



Alignment Document

State of Colorado And Aventa Learning Civics

Civics

2005-2007 Benchmark Blueprint

| State Standard Number | State Standard Area / Description | Unit Name | Course Topic Description |
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| C.1 | Students understand the purposes of government, and the basic constitutional principles of the United States republican form of government. | | |
| C.1.1 | Students know and understand what government is and what purpose it serves. | | |
| C.1.1.1 | explaining how purposes of government impact the individual and society; | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | What is government? |
| C.1.1.2 | analyzing how different forms of government execute the purposes of government; | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Alternative Ways of Organizing Constitutional Governments |
| C.1.1.3 | analyzing and knowing how different forms of government impact the individual (for example, personal freedom and political liberty). | Role of Political Parties | One-Party Governments |
| C.1.2 | Students know the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited government. | | |
| C.1.2.1 | comparing and contrasting limited and unlimited government (for example, constitutional republic, authoritarian, and totalitarian government); | Foundations of American System | John Locke |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Limited and Unlimited Government |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Civil Society |



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| C.1.2.2 | comparing how constitutions promote the principles of a political system and provide the basis for government; | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| C.1.2.3 | describing how constitutions and the rule of law may limit government | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Civil Society |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Limited and Unlimited Government |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Rule of Law |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | John Locke |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | City Government | Home rule |



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| C.1.3 | Students understand the principles of the United States constitutional government. | | |
| C.1.3.1 | analyzing the political thought that influenced the development of the United States Constitution (for example, social contract theory, the major ideas of republicanism, natural rights philosophy); | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| C.1.3.2 | evaluating the Federalist and Anti-Federalist positions in the context of contemporary United States society; | Foundations of American System | Supporting the Constitution |
| C.1.3.3 | explaining how the United States Constitution is a vehicle for continuity and preserving liberty, yet allows for change; | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |

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| | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| C.1.3.4 | explaining the conditions which are necessary for the United States constitutional government to operate effectively (for example, the acceptance of or commitment to common constitutional principles). | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Rule of Law |
| C.1.4 | Students know the distinctive characteristics of the political culture of the United States. | | |
| C.1.4.1 | analyzing how amendments, laws, and landmark decisions have helped fulfill the promise of the Constitution; | Foundations of American System | The Bill of Rights |
| C.1.4.2 | analyzing the relationship between the Constitution and the political culture in which it exists; | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |

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| C.1.4.3 | developing, evaluating, and defending positions about the importance of adhering to constitutional principles in managing conflicts over diverse viewpoints (for example, taxation, civil rights, and balance of power); | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| C.1.4.4 | developing, evaluating, and defending positions on the effectiveness of the Constitution and Bill of Rights in protecting the rights of all citizens | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Amendments |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | Bill of Rights: The First Amendment |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Ninth and Tenth Amendments |



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| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Second and Third Amendments |
| | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Fourth and Fifth Amendments |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| C.1.5 | Students know the fundamental democratic principles inherent in the United States concept of a constitutional democratic republic. | | |
| C.1.5.1 | developing and defending positions on issues in which traditional principles of representative government are in conflict, using historical and contemporary examples (for example, conflicts between liberty and equality, between individual rights and the common good); | Foundations of American System | The Bill of Rights |
| C.1.5.2 | developing, evaluating, and defending positions about historical and contemporary efforts to act according to constitutional principles (for example, abolition movement, desegregation of schools, civil rights movements); | Foundations of American System | The Second and Third Amendments |
| C.1.5.3 | developing, evaluating, and defending positions on contemporary issues on the balance between individual rights and the common good. | | |
| C.2 | Students know the structure and function of local, state, and national government and how citizen involvement shapes public policy. | | |
| C.2.1 | Students know the organization and functions of local, state, and national governments. | | |

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| C.2.1.1 | analyzing how the organization of the local, state, and national governments influences the formulation and implementation of policy (for example, weak versus strong mayoral system, unicameral versus bicameral legislature, legislative approval of presidential appointments); | State Government | County Governments |
| C.2.1.1 | analyzing how the organization of the local, state, and national governments influences the formulation and implementation of policy (for example, weak versus strong mayoral system, unicameral versus bicameral legislature, legislative approval of presidential appointments); | City Government | Strong-Mayor Plan |
| | | City Government | State Legislatures at Work |
| | | City Government | Government Competition |
| | | City Government | Three Forms of City Government |
| | | City Government | Commission Government |
| | | City Government | Cooperation in Education |
| | | City Government | Mayor-Council Government |
| | | City Government | Council-Manager Government |
| | | City Government | Other Forms of Cooperation |
| | | City Government | Weak-Mayor Plan |
| | | City Government | Governments/Together-Division of Powers |
| | | City Government | City Governments Working Together |
| | | State Government | State Legislatures - Qualifications, Terms, and Reimbursement |
| | | State Government | Local Government |
| C.2.1.2 | explaining why states have their own constitutions and the relationship of state constitutions to the federal constitution (for example, the "roots" of colonial assemblies, strong state governments); | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |

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| | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| C.2.1.3 | evaluating the tension between citizens' desire for government services and benefits, and the costs associated with providing those; | City Government | Governments/Together-Division of Powers |
| C.2.1.4 | describing major provisions of the Colorado Constitution. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| C.2.2 | Students know how power, authority, and responsibility are distributed, shared, and limited through federalism as established by the United States Constitution. | | |
| C.2.2.1 | analyzing how the design of the United States Constitution balances and checks to prevent the abuse of power (for example, Marbury v. Madison, Supreme Court packing under New Deal, Watergate); | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |



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| | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | Foundations of American System | Checks and Balances |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| C.2.2.2 | developing, evaluating, and defending positions on historical and contemporary conflicts over the respective roles, balance of power, and responsibility between local, state, and federal government. | City Government | Governments/Together-Division of Powers |
| C.2.3 | Students know and understand the place of law in the Colorado and United States constitutional systems. | | |
| C.2.3.1 | explaining the significance of historical and contemporary events to illustrate the central place of the rule of law (for example, United States Supreme Court cases such as United States v. Nixon, Mapp v. Ohio, Gideon v. Wainwright); | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Rule of Law |
| | | City Government | Home rule |
| C.2.3.2 | analyzing, using historical and contemporary examples, the meaning and significance of the idea of equal protection of laws for all persons (for example, Brown v. Board of Education, University of California v. Bakke); | | |
| C.2.3.3 | explaining how the state and federal courts' power of judicial review reflects the United States constitutional government (for example, Marbury v. Madison); | | |
| C.2.3.4 | developing, evaluating and defending positions on current issues regarding judicial protection of individual rights (for example, explaining the basic concept of due process protections, including presumption of innocence, speedy and public trials, right to counsel, trial by jury, right of appeal). | State Government | General Trial Courts |



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| C.2.4 | Students know how public policy is developed at the local, state, and national levels. | | |
| C.2.4.1 | evaluating the contemporary roles of voters, political parties, associations, and groups in local, state, and national politics (for example, political action committees, interest groups, think tanks, unions, professional organizations); | Role of Political Parties | Third Parties |
| | | Role of Political Parties | Political Party Finances |
| | | Role of Political Parties | One-Party Governments |
| | | Role of Political Parties | Public Financing |
| | | Role of Political Parties | Party Committees |
| | | Role of Political Parties | Voting |
| | | Role of Political Parties | The Democratic and Republican Parties |
| | | Role of Political Parties | Local Party Organization |
| C.2.4.2 | analyzing a current public policy issue at local, state, or national levels and evaluating the alternative positions (for example, welfare reform); | City Government | Government Competition |
| C.2.4.3 | explaining why conflicts within traditional principles of representative government may make agreement on issues of public policy difficult (for example, affirmative action, gun control, environmental protection, capital punishment, growth, welfare reform); | | |
| C.2.4.4 | developing, evaluating, and defending positions about the role of media and public opinion in United States politics (for example, ways that government and media influence public opinion and the behavior of public officials). | | |
| C.3 | Students know the political relationship of the United States and its citizens to other nations and to world affairs. | | |
| C.3.1 | Students know how and why governments and nongovernmental agencies around the world interact politically. | | |

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| C.3.1.1 | identifying and analyzing the effectiveness of solutions used to resolve an international problem or concern by governmental and nongovernmental agencies (for example, United Nations attempts to resolve political conflicts, attempts to deal with world-wide refugee problems, terrorism, attempts to protect the world's environment). | | |
| C.3.2 | Students understand how the United States government develops foreign policy. | | |
| C.3.2.1 | analyzing how and why domestic politics may impose constraints or obligations on the ways in which the United States acts in the world, giving current political examples (for example, understanding treaties and their relationship to the Constitution); | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| C.3.2.2 | identifying and analyzing issues concerning the national interests of the United States. | City Government | Other Forms of Cooperation |
| C.3.3 | Students understand the domestic and foreign policy influence the United States has on other nations and how the actions of other nations influence politics and society of the United States. | | |
| C.3.3.1 | evaluating the impact of significant international developments on the United States and other nations (for example, impact of land mines); | | |

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| C.3.3.2 | describing the impact abroad of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution; | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Declaration of Independence |
| | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | Foundations of American System | Ethics of American Government |
| | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| C.3.3.3 | giving examples of how foreign policy decisions made by foreign countries affect the United States; | | |
| C.3.3.4 | giving examples of diplomatic strategies used by the United States government when interacting on significant international issues (for example, humanitarian and development aid, economic sanctions); | | |
| C.3.3.5 | evaluating current international issues in which the foreign policy of the United States has played a significant role (for example, world trade negotiations - GATT agreements); | | |
| C.3.3.6 | identifying opportunities for citizens of the United States to participate in the resolution of international problems and concerns (for example, citizens pressure to release the remains of POWs from Vietnam). | | |

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| C.4 | Students understand how citizens exercise the roles, rights and responsibilities of participation in civic life at all levels - local, state, and national. | | |
| C.4.1 | Students know what citizenship is. | | |
| C.4.1.1 | explaining the rights and obligations of United States citizens; | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Duties and Responsibilities |
| C.4.1.2 | comparing and analyzing the rights and responsibilities of citizens and non-citizens in the United States; | State Government | Citizen Action |
| C.4.1.3 | evaluating the usefulness of the following characteristics of an effective citizen to participate effectively in public life (for example, civic virtue, common courtesy, respect for person and property, civic and personal responsibility, and honest and fair dealings). | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Duties and Responsibilities |
| C.4.2 | Students know how citizens can fulfill their responsibilities for preserving the constitutional republic. | | |
| C.4.2.1 | evaluating whether and when their obligations as citizens require that their personal desires and interests be balanced with the public good; | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Duties and Responsibilities |
| C.4.2.2 | evaluating what to do when individual beliefs or constitutional principles are in conflict; | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Duties and Responsibilities |
| C.4.2.3 | identifying and evaluating how the characteristics of an effective citizen promote the preservation of the republic. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Duties and Responsibilities |
| C.4.3 | Students know how citizens can exercise their rights. | | |
| C.4.3.1 | identifying the scope and limits of rights (for example, all rights have limits); | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Double Lives of the American Citizen |
| C.4.3.2 | explaining considerations and criteria commonly used in determining what limits should be placed on specific rights (for example, clear and present danger, national security, public safety); | | |
| C.4.3.3 | evaluating different positions on contemporary issues that involve rights of citizens (for example, restricted membership in organizations, sexual harassment, school prayer, refusal of medical care); | | |



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| C.4.3.4 | describing and evaluating historical or current examples of citizen movements to ensure rights of all citizens. | State Government | Citizen Action |
| C.4.4 | Students know how citizens can participate in civic life. | | |
| C.4.4.1 | evaluating the effectiveness of various forms of political participation (for example, voting, attending political and governmental meetings, contacting public officials); | Role of Political Parties | Voting |
| C.4.4.2 | describing various ways one can exercise leadership and participate in public affairs (for example, campaigning); | Role of Political Parties | Local Party Organization |
| C.4.4.3 | demonstrating understanding of strategies for monitoring and influencing current public policy (for example, writing to a public official, writing letters to the editor, working with advocacy groups, working on a political campaign or using technology to monitor and influence legislation); | | |
| C.4.4.4 | describing the role of civil disobedience. | | |