

Name _____

Date _____

Jury Duty

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. The Sixth Amendment protects the rights of those accused of crimes. It is part of the Bill of Rights. The first clause in the amendment is the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury. The jury is composed of people in the community where the crime was committed. All charges against the accused individual are explained to them. The accused are also given the opportunity to obtain witnesses. The last clause is the right to have the “assistance of counsel,” or an attorney, to defend them at trial. If the accused can’t afford an attorney, the government is required to provide one at no cost.

With which of the following statements would the author of this passage most likely agree?

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| A. It is important for anyone accused of a crime to understand exactly which charges they are facing. | B. An unbiased jury is preferred, but not always necessary. |
| C. Speed is not a particularly important aspect of a trial. | D. If an individual can’t afford an attorney, they will not have legal representation. |

2. In order to serve on a jury, there are a few requirements that must be met. Jurors must be a US citizen and at least 18 years old. They must also live in the community where the trial is being held. Depending on the type of trial, the number of jurors will vary. For example, petit juries, or trial juries, have about 6 to 12 jurors. Grand juries usually have up to 16 to 23 jurors. The difference between these two juries is that trial juries decide whether or not the person accused is guilty while grand juries decide whether or not there is enough evidence to charge someone with a crime.

Which of the following is a requirement that must be met in order to serve on a jury?

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| A. Must be over the age of 21 | B. Must be a US citizen |
| C. Must be able to drive out of state for the trial | D. Must come with a friend to join the jury |

3. Just because you received a jury duty summons does not mean that you're guaranteed to serve on the jury. There is a selection process that happens to determine suitability for jury service. This process is called voir dire. Voir dire means "to speak the truth." During this process, potential jurors are questioned by attorneys and the judge. These questions help determine if a juror can decide a particular case fairly. Jurors who may be biased are dismissed. By serving on a jury, you're protecting the liberty of fellow citizens. It's a civic responsibility. And ensuring they get a fair trial is an important part of jury duty.

Why is voir dire an important part of jury selection?

- A. It helps attorneys identify the best witnesses for a case.
- B. It helps more people to be part of the jury.
- C. It lets the judge know who to pick as the first juror.
- D. It ensures that the jury is unbiased and fair.