

Advanced Placement United States Government Supreme Court Case Cheat Sheet

Separation of Church and State Cases (The Establishment Clause)	
<i>Emerson v. Board of Education (1947)</i>	Upheld a New Jersey policy of reimbursing parents of Catholic school students for the costs of busing their children to school.
<i>Engel v. Vitale (1962)</i>	School-sanctioned prayer in public schools violates the First Amendment.
<i>Abington School District v. Schempp (1963)</i>	Struck down a Pennsylvania law requiring reading of Bible passage at the beginning of each day.
<i>Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971)</i>	Established that aid to church-related schools must have a secular purpose, must neither aid nor inhibit religion, and must not create excessive entanglement between government and religion.
<i>Lynch v. Donnelly (1984)</i>	Upheld the right of governmental entities to celebrate Christmas with secular displays.
<i>Wallace v. Jaffree (1985)</i>	Struck down a state law setting aside time for “voluntary prayer.”
<i>Edwards v. Aguillard (1987)</i>	Held that Louisiana public schools could not be forced to also teach creationism.
<i>Board of Education of Westside Community School v. Mergens (1990)</i>	Upheld Equal Access Act of 1984, which requires high schools to allow religious groups the same access to other extracurricular groups.
<i>Lee v. Weisman (1992)</i>	Ruled against clergy-led prayer at high school graduations.
<i>Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe (2002)</i>	Struck down a law allowing students to read a prayer at athletic events.

Freedom To Practice Any Religion Cases (The Free Exercise Clause)	
<i>Reynolds v. US (1879)</i>	Upheld a law prohibiting polygamy.
<i>Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)</i>	Wisconsin could not require Amish kids to attend public school beyond 8 th grade since it went against their religion.
<i>Employment Division of Oregon v. Smith (1990)</i>	Oregon could not deny unemployment benefits to workers fired for using drugs (peyote) as part of religious ceremony.
<i>Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye v. City of Hialeah (1993)</i>	Laws against animal sacrifices were unconstitutional because they targeted Santería.

Freedom of Speech Cases	
<i>Schenck v. United States (1919)</i>	Ruled that draft protesting could be suppressed during wartime, as it created a “clear and present danger.”
<i>Gitlow v. New York (1925)</i>	The court applied the protection of free speech to the states under the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
<i>Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire (1942)</i>	The First Amendment does not protect “fighting words.”
<i>Tinker v. Des Moines</i>	Wearing black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War was symbolic speech protected under the First Amendment.
<i>Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969)</i>	Clarified that “clear and present danger” was only to be punished if it were to incite an illegal act.

<i>Miller v. California (1973)</i>	Established that obscenity is not protected under the First Amendment. Something is obscene if it appeals to indecent sexual desire, shows offensive sexual behavior, and lacks any literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
<i>Texas v. Johnson (1989)</i>	Flag burning is a protected form of symbolic speech.

Freedom of the Press	
<i>Near v. Minnesota (1931)</i>	Stated that censorship and prior restraint were unconstitutional.
<i>New York Times v. Sullivan (1964)</i>	The court protected statements about public officials.
<i>New York Times v. United States (1971)</i>	The court refused to stop the publication of the Pentagon Papers, reaffirming <i>prior restraint</i> .
<i>Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier</i>	Court ruled in favor of school district censorship of student newspapers as long as concerns were legitimate.
<i>Miami Herald Publishing Company v. Tornillo (1974)</i>	State could not force a newspaper to print replies from candidates it had criticized.

Freedom of Assembly and Petition	
<i>De Jonge v. Oregon (1937)</i>	Upheld that Dirk De Jonge had the right to form a Communist Party, and hold rallies.
<i>Brown v. Louisiana (1966)</i>	Court reversed the convictions of black individuals who participated in a peaceful sit-in at a library to protest segregation. The court protected their right of petition and freedom of assembly.
<i>NAACP v. Alabama (1958)</i>	Freedom of association (the right to assemble in groups) was protected here.

Right to Privacy	
<i>Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)</i>	Struck down a law preventing the use of contraceptives, thus protecting the right to privacy.
<i>Roe v. Wade (1973)</i>	Ruled that it is a woman's constitutional right to privacy to determine whether to terminate a pregnancy.

Search and Seizure (4th Amendment)	
<i>Wolf v. Colorado (1949)</i>	The Court applied protection against unreasonable search and seizure to the states under the due process clause of the 14 th Amendment.
<i>Mapp v. Ohio (1961)</i>	Evidence found without a search warrant (hence, illegally) had to be thrown out in a court of law.
<i>Terry v. Ohio (1968)</i>	Ruled that searches of criminal suspects are constitutional and police may search them for safety purposes.
<i>Nix v. Williams (1984)</i>	Evidence discovered as the result of an illegal search can be used if it is shown that the evidence would have been found anyway. In this case, a dead little girl in his house.
<i>United States v. Leon (1984)</i>	Established the good faith exception to the exclusionary rule.

Self Incrimination (5 th Amendment)	
<i>Miranda v. Arizona (1966)</i>	Suspects must be informed of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney when under police custody.

Right to an Attorney (6 th Amendment)	
<i>Powell v. Alabama (1932)</i>	Defendants in death penalty cases must be guaranteed an attorney, as per the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
<i>Betts v. Brady (1942)</i>	The Court ruled that poor defendants in noncapital cases are not entitled to an attorney at government expense. Overruled by <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> .
<i>Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)</i>	Those who cannot afford an attorney will have one provided by the state.
<i>Escobedo v. Illinois (1964)</i>	Criminal suspects have the right to an attorney during police interrogations.

Cruel and Unusual Punishment (8 th Amendment)	
<i>Furman v. Georgia (1972)</i>	The death penalty rule unconstitutional under existing state law because it was imposed arbitrarily.
<i>Gregg v. Georgia (1976)</i>	The death penalty ruled constitutional because it was imposed based on the circumstances of the case.

Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Minority Rights, and Homosexuals	
<i>Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857)</i>	Held that people of African descent were not legal persons and could not be United States citizens.
<i>Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)</i>	Upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation, even in public accommodations, under the doctrine of "separate but equal."
<i>Brown v. Board of Education (1954)</i>	Ruled that "separate educational facilities were inherently unequal." Desegregated schools.
<i>Reed v. Reed (1971)</i>	Administrators of estates (i.e. daddy's fortune) cannot be named in a way that discriminates between the sexes.
<i>Romer v. Evans (1996)</i>	Struck down an amendment that would prohibit states from taking legislative, executive, or judicial action to protect homosexual citizens from discrimination.
<i>Korematsu v. United States (1944)</i>	Upheld that Japanese internment was constitutional. Only Supreme Court case in which the Court, using a strict test for possible racial discrimination, upheld a restriction on civil liberties. The case has since been severely criticized for sanctioning racism.
<i>United States v. Virginia (1996)</i>	Court struck down the Virginia Military Institute's long standing male-only admission policy.
<i>Regents of the University of California at Davis v. Bakke (1978)</i>	Barred quota systems in college admissions, but upheld the constitutionality of affirmative action by giving equal access to minorities.

Other Important Landmark Cases	
<i>Marbury v. Madison (1803)</i>	It formed the basis for the power of judicial review in the under Article 3 of the Constitution.
<i>McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)</i>	A conflict arose between a state government and the Federal government, with the state government being declared subordinate to the Federal government where laws conflict. Upheld the Supremacy Clause (A6, S2)
<i>Gibbons v. Ogden (1854)</i>	In this case the Supreme Court gave a wide definition to Congress' power to "regulate commerce... among the several states." Upheld Commerce Clause (A1, S8, C3).
<i>Wesberry v. Sanders (1964)</i>	The Supreme Court declared here that each person's vote carries equal measure, hence equal Congressional districts.
<i>Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections (1966)</i>	Poll taxes were made illegal for state elections, as they violated the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
<i>United States v. Nixon (1974)</i>	The President's "Executive Privilege" was limited by this case.
<i>In Re Gault (1967)</i>	Established that under the Fourteenth Amendment, juveniles accused of crimes in a delinquency proceeding must be accorded many of the same due process rights as adults such as the right to timely notification of charges, the right to confront witnesses, the right against self-incrimination, and the right to counsel.

THE BIG 10

THE FOLLOWING ARE LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASES THAT SHOULD BE STUDIED IN GREATER DETAIL DUE TO THEIR REPEATED EMPHASIS IN THE AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXAMS OVER THE YEARS:

MARBURY V. MADISON (JUDICIAL REVIEW)

MCCULLOCH V. MARYLAND (NATIONAL SUPREMACY)

DRED SCOTT V. SANFORD (CITIZENSHIP)

PLESSY V. FERGUSON (SEPARATE BUT EQUAL)

KOREMATSU V. UNITED STATES (WARTIME POWERS)

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION (DESEGREGATION)

MAPP V. OHIO (SEARCH WARRANTS)

MIRANDA V. ARIZONA (SELF-INCRIMINATION)

ROE V. WADE (RIGHT TO PRIVACY)

LEMON V. KURTZMAN (SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE)