

SS.7.C.3.12 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	In which case did the U.S. Supreme Court rule that the Florida Supreme Court's plan for recounting ballots violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment?	The correct answer should identify the U.S. Supreme Court case that ended the ballot recount in Florida during the 2000 presidential election.
A	<i>Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier</i> (1988)	Incorrect – This case limited First Amendment rights in public schools.
B	<i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> (1963)	Incorrect – This case was about the Sixth Amendment right to legal representation in criminal trials.
C	<i>U.S. v. Nixon</i> (1974)	Incorrect – This case was about President Nixon's use of executive privilege and the rule of law.
D	<i>Bush v. Gore</i> (2000)	Correct – This case ended the ballot recount in Florida during the 2000 presidential election because the U.S. Supreme Court determined that the recount plan violated the Fourteenth Amendment.



SS.7.C.3.12 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	Which was an outcome of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> (1954)?	The correct answer should describe the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> .
A	Administrators may limit the content of student publications.	Incorrect – This was the outcome of <i>Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier</i> .
B	Public school districts that segregate deny equal protection.	Correct – The Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools violated the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. Segregation in public school districts was found to be unconstitutional.
C	Students have a reduced expectation of privacy in school.	Incorrect – <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> did not address privacy rights.
D	Criminal defendants have the right to an attorney.	Incorrect – This was the outcome of <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> .



SS.7.C.3.12 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	What lessons did future U.S. leaders learn from the 1974 U.S. Supreme Court case <i>United States v. Nixon</i> ?	The question asks about the modern application of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in <i>United States v. Nixon</i> .
A	The president is accountable for obeying the law.	Correct – The case decision demonstrates that being president does not make one above the law. The president must follow the same laws as all American citizens based on the rule of law found in the U.S. Constitution.
B	The president is responsible for enforcing the law.	Incorrect – While the president is responsible for enforcing the law, the principle of enforcing the law does not relate to the case.
C	The president is not allowed to hold secret talks with foreign governments.	Incorrect – This case did not deal with secret talks with foreign governments.
D	The president is not allowed to have private meetings with Cabinet members.	Incorrect – Presidents holding private meetings with Cabinet members is allowed by “executive privilege”. Executive privilege was not a central factor in the case decision.

