

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.

Connect Four 3 (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 3
Questions/Answer Key

1. (T/F) Nationalists generally believed the federal government should only exercise powers specifically listed in the Constitution. **False**
2. Antifederalists argued that if a power is not _____, the federal government may not take it. listed (**enumerated/listed in the Constitution**)
3. (T/F) George Mason trusted the new federal government to limit itself to its written powers. **False**
4. What often determines how someone “interprets” the Constitution? **His beliefs about the proper purpose of government.**
5. What is the danger of letting government officials interpret limits on their own power? **They may interpret the Constitution in ways that expand their authority.**
6. Government should “deliver the _____ out of the hand of the _____.” **spoiled; oppressor**
7. Which branch of government is established in Article I? **legislative branch (Congress)**
8. Name the two parts of Congress (**House of Representatives, Senate**)
9. Originally, how many residents were represented by one member of the House? **30,000**
10. Under the original Constitution, slaves counted for what fraction for representation purposes. **3/5**
11. (T/F) Senators serve six-year terms. **False**
12. How old must a representative be? **At least 25**
13. (T/F) Every state receives two senators regardless of population. **True**
14. (T/F) Senators must be at least 30 years old. **True**
15. How long is a representative’s term? **Two years**
16. (T/F) A vetoed bill can never become law. **False**
17. What vote is required in both houses to override a presidential veto? **Two-thirds**
18. Name one power granted to Congress in Article I, Section 8. Declare war (**acceptable answers include collect taxes, regulate trade, coin money, establish post offices, etc.**)
19. (T/F) Slave states wanted slaves excluded completely from population counts. **False**
20. (T/F) The House of Representatives was permanently fixed at 435 members in 1929. **True**
21. Approximately how many residents does each House member represent today? **More than 750,000**
22. Why is it strange that both Sections 8 and 9 of Article I exist? **If Section 8 lists all congressional powers, Section 9 should be unnecessary because all unlisted powers would already be prohibited.**
23. What concern did George Mason have regarding majority rule? **A majority could use government power to enrich itself at the expense of a minority.**
24. Madison warned that if Congress could spend money on anything it believed promoted the general welfare, the government would become what? **An indefinite or unlimited government.**

25. (T/F) Madison believed the words “general welfare” should be restricted by the other listed powers connected to them. **True**
26. What does the word “commerce” mean in the Commerce Clause? **Trade.**
27. What is another name for the Necessary and Proper Clause? **The Elastic Clause.**
28. According to the reading, laws passed under the Elastic Clause must be necessary and proper for carrying out what? **Powers already listed in the Constitution.**
29. What branch of government is described in Article II? **The executive branch.**
30. (T/F) The word “executive” is related to the word “execute.” **True**
31. Should a President execute laws he believes are unconstitutional? **No; he has a duty to refuse to execute illegal or unconstitutional laws.**
32. (T/F) Presidents and Vice Presidents serve four-year terms. **True**
33. Name two of three constitutional qualifications a President must meet. **Be at least 35 years old, live in the U.S. for at least 14 years, and be a natural-born citizen.**
34. (T/F) If a President dies, resigns, or cannot continue serving, the Speaker of the House automatically becomes President. **False**
35. Under the original Electoral College system, who became Vice President? **The candidate who received the second-highest number of electoral votes.**
36. How many electoral votes are needed to win the presidency? **270**
37. (T/F) The Electoral College gives states a role in presidential elections and helps prevent heavily populated areas from dominating. **True**
38. What percentage of U.S. land area contains about half of the nation’s population? **About three percent.**
39. Name one power or duty granted to the President in Article II. **Veto bills, appoint ambassadors, appoint judges with Senate approval, make treaties with Senate approval, command armed forces after war is declared, etc.**
40. (T/F) The President may appoint Supreme Court justices without Senate approval. **False**
41. What does *impeachment* mean? **To put a government official on trial.**
42. (T/F) The House impeaches and the Senate determines guilt or innocence. **True**
43. What fraction of a vote is required in the Senate to remove a President from office? **Two-thirds**
44. Which branch of government has the constitutional power to declare war? **Congress.**
45. (T/F) Madison argued that executives are generally the branch most inclined toward war. **True**
46. What branch of government is described in Article III? **The judicial branch.**
47. What is original jurisdiction? **The authority to hear a case first.**
48. What is appellate jurisdiction? **The authority to hear appeals from lower courts.**
49. What kind of crime does the Constitution define as “levying war against the states”? **Treason**

50. (T/F) A person may be convicted of treason based on the testimony of one witness. **False**
51. (T/F) Congress has authority to make exceptions and regulations regarding the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction. **True**
52. According to Thomas Jefferson, why is it dangerous to treat judges as the ultimate arbiters of constitutional questions? **Because judges are biased and possess the same passions for power and privilege as others.**
53. (T/F) Andrew Jackson argued that each branch should interpret the Constitution for itself. **True**
54. Why did many Americans become suspicious when the Constitution was originally proposed without a Bill of Rights? **Bills of Rights were common and many feared the federal government would violate rights without one.**
55. (T/F) Most Nationalists argued that the Constitution needed a Bill of Rights before it could be ratified. **False**
56. (T/F) The first ten amendments are known as the Bill of Rights. **True**
57. (T/F) The Constitution itself was ratified after the Bill of Rights. **False**
58. Is the Bill of Rights a list of rights granted to the people? **No; it is a list of restrictions on the federal government.**
59. (T/F) Hamilton believed a Bill of Rights could be dangerous. **True**
60. Why did Hamilton think a Bill of Rights might be dangerous? **Officials might claim that powers not specifically forbidden were therefore permitted.**
61. What famous "founding father" argued that a Bill of Rights was absolutely necessary? **Patrick Henry**
62. (T/F) Several states maintained established religions after the Bill of Rights was ratified. **True**
63. (T/F) The Bill of Rights preamble refers to preventing abuse of the federal government's powers. **True**
64. (T/F) Many people ignore the phrase "in pursuance thereof" when discussing the Supremacy Clause. **True**
65. What does "in pursuance thereof" mean? **In accordance with or while following the Constitution's limits.**
66. (T/F) Any federal law automatically becomes supreme regardless of whether it follows the Constitution. **False**
67. In the Library Act example, why would states not be required to build libraries? **Because the Constitution does not grant Congress that power.**
68. What does Article VI prohibit as a qualification for federal office? **A religious test.**
69. (T/F) Article VII says all thirteen states had to ratify the Constitution before it could take effect. **False**
70. How many states were required to ratify the Constitution for it to go into effect? **Nine**
71. What is the first word of the First Amendment? **Congress**
72. According to the First Amendment, what may Congress not establish? **A national religion.**
73. Name one freedom protected by the First Amendment besides religion. **Speech, press, assembly, petition.**
74. (T/F) The First Amendment grants brand-new rights to Americans. **False**