

**The Judicial Branch**  
**Review Sheet**

**Part I (Vocabulary):** Write the term being described in the space provided.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a court's authority to hear and decide cases
2. \_\_\_\_\_ when states and federal courts share jurisdiction
3. \_\_\_\_\_ federal trial courts where lawsuits are begun
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the authority to hear cases for the first time
5. \_\_\_\_\_ courts whose responsibility is to review decisions made in a lower court
6. \_\_\_\_\_ a geographic region covered by a court
7. \_\_\_\_\_ to send a case back to the lower court to be tried again
8. \_\_\_\_\_ a detailed explanation of the legal thinking behind a court's decision
9. \_\_\_\_\_ gives guidance to other judges by offering a model upon which to base their own decisions on similar cases
10. \_\_\_\_\_ the power of the Supreme Court to declare laws or actions of other government officials unconstitutional

**Part II (Matching):** For each statement write "D" if the statement describes Federal District Courts, "A" for U.S. Courts of Appeals, or "S" for the Supreme Court (some statements may have more than one answer).

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|---|---|
| 1. ___ Call witnesses                       | 6. ___ Have no juries                   |
| 2. ___ Have only appellate jurisdiction     | 7. ___ Judges work as a group or panel  |
| 3. ___ Have only original jurisdiction      | 8. ___ Issue written opinions           |
| 4. ___ Judges are referred to as "justices" | 9. ___ Has the power of judicial review |
| 5. ___ Collect evidence                     | 10. ___ Judges serve life terms         |

**Part III (The Supreme Court):** Use numbers 1-7 to place the process of a Supreme Court Case in the correct order.

1. \_\_\_ Each team of lawyers gets 30 minutes to present their oral argument before the Court
2. \_\_\_ Cases are submitted to the Court by *writ of certiorari*
3. \_\_\_ Majority of justices write the official opinion of the Court; those who disagree write dissenting opinions
4. \_\_\_ If 4 out of the 9 justices accept the case it goes on the Court calendar or docket
5. \_\_\_ Lawyers submit written arguments called briefs
6. \_\_\_ Justices meet in conference to decide the case
7. \_\_\_ Justices announce the opinion of the Court

**Part IV (Short Answer):** Write the answer to the question in the space provided.

1. In what Article of the Constitution is the Federal Court System created? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the eight types of cases heard in federal court? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the lowest level of the federal court system? \_\_\_\_\_ How many of these courts are there? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the primary job of the Court of Appeals? \_\_\_\_\_ How many are there? \_\_\_\_\_ How are they divided? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why is precedent important? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who nominates or appoints federal judges? \_\_\_\_\_ Who confirms them? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How long do federal judges serve? \_\_\_\_\_ How can they be removed? \_\_\_\_\_ Why does this make federal judges so important to presidents? \_\_\_\_\_
8. In what Supreme Court case did the Court claim the power of judicial review? \_\_\_\_\_ Who was the Chief Justice in that case? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the single greatest limit on the power of the courts? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why does the Supreme Court accept so few cases? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is *stare decisis*? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What are the four basic reasons for Court decisions?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Example: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ Example: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ Example: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ Example: \_\_\_\_\_