

***American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.***  
**Bail, Fines, and Punishment: Eighth Amendment Challenges (15–20 Minutes)**

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS**

**Goal**

Students decide whether investigators have enough evidence to obtain a warrant.

**Instructions**

1. Divide students in pairs or small groups; allow 8–10 minutes to complete the scenarios.
2. Discuss as a class.

**Key**

1. Excessive (bail)
2. Reasonable (bail)
3. Reasonable (fine)
4. Excessive (fine/asset forfeiture)
5. Reasonable (no clear violation)
6. Reasonable (fine)
7. Excessive (cruel and unusual punishment)
8. Excessive (fine)
9. Reasonable (bail)
10. Excessive (fine/asset forfeiture)
11. Reasonable (no clear violation)
12. Excessive (cruel and unusual punishment)

**Debrief/Wrap-Up Questions**

- Why should bail be related to the seriousness of the crime?
- Why might governments be tempted to use excessive fines?
- Why are cruel punishments dangerous in the hands of government officials?

# ***American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.***

## **Bail, Fines, and Punishment: Eighth Amendment Challenges**

**For each situation, determine:**

- Is the government's action Reasonable or Excessive?
- Which Eighth Amendment issue is involved (bail, fine, cruel and unusual punishment, or no Eighth Amendment issue)?

### **Scenarios:**

1. A man accused of shoplifting a \$25 item has bail set at \$2 million.
2. A murder suspect receives \$1 million bail.
3. A woman is fined \$50 for parking illegally.
4. Police seize \$15,000 from a driver because they suspect it might be connected to drugs, but no charges are filed.
5. A convicted criminal receives ten years in prison for armed robbery.
6. A teenager caught spray-painting a wall must pay for repairs.
7. A man convicted of stealing a bicycle is sentenced to public whipping.
8. A business owner is fined so much money that he must permanently close his shop despite causing only minor harm.
9. A defendant accused of fraud receives bail that reflects the seriousness of the charges and flight risk.
10. Police confiscate a family's life savings because cash was found during a traffic stop.
11. A convicted murderer receives a long prison sentence.
12. A prisoner is intentionally denied food for several days as punishment.

