Lesson 9

American Government

System of Government
The Judicial Branch

Questions: 2, 13, 14, 37, 38, 39, 40, 12
The Three Branches of Government

**LEGISLATIVE**
- Congress
  - House of Representatives
  - Senate

**EXECUTIVE**
- President
- Vice President
- Cabinet

**JUDICIAL**
- Supreme Court
  - Courts of Appeal
  - District Courts
Question 2

What does the Constitution do?
sets up the government
defines the government
protects basic rights of Americans
Name **one** branch or part of the government.*
Question #13

- Congress
- legislative
- President
- executive
- the courts
- judicial

The U.S. Capitol (legislative branch) and the U.S. Supreme Court (judicial branch) buildings in Washington, D.C.
Separation of Powers / Checks and Balances

PRESIDENT
(Executive Branch)

CONGRESS
(Legislative Branch)

THE COURTS
(Judicial Branch)

Can declare a law unconstitutional
Can declare an executive action unconstitutional
Can veto a bill
Can reject a treaty signed by the president
Approves federal judges
Appoints federal judges
Question 14

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

Civics Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test
★ checks and balances
★ separation of powers
The Judicial Branch:

- reviews laws
- explains laws
- resolves disputes (disagreements)
- decides if a law goes against the Constitution
The Federal Court System

Supreme Court

Courts of Appeal (11)

District Courts (94)
The U.S. Supreme Court
What does the judicial branch do?
Question #37

★ reviews laws
★ explains laws
★ resolves disputes (disagreements)
★ decides if a law goes against the Constitution

The Courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court building, where the Court has sat since 1935.
Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
Question

38

What is the highest court in the United States?
the Supreme Court

West facade of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
The 9 Supreme Court Justices

Sonia Sotomayor  Samuel Alito  Elena Kagan  Neil Gorsuch

Ruth Bader Ginsburg  Anthony Kennedy  John Roberts (Chief Justice)  Clarence Thomas  Stephen Breyer
How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
There are nine justices on the Supreme Court: eight associate justices and one chief justice.

Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
Question 40

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
John Roberts
(John G. Roberts, Jr.)

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.
Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
The Rule of Law
What is the “rule of law”?
Everyone must follow the law.
Leaders must obey the law.
Government must obey the law.
No one is above the law.

The Contemplation of Justice statue outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C.
Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
The Supreme Court
Interprets and Upholds the Constitution
Citizens United v. FEC (2010)