



## **Honors American Government**

### **Semester A Summary:**

In this course, the student will learn, practice, and apply the fundamental skills and strategies that will help them grow into critical explorers of civics and American government. The course focuses on a variety of topic areas, including the Constitution, the structure and function of government, civil rights, civil liberties, and civics. American Government instruction closely aligns with national and state standards. Daily instruction supports student learning of core government and civics content, as well as critical thinking and literacy skills. Instruction is presented in two modes: Peer Model, in which the student views a video of a peer learning how to use and apply the target skill or concept; and 21st Century Skills, in which the student gains proficiency in the skills, knowledge, and expertise needed to succeed in life and work. Text assets and visual media are used frequently throughout the course to allow the student to gain experience in reading and interpreting data from a variety of sources. The student puts an inquiry-based approach into practice by working directly with these assets through the lens of unit and lesson themes as well as specific learning goals. Check-In and Practice activities allow the student to confirm understanding, resolve misconceptions, and apply their learning to new situations. Together the course elements ensure the student gains an awareness of the structure and function of American government, grows as a critical thinker and eventual participant in the political process, and masters the skills to succeed in life and work.

### **Semester A Outline**

#### **1. Honors American Government A Course Overview**

1. Honors American Government A Course Overview

#### **2. Foundations and Constitution**

1. Foundations and Constitution Introduction
2. Political Precedence

- In this section, you will assess how the Code of Hammurabi contributed to United States political thought.
- In this section, you will assess the contributions of English constitutional history to United States political thought, including the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, and English common law.
- In this section, you will explain how the Magna Carta, the English Petition of Right, and the English Bill of Rights impacted the Virginia government.
- In this section, you will investigate the contributions of religion to United States political thought, including Judaism and Christianity.

3. Political Philosophy

- In this section, you will analyze the impact of Aristotle and Blackstone on the foundations of the government in the United States.
- In this section, you will analyze the impact of Montesquieu and Rousseau on the founders of the new United States government.
- In this section, you will analyze the impact of Locke and Hobbes on the

foundation of the United States government.

- In this section, you will construct arguments to explain how the writings of Hobbes, Locke, and Montesquieu influenced the Constitution of Virginia.
4. Limited and Unlimited Government
    - In this section, you will compare ideas about governmental power in limited and unlimited governments.
    - In this section, you will explain natural law and natural rights as they were used in the foundation of our government and how governmental power is limited by natural law.
    - In this section, you will explain limits on government, including the rule of law, and how these limits affect laws.
  5. Limits to Government Power
    - In this section, you will explain how popular sovereignty limits government power and the significance of popular sovereignty in the foundation of the American government system.
    - In this section, you will explain how the powers of government are limited by the social contract theory.
    - In this section, you will describe the development of the Athenian democracy and the Roman Republic by constructing a chart
    - In this section, you will compare the concepts of republic and democracy and how each can limit the power of government.
  6. Foundational Thinking
    - In this section, you will analyze the roles of Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Madison in the development of United States political thought.
    - In this section, you will summarize the arguments made for and against a strong central government during the creation of the United States Constitution.
    - In this section, you will analyze how arguments between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists shaped the creation of the Constitution.
    - In this section, you will explain the charters of the Virginia Company of London and the important principles it established for the American colonies.
  7. Founding Fathers and Documents
    - In this section, you will assess the impact of the Declaration of Independence on United States political thought at the time it was written, as well as how it impacted political thought over time.
    - In this section, you will cite examples from the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and *The Federalist Papers* that illustrate the ideals of liberty and equality.
    - In this section, you will evaluate George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights and Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.
    - In this section, you will discuss the character of American democracy and its benefits and obstacles, as written by Alexis de Tocqueville.
  8. Background to the Constitution
    - In this section, you will cite evidence that democratic ideals are prevalent in the Constitution.
    - In this section, you will identify and explain the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and why it failed as a governing document.
    - In this section, you will explain the purpose of the First and Second Continental Congress and the role of this governing body in the formation of the United States Constitution.
  9. Forming the Constitution

- In this section, you will summarize the causes of Shays’s Rebellion and how the events of the Rebellion impacted the formation of the Constitution.
  - In this section, you will explain how the Great Compromise between the New Jersey Plan and the Virginia Plan resolved the dispute between highly populated states and less populated states and led to our current form of Congress.
  - In this section, you will evaluate examples of modern public policy to determine how they reflect the purposes of government outlined in the preamble to the Constitution.
  - In this section, you will explain the six goals of the Preamble to the Constitution and how they relate to our lives.
10. Key ideas in the Constitution
    - In this section, you will analyze key points of the different parts of the U.S. Constitution, as emphasized by text structure, and how in the Constitution the Continental Congress addresses the goals written in the Preamble.
    - In this section, you will describe the separation of powers in the federal government and the principle of checks and balances.
    - In this section, you will explain both processes and reasons for amending the Constitution and the importance of being able to do so.
  11. Three-fifths Compromise Portfolio
    - In this section, you will examine the Three-Fifths Compromise and explain its impact on the political power of the Southern states.
  12. Most Important Change
  13. Most Important Change Discussion
  14. Bill of Rights
    - In this section, you will compare and contrast the Declaration of Independence with the Bill of Rights to identify the similarities and differences between the two documents.
    - In this section, you will summarize the rights of each amendment in the U.S. Bill of Rights and how they apply to current issues.
    - In this section, you will explain how the Bill of Rights limits the government’s ability to pass laws or act on criminal activity.
    - In this section, you will evaluate James Madison’s role in the passage of the Bill of Rights.
  15. Amendments
    - In this section, you will explain how the First Amendment protects freedom of expression, including free speech, a free press, the right to peaceful assembly, and the right to petition the government.
    - In this section, you consider the powers of the national and state governments and explain the function of the Tenth Amendment.
    - In this section, you will assess how the power of the national government has increased by looking at the Eleventh through Twenty-Seventh Amendments to the Constitution.
  16. Ratification
    - In this section, you will examine why the addition of the Bill of Rights was necessary for the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
    - In this section, you will make an argument for or against the ratification of the U.S. Constitution using evidence.
    - In this section, you will make a timeline that shows how an amendment is added to the U.S. Constitution.
  17. Constitution Application

- In this section, you will assess how the rights of individuals and minority groups can conflict and why balance between the two is important to American government.
  - In this section, you will analyze U.S. Supreme Court decisions to understand the meaning of the Supremacy Clause and how it relates to rule of law, as well as how it helps to protect individual rights and liberties.
  - In this section, you will take a critical look at separation of powers, checks and balances, and how those concepts impact current events.
  - In this section, you will explain tensions in the political process between conviction and compromise, including examples of the importance of both in a democratic system of government.
18. Foundations and Constitution Apply
  19. Foundations and Constitution Review
  20. Foundations and Constitution Unit Test

### 3. **Legislative Branch**

1. Legislative Branch Introduction
2. Federalism and the Constitution
  - In this section, you will explain how the concept of federalism is incorporated throughout the U.S. Constitution.
  - In this section, you will describe how the Constitution gives states their reserved powers and how it denies states certain powers.
  - In this section, you will describe federalism and how the U.S. system of federalism has been affected by the supremacy clause.
  - In this section, you will analyze how the Fourteenth Amendment has affected the system of federalism and how the Supreme Court has used the equal protection and due process clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment within the context of selective incorporation.
3. Cooperative Federalism
  - In this section, you will identify delegated, reserved, and concurrent powers.
  - In this section, you will describe the concept of cooperative federalism and address how Congress's passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is an example of cooperative federalism.
  - In this section, you will describe Congress's commerce powers, including categorical grants, and how they can be used within the concept of cooperative federalism.
  - In this section, you will assess how Congress's commerce powers affect the national government's role in interstate relations.
4. Federal and State Governments
  - In this section, you will create a graphic organizer to organize the powers of the national and state governments.
  - In this section, you will identify the powers that are given primarily to the national government and state governments. You also will identify powers that are shared by both levels of government.
  - In this section, you will explain how the division of power between the national and state governments has changed over time.
  - In this section, you will examine how the national and state governments can conflict over public policy and explain why a balance of power between the two levels of government is necessary to promote democracy.
5. Local, State, and National Issues
  - In this section, you will identify issues that are typically addressed at different levels of government: local, state, tribal, and national.

- In this section, you will evaluate the similarities and differences in governmental decision-making procedures at the local, state, national, tribal, and international levels.
  - In this section, you will compare various perspectives on the ongoing debate that focuses on the balance of power between states and national governments.
  - In this section, you will develop a logical argument using examples from texts to support the idea that certain issues are better handled by either local governments, state governments, or the national government.
6. Structure of Congress
    - In this section, you will identify the bicameral structure of the United States Congress.
    - In this section, you will distinguish between the functions of the two houses of the United States Congress.
    - In this section, you will assess how Congress's bicameral structure developed as the United States Constitution was formed.
  7. The Role of Congress
    - In this section, you will summarize the role of Congress as outlined in Article I of the Constitution.
    - In this section, you will construct a visual aid that outlines each congressional chamber's approach to the legislative process.
    - In this section, you will assess how changes to the Constitution have affected Congress.
  8. The Powers of Congress
    - In this section, you will identify the powers of each congressional chamber as outlined in Article I of the Constitution.
    - In this section, you will distinguish between implied powers, expressed powers, and the elastic clause as outlined in Article I of the Constitution.
    - In this section, you will hypothesize why the Constitution provides for implied powers, expressed powers, and the elastic clause.
  9. Powers of Congress Portfolio
    - In this section, you will analyze how the Elastic Clause has been used in case studies.
    - In this section, you will evaluate the impact of Article I on Congress's role in American government.
  10. Congressional Qualifications and Districts
    - In this section, you will identify how Congressional districts are established.
    - In this section, you will identify local Congressional representatives and district boundaries.
  11. Congressional Committees
    - In this section, you will analyze congressional committees, their purposes, and their structures.
    - In this section, you will evaluate the significance of party leaders' and committees' roles and how they function in Congress.
    - In this section, you will analyze how the presence of majority and minority leaders affects Congress's ability to function.
  12. Congress's Checks and Balances
    - In this section, you will analyze the reasons our government relies on a system of checks and balances.
    - In this section, you will evaluate the role that Congress plays in the checks and balances of the federal government.

- In this section, you will explain the process for a bill to become a law.
13. Shaping the Legislative Process
    - In this section, you will analyze how a law is enacted after it is passed by Congress and signed by the president.
    - In this section, you will assess how individuals and groups outside of Congress shape the legislative process.
    - In this section, you will analyze how political parties shape the legislative process.
    - In this section, you will analyze the significance of gerrymandering and its impact on effective representation.
  14. Legislative Branch Apply
  15. Legislative Branch Review
  16. Legislative Branch Unit Test

#### 4. **Executive Branch**

1. Executive Branch Introduction
2. Presidency Requirements and Term
  - In this section, you will identify the Twentieth, Twenty-second, and Twenty-fifth Amendments and how they each contributed to the change of the presidential term of office and succession.
  - In this section, you will describe how the formal education and socioeconomic status of United States Presidents have evolved over the course of history.
  - In this section, you will describe how the informal qualifications for presidents have adapted with society and its advancements.
3. Elections and the Presidency
  - In this section, you will explain how the Electoral College makes the election process for the president different from other federal elected officials. You will also explain how the Twelfth Amendment clarified the Electoral College.
  - In this section, you will summarize the importance of approval ratings for determining presidential popularity.
  - In this section, you will describe the oath of office the president takes on Inauguration Day as outlined in Article II of the U.S. Constitution.
4. Executive Roles
  - In this section, you will describe the most important roles of the president.
  - In this section, you will describe the role of the president and Senate in the appointment and confirmation process of cabinet secretaries.
  - In this section, you will describe how the executive departments and agencies have changed and adapted their compositions and roles over time.
5. Executive Powers
  - In this section, you will describe the executive, legislative, and clemency powers of the president.
  - In this section, you will explain how presidents have used inherent powers to expand their power during periods of conflict.
6. President and Congress
  - In this section, you will describe the role of the president and the Senate in the negotiation and acceptance of treaties.
  - In this section, you will explain how Congress can use its "power of the purse" to facilitate its oversight of executive departments.
  - In this section, you will describe how a president can use their office to communicate with the people and increase their political power.
  - In this section, you will explain how presidents have used executive orders throughout American history and how this has affected public policy.

7. President Eligibility
8. President Eligibility Discussion
9. Federal Bureaucracy
  - In this section, you will explain bureaucratic rulemaking and how it affects the implementation of public policy.
  - In this section, you will explain bureaucratic discretion and how it allows federal bureaucrats to be more independent from other branches.
  - In this section, you will identify the advantages and disadvantages of addressing social and political problems through the actions of the federal bureaucracy.
10. Public Policy
  - In this section, you will differentiate between public policy and private action.
  - In this section, you will describe what issue networks are and identify how they can influence the public policy process.
  - In this section, you will explain how officials from different branches and levels of government, aside from the federal bureaucracy, can influence public policy by participating in issue networks.
  - In this section, you will explain how linkage institutions—such as news media, public opinion polls and interest groups—can have both intended and unintended effects on policy-making.
11. Independent Agencies
  - In this section, you will summarize the purposes of the following independent agencies: NASA, EPA, OSHA, FDA, and the FCC.
  - In this section, you will identify an impact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has had on the development of environmental policy making.
  - In this section, you will compare the responsibilities and organization of executive departments, regulatory agencies, and government corporations.
12. Executive Branch Apply
13. Executive Branch Review
14. Executive Branch Unit Test

## 5. **Judiciary and Civil Liberties**

1. Judiciary and Civil Liberties Introduction
2. American Judiciary
  - In this section, you will explain what role the judicial branch has in our government and why it is important to have an independent judiciary, as well as the rule of law in the American judicial system.
  - In this section, you will describe the jurisdictions of the different levels of the federal court system.
  - In this section, you will analyze the advantages and disadvantages of lifetime appointments for federal judges, including a description of the tenure of federal judges.
  - In this section, you will explain the powers of the U.S. Supreme Court and how it functions.
3. Supreme Court
  - In this section, you will explain the roles of the president and the Senate in the appointment of Supreme Court justices.
  - In this section, you will explain how policy differences between branches and levels of government are resolved by the Supreme Court.
  - In this section, you will explain how the power of judicial review held by the Supreme Court is used to check the powers of the other two branches of government.

4. Judicial Process and Concepts
  - In this section, you will describe the Supreme Court's process when issuing majority, concurring, and dissenting opinions.
  - In this section, you will describe the Supreme Court's process to grant a writ of certiorari.
  - In this section, you will review concepts of judicial restraint and judicial activism while determining how they contrast and affect court decisions.
  - In this section, you will evaluate how the judiciary influences public policy.
5. Interpreting the Constitution
  - In this section, you will contrast the concepts of strict and loose construction and how they lead to different interpretations of the U.S. Constitution.
  - In this section, you will identify how the Supreme Court's decisions in *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Miranda v. Arizona*, and *Gideon v. Wainwright* affect constitutional interpretation.
  - In this section, you will identify how the Supreme Court's decisions in *Roe v. Wade*, *U.S. v. Eichman*, and *McDonald v. Chicago* affect constitutional interpretation.
  - In this section, you will assess the rulings made in *Marbury v. Madison* and *McCulloch v. Maryland* and how they affect the understanding of the U.S. Constitution.
6. Bill of Rights Interpretation
  - In this section, you will explain how the Equal Protection Clause and Due Process Clause have changed the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Bill of Rights by using the concept of selective incorporation.
  - In this section, you will explain how the Bill of Rights protects citizens' civil liberties from federal actions.
  - In this section, you will explain how the Supreme Court has applied the Bill of Rights to court cases involving our individual rights.
7. Political Balance Portfolio
  - In this section, you will evaluate how the shifting political balance in the Supreme Court system has affected the appointment process and the ideology of justices.
  - In this section, you will evaluate how shifting political balance in the court system has affected executive and legislative action in court decisions.
8. Political Balance Portfolio 2
  - In this section, you will evaluate how shifting political balance in the court system impacts court decisions regarding public opinion and impartiality.
9. Constitutional Rights
  - In this section, you will describe how the federal government has limited powers due to embedded stipulations present in the U.S. Constitution, including habeas corpus rights, prohibitions on bills of attainder, and ex post facto laws.
  - In this section, you will analyze the events that led to the addition of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
  - In this section, you will analyze the importance of key Supreme Court decisions that affected the Due Process Clause found within the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.
10. Freedom of Speech
  - In this section, you will explain how free speech is necessary to maintain a democratic system of government.
  - In this section, you will analyze the effect several important Supreme Court

decisions have had on the freedom of expression found in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

- In this section, you will explain the meaning and purpose of the establishment and Free Exercise Clauses and how Supreme Court decisions have affected these clauses.

#### 11. Freedom of Press and Religion

- In this section, you will assess how freedom of the press has changed over time as a result of U.S. Supreme Court decisions.
- In this section, you will analyze how the 1971 Supreme Court ruling in the case *Lemon v. Kurtzman* clarified the meaning of the First Amendment.
- In this section, you will describe the issues and limitations of the First Amendment's protection of religious liberty and freedom of expression as determined by Supreme Court decisions, as well as an examination of the government's reasons for these limitations.

#### 12. Rights of Citizens in Court

- In this section, you will evaluate the importance of the Sixth Amendment, including the impact of the *Gideon v. Wainwright* case on the right to counsel.
- In this section, you will analyze the protections offered by the Fifth Amendment to defendants in criminal prosecutions, as well as key Supreme Court decisions involving these protections.
- In this section, you will analyze the protections offered by the Sixth Amendment to defendants in criminal prosecutions, as well as key Supreme Court decisions involving these protections.

#### 13. Protections

- In this section, you will explain the Fourth Amendment's protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, including key Supreme Court decisions.
- In this section, you will analyze the meaning and importance of the Eighth Amendment's protections against cruel and unusual punishments, including key related Supreme Court decisions.
- In this section, you will analyze how the Supreme Court attempts to balance the needs of society with the rights of individuals.

#### 14. Judiciary and Civil Liberties Apply

#### 15. Judiciary and Civil Liberties Review

#### 16. Judiciary and Civil Liberties Unit Test

### 6. **Civil Rights and Civics**

#### 1. Civil Rights and Civics Introduction

#### 2. Government View

- In this section, you will explain how recognizing the fundamental worth and dignity of an individual is a defining concept of democracy.
- In this section, you will explain the importance of civil rights and liberties as outlined in amendments of the U.S. Constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights.
- In this section, you will trace the paths to passage and vital parts of key civil rights legislation.
- In this section, you will analyze the rulings of United States Supreme Court cases such as *Barron v. Baltimore* that have selectively incorporated the Bill of Rights.

#### 3. Personal Rights

- In this section, you will explain the personal rights of liberty, security, and property.

- In this section, you will explain the economic and political rights of individuals in the United States and provide examples.
  - In this section, you will assess how personal, political, and economic rights can conflict with one another.
4. Protective Rights
    - In this section, you will analyze rulings of U.S. Supreme Court cases that involve the rights of individuals and groups.
    - In this section, you will explain how the Fourteenth Amendment protects individuals through the equal protection and due process clauses.
    - In this section, you will explain the need for the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments following the Civil War and their effectiveness.
    - In this section, you will evaluate the balance between the protection of civil liberties and civil rights and public interest by accessing primary and secondary sources.
  5. Voting Rights
    - In this section, you will describe attempts to suppress voter turnout and methods to increase voter turnout.
    - In this section, you will be able to explain the changes to the Constitution that expanded the right to vote to several groups of people in the United States.
    - In this section, you will explain key historical events from the Women's Suffrage Movement that impacted the U.S. Constitution.
    - In this section, you will connect the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to the Black American suffrage laws that triggered a federal response to protect voting rights.
  6. African American Civil Rights
    - In this section, you will describe the key events and influential people involved in the civil rights movement for Black Americans.
    - In this section, you will describe how the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments extended civil rights to Black Americans and the implications of each amendment on Black Americans' civil rights.
    - In this section, you will analyze the rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court cases *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Plessy v. Ferguson* and the impact they had on individual freedoms and equal protections.
    - In this section, you will develop a logical argument to support how the concept of judicial restraint was reflected in the Supreme Court's decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson* and the concept of judicial activism was reflected in the Supreme Court's decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*.
  7. Marginalized Group's Rights
    - In this section, you will analyze the protections and limitations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
    - In this section, you will identify ways the federal government has extended and protected the civil rights of marginalized groups.
    - In this section, you will explain the changes in American culture as a result of federal immigration policies.
    - In this section, you will explain the cause-and-effect relationship the national government has on influencing public agenda and shaping public policy.
  8. Civil Rights Issues
    - In this section, you will critique governmental policies resulting in inequalities at the local, state, and national levels.
    - In this section, you will explain the effect the civil rights movement (1954–

1968) had on the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

- In this section, you will describe how social movements, political parties, and interest groups attempted to reconcile American political ideals with public policy.

9. Citizenship

- In this section, you will explain the historical changes in the meaning of citizenship in the United States from the early republic through the passage of the Fourteenth Amendment, the impact on Black Americans, and the expansion of suffrage.
- In this section, you will contrast the differences in citizens' abilities to engage in political participation in authoritarian and democratic systems of government.
- In this section, you will explain dual citizenship and how tribal sovereignty provides Indigenous Americans with dual citizenship.

10. Noncitizens

- In this section, you will identify the ways in which a person can become a citizen of the United States including the citizenship naturalization process.
- In this section, you will explain knowledge and skills needed to pass the U.S. Naturalization Test.

11. Obligations and Responsibilities

- In this section, you will explain some of the responsibilities that are required of United States citizens.
- In this section, you will explain what civic responsibility means and the importance of civic responsibilities.
- In this section, you will explain the importance of civic virtue in a democratic society.
- In this section, you will describe ways to thoughtfully and effectively participate in a democratic republic as a citizen.

12. Civic Behavior

- In this section, you will explain the importance of civic competencies including civil discussions, evaluating issues and government leaders/candidates, and placing societal needs above personal interests.
- In this section, you will explain civil society, how civil society institutions contribute to the public good, and how individuals can become involved in civil society institutions.
- In this section, you will identify ways you can get involved in government at the local, state, national, and global levels.

13. Civil Rights and Civics Apply

14. Civil Rights and Civics Review

15. Civil Rights and Civics Unit Test

**7. American Government A Semester Review and Exam**

1. American Government A Semester Review
2. American Government A Semester Exam

**Semester B Summary:**

In this course, the student will learn, practice, and apply the fundamental skills and strategies that will help them grow into critical explorers of civics and American government. The course focuses on a variety of topic areas, including the forms of government, economic and international policies, political parties and media, political participation, and political culture. American Government instruction closely aligns with national and state standards. Daily

instruction supports student learning of core government and civics content, as well as critical thinking and literacy skills. Instruction is presented in two modes: Peer Model, in which the student views a video of a peer learning how to use and apply the target skill or concept; and 21st Century Skills, in which the student gains proficiency in the skills, knowledge, and expertise needed to succeed in life and work. Text assets and visual media are used frequently throughout the course to allow the student to gain experience in reading and interpreting data from a variety of sources. The student puts an inquiry-based approach into practice by working directly with these assets through the lens of unit and lesson themes as well as specific learning goals. Check-In and Practice activities allow the student to confirm understanding, resolve misconceptions, and apply their learning to new situations. Together the course elements ensure the student gains an awareness of the structure and function of American government, grows as a critical thinker and eventual participant in the political process, and masters the skills to succeed in life and work.

## **Semester B Outline**

### **1. Honors American Government B Course Overview**

#### 1. Honors American Government B Course Overview

### **2. Forms of Government**

#### 1. Forms of Government Introduction

#### 2. Local Government

- In this section, you will describe how local governments receive their power under the Tenth Amendment as well as describe the structure of local governments.
- In this section, you will identify policy concerns at the state level.
- In this section, you will analyze the powers and roles of city council members, including the mayor.
- In this section, you will analyze the relationship between different types of local governments.

#### 3. Levels of Government

- In this section, you will identify the services provided by different levels of government.
- In this section, you will compare the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal and state governments.
- In this section, you will create a graphic organizer that compares and contrasts the structures and functions of local, state, and federal governments.
- In this section, you will critique the relationship between state and local governments.

#### 4. Tribal Government

- In this section, you will examine the interaction between tribal governments and national, state, and local governments.
- In this section, you will examine how the U.S. government treated Indigenous Americans with respect to the treaty obligations it had with them.

#### 5. Roles of Local and State Governments

- In this section, you will explain how local and state governments fund their activities with various forms of taxes and fees.
- In this section, you will assess how the process of initiative can affect the rights of individuals.
- In this section, you will analyze the effect that government can have on the communities it serves. This effect can be both positive and negative.
- In this section, you will describe how state and local governments influence

public agenda and shape public policy.

#### 6. Virginia State Government

- In this section, you will compare the roles and responsibilities of Virginia's legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
- In this section, you will analyze the structure and powers of Virginia's local governments, including those of counties, cities, and towns.
- In this section, you will analyze the relationship between Virginia's state and local governments and the role of regional authorities, governing boards, and commissions.

#### 7. Forms of Governments

- In this section, you will evaluate different forms of government and their functions and structures.
- In this section, you will compare different forms of government with the U.S. government.
- In this section, you will compare the influence of authoritarian and democratic governments on people, groups, and society.
- In this section, you will explain how the philosophies and structures of socialism, fascism, and communism influence economic policies, social welfare policies, and human rights practices.

#### 8. Comparing Systems Governments

- In this section, you will compare the presidential system of the United States and the parliamentary system of the United Kingdom.
- In this section, you will compare the differences between unitary, federal, and confederal governments.
- In this section, you will describe the relationship between the executive and legislative branches in a federal system and unitary system.
- In this section, you will compare the distribution of governmental power and participation in the political process in various systems of government.

#### 9. Politics and Government

- In this section, you will classify political philosophies with forms of government.
- In this section, you will identify triggers of political change for specific governments.

#### 10. Citizens Role

- In this section, you will evaluate the rights and roles of citizens in different systems of government.
- In this section, you will synthesize the impact diverse government structures have on society and human rights.
- In this section, you will explain the ways that individuals and groups exert influence on state and local governments.
- In this section, you will evaluate ways citizens can influence policymaking at the state and local levels.

#### 11. Forms of Government Apply

#### 12. Forms of Government Review

#### 13. Forms of Government Unit Test

### 3. **Economic and International Policies**

#### 1. Economic and International Policies Introduction

#### 2. Economic Systems

- In this section, you will differentiate between economic systems used throughout the world and examine the limitations and freedoms of each system.

- In this section, you will describe how the government allocates resources in order to best answer basic economic questions.
  - In this section, you will compare and contrast demand-side and supply-side economic theories and the impact each economic policy may have on fiscal decisions made by federal officials.
  - In this section, you will evaluate how the relationship between the distribution of income and the allocation of resources varies across economic systems.
3. Economic Philosophies
- In this section, you will compare the characteristics of economies as described by Adam Smith, Karl Marx, John Maynard Keynes, Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman, and Thomas Sowell.
  - In this section, you will distinguish how different forms of government affect economic policies.
  - In this section, you will explain the differences between the principles of the Bill of Rights and the Communist Manifesto.
4. Role of Government
- In this section, you will evaluate the impact of the government's role in the economy on individual economic freedoms.
  - In this section, you will describe the reasons the U.S. government provides goods and services to the public.
  - In this section, you will describe the role the government has when it comes to property and consumer rights, contracts and labor management, environmental regulations and protections, and ensuring and maintaining a competitive marketplace.
  - In this section, you will evaluate the role of scarcity in governmental decisions.
5. Monetary and Fiscal Policy
- In this section, you will explain the tools and strategies employed by the Federal Reserve System to influence the U.S. economy, including monetary policy, open market operations, reserve requirements, and discount rate.
  - In this section, you will assess the ways monetary and fiscal policy impact the health of the economy and help achieve socioeconomic goals.
  - In this section, you will analyze how fiscal policy can be used by the federal government to achieve economic growth, promote full employment, and price stability.
  - In this section, you will describe the effects of monetary policy on the economy, employment, and price stability.
6. Taxes and Spending
- In this section, you will describe regressive, progressive, and proportional taxes; the purpose of each tax type; and how tax revenues are used for the public good.
  - In this section, you will explain the role of Congress in taxing and spending federal money.
  - In this section, you will explain why the power of taxation by a government system is important.
7. Public Policy Portfolio
- In this section, you will analyze how government makes decisions and forms public policy.
  - In this section, you will analyze how government policy is changed.
  - In this section, you will learn how to use cost-benefit analysis to evaluate

policy effectiveness.

#### 8. Governmental Decisions

- In this section, you will evaluate the ways in which governmental policies and decisions impact society.
- In this section, you will analyze the role of federal agencies throughout our country's history.
- In this section, you will develop an argument to defend a specific set of budget priorities at different levels of government.

#### 9. Public Policy Issues

- In this section, you will describe a public policy issue in your local community.
- In this section, you will analyze a contemporary public policy issue while integrating information from diverse sources.
- In this section, you will compose an action plan to address a local community issue.

#### 10. Foreign Policy

- In this section, you will identify the powers given to Congress and the president in the area of foreign affairs.
- In this section, you will compare the foreign policy powers given to the three branches of the United States government.
- In this section, you will differentiate between the United States foreign policy characteristics and basic goals.

#### 11. Foreign Policy Tools and Strategies

- In this section, you will identify tools used to carry out United States foreign policy.
- In this section, you will interpret strategies the United States uses to achieve foreign policy objectives.
- In this section, you will assess the role of national interest in shaping foreign policy and promoting peace.

#### 12. Foreign Policy Influences

- In this section, you will interpret foreign policy issues that impact local community and state interests.
- In this section, you will summarize the influence that individuals, businesses, labor and interest groups, and other organizations have on United States foreign policy.
- In this section, you will analyze isolationism versus interventionism in United States foreign policy.

#### 13. Nation-State Interactions

- In this section, you will summarize the financial costs of national security.
- In this section, you will assess the political and social costs of national security.
- In this section, you will show the ways nation-states interact, including through trade, tourism, diplomacy, treaties and agreements, and military action.
- In this section, you will identify sources and patterns of conflict among nation-states, including resources, territory, differences in systems of government, religious differences, and ethnicity.

#### 14. International Organizations

- In this section, you will describe the roles and purposes of various international governmental and nongovernmental organizations to which the United States belongs.

- In this section, you will cite evidence of the United States' role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- In this section, you will analyze some governmental and nongovernmental international organizations and their role in international affairs.
- In this section, you will explain how nations can cooperate politically and economically through international organizations.

#### 15. International Order

- In this section, you will identify the role and functions of the United Nations (UN) to reduce the potential for international conflict and address social and economic issues.
- In this section, you will cite evidence for the various roles of the United States within the United Nations over the last 80 years.
- In this section, you will analyze the impact of the U.S. Constitution, the United Nations Charter, and international law on international order.
- In this section, you will critique the impact of treaties and agreements on the maintenance of international order.

#### 16. Role in International Policy

- In this section, you will investigate how American foreign policy influences other nations, and how other nations influence American policy and society.
- In this section, you will draw conclusions about the role the United States plays in global affairs by examining a number of international institutions.
- In this section, you will synthesize strategies that civic minded individuals employ to gather and analyze information from multiple sources to make educated decisions about domestic and foreign policy.
- In this section, you will analyze how both the United States and Virginia affect international trade and the global economy.

#### 17. Relationship with Other Nations

- In this section, you will differentiate world issues that affect United States foreign policy. You will also learn about different types of foreign policy.
- In this section, you will assess how ideas impact policies among nations.
- In this section, you will learn to predict how United States policies and ideologies will continue to affect relations with other nations.
- In this section, you will assess how economic sanctions and diplomacy affect American relationships with other countries.

#### 18. Economic and International Policies Apply

#### 19. Economic and International Policies Review

#### 20. Economic and International Policies Unit Test

### 4. **Political Parties and Media**

#### 1. Political Parties and Media Introduction

#### 2. Political Parties in America

- In this section, you will identify factors that lead to the formation of political parties and factions.
- In this section, you will assess the process of different political parties used to nominate candidates using primaries, caucuses, and general elections from past to present.
- In this section, you will assess the role political parties play in administering government at the local, state, and national levels.
- In this section, you will analyze the impact of political parties on political outcomes and policy.

#### 3. Politics and Ideology

- In this section, you will analyze the relationship between constituency,

- partisanship, and political ideology.
  - In this section, you will analyze what causes a political party's ideology to change over time.
  - In this section, you will analyze how historical context has affected party ideology and political parties.
4. Political Influence
- In this section, you will analyze the ways media and public opinion shape party philosophy and public policy.
  - In this section, you will analyze how various forms of media shape and influence Americans' understanding of politics.
  - In this section, you will analyze the role of intersectionality in determining one's political identity.
  - In this section, you will evaluate how diversity has influenced political parties and led to changes in American party politics.
5. Impacts on Government
- In this section, you will describe the impact of interest groups on varying levels of government.
  - In this section, you will differentiate how lobbying and media impact the lawmaking process at the local, state, and national government levels.
  - In this section, you will explain how political groups influence the federal government.
6. Governmental Interactions
- In this section, you will compare the ways individuals and groups help formulate policy by interacting with the structure and functions of government.
  - In this section, you will assess what influence intermediary institutions have on government policy.
7. Governmental Influence
- In this section, you will evaluate the competing perspectives of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson on the role of government, noting misconceptions, opinions, and bias in their writings.
  - In this lesson, you will compare how individuals, businesses, interest groups, and labor markets can shape foreign policy.
  - In this section, you will explain how individuals and groups can impact government practices.
  - In this section, you will explain how the American people and media can check government actions.
8. Interest Groups and Political Action Committees
- In this section, you will analyze the effect Supreme Court decisions have had on the federal government's ability to limit political contributions.
  - In this section, you will assess the role and impact interest groups and PACs have on political processes, campaigns, and elections.
  - In this section, you will differentiate between political parties and interest groups. You will also describe the differences between interest groups on the positions they take on major political issues.
9. Media Sources
- In this section, you will distinguish between opinion-based media pieces and other forms of information pieces provided by media outlets.
  - In this section, you will distinguish between the concepts of propaganda, censorship, and bias.
  - In this section, you will analyze various types of media messages in order to

determine their purpose.

- In this section, you will explain the concepts of validity, reliability, and point of view, and how these concepts can be used to critique media messages.

#### 10. Role of Media

- In this section, you will compare how different media forms communicate, including broadcast, print, social media, and other electronic media.
- In this section, you will compare how media sources cover politics.
- In this section, you will assess the different roles media sources play in American politics.
- In this section, you will analyze how a free press affects political discourse throughout the history of America and through different types of media.

#### 11. Politics and Media

- In this section, you will distinguish between public officials' use of media for communication purposes and their use of media for various campaigning purposes.
- In this section, you will assess how new media has gone from broadcasting, to narrowcasting, to new media forms and how public officials have used media to their advantage.
- In this section, you will analyze the effects of new technologies such as data exchange, microtargeting, and the use of artificial intelligence on political messages and campaign spending.

#### 12. Political Parties and Media Apply

#### 13. Political Parties and Media Review

#### 14. Political Parties and Media Unit Test

### 5. **Political Participation**

#### 1. Political Participation Introduction

#### 2. Election Process

- In this section, you will look at the various ways in which elections in the United States take place.
- In this section, you will identify the major similarities and differences between election procedures at the national, state, local, and tribal levels of government.
- In this section, you will critique the impact that election processes have on voter participation and engagement.
- In this section, you will analyze how changes in population and resulting reapportionment have a political effect on legislative membership in Virginia.

#### 3. Electoral System

- In this section, you will analyze the foundations of the United States electoral system and how it has shaped the U.S. political system.
- In this section, you will illustrate the process of the Electoral College.
- In this section, you will explain the role and importance of campaigns, primaries, and caucuses in general elections.

#### 4. Campaigns

- In this section, you will analyze three primary source documents to determine the role of parties in American politics and analyze how voter turnout impacts elections. This lesson will include excerpts from three documents: George Washington's Farewell Address, Theodore's Roosevelt's speech "The New Nationalism," and one of Barack Obama's campaign speeches.
- In this section, you will assess how the federal and state governments in the United States regulate campaigns and elections.

- In this section, you will analyze how candidates and political parties try to shape the political process, public policy, and public opinion.
  - In this section, you will draw conclusions about the influence of media coverage, campaign advertising, public polls, and internet-based communications during a political campaign.
5. Campaign Funding
- In this section, you will compare the influence of campaign funding and campaign advertising on election polling.
  - In this section, you will assess how campaign funding impacts candidates' political strategies.
  - In this section, you will assess how campaign contributions can influence the outcome of an election.
  - In this section, you will analyze the impact of three major Supreme Court decisions on campaign funding and spending.
6. Funding Campaigns
7. Funding Campaigns Discussion
8. Minority Rights
- In this section, you will assess how reapportionment, redistricting, and gerrymandering can influence or impact minority rights.
  - In this section, you will explain how different groups of people fought for and achieved suffrage in the United States of America.
  - In this section, you will analyze the impact of expanding suffrage throughout American history.
9. Voter Turnout
- In this section, you will analyze trends in voter turnout by analyzing statistics.
  - In this section, you will analyze voter turnout based on political data from two or more sources to draw conclusions.
  - In this section, you will compare trends in voter turnout in local, state, and national elections by analyzing demographic information from sources.
10. Citizenship
- In this section, you will analyze expansion of the Constitution as it relates to citizenship and political participation.
  - In this section, you will evaluate how changing demographics have impacted political outcomes throughout history.
  - In this section, you will evaluate the factors that have influenced active citizenship and participation throughout American history.
11. The Governed and the Government
- In this section, you will examine the responsibility that citizens have toward the government and the responsibility that the government has toward citizens.
  - In this section, you will look at the impact of citizen involvement in society, specifically paying taxes, serving on a jury, and registering for the draft.
  - In this section, you will look at the responsibility of the government to the citizens and the responsibility of the citizens to the government.
12. Activism and Participation
- In this section, you will evaluate a variety of ways in which citizens participate in the political process.
  - In this section, you will evaluate ways in which citizen activism impacts the political agenda.
  - In this section, you will evaluate how citizens support the policy-making

process through political participation.

### 13. Influencing Policy

- In this section, you will identify methods used by stakeholders to influence public policy and political action.
- In this section, you will evaluate the impact of the methods stakeholders use to influence public policy and political action.
- In this section, you will analyze how individual beliefs and values lead to the formation of groups that influence political outcomes.

### 14. Policy Issue Portfolio

- In this section, you will examine current social issues in American politics.
- In this section, you will identify current social issues and craft potential solutions.
- In this section, you will synthesize your learning to develop solutions to current social problems.

### 15. Influence and Bias

- In this section, you will analyze the influence of private and public institutions on shaping public policy and political opinions.
- In this section, you will analyze different forms of political communication to identify bias.
- In this section, you will analyze the influence of bias on shaping public opinion.

### 16. Political Opinion

- In this section, you will identify the social demographics that influence individuals' political opinions.
- In this section, you will analyze how political opinions are influenced by demographics and intersectionality.
- In this section, you will evaluate the ways in which stratification influences political outcomes.

### 17. Historical Influences

- In this section, you will analyze a few of the critical historical figures and groups whose contributions influenced political structures and decision making today.
- In this section, you will analyze historical figures and events that contribute to contemporary debate as they relate to issues of local/state/national politics.

### 18. Public Opinion

- In this section, you will analyze the influence of political symbols on public opinion and public institutions.
- In this section, you will evaluate the ways in which geography may influence public opinion or political beliefs.
- In this section, you will analyze methods of political participation other than voting that influence public opinion and political outcomes.

### 19. Political Participation Apply

### 20. Political Participation Review

### 21. Political Participation Unit Test

## 6. Political Culture

### 1. Political Culture Introduction

### 2. Current Issue Portfolio

- In this section, you will collect credible sources that illustrate two different perspectives on a civic issue.
- In this section, you will construct a defensible position on an issue that is

important to you.

3. Current Issue Portfolio 2

- In this section, you will compose a short written piece on an issue to prepare for civil discourse.

4. Current Issues

5. Current Issues Discussion

6. Iron Triangle

- In this section, you will construct an Iron Triangle to illustrate the relationship between the public, Congress, and the federal government.
- In this section, you will critique the role of interest groups using an Iron Triangle.

7. Linkage Institutions

- In this section, you will analyze what is positive and negative about linkage institutions in the American political system.
- In this section, you will research ways linkage institutions address current social and political issues.
- In this section, you will compare and contrast the effectiveness of individual responses and institutional responses to a political issue.

8. Political Systems

- In this section, you will analyze the promotion of democratic principles through the effectiveness of different political systems.
- In this section, you will draw conclusions on the central role of the rule of law in the American political system.

9. Socialization

- In this section, you will describe the process of political socialization.
- In this section, you will compare the role of family, school, community, and media in political socialization.
- In this section, you will assess which agent of socialization has the most influence in developing one's political decisions.

10. Political Culture Apply

11. Political Culture Review

12. Political Culture Unit Test

**7. American Government B Semester Review and Exam**

1. American Government B Semester Review

2. American Government B Semester Exam