

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.

Exaction Extraction (15–20 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

Students identify different types of unfair taxes (exactions) described in the reading and come up with real-world examples.

Instructions

1. Put students in pairs/small groups.
2. Read the instructions together as a class.
3. Give groups 10–12 minutes to complete the handout.
4. Review as a class, allowing all groups to contribute ideas.

Debrief Question (Time Permitting)

The reading says taxes should be “for needed revenue to run a government, not to steal from some and give to others.” Ask: Can any tax be fully fair, or is every tax an exaction in some way?

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview. Exaction Extraction

Review – Quietly re-read the first two paragraphs of the “Exaction” section in the reading. Focus on the three types named: progressive taxation, inflation, and protective tariffs.

Brainstorm – With your team, list every kind of unfair tax you can think of. Start with the three from the reading. Then add any others you believe are “exactions”—taxes that steal from some to give to others, or ones that punish the poor. Write them all in a single column on your paper. Aim for at least 5–7!

Explain – Next to each tax on your list, write a brief explanation of exactly (no pun intended) why each is an exaction. Use the reading’s definition, and think about who gets hurt and who benefits.

Exaction Example #1 and why it qualifies:

Exaction Example #2 and why it qualifies:

Exaction Example #3 and why it qualifies:

Exaction Example #4 and why it qualifies:

Exaction Example #5 and why it qualifies:

Exaction Example #6 and why it qualifies:

Exaction Example #7 and why it qualifies:

