

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.

Connect Four 2 (25–35 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Instructions

1. **Objective:** Students review American government concepts in the form of a Connect Four game.
2. Bring to class a Connect Four / Four in a Row game.
3. Divide the class into two teams. (Try to make them evenly matched!)
4. Print all the pages in this handout for yourself. (No student handouts today!) Use the questions in whatever order you want.
5. Explain to students that they will take turns answering True/False and short answer questions. A team member who answers correctly gets to put a checker in the Connect Four game.
6. Flip a coin or have one student on each team guess a number from 1 to 10 to see which team goes first.
7. Ask the first player on Team 1 (the team that won the right to go first) a question. A correct answer gets a checker; and incorrect answer gets none!
8. Now ask the first player on Team 2 a question, and repeat the process. Give students turns in order.
9. First team to get four in a row wins! (Repeat the process until the questions run out.)
10. How many games to play? Enough to where students all get several chances to answer; you might only play two full games in the time allotment, which is fine!

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview. Connect Four 2
Questions/Answer Key

1. True or False: Most state constitutions were written before 1776. **False**
2. True or False: Virginia's constitution contained ideas and wording similar to the later U.S. Bill of Rights. **True**
3. All 13 states guaranteed _____ freedom in their constitutions. **religious**
4. True or False: Massachusetts required taxpayers to help support Protestant teachers. **True**
5. True or False: Pennsylvania allowed citizens to lose civil rights because of their religious beliefs. **False**
6. Pennsylvania required officeholders to acknowledge belief in one _____. **God**
7. In the late 1700s, the word "state" often meant _____. **nation**
8. What treaty officially ended the American Revolution? **The Treaty of Paris**
9. True or False: Britain recognized the states as independent and sovereign. **True**
10. What key question arises if the states already had governments and constitutions? **Why was there a need for a U.S. Constitution?**
11. Who wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom? **Thomas Jefferson**
12. True or False: Jefferson believed civil rights depend on religious opinions. **False**
13. What agreement governed the states before the Constitution? **The Articles of Confederation**
14. Article II states that each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and _____. **independence**
15. How many votes did each state receive in Congress under the Articles? **One**
16. True or False: Congress could easily change the Articles of Confederation whenever it wished. **False**
17. AOC amendments required approval from what percentage of states? **100%**
18. True or False: Congress had unlimited power to tax under the Articles. **False**
19. Why do supporters of limited government see these restrictions in the AOC as strengths? **They limit centralized government power and protect liberty.**
20. True or False: The Articles described the states as independent nations. **True**
21. Every state under the AOC was required to keep a well-regulated and disciplined _____. **militia**
22. What common criticism is often made about the Articles? **That they created a government too weak to get things done.**
23. What was the stated purpose of the Philadelphia Convention? **To revise the Articles of Confederation.**
24. The convention met in what city in 1787? **Philadelphia**
25. What bothered many Americans about the convention proceedings? **They were conducted in secrecy.**
26. Who is usually credited as the principal author of the Constitution? **James Madison**

27. True or False: The Constitution mentions Jesus Christ by name. **False**
28. The Constitution contains seven _____. **articles**
29. What are the first ten amendments called? **The Bill of Rights**
30. True or False: The Federalists/Nationalists favored a stronger national government. **True**
31. What is **federalism**? **The belief that state and national powers should be strictly defined and that states retain most powers.**
32. True or False: Nationalists generally interpreted the Constitution broadly. **True**
33. Why did Patrick Henry refuse to attend the convention? **He believed something suspicious was happening and said, "I smelled a rat."**
34. True or False: Rhode Island sent no delegates to the convention. **True**
35. True or False: George Mason supported the Constitution as written. **False**
36. True or False: Some proposals included state governors being appointed by the national government. **True**
37. One controversial proposal was a permanent U.S. _____. **President**
38. What were The Federalist Papers designed to do? **Persuade states, especially New York, to ratify the Constitution.**
39. True or False: All states unanimously supported the Constitution. **False**
40. Why did many delegates finally agree to ratification? **Because supporters promised to add a Bill of Rights afterward.**
41. What danger exists when government interprets its own powers? **It will continually expand its powers and justify its own actions.**
42. True or False: George Mason objected to the absence of a bill of rights. **True**
43. What is the difference between a broad and strict interpretation of the Constitution? **A broad interpretation allows implied powers; a strict interpretation limits government to powers specifically listed.**
44. Article I gives legislative power to _____. **Congress**
45. How many representatives are in the House today? **435**
46. True or False: Senators serve two-year terms. **False**
47. Senators serve _____-year terms. **six**
48. Name one power granted to Congress in Article I, Section 8. **Examples: collect taxes, regulate trade, declare war, coin money, establish post offices, raise armies, create lower courts.**
49. True or False: The Necessary and Proper Clause explicitly gives Congress unlimited power. **False**
50. If Congress passed a law unrelated to any listed power and justified it as "necessary," how would a strict-construction Antifederalist (real Federalist) likely respond? **He would argue that the law is unconstitutional because it is not connected to an enumerated power.**