



Freedom of Expression Quiz

This quiz is designed as educational material complementing the brochure “First steps in understanding Freedom of Expression online and offline - based on current case law from the European Court of Human Rights”. Thus, the context of the brochure, as explained in the introduction chapter, will also apply to this document.

The quiz is intended to be a creative and, sometimes, provocative tool, used by educators to get answers that engage the public in a discussion around what are the basics of Freedom of Expression and its current protection in an ECtHR format.

Feel free to use it in a paper format or just copy & paste it in a quiz web form if you want to use the quiz electronically. Please note that some of the questions have multiple correct answers.

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1. Freedom of Expression is defined by:

- a) only by the right to make public creative works
- b) the right to disseminate information, in all shapes and forms
- c) the right of the others to receive it
- d) only by the right to access public documents

2. The right to freedom of expression might be limited:

- a) by the decision of a member of Parliament
- b) if it is being harmful to others and doesn't serve the public interest
- c) the right of freedom of expression is not limited
- d) by the exercise of other fundamental rights

3. How should the limits of the freedom of expression be established through?

- a) customary practices
- b) companies' public policy documents
- c) law
- d) technical standards

4. What kind of form an expression might take:

- a) an oral speech
- b) a theater play
- c) a movie
- d) a social media post

5. As established by the ECtHR case law, freedom of expression protects:

- a) substance of ideas
- b) only journalists' works
- c) the form in which ideas are expressed
- d) only creative works

6. Freedom of expression covers the following types of communications:

- a) political communication
- b) advertising
- c) business communication
- d) artistic communication

7. You have the widest freedom of expression if you criticise:

- a) a politician

- b) a private person
- c) a movie star
- d) a business

8. Freedom of expression is a right for:

- a) politicians
- b) journalists
- c) academics
- d) everyone

9. Calling someone an “idiot” may be protected speech:

- a) No, it can't be.
- b) No, unless the other person has previously agreed on the usage of the word.
- c) Yes, if it is not a personal attack and the circumstances of a case explain the wording.
- d) Yes, if the word is being used with inverted commas.

10. As stated in paragraph 2 of Article 10 of ECHR, the exercise of freedom of expression comes with duties and responsibilities. These responsibilities include:

- a) act in good faith
- b) provide reliable information
- c) verify all information
- d) pursue the public interest

11. It may be protected speech:

- a) government criticism
- b) hate speech
- c) political debate
- d) incitement to violence

12. Who may have a public watchdog role:

- a) journalists
- b) bloggers and social media users
- c) public bodies
- d) NGOs

13. The criteria that define the responsibilities for online intermediaries (such as in the case of a newspaper for the comments on its articles) with regard to freedom of expression are:

- a) the context of the comments

- b) the consequences of the domestic proceedings for the intermediary
- c) the liability of the actual authors of the comments as an alternative to the intermediary's liability
- d) the measures applied by the intermediary in order to prevent or remove defamatory comments

14. The access to public interest information:

- a) is separate legislation that has nothing to do with freedom of expression
- b) is part of the right to access information, which is in its turn a part of the freedom of expression
- c) is part of several European constitutions
- d) is a philosophical principle with no legal explanations

15. The criteria for assessing whether a denial of access to state-held information engages Article 10 of the Convention includes:

- a) the purpose of the information request
- b) the nature of the information being sought
- c) the nature of the applicant
- d) the information requested is ready and available

16. The access to public information is not applicable to secret services.

- a) True, as these bodies do not hold public information.
- b) True, as these bodies are exempted from the ECtHR obligations.
- c) False, as these bodies may have public information.
- d) False, as these bodies are specially included in the international acts on freedom of expression.

17. Blocking a website is an interference with freedom of expression.

- a) True, but only if this is not decided by a court.
- b) True, this affects the right to receive and impart information.
- c) False, this is just a technical issue.
- d) False, freedom of expression does not apply to accessing websites.

18. Examining which rights should prevail when two fundamental rights come into conflict is called:

- a) competition
- b) balancing
- c) engagement
- d) symmetrical situations

19. The key factors to be considered when balancing freedom of expression and the right to privacy are:

- a) contribution to a debate of public interest

- b) the subject of the information
- c) the author's attitude
- d) the content, form and consequences of its publication

20. In the case of a conflict between freedom of expression and copyright, the ECtHR usually:

- a) allows a wide margin of appreciation from the national authorities in these cases
- b) examines each case in detail, as commercial speech is as important as political debate
- c) considers the case only if there are criminal convictions
- d) ignores all cases, as it can't be a breach of freedom of expression

21. National security limitations of freedom of expression are:

- a) mandatory in all cases
- b) mandatory only if included in the Constitution
- c) acceptable only if proved necessary in a democratic society
- d) acceptable only if decided by the intelligence services

Correct answers

1. b and c

2. b and d

3. c

4. a, b, c and d

5. a and c

6. a, b, c and d

7. a

8. d

9. c

10. a, b and d

11. a and c

12. a, b and d

13. a, b, c and d

14. b and c

15. a, b, c and d

16. c

17. b

18. b

19. a, b and d

20. a

21. c