



## Scholar Exchange: First Amendment Freedom of Religion

# Advanced Level Class Outline and Worksheet

### OVERVIEW

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Part I. First Amendment Text: A Brief Introduction

Part II. Founding Story of the Religion Clauses

Part III. The Establishment Clause

Part IV. The Free Exercise Clause

### INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION RESOURCES

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- Resources for the First Amendment Freedom of Religion [Establishment Clause](#) and [Free Exercise Clause](#).

### INTRODUCTION

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#### Big Questions

- Why did the Founding generation write protections for religious liberty into the First Amendment?
- What is the Establishment Clause? What was the Founders' vision for this provision of the First Amendment? And how has the Supreme Court interpreted it over time?
- What is the Free Exercise Clause? What was the Founders' vision for this provision of the First Amendment? And how has the Supreme Court interpreted it over time?
- What are some of the most important areas of constitutional debate over religious liberty today?

#### Big Idea

The First Amendment protects religious liberty in two ways. First, it guards against government establishment of religion. And second, it protects the free exercise of religion. Together, these constitutional promises are at the core of our freedom of conscience—the right to freely believe as we wish.

Part I: First Amendment Text: A Brief Introduction

Summarize the two religion clauses in your own words.	
The Establishment Clause	The Free Exercise Clause

Part II: The Founding Story of the Religion Clauses

How was the Establishment Clause a triumph for federalism?	
How do the religion clauses connect to the freedom of conscience?	

Part III: The Establishment Clause

What is the Lemon Test?	
What are the three most common types of Establishment cases? <i>Try to provide a Supreme Court case as an example of each, too.</i>	1.
	2.
	3.

Part IV: The Free Exercise Clause

What is the balance the Supreme Court tries to keep in Free Exercise cases?	
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What are the three types of legal challenges that the Free Exercise Clause is often used in?
1.
2.
3.

List <u>two</u> Supreme Court cases involving the Free Exercise Clause.		
Case	Brief Background	How did the Court rule?

Notes and Questions: