

## **Answers to Card Review**

1. Which court in the federal system is the court of last resort?
  - The Supreme Court serves as the nation's court of last resort. It has both original and appellate jurisdiction.
  - It acts as policymaker through judicial review (granted through Marbury vs. Madison)
2. Which courts in the federal system use three-judge panels to review cases?
  - U.S. Appeals courts review the final decisions of district courts.
3. Which courts in the federal system have original jurisdiction within their regions?
  - U.S. district courts have original jurisdiction for cases within their regions.
  - Usually a jury tries cases.

### **SPECIAL COURTS:**

4. Which court hears cases that involve customs or other trade issues?
  - Court of International Trade
5. Which court hears cases in which claims for damages have been made against the United States?
  - Court of Federal Claims
6. Which court resolves disputes between taxpayers and the IRS?
  - Tax Court
7. Which court in the federal system reviews the convictions of military personnel who have violated military law?  
**Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces**
  - Alien Terrorist Removal Court
  - Military courts
  - Military tribunals
8. What three methods are used to select state judges?
  - Election
  - Appointment
  - Merit selection
9. Which courts in the state system have jurisdiction over all matters of state law and are the last avenue of appeal for most cases?
  - Court of last resort hear appeals on all matters of STATE law.

10. Which courts in the state system handle most serious criminal cases and major civil disputes?
- The courts of general jurisdiction handle most serious criminal cases and major civil disputes.
11. Which courts in the state system specialize in minor criminal or civil cases and usually involve informal hearings without juries?
- Trial courts of limited jurisdiction specialize in minor criminal and civil cases.

## **FEDERAL JUDGE SELECTION PROCESS**

12. Which practice in the selection process for federal judges allows senators to block nominations to federal courts in their home states?

**Senatorial courtesy** allows senators to block nominations to federal courts in their home states

13. Who nominates Supreme Court justices? Who confirms these nomination?
- Judges are nominated by the **president** and
  - confirmed by the **Senate**

## **STAGES OF SUPREME COURT CASE**

14. What is a legal document that the Supreme Court sends to a lower court ordering it to send up a complete record of a case?
- **A writ of certiorari**, a document that the Supreme Court sends to a lower court ordering it to send up a complete record of a case
  - **Legal and amicus curiae briefs are filed.**
  - **Oral arguments are presented to the Court.**
  - **Justices meet in private conferences and decide to uphold or to overrule a previous decision.**
15. What are three kinds of opinions that may be written by the Supreme Court after a case is decided?
- Majority opinions states the reasons for a Supreme Court decision
  - Dissenting opinions lay out the reasons for disagreeing with the majority
  - Concurring opinions lay out reasoning that differs from the majority opinion but reaches the same decision.

## **SCHOOL OF THOUGHT ABOUT JUDICIAL REVIEW**

16. What are the two schools of thought surrounding the Supreme Court's power of judicial review?

- Judicial activism asserts that the Court has both the right and the obligation to overturn bad precedents and promote socially desirable goals.
- Judicial restraint holds that judicial review should be used sparingly by the Court and that elected officials should make policy decisions.