

Handout A: Excerpts from the Massachusetts Body of Liberties (1641) Answer Key

1. Due process. (Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments)
2. Equal justice. (Fourteenth Amendment)
8. Property cannot be taken for public use unless it is paid for at a reasonable rate. (Fifth Amendment)
11. At 21 years old, a person has full power of his or her wills and estates. (Fourteenth and Twenty-Sixth Amendments)
13. People cannot be taxed for estates or revenues outside of the colony.
15. Fraudulent transfers of ownership are invalid.
16. People can fish or hunt fowl as long as they are not on private property without permission. (Article I, Section 8; Article I, Section 9, Article I, Section 10; Article IV, Section 3; Fourth Amendment)
17. People are free to leave the colony if they wish.
23. Only 8% interest can be charged per year.
29. People on trial can choose to be tried by a bench of judges or a jury. (Sixth Amendment)
40. No deed or promise can be forced upon someone through violence, imprisonment, or threats.
42. A person cannot be tried for the same crime twice. (Fifth Amendment)