

**1. Since the mid-1990s the Government has funded religious institutions that provide services to people in need of help. Some of the programs run by the institutions include proselytizing as part of their “therapeutic” program.**

- a. Discuss the constitutional amendment at stake in this matter, and what “provisions” of that amendment apply in this matter.
- b. What interest groups would be interested in these issues, and how might they go about influencing public policy in this case. (in answering this question specify whether the groups are institutional, membership, purposive, ideological)
- c. Should the matter of government funding for religious institutions end up at the US Supreme Court, for example if a religious group excludes from employment someone who is of a certain race, gender or other religious persuasion, how should they view this matter in light of past cases and precedent (refer to two prior cases). Include the level of analysis, ie. Strict Scrutiny, Balancing Test, Reasonable Connection

**2. President Obama, together with the House and Senate recently passed health care legislation. Some State Attorney Generals have filed suit, complaining that the mandatory**

- a. Constitutionally, what provisions of the Constitution and the Amendments thereto bear on the legislation and give rise to arguments against the bill? Give an example of a case and the relevant holding that supports the Attorney Generals fighting the legislation.
- b. Constitutionally, what provisions of the Constitution and the Amendments should Congress have relied upon in order to pass the legislation. Give an example of a case- name and relevant holding to support the legislation.
- c. Several Democratic members wavered on supporting the legislation, analyze why applying the Organizational Attitudinal and Representational standpoints we learned earlier.

**3. The 2010 Elections are just a half year away and many people believe the Democrats are in for a blood bath.**

- a.
  - i. Historically, what is the likelihood that the Democrats lose seats. Explain your answer
  - ii. What is the likelihood that the Democratic Party loses it’s majority?
- b. Based on studies people who identify themselves as members of the Tea Party seem to lean to the Republican Party.
  - i. How might this help the Republican Party in the fall?
  - ii. How might this hinder the Republican Party in the fall?
  - iii. What is the likely effect on the elections if several incumbents fails to win their primary
- c. What is the anticipated effect on voting patterns should the economy only begin to significantly improve in September of 2010?

**4. President Obama has now nominated his second US Supreme Court judge in addition to several lower Federal Court Judges.**

- a. What is the role and process for the approval of a Federal Court Judge at the executive and legislative branch levels?
- b. The above issues have a great bearing on “Federalism”, what is Federalism and how do the above issues present problems for Federalism?
- c. Is a judge who rules in favor of the central government acting as a judicial activist or strict constructionist? (Define your terms and discuss giving examples)

**5. President Obama recently established a commission to evaluate and assess future budget problems for the US Government.**

- a. What is the difference between mandatory and discretionary spending and give an example of each.
- b.
  - i. Why was Congress reluctant to establishing its own Joint Committee to investigate, report and advise on budgetary solutions?

ii. From a Bureaucratic standpoint why would it be in President Obama's interest to establish a bipartisan committee?

c. What is the difference between fiscal and monetary policy and who is responsible for each?