



Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development

Curriculum Leader, History/Social Science

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Study Guide for United States Government

Unit One Foundations of American Government

Standard 12.1 Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.

1. Who was the English philosopher, who wrote the *Two Treatises of Government*, and argued that man had natural rights of life, Liberty and Property?
2. What occurred on July 4, 1776?
3. Who was the main author of the Declaration of Independence?
4. What document, because of its weaknesses, was replaced by the Constitution?
5. What was the Great Compromise? (Connecticut Compromise)
6. Explain the following basic republican ideals:
 - ✓ Popular Sovereignty
 - ✓ Limited Government
 - ✓ Constitutionalism or Rule of Law
 - ✓ Separation of Powers
 - ✓ Checks and Balances (with specific examples)
 - ✓ Judicial Review
 - ✓ Federalism
7. What was the purpose of *The Federalist Papers*?
8. In *Federalist No. 10*, James Madison argued that the best way to prevent different interest groups from controlling the government was to do what?
9. In *The Federalist No. 51*, Madison is arguing that the best way to guard society against the oppression of its rulers is to adopt what kind of governmental system?
10. What is the Supreme Law of the land?
11. List the primary responsibility of the branches of the federal government.
12. What was the term for those who argued in favor of the ratification of the Constitution?
13. What part of the Constitution sets out the people's unalienable rights?
14. Explain the process for amending the Constitution.
15. How many Amendments are in the Bill of Rights?

16. Explain the following powers:

- ✓ delegated
- ✓ expressed
- ✓ implied
- ✓ inherent
- ✓ reserved
- ✓ concurrent powers.

Unit Two Governmental Process, Civil Rights and the Courts

Standard 12.5 Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.

1. Understand the role of the U.S. Supreme Court.
2. Discuss the various types of Supreme Court opinions.
3. Explain the dual court system in the U.S.
4. Compare and contrast civil liberties and civil rights.
5. Explain the following landmark Supreme Court cases:
 - ✓ Marbury v. Madison (1803)
 - ✓ McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
 - ✓ Plessy v Ferguson (1896)
 - ✓ Brown v Board of Education of Topeka Kansas (1954)
 - ✓ Miranda v. Arizona (1966)
 - ✓ Roe v. Wade (1973)
 - ✓ U.S. v Nixon (1974)
 - ✓ University of California v Bakke (1978)
6. Describe the guarantees of the following Amendments:
 - ✓ 1st Amendment
 - ✓ 4th Amendment
 - ✓ 5th Amendment
 - ✓ 14th Amendment
 - ✓ 15th Amendment
7. What is the Civil Rights Act or 1964?

Unit Three Our Government Today: The Legislative and Executive Branches

Standard 12.4 Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.

1. What is the term for a two-house legislature?
2. What is the major function of the legislative branch?
3. Which branch of Congress is “the People’s House?”
4. In which branch of Congress is each state represented equally?

5. Explain Congressional oversight.
6. Who alone has the power to impeach a president?
7. What are the qualifications to become a member of the House of Representatives?
8. What are the qualifications to become a member of the Senate?
9. Describe the major powers of Congress.
10. How is Congress organized (leadership positions and committees)?
11. Explain the process of how a bill becomes law.
12. Explain the census and how it affects electoral districts.
13. What are the requirements to become President?
14. What is the length of a Presidential term?
15. Describe the 22nd Amendment.
16. What is the order of Presidential succession?
17. What is the cabinet?
18. Explain the Electoral College.
19. Know and explain the roles of the U.S. President:
 - ✓ Chief of State
 - ✓ Chief Executive
 - ✓ Chief Diplomat
 - ✓ Commander in Chief
 - ✓ Chief Legislator
20. What is a pardon?
21. Explain the significance and types of presidential vetos.
22. What is the role of the Vice President?
23. What is executive privilege?
24. Explain the War Powers Act 1973.

Unit Four Political Participation: Government By the People

Standard 12.2 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.

Standard 12.3 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are (i.e., the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations that are not part of government), their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society.

Standard 12.5 Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.

Standard 12.6 Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.

Standard 12.8 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.

1. How is the popularity of individuals and public policy measured?
2. Analyze the different political views of the Democrat and Republican Parties.
3. Analyze the modern day political ideology of liberal and conservative.
4. What is a party platform?
5. Explain the electoral process and distinguish between primaries and the general election.
6. What is a lobbyist?
7. What is a Political Action Committee (PAC)?
8. What is a “lame duck” politician?
9. Discuss the most powerful mass media for politics today?
10. What was the movement to give women the right to vote?
11. List the qualifications to register to vote?

Unit Five State and Local Government

Standard 12.7 Students analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.

1. What is a precinct?
2. The people who reside in a state or district are known as.
3. Explain Gerrymandering.
4. What is the chief executive of a state called?
5. Who is the current Governor of California?
6. Explain a Governor's legislative power.
7. Who elects state legislatures?
8. What major function does the state legislature perform?
9. Explain referendum, initiative and recall.
10. What is the governing body of a county called?
11. Discuss nonpartisan in relation to local elections.
12. Explain the function and services provided by the State and City.

Unit Six Comparative Governments

Standard 12.9 Students analyze the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for political democracy, its advances, and its obstacles.

Standard 12.10 Students formulate questions about and defend their analyses of tensions within our constitutional democracy and the importance of maintaining a balance between the following concepts: majority rule and individual rights; liberty and equality; state and national authority in a federal system; civil disobedience and the rule of law; freedom of the press and the right to a fair trial; the relationship of religion and government.

1. Countries that provide extensive social services at little or no cost to the users are called.
2. Explain the different philosophy's and structures of:
 - ✓ Socialism
 - ✓ Communism
 - ✓ Capitalism
 - ✓ Dictatorship
 - ✓ Fascism
 - ✓ Monarchies
3. Explain the governmental structure of a parliamentary system.