



# STUDY GUIDE

## GOVERNMENT: IS IT EVER BIG ENOUGH?

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**KEY TERMS:** enough liberal limiting  
entitlement GDP

<b>NOTE-TAKING COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <i>during</i> the video. Include definitions and key terms.	<b>CUE COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <i>after</i> the video.
<p>Since the Roosevelt administration, what have liberals insisted the government must do to alleviate poverty, increase economic security and enhance the quality of life?</p> <p>What dilemma does Sweden and Germany face, in terms of a welfare state?</p> <p>What is the conservative position regarding the European model?</p>	<p>Why is there never enough government for liberals?</p> <p>What are the liberal principles that drive a liberal's view of government?</p>

## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

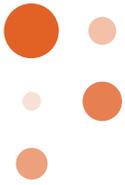
- Dr. Voegeli begins the video by pointing out that, “Ever since Franklin Roosevelt promised Americans a “New Deal” in 1932, liberal politicians and pundits have insisted that the government must do more to alleviate poverty, increase economic security, and enhance the quality of life.” Why do you think that some people believe that the government, at any level, has the responsibility to take care of individuals, rather than the responsibility falling on the individuals themselves, their families, their places of worship, charities, or other sources? How does the government being responsible for the welfare of individuals comport with American values and ideals?
- Later in the video, Dr. Voegeli states that, “...[the expansion of entitlement spending] sounds like a perfect example of the economist’s adage: if something can’t go on forever, it won’t... Even nations with stronger economies... face the dilemma of welfare states around the world: the number of workers paying taxes continues to decline, while the number of beneficiaries – those who receive government benefits – continues to grow... Common sense suggests this can’t go on indefinitely.” Considering the fundamental reality that the welfare model is so clearly unsustainable, why do you think so many people still continue to support it and advocate for it? Even from a moral standpoint, isn’t it better to implement a model that does good for people in the future, rather than the selfish welfare model that just does good for people now until it runs out and people down the road are out of luck?
- Dr. Voegeli explains that, “Conservatives insist that the European model is wrong for America, even if we can afford it. The key to this argument is that America’s founding did not just establish a government, but defined a nation with a distinct character.” What is the distinct character of America? Do you think that ever-expanding entitlement programs fundamentally and inherently change or damage that character? Why or why not? Do you think that the American character is the key to getting away from the doomed European model? If no, why not? If yes, in what ways?
- We learn in the video that, “Most Americans persist in believing that a government powerful enough to give you everything you want will also, necessarily, be powerful enough to take away everything you have – including your freedom. Conservatives believe that government power must be limited. Because the alternative is unlimited government.” What is so bad about unlimited government? Would you be willing to give up freedom for security? Why or why not?
- Dr. Voegeli concludes the video by assuring us that, “If there’s a social problem, they [liberals] believe the best solution is a new government program. If it fails to achieve its goal, which it invariably does, the solution is a bigger government program. More. And when does “more” become enough. The honest answer is ‘never.’” Why do you think that liberals refuse to acknowledge when a government program fails or that government programs rarely work, in general? What is so bad about the liberal’s lack of a limiting principle?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: The Federal Department of Education

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Abolishing the Department of Education is the Right Thing to Do,” then answer the questions that follow.

- Who created the Department of Education, and why? The author of the article states that, “We should judge all governmental agencies by their results rather than their intentions.” How successful has the Department of Education been since its inception? What is the current trend in terms of money appropriated to the Department of Education and positive education outcomes?
- Considering that the existence of the Department of Education is clearly unconstitutional, why do you think that Department of Education still exists? Why do you think that conservative politicians won’t actually work to eliminate it? Why do you think that Federal Department of Education pays for and operates a SWAT team?
- Why should control over education be restored to the local level? The author of the article claims that, “...eliminating the Department of Education is a pro-education position.” What, exactly, does she mean by this? How could this be the case?
- What is the current trend in terms of money appropriated to the Department of Education and positive education outcomes? Why do you think that Federal Department of Education pays for and operates a SWAT team? What is so important about the relationship between economics, government, and freedom?



# QUIZ

## GOVERNMENT: IS IT EVER BIG ENOUGH?

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- 1. When does “more” become “enough”?**
  - a. When there is universal healthcare.
  - b. When the budget is balanced.
  - c. We don't know.
  - d. Never.
  
- 2. Adjusted for inflation and population growth, government spending was nearly\_\_\_\_\_ times as large in 2014 as it was in 1948.**
  - a. 4
  - b. 5
  - c. 6
  - d. 7
  
- 3. America's founding did not just establish a government, but defined a nation with \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. very strict gun control laws.
  - b. a distinct character.
  - c. a new ethnicity.
  - d. racial purity.
  
- 4. A government powerful enough to give you everything you want will also, be powerful enough to take away everything you have – including your freedom.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
- 5. What's the dilemma of welfare states around the world?**
  - a. They have such an enormous amount of surplus money they don't know what to do with it.
  - b. They have difficulty finding congressmen.
  - c. They cannot supply sufficient medical care for tourists.
  - d. The number of workers paying taxes continues to decline, while the number of beneficiaries continues to grow.



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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# Abolishing the Department of Education is the Right Thing to Do



By [Julie Borowski](#)

09/19/2011

Eliminating the Department of Education *used* to be a standard Republican talking point. In 1980, Ronald Reagan ran on abolishing the federal department soon after Jimmy Carter created it. The 1996 GOP platform [read](#), “the Federal government has no constitutional authority to be involved in school curricula or to control jobs in the market place. This is why we will abolish the Department of Education, end federal meddling in our schools, and promote family choice at all levels of learning.”

The Republican Party has since lost its way. George W. Bush championed the No Child Left Behind law — also known as the No Federal Bureaucrat Left Behind law — which has massively expanded the federal government’s role in education. With a few notable exceptions such as Michele Bachmann and Ron Paul, modern day Republicans have backed away from gutting the Department of Education. It has become more common for Republicans to promise that they will eliminate “waste, fraud and abuse” in government programs without giving any specifics.

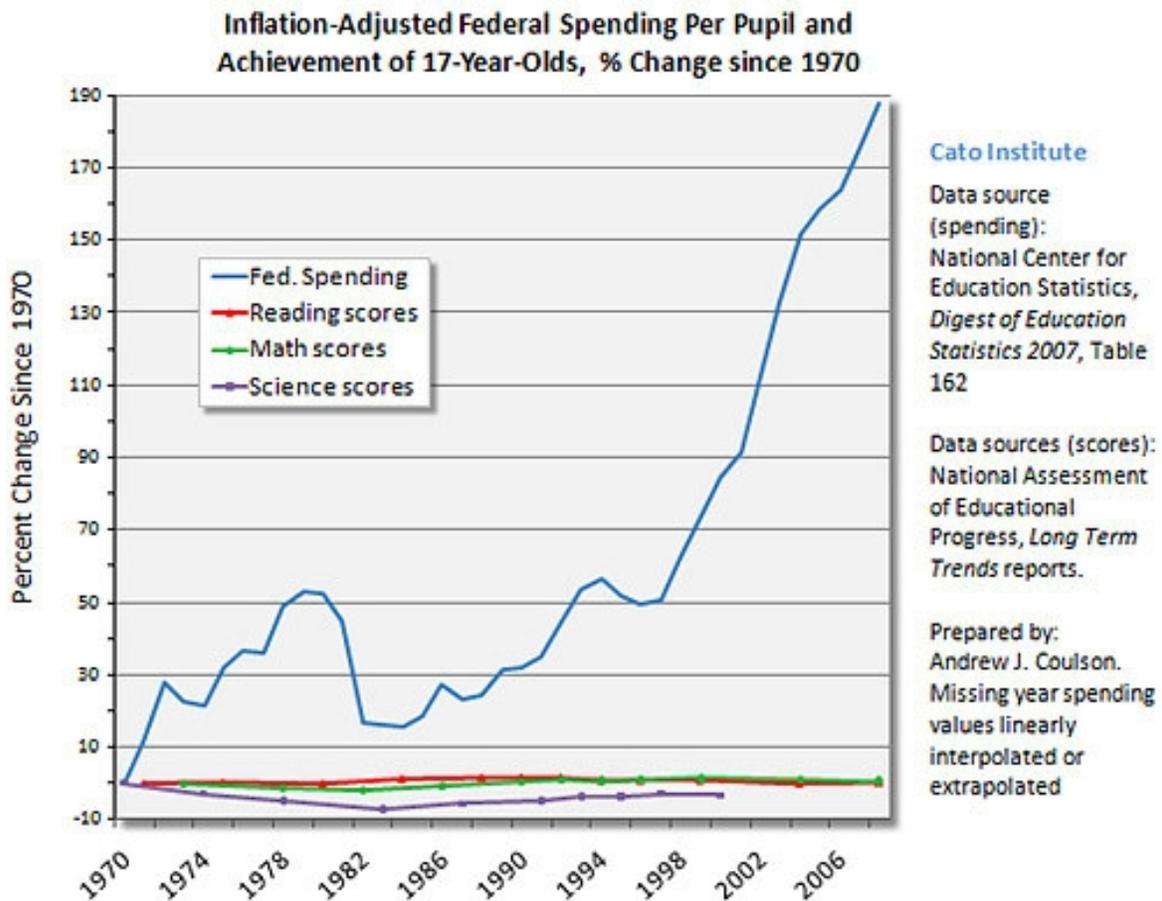
Republicans need to return to their small government roots. We just can’t solve our budget problems and restore liberty by simply tinkering around the edges. Instead of pledging to “fix” unconstitutional government programs — we need more elected representatives willing to scrap entire departments. Today’s GOP should channel Mr. Conservative himself Barry Goldwater who [declared](#) that “I have little interest in streamlining government or in making it more efficient...my aim is not to pass laws, but to repeal them.”

The Department of Education deserves to be on the chopping block. Our children’s education is too important to be left up to a federal centralized bureaucracy. Jimmy Carter created the Department of Education as a [political payoff](#) to the teachers’ unions for their 1976 endorsement. We should judge all governmental agencies by their results rather than their intentions. Like virtually every federal department, the Department of Education has only made things worse. Student educational outcomes have worsened since the creation of the Department of Education.

The Department of Education is blatantly unconstitutional, like so much that the federal government does. The truth is that the federal government only has about [thirty enumerated](#)

[powers](#) delegated to it in the Constitution. Education is not specifically listed in the document, which means that the authority over education should be left up to the states and the people. We cannot afford to waste anymore taxpayer dollars on failed national schemes.

Federal agencies always cost more than initially predicted. The Department of Education's 2011 budget is nearly six times greater than its original budget. It has [increased](#) from \$13.1 billion (in 2007 dollars) in 1980 to \$77.8 billion in 2011. The federal government throwing more money at education has done virtually nothing to improve educational outcomes. Student test scores in math, reading and science have remained flat or declined over the past four decades. The [chart](#) below from the Cato Institute shows how increased federal spending has not had a positive effect on educational achievement:



The federal government meddling in education has been a failure to say the least. A group of federal bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. cannot possibly design a curriculum that meets the unique needs of millions of school children across the nation. We need to restore control over education to the local level where teachers and parents are put back in charge. Make no mistake; eliminating the Department of Education is a pro-education position.

More of today's Republicans need to grow spines and renew the call to abolish the Department of Education. It's unconstitutional, a waste of taxpayer dollars and has been detrimental to the quality of education in America.