

SENIOR GOVERNMENT

Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

- ◆ **American Democracy is founded on the principle that the people grant government its authority.**
 - ◆ How does public opinion affect government decisions?
 - ◆ How do political parties control government?
 - ◆ How do special interest groups influence government?
 - ◆ How do individuals affect government?
- ◆ **Understanding alternative systems of government is important in assessing the value of America.**
 - ◆ How has other philosophies been important in understanding the value of American Democracy?
 - ◆ What do we learn about American Democracy from how others choose to govern themselves?
 - ◆ Do events affect different types of governments, or do different types of governments affect events?
- ◆ **A Federal system allows for the recognition of diversity within a national framework.**
 - ◆ What powers do states have under the Constitution?
 - ◆ What powers should states and national governments share?
 - ◆ Why has the National government been able to exercise increasing power over state interests?
- ◆ **A fair and just society/government requires that there be limited government.**
 - ◆ Does checks and balances limit the power of government?
 - ◆ How does the separation of powers create a fair and just government?
 - ◆ How does the Bill of Rights limit government power?
 - ◆ How does the Supreme Court arbitrate between right of citizens and the power of government through judicial review?

Topics	Benchmarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Principles of Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Purpose, functions, theories (social contract) -Forms of government -Founding Documents ◆ Comparative government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Other world political and economic systems ◆ Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -6 principals of Const. -Articles -Amendments & amending process ◆ Civil Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -First Amendment -Due process -4th, 5th 6th 8th and 14th Amendments -Civil Rights Movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CS2.1 Students will be able to analyze purposes, functions and theories of government to determine how the powers of government are acquired, modified, justified and used. ◆ CS2.5a Students will analyze the functions of government as they protects the rights and needs of citizens in a just society. ◆ CS2.2.b Students will be able to compare and contrast philosophical foundations as they relate to forms of government. ◆ CS2.1 Students will be able to analyze the Founding Documents to determine how the powers of government are acquired, modified, justified and used. ◆ CS2.3 Students will be able to identify political leaders and how their governments ran (WWII leaders, Iraq & Hussein, China & Mao, India & Ghandi). ◆ CS2.2a Students will be able to compare and contrast various world political systems (capitalism, communism, democracy, federal systems, fascism, theocracy) with that of the U.S. ◆ CS2.2b Students will be able to compare and contrast philosophical foundations (unitary, parliamentary, presidential federal oligarchy, autocracy, democracy) with that of the U.S. ◆ CS2.5b Students will be able to analyze the impact of the Constitution, laws, and court decisions on citizens' as the relate the six principals of the Constitution. ◆ CS2.1 Students will be able to analyze the Articles to determine how the powers of government are acquired, modified, justified and used. ◆ CS2.1b Students will be able to analyze how the Amendments and the amending process are acquired, modified and used. ◆ CS2.5a Students will be able to analyze the effectiveness of Federal and State government to protect the rights and needs of citizens in a just society. ◆ CS2.5b Students will be able to analyze the impact of the amendments on citizens' civil rights

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Democratic Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -public opinion -special interest groups -political parties -elections ◆ Legislative Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -powers & structures -law making process ◆ Executive Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -powers & duties -Electoral College -policy issues ◆ Judicial Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -jurisdiction -Federal court structure -Supreme Court process ◆ Local government 1 and 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -state government structure -state & local issues -law making process -city/county structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CS2.6 Students will be able to analyze and evaluate how public opinion and special interest groups contribute to the democratic process. ◆ CS2.1 Students will be able to analyze the historical and contemporary purpose of political parties and elections with regard to how the powers of government are acquired, modified, justified and used. ◆ CS2.1 Students will be able to analyze the historical and contemporary purpose of the legislative branch and how the powers of government are acquired, modified, justified and used. ◆ CS2.7 Students will be able to analyze the laws and policies governing ethical issues of technology (wire taps, copyright, cloning, internet). ◆ CS2.1 Students will be able to analyze the historical and contemporary purpose of the executive branch and how the powers of government are acquired, modified, justified and used. ◆ CS2.3 Students will be able to identify representative political leaders and philosophies regarding the executive branch of the government. ◆ CS2.1 Students will be able to analyze the historical and contemporary purpose of the judicial branch and how the powers of government are acquired, modified, justified and used. ◆ CS2.5b Students will be able to analyze the impact of the Constitution, laws and court decisions as they relate to the judicial branch of government. ◆ CS2.1 Students will be able to analyze the historical and contemporary purpose of state and local government and how the powers are acquired, modified, justified and used. ◆ CS2.6 Students will be able to analyze and evaluate conditions, actions and motivations that contribute to conflict, and cooperation within and among state and local groups.