

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.

Connect Four 9 (35–50 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 T/F 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 9 (Questions/Key)

1. T/F: The U.S. government initially operated with only three departments. **True**
2. What are the three departments that were created when the U.S. government first began operation?
State, War, and Treasury
3. T/F: Jeremy Hill was fined \$1000 for killing this animal, which threatened his family. **Grizzly bear**
4. T/F: The Constitution grants Congress roughly 20 specific powers. **True**
5. What are three examples of local officials mentioned in the text? **Sheriff, tax assessor/collector, coroner**
6. Which amendment changed the process for selecting U.S. Senators, taking that power away from state legislatures? **The Seventeenth Amendment**
7. T/F: A grand jury typically consists of 12 members. **False**
8. What is the primary function of a petit jury? **To decide if a defendant is guilty or not guilty**
9. How does the text define the role of a grand jury? **It determines if there is enough evidence to charge a person with a crime.**
10. T/F: What is the executive branch of a state government? **True**
11. What action did many local sheriffs take regarding COVID-19 lockdown and mask orders?
They refused to enforce them because they believed the orders were unconstitutional.
12. T/F: Appellate courts judge cases that have been appealed due to issues in the initial trial. **True**
13. Name the three branches of state government as described in the reading. **Legislative, Executive, Judicial**
14. T/F: Frederic Bastiat defines “illegal plunder” as the act of a government official taking property via taxation. **False**
15. What is the simple criterion suggested in the text to identify “legal plunder”? **Does the law take from some to give to others, or commit an act that would be a crime if done by an ordinary citizen?**
16. What did Walter Williams estimate regarding the portion of the federal budget that consists of taking earnings from one American to give to another? **Two-thirds to three-quarters**
17. T/F: FDR is the only U.S. President ever to be elected more than twice. **True**
18. How do many modern historians define a “great” President?
A dominant figure who “takes charge” and does whatever he wants, regardless of legality
19. T/F: The 1920–21 depression lasted for a very long time because the government refused to intervene. **False**
20. What did President Warren Harding do to help correct the 1920–21 depression? **Cut spending, lowered taxes**
21. T/F: Herbert Hoover’s popularity increased because of his economic policies during the Great Depression. **False**
22. T/F: FDR’s vice-presidential candidate accused Hoover’s policies of leading the country toward what?
Socialism
23. What term did FDR use to describe his plethora of unconstitutional government spending programs? **The New Deal**
24. Give the two-word name for FDR’s supposedly brilliant group of advisors. **“Brain trust”**

25. The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) paid farmers to do what? **Destroy crops and slaughter animals to artificially inflate prices**
26. T/F: When the government forces wages to be higher than the market rate, demand for labor typically increases. **False**
27. T/F: The “Soak the Rich” tax policies successfully increased government revenue. **False**
28. T/F: The percentage of jobless U.S. workers in the mid-1940s was significantly lower than in 1932. **False**
29. Name one of the two states of government in the 1930s that the “brain trust” looked to for economic inspiration. **Russia (communism) and Italy (fascism)**
30. What is the special name for the price of labor? **A wage**
31. What was one of the taxes included in the revenue acts that targeted inherited money? **Estate tax**
32. What was the specific offense for which the A. L. A. Schechter Poultry Corporation was charged by the U.S. government? **Selling a chicken below the government-mandated “fair” price**
33. What constitutional clause did the Supreme Court state was not applicable because the Schechter transactions occurred entirely within New York? **The “interstate commerce” clause**
34. T/F: Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes argued that if the government could regulate all intrastate commerce, there would be no limit to federal power. **True**
35. According to the court’s decision in the Schechter case, why could Congress not delegate legislative power to the President? **Because the President is part of the executive branch, not the legislative branch**
36. What derogatory nickname did FDR occasionally use to refer to the Supreme Court justices who blocked his New Deal policies? **“Nine old men”**
37. What was FDR’s “devious plan” to overcome the Supreme Court’s opposition to his policies? **To add a new justice of his choosing for every current justice who was 70 years old or older (“pack” the court)**
38. What is an “exaction”? **An unfair tax or theft of property**
39. According to Ezekiel 45:9, what two things should rulers remove from God’s people? **Violence and spoil**
40. Name one type of exaction: **Progressive taxes, inflation, protective tariffs.**
41. Why are protective tariffs considered exactions? **They enrich specific producers and cheat consumers by raising prices.**
42. Which ancient Greek city-state is cited as an example of kidnapping young boys to serve the state? **Sparta**
43. Which nation was the first European power to force children to attend state schools? **Prussia**
44. What was Thomas Jefferson’s stance on parents refusing to educate their children? **He believed it was better to tolerate such rare instances than to perform the “theft” of children by the state.**
45. T/F: despite spending over \$700 billion annually, roughly 25% of American adults were found to be “functionally illiterate” in 2003. **True**
46. What did Woodrow Wilson argue regarding the education of the “two classes” of people? **One class should have a liberal education, while the larger class should be fitted for specific manual tasks.**
47. The last time Congress legally declared war was on this nation in 1941. **Germany.**
48. T/F: Standing armies are essential to defending the liberties of a free people and were highly praised by the founders. **False**

49. John Quincy Adams said America did not go around searching for these: **“Monsters to destroy”**
50. What did Thomas Jefferson suggest would be a better use of the money spent on war? **Improving what the nation already possesses, such as infrastructure, arts, and employment for the poor**
51. T/F: Under Article II, a President can command the armed forces even if Congress has not declared war. **False**
52. What constraint does the Constitution place on a President’s ability to appoint Supreme Court justices? **The Senate must approve them first.**
53. Which President issued 1,081 executive orders, far exceeding the counts of earlier Presidents like Washington or Jefferson? **Theodore Roosevelt**
54. T/F: Congress has no power to overturn a presidential veto. **False**
55. T/F: The term “veto” comes from a Latin word meaning “I ____.” **Forbid**
56. What was the “Texas Seed Bill” that Grover Cleveland vetoed? **A bill providing government money to Texas farmers hit by a drought**
57. Why do Presidents often issue controversial pardons during their last few weeks in office? **To avoid public criticism**
58. Which amendment did the Supreme Court cite while banning school prayer in *Engel v. Vitale*? **First**
59. What is the fundamental problem with Christians demanding that the government lead their children in prayer? **It sets the precedent that government schools should instruct children in religion, which could eventually be used by Muslims or others to promote their own religions.**
60. What does the Bible call the act of taking a “gift” in the context of judgment and justice? **A bribe**
61. What rule did former Congressman Ron Paul unsuccessfully propose to ensure that members of Congress understood what they were voting on? **A rule requiring lawmakers to read and understand any bill before voting on it.**
62. T/F: In the *Roe v. Wade* ruling, the Supreme Court divided the legality of abortion into three distinct trimesters of pregnancy. **True**
63. According to Justice Harry Blackmun’s ruling, which amendment served as the basis for the “right to privacy” regarding abortion? **The Fourteenth Amendment**
64. T/F: Justice Blackmun argued that this term as used in the Fourteenth Amendment did not include the unborn. **Person**
65. Why do power-seeking officials favor “emergencies”? **Because frightened citizens are often willing to trade their liberties for perceived security.**
66. T/F: The U.S. Constitution explicitly grants the federal government the power to temporarily suspend civil liberties during an emergency. **False**