

SOCIAL STUDIES

High School Standards

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

In American Government, the focus is on the principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national and local levels. This course is the culmination of the civics and governmental content and concepts studied from Kindergarten through required secondary courses. Students learn major political ideas and forms of government in history. A significant focus on the course is on the U. S. Constitution, its underlying principles and ideas, and the form of government it created. Students analyze major concepts of republicanism, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights and compare the U. S. system of government with other political systems. Students identify the role of government in the U. S. free enterprise system and examine the strategic importance of places to the United States. Students analyze the impact of individuals, political parties, interest groups, and the media on the American political system, evaluate the importance of voluntary individual participation in a democratic society, and analyze the rights guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution.

CONTENT STANDARD 1

1. Culture

Performance Indicators

- 1.HS.1 Describe current issues involving the rights, responsibilities, role, and statuses of the individual in relation to the culture of the community.
- 1.HS.2 Discuss specific cultural responses to persistent human needs and contemporary issues.
- 1.HS.3 Evaluate a political policy or decision in the United States that was a result of changes in American culture.
- 1.HS.4 Analyze changes in the American culture brought about by government policies (e.g., voting rights, the G.I. bill, and racial integration).
- 1.HS.5 Describe an example of a government policy that has affected a particular racial, ethnic, or religious group.

CONTENT STANDARD 2

2. History

Performance Indicators

- 2.HS.1 Apply ideas, theories, and modes of historical inquiry to describe and analyze the development of American constitutional form of government.

- 2.HS.2 Identify and explain several landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases dealing with racial discrimination/segregation and evaluate their significance to contemporary public issues.
- 2.HS.3 Explain major political ideas in history (e.g., natural law, natural rights, divine right of kings, social contract theory).
- 2.HS.4 Identify the characteristics of classic forms of government (e.g., absolute monarchy, authoritarianism, classical republic, despotism, feudalism, liberal democracy, totalitarianism)
- 2.HS.5 Analyze the writings of individuals whose principles and ideas underlie the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution (e.g., Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Charles de Montesquieu).
- 2.HS1.6 Analyze the contributions of the political philosophies of the Founding Fathers on the development of the U.S. government (e.g., John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison).
- 2.HS.7 Analyze debates and compromises necessary to reach political decisions using historical documents.
- 2.HS.8 Identify significant individuals in the field of government and politics (e.g., Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, selected contemporary leaders).
- 2.HS.9 Give examples of the processes used by individuals, political parties, interest groups, or the media to affect public policy.
- 2.HS.9 Analyze the impact of political changes brought about by individuals, political parties, interest groups, or the media, past and present.

CONTENT STANDARD 3

3. Geography

Performance Indicators

- 3.HS.1 Explain how geographic factors affect the interrelationship between countries (e.g., climate, land form, natural resources).
- 3.HS.2 Identify and explain how regionalism influenced the development of a constitutional government.
- 3.HS.3 Analyze the political significance to the United States of the location and geographic characteristics of selected places or regions e.g., Cuba, Taiwan).
- 3.HS.4 Analyze the economic significance to the United States of the location and geographic characteristics of selected places or regions e.g., Middle East oil fields).

- 3.HS.5 Analyze and evaluate the consequences of a government policy that affects the physical or the human characteristics of a place or region.

CONTENT STANDARD 4

4. Government

Performance Indicators

- 4.HS.1 Explain the importance of a written constitution.
- 4.HS.2 Evaluate how the federal government serves the purposes set forth in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.
- 4.HS.3 Analyze how the Federalist Papers explain the principles of the American constitutional systems of government.
- 4.HS.4 Evaluate constitutional provisions for limiting the role of government (e.g., republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, individual rights).
- 4.HS.5 Analyze the processes by which the U.S. Constitution can be changed and evaluate their effectiveness.
- 4.HS.6 Analyze how the American beliefs and principles reflected in the U.S. Constitution contribute to our national identity.
- 4.HS.7 Analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch of the government (e.g., bicameral structure of Congress, the role of committees, procedure for enacting laws).
- 4.HS.8 Analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch of government (e.g., constitutional powers of the president, the growth of presidential power, the role of the Cabinet and executive departments).
- 4.HS.9 Analyze the structure and functions of the judicial branch of the government (e.g., federal court system, types of jurisdiction).
- 4.HS.10 Analyze the functions of selected independent executive agencies and regulatory commissions (e.g., National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Federal Communications Commission).
- 4.HS.11 Explain how certain provisions of the U.S. Constitution provide for checks and balances among the three branches of government.
- 4.HS.12 Analyze selected issues raised by judicial activism and judicial restraint.
- 4.HS.13 Explain the major responsibilities of the federal government for domestic and foreign policy.

- 4.HS.14 Compare the structure and functions of Guam's government to the federal system.
- 4.HS.15 Analyze the structure and functions of local government.
- 4.HS.16 Explain why the Founding Fathers created a distinctly new form of federalism and adopted a federal system of government instead of a unitary one.
- 4.HS.17 Categorize government powers as national, state, or shared.
- 4.HS.18 Analyze historical conflicts over the respective roles of national and state governments.
- 4.HS.19 Evaluate the limits on the national and state governments in the U.S. federal system of government.
- 4.HS.20 Compare different methods of filling public offices at the local, state, and national levels (e.g., elected and appointed offices).
- 4.HS.21 Analyze and evaluate the process of electing the President of the United States.
- 4.HS.22 Identify the functions of political parties.
- 4.HS.23 Analyze the two-party system and evaluate the role of third parties in the United States.
- 4.HS.24 Analyze the role of political parties in the electoral process at the local, state, and national levels.
- 4.HS.25 Identify opportunities for citizens to participate in political party activities at local, state, and national levels.
- 4.HS.26 Compare the U.S. system of government with other political systems.
- 4.HS.27 Analyze advantages and disadvantages of federal, confederate, and unitary systems of government
- 4.HS.28 Analyze advantages and disadvantages of presidential and parliamentary systems of government.
- 4.HS.29 Understand the roles of limited government and the rule of law to the protection of individual rights.
- 4.HS.30 Analyze the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, including the first amendment freedoms.
- 4.HS.31 Analyze issues addressed in selected cases that involve Supreme Court interpretations of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution (e.g., Engel vs. Vitale, Miranda vs. Arizona, Schenck vs. U.S.).

- 4.HS.32 Analyze the role of each branch of government in protecting the rights of individuals.
- 4.HS.33 Explain the importance of due process rights to the protection of individual rights and to the limits on the powers of government.
- 4.HS.34 Analyze the impact on the incorporation doctrine involving due process and the Bill of Rights on individual rights, federalism, and majority rule.
- 4.HS.35 Explain the difference between personal and civic responsibilities.
- 4.HS.36 Evaluate whether and/or when the obligation of citizenship requires that personal desires and interests be subordinated to the public good.
- 4.HS.37 Evaluate whether and/or when the rights of individuals are inviolable even against claims for the public good.
- 4.HS.38 Analyze the consequences of political decisions and actions of society.
- 4.HS.39 Analyze the effectiveness of various methods of participation in the political process at local, state, and national levels.
- 4.HS.40 Analyze historical and contemporary examples of citizen movements to bring about political change or to maintain continuity.
- 4.HS.41 Analyze the factors that influence an individual's political attitudes and actions.
- 4.HS.42 Compare and evaluate characteristics, style, and effectiveness of local and national leaders, past and present.
- 4.HS.43 Analyze different points of view of political parties and interest groups on important contemporary issues.
- 4.HS.44 Analyze the importance of free speech and free press in a democratic society.
- 4.HS.45 Express and defend a point of view on an issue of contemporary interest in the United States.

CONTENT STANDARD 5

5. Economics

Performance Indicators

- 5.HS.1 Explain the role of government in determining what is produced and distributed in a competitive system.
- 5.HS.2 Identify economic issues that influence contemporary political/social problems and the role of the government in dealing with these issues.

- 5.HS.3 Analyze government policies that influence the economy at the local, state and national levels.
- 5.HS.4 Identify the source of revenue and expenditures of the U. S. Government and analyze their impact on the U. S. Economy.
- 5.HS.5 Compare the role of the government in the U. S. free enterprise system and other economic systems.
- 5.HS.6 Explain the effects of international trade on U.S. economic and political policies.
- 5.HS.7 Explain the government's role in setting international trade policies.

CONTENT STANDARD 6

6. Technology

Performance Indicators

- 6.HS.1 Identify examples of government-assisted research that, when shared with the private sector, have resulted in improved consumer products (e.g., computer and communication technologies).
- 6.HS.2 Analyze how U.S. government policies fostering competition and entrepreneurship have resulted in scientific discoveries and technological innovations.
- 6.HS.3 Analyze the potential impact on society of recent scientific discoveries and technological innovations.
- 6.HS.4 Analyze the role and reaction of the government to scientific discoveries and technological innovations.
- 6.HS.5 Explain the need for laws and government policies regarding technological Advances.
- 6.HS.6 Analyze and evaluate the effects of advancing technology on the global community and nation.
- 6.HS.7 Explain the role of the government in protecting the environment.