



Alignment Document

State of Georgia And Aventa Learning Civics

Civics

2005-2007 Benchmark Blueprint

State Standard Number	State Standard Area / Description	Unit Name	Course Topic Description
SSCG	American Government/Civics		
SSCG1	The student will demonstrate knowledge of the political philosophies that shaped the development of United States constitutional government.		
SSCG1.a	Analyze key ideas of limited government and the rule of law as seen in the Magna Carta, the Petition of Rights, and the English Bill of Rights.	Foundations of American System	John Locke
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Limited and Unlimited Government
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Rule of Law
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Civil Society
SSCG1.b	Analyze the writings of Hobbes (Leviathan), Locke (Second Treatise on Government), and Montesquieu (The Spirit of Laws) as they affect our concept of government.	Foundations of American System	The American idea of constitutional government. Where did it come from?
SSCG2	The student will analyze the natural rights philosophy and the nature of government expressed in the Declaration of Independence.		
SSCG2.a	Compare and contrast the Declaration of Independence and the Social Contract Theory.	Foundations of American System	The Declaration of Independence

SSCG2.b	Evaluate the Declaration of Independence as a persuasive argument.	Foundations of American System	The Declaration of Independence
SSCG3	The student will demonstrate knowledge of the United States Constitution.		
SSCG3.a	Explain the main ideas in debate over ratification; include those in The Federalist.	Foundations of American System	Delegates to the Constitutional Convention
		Foundations of American System	The Constitution Is Ratified
SSCG3.b	Analyze the purpose of government stated in the Preamble of the United States Constitution.	The Foundations of the American Political System Part 2	Goals of the Constitution
SSCG3.c	Explain the fundamental principles upon which the United States Constitution is based; include the rule of law, popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism.	Foundations of American System	Checks and Balances
		Foundations of American System	Consent of the Governed
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Constitution
		Foundations of American System	Thomas Hobbes
		Foundations of American System	John Locke
		Foundations of American System	Dynamic/Flexible Constitution
		Foundations of American System	The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions
		Foundations of American System	Goals of the Constitution
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Constitutional government
		Foundations of American System	Change or the Experiment Will Fail
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Rule of Law



SSCG4	The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and powers of the national government.		
SSCG4.a	Describe the structure and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.	Foundations of American System	Three Branches: Judicial
		Foundations of American System	Three Branches: Legislative
		Foundations of American System	Three Branches: Executive
SSCG4.b	Analyze the relationship between the three branches in a system of checks and balances and separation of powers.	Foundations of American System	Checks and Balances
SSCG5	The student will demonstrate knowledge of the federal system of government described in the United States Constitution.		
SSCG5.a	Explain the relationship of state governments to the national government.	State Government	State Legislatures - Qualifications, Terms, and Reimbursement
SSCG5.b	Define the difference between enumerated and implied powers.		
SSCG5.c	Describe the extent to which power is shared.	State Government	Division of Powers/Concurrent
SSCG5.d	Identify powers denied to state and national governments.	State Government	Division of Powers
SSCG5.e	Analyze the ongoing debate that focuses on the balance of power between state and national governments.	Foundations of American System	Federal Government Powers
SSCG5.f	Analyze the supremacy clause found in Article VI and the role of the U.S. Constitution as the "supreme law of the land."		
SSCG6	The student will demonstrate knowledge of civil liberties and civil rights.		
SSCG6.a	Examine the Bill of Rights with emphasis on First Amendment freedoms.	Foundations of American System	Bill of Rights: The First Amendment
SSCG6.b	Analyze due process law expressed in the 5th and 14th Amendments.		



SSCG6.c	Explain selective incorporation of the Bill of Rights.	Foundations of American System	The Second and Third Amendments
		Foundations of American System	Bill of Rights: The First Amendment
SSCG6.d	Explain how government seeks to maintain the balance between individual liberties and the public interest.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Double Lives of the American Citizen
SSCG6.e	Explain every citizen's right to be treated equally under the law.	The Foundations of the American Political System Part 2	Goals of the Constitution
SSCG7	The student will describe how thoughtful and effective participation in civic life is characterized by obeying the law, paying taxes, serving on a jury, participating in the political process, performing public service, registering for military duty, being informed about current issues, and respecting differing opinions.	Role of Political Parties	Voting
SSCG8	The student will demonstrate knowledge of local, state, and national elections.		
SSCG8.a	Describe the organization, role, and constituencies of political parties.	Role of Political Parties	Political Party Finances
		Role of Political Parties	Party Committees
		Role of Political Parties	The Democratic and Republican Parties
		Role of Political Parties	Public Financing
SSCG8.b	Describe the nomination and election process.	Political Parties	Political Party Organization
SSCG8.c	Examine campaign funding and spending.	Political Parties	Political Party Finances
SSCG8.d	Analyze the influence of media coverage, campaign advertising, and public opinion polls.		
SSCG8.e	Identify how amendments extend the right to vote.	Political Parties	The Right to Vote
SSCG9	The student will explain the differences between the House of Representatives and the Senate, with emphasis on terms of office, powers, organization, leadership, and representation of each house.	State Government	Qualifications, Terms, and Reimbursement

SSCG10	The student will describe the legislative process including the roles played by committees and leadership.		
SSCG10.a	Explain the steps in the legislative process.	State Government	State Legislatures at Work
SSCG10.b	Explain the function of various leadership positions within the legislature.	State Government	Qualifications, Terms, and Reimbursement
SSCG11	The student will describe the influence of lobbyists (business, labor, professional organizations) and special interest groups on the legislative process.		
SSCG11.a	Explain the function of lobbyists.		
SSCG11.b	Describe the laws and rules that govern lobbyists.		
SSCG11.c	Explain the function of special interest groups.		
SSCG12	The student will analyze the various roles played by the President of the United States; include Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, chief executive, chief agenda setter, representative of the nation, chief of state, foreign policy leader, and party leader.	The Foundations of the American Political System Part 2	Three Branches of Government
SSCG13	The student will describe the qualifications for becoming President of the United States.		
SSCG13.a	Explain the written qualifications for President of the United States.		
SSCG13.b	Describe unwritten qualifications common to past presidents.		
SSCG14	The student will explain the impeachment process and its usage for elected officials.		
SSCG14.a	Explain the impeachment process as defined in the U.S. Constitution.		
SSCG14.b	Describe the impeachment proceedings of Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton.		



SSCG15	The student will explain the functions of the departments and agencies of the federal bureaucracy.		
SSCG15.a	Compare and contrast the organization and responsibilities of independent regulatory agencies, government corporations, and executive agencies.		
SSCG15.b	Explain the functions of the Cabinet.		
SSCG16	The student will demonstrate knowledge of the operation of the federal judiciary.		
SSCG16.a	Explain the jurisdiction of the federal courts and the state courts.	State Government	General Trial Courts
		State Government	Appeals Courts
		State Government	State Supreme Court
SSCG16.b	Examine how John Marshall established the Supreme Court as an independent, coequal branch of government through his opinions in Marbury v. Madison.		
SSCG16.c	Describe how the Supreme Court decides cases.		
SSCG16.d	Compare the philosophies of judicial activism and judicial restraint.		
SSCG17	The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and powers of state and local government described in the Georgia Constitution.		
SSCG17.a	Examine the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.	State Government	The State Executive Branch
		State Government	Other State Executive Officials
		Foundations of American System	Three Branches: Executive
SSCG17.b	Examine the structure of local governments with emphasis on county, city, and town.	City Government	Commission Government
		City Government	Strong-Mayor Plan
		City Government	Weak-Mayor Plan
		City Government	Three Forms of City Government
		City Government	Mayor-Council Government



		City Government	Governments/Together-Division of Powers
		City Government	Council-Manager Government
		State Government	Local Government
		State Government	County Governments
SSCG17.c	Identify current state and local officials.	City Government	State Legislatures at Work
SSCG17.d	Analyze the relationship among state and local governments.	State Government	County Governments
		City Government	State Legislatures at Work
		City Government	Cooperation in Education
		City Government	Governments/Together-Division of Powers
		State Government	State Legislatures - Qualifications, Terms, and Reimbursement
		City Government	Other Forms of Cooperation
		City Government	Government Competition
		City Government	Strong-Mayor Plan
		State Government	Local Government
SSCG17.e	Evaluate direct democracy by the initiative, referendum, and recall processes.	State Government	Citizen Action
SSCG18	The student will demonstrate knowledge of the powers of Georgia's state and local governments.		
SSCG18.a	Examine the powers of state and local government.	City Government	Government Competition
		City Government	State Legislatures at Work
		State Government	Local Government
SSCG18.b	Examine sources of revenue received by each level of government.		
SSCG18.c	Analyze the services provided by state and local government.	City Government	How Governments Work Together
SSCG19	The student will compare and contrast governments that are unitary, confederal, and federal; unitary, oligarchic and democratic; and presidential and parliamentary.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Alternative Ways of Organizing Constitutional Governments



SSCG20	The student will describe the tools used to carry out United States foreign policy (diplomacy; economic, military, and humanitarian aid; treaties; sanctions and military intervention).		
SSCG21	The student will demonstrate knowledge of criminal activity.		
SSCG21.a	Examine the nature and causes of crimes.		
SSCG21.b	Explain the effects criminal acts have on their intended victims.		
SSCG21.c	Categorize different types of crimes.		
SSCG21.d	Explain the different types of defenses used by perpetrators of crime.		
SSCG22	The student will demonstrate knowledge of the criminal justice process.		
SSCG22.a	Analyze the steps in the criminal justice process.	State Government	
SSCG22.b	Explain an individual's due process rights.	State Government	
SSCG22.c	Describe the steps in a criminal trial or civil suit.		
SSCG22.d	Examine the different types of sentences a convicted person can receive.		