Supreme Court Opinion Questions

*How the Supreme Court Arrives at Decisions*

1. What are the primary tools of the justices?
2. What would enrich “our common understanding of the meaning and significance of our freedoms?”
3. What are the three kinds of cases?
4. Describe what is included with application and what information is contained within it?
5. Who serves as guardian of the door?
6. When in conference to determine whether to grant certiorari, what is the order for discussion and voting?
7. How is it decided who will write the majority opinion? The dissenting opinion?
8. What occurs after the opinion is written?
9. What is the point of this procedure?
10. Who was William Brennan?

*The Supreme Court*

1. About how many cases apply for certiorari that are without merit?
2. When is the annual September conference?
3. How is it decided which cases are discussed at conference? What happens to the cases that are not discussed?
4. What are the three factors that influence whether to grant certiorari?
5. Why has the Supreme Court focused less on making “sure that the trial was fairly conducted, that the judge correctly applied the law, and that the evidence supported the result reached by the lower court?
6. What did the Certiorari Act of 1925 do?
7. What is the proper role of the Supreme Court?

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