

Study Questions
Texas Government 2306
Test #4

CHAPTER 9
THE JUDICIARY

The Key Concepts and Objectives provide a look at the fundamental goals and ideas of Chapter 10. This section serves as a guide to a basic understanding of your textbook.

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

Be familiar with the myths of the nonpolitical judiciary.
What are the functions of the Judiciary?

Be familiar with the players in the system of justice.
(Attorney General, lawyers, The State Bar of Texas)

Understand the court structure of Texas. (criminal and civil jurisdiction) Figure 9-1
(Municipal Courts, Justice Courts, County Courts, District Courts, Appellate Courts, and the Highest State Appellate Courts)

Know what type of cases each court handles.

Be familiar with how judges are selected to the different courts and their terms of office.

Be familiar on how judges are removed and lawyers are reprimanded.
How are vacancies filled?

Know how the state appellate courts function and how they are organized.

Recognize the jury system, including grand juries, and the qualifications for serving on a jury.

Be familiar with the issues facing the Texas Judiciary. What are different methods used in selecting judges among the fifty states.

Be familiar with the debate of At-Large or Single-Member District Elections for State district judges.

TERMS FOR REVIEW

Use this list to review essential principles, functions, and concepts from Chapter Ten. Do not merely memorize the terms but rather ask questions about the terms and look for the importance or significance of the term to the material.

judiciary
appellate jurisdiction
civil jurisdiction
municipal courts
county courts
Court of Criminal Appeals
Partisan elections

original jurisdiction
concurrent jurisdiction
criminal jurisdiction
Justice of the Peace (JP) Courts
District Courts
The Supreme Court
juvenile court

Attorney General
advisory opinions
Trial juries
At-large elections

district elections
grand juries
plea bargains
Judicial Campaign Fairness Act of 1995

CHAPTER 10

THE SUBSTANCE OF JUSTICE

The Key Concepts and Objectives provide a look at the fundamental goals and ideas of Chapter 11. This section serves as a guide to a basic understanding of your textbook.

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

Define civil liberties and how the First Amendment came to eventually apply to the states.

Be familiar with Freedom of Expression and key Supreme Court decisions that have dealt with this freedom (*Texas v. Johnson*)

Be familiar with Freedom of Religion and how the Supreme Court has ruled on its protections. How has the court ruled on the issue of prayer in the public schools?

Recognize the debate surrounding the right to keep and bear arms.

Understand the issue of abortion and the Supreme Courts rulings on this issue. (*Roe v Wade*)

Define Civil Rights and understand its application to school segregation, and education.

Be familiar with the different aspects of criminal law. What are some basic civil rights retained by those in custody?

Understand the debate surrounding the Death Penalty.

Define tort and know the efforts to reform it, including the tort reform legislation passed in 2003.

TERMS FOR REVIEW

Use this list of key terms to review key principles and concepts from Chapter Eleven. Do not merely memorize this terms but rather understand the context of how this terms are used throughout your reading.

Civil liberties
Civil rights
Equal protection of the laws
Freedom of Expression
Texas v. Johnson
Freedom of Religion
Second Amendment
Roe v. Wade
Pro-choice
Capital punishment

First Amendment (U.S)
14th Amendment
incorporation
Edgewood v Kirby
Ruiz v Estelle
School Prayer
Abortion
pro-life
School Segregation
Tort Reform

CHAPTER 11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Key Concepts and Objectives provide a look at the fundamental goals and ideas of Chapter 12. This section serves as a guide to a basic understanding of the objectives of your textbook.

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

- Be familiar with the historical and legal background of County Government.
- Be familiar with the function and responsibilities of county government and describe how it is organized and operates.
- List the elected officers of county government, and describe the powers and functions of each.
- Describe the sources of revenue for Texas counties and illustrate typical expenditures. (See Figure 12-2)
- Be familiar with the topics the authors discuss in evaluating county government and recommendations for reform.
- Explain the differences between *general-law* cities and *home-rule* cities in Texas.
- Describe the importance of extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and annexation.
- Know the different forms of local municipal government and know which is the more preferable. (Council Manager, Mayor-Council, Mayor-Manager, Commission)
- Recognize the differences between at-large and district systems of election.
- Describe the sources of revenue for city government and major items of expenditures.
- Know the functions of Special Districts, and be familiar with their various types.
- Be familiar with the advantages and disadvantages of Special Districts.
- Be familiar with School Districts and Council of Governments (COGs)
- Recognize the different prospects for the future of local government that the authors point out.

TERMS FOR REVIEW

Use this list to review essential principles, functions, and concepts for Chapter Three. Do not merely memorize terms; ask questions about the material you are reviewing and look for the importance or significance of each item.

county commissioners' court
Avery v Midland (1968)
county judge
partisan ballot
justices of the peace (Jps)
ordinance making power
home-rule cities
annexation
City Manager
Commission Form
at-large elections
place system
School District
Mud's

county sheriff
county attorney
assessor-collector
county clerk
property tax
general law cities
extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ)
Council-Manager
Mayor-Council
nonpartisan
district system
Special District
Council of Government (COGs)
spoils system