

Cases That Shaped Power

Trace the issues, decisions, and lasting effects of three landmark cases.

8.18.B “summarize the issues, decisions, and significance of landmark Supreme Court cases, including *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, and *Gibbons v. Ogden*; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, number the **issue** 1, the Court’s **decision** 2, and the case’s **significance** 3. This will help you separate the conflict, the ruling, and its lasting effect.

Three Cases, Bigger Questions

- ① In *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), William Marbury had asked the Supreme Court to order Secretary of State James Madison to deliver Marbury's commission as a justice of the peace. The issue was whether the Court could issue that order under a section of the Judiciary Act of 1789. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that Marbury had a right to the commission, but the law giving the Court this power conflicted with the Constitution. The Court could not act under an unconstitutional law. This decision established judicial review, the Court's power to declare laws unconstitutional.
- ② *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) concerned Maryland's tax on a branch of the national bank. James McCulloch, the branch cashier, refused to pay. The issue was whether Congress had power to create a national bank and whether a state could tax it. The Supreme Court ruled that Congress could create the bank under the Necessary and Proper Clause. It also ruled that Maryland could not tax the bank because federal laws are supreme over conflicting state laws. *McCulloch v. Maryland* strengthened federal power and limited state interference with lawful federal actions.
- ③ *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824) concerned Aaron Ogden's state-backed license to run steamboats between New York and New Jersey. Thomas Gibbons had a federal coastal license and competed on the same route. The issue was whether New York could control this interstate trade. The Supreme Court ruled that Congress has the power to regulate interstate commerce, including navigation between states. New York's monopoly could not block Gibbons's federal license. *Gibbons v. Ogden* broadened the meaning of commerce and confirmed national authority over trade that crosses state borders.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Marbury v. Madison change the role of the Supreme Court?

2 What two constitutional ideas did the Court use to support its decision in McCulloch v. Maryland?

3 How was the conflict in Gibbons v. Ogden different from the conflict in McCulloch v. Maryland?

4 What shared effect did McCulloch v. Maryland and Gibbons v. Ogden have on the balance of power between the national government and the states?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A state charges a special fee only to trucks carrying goods across its border, even though Congress has set national rules for interstate trucking. Write four sentences that state the issue, give a likely Court decision, explain why, and name the landmark case that best supports your reasoning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, number the **issue** 1, the Court's **decision** 2, and the case's **significance** 3. This will help you separate the conflict, the ruling, and its lasting effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Marbury v. Madison change the role of the Supreme Court?	It established judicial review, giving the Court the power to declare laws unconstitutional.
2	What two constitutional ideas did the Court use to support its decision in McCulloch v. Maryland?	Congress could create the bank under the Necessary and Proper Clause, and federal laws are supreme over conflicting state laws.
3	How was the conflict in Gibbons v. Ogden different from the conflict in McCulloch v. Maryland?	Gibbons concerned a state's attempt to control interstate steamboat trade, while McCulloch concerned a state's attempt to tax a federal bank.
4	What shared effect did McCulloch v. Maryland and Gibbons v. Ogden have on the balance of power between the national government and the states?	Both strengthened national authority and limited states from interfering with lawful federal powers, including national banking and interstate commerce.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The issue is whether the state can place a special fee on trucks carrying goods between states. The Court would likely rule that the state cannot use the fee to control interstate trucking. Congress has power to regulate commerce that crosses state borders. Gibbons v. Ogden best supports this decision because it confirmed national authority over interstate commerce.

Accept a likely ruling against the state if the student explains that interstate trucking is interstate commerce and connects the reasoning to Gibbons v. Ogden. Accept clear equivalent wording for issue, decision, and significance in the short answers.