

COURSE: PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

Grade Level: 12

MAIN/ GENERAL TOPIC	SUB-TOPIC:	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:	WHAT THE STUDENTS WILL KNOW:	WHAT THE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO DO:	Assessments:	WHEN STUDENT DOES IT:
Principles of government	Government and the state Forms of government Basic concepts of democracy	What are the characteristics of a state? Why is sovereignty and its location so important? What are the basic concepts of democracy?	The purposes for which governments exists. The major forms of government in the world today. The major concepts of American democracy.	Name and describe the four basic characteristics of a state. Describe the four most influential theories about the origin of the state. Define for what purposes does government exist. Describe the characteristics of unitary, federal and confederate government. Analyze the differences and similarities between presidential and parliamentary governments. Analyze the difference between a dictatorship and a democracy. Describe the basic concepts on which American democracy is built. Explain how the operation of American government illustrates these basic concepts.	Section reviews Overheads Quiz Chapter review Worksheet Test	Week 1-2
Congress	The national legislature The house of representatives The senate Members of congress	Why do we have a bicameral congress? What is gerrymandering? Why is the senate a continuous body?	The place, the role, and the structure of Congress. The structure of the House of Representatives. The structure of the Senate. The general characteristics of members of Congress.	Explain how the lawmaking function is central to democracy. Describe the three major reasons why our congress is bicameral. Describe the terms and sessions of Congress. Describe how the House members are chosen and what are their terms and qualifications. Explain how and for what reason the House is reapportioned every ten years. Describe Congressional districts and analyze the use of gerrymandering. Analyze the effects of the one person-one vote+rule on the House and electoral politics in general. Explain how the number of seats in the Senate is determined. Describe the terms and qualifications of the Senators. Describe who the members of Congress are and what their personal and political backgrounds. Analyze the several roles members of Congress play in performing their duties.	Section reviews Overheads Quiz Chapter review Worksheets Test	Week 3-4

Powers of congress	Scope of Congressional powers Expressed powers Implied powers Nonlegislative powers	What is the difference between a strict and liberal constructionist? Why was Gibbons vs. Ogden such an important case in U.S. history. What role did McCulloch vs. Maryland play in U.S. history?	The scope of the powers of Congress in a governmental system that is both limited and federal in character. The many and important expressed powers of Congress. The nature and extent of the Implied powers of Congress. The several nonlegislative powers of Congress.	Describe how the Constitution and the federal system itself affect the powers that congress exercises. Explain how the controversy over strict versus liberal construction of the Constitution affected American Government. Explain the purposes that Congress was given each of its several expressed powers. Explain how congress exercises its expressed powers. Describe how the expressed powers granted to Congress have changed over time. Explain why the framers included the Necessary and Proper clause in the Constitution. Analyze why McCulloch vs. Maryland is one of the most important cases ever decided by the Supreme Court. Explain what impact the Necessary and Proper clause has today. Describe the purpose for which the Constitution gives several nonlegislative powers to Congress. Explain how Congress exercises these powers.	Section reviews Overheads Quiz Worksheets Chapter review test	Week 5-6
Congress in action	Congress organizes Committees in congress How a bill becomes a law: the House The bill in the Senate and the final stages	What are the leading positions in Congress? What are the four major types of committees in Congress. Why is the filibuster a necessary tool for the minority party? What options does the president have regarding the passage of a bill?	The organizational structure of both houses of Congress. The committee system and the types of committees in both houses of Congress. The legislative process in the House of Representatives. The handling of bills in the Senate and the final stages in the legislative process.	Explain how the House and Senate begin new terms. Describe the contrasts between the roles of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. Describe who the Floor leaders are in Congress and where their power comes from Explain how the Committee Chairmen are chosen and what their role is in the legislative process. Explain why the committee system is necessary. Describe the different kinds of committees in Congress. Analyze the key role of the House Rules Committee. Explain the importance of the congressional investigatory power. Describe the overall shape of the lawmaking process in both houses. Describe the several different kinds of measures involved in that process. Describe the many steps in the lawmaking process in the House of Representatives. Explain the differences in the legislative	Section reviews Overheads Quiz Chapter review Worksheets Test	Week 7-8

				<p>process between the House and the Senate.</p> <p>Describe why conference committees are sometimes called the "bird house."</p> <p>Describe a filibuster and how a cloture can be imposed.</p> <p>Explain the options open to the President after both houses have passed a bill.</p>		
The Presidency	<p>The President's job description.</p> <p>Presidential succession and the Vice-Presidency.</p> <p>Presidential selection: the framers' plan</p> <p>Nominating Presidential candidates today</p> <p>The national convention</p> <p>The election</p>	<p>Should the President's executive privilege be absolute?</p> <p>Should the government limit individual liberties during wartime?</p>	<p>The interrelated roles of the Presidency</p> <p>The process of presidential succession.</p> <p>The qualifications, tenure, and compensation of the office.</p> <p>The roles of primaries, caucuses, and conventions as parts of the nominating process.</p> <p>How the national conventions operate.</p> <p>The presidential campaign and the role of the electoral college.</p>	<p>Explain the many roles a President must play.</p> <p>Describe in what ways those roles are interrelated.</p> <p>Explain the constitutional guidelines for qualification and term.</p> <p>What is the President's compensation.</p> <p>Describe the constitutional provisions for succession to the presidency.</p> <p>Explain how presidential disability is determined.</p> <p>Analyze the status of the Vice-Presidency, in history and today.</p> <p>Analyze the Framers' intentions for the Electoral College.</p> <p>Describe the factors that helped to transform the Presidential selection process.</p> <p>Explain the features that make the presidential nominating process so complicated.</p> <p>Explain the roles that primaries, caucuses, and conventions play in the process.</p> <p>Describe the purposes of the National Convention.</p> <p>Explain what takes place at each of the different sessions.</p> <p>Describe how the Electoral College works today.</p> <p>Describe the major criticisms of the Electoral College.</p> <p>Explain some of the major proposals to revise the presidential selection process.</p>	<p>Section reviews</p> <p>Overheads</p> <p>Quiz</p> <p>Chapter review</p> <p>Worksheets</p> <p>Test</p>	Week 9-10

<p>The Presidency in action</p>	<p>The changing view of Presidential power The President's executive powers The diplomatic and military powers The legislative and judicial powers The executive office and the cabinet</p>	<p>How has the power of the President grown over the years? What limits are there on the President's power during a war?</p>	<p>The historic and ongoing debate over the scope of presidential power. The nature and extent of the executive power of the President. The President's diplomatic and military powers. The president's legislative and judicial powers. The functions of the executive agencies and the role of the cabinet.</p>	<p>Examine the historical and ongoing debate over the proper scope of presidential power. Analyze the ways in which presidential power has grown over time. Examine the scope of the President's executive powers. How does the President exercise these powers. Analyze the scope and exercise of the president's diplomatic powers. Analyze the scope and exercise of the president's military powers. Examine the scope of the president's legislative and judicial powers. Determine the ways in which the President exercises legislative and judicial powers. Examine why the executive office is described as umbrella-like. Identify some of the key components of the executive office. Analyze the ways in which the cabinet and its current role have evolved. Determine the way in which cabinet members are selected.</p>	<p>Section reviews Overheads Quiz Chapter review Worksheets Test</p>	<p>Week 11-12</p>
<p>Government at work: the bureaucracy</p>	<p>The federal bureaucracy The executive departments and the independent agencies The civil service</p>	<p>What is a bureaucracy? What role does the civil service play in our government?</p>	<p>The need for and growth of the federal bureaucracy The organization and functions of the executive departments and the independent agencies. The development of the federal civil service.</p>	<p>Examine the ways in which the federal government meets the definition of a bureaucracy. Identify the various titles given to administrative units. Distinguish between staff and line agencies Identify the responsibilities of each of the 14 executive departments. Analyze why the executive departments are composed of so many subagencies. Define the three types of independent agencies and their functions. Identify the origins of the civil service system Analyze the operation of the spoils system. Describe the operation of the civil service today.</p>	<p>Section reviews Overheads Quiz Chapter review Worksheets Test</p>	<p>Week 13-14</p>

Financing government	Where the money comes from taxes Nontax revenue and borrowing Spending and the budget	What are the major sources of government revenue? Where does the government spend all of our tax dollars?	How the federal government raises money. Borrowing as a source of government revenue. How the federal government spends money and the complex process of preparing the federal budget.	Explain the federal government's power to tax. Identify the kinds of federal government taxes. Analyze the federal government's reasons for levying taxes. Identify the major sources of nontax revenue in the United States. Explain the historical purpose of the power to borrow. Determine the purpose of current borrowing. Determine what the federal government does with revenue it collects. Explain the importance of the federal budget. Identify how the budget process works.	Section reviews Overheads Quiz Worksheets Chapter review Test	Week 15-16
Foreign policy and national defense	Foreign and defense policy: an overview Departments of state and defense Other foreign and defense policy agencies American foreign policy past and present Foreign aid, defense alliances, and the United Nations.	What are some of the major features of our foreign policy? What purposes does the United Nations serve?	The historic and continuing goal of America's foreign and defense policies. The foreign and defense policy-making structure. The role of other federal agencies in making and carrying out foreign and defense policies. The major features of American foreign policy, past and present. The purposes of American foreign aid and defense alliances and the role of the United Nations.	Explain why the United States must have a policy for its relationship with the rest of the world. Describe what makes up a nation's foreign policy. Identify the officials primarily responsible for U.S. foreign policy. Describe the secretary of state's key role in foreign policy. Explain how the State Department is organized. Describe the key role of the secretary of defense in national security policy. Explain how the Department of Defense is organized. Identify federal agencies, in addition to the Departments of State and Defense, that are involved in making and carrying out foreign and defense policies. Describe the roles these departments play. Describe U.S. foreign policy for its first 150 years. Identify the basic elements of American foreign policy today. Explain the impact of the cold war on American foreign policy. State the purpose of foreign aid. Explain why the United States maintains a network of regional security alliances. Explain why the United Nations was created. Describe the United Nations' purposes, organization and membership.	Section reviews Overheads Quiz Worksheets Chapter review Test	Week 17-1

<p>The federal court system</p>	<p>National judiciary Inferior courts Supreme court Special courts</p>	<p>What is judicial review and what role has it played in U.S. history? What determines which court will hear which case?</p>	<p>The basic role of the judiciary in the governmental process. The structure and function of the constitutional courts in the federal court system. The role of the Supreme Court as the nation's highest court, and the significance of judicial review. The role and jurisdiction of the special courts in the federal court system.</p>	<p>Examine the reasons why the national court system was established. Determine the two bases upon which federal courts hear and decide cases. Explain jurisdiction and examine the kinds of jurisdiction held by federal courts. Determine ways in which federal judges are selected and compensated, and see who helps judges perform their jobs. Determine where most federal cases are heard. Examine the jurisdiction of the federal district courts and the court of appeals. Examine the reasons why the Supreme Court is often called the High Court. Determine the reasons why judicial review is a key feature in the American system of government. Determine the ways in which the special courts differ from the constitutional courts.</p>	<p>Section review Overheads Quiz Worksheets Chapter review Test</p>	<p>Week 19-20</p>
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