Reviewing the Facts

1. The fourth amendment to the Constitution protects a person’s property against unreasonable search and seizure.
2. The fifth amendment states that any person shall not be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law. The federal government can not do these things except in the exact way written in the law.
3. The seventh amendment to the Constitution states that a person accused of a crime should have a quick and speedy trial.
4. The second amendment gives people the right to bear arms if they are part of a militia, therefore protecting them.
5. The eighth amendment protects against cruel and unusual punishment for a crime.
6. The first amendment allows for the separation of Church and State and gives people many freedoms, including freedom of religion.
7. The ninth amendment guarantees that people will be given rights that are not listed in the Constitution.
8. The seventh amendment allows for a trial by jury in civil cases.
9. The tenth amendment gives the people and the states powers not denied to the states or to the people.

Thinking Things Through

1. The freedoms listed in the Magna Carta are the precursors to the freedoms listed in the Bill of Rights. The Magna Carta is very similar to the Bill of Rights but it focuses more on the Church. The Magna Carta established several basic principles of government that were later used in the Constitution. The first one of these was that the monarch had to obey the law. He could not just do what he wanted. Another thing stated in the Magna Carta is that the monarch could not collect any new or special taxes without the consent of the Great Council. No freeman could be put in prison or punished unless he was given a fair trial in a court. The Bill of Rights goes further than the Magna Carta in its amendments but the Magna Carta set the fundamentals for the future.
2. The First Amendment allows people to express such beliefs because the freedom of speech keeps the country a republic. If the freedom of speech was not listed in the First Amendment, then the right to choose one’s own government would not mean much. The freedom of speech keeps people educated and allows them to express their own ideas and opinions. Without the freedom of speech, it would be possible to suppress the opinions of the people in order to establish an oligarchy.
3. The police obtain information that a certain person is making counterfeit money in his home. First, the police must obtain a search warrant in order to determine that the person is indeed making counterfeit money. Then they must obtain an arrest warrant. The person will be tried by a grand jury first, then he will be tried by a petit jury and thrown in jail. At this point he will be bailed out by some of his friends.