

Civics: A Christian Worldview. Match the Bastiat Quote (20-25 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Instructions

1. **Objective:** Students see examples of situations, each of which illustrates one of four key Bastiat quotes from the section “Legal Plunder • ‘Negative’ Law.”
2. Print copies of Page 2 for each student, and hand them out.
3. Give students 10-15 minutes to individually read the handout and fill in the blanks.
4. After they finish, give students 5 minutes to discuss their answers in pairs, or at tables/groups.
5. Discuss together as a class!
6. (As always, you may shorten discussion time at tables/groups or in pairs if time doesn’t allow for it.)

Answer Key

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|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 11. D |
| 2. D | 12. B |
| 3. A | 13. C |
| 4. D | 14. A |
| 5. B | 15. B |
| 6. A | 16. C |
| 7. C | 17. A |
| 8. C | 18. B |
| 9. B | 19. C |
| 10. D | 20. D |

Key Concept

Make sure students understand that attempts to control education, religion, employment, and so on are simply forms of legal plunder and perversions of justice. People should be free to live their lives and follow their own faith, learn what they want, and work in a job they are happy in without interference from the government—unless any of those involves harming and/or stealing from others. (This principle is fully supported by the Bible; we’ll get to those Scripture passages later.)

Civics: A Christian Worldview. Match the Bastiat Quote

Quote A: “If the law itself performs the action it ought to prevent, it commits legal plunder.”	Quote B: “The law is force. Therefore, the proper function of the law should not lawfully extend beyond the proper function of the use of force.”
Quote C: “Why shouldn’t the law organize labor, education, and religion? Because it could not do so without destroying justice.”	Quote D: “When the law...imposes a type of work, a system of education, or a religious belief, it substitutes the will of the lawmaker for the will of the person.”

The above four key quotes are from the section “*The Law: Legal Plunder • ‘Negative’ Law.*” Match each of the following short scenarios below with the quote above that best fits it, and write the letter to the left of each.

1. A federal program taxes restaurant workers and uses the money to fund large farm corporations.
2. After high school, students are assigned government-approved careers based on labor shortages rather than personal choice.
3. A law allows a city government to seize private land from homeowners and give it to a private developer to build a shopping mall.
4. A national curriculum is imposed, leaving parents no legal alternative for educating their children.
5. Police use force to stop a man who is physically attacking a stranger on the street.
6. A county begins a program to provide school supplies to elementary school students, funded through taxation.
7. A government agency tells factories how many computers they must produce and at what price they must sell them.
8. A church is legally required to teach moral lessons written by a government education board.
9. A burglar breaks into a home, steals jewelry, and is arrested and punished under criminal law.
10. Citizens are legally required to contribute a portion of their income to a government-run charity.
11. Teachers are required by law to teach a specific moral framework, regardless of their own beliefs or those of parents.
12. The law uses force to punish a company that takes money from elderly persons through credit card fraud.
13. Farmers are told by law which crops they may grow and are fined if they plant anything else.
14. A tariff raises the price of imported clothing so domestic manufacturers can sell their products at higher prices.
15. Laws against vandalism, theft, and assault exist, but do not control how citizens live, work, or worship.
16. The government claims authority to manage all education “for the good of society.”
17. A tax law takes money from millions of citizens and redistributes it to a small group labeled as “strategic industries.”
18. Citizens are free to choose their careers, schools, and religious beliefs without government interference.
19. A law requires all citizens to follow a single, state-approved education system with no opt-out allowed.
20. A legislator argues that individual freedom must be reduced so the government can better plan economic outcomes.

