Name _____ Date _____

Voting Rights Amendments: The 15th, 19th, 24th and 26th

Directions: Use what each voting rights amendment says to answer the questions. The states and voters described are invented.

1. Match each description to the amendment it fits. Each description puts the amendment's rule in plain words.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Forbids denying or limiting a citizen's vote because of sex
2. _____ Forbids denying or limiting the vote of citizens 18 or older because of their age
3. _____ Forbids denying or limiting a citizen's vote because of race, color or once having been enslaved
4. _____ Forbids requiring a poll tax or any other tax to vote in elections for federal offices

Choices for question 1

A. Seventeenth Amendment
B. Fifteenth Amendment
C. Twenty-fourth Amendment
D. Twenty-sixth Amendment
E. Nineteenth Amendment
F. Twenty-third Amendment

2. Which TWO of these amendments were ratified after 1950? Select 2.

☐ A. Seventeenth Amendment
☐ B. Twenty-fourth Amendment
☐ C. Fifteenth Amendment
☐ D. Twenty-sixth Amendment
☐ E. Nineteenth Amendment

3. An invented state passes a law setting the voting age at 21 for its own state and local elections, and a 19-year-old citizen is turned away from a state election. Is the law allowed?

A. Yes, because each state may set any voting age it chooses for its own elections
B. No, because the Twenty-sixth Amendment protects citizens 18 or older in state elections too
C. No, because the Constitution requires every state to let 16-year-olds vote
D. Yes, because the Twenty-sixth Amendment covers only federal elections

4. An invented state charges a $2 poll tax to vote for governor and other state offices, but not to vote for federal offices. Which statement about the tax is accurate?

A. It is unconstitutional under Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections (1966), not the Twenty-fourth Amendment.

B. It is allowed, because none of the voting rights amendments mentions state taxes.

C. It is unconstitutional, because the Twenty-fourth Amendment reaches every election in the country.

D. It is allowed, because the Twenty-fourth Amendment reaches only elections for federal offices.

5. An invented state charges a poll tax to vote in a primary election that picks candidates for the U.S. House. Does the Twenty-fourth Amendment cover this tax?

A. Yes, but only if the state also charges a tax to vote in general elections

B. No, because primaries choose candidates rather than the officeholders themselves

C. No, because the amendment covers only general elections held in November

D. Yes, because the amendment covers primaries for federal offices as well as general elections

6. Which statement accurately describes women's voting in the United States before the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified in 1920?

A. Every state already let women vote, so the amendment changed nothing.

B. Women could vote in federal elections everywhere but in no state elections.

C. Some states already let women vote, but the Constitution did not protect that right nationwide.

D. No woman anywhere in the country could vote in any election.

7. How did each of these four voting rights changes become part of the Constitution?

A. The president added each one by signing it, the same way the president signs a bill.

B. Each state voted on its own version, and Congress then combined the different versions.

C. The Supreme Court added each one to the Constitution when it decided an important voting case.

D. Congress proposed each one by a two-thirds vote in both chambers, and three-fourths of the states ratified it.

8. A classmate says, "The Twenty-sixth Amendment requires every citizen who turns 18 to vote." Which correction is accurate?

A. The amendment lowered the voting age to 16 for state elections.

B. It protects the right of citizens 18 or older to vote, but it does not make anyone vote.

C. The amendment requires voting only in elections for president.

D. The classmate is right, because voting is required starting at age 18.