

SS.7.C.2.5 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	Which right is NOT mentioned in the U.S. Constitution?	Identify the right that is not specifically listed in the U.S. Constitution nor any of its amendments.
A	petition the government	Incorrect – This right is mentioned in the First Amendment.
B	due process of the law	Incorrect – This right is mentioned in the Fifth Amendment.
C	trial by jury	Incorrect – This right is mentioned in the Sixth Amendment.
D	privacy	Correct – Privacy, or the right to be left alone, is an unenumerated right; it is not listed in the U.S. Constitution or in any amendment.



SS.7.C.2.5 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The passage below about government is from <i>Federalist No. 51</i>.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p>If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. . . . the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Source: Public Domain / Library of Congress</p> <p>How are the author’s views from this passage applied in the U.S. Constitution?</p>	<p>The question is asking to explain how the views of the author in this passage are reflected in the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>The passage presents a metaphor about government.</p>
A	The U.S. Constitution limits the rights of the people.	Incorrect – The Constitution safeguards the rights of the people by limiting the power of the government. The passage does not address situations where individual rights may be limited.
B	The U.S. Constitution limits the power of the federal government.	Correct – The passage states that limits must be put on the power of the government in order to protect the rights of the people. The metaphor in the passage explains that the power of the government must be controlled to protect individual rights.
C	The U.S. Constitution requires the states to provide for the common defense.	Incorrect – The U. S. Constitution does not require states to provide for the common defense. The quote does not address defense.
D	The U.S. Constitution requires the government to promote the general welfare.	Incorrect – The quote does not address government’s responsibility to promote the general welfare.



SS.7.C.2.5 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The timeline below shows events related to the death penalty.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">Year</th> <th>Event</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1957-1972</td> <td>Several states abolish the death penalty.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1968</td> <td>The U.S. Supreme Court forbids jurors from being dismissed because they oppose the death penalty.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1988</td> <td>The U.S. Supreme Court rules the death penalty for persons 16 and under to be unconstitutional.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1994</td> <td>President Clinton signs a crime bill that allows expanded use of the death penalty.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1996</td> <td>Death penalty by hanging and by gas chamber ends.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>Connecticut repeals the death penalty</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>What constitutional protections have resulted from these events?</p>	Year	Event	1957-1972	Several states abolish the death penalty.	1968	The U.S. Supreme Court forbids jurors from being dismissed because they oppose the death penalty.	1988	The U.S. Supreme Court rules the death penalty for persons 16 and under to be unconstitutional.	1994	President Clinton signs a crime bill that allows expanded use of the death penalty.	1996	Death penalty by hanging and by gas chamber ends.	2012	Connecticut repeals the death penalty	<p>Read and analyze the events described in the timeline.</p> <p>The correct answer should describe how the Constitution protects the rights of individuals who are awaiting execution.</p>
Year	Event															
1957-1972	Several states abolish the death penalty.															
1968	The U.S. Supreme Court forbids jurors from being dismissed because they oppose the death penalty.															
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A	Constitutional protections from cruel and unusual punishment are safeguarded while executions continue.	Correct – The Eighth Amendment protects individuals from cruel and unusual punishment. The timeline describes a series of events that have protected individuals from cruel and unusual punishment while the government has continued to enforce and expand the use of the death penalty as a form of criminal punishment.														
B	Constitutional protections from cruel and unusual punishment are limited while executions continue.	Incorrect – The timeline shows that the U.S. Supreme Court has broadened constitutional protections from cruel and unusual punishment.														
C	Constitutional protections of due process of law are safeguarded while executions continue.	Incorrect – The timeline does not address due process.														
D	Constitutional protections of due process of law are limited while executions continue.	Incorrect – The timeline does not address due process.														

