

D

Restrictions on the Free Exercise of Religion

Directions: For each statement, decide whether you think each hypothetical example is very restrictive, somewhat restrictive, maybe restrictive, or not restrictive. Think about the reasons for your decisions and use the cases in **Handout A** to help you decide.

- A. Public employees may not display religious symbols (crosses, menorahs, etc.) in their personal workspace.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive

- B. Christian Scientist parents are required to seek medical treatment for their children, even though they believe that prayer—not medicine—will heal people.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive

- C. A member of the Old Order of Amish, who does not accept Social Security benefits for religious reasons, must still pay social security taxes.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive

- D. Members of the Navy are prohibited from wearing any head covering indoors, even though some branches of Judaism require men to wear a yarmulke at all times.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive

- E. All witnesses in court, regardless of their religious affiliation, must swear an oath on either the Bible or the Constitution before testifying at trial.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive

F. New members of Congress may use any sacred book such as the Bible, Koran, Bhagavad, Gita, etc. or no book at all when being sworn into office.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive

G. Members of a club promoting atheism at a public university must open membership to students who believe in God and attend church.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive

H. All persons applying for a drivers' license must remove any head-covering or scarf for their photo.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive

I. All private organizations (including religious organizations) must pay for employee insurance programs providing birth control services and abortions.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive

J. All priests and ministers must perform a marriage ceremony for anyone who asks them to do so.

Very restrictive Somewhat restrictive Maybe restrictive Not restrictive