

Name _____

The Eighth Amendment: Shielding Against Cruel and Unusual Punishment

Short Answer Key

1. The prohibition on excessive fines in the Eighth Amendment ensures that fines are not imposed in amounts that are unreasonably high or punitive.
2. The Eighth Amendment prohibits punishments that are cruel, inhumane, degrading, or excessively severe.
3. An example of a punishment considered cruel and unusual could be sentencing a non-violent offender to life in prison without the possibility of parole, as it may be considered disproportionate to the crime committed.
4. The U.S. Supreme Court interprets the Eighth Amendment by hearing cases and issuing rulings on specific punishments and conditions of confinement, determining whether they violate the amendment's protections.
5. It is important for the Eighth Amendment to strike a balance between punishment severity and human dignity to ensure that individuals are treated fairly, even when facing consequences for their actions.

