



## American Government Honors

### Semester A Summary:

This is the first of two courses that comprise Honors American Government. *Magruder's American Government* provides the basis for instruction. In this rigorous course, the student will explore the foundations of American government and its fundamental principles and organization. The student will examine government concepts such as the growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances. The branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial—are studied in depth. This course promotes understanding and participation in government by presenting information in a context that is relevant to the student. The challenging activities in this course are designed to develop the student's abilities to question, read, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information, as well as to communicate ideas to others.

### Semester A Outline

#### 1. Course Overview

1. Course Overview

#### 2. Foundations of American Government

1. Foundations of American Government Overview
  - Define the powers every government holds
  - Differentiate between primary and secondary sources
  - Analyze an article by identifying facts and opinions and recognizing bias
2. Natural Law, Government, and the State
  - Apply the characteristics of a state to the United States
  - Compare and contrast different theories and governments that influenced the structure of American government
3. President or King? Different Forms of Government
  - Differentiate between forms of government based on the distribution of power between the executive and legislative branch
  - Classify governments into one of three systems
  - Differentiate between a dictatorship and democracy
  - Evaluate the presidential and parliamentary styles of government
4. Concepts of Democracy
  - Identify the foundations and principles of democracy
  - Apply the concepts of democracy to current society
  - Analyze European philosophical influences on American government
5. A Special Relationship – Colonies and the Crown
  - Organize the progression of colonial resistance to the British monarchy
  - Explain the concepts of power, legitimacy, authority, and sovereignty
  - Evaluate the democratic concepts of popular sovereignty, division of power, and natural rights
  - Differentiate between three types of colonies
6. The Road to Revolution

- Evaluate the democratic concepts of popular sovereignty, division of power, and natural rights
  - Analyze the historical events leading to American founding documents
  - 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
  - Deconstruct the motivations leading to the colonial revolution
7. The Declaration of Independence
- Analyze the relationship between the Declaration of Independence and European political theories
  - Describe the main ideas of the Declaration of Independence
  - Interpret the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States
  - Summarize the debates and compromises leading to the Declaration of Independence
  - Determine whether historical documents are primary or secondary sources and evaluate them
8. The Articles of Confederation
- Analyze why the weak central government and limited powers of the Articles of Confederation demonstrated the need for the Constitution
  - Evaluate the democratic concepts of popular sovereignty, division of power, and natural rights
  - Organize the sequence of events leading to the creation of the Articles of Confederation
  - Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
9. Debate and Compromise – Framing the Constitution
- Summarize the debates and compromises leading to the creation of the U.S. Constitution
  - Compare the political ideologies and arguments of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists
  - Describe the events leading to the creation of the U.S. Constitution
  - Identify four Framers of the Constitution
10. Principles of the Constitution
- Define the six main principles in the U.S. Constitution
  - Analyze the purpose and functions of government as outlined by the U.S. Constitution
  - Evaluate constitutional provisions for limiting the role of government, checks and balances, and separation of powers
11. Constitutional Change and the Formal Amendment
- Explain the formal and informal amendment process for the Constitution
  - Analyze the political principles of popular sovereignty, separation of powers, and federalism
  - Evaluate constitutional provisions for limiting government
12. States' Rights and the Division of Powers
- Classify the division of powers as outlined by the U.S. Constitution
  - Evaluate the role of limited government and the rule of law in American government
  - Describe the role and powers of state and local governments
  - Explain the significance of the Supremacy Clause
13. More Than a Label – American Citizenship
- Explain the process of becoming an American citizen
  - Outline the role of citizens in a democracy

- Evaluate citizen rights versus responsibilities

#### 14. Historical Influences on the Constitution

- Locate, analyze, and use various forms of evidence, information, and sources about a significant public policy issue, including primary and secondary sources, legal documents, non-text-based information, and other forms of political communication
- Write an essay which includes a persuasive, reasoned argument on issues surrounding the writing of the Constitution and support it using evidence, constitutional principles, and fundamental values of American constitutional democracy; explain the stance

#### 15. Foundations of American Government Unit Review

- Read, analyze, and interpret historical documents and events that led to the establishment of a central American government
- Define the basic responsibilities held by every government
- Outline the distribution of power within an organized state
- Compare and contrast different theories and governments that influenced the structure of American government
- Examine and explain how checks and balances impact American government

#### 16. Foundations of American Government Unit Test

- Read, analyze, and interpret historical documents and events that led to the establishment of a central American government
- Define the basic responsibilities held by every government
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- Compare and contrast different theories and governments that influenced the structure of American government
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### 3. The Legislative Branch

#### 1. The Legislative Branch Overview

- Analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Explain the roles and duties of the legislative branch
- Evaluate the powers of the legislative branch in relation to the other branches of government
- Critique the compensation received by members of Congress

#### 2. Congress – A Separation of Powers

- Analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Describe congressional sessions and terms
- Identify the factors that impact the voting decisions of members of Congress

#### 3. The House of Representatives – The Lower Chamber

- Analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Explain the roles and duties of the House of Representatives
- Analyze the effect of gerrymandering on Congress

#### 4. The Senate – The Upper Chamber

- Explain the roles and duties of the Senate
- Evaluate the powers of the House of Representatives in relation to the Senate
- Analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Use available resources to write an organized argumentative paragraph

#### 5. Congressional Committees at Work

- Explain the roles and duties of the legislative branch
  - Analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
  - Analyze the powers of the leadership of Congress
6. Powers of Congress – An Overview
- Determine the extent of congressional power
  - Compare and contrast the ideas of strict constructionists and liberal constructionists
  - Evaluate the powers of the legislative branch in relation to the other branches of government
7. Expressed Powers – Money and Commerce
- Define the expressed powers of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
  - Explain the scope of legislative powers as it relates to lawmaking and economic regulations
  - Evaluate the powers of the legislative branch in relation to the other branches of government
8. Expressed Powers – Foreign and Domestic Affairs
- Define the expressed powers of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
  - Evaluate the powers of the legislative branch in relation to the other branches of government
  - Examine the reasoning behind establishing patents
9. The Implied Powers of Congress
- Define the implied powers of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
  - Explain the importance of the Elastic Clause
  - Differentiate between expressed and implied powers
  - Evaluate the powers of the legislative branch in relation to the other branches of government
  - Assess the effect of a liberal interpretation of the Constitution as established by *McCulloch v. Maryland*
10. Nonlegislative Powers of Congress
- Define the nonlegislative powers of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
  - Explain the scope of legislative powers as it relates to amending the constitution, appointments, investigations, and impeachments
  - Evaluate the powers of the legislative branch in relation to the other branches of government
11. How a Bill Becomes Law
- Explain the formal and unorthodox processes by which a bill becomes a law
  - Compare the processes of lawmaking in the two houses of Congress
  - Analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch as outlined by the Constitution
  - Evaluate the powers of the legislative branch in relation to the other branches of government
  - Analyze how the executive branch interacts with the legislative branch in the lawmaking process
12. Taking Civic Action
- Evaluate how Congress represents the will and interests of the people

- Make a persuasive, reasoned argument on a public issue and support it using evidence, constitutional principles, and fundamental values of American constitutional democracy; explain the stance or position
- Analyze arguments businesses can make for laws that benefit them

#### 13. The Legislative Branch Unit Review

- Define the powers provided to Congress by the Constitution
- Evaluate how Congress represents the will and interests of the people
- Identify the qualifications for election to the House of Representatives and Senate
- Analyze the committee system in Congress and its role in government
- Describe the legislative development process

#### 14. The Legislative Branch Unit Test

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- Describe the legislative development process

### 4. The Executive Branch

#### 1. The Executive Branch Overview

- Analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Explain the roles and duties of the executive branch

#### 2. The American Presidency

- Explain the written qualifications for president of the United States
- Analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Differentiate the role of the president from the vice president
- Explain the rules and process of presidential succession
- Determine the reasoning behind setting term limits for the president
- Evaluate qualities that make a historically notable president

#### 3. Choosing a Side – The Political Machine

- Describe the nomination and electoral process as outlined by the Constitution
- Discuss the history of the nomination process for presidential candidates and the increasing importance of primaries in general elections
- Analyze why current political parties try to avoid contested conventions

#### 4. Choosing a Leader – The Electoral College

- Describe the nomination and electoral process as outlined by the Constitution
- Evaluate the fairness and effectiveness of the United States electoral processes, including the Electoral College

#### 5. Executive Powers

- Analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Explain the scope of executive powers as it relates to revenue, regulatory functions, domestic and foreign policy
- Evaluate the powers of the executive branch in relation to the other branches of government
- Determine whether it is justifiable for the president to violate checks and balances in severe cases

#### 6. The Federal Bureaucracy

- Analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch as outlined by the Constitution

- Explain the scope of executive powers as it relates to revenue, regulatory functions, domestic and foreign policy
  - Evaluate how effective your local bureaucracy is
7. The Executive Office of the President
- Explain the purpose and role of the many parts in the Executive Office of the President
  - Analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch as outlined by the Constitution
  - Categorize the Executive Offices of the President to understand the focus of the EOP
8. Executive Departments
- Describe and explain the roles of the main executive departments
  - Analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch as outlined by the Constitution
  - Evaluate the powers of the executive branch in relation to the other branches of government
  - Determine how the cabinet has evolved over time
9. Independent Agencies
- Evaluate how government agencies create, amend, and enforce regulations
  - Identify the role of independent regulatory agencies in the federal bureaucracy
  - Define the role of independent agencies in the federal bureaucracy
10. American Foreign Policy
- Explain the scope of executive powers as it relates to revenue, regulatory functions, domestic and foreign policy
  - Describe the characteristics of United States foreign policy and how it has been created and implemented over time
  - Analyze recent foreign policies regarding nuclear nonproliferation
11. National Security and Defense
- Explain the scope of executive powers as it relates to revenue, regulatory functions, domestic and foreign policy
  - Evaluate the powers of the executive branch in relation to the other branches of government
  - Analyze the locations of the armed forces around the world
12. Diplomacy and the State Department
- Identify and analyze U.S. foreign policy in dealing with international issues with diplomacy and humanitarian aid
  - Evaluate the means used to implement U.S. foreign policy with respect to current or past international issues
13. Memo to the President
- Write a five-paragraph essay which includes a persuasive, reasoned argument on the assigned public issue and support using evidence, constitutional principles, and fundamental values of American constitutional democracy; explain the stance or position
  - Evaluate the roles of the president in international affairs
  - Examine the issues of social justice and human rights as expressed in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights
14. The Executive Branch Unit Review
- Classify the responsibilities of the executive branch and its parts
  - Identify, explain, and evaluate the constitutional powers of the president
  - Explain the bureaucratic structure of federal government
  - Describe various roles of the president in international affairs

- Analyze historic elections and candidacies
15. The Executive Branch Unit Test
- Classify the responsibilities of the executive branch and its parts.
  - Identify, explain, and evaluate the constitutional powers of the President.
  - Explain the bureaucratic structure of federal government.
  - Describe various roles of the President in international affairs.
  - Analyze historic elections (and candidacies).

## 5. The Judicial Branch

### 1. The Judicial Branch Overview

- Explain the purposes and function of law and the judicial branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Analyze the role of the judicial branch in maintaining the Constitution
- Evaluate the powers of the judicial branch in relation to the other branches of government
- Identify the limits of judicial power

### 2. The Federal Court System

- Explain the purposes and function of law and the judicial branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Analyze the role of the judicial branch in maintaining the Constitution
- Evaluate the powers of the judicial branch in relation to the other branches of government
- Analyze how the courts interpret laws
- Evaluate the merits of judicial restraint and judicial activism using case studies

### 3. The Supreme Court

- Explain the purposes and function of law and the judicial branch as outlined by the Constitution
- Analyze the role of the judicial branch in maintaining the Constitution
- Analyze how the courts interpret laws by using landmark Supreme Court cases

### 4. Inferior and Special Courts – The Lower Courts

- Differentiate the roles and jurisdictions of the inferior and special courts from the Supreme Court
- Explain the powers of the inferior and special courts as outlined by the Constitution
- Analyze how the courts interpret laws
- Analyze the purpose of the military court system

### 5. Supreme Court's Protections

- Differentiate between civil rights and civil liberties
- Explain why rights are relative
- Explain how the Constitution protects life, liberty, and property
- Analyze how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Second Amendment through history

### 6. Supreme Court on Religious Freedom

- Explain the concept of separation of church and state
- Explain the rights afforded to citizens by the First Amendment
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the U.S. justice system in protecting life, liberty, and property
- Analyze how the courts interpret laws by using landmark Supreme Court cases
- Analyze the difference between separation of church and state and a ban on religion in the public sphere

7. Supreme Court on Speech and Press
    - Differentiate between protected and unprotected speech
    - Explain the rights afforded to citizens by the First Amendment
    - Evaluate the effectiveness of the U.S. justice system in protecting life, liberty, and property
    - Analyze how the courts interpret laws by using landmark Supreme Court cases
  8. Supreme Court on Petition and Assembly
    - Evaluate the effectiveness of the U.S. justice system in protecting life, liberty, and property
    - Analyze how the courts interpret laws by using landmark Supreme Court cases
    - Explain the rights afforded to citizens by the First Amendment
  9. A Judicial Opinion
    - Evaluate the process for appointing federal judges and Supreme Court justices
    - Locate, analyze, and use various forms of evidence, information, and sources about a significant public policy issue, including primary and secondary sources, legal documents, non-text based information, and other forms of political communication
    - Make a persuasive, reasoned argument on a public issue and support it using evidence, constitutional principles, and fundamental values of American constitutional democracy; explain the stance or position
  10. The Judicial Branch Unit Review
    - Identify the roles and responsibilities of the judicial branch given by the Constitution
    - Discuss and critique judicial review and how it impacts public policy by examining historical court cases
    - Evaluate the process for appointing federal judges and Supreme Court justices
    - Describe the jurisdiction of federal and Supreme Court and how a case is moved to these courts
  11. The Judicial Branch Unit Test
    - Identify the roles and responsibilities of the judicial branch given by the Constitution
    - Discuss and critique judicial review and how it impacts public policy by examining historical court cases.
    - Evaluate the process for appointing federal judges and Supreme Court justices
    - Describe the jurisdiction of federal and Supreme Court and how a case is moved to these courts.
- 6. Semester Review and Exam**
1. Semester Review
    - Examine government concepts such as the growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances
    - Analyze the roles, responsibilities, and structures of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government
    - Analyze and interpret historical documents and events that led to the establishment of a central American government
  2. Semester Exam
    - Examine government concepts such as the growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances



- Analyze the roles, responsibilities, and structures of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government
- Analyze and interpret historical documents and events that led to the establishment of a central American government

## **Semester B Summary:**

This is the second of two courses that comprise Honors American Government. *Magruder's American Government* provides the basis for instruction. In this rigorous course, the student will examine the basic rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens and the foundations of American government. In addition, the student will explore constitutional freedoms, citizen requirements, and aspects of American law. Other topics covered include political parties, interest groups, ways to affect the government, and the influence of the media. Finally, the student will learn about local and state government structures, and compare political systems and economies from around the world.

## **Semester B Outline**

### **1. Course Overview**

1. Course Overview

### **2. The Constitution and Civil Liberties**

#### **1. The Constitution and Civil Liberties Overview**

- Evaluate how the rule of law, as embodied in a constitution, limits government and protects individual rights
- Define "constitutionalism" and explain how the rule of law protects individual rights and promotes the common good
- Interpret the claim that a constitutional democracy requires the participation of an attentive, knowledgeable, and informed citizenry
- State a claim and develop a logical argument using reasons, examples, and/or evidence

#### **2. The Need for a Constitution**

- Examine how the philosophical ideas of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke influenced the Founding Fathers in the creation of a government with limited power and that protected individual rights
- Analyze the concept of a social contract
- Compare historical and contemporary examples of constitutional governments that succeeded in limiting power
- Use a variety of literacy strategies to determine the meanings of words and phrases as they are used in a text
- Deconstruct the rationale for martial law

#### **3. Rationale of the Constitutional Structure**

- Describe the origins, purposes, and limitations of government through the viewpoints of key philosophers and the authors of the Federalist Papers
- Deconstruct the Preamble and the seven articles of the U.S. Constitution
- Identify how the principles of republicanism, separation of powers, bicameralism, enumerated powers, and federalism serve to limit the power of government
- Evaluate the key issues of conflict during the Constitutional Convention: the question of congressional representation and the extent of executive authority
- Analyze the structure of the Constitution

4. The Six Organizing Principles of the Constitution
  - Analyze how the principles of separation of power, checks and balances, and federalism serve to limit governmental power and promote popular sovereignty
  - Examine how the power of judicial review allows the judiciary to protect constitutional principles
  - Summarize the key benefits the Founding Fathers saw in a federal structure of government
  - Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the six organizing principles of the Constitution in short written pieces
5. The Amendment Process (27 Amendments)
  - Summarize how the U.S. Constitution is often referred to as a “living” document
  - Outline the constitutionally prescribed procedures by which the U.S. Constitution can be formally changed
  - Identify the 27 amendments that have been added to the Constitution and those that have been proposed but not ratified
  - Examine how basic legislation has clarified the Constitution over time
  - Analyze how interpretation of the Constitution has changed over the years through the actions of the executive and judicial branches, and by party practices and customs
6. The Unalienable Rights
  - Interpret the meaning of an unalienable right
  - Explain the importance of unalienable rights in limiting the powers of government
  - Evaluate the relationship between rights and responsibilities, and how exercise of your right may infringe on another’s right
  - Explore and classify personal rights, political rights, and economic rights
7. The Supreme Court and Competing Rights
  - Evaluate the U.S. Supreme Court’s role in defining constitutional principles
  - Recognize the common reasons why judicial interpretations of the U.S. Constitution may change over time
  - Define the meaning of “competing rights”
  - Conduct a short research task by finding a current event example of a civil liberty issue that is a competing right
  - Use primary sources to understand logical legal arguments in a Supreme Court case
8. Freedom of Speech
  - Describe the right to free speech by using historical and contemporary examples
  - Explain why the Founding Fathers felt that protection of free speech was crucial in the functioning of a democracy
  - Evaluate the scope and appropriate limits to the right of free speech
  - Integrate evidence to present a case for or against extending Supreme Court rulings on free speech
9. Freedom of Religion
  - Consider the historical role of religion and religious diversity
  - Explain why the Founding Fathers felt religion was an important issue to single out for protection in the Bill of Rights
  - Distinguish between the concepts of the free exercise of religion and the Establishment Clause

- Determine the scope and limitations of the free exercise of religion
  - Integrate evidence to present a concise piece of writing supporting or opposing a current event issue
10. Freedom of the Press
- Judge the meaning and importance of a free and responsible press to the healthy functioning of a democracy
  - Evaluate the scope and appropriate limits of the rights of a free press
  - Cite evidence in support of a position regarding freedom of the press
  - Write an argumentative thesis on a controversial topic
11. Freedom of Petition and Assembly
- Summarize how people, individually or in association with others, can bring their influence to bear on government in ways other than voting and elections
  - Explain why the Founding Fathers felt that protection of the right to petition and assemble was crucial to the functioning of democracy
  - Determine the scope and appropriate limits of the right to petition and freely assemble
  - Evaluate the difference between state constitutions and the U.S. Constitution in terms of government structure and rights protected
12. Due Process of Law
- Explain the meaning of due process of law as set out in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments
  - Differentiate between procedural and substantive due process
  - Evaluate police power through examining appropriate use of search and seizure tactics
  - Discuss the implied right to privacy
13. Rights of the Accused
- Define the writ of habeas corpus, bills of attainder, and ex post facto laws
  - Summarize how the right to a grand jury and the guarantee against double jeopardy help to protect the rights of the accused
  - Judge what constitutes a fair trial by jury according to the rights given by the Constitution and Bill of Rights
14. Comparing State and U.S. Constitutions
- Compare and contrast the functions and protections of state constitutions versus the U.S. Constitution
  - Analyze the privacy protections provided under the U.S. Constitution versus those provided by your state of residence
  - Assess the merits of general versus explicit language in constitutional civil liberties protections
15. The Constitution and Civil Liberties Unit Review
- Analyze and explain why rights are not absolute
  - Analyze and interpret the Bill of Rights
  - Interpret and defend Supreme Court interpretations of rights guaranteed by the Constitution
  - Compare and contrast your state's constitution to the U.S. Constitution
16. The Constitution and Civil Liberties Unit Test
- Analyze and explain why rights are not absolute
  - Analyze and interpret the Bill of Rights
  - Interpret and defend Supreme Court interpretations of rights guaranteed by the Constitution
  - Compare and contrast your state's constitution to the U.S. Constitution

### 3. Civil Rights and Citizenship

1. American Diversity
  - Recognize how the United States is a nation of immigrants
  - Evaluate what it means to live in a heterogeneous society.
  - Judge the arguments for and against assimilation
2. Racial Discrimination
  - Describe the struggles for equality, past and present, faced by African Americans
  - Analyze the challenges of assimilation for Native Americans
  - Identify the varying countries of origin among Hispanic Americans
  - Summarize the history of discrimination against Asian Americans
  - Differentiate the essential nature of the discrimination faced by African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans
3. Discrimination Against Women
  - Describe the political and economic achievements of women in America over time and identify some barriers to equality that still remain
  - Analyze the disparity between the promises and protections of the U.S. Constitution and the reality of women's experience
  - Deconstruct the difference between women's equality and women's equity
4. Equal Protection Under the Law
  - Deconstruct the language of the Fourteenth Amendment and interpret how it safeguards all groups' civil liberties
  - Define the meaning of "reasonable classification," and explain how the rational basis and strict scrutiny tests clarify its meaning
  - Analyze how the Fourteenth Amendment protections are evolving in today's world
5. Segregation and Jim Crow Laws
  - Analyze the U.S. Supreme Court's changing interpretations of the Equal Protection Clause over time
  - Identify the objective of Jim Crow laws, and evaluate how they deprived minorities of equal protection under the law
  - Describe the difficulty in ordering integration, identify the difference between de jure and de facto segregation, and identify de facto segregation that still exists today
  - Analyze charts and graphs for information
  - Deconstruct the persistent problem of de facto school segregation
6. Federal Civil Rights Laws
  - Outline the history of civil rights legislation from the post-Civil War Reconstruction to today
  - Define the meaning of "affirmative action" and evaluate why it has been controversial in the United States
  - Assess current public opinions on affirmative action
7. American Citizenship
  - Explain how people become American citizens by birth and by naturalization
  - Describe how an American can lose his citizenship
  - Assess the meaning and responsibilities of citizenship in the United States
8. A Nation of Immigrants
  - Describe how the United States is a nation of immigrants
  - Evaluate past and present legislative efforts to regulate immigration
  - Examine the complexities of the current debate regarding undocumented aliens
9. Good Citizenship

- Interpret the fundamental value and principles of citizenship and the American identity
  - Recognize that with the benefits of citizenship come important responsibilities that help promote the stability and health of American democracy
  - Identify the characteristics of a good citizen
10. Civil Discourse and Argument Literacy
- Identify the purpose of discussion and debate, and recognize their importance in promoting the civic values of truth, compromise, respect, and fairness
  - Research a current public issue and apply the necessary steps to effectively construct and deliver an argument
  - Participate in a discussion to defend a position on a current public issue
11. Can One Person Make a Difference?
- Identify the constitutional restrictions on states' powers to set voting qualifications
  - Evaluate the reasoning behind voter registration requirements
  - Describe controversial historical and current barriers to voting rights
  - Judge the impact and importance of an individual's efforts to influence government and political decision-making
12. Collective Action and Interest Groups
- Identify how collective action holds influence in America's system of majoritarian politics
  - Analyze the role and strategies of interest groups in influencing public policy
  - Describe how interest groups are both good and bad for American politics
13. Political Party Influence
- Differentiate between the collective goals of interest groups versus those of political parties
  - Describe the major functions of political parties and evaluate their effectiveness in meeting the country's needs
  - Recognize how individuals can participate in political parties to help determine the public agenda
  - Analyze the power and effect of third parties in the American political system
14. The Power of the Media
- Interpret the role of the mass media within a democracy in terms of providing citizens with accurate and complete information
  - Evaluate the ways the American media is effective and ineffective in influencing politics
  - Discriminate among information sources for logical validity, and identify whether appeals are based on complete factual evidence versus emotions, prejudice, or bias
15. Civil Rights and Citizenship Unit Review
- Use primary sources to identify and define common causes for civil movements
  - Evaluate and discuss the impact of assimilation and diversity on American society
  - Define good citizenship and examine the ways citizens can influence governmental decision making
  - Summarize what makes the United States a nation of immigrants and how the government handles immigration
16. Civil Rights and Citizenship Unit Test
- Use primary sources to identify and define common causes for civil movements

- Evaluate and discuss the impact of assimilation and diversity on American society
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#### 4. **State and Local Governments**

1. The 50 States – Sovereignty and Culture
  - Recognize that each of the 50 U.S. states has its own rich heritage and culture, which is reflected in its government structures and laws
  - Evaluate the constitutional structure of federalism
  - Identify the reserved powers of the states as outlined in the Tenth Amendment
2. States' Rights
  - Deconstruct the ambiguous language of federalism in the U.S. Constitution
  - Judge differing viewpoints on the appropriate balance of power between the states and the federal government
  - Analyze the ongoing struggle between the states and the federal government, using relevant judicial decisions and pieces of legislation
  - Analyze the debate in the nullification crisis
3. State Constitutions
  - Identify the history, content, and importance of the first state constitutions
  - Describe the role and common features of state constitutions in defining the relationship between state and local governments
  - Evaluate the procedures used to change state constitutions
  - Assess your state constitution and propose appropriate changes
4. State Legislatures
  - Outline the size and general structure of most state legislatures
  - Describe the election process, terms of office, and compensation of state legislators
  - Identify the powers and organization that drive how state legislatures operate
  - Summarize the state-level legislative process, and identify ways that state voters can influence decision making
5. The Governor and State Administration
  - Identify the qualifications and term, as well as the selection, succession, and removal processes, for state governors
  - Analyze the executive, legislative, and judicial roles and powers of state governors
  - Describe other key executive officers who play a role in state government
6. The State Judiciary
  - Identify the organization of the state court systems, and define the kinds of law applied
  - Compare and contrast criminal law and civil law
  - Evaluate the purposes and types of juries used in state courts, and describe the process of juror selection
  - Construct arguments supporting the jury system
7. State Courts and Judges
  - Describe the organization and function of each kind of court in the state judicial system
  - Identify the methods used to select judges, and evaluate the arguments for and against judicial elections

- Write a balanced discussion of the arguments for and against judicial elections
8. Counties, Towns, and Townships
- Describe the governmental structure and key functions of a typical state county, and explain how it is an extension of state government
  - Identify the organization of tribal governments and the nature of their relationship to state and federal government
  - Evaluate the governments of towns and townships, and identify common special districts
  - Compare and contrast state and local governments
9. Cities and Metropolitan Areas
- Examine the reasons for America’s shift from a rural to an urban society
  - Explain the process of incorporation and the function of city charters
  - Differentiate among the forms of city government
  - Assess the need for city planning and outline the common functions of municipal and suburban governments
10. Education and Public Welfare
- Recognize that the education of the state’s residents is one of the most important responsibilities of state and local government
  - Identify challenges for the state in funding schools and public welfare programs
  - Analyze why public services can vary greatly from one state to another
  - Participate in a formal debate online
11. Public Safety, Highways, and Other Services
- Evaluate the state responsibility of providing public law enforcement and corrections systems
  - Describe the state responsibility of roadway safety and maintenance
  - Analyze why public services can vary greatly from one state to another
  - Deconstruct the issues facing police and communities in maintaining good relationships and public safety
12. Sound Taxation
- Identify the need for taxes, and the main federal and state limits on taxing powers
  - Summarize the key concepts of sound taxation
  - Apply Adam Smith’s key ideas to current taxation policies
13. Financing State and Local Government
- Identify the main sources of revenue for state and local governments
  - Evaluate the state budget process
14. Create an Action Plan
- Identify a local problem that is connected to a civil rights violation and use knowledge of local government structure to create a proposed action plan to address the issue
  - Demonstrate how to responsibly participate in government and use government to resolve issues or concerns
15. State and Local Governments Unit Review
- Organize and summarize the structure and power of state legislation
  - Compare and contrast the state court system to the federal court system
  - Examine and define the roles and responsibilities of a governor
  - Assess and rate the services your state and local governments provide to their citizens
  - Identify the primary tax and nontax sources of state and local revenue
16. State and Local Governments Unit Test

- Organize and summarize the structure and power of state legislation
- Compare and contrast the state court system and the federal court system
- Examine and define the roles and responsibilities of a governor
- Assess and rate the services your state and local governments provide to their citizens
- Identify the primary tax and nontax sources of state and local revenue

## 5. **Comparative Government and Economic Systems**

### 1. Introduction to Capitalism

- Explain the economic system of capitalism and examine the relationship between supply and demand
- Recognize the influence of U.S. government policies in regulating production and competition for scarce resources
- Describe the four fundamental factors in a free enterprise system, and assess how the federal government fosters competition and entrepreneurship

### 2. Fiscal and Monetary Policy

- Explain the major responsibilities, goals, and actions of the federal government for domestic economic policy
- Analyze how government fiscal and monetary policy influence the economy at the national level
- Describe the regulatory functions of the government and their impact on the economy
- Summarize the Republican and Democratic Parties' economic policies

### 3. Spending and Borrowing

- Identify the sources of U.S. expenditures, and define controllable and uncontrollable spending
- Analyze the executive branch's function of proposing the federal budget, working in conjunction with the U.S. Congress in executing policy goals
- Describe the federal government's sources of revenue, and evaluate the impact of its expenditures and debt on the U.S. economy

### 4. U.S. Global Economy and Trade

- Explain the causes of globalization, including recent scientific discoveries and technological innovations, and its effects on the American economy
- Examine the roles of the executive and legislative branches in setting international trade and fiscal policies
- Recognize the benefits and drawbacks of the global economy, including the significance to the United States of the location and key natural resources of selected global places or regions
- Write a letter in formal business format that takes a position on the pros and cons of free trade and the global economy

### 5. Socialism and Communism

- Summarize Karl Marx's theories and identify important characteristics of socialist and communist economies
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of free enterprise versus socialism and communism
- Analyze a selection from *The Communist Manifesto*

### 6. Governmental Systems

- Explain the differences in the governmental systems of autocracy, democracy, aristocracy, and theocracy
- Compare the advantages and disadvantages of federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government
- Evaluate the outcomes of democratization in the world today
- Identify the factors that contribute to a successful transition to democracy



7. United Kingdom – History and Government
  - Outline the United Kingdom’s structure of government
  - Describe the United Kingdom’s electoral and public policy-making processes
  - Assess the benefits and drawbacks of the British political system
8. United Kingdom – Comparison to the United States
  - Compare and contrast the governmental systems of the United States and the United Kingdom
  - Evaluate the nature of the relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom
9. Russia – History and Government
  - Examine Russia’s political history after the Bolshevik Revolution
  - Understand the Russian Federation’s structure of government
  - Describe the Russian Federation’s election and public policy-making processes
  - Trace the rights and freedoms available to the Russian people from 1917 to the present
10. Russia – Comparison to the United States
  - Compare and contrast the governmental systems of the United States and the Russian Federation
  - Examine the nature of the U.S. relationship with Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union
  - Analyze how the government systems of Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States influence their reaction to a global crisis
11. China – History and Government
  - Examine China’s political background and the emergence of communist rule
  - Outline China’s structure of government
  - Describe China’s election and public policy-making processes
  - Compare and contrast the structure and reforms of China and Russia
  - Compare the demonstration in Tiananmen Square in 1989 with a demonstration in the United States
12. China – Comparison to the United States
  - Compare and contrast the governmental systems of the United States and China
  - Examine the conflict between capitalism and democracy as it relates to China’s modern economy
13. U.S. Foreign Policy Goals
  - Identify U.S. foreign policy goals and explain how they are rooted in American political culture, values, and traditions
  - Review the powers of the presidency in shaping foreign policy
  - Differentiate between soft and hard power and analyze the effectiveness of each
  - Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of U.S. efforts to promote democracy in other parts of the world
14. Unit Review
  - Identify and explain the role of the government in the U.S. economy
  - Evaluate and critique the strengths and weaknesses of capitalism in comparison to other economic systems
  - Analyze and define public debt and its impact on the system and citizens
  - Apply the principles of government to other countries’ political structures
  - Identify U.S. foreign policy goals and approaches, and analyze the nature of contemporary global issues
15. Unit Test

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## 6. Semester Review and Exam

### 1. Semester Review

- Analyze and interpret Supreme Court decisions and the U.S. Constitution
- Define good citizenship, and examine the ways citizens can influence governmental decision making
- Analyze the roles, responsibilities, and structures of state and local government
- Identify and explain the role of the government in the U.S. economy
- Apply the principles of government to other countries' political structures

### 2. Semester Exam

- Analyze and interpret Supreme Court decisions and the U.S. Constitution
- Define good citizenship, and examine the ways citizens can influence governmental decision making
- Analyze the roles, responsibilities, and structures of state and local government
- Identify and explain the role of the government in the U.S. economy
- Apply the principles of government to other countries' political structures