

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: _____