

Supreme Court Case	Facts of the Case	Holding Question	Ruling/Justifications
<i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> (1819)	Several states, including Maryland, passed laws to tax the Bank of the United States.	Can Congress create a national bank? Can a state tax the national government?	Congress MAY establish a national bank. States may NOT tax the national government. As a result of the necessary and proper clause (also referred to as the Elastic Clause), Congress has implied powers and is not limited by its expressed powers (expands the power of Congress.) The supremacy clause asserts that the national government is superior to state governments when the two conflict.
<i>U.S. v. Lopez</i> (1995)	A student in Texas brought an unloaded gun to school and was charged with violating the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990.	Does the federal government have the power to make a law such as the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990?	The law is unconstitutional because possession of a gun in a school zone does not substantially affect interstate commerce . The Tenth Amendment protects state power in a federal system. The commerce clause does NOT grant Congress ENDLESS power.
<i>Baker v. Carr</i> (1962)	Tennessee voting districts were of very unequal size, therefore one person's vote wasn't necessarily equal to another person's vote.	Does a Court have the authority to hear legislative apportionment cases?	Yes, apportionment claims are justifiable in federal court. Led to " one person one vote " principle. Under the equal protection clause , the

			appellants had a right to challenge unequal apportionment .
<i>Shaw v. Reno</i> (1993)	North Carolina created a very bizarrely shaped majority-minority district for the purpose of increasing black representation in Congress.	Did the North Carolina residents' claim, that the State created a racially gerrymandered district, raise a valid constitutional issue under the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause?	Congressional districts CANNOT be drawn based only on race. Drawing a congressional district based ONLY on race violated the equal protect clause and opposes the colorblind ideal of the Constitution.
<i>Marbury v. Madison</i> (1803)	William Marbury petitioned the Supreme Court to compel Secretary of State James Madison to deliver his commission.	Does the Supreme Court have the authority to order the delivery of their commissions?	The Judiciary Act of 1789 conflicted with the Constitution and was therefore null and void . Established judicial review , the power to declare a law unconstitutional. Congress couldn't pass legislation that supersedes the constitution because the supremacy clause places the Constitution above laws.
<i>Engel v. Vitale</i> (1961)	Public schools in New York began the school day by inviting students to recite a non-denominational prayer each morning.	Does the reading of a non-denominational prayer at the start of the school day violate the "establishment of religion" clause of the First Amendment?	States CANNOT hold prayers in public schools, even if participation is voluntary and the prayer isn't tied to a specific religion. State-sponsored prayer in public schools violates the establishment clause .
<i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i> (1972)	For religious reasons, Amish families refused to send their children to high school, thus violating a Wisconsin law.	Did Wisconsin's requirement that all parents send their children to school at least until age 16 violate the First Amendment by	Compelling Amish students to attend public school beyond 8 th grade violates the free exercise clause .

		criminalizing the conduct of parents who refused to send their children to school for religious reasons?	Individuals' interest in free exercise of religion outweighs the state's interest in compelling school attendance beyond 8 th grade.
<i>Schenck v. U.S.</i> (1919)	A war protester was arrested for violating the Espionage Act by attempting to obstruct military recruitment.	Did Schenck's conviction under the Espionage Act for criticizing the draft violate his First Amendment right to freedom of speech?	The Espionage Act did NOT violate the First Amendment and was an appropriate exercise of Congress' wartime authority. There MAY be time, place, and manner restrictions on the First Amendment's free speech guarantee (limiting free speech).
<i>Tinker v. Des Moines</i> (1969)	Students were suspended for wearing black armbands as a symbol to protest the Vietnam War.	Are the armbands a form of protected speech? Do students at a public school have free speech?	The armbands REPRESENT pure speech and students have free speech rights at school. Students have a right to a political, symbolic speech based on the First Amendment's free speech .
<i>New York Times Co. v. U.S.</i> (1971)	The Nixon administration attempted to stop the publication of the Pentagon Papers.	Does the Low-Level Waste Act violate the Tenth Amendment and the "guarantee clause" of Article Four?	The government did NOT have the right to block publication of the Pentagon Papers. Because of the First Amendment's freedom of press , there is a heavy presumption against prior restraint (censorship).
<i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> (1963)	A Florida man was charged with a felony and requested that the state appoint an attorney for him. The state of Florida denied the request.	Does the Sixth Amendment's right to counsel in criminal cases extend to felony defendants in state courts?	States MUST provide attorneys for defendants who can't afford one. Incorporated the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of the right to counsel ,

			applying it to defendants in state court.
<i>Roe v. Wade</i> (1973)	A Texas state law prohibited abortions except to save the pregnant woman's life.	Does the Constitution recognize a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy by abortion?	A woman has a right to an abortion based on the right to privacy . A woman's right to an abortion is within the right to privacy incorporated by the 14th Amendment .
<i>McDonald v. Chicago</i> (2010)	The city of Chicago denied all licenses for handguns, effectively banning them.	Does the Second Amendment apply to the states because it is incorporated by the Fourteenth Amendment's Privileges and Immunities or Due Process clauses and thereby made applicable to the states?	The Second Amendment's right to bear arms for the purpose of self-defense applies to the states, striking down the Chicago policy. Incorporated the Second Amendment's individual right to bear arms through the 14th Amendment .
<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> (1954)	Black students in several states were denied admittance to certain public schools based on race.	Does the segregation of public education based solely on race violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment?	Racial segregation of public schools allowed by " separate but equal " principle of <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> IS unconstitutional (overturned) Racially segregated public schools violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment .
<i>Citizens United v. F.E.C.</i> (2010)	A law banned corporations and unions from making political ads within 60 days of a general election or 30 days of a primary election.	(Multiple Questions – Only the question below is relevant to what you need to know in AP Gov.) Do the BCRA's disclosure requirements impose an unconstitutional burden when applied to electioneering	Corporations, unions, and interest groups CAN raise and spend unlimited amounts of money for independent political expenditures. Based on the First Amendment's free speech clause ,

		requirements because they are protected "political speech" and not subject to regulation as "campaign speech"?	corporations, unions, and interest groups HAVE the right to engage in political speech.
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