

Summer Assignment 2019

Directions: Read *The Chief: The Life and Turbulent Times of John Roberts*. Answer **22** of the 31 questions. You must answer at least one question per chapter. Part II is on page 3.

Chapter II

1. How did Roberts' religious upbringing impact his beliefs about *Roe v. Wade*? How do you think he might decide today based on what you know about him (you may want to come back to the second part of this question at the end).
2. What does it mean to clerk? Based on what you read in this chapter, what is the path to clerking at the Supreme Court?
3. Who were Warren Burger, Earl Warren, and William Rehnquist? What were their judicial ideologies?
4. Explain the role of clerks in recommending cases to the justices.

Chapter III

5. What was the Voting Rights Act of 1965? Explain the political and legal issues surrounding it. What was Roberts' stance on it?
6. Reflect on two ways the Reagan administration impacted Roberts.

Chapter IV

7. What is the role of the Solicitor General? How did the Solicitor General help Roberts' career?
8. Why was Roberts surprised by the Court's decision in *Richmond v. Croson*?
9. Explain Roberts' arguments against abortion in this chapter. How did SCOTUS ultimately decide in the case?
10. What conclusions can you draw about factors that are important when being nominated as a federal judge (based on Roberts' quest for nomination).

Chapter 5

11. What happened in the 2000 election? How did that impact Roberts?
12. What conclusions can you draw about the nomination process (in the Senate) based on Roberts' experience.
13. Why was Roberts careful when writing his opinions?

Chapter 6

14. What factors did the Bush administration consider when thinking about at SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States) nomination?
15. How did Roberts “win” over President Bush? What conclusions can you draw from his preparations and interview?
16. What did you find most interesting/surprising about Roberts’ confirmation hearings?

Chapter 7

17. Explain the disagreements and reasoning of the justices surrounding the education cases they heard in the 2000s. Who do you agree with and why?
18. Explain Roberts’ beliefs about campaign finance. How did the decision in *Citizens United* ultimately impact elections?
19. Explain the reactions of the other justices, the public, and the president to Roberts’ opinion. Who do you think should have won this case, and why?

Chapter 8

20. Look up: What is Medicaid? What is Medicare?
21. What surprised you about Roberts’ decision in this case?

Chapter 10

22. Why did/do people want to challenge the Voting Rights Act?
23. How did the different justices approach the topic of race? How was the *Shelby County* case decided? How did it impact the justices, and people across the United States?
24. Do you agree with the Court’s decision in the *Shelby* case? Explain your reasoning.

Chapter 11:

25. Choose 2-3 cases in this chapter, and discuss the impact of the cases on the relationships of the justices. Are you surprised (one should be the *Obergefell* case)?
26. Look back at page 299. Explain Roberts’ opinion and why it was so controversial. Do you agree or disagree with him. Why?

Chapter 12:

27. How did Scalia’s death impact the Court? Give an example.
28. Why did President Trump choose Gorsuch to replace Scalia?
29. What conclusions can you draw about the new Court based on the cases described after Gorsuch’s appointment?

Chapter 13

30. Explain the relationship of the justices in the Trump Era. Use 2-3 examples to support your idea.
31. In what ways is the new court a "Robert's Court"?

Reflection: What conclusions can you draw about how judges make decisions, and how cases reach the Supreme Court?

Part II: Listen to the following podcast on More Perfect (a podcast). Link: <https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/more-perfect-sex-appeal>. I recommend listening to it on your phone. Answer the following:

1. What issue did the 19th Amendment fix?
2. What was the Equal Rights Amendment? Why did some support the ERA?
3. Explain the facts of the "beer case". How were women involved?
4. Why did Ruth Bader Ginsburg choose this case? How was the case ultimately decided? Why?
5. How did this case ultimately benefit women?