

Document-Based Question: Religion and Rights

In *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, the U.S. Supreme Court answered yes to the question, “Does the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 allow a for-profit company to deny its employees health coverage of contraception to which the employees would otherwise be entitled based on the religious objections of the company’s owners?” (Source: The Oyez Project at Chicago-Kent College of Law)

In 2015, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, granting LGBT couples the legal right to marry in all 50 states. Drawing on what you know about the U.S. Constitution and relevant court cases and legislation, how would you rule as a Supreme Court judge if faced with this question:

Does the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 allow a for-profit company to deny goods or services to customers (for the purposes of a same-sex wedding ceremony) based on the religious objections of the company’s owners?

Use evidence from the following documents in your response: 1) Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, 2) *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling, 3) the 14th Amendment, 4) the First Amendment, 5) a minimum of ONE of these Supreme Court rulings: *Reynolds v. United States*, *Sherbert v. Verner*, *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, *Employment Division v. Smith*, *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*.