

United States Government- 12 Grade

Introduction to Government

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE: Chapters 1 & 2	ESTIMATED # OF WEEKS: 2	PACING: 10 days
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ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE 1: The origins and foundations of American Government can be traced to our western heritage that includes Ancient Greece/Rome, France and England.

GOVERNMENT AND TODAY-

- How the government affects our daily lives.
- How the influence of religious beliefs and philosophers helped shape our government.
- How are the rights written in the Declaration of Independence important to every U.S. citizen
- How the Bill of Rights impact citizens of the U.S. in today’s world.

CONCEPTS	COS/ AHSGE	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	ACTIVITY/SKILL SUGGESTIONS	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Principles of Government	12G.1.1	1. Why do governments exist and what are their functions?	Lecture / PP / Note taking	Prentice Hall Resources: Textbook & Teaching Tools Debating Current Issues Source Articles	
Classification of Government		2. Identify the characteristics of a nation-state.	Develop concept web of government		
Characteristics of Government		3. What are the purposes of government?	Classify, compare & contrast various forms of government		
Purpose of Government	12G.1.2	4. List the various classifications of government.	Develop a chart listing the various philosophies of government and find examples of these in the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and Constitution.		
Influence of Religions Beliefs & Philosophers		5. What religious beliefs and philosophies influenced the Founding Fathers in the development of the U.S. Government?	Summarize the major compromises that the delegates agreed to make the effect of those compromises.	Prentice Hall Test Generator	
Declaration of Independence	12G.2.1	6. Explain why is the Declaration of Independence is the U.S. “birth certificate”		Teacher made tests	
Articles of Confederation		7. What philosophical belief does the Declaration of Independence promote about peoples’ rights, and what place governments have in peoples’ lives? (i.e. “We hold these truths...”)		Projects	
Ratification				Portfolio’s	

		<p>8. Evaluate the reasons the Articles of Confederation failed as our written constitution.</p> <p>9. Why is the Constitution referred to as a bunch of compromises?</p> <p>10. Identify the ratification process of the Constitution.</p> <p>11. Describe the arguments in the Federalist Papers.</p>			
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Origins and Development of U.S. Government

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE: Chapters 3 & 4	ESTIMATED # OF WEEKS: 2	PACING: 10 days
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ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE: The enduring United States Constitution rests upon a set of basic principles that make the United States government unique in the world.

GOVERNMENT AND TODAY-

- Why it is “difficult” to amend the Constitution?
- What should be the next amendment?
- Why there are overlapping powers?
- How do you participate in government?

CONCEPTS	COS/ AHSGE	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	ACTIVITY/SKILL SUGGESTIONS	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
<p>Six Basic Constitutional Principles</p> <p>Amendment Process</p> <p>Formal and Informal Change</p> <p>Federalism</p>	<p>12G.2.2</p> <p>12G.3.1</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are The Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution inextricably linked together? 2. What are the six basic principles of the U.S. Constitution? 3. In what ways can the Constitution be amended? 4. Explain the impact the Supremacy Clause has on state governments? 5. How is power dispersed in a Federal system of government? 	<p>Lecture / PP/ Note taking</p> <p>Poster: Identify six basic principles & apply illustrate real world application</p> <p>Analyze the merits of the amendment process</p> <p>Memory Work: Preamble & Outline of Constitution</p> <p>Play: Constitutional Convention Reenactment</p> <p>Develop a chart depicting how power is dispersed among the different levels of government and between national, state, and local levels.</p>	<p>Prentice Hall Resources:</p> <p>Textbook & Teaching Tools</p> <p>Debating Current Issues</p> <p>Source Articles</p> <hr/> <p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Prentice Hall Test Generator</p> <p>Teacher made tests</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Portfolio’s</p>	

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Unit 2: Political Behavior and Government by the People

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE: Chapters 5-7	ESTIMATED # OF WEEKS: 2	PACING: 10 days
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ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE: An American political system influences the electoral process.

GOVERNMENT AND TODAY-

- With which political party do you most agree?
- How can you help your candidate to win?
- Why should you vote?

CONCEPTS	COS/ AHSGE	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	ACTIVITY/SKILL SUGGESTIONS	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
<p>Functions of Political Parties</p> <p>Political Socialization</p> <p>Political Identification</p> <p>Suffrage and Civil Rights</p> <p>Civic Responsibility</p> <p>Electoral Process</p>	<p>12G.5.1</p> <p>12G.8.1</p> <p>12G.8.2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What role do political parties play in the electoral process? 2. Find how individuals develop a sense of political identity. 3. How was suffrage extended in the United States? 4. What are the voting rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens? 5. Describe how federal civil rights and voting rights have changed since the 1950s. What are the social and political implications of these events? 6. What are the different types and purposes of primary elections? 	<p>Lecture / PP / Note taking</p> <p>Evaluate citizens' participation in governmental and civic life, and duties in various governments.</p> <p>Develop a timeline of federal civil rights and voting rights.</p> <p>Illiteracy Test: Have students take Louisiana test to see if they would be able to vote.</p> <p>Analyze the role of political parties in the electoral process.</p> <p>Poster: Research minor parties and illustrate major platform.</p> <p>Develop current Presidential Portfolio</p>	<p>Prentice Hall Resources:</p> <p>Textbook & Teaching Tools</p> <p>Debating Current Issues</p> <p>Source Articles</p> <hr/> <p>ASSESSMENT</p> <hr/> <p>Prentice Hall Test Generator</p> <p>Teacher made tests</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Portfolio's</p>	

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Unit 2: Mass, Media, Public Opinion and Interest Groups

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE: Chapters 8-9		ESTIMATED # OF WEEKS: 1		PACING: 5 days	
ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE: The influence of public opinion, mass, media, and interest groups is critical in the governmental decision-making process					
GOVERNMENT AND TODAY-					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the factors that shape your public opinion? • How does the mass media influence political decisions and shape your public opinion? • How does special interest and lobby groups impact the U.S.? 					
CONCEPTS	COS/ AHSGE	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	ACTIVITY/SKILL SUGGESTIONS	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Political Polling	12G.6.1	1. Describe the factors that shape public opinion.	Lecture / PP/ Note taking	Prentice Hall Resources:	
Role of Special Interest Groups	12G.7.1	2. What limits the impact of public opinion in a constitutional democracy?	Describe challenges in measuring public opinion.	Textbook & Teaching Tools	
Lobbying	12G.7.2	3. Demonstrate the impact of special interest and lobby groups on the U.S. political systems?	Identify five steps in the polling process and the types of polls.	Debating Current Issues	
Propaganda		4. How has mass media influenced politics?	Evaluate the role of media in our political life. Explain the role of media in influencing the public agenda.	Source Articles	
Media Influence		5. What role do interest groups have in the development of public policy?	Develop a chart explaining different propaganda techniques and their uses.	ASSESSMENT	
		6. Define propaganda and demonstrate how it is used in the political arena?	Technology: Develop, produce, and distribute newsletter on a current	Prentice Hall Test Generator	
		7. What cultural and technological characteristics can link or divide regions?		Teacher made tests	
				Projects	
				Portfolio's	

			issue (or current presidential candidate). Technology: Research, develop (PP, Moviemaker, etc)		
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Unit 3: The Legislative Branch

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE: Chapters 10-12	ESTIMATED # OF WEEKS: 3	PACING: 15 days
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ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE: The Legislative Branch gives citizens a voice in setting public policy and making laws.

- GOVERNMENT AND TODAY-
- Discuss current proposed laws that will affect you now and in the future
 - Senators and Representatives that same/different
 - Why there are so few women in the House of Representatives and the Senate
 - How to contact your Senator or Representative about an issue of importance to you

CONCEPTS	COS/ AHSGE	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	ACTIVITY/SKILL SUGGESTIONS	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Legislative Powers Non-legislative Powers Development of Public Policy Congressional Districts	12G.9.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did the framers of the Constitution establish a bicameral Congress? 2. What checks does the Constitution place upon Congressional power? 3. How was the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce changed the relationship between the national and state governments? 4. How was the national government affected individuals, groups, businesses, and regions in carrying out their taxing policy and programs? 5. Describe the law-making process. 6. What are non-legislative powers and why are they significant? 7. Describe the impact voters have on the composition of the Congress? 8. What significant political events and issues have shaped domestic policy decisions in contemporary America? 	<p>Lecture / PP / Note taking</p> <p>Diagram the checks on Congress’s power.</p> <p>Compare/contrast membership numbers and terms of the Senate and House</p> <p>Evaluate how and why government raises money to pay for its operations and services.</p> <p>Sing “I’m just a Bill” from School House Rock video</p> <p>Evaluate current legislation and have students plan, develop, write, and present their own bill.</p>	<p>Prentice Hall Resources:</p> <p>Textbook & Teaching Tools</p> <p>Debating Current Issues</p> <p>Source Articles</p> <hr/> <p>ASSESSMENT</p> <hr/> <p>Prentice Hall Test Generator</p> <p>Teacher made tests</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Portfolio’s</p>	<p>Other resources:</p> <p>www.thomas.loc.gov</p> <p>to locate current legislation & information about Senators/Rep for each state.</p>

		9. How are congressional districts determined?	Read "Fair Tax" Book by Neil Boortz and analyze HR 25. Compare/contrast the current tax system with proposed tax system.		
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Unit 4: The Executive Branch

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE: Chapters 13-17	ESTIMATED # OF WEEKS: 3	PACING: 15 days
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ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE: The Executive Branch, through the President, provides the leadership role in domestic and foreign policy.

GOVERNMENT AND TODAY-

- How the executive branch is portrayed in the media.
- Is the President really the most powerful person in U.S.?
- Write the President about an issue of concern to you.

CONCEPTS	COS/ AHSGE	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	ACTIVITY/SKILL SUGGESTIONS	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Presidential Roles and Powers Roles, qualifications, and term of President Electoral College Presidential Succession The Federal Bureaucracy Domestic/Foreign Policy	12G.10.1	1. What checks are placed on the President’s power? 2. How has the Electoral College impacted presidential elections? 3. Explain the Constitutional issues relation to succession within the Executive Branch. 4. Describe the components of the Federal Bureaucracy. 5. What political, military, and economic events since the 1950’s have had a significant impact on the President’s ability to handle international relations? 6. Describe and analyze post-Cold War American foreign policy. 7. What significant political events and issues have shaped domestic policy decisions in contemporary America? 8. Summarize the various roles and powers of the	Lecture / PP / Note taking Describe the President’s 2 major legislative powers; explain how they are significant in the system of checks and balances. Technology: Develop a Presidential Portfolio regarding current presidential candidates. Analyze the most recent Electoral College map. What is the EC’s role in electing the President? Develop a chart. Explain key roles in the Federal Bureaucracy. Debate current Domestic/Foreign Policy	Prentice Hall Resources: Textbook & Teaching Tools Debating Current Issues Source Articles ASSESSMENT Prentice Hall Test Generator Teacher made tests Projects Portfolio’s	

		President.	Issues		
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Unit 5: The Judicial Branch

TEXTBOOK REFERENCE: Chapters 18-21	ESTIMATED # OF WEEKS: 3	PACING: 15 days
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ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE: The Constitution established the federal court system to insure our natural rights and civil liberties.

GOVERNMENT AND TODAY-

- How does the media portray the court system?
- Why Federal judges are appointed for life?
- What is the importance regarding the Presidents nomination for a position on the Supreme Court?

CONCEPTS	COS/ AHSGE	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	ACTIVITY/SKILL SUGGESTIONS	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
The National Judiciary Inferior Courts The Supreme Court Civil Liberties: 1 st Amendment Freedoms Protecting Individual Rights Civil Rights: Equal Justice Under Law	12G.11.1 12G.12.1	1. What is the function of the Judicial Branch? 2. How has the use of Judicial Review enhanced the power of the Supreme Court? 3. How does the power of judicial appointment help the President to shape policy and law beyond his/her term in office? 4. Within the system of checks and balances, what checks are placed on the Supreme Court? 5. Summarize the rights and responsibilities of the individual as recognized by the U.S. Constitution? 6. What is the meaning of “free speech” within our post 9/11 society? 7. What does it mean to live in a heterogeneous society? 8. List the ways of gaining and losing American citizenship.	Lecture / PP / Note taking Guided Reading Outline the structure and functions of the different levels of the federal courts. Create a timeline illustrating the history of race-based discrimination in the U.S. Debate: Research, prepare, and develop pro/con civil rights issues. Poster: 1 st Amendment illustration on separate issues Video: Gideon’s	Prentice Hall Resources: Textbook & Teaching Tools Debating Current Issues Source Articles ASSESSMENT Prentice Hall Test Generator Teacher made tests Projects Portfolio’s	

			Trumpet, etc.		
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