

American Government

Benchmarks and Core Indicators

What is Government and What Should it Do?

B.1.G Understands ideas about civic life, politics, and government

- C.1.1 Understands how politics enables a group of people with varying opinions and/or interests to reach collective decisions, influence decisions, and accomplish goals that they could not reach as individuals (e.g., managing the distribution of resources, allocating benefits and burdens, managing conflicts)
- C.1.2. Knows formal institutions that have the authority to make and implement binding decisions (e.g., tribal councils, courts, monarchies, democratic legislatures)
- C.1.3 Understands the nature of political authority (e.g., characteristics such as legitimacy, stability, limitations)
- C.1.4 Understands the sources of political authority (e.g., consent of the governed, birth, knowledge) and its functions (e.g., create and enforce laws)
- C.1.5 Understands why politics is found wherever people gather as a group (e.g., it enables groups to reach collective, binding decisions that can be enforced)
- C.1.6 Understands major arguments for the necessity of politics and government (e.g., people cannot fulfill their potential without politics and government, people would be insecure or endangered without government, people working collectively can accomplish goals and solve problems they could not achieve alone)
- C.1.7 Understands some of the major competing ideas about the purposes of politics and government (e.g., achieving a religious vision, glorifying the state, enhancing economic prosperity, providing for a nation's security), and knows examples of past and present governments that serve these purposes
- C.1.8 Understands how the purposes served by a government affect relationships between the individual and government and between government and society as a whole (e.g., the purpose of promoting a religious vision of what society should be like may require a government to restrict individual thought and actions, and place strict controls on the whole of the society)

B.2.G Understands the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited governments

- C.2.1 Understands what "civil society" is and how it provides opportunities for individuals to associate for social, cultural, religious, economic, and political purposes (e.g., family, friendships, membership in organizations, participation in unions and business enterprises)
- C.2.2 Understands how civil society allows for individuals or groups to influence government in ways other than voting and elections
- C.2.3 Understands how the individual, social, and economic relationships that make up civil society have been used to maintain limited government
- C.2.4 Understands how relationships between government and civil society in constitutional democracies differ from those in authoritarian and totalitarian regimes
- C.2.5 Knows essential political freedoms (e.g., freedom of religion, speech) and economic freedoms (e.g., freedom to enter into contracts, to choose one's own employment), and understands competing ideas about the relationships between the two (e.g., that political freedom is more important than economic freedom, that political and economic freedom are inseparable)
- C.2.6 Understands how political and economic freedoms serve to limit governmental

B.3.G Understands the sources, purposes, and functions of law, and the importance of the rule of law for the protection of individual rights and the common good

- C.3.1 Knows alternative ideas about the sources of law (e.g., custom, Supreme Being, sovereigns, legislatures) and different varieties of law (e.g., divine law, natural law, common law, statute law, international law)
- C.3.2 Knows alternative ideas about the purposes and functions of law (e.g., regulating relationships among people and between people and their government; providing order, predictability, security, and established procedures for the management of conflict; regulating social and economic relationships in civil law)

B.4.G Understands the concept of a constitution, the various purposes that constitutions serve, and the conditions that contribute to the establishment and maintenance of constitutional government

- C.4.1 Distinguishes between governments with a constitution and constitutional (limited) government
- C.4.2 Understands how constitutions set forth the structure of government, give the government power, and establish the relationship between the people and their government
- C.4.3 Understands how constitutions may limit government's power in order to protect individual rights and promote the common good
- C.4.4 Understands how constitutions, in the past as well as in the present, have been disregarded or used to promote the interests of a particular group, class, faction, or a government (e.g., slavery, exclusion of women from the body politic, prohibition of competing political parties)
- C.4.5 Understands how constitutions can be vehicles for change and for resolving social issues (e.g., use of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s; establishment of the Japanese Constitution after World War II, which provided women the right to vote)
- C.4.6 Understands how constitutions may be used to preserve core values and principles of a political system or society (e.g., prohibition of religious tests for public office, protection of private property by the United States Constitution)
- C.4.7 Knows the social, economic, and political conditions that foster constitutional government
- C.4.8 Understands reasons why some nations have been successful in establishing constitutional government (e.g., post-World War II Germany, Japan) whereas others have not (e.g., Nigeria, Kenya, Argentina under Peron)
- C.4.9 Knows responsibilities individual citizens and people serving in government should assume to insure the preservation and improvement of constitutional government

B.5.G Understands the major characteristics of systems of shared powers and of parliamentary systems

- C.5.1 Understands the major characteristics of systems of shared powers (e.g., in the United States and Brazil the executive, legislative, and judicial branches each have primary responsibility for certain functions and share some of the powers and functions of the other branches)
- C.5.2 Understands the major characteristics of parliamentary systems (e.g., in the United Kingdom and Israel authority is held by Parliament and the party or parties that form the majority select the prime minister)
- C.5.3 Understands the relative advantages and disadvantages of the various ways power is distributed, shared, and limited in systems of shared powers and parliamentary systems (e.g., in terms of effectiveness, prevention of the abuse of power, responsiveness to popular will, stability, ability to serve the purposes of constitutional government)

B.6.G Understands the advantages and disadvantages of federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government

- C.6.1 Understands how power is distributed, shared, and limited in confederal, federal, and unitary systems of government (e.g., in terms of effectiveness, prevention of the abuse of power, responsiveness to popular will, stability)
- C.6.2 Knows the advantages and disadvantages of confederal, federal, and unitary systems in fulfilling the purposes of constitutional government

B.7.G Understands alternative forms of representation and how they serve the purposes of constitutional government

- C.7.1 Understands the major arguments for and against representative government as distinguished from direct popular rule
- C.7.2 Knows common bases upon which representation is or has been established (e.g., geographic areas; citizenship; social class or caste; age, sex, or property; religion, race, and ethnicity)
- C.7.3 Understands differing bases of electoral systems (e.g., winner-take-all systems, proportional systems)
- C.7.4 Understands differing theories of representation (e.g., obligation of a representative to promote the interests of a particular constituency vs. obligation to promote the interests of the society as a whole)

What are the Basic Values and Principals of American Democracy

B.8.G Understands the central ideas of American constitutional government and how this form of government has shaped the character of American society

- C.8.1 Knows major historical events that led to the creation of limited government in the United States (e.g., Magna Carta (1215), common law, and the Bill of Rights (1689) in England; colonial experience, Declaration of Independence (1776), Articles of Confederation (1781), state constitutions and charters, United States Constitution (1787), Bill of Rights (1791) in the United States)
- C.8.2 Knows how the creation of American constitutional government was influenced by the central ideas of the natural rights philosophy (e.g., all persons have the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness; the major purpose of government is to protect those rights)
- C.8.3 Knows the major ideas about republican government that influenced the development of the United States Constitution (e.g., the concept of representative government, the importance of civic virtue or concern for the common good)
- C.8.4 Understands the concept of popular sovereignty as a central idea of American constitutional government (e.g., the people as the ultimate source of the power to create, alter, or abolish governments)
- C.8.5 Understands the necessity for a written Constitution to set forth the organization of government and to grant and distribute its powers (e.g., among different branches of the national government, between the national government and the states, between the people and the government)
- C.8.6 Understands how various provisions of the Constitution and principles of the constitutional system help to insure an effective government that will not exceed its limits
- C.8.7 Understands how the design of the institutions of government and the federal system works to channel and limit governmental power in order to serve the purposes of American constitutional government
- C.8.8 Understands how the belief in limited government and the values and principles of the Constitution have influenced American society (e.g., the Constitution has encouraged Americans to engage in commercial and other productive activities)

C.8.9 Knows ways in which Americans have attempted to make the values and principles of the Constitution a reality 10. Knows how the distinctive characteristics of American society are similar to and different from the characteristics of other societies

B.9.G Understands the importance of Americans sharing and supporting certain values, beliefs, and principles of American constitutional democracy

C.9.1 Understands how the institutions of government reflect fundamental values and principles (e.g., justice, equality, the common good, popular sovereignty, checks and balances)

C.9.2 Understands the interdependence among certain values and principles (e.g., individual liberty and diversity)

C.9.3 Understands the significance of fundamental values and principles for the individual and society

B.10.G Understands the roles of voluntarism and organized groups in American social and political life

C.10.1 Knows how the Puritan ethic encouraged American voluntarism

C.10.2 Knows how voluntary associations and other organized groups have been involved in functions usually associated with government (e.g., social welfare, education)

C.10.3 Knows the extent of voluntarism in American society compared to other countries

C.10.4 Understands the relationship between American voluntarism and Americans' ideas about limited government

C.10.5 Understands issues that arise regarding what responsibilities belong to individuals and groups and the private sector, what responsibilities belong to the government, and how these responsibilities should be shared by the private sector and the government

C.10.6 Knows the historical and contemporary role of various organized groups in local, state, and national politics (e.g., unions; professional organizations; religious, charitable, service, and civic groups)

B.11.G Understands the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political beliefs, and civic beliefs in an increasingly diverse American society

- C.11.1 Knows how the racial, religious, socioeconomic, regional, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of American society has influenced American politics through time
- C.11.2 Knows different viewpoints regarding the role and value of diversity in American life
- C.11.3 Knows examples of conflicts stemming from diversity, and understands how some conflicts have been managed and why some of them have not yet been successfully resolved
- C.11.4 Knows why constitutional values and principles must be adhered to when managing conflicts over diversity
- C.11.5 Knows beliefs that are common to American political culture (e.g., belief in equality of opportunity; mistrust of power, as well as high expectations of what elected officials and government should do; the need to admit to faults or shortcomings in the society; the belief that social, economic, or political problems can be alleviated through collective effort)
- C.11.6 Knows how shared ideas and values of American political culture are reflected in various sources and documents (e.g., the Bill of Rights, The Federalist and Anti-federalist writings, Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points," Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," landmark decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States)

B.12.G Understands the relationships among liberalism, republicanism, and American constitutional democracy

- C.12.1 Understands that the central idea of liberalism is the belief that the individual has rights that exist independently of government and that ought to be protected by and against government
- C.12.2 Knows the general history of liberalism (e.g., ideas of liberalism that emerged in the seventeenth century and developed during the eighteenth-century Enlightenment; relationship between liberalism and the Protestant Reformation and the rise of market economies and free enterprise)
- C.12.3 Knows the difference between the use of the term "liberal" in referring to the American form of government and the use of the terms "liberal" and "conservative" in referring to positions on the spectrum of American politics

- C.12.4 Understands that the term "democracy" is derived from the Greek word for "rule by the people," and that the central focus of democracy is the idea that the people are the source of authority for government
- C.12.5 Knows the difference between the use of the term "democratic" to refer to the American form of government and the use of the term to refer to the Democratic Party in the United States
- C.12.6 Understands how the basic premises of liberalism and democracy are joined in the Declaration of Independence, where they are stated as "self-evident Truths" (e.g., "all men are created equal," authority is derived from consent of the governed, people have the right to alter or abolish government when it fails to fulfill its purposes)
- C.12.7 Understands that a "republic" is a state in which the citizenry as a whole is considered sovereign but which is governed by elected representatives rather than directly by the people as in direct democracy
- C.12.8 Knows the major ideas of republicanism (e.g., government of a republic seeks the public or common good rather than the good of a particular group or class of society; "civic virtue" of citizens is essential, in which citizens put the public or common good above their private interests)
- C.12.9 Knows how ideas of classical republicanism are reflected in the United States Constitution (e.g., the guarantee to the states of a "republican form of government" in Article IV, Section 4; provisions for the election of representatives to the Congress in Article I, Section 2 and the Seventeenth Amendment)
- C.12.10 Knows how the use of the term "republican" to refer to the American form of government differs from the use of the term to refer to the Republican Party in the United States
- C.12.11 Understands reasons why classical republicanism and liberalism are potentially in conflict (e.g., on the primary purpose of government as the promotion of the public good or as the promotion of the protection of individual rights)
- C.12.12 Knows various viewpoints regarding the importance of civic virtue for American democracy today

B.13.G Understands the character of American political and social conflict and factors that tend to prevent or lower its intensity

- C.13.1 Understands issues that involve conflicts among fundamental values and principles such as the conflict between liberty and authority
- C.13.2 Knows why people may agree on values or principles in the abstract but disagree when they are applied to specific issues such as the right to life and capital punishment
- C.13.3 Knows how the rights of organized labor and the role of government in regulating business have created political conflict
- C.13.4 Knows how the concept of a loyal opposition and recourse to the legal system to manage conflicts have helped to lessen the divisiveness of political conflict in the United States
- C.13.5 Knows how universal public education and the existence of a popular culture that crosses class boundaries have tended to reduce the intensity of political conflict (e.g., by creating common ground among diverse groups)

B.14.G Understands issues concerning the disparities between ideals and reality in American political and social life

- C.14.1 Understands the importance of established ideals in political life and why Americans should insist that current practices constantly be compared with these ideals
- C.14.2 Knows discrepancies between American ideals and the realities of American social and political life (e.g., the ideal of equal opportunity and the reality of unfair discrimination)
- C.14.3 Knows historical and contemporary efforts to reduce discrepancies between ideals and reality in American public life (e.g., union movements, government programs such as Head Start, civil rights legislation and enforcement)

How Does the Government Established by the Constitution Embody the Purposes, Values, and Principles of American Democracy?

B.15.G Understands how the United States Constitution grants and distributes power and responsibilities to national and state government and how it seeks to prevent the abuse of power

- C.15.1 Understands how the overall design and specific features of the Constitution prevent the abuse of power by aggregating power at the national, state, and local levels to allow government to be responsive; dispersing power among different levels of government to protect individual rights, promote the common good, and encourage citizen participation; and using a system of checks and balances (e.g., separated institutions with shared powers, provisions for veto and impeachment, federalism, judicial review, the Bill of Rights)
- C.15.2 Knows why the framers adopted a federal system in which power and responsibility are divided and shared between a national government and state governments
- C.15.3 Understands ways in which federalism is designed to protect individual rights to life, liberty, and property and how it has at times made it possible for states to deny the rights of certain groups, (e.g. states' rights and slavery, denial of suffrage to women and minority groups)
- C.15.4 Understands both the historical and contemporary roles of national and state governments in the federal system and the importance of the Tenth Amendment
- C.15.5 Understands the purposes, organization, and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches and the independent regulatory agencies (e.g., agencies such as the Federal Reserve, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Communications Commission)
- C.15.6 Understands the extent to which each branch of the government reflects the people's sovereignty (e.g., Congress legislates on behalf of the people, the president represents the nation as a whole, the Supreme Court interprets the Constitution on behalf of the people)
- C.15.7 Understands how specific features and the overall design of the Constitution results in tensions among the three branches (e.g., the power of the purse, the power of impeachment, advice and consent, veto power, judicial review), and comprehends the argument that the tensions resulting

from separation of powers, checks and balances, and judicial review tend to slow down the process of making and enforcing laws, thus insuring better outcomes

- C.15.8 Knows current issues concerning representation (e.g., term limitations, legislative districting, geographical and group representation)
- C.15.9 Understands how and why beliefs about the purposes and functions of the national government have changed over time

B.16.G Understands the major responsibilities of the national government for domestic and foreign policy, and understands how government is financed through taxation

- C.16.1 Understands how specific foreign policies such as national security and trade policy affect the everyday lives of American citizens and their communities
- C.16.2 Understands competing arguments concerning the role of government in major areas of domestic and foreign policy (e.g., health care, education, child care, regulation of business and industry, foreign aid, intervention abroad)
- C.16.3 Understands the tensions that results from citizens' desire for government services and benefits and their unwillingness to pay taxes for them
- C.16.4 Knows the history of taxation in the United States
- C.16.5 Understands the equity of various kinds of taxes

B.17.G Understands issues concerning the relationship between state and local governments and the national government and issues pertaining to representation at all three levels of government

- C.17.1 Knows the limits the United States Constitution places on the powers of the states (e.g., prohibitions against impairing interstate commerce, restrictions imposed by the Fourteenth Amendment and the Bill of Rights through the process of incorporation) and the limits the Constitution places on the powers of the national government over state governments (e.g., the national government cannot abolish a state, the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution reserves certain powers to the states)
- C.17.2 Understands that the two kinds of power most commonly associated with state governments are reserved powers, which are powers not delegated to the national government or prohibited to states by the United States Constitution (e.g., legislation regarding public safety, marriage, and divorce; education; the conduct of elections; chartering regional and local

governments; licensing drivers, businesses, and professions) and concurrent powers, which are powers jointly held with the national government (e.g., legislating taxation, regulating trade and industry, borrowing money, maintaining courts, protecting the environment)

- C.17.3 Understands criteria for evaluating how the relationship between state and local governments and the national government has changed over time
- C.17.4 Understands criteria for evaluating the argument that state and local governments provide significant opportunities for experimentation and innovation
- C.17.5 Understands criteria for evaluating the relationship between his/her state and local governments
- C.17.6 Understands how the policies of state and local governments provide citizens with ways to monitor and influence the actions of members of government and hold them responsible for their actions (e.g., requirements of fair and public notice of meetings, meetings of government agencies must be open to the public, public trials, provision of opportunities for citizens to be heard)

B.18.G Understands the role and importance of law in the American constitutional system and issues regarding the judicial protection of individual rights

- C.18.1 Understands how the rule of law makes possible a system of ordered liberty that protects the basic rights of citizens
- C.18.2 Knows historical and contemporary practices that illustrate the central place of the rule of law (e.g., submitting bills to legal counsel to insure congressional compliance with constitutional limitations, higher court review of lower court compliance with the law, executive branch compliance with laws enacted by Congress)
- C.18.3 Knows historical and contemporary events and practices that illustrate the absence or breakdown of the rule of law (e.g., events such as vigilantism in the early West, Ku Klux Klan attacks, urban riots, corruption in government and business, police corruption, organized crime; practices such as illegal searches and seizures, bribery, interfering with the right to vote, perjury)
- C.18.4 Knows historical and contemporary illustrations of the idea of equal protection of the laws for all persons (e.g., the Fourteenth Amendment, Americans with Disabilities Act, equal opportunity legislation)

- C.18.5 Understands how the individual's rights to life, liberty, and property are protected by the trial and appellate levels of the judicial process and by the principal varieties of law (e.g., constitutional, criminal, and civil law)
- C.18.6 Understands the effects of Americans relying on the legal system to solve social, economic, and political problems rather than using other means, such as private negotiations, mediation, and participation in the political process
- C.18.7 Understands the importance of an independent judiciary in a constitutional democracy
- C.18.8 Knows historical and contemporary instances in which judicial protections have not been extended to all persons and instances in which judicial protections have been extended to those deprived of them in the past
- C.18.9 Understands why due process rights in administrative and legislative procedures are essential for protecting individual rights and maintaining limited government
- C.18.10 Knows how state and federal courts' power of judicial review reflects the American idea of constitutional government (i.e., limited government) and understands the merits of arguments for and against judicial review

B.19.G Understands what is meant by "the public agenda," how it is set, and how it is influenced by public opinion and the media

- C.19.1 Understands how political institutions and political parties shape the public agenda
- C.19.2 Understands why issues important to some groups and the nation do not become part of the public agenda
- C.19.3 Understands the concept of public opinion, and knows alternative views of the proper role of public opinion in a democracy
- C.19.4 Understands how public opinion is measured, used in public debate, and how it can be influenced by the government and the media
- C.19.5 Understands the influence that public opinion has on public policy and the behavior of public officials
- C.19.6 Understands the ways in which television, radio, the press, newsletters, and emerging means of communication influence American politics; and understands the extent to which various traditional forms of political persuasion have been replaced by electronic media

- C.19.7 Knows how to use criteria such as logical validity, factual accuracy, emotional appeal, distorted evidence, and appeals to bias or prejudice in order to evaluate various forms of historical and contemporary political communication (e.g., Lincoln's "House Divided," Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman?," Chief Joseph's "I Shall Fight No More Forever," Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream," campaign advertisements, political cartoons)

B.20.G Understands the roles of political parties, campaigns, elections, and groups in American politics

- C.20.1 Knows the origins and development of the two party system in the United States, and understands the role of third parties
- C.20.2 Understands how and why American political parties differ from ideological parties in other countries
- C.20.3 Knows the major characteristics of American political parties, how they vary by locality, how they reflect the dispersion of power, and how they provide citizens with numerous opportunities for participation
- C.20.4 Understands how political parties are involved in channeling public opinion, allowing people to act jointly, nominating candidates, conducting campaigns, and training future leaders; and understands why political parties in the United States are weaker today than they have been at times in the past
- C.20.5 Knows the characteristics of initiatives and referendums
- C.20.6 Understands the significance of campaigns and elections in the American political system, and knows current criticisms of campaigns and proposals for their reform
- C.20.7 Knows historical and contemporary examples of associations and groups performing functions otherwise performed by the government such as social welfare and education 8. Understands the extent to which associations and groups enhance citizen participation in American political life

B.21.G Understands the formation and implementation of public policy

- C.21.1 Knows a public policy issue at the local, state, or national level well enough to identify the major groups interested in that issue and explain their respective positions
- C.21.2 Understands the processes by which public policy concerning a local, state, or national issue is formed and carried out

- C.21.3. Knows the points at which citizens can monitor or influence the process of public policy formation
- C.21.4. Understands why agreement may be difficult or impossible on issues such as abortion because of conflicts about values, principles, and interests

B.22.G Understands how the world is organized politically into nation-states, how nation-states interact with one another, and issues surrounding U.S. foreign policy

- C.22.1 Understands the significance of principal foreign policies and events in the United States' relations with the world (e.g., Monroe Doctrine, World Wars I and II, formation of the United Nations, Marshall Plan, NATO, Korean and Vietnam Wars, end of the Cold War)
- C.22.2 Understands how and why the United States assumed the role of world leader after World War II and what its current leadership role is in the world
- C.22.3 Understands the major foreign policy positions that have characterized the United States' relations with the world (e.g., isolated nation, imperial power, and world leader)
- C.22.4 Knows how the powers over foreign affairs that the Constitution gives to the president, Congress, and the federal judiciary have been used over time; and understands the tension between constitutional provisions and the requirements of foreign policy (e.g., the power of Congress to declare war and the need of the president to make expeditious decisions in times of international emergency, the power of the president to make treaties and the need for the Senate to approve them)
- C.22.5 Understands the process by which United States foreign policy is made, including the roles of federal agencies, domestic interest groups, the media, and the public; and knows the ways in which Americans can influence foreign policy
- C.22.6 Understands how and why domestic politics may impose constraints or obligations on the ways in which the United States acts in the world (e.g., long-standing commitments to certain nations, lobbying efforts of domestic groups, economic needs)
- C.22.7 Understands the idea of the national interest and how it is used as a criterion for shaping American foreign policy

C.22.8 Understands the influence of American constitutional values and principles on American foreign policy (e.g., a commitment to the self-determination of nations), and understands the tensions that might arise among American values, principles, and interests as the nation deals with the practical requirements of international politics (e.g., a commitment to human rights and the requirements of national security)

C.22.9 Understands the current role of the United States in peacemaking and peacekeeping

C.22.10 Understands the purposes and functions of major governmental international organizations such as the Organization of American States and major non-governmental international organizations such as the Roman Catholic Church and multinational corporations

C.22.11 Understands the role of the United States in establishing and maintaining principal international organizations (e.g., UN, UNICEF, GATT, NATO, OAS, World Bank, International Monetary Fund)

C.22.12 Knows some important bilateral and multilateral agreements to which the United States is signatory (e.g., NAFTA, Helsinki Accord, Antarctic Treaty, Most Favored Nation Agreements)

Understands the impact of significant political and nonpolitical developments on the United States and other nations What are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?

B.23.G. Understands the meaning of citizenship in the United States, and knows the requirements for citizenship and naturalization

C.23.1 Understands the distinction between citizens and noncitizens (aliens) and the process by which aliens may become citizens

C.23.2 Understands how naturalization in America compares with naturalization in other countries

C.23.3 Knows the criteria used for admission to citizenship in the United States such as five years of residence in U.S.; ability to read, write, and speak English; proof of good moral character; knowledge of the history of the United States; knowledge of and support for the values and principles of American constitutional government

B.24.G Understands issues regarding personal, political, and economic rights

- C.24.1 Understands the importance to individuals and to society of personal rights such as freedom of thought and conscience, privacy and personal autonomy, and the right to due process of law and equal protection of the law
- C.24.2 Understands contemporary issues that involve political rights such as access to classified information and changing the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts
- C.24.3 Understands the argument that economic responsibilities follow from economic rights
- C.24.4 Understands contemporary issues that involve economic rights such as consumer product safety, taxation, affirmative action, eminent domain, zoning, copyright, patents
- C.24.5 Knows major documentary sources of personal, political, and economic rights such as the Northwest Ordinance, state constitutions and bills of rights, court decisions, and common law
- C.24.6 Understands how personal, political, and economic rights are secured by constitutional government and by such means as the rule of law, checks and balances, an independent judiciary, and a vigilant citizenry

B.25.G Understands issues regarding the proper scope and limits of rights and the relationships among personal, political, and economic rights

- C.25.1 Knows how to distinguish among personal, political, and economic rights (e.g., the right to live where one chooses as distinct from the right to use money to buy personal property as distinct from the right to register to vote)
- C.25.2 Understands different positions on a contemporary conflict between rights such as one person's right to free speech versus another person's right to be heard
- C.25.3 Knows examples of situations in which personal, political, or economic rights are in conflict
- C.25.4 Understands the argument that poverty, unemployment, and urban decay serve to limit both political and economic rights

- C.25.5. Understands the argument that personal, political, and economic rights reinforce each other
- C.25.6 Understands the relationship between political rights and the economic right to acquire, use, transfer, and dispose of property
- C.25.7 Understands the relationship of political rights to economic rights such as the right to choose one's work, to change employment, and to join a labor union and other lawful associations

B.26.G Understands how certain character traits enhance citizens' ability to fulfill personal and civic responsibilities

- C.26.1 Understands the distinction between personal and civic responsibilities and the tensions that may arise between them
- C.26.2. Understands how individuals and society benefit from the fulfillment of personal responsibilities such as supporting one's family and caring for, nurturing, and educating one's children
- C.26.3 Understands the importance of each citizen reflecting on, criticizing, and reaffirming basic constitutional principles
- C.26.4 Understands the importance for individuals and society of fulfilling civic responsibilities such as assuming leadership when appropriate, registering to vote, and voting knowledgeably on candidates and issues
- C.26.5 Understands whether and when moral obligations or constitutional principles require one to refuse to assume certain civic responsibilities
- C.26.6 Understands the importance of dispositions that lead citizens to become independent members of society such as self-discipline, self-governance, and individual responsibility (i.e., fulfilling the moral and legal obligations of membership in society) 7. Understands the importance of dispositions that foster respect for individual worth and human dignity such as compassion and respect for the rights and choices of individuals 8. Understands the importance of dispositions that incline citizens toward public affairs such as civic mindedness and patriotism (i.e., loyalty to the principles underlying American constitutional democracy as distinguished from jingoism and chauvinism

B.27.G Understands how participation in civic and political life can help citizens attain individual and public goals

- C.27.1 Understands how individual participation in the political process relates to the realization of the fundamental values of American constitutional democracy
- C.27.2 Understands what distinguishes participation in government and political life from nonpolitical participation in civil society and private life (e.g., participating in a campaign to change laws regulating nursing homes as opposed to volunteering to work in a nursing home), and understands the importance of both forms of participation to American constitutional democracy
- C.27.3 Knows the many ways citizens can participate in the political process at local, state, and national levels, and understands the usefulness of other forms of political participation in influencing public policy (e.g., attending political and governmental meetings, demonstrating, contacting public officials, writing letters, boycotting, community organizing, petitioning, picketing)
- C.27.4 Knows historical and contemporary examples of citizen movements seeking to expand liberty, to insure the equal rights of all citizens, and/or to realize other values fundamental to American constitutional democracy (e.g., the suffrage and civil rights movements)
- C.27.5 Understands the importance of voting as a form of political participation

B.28.G Understands the importance of political leadership, public service, and a knowledgeable citizenry in American constitutional democracy

- C.28.1 Knows various ways students can exercise leadership in public affairs, and knows opportunities for citizens to engage in careers in public service
- C.28.2 Understands why becoming knowledgeable about public affairs and the values and principles of American constitutional democracy, and communicating that knowledge to others are important forms of participation, and understands the argument that constitutional democracy requires the participation of an attentive, knowledgeable, and competent citizenry
- C.28.3 Understands how awareness of the nature of American constitutional change gives citizens the ability to reaffirm or change fundamental constitutional values

B.29.G Understands the impact of significant political and nonpolitical developments on the United States and other nations

- C.29.1 Understands the influence that American ideas about rights have had abroad and how other peoples' ideas about rights have influenced Americans
- C.29.2 Understands the effects that significant world political developments have on the United States (e.g., the French, Russian, and Chinese Revolutions; rise of nationalism; World Wars I and II; decline of colonialism; terrorism; multiplication of nation-states and the proliferation of conflict within them; the emergence of regional organizations such as the European Union)
- C.29.3 Understands the effects that significant American political developments have on other nations (e.g., immigration policies; opposition to communism; promotion of human rights; foreign trade; economic, military, and humanitarian aid)
- C.29.4 Understands why transnational loyalties such as those to ethnic, religious, tribal, or linguistic groups sometimes supersede allegiance to a nation-state (e.g., Communist International, Islam, Christianity)
- C.29.5 Understands historical and contemporary responses of the American government to demographic and environmental changes that affect the United States
- C.29.6 Knows some of the principal economic, technological, and cultural effects the United States has had on the world (assembly line manufacturing, research and development in computer technology, popular music, fashion, film, television)
- C.29.7 Understands the principal effects that economic conditions, technological developments, and cultural developments in other nations have had on American society and the lives of American citizens (e.g., economic conditions such as multinational corporations, migration of labor; technological developments such as fax machines, personal computers, television; cultural developments such as religious movements, resurgence of ethnic consciousness)