Name _____ Date _____

The Federal Court System and Judicial Review

Directions: Answer each question about how the federal courts are organized and what they do. All cases described are invented.

1. In an invented case that follows the usual path through the federal courts, the losing side keeps appealing. Match each step to its place in the order.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ The case reaches the Supreme Court.
2. _____ The case is heard in a federal district court.
3. _____ The case goes to a U.S. court of appeals.

A. First
B. Third
C. Fourth
D. Second

2. In an invented federal case, witnesses testify, both sides present evidence and a jury reaches a verdict. Which court is this most likely to be?

A. A federal district court
B. The Supreme Court
C. The Senate, sitting as a court
D. A U.S. court of appeals

3. A company loses a trial in a federal district court and appeals. What does the U.S. court of appeals usually do with the case?

A. Lets the company choose a different trial judge
B. Holds a brand-new trial with new witnesses and a new jury
C. Sends the case to the president for a final decision
D. Reviews the trial record for legal mistakes made by the trial court

4. After losing in a court of appeals, a company asks the Supreme Court to take its case. Which statement about this request is accurate?

A. The Supreme Court chooses which of these cases to hear and turns down most requests.
B. Congress votes on each case before the Supreme Court may hear it.
C. The president decides which cases the Supreme Court will hear.
D. The Supreme Court must hear every case that is appealed to it.

5. Two invented states disagree about where their shared border runs, and one state sues the other. Where does the case begin?

A. In a federal district court, like most federal cases
B. In a U.S. court of appeals, which handles disputes between states
C. In the Senate, which settles disputes between states
D. In the Supreme Court, which hears a few kinds of cases first

6. A student says, "Article III includes a sentence giving courts the power of judicial review." Which correction is accurate?

A. Judicial review comes from the Bill of Rights, which lists the powers of the courts.

B. The Constitution never names judicial review; the Supreme Court established it in Marbury v. Madison (1803).

C. The student is right, because Article III names the power of judicial review word for word.

D. Judicial review comes from a law that Congress passed in 1803 to give courts more power.

7. During a class discussion, someone asks where the number of Supreme Court justices comes from. Which answer is accurate?

A. Congress sets the number by law, since the Constitution does not name one.

B. Each new president decides how many justices the Court will have.

C. Article III fixes the number of justices at nine for all time.

D. The chief justice adds seats whenever the Court becomes too busy.

8. Under Article III, how long do federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, keep their posts?

A. For six years, the same length as a senator's term in office

B. For as long as they behave well, unless removed through impeachment and conviction

C. Until the next president takes office and names replacements

D. For one ten-year term, after which the Senate must approve them again