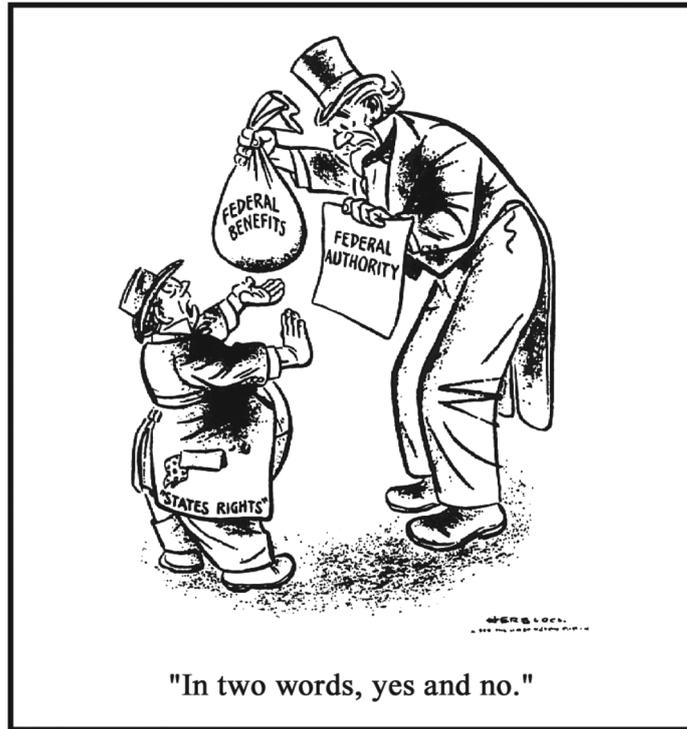
- 36** Maryland is considering a law banning handheld cell phone use while driving.

Which of these best explains why the General Assembly would pass this law?

- F to promote safety over individual rights
- G to promote regional interests over national policy
- H to promote equity over security
- J to promote productivity over education

37
BCR

Study the political cartoon below and use it to answer the BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE that follows.



—A 1949 Herblock Cartoon, © by The Herb Block Foundation

- What are some of the disadvantages to states under a federal system of government?
- Do the advantages of federalism outweigh the disadvantages? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answers.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



38 Which of these is a purpose of Social Security?

- F granting retirement benefits
- G enforcing affirmative action laws
- H monitoring unfair business practices
- J developing workplace safety regulations

39 Read the information below.

The mission of the International Red Cross is “. . . to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.”

According to its mission, the Red Cross would most likely be involved in which of these activities?

- A holding peace talks
- B creating defense alliances
- C visiting prisoner of war camps
- D trying military leaders for war crimes

40 Which of these is the best example of a special interest group?

- F an organization whose focus is to advocate legislation favorable to the elderly
- G an organization whose purpose is to nominate candidates to run for elected offices
- H a private company that hires extra employees for temporary work
- J a charitable foundation that gives money to help needy children overseas



41 The state of Maryland purchased a large tract of open space from a housing developer.

Which of these is most likely the reason for this purchase?

- A to provide jobs
- B to preserve the land
- C to increase tax revenues
- D to encourage industrial growth

42 States may offer medical coverage to children whose families cannot afford health insurance, and who do not qualify for similar federal programs.

What is the purpose of this program?

- F to increase wages for hospital employees
- G to ensure that children receive health care
- H to increase competition in the health care industry
- J to conduct a census of children living in each state

43
ECR Read the excerpt below and use it to complete the EXTENDED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE that follows.

“No person . . . shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law . . .”

—*United States Constitution, Fifth Amendment*

- Describe ways in which the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment protects the rights of those accused of a crime.
- Explain how the Supreme Court’s decision in *Miranda v. Arizona* strengthened the rights of the accused.
- Compare the advantages and disadvantages of strengthening the rights of the accused.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

44 Which of these excerpts from the United States Constitution best reflects the principle of checks and balances?

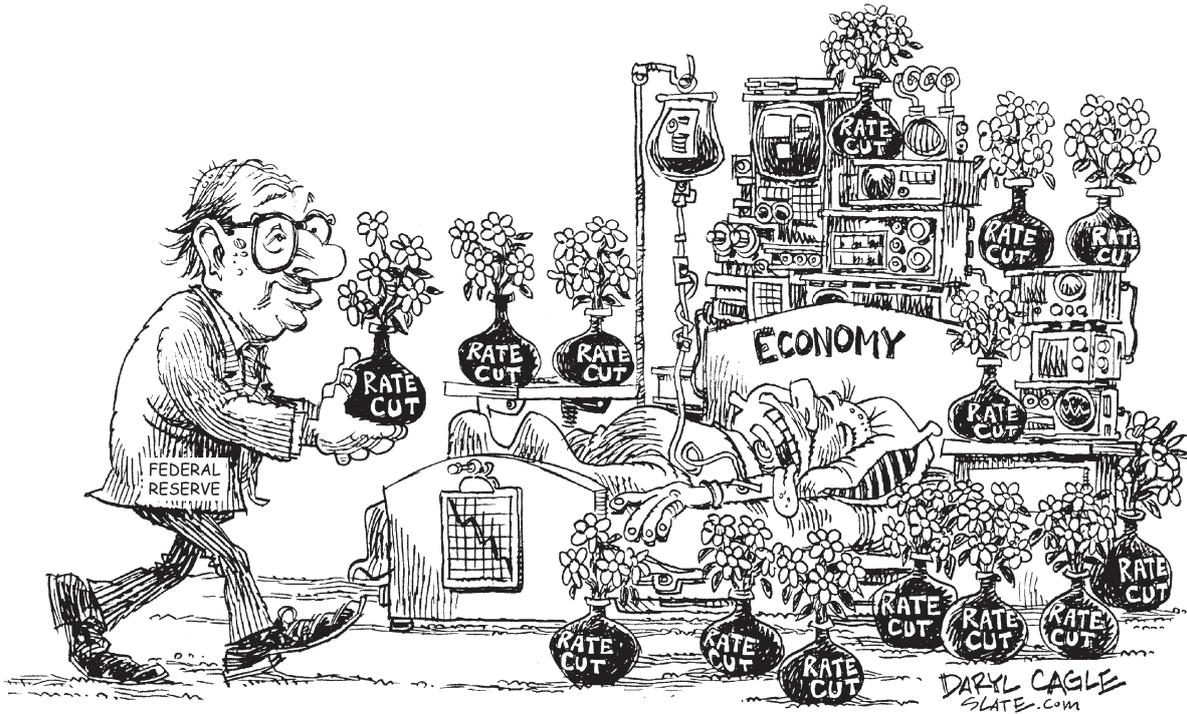
- F “This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States . . . shall be the supreme Law of the Land. . . .”
- G “All persons born or naturalized in the United States . . . are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”
- H “Every Bill which shall have passed [Congress] shall, before it becomes a Law, be presented to the President of the United States.”
- J “The [listing] in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be [interpreted] to deny . . . others retained by the people.”

45 Which of these is an economic benefit of the government providing unemployment payments to people who have lost their jobs?

- A tax rates decline
- B consumer spending levels remain stable
- C job opportunities for younger workers increase
- D businesses have fewer people to choose from when hiring new employees



46 Study the political cartoon below.



What rates are being cut as shown in the political cartoon?

- F tariff
- G interest
- H personal income tax
- J corporate income tax

47 Read the quotation below.

“The Government of [the United States], then, is . . . truly a government of the people. . . . Its powers are granted by them, and are to be exercised directly on them for their benefit.”

—*John Marshall, 1810*

Which of these constitutional principles best applies to Marshall’s quotation?

- A judicial review
- B checks and balances
- C separation of powers
- D representative democracy

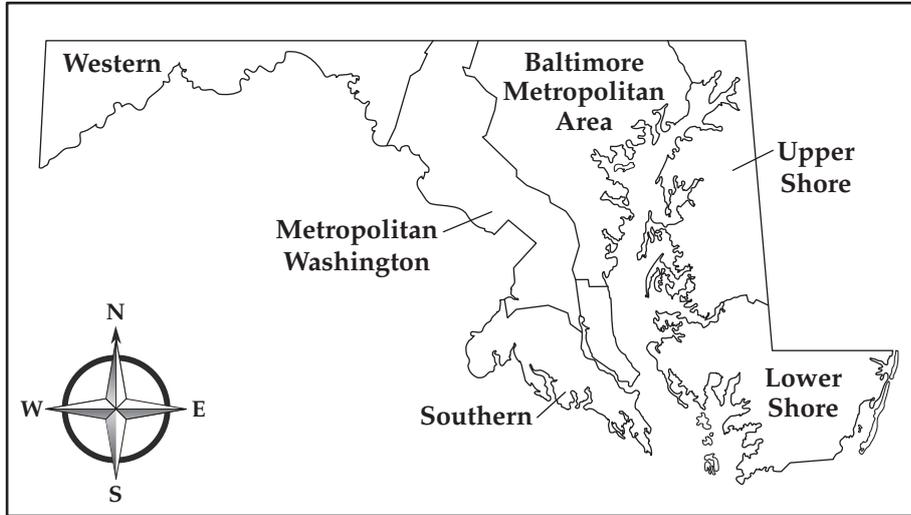
48 In which economic system does the government have the most control over a country’s economy?

- F mixed
- G market
- H command
- J traditional

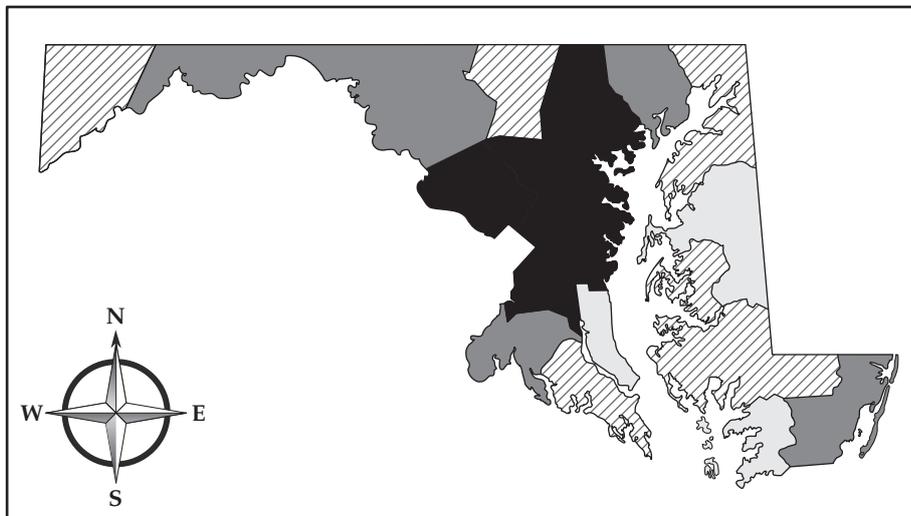


49 Study the maps below and use them to answer the BRIEF CONSTRUCTED
BCR RESPONSE that follows.

MARYLAND BY REGION



PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS WHO LIVE IN URBAN AREAS



- Explain how the problems faced by local governments in the metropolitan areas of Maryland differ from those in other regions of the state.
- Which problem is most critical? Explain why.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



50 Which of these headlines most involves a due process right?

- F Politician Promises Stricter Gun Laws
- G Judge Criticizes Police For Withholding Evidence
- H Residents Start Campaign to Throw Out Mayor
- J County Executive Withdraws Bill to Increase Parking Tax

51 Which of these would involve the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)?

- A limiting the cost of a hospital stay
- B regulating the location of nursing homes
- C approving the qualifications of new doctors
- D conducting research on the effects of medicines



52 Which of these could be a disadvantage of living under an authoritarian government?

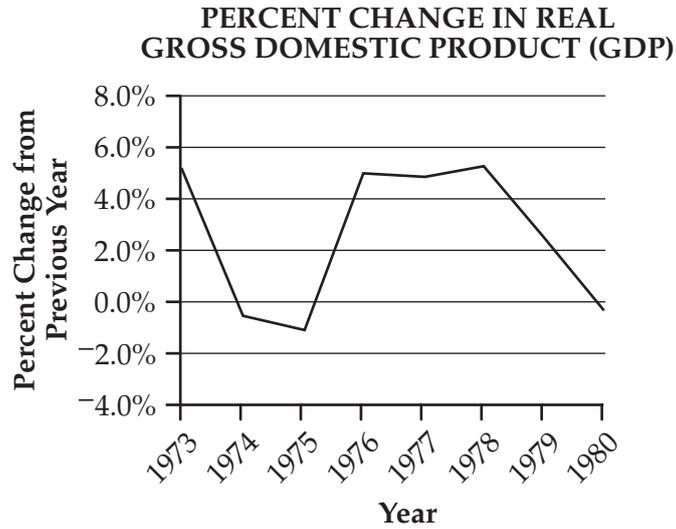
- F a slow legislative process
- G a weak executive branch
- H a lack of national laws
- J a lack of individual freedoms

53 The International Monetary Fund (IMF) would most likely be involved in

- A managing failing companies
- B developing immigration policies
- C providing financial assistance to member countries
- D funding candidates in political campaigns



54 Study the graph below.



Which of these best characterizes the condition of the United States' economy between 1975 and 1978?

- F a rapidly rising unemployment rate
- G increased economic growth
- H a constant inflation rate
- J steady interest rates



55 Read the excerpt below.

“Everyone is entitled . . . to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal [judge/jury], in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.”

—*Article 10 of the
Universal Declaration of
Human Rights*

According to the excerpt, all people are entitled to

- A the right to due process of law
- B freedom of expression
- C freedom from cruel or unusual punishment
- D the right to representation by legal counsel





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