

explain major political ideas in history, including the laws of nature and nature's God, unalienable rights, divine right of kings, social contract theory, and the rights of resistance to illegitimate government.[USG.1A]

identify major intellectual, philosophical, political, and religious traditions that informed the American founding, including Judeo-Christian (especially biblical law), English common law and constitutionalism, Enlightenment, and republicanism, as they address issues of liberty, rights, and responsibilities of individuals.[USG.1B]

identify the individuals whose principles of laws and government institutions informed the American founding documents, including those of Moses, William Blackstone, John Locke, and Charles de Montesquieu.[USG.1C]

identify the contributions of the political philosophies of the Founding Fathers, including John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Jay, George Mason, Roger Sherman, and James Wilson, on the development of the U.S. government.[USG.1D]

examine debates and  
compromises that impacted  
the creation of the founding  
documents.[USG.1E]

identify significant individuals in the field of government and politics, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan.[USG.1F]

give examples of the  
processes used by individuals,  
political parties, interest  
groups, or the media to affect  
public policy.[USG.2A]

analyze the impact of political changes brought about by individuals, political parties, interest groups, or the media, past and present.[USG.2B]



understand how population  
shifts affect voting  
patterns.[USG.3A]

examine political boundaries to  
make inferences regarding the  
distribution of political  
power.[USG.3B]

explain how political divisions  
are crafted and how they are  
affected by Supreme Court  
decisions such as Baker v.  
Carr.[USG.3C]

identify the significance to  
the United States of the  
location and key natural  
resources of selected global  
places or regions.[USG.4A]

analyze how U.S. foreign policy  
affects selected places and  
regions.[USG.4B]

explain how government fiscal,  
monetary, and regulatory  
policies influence the economy  
at the local, state, and  
national levels.[USG.5A]

identify the sources of  
revenue and expenditures of  
the U. S. government and  
analyze their impact on the  
U.S. economy.[USG.5B]

compare the role of  
government in the U.S. free  
enterprise system and other  
economic systems.[USG.5C]



understand how government  
taxation and regulation can  
serve as restrictions to  
private enterprise.[USG.5D]

examine how the U.S.  
government uses economic  
resources in foreign  
policy.[USG.6A]

understand the roles of the  
executive and legislative  
branches in setting  
international trade and fiscal  
policies.[USG.6B]

explain the importance of a  
written constitution.[USG.7A]

evaluate how the federal  
government serves the  
purposes set forth in the  
Preamble to the U.S.  
Constitution.[USG.7B]

analyze how the Federalist Papers such as Number 10, Number 39, and Number 51 explain the principles of the American constitutional system of government.[USG.7C]

evaluate constitutional provisions for limiting the role of government, including republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights.[USG.7D]

describe the constitutionally prescribed procedures by which the U.S. Constitution can be changed and analyze the role of the amendment process in a constitutional government.[USG.7E]



identify how the American beliefs and principles reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution contribute to both a national identity and federal identity and are embodied in the United States today.[USG.7F]

examine the reasons the Founding Fathers protected religious freedom in America and guaranteed its free exercise by saying that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, " and compare and contrast this to the phrase, "separation of church and state." [USG.7G]

analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch of government, including the bicameral structure of Congress, the role of committees, and the procedure for enacting laws.[USG.8A]

analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch of government, including the constitutional powers of the president, the growth of presidential power, and the role of the Cabinet and executive departments.[USG.8B]

analyze the structure and functions of the judicial branch of government, including the federal court system, types of jurisdiction, and judicial review.[USG.8C]

identify the purpose of selected independent executive agencies, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and regulatory commissions, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Federal Communications Commission (FCC).[USG.8D]

explain how certain provisions  
of the U.S. Constitution  
provide for checks and  
balances among the three  
branches of  
government.[USG.8E]

analyze selected issues raised  
by judicial activism and  
judicial restraint.[USG.8F]



explain the major responsibilities of the federal government for domestic and foreign policy such as national defense.[USG.8G]

compare the structures,  
functions, and processes of  
national, state, and local  
governments in the U.S.  
federal system.[USG.8H]

explain why the Founding Fathers created a distinctly new form of federalism and adopted a federal system of government instead of a unitary system.[USG.9A]

categorize government powers  
as national, state, or  
shared.[USG.9B]

analyze historical and  
contemporary conflicts over  
the respective roles of  
national and state  
governments.[USG.9C]

understand the limits on the  
national and state  
governments in the U.S.  
federal system of  
government.[USG.9D]

compare different methods of filling public offices, including elected and appointed offices at the local, state, and national levels.[USG.10A]

explain the process of electing  
the president of the United  
States and analyze the  
Electoral College.[USG.10B]



analyze the impact of the  
passage of the 17th  
Amendment.[USG.10C]

analyze the functions of  
political parties and their role  
in the electoral process at  
local, state, and national  
levels.[USG.11A]

explain the two-party system  
and evaluate the role of third  
parties in the United  
States.[USG.11B]

identify opportunities for  
citizens to participate in  
political party activities at  
local, state, and national  
levels.[USG.11C]

compare the U.S. constitutional republic to historical and contemporary forms of government such as monarchy, a classical republic, authoritarian, socialist, direct democracy, theocracy, tribal, and other republics.[USG.12A]

analyze advantages and  
disadvantages of federal,  
confederate, and unitary  
systems of  
government.[USG.12B]

analyze advantages and  
disadvantages of presidential  
and parliamentary systems of  
government.[USG.12C]

understand the roles of  
limited government and the  
rule of law in the protection  
of individual rights.[USG.13A]



identify and define the  
unalienable rights.[USG.13B]

identify the freedoms and  
rights guaranteed by each  
amendment in the Bill of  
Rights.[USG.13C]

analyze U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution in selected cases, including Engel v. Vitale, Schenck v. United States, Texas v. Johnson, Miranda v. Arizona, Gideon v. Wainwright, Mapp v. Ohio, and Roe v. Wade.[USG.13D]

explain the importance of due  
process rights to the  
protection of individual rights  
and in limiting the powers of  
government.[USG.13E]

recall the conditions that produced the 14th Amendment and describe subsequent efforts to selectively extend some of the Bill of Rights to the states, including the Blaine Amendment and U.S. Supreme Court rulings, and analyze the impact on the scope of fundamental rights and federalism.[USG.13F]

explain the difference  
between personal and civic  
responsibilities.[USG.14A]

evaluate whether and / or  
when the obligation of  
citizenship requires that  
personal desires and interests  
be subordinated to the public  
good.[USG.14B]

understand the responsibilities,  
duties, and obligations of citizenship  
such as being well informed about  
civic affairs, serving in the military,  
voting, serving on a jury, observing  
the laws, paying taxes, and serving  
the public good.[USG.14C]



understand the voter  
registration process and the  
criteria for voting in  
elections.[USG.14D]

analyze the effectiveness of  
various methods of  
participation in the political  
process at local, state, and  
national levels.[USG.15A]

analyze historical and  
contemporary examples of  
citizen movements to bring  
about political change or to  
maintain continuity.[USG.15B]

understand the factors that  
influence an individual's  
political attitudes and  
actions.[USG.15C]

examine different points of view of political parties and interest groups such as the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the National Rifle Association (NRA), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on important contemporary issues.[USG.16A]

analyze the importance of the  
First Amendment rights of  
petition, assembly, speech, and  
press and the Second  
Amendment right to keep and  
bear arms.[USG.16B]

evaluate a U.S. government policy or court decision that has affected a particular racial, ethnic, or religious group such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the U.S. Supreme Court cases of *Hernandez v. Texas* and *Grutter v. Bollinger*. [USG.17A]

explain changes in American culture brought about by government policies such as voting rights, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (GI Bill of Rights), the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, affirmative action, and racial integration.[USG.17B]



understand how U.S.  
constitutional protections  
such as patents have fostered  
competition and  
entrepreneurship.[USG.18A]

identify examples of government-assisted research that, when shared with the private sector, have resulted in improved consumer products such as computer and communication technologies.[USG.18B]

understand the potential  
impact on society of recent  
scientific discoveries and  
technological  
innovations.[USG.19A]

evaluate the impact of the  
Internet and other electronic  
information on the political  
process.[USG.19B]