

U.S. Government State Courts

1. Describe the three tier structure of state courts.

2. What are “limited jurisdiction courts?”

3. What are “specialized courts?” Give two examples of specialized courts.

4. What is “small claims court?” How is it decided which cases will be heard in small claims court?

5. What are the three types of trial courts?

6. How are criminal cases settled out of court? How are civil cases settled outside of court?

7. Describe the duties of a judge.

8. Describe the responsibilities of lawyers.

9. Describe the differences between criminal and civil cases. (You might have to continue your answer later in the film.)

10. What is the “adversarial system?” What are the benefits of this system?

11. List the components of a trial, and the purpose of each.

12. What is the historical purpose of a Grand Jury? What are the two ways in which criminal charges can be brought today?

13. What is a bench trial and why is it sometimes preferred?

14. What is the purpose of the state court of appeals (or appellate court?)

15. What are the allowable reasons to appeal your case?

16. What is the purpose of state supreme courts? What is the relationship between state courts and federal courts?

17. What are some of the problems state courts face today?