Power During a Flood

Identify constitutional limits in a town's emergency response

8.C.1 "Identify and explain essential ideas of constitutional government, which include limited government; rule of law; due process of law; separated and shared powers; checks and balances; federalism; popular sovereignty; republicanism..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the mayor's two orders. Then circle two details that show how the mayor's power can be questioned or limited.

A Flood in Bayport

1. When a storm threatens Bayport, residents want leaders to act quickly. Constitutional limits still apply. Power begins with the people, called popular sovereignty. Voters choose representatives to make decisions, a system of republicanism and representative government. Officials must obey the law too, the rule of law. Government has limited power. It must protect rights to life, liberty, and property, plus freedom of conscience. Fair procedures before government takes away a person's rights are called due process of law. Separate branches can check one another's power. Federalism divides authority between national and state governments.

2. After a flood, Bayport's elected council votes to open a temporary shelter. The mayor orders workers to close a family's grocery store for use as a supply center, without telling the owners when they can object. The mayor also says only people who sign a statement supporting his religion may stay at the shelter. Several council members protest both orders. A resident points out that the town's emergency law applies to the mayor as well as everyone else. Families still need food and a safe place to sleep.

3. Bayport's council asks the state for help because the town lacks enough shelter supplies. State officials send equipment under a state emergency law, while federal officials provide funds under a separate federal law. Each level of government has its own responsibilities, though they can work together. In town, the council writes rules, the mayor carries them out, and a court can review whether officials followed the constitution. The council cannot simply announce that the mayor is guilty of a crime; a court must decide cases using fair procedures.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the order about the grocery store raise a due process concern? Use a detail from the passage.

2. Which constitutional freedom does the shelter rule threaten? Explain why.

3. How are power and responsibility divided among Bayport's council, mayor, and court?

4. How does the flood response show federalism? Describe what two levels of government do.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Bayport's council passes a rule allowing the mayor to ban peaceful public meetings whenever the mayor chooses. In four sentences, identify two constitutional ideas and explain a different possible response tied to each idea.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · 8.C.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the mayor's two orders. Then circle two details that show how the mayor's power can be questioned or limited. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the order about the grocery store raise a due process concern? Use a detail from the passage.	**The mayor orders the store closed for government use without telling the owners when they can object. They need a fair chance to challenge the order.**
2	Which constitutional freedom does the shelter rule threaten? Explain why.	**It threatens freedom of conscience because people must state support for the mayor's religion to use the shelter.**
3	How are power and responsibility divided among Bayport's council, mayor, and court?	**The council writes rules, the mayor carries them out, and the court can review whether officials followed the constitution.**
4	How does the flood response show federalism? Describe what two levels of government do.	**The town asks for help and opens a shelter, while the state sends equipment. Federal officials also provide funds under a federal law.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The rule threatens individual liberty because it lets the mayor stop peaceful gatherings. Residents could ask their elected council members to repeal the rule. Checks and balances also matter because the mayor's power can be reviewed. A court could examine whether the rule violates constitutional protections.

Accept accurate explanations that connect a passage detail to a constitutional idea. For Part 3, accept other distinct responses if each is tied to a correctly explained constitutional idea.