

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press,; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

20 Questions About C*ns*rsh*p

1. What is c*ns*rsh*p?
2. When does criticism become c*ns*rsh*p?
3. To what extent do c*ns*rsh*p's constraints vary by country, culture, and/or historical period?
4. What common elements are found in all forms of c*ns*rsh*p?
5. How do the eras of the Inquisition, the Salem witch trials, Hitler's Third Reich, Stalin's purges and Sen. Joseph McCarthy's anti-communist crusades differ in their efforts to stifle freedom of expression?
6. Which activity usually inspires the most frequent efforts of c*ns*rsh*p -- offending personal sensibilities, degradating family values, antagonizing religious beliefs, denigrating ethnic minorities or exposing children to obscene pornography?
7. In American history, what political leaders or movements best capsuled the national mood to mandate some form of suppression?
8. In publishing of newspapers, how do editing and c*ns*rsh*p differ?
9. Are libel lawsuits an implicit form of c*ns*rsh*p?
10. How often has book-banning evolved into a national issur?
11. What types of communities are most receptive to book-banning: Boston or Burlington? Sanford or San Francisco? Why?
12. What is pornography?
13. What is the difference between nude women painted by Renoir or Rubens and "nekked ladies" photographed in Playboy or Hustler?
14. What are the conceptual - and legal - differences between nakedness, nudity, eroticism, lewdness and pornography?

15. Do citizens have a constitutional right to privately own pornography?

16. Is pornography a form of economic exploitation and a dehumanization of women or simply a response to forces in the marketplace (selling the public what it approvingly wants?)

17. Are pictures of nude children playing together as pornographic as pictures of naked adults making love? Why?

18a. Which of the following in each set is more likely to protest what they would condemn as pornography? Why?

a.) a 27-year-old or a 72-year-old. b.) a male or female. c.) an urban resident or a rural resident. d.) a Southerner or a Northerner. e.) a white American or a black American.

18b. Which of the two groups are more likely to be offended by pornographic or violence-urging rap verses? Why?

a.) White newspaper columnists; a.) Black newspaper columnists

19. Which of these institutions or individuals have been the most **repressive** and the most **successful** advocates of **c*ns*rsh*p** - churches, government officials, elected officials, the courts, and parents?

20. Should satire that deeply offends personal sensibilities and outrages social morals ever have limits to its expression? Why?

NOTE TO STUDENTS

At the beginning of the course, how many of the above 20 questions can you answer? During the course, which questions did you ask the professor or graduate assistant?

At the end of the course, you should be able to answer **all** of the **20 questions**.

The difference between the two answers calibrates the knowledge you have - we hope - acquired during the semester.