

Economics: A Christian Worldview – Force, Fraud, or Freedom?

(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Purpose

Students reason which of the below scenarios are appropriate for government intervention.

Time

8-10 minutes

Instructions

1. Print this page for yourself (no student handouts!).
2. Read the scenarios and ask students if government should rightfully get involved in each. Press students to explain why for each one.

Scenarios & Key:

A. Is the scenario force, fraud, or free exchange?

B. Should the government intervene?

1. A lender clearly states 25% interest; borrower agrees and signs.

Free exchange → No intervention

2. A seller hides rotten wheat at the bottom of a sack.

Fraud → Intervention

3. A city sets a maximum rent price.

Free exchange issue → No intervention

4. A jeweler sells fake diamonds labeled as real.

Fraud → Intervention

5. A store raises umbrella prices during a storm.

Free exchange → No intervention

6. A thief steals cattle at night.

Force → Intervention

7. A company sells a phone but lies about battery life.

Fraud → Intervention

8. A shop refuses to accept paper currency.

Free exchange → No intervention

9. A grain dealer uses a rigged scale.

Fraud → Intervention

10. A baker refuses service to a rude customer.

Free exchange → No intervention

Emphasize:

- The **Bible's strict limitations on legitimate government functions**—punishing “evil” (harm), executing judgment and justice, being a “terror” to “evil,” removing “violence and spoil (theft)”
- How **fraud is theft/spoil** and is a legitimate government concern