

BENCHMARK SS.7.C.2.5

Strand	C Civics and Government
Reporting Category	Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities of Citizens
Standard	Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.
Benchmark	SS.7.C.2.5 Distinguish how the Constitution safeguards and limits individual rights.
Benchmark Clarifications	<p>Students will recognize that rights are protected, but are not unlimited.</p> <p>Students will examine rationales for limiting individual rights.</p> <p>Students will use scenarios to examine the impact of limits on individual rights on social behavior.</p> <p>Students will examine the role of the judicial branch of government in protecting individual rights.</p>
Content Limit	Items will not require students to cite specific court cases or specific amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
Stimulus Attribute	Items addressing constitutional safeguards and limitations may use historical and contemporary documents and other relevant stimuli (e.g., maps, timelines, charts, graphs, tables).
Content Focus	These terms are given in addition to those found in the standards, benchmarks, and benchmark clarifications. Additional items may include, but are not limited to, the following: appellate process, <i>ex post facto</i> , <i>habeas corpus</i> , independent judiciary, precedent, privacy, and summary judgment.

Sample Item 13**SS.7.C.2.5****Content Focus**

Constitutional Rights

The passage below about government is from *Federalist No. 51*.

If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. . . . the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.

Source: Public Domain / Library of Congress

How are the author's views from this passage applied in the U.S. Constitution?

- A. The U.S. Constitution limits the rights of the people.
- ★ B. The U.S. Constitution limits the power of the federal government.
- C. The U.S. Constitution requires the states to provide for the common defense.
- D. The U.S. Constitution requires the government to promote the general welfare.