1. You’re the administrator of a school and an Amish man comes in and claims that his children are not going to attend school past the 8th grade. (Even though the law states a child must attend school until the 12th grade or age of 18; at which time they are legally allowed to drop out.) The man argued that his children didn’t need to be in school that long to lead a fulfilling Amish life of farming and agricultural work, and that keeping his children in school for such a length of time would corrupt their faith. The mans case makes it the courts. What do you think will happen? Why?

Answer to 1: 1972-The Court unanimously agreed, saying that the values of public school were in “sharp conflict with the fundamental mode of life mandated by the Amish religion.” It carved out an exception for Yoder and others similarly situated.

2. A teacher has her students read from the Bible every morning before class begins. This activity is optional/voluntary and if a student chooses not to participate then they are given an alternate assignment. Would this practice pass the Lemon Test? Or it is unconstitutional?

Answer to 2: The Supreme Court ruled in an 8–1 decision that these Bible-reading practices were unconstitutional. The Court found these practices to be an advancement of religion and a clear violation of the separation of church and state. Justice Tom C. Clark, speaking for the majority, stated, “It is no defense to urge that the religious practices here may be a relatively minor encroachment on the First Amendment.