2007 Support for Civil Liberties Index Questions: 1. It’s a waste of resources to pay for trials for people who are obviously guilty. (Agree/Disagree) 2. Suppose somebody is against all churches and religion. If that person wanted to make a speech in your community against churches and religion, do you think he or she should be allowed to speak? (Agree/Disagree) 3. What about a person who opposes the war in Iraq? Suppose that person wanted to organize a protest rally outside a government building. Should he or she be allowed to do it? (Agree/Disagree) 2008 Support for Civil Liberties Index Questions: 1. When a criminal refuses to confess his crimes, the authorities: (should be able to pressure him until he does/have no right to push him around, no matter what.) 2. Requiring police to tell a suspect that he has the right to remain silent: (prevents the police from doing their job properly/is necessary to a fair system of law enforcement.) 3. In dealing with crime, the most important consideration is to: (protect the rights of the accused/stop crime even if we have to violate the rights of the accused.) 4. Books that preach the overthrow of the government should be: (banned from the library/made available by the library, just like any other book.) 5. Atheists should be allowed to make fun of God and religion. (Yes/No) 6. It is better to live in an orderly society than to allow people so much freedom that they can become disruptive. (Yes/No) 7. Foreign radicals who want to express their hatred of America should be able to hold rallies in a civic auditorium. (Yes/No) 2009 Support for Civil Liberties Index Questions: 1. Which statement comes closest to your views on criminal justice? (It’s a waste of resources to pay for trials for people who are obviously guilty/Even those who are guilty of a crime deserve a fair trial.) 2. When a criminal refuses to confess his crimes, the authorities: (should be able to pressure him until he does/have no right to push him around, no matter what). 3. What is your opinion of jury duty? (Serving on a jury seems like a major hassle. I hope I never get called to serve/Although serving on a jury can be time consuming, I don’t mind serving if I get called.) 4. [In response to case study] If the majority of the town votes to close a religious organization that it doesn’t like, the minority of people who are members have no right to keep it open. (Agree/Disagree) 5. If I lived in that town, I would: (Vote to have the new church closed/Vote to let the church stay open but ban them from going door-to-door/Allow the church to stay open and allow them to go door-to-door.) 6. [In response to news story] How strongly do you agree with the following statement? “San Diego State should allow the Ku Klux Klan to hold a rally on campus.” (Strongly agree/Somewhat agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Somewhat disagree/Strongly disagree) 7. It is better to live in an orderly society, even if some freedoms are limited, rather than to allow people so much freedom that they can become disruptive. (Agree/Disagree) 2007 Civil Liberties Knowledge Index Questions: 1. The official religion of the United States is Christianity. (True/False) 2. Suppose a person is found not guilty of a crime in a trial. Later, he or she is linked to the same crime by strong DNA evidence. Can he or she be tried again for this same crime? (Yes/No) 3. What are the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution called? (The Rights of Man and the Citizen/The Bill of Rights/The Declaration of Independence/The Preamble) 4. Which of these practices has the Supreme Court judged to be constitutional? (Religious clubs holding meetings on school grounds after school/School-sponsored prayer/Ten Commandments posted in public school classrooms/Students voting on whether to read a prayer at sporting events) 5. The Supreme Court has ruled that speech includes the following forms of expression: (Non-verbal acts/Symbolic acts/Spoken words/All of the above) 6. When they wrote the First Amendment, what kind of speech were the Founders most concerned with protecting? (Religious speech/Court testimony/Private speech/Speech about politics) 7. Which of these is an example of censorship? (An entertainer is not invited to perform at a concert because she expressed her political views/A parent limits the amount of time her son can spend instant-messaging with friends/An army sergeant reviews newspaper articles written by American soldiers in Iraq to be certain that no information that might be helpful to the enemy is included/A storeowner won’t allow people who swear into his shop.) 8. What is eminent domain? (The United States owns all of the land in the United States/People may claim unused government land/The states own the land within their state boundaries/The government can take land from private individuals for public use.) 9. According to the Fifth Amendment, when can an accused criminal be forced to testify against him or herself? (When he or she is arrested/When the state believes that other witnesses are lying/During sentencing/Accused persons can never be forced to testify at their own trials.) 10. What rights does the Sixth Amendment guarantee accused criminals during their
trials? (The right to an attorney/The right to call and confront witnesses/The right to know the specific crime of which they are accused/All of the above) 11. Which two branches of government have to agree that probable cause exists before a search warrant can be issued? (The legislative and the executive/The legislative and the judicial/The judicial and the executive/The state and the federal) 12. What does a grand jury do? (They re-try a case/They decide guilt or innocence/They set the penalty for a crime/They decide if there is enough evidence to go to trial.) 13. Due process means all of the following EXCEPT: (The government must act fairly/Laws themselves must be constitutional/Legislation must respect individual rights and be enforced fairly/The government cannot interfere in any way in individuals’ lives.) 14. The significance of Brown v. Board of Education (1954) includes all of the following EXCEPT: (The Supreme Court found segregation in schools unconstitutional/The Supreme Court determined that states could provide “separate but equal” facilities for people of different races/State governments would eventually have to follow the directions of the federal government and integrate their schools/The case marked the end of the Jim Crow period and the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement.) 15. If the U.S. Supreme Court rules that a law is unconstitutional, the government can no longer enforce that law. (Agree/Disagree) 2008 Civil Liberties Knowledge Index Questions: 1. What are the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution called? (Fill-in-the-blank) 2. Which of the following is specifically guaranteed by the first ten amendments? (Right to an education/Right to a free press/Right to privacy/Right to free trade) 3. A militia is… (a professional army/a supply of weapons/a military organization made up of citizens/a military school) 4. Which of the following is an example of a situation when a person may be convicted of treason? (The person is seen speaking against the government/Two people testify that they saw the person giving weapons to an enemy soldier during the war/The person writes a letter describing plans to make war against the country/The President says the person committed an act of treason.) 5. Which of the following terms describes the power of the government to seize private property for public use? (Eminent domain/Suffrage/Double jeopardy/Due process) 6. Who determines whether or not there is enough evidence to send someone to trial for a felony? (Trial jury/Petit jury/Grand jury/Hung jury) 7. Which of the following is true about trials? (All trials must be decided by juries/A jury can refuse to convict someone if they believe the law is unjust/The media have an unrestricted right to cover trials/Only registered voters are required to serve on juries.) 8. Is flag burning a right protected by the Constitution or Bill of Rights? (Yes/No) 9. A friend leaves drugs in Michael’s locker without Michael’s knowledge. Michael’s girlfriend, Amy, sees the drugs in Michael’s locker and decides to tell the principal. Does the Constitution allow the principal to search Michael’s locker? (Yes/No) 10. Does the Constitution protect the right of public high school students to lead prayers before their football games? (Yes/No) 11. Mr. Jones was tried and found “not guilty” of murder. A month after the trial ends, the prosecutor receives new evidence that he believes will result in a conviction. Does the Constitution allow the prosecutor to retry Mr. Jones in this case? (Yes/No) 12. Declare a law unconstitutional [Identification: Federal, state, or local branch of government] 13. Police must inform suspected criminals of their constitutional right to remain silent while being arrested. [Matching court case] 14. School districts are allowed to conduct random drug tests on any student involved in extracurricular activities. [Matching court case] 15. Segregation in schools was ruled to be unconstitutional. [Matching court case] 16. Students wearing black armbands to school in protest of the Vietnam War were engaging in symbolic speech that was protected by the First Amendment. [Matching court case] 17. The Gun-Free School Zones Act was ruled unconstitutional because the Commerce Clause did not give Congress the power to ban firearms in schools. [Matching court case] 18. The right to personal privacy includes the right to have an abortion. [Matching court case] 2009 Civil Liberties Knowledge Index Questions: 1. [In response to case study] Name two rights under the Bill of Rights that are at stake here: (Fill-in-the-blank) 3. “Illegally obtained evidence cannot be used in a court of law.” This statement is based on a person’s constitutional right to: (face an accuser in open court/protection against double jeopardy/a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury/protection against unreasonable search and seizure.) 4. The major reason the Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution was to: (limit the power of the state governments/protect individual liberties against abuse by the federal government/provide for equal treatment of all people/separate powers among the three branches of government.) 5. “…no warrants shall issue, but upon probable
cause,…and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” This section of the 4th amendment to the U.S. Constitution addresses the issue of: (states’ rights/separation of powers/implied powers/limits on governmental power.) 6. Which factor has made the strongest contribution to the development of religious freedom in the United States? (Most citizens have shared the same religious beliefs/Religious groups have remained politically unified/School prayer has been ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court/Guarantees in the U.S. Constitution have encouraged religious expression and toleration.) 7. "Protection of free speech would not protect a man who falsely shouts, 'Fire!' in a theater and causes a panic." … Which interpretation of the Bill of Rights does this statement illustrate? (The needs of the government are more important than civil liberties/Constitutional protections of liberty are not absolute/The Supreme Court can eliminate freedoms listed in the Bill of Rights/The Bill of Rights does not safeguard individual liberties.) 8. As a result of the Supreme Court ruling in Miranda v. Arizona (1966), a person accused of a crime is entitled to: (a speedy trial/reasonable bail/a reading of his or her rights at the time of arrest/protection against cruel or unusual punishment.) 9. The “clear and present danger” ruling of the Supreme Court in Schenck v. United States illustrates the continuing conflict between: (the use of search warrants and the rights of the accused/free speech and governmental authority/state powers and federal powers/religious freedom and separation of church and state.) 10. The Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade (1973) was based on the constitutional principle of: (protection of property rights/free speech/right to privacy/freedom of religion.) 11. Among the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment is the right to: (the free exercise of religion/keep and bear arms/due process of law/a speedy and public trial.) 12. Which fact about American government reflects the principle of federalism? (Power is divided among legislative, executive, and judicial branches/Private organizations in the United States do much of the work that is performed by local governments in other countries/Citizens in the United States are subject to both state and national laws/Citizens in the United States have a right to protection from intrusion into their private affairs.) 13. The decision of a married couple to use artificial birth control is protected by the right to privacy. [Matching court case] 14. Use of heat seeking devices without a warrant while looking for marijuana plants is unreasonable and therefore a violation of a protection against warrantless search and seizure. [Matching court case] 15. Burning of the American flag is protected by the First Amendment. [Matching court case] 16. Segregation in schools was ruled to be unconstitutional. [Matching court case] Survey instruments will appear in full at the ISPS Data Archive <http://isps.research.yale.edu/data/D035>.