Bill of Rights Questions

1. Where and when was the Congressional session held in which the Bill of Rights was written?
2. Why was the Bill of Rights needed?
3. What was required for ratification?
4. Article the first delineates mathematical requirements for what?
5. Why do you think that Article the second was included?
6. Many claim the third Article contains our most important rights. Make one argument agreeing and one argument disagreeing with that claim.
7. What is the purpose given in the fourth for allowing gun ownership?
8. What does it mean to be quartered as stated in the fifth? Bonus: Why was this included?
9. The sixth keeps people safe from what? Use your own words as much as possible.
10. The seventh contains important rights in the criminal process. Break down the rights in simple terms.
11. Why is the eighth important for criminal prosecutions? In other words how does it make the process fair and just?
12. The ninth guarantees that decisions will stand. Why might this be important?
13. In your opinion is the death penalty cruel and unusual punishment? Why or why not?
14. Translate the eleventh into your own words as much as possible
15. The twelfth was designed to nullify people’s fears that the federal government would be too powerful. Do you think this amendment was successful? Why or why not.
16. Only ten of these Articles were ratified at the time. Which ones and in what order?
Bill of Rights Answers

1. Where and when was the Congressional session held in which the Bill of Rights was written? New York, March 4, 1789

2. Why was the Bill of Rights needed? To be sure that the government was not too powerful and that it would not abuse its power.

3. What was required for ratification? ¾ of state legislatures approval.

4. Article the first delineates mathematical requirements for what? How to determine the proper number of representatives needed from each state based on population.

5. Why do you think that Article the second was included? Because they might raise their own salaries and there would be no stopping them.

6. Many claim the third Article contains our most important rights. Make one argument agreeing and one argument disagreeing with that claim. Answers will vary but might mention: This allows people to express themselves whether the government likes it or not which gives people actual power, Freedom of speech is a fundamental right that no government should take away, freedom of religion ought to be personal and not dictated by law; does not specify enough what these rights mean which has tied up government for many years, does not prevent unlawful detention or seizure which is harsher treatment.

7. What is the purpose given in the fourth for allowing gun ownership? Necessary for the security of a free state.

8. What does it mean to be quartered as stated in the fifth? Bonuses: Why was this included? Allowed to stay in one’s home. Because during the American Revolution the English were allowed to stay in people’s homes.

9. The sixth keeps people safe from what? Use your own words as much as possible. The government cannot randomly or without just cause search your home or take your property without a clear written warrant telling exactly what they want and why.

10. The seventh contains important rights in the criminal process. Break down the rights in simple terms. Must be brought up on formal charges, no double jeopardy, cannot be taken to jail or property taken away without going through the proper process.

11. Why is the eighth important for criminal prosecutions? In other words how does it make the process fair and just? Promised a lawyer, not a secret who the accuser is, tried by a jury so there are many people deciding their fate, can defend themselves with witnesses.

12. The ninth guarantees that decisions will stand. Why might this be important? Because otherwise people could take cases to other courts until they got the verdict they wanted.

13. In your opinion is the death penalty cruel and unusual punishment? Why or why not? Answers will vary.

14. Translate the eleventh into your own words as much as possible. It states that even if a right is not listed it does not mean it is not protected, it would be impossible to list every single right enjoyed by the people.

15. The twelfth was designed to nullify people’s fears that the federal government would be too powerful. Do you think this amendment was successful? Why or why not. Answers will vary.

16. All but first two.