

(Those words are not difficult to find but have to be memorized!)

1.Demander, réclamer :	To require	13.Ratifier :	To ratify (ratification)
2.Imposer :	To impose	14.Contenir, inclure :	To contain
3.Infliger :	To inflict	15.Ajouter :	To add (an addition)
4.Interdire :	To prohibit (a prohibition, prohibitive)	16.Un débat :	A debate
5.Obtenir :	To obtain	17.Avoir peur :	To fear
6.Controversé :	Controversial (a controversy, to contrevert)	18.Amender, modifier :	To amend (an amendment)
7.Cruel :	Cruel (cruelty)	19.Limiter, abrégé :	To abridge, an abridgement
8.Mesurer :	To measure (a measure)	20.Une application :	An application (to apply)
9.Une ratification :	A ratification	21.Supprimer :	To eliminate
10.Adopter :	To adopt (an adoption)	22.Un partisan :	A proponent An advocate
11.Inclure :	To include	23.Mériter :	To deserve
12.Rédiger :	To draft, a draft	24.Dissuader :	To deter (a deterrent)

1. **What is the main argument/question of this article in its introduction ? What is the problem the 8th amendment ?**

→ The 8th amendment expresses the need for limitation and regulation of the means for punishment or bail. The problem is the lack of clarity in its definition : what does cruel mean ? what does unusual mean ? (how do you « measure » that ?)

2. **Find out information about the origin of the 8th Amendment.**

-> The phrase « cruel and unusual punishments » can be found in 2 former documents : the English Bill of Rights (1689) and the Declaration of Rights drafted by George Mason for the Commonwealth of Virginia (1776).

It wasn't until the Constitution was ratified that the Bill of Rights **that includes the 8th amendment** was added in 1791.

3. Why was the American Constitution amended with the 8th Amendment? What was at stake ? What are they afraid of?

4. Any comparison with the Continent ? What were they trying to avoid ?

→ The most obsessive fear was to repeat the mistakes of the past such as the Inquisition in Europe and use torture as a legitimate punishment.

5. Can the 8th Amendment be easily understood? Why ? What are the different problems/questions around this amendment?

→ No, the 8th amendment is not easy to understand. How do/can we define what a cruel and/or unusual punishment is ? What standards may we **resort to (avoir recours à)** in order to make that decision ? Does justice refer to the standards of 1791 ? To today's standards ? To some moral judgement ?