

Essential Standards Document

Collaborative Team: Civics/Honors Civics

Unit # 1: *What is government and why do we need it?*

Essential Standards:

Standard 1: Choices have consequences

Standard 2: Individuals have rights and responsibilities

Standard 3: Societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups

Standard 4: Societies experience continuity and change over time

Standard 5: Relationships among people, places, ideas, and environments are dynamic

What is the Learning Target or Essential Question?	What Level of Thinking Does it Involve? <i>Depth of Knowledge (DOK 1-4)</i>	How will you formatively assess this learning target or response to your essential question? <i>Provide or link to a specific formative assessment that shows how you're evaluating students' specific knowledge or skills.</i>
Is government necessary?	DOK 3-4	
How do governments form?	DOK 2	
What are the various types of governments? Who has the power in these governments?	DOK 1	
Where, when and why did democracy originate?	DOK 1	
How did the Enlightenment thinkers influence American Democracy?	DOK 2	
What is political socialization and what influences it?	DOK 1-2	
What is the difference between liberal and conservative beliefs? How do ideologies affect policy on economic and social issues?	DOK 1-3	

Unit # 2: *Founding Documents (Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation and Constitution)*

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What democratic concepts from the English heritage were incorporated into American government?	DOK 1-2	
How does the Declaration of Independence embody America's democratic ideals?	DOK 2	
What was our first social contract and why did it fail? (Articles of Confederation)	DOK 1-2	
What happened at the Philadelphia Convention of 1787? What was the impact of political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention on the development of the constitutional system?	DOK 1-3	
What were the contributions of selected Founding Fathers?	DOK 1	

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What core principles are inherent (separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism) and implicit (judicial review, limited government and sovereignty of the individual) in the Constitution?	DOK 1-2	

How are powers distributed between federal and state governments? How do societal needs affect constitutional allocation of power between the national and state governments?	DOK 1-3	
How have Supreme Court cases affected society? What is its role in determining human and civil rights?	DOK 1-3	
By what process is the Constitution amended?	DOK 1	

Unit # 4: Legislative Branch

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What is the Learning Target or Essential Question?	What Level of Thinking Does it Involve? <i>Depth of Knowledge (DOK 1-4)</i>	How will you formatively assess this learning target or response to your essential question? <i>Provide or link to a specific formative assessment that shows how you're evaluating students' specific knowledge or skills.</i>
What are the functions of the legislative branch?	DOK 1	
How are the two Congressional chambers unique? (structures, powers, functions)	DOK 1-2	
How does the Constitution allot power to the legislative branch?	DOK 1	
How does a bill become a law?	DOK 1-2	

Unit # 5: Executive Branch

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What is the Learning Target or Essential Question?	What Level of Thinking Does it Involve? <i>Depth of Knowledge (DOK 1-4)</i>	How will you formatively assess this learning target or response to your essential question? <i>Provide or link to a specific formative assessment that shows how you're evaluating students' specific knowledge or skills.</i>
How is the President elected?	DOK 1-2	
What are the Constitutional roles of the President?	DOK 1	
How does the Constitution address presidential power? (formal and informal)	DOK 1-2	
What is the role of the Federal Bureaucracy? (departments, agencies, commissions, and government corporations)	DOK 2	

Unit # 6: Judicial Branch

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What is the Learning Target or Essential Question?	What Level of Thinking Does it Involve? <i>Depth of Knowledge (DOK 1-4)</i>	How will you formatively assess this learning target or response to your essential question? <i>Provide or link to a specific formative assessment that shows how you're evaluating students' specific knowledge or skills.</i>
What is the function of the federal court system?	DOK 2-3	

What is the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments?	DOK 1-2	
How are Justices appointed to the Federal Courts?	DOK 1	
What are the roles and powers of the Supreme Court and the other federal courts?	DOK 1	