



Alignment Document
State of Indiana and Aventa Learning American Government

American Government
2005-2007 Benchmark Blueprint

Standards	Benchmarks	Unit Name	Course Topic Description
USG.1 Students will identify, define, compare, and contrast ideas regarding the nature of government, politics, and civic life, and explain how these ideas have influenced contemporary political and legal systems. They will also explain the importance of government, politics, and civic engagement in a democratic republic and demonstrate how citizens participate in civic and political life in their own communities.	USG.1.1 Define civic life, political life, and private life and describe the activities of individuals in each of these spheres.	Political Participation	Introduction
		Political Participation	Political Parties
		Political Participation	Nominations and Campaigns
		Political Participation	Elections
		Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
	USG.1.2 Define the terms and explain the relationship between politics, government, and public policy.	Covered throughout the course	
USG.1.3 Describe the purposes and functions of government through the interpretation of the Preamble of the United States Constitution.	Constitutional Principles	Structure of the Constitution	
USG.1.4 Define and contrast types of government including direct democracy, monarchy, oligarchy, and totalitarianism.	Constitutional Origins	Political Foundations of American Democracy	
USG.1.5 Compare and contrast characteristics of limited and unlimited governments and provide	Constitutional Origins	Political Foundations of American Democracy	

	historical and contemporary examples of each type of government.		
	USG.1.6 Compare and contrast unitary, confederal, and federal systems of government.	Introduction	Forms of Government
	USG.1.7 Explain how civil society contributes to the maintenance of limited government in a representative democracy or democratic republic, such as the United States.	Covered throughout the course	
	USG.1.8 Define and provide examples of constitutionalism, rule of law, limited government, and popular sovereignty in the United States Constitution and explain the relationship of these three constitutional principles to the protection of the rights of individuals.	Covered throughout the course	
	USG.1.9 Explain the importance of a written constitution in establishing and maintaining the principles of rule of law and limited government.	Constitutional Principles	Principles of the constitution
	USG.1.10 Describe the sources of authority from ancient to modern times that provided governmental legitimacy.	Introduction	Ideals of Democracy
	USG.1.11 Describe how the United States Constitution establishes majority rule while protecting minority rights and balances the common good with individual liberties.	Principles of the Constitution	Introduction
		Principles of the Constitution	Structure of the Constitution
		Principles of the Constitution	Principles of the Constitution
		Principles of the Constitution	Federalism
		Principles of the Constitution	Changing the Constitution
USG.2 Students will identify and define ideas at the center of government and politics in the	USG.2.1 Summarize the colonial, revolutionary, and founding-era experiences and events that led to the	Constitutional Origins	Political Foundations of American Democracy

<p>United States, interpret founding-era documents and events associated with the core ideas, and explain how commitment to these foundational ideas constitutes a common American civic identity. They will also analyze issues about the meaning and application of these essential ideas to government, politics, and civic life and demonstrate how citizens apply these foundational ideas in civic and political life.</p>	<p>writing, ratification, and implementation of the United States Constitution (1787) and Bill of Rights (1791).</p>	<p>Constitutional Origins</p>	<p>Colonial Government</p>
		<p>Constitutional Origins</p>	<p>The American Revolution</p>
		<p>Constitutional Origins</p>	<p>Establishing the First Government</p>
		<p>Constitutional Origins</p>	<p>Creating the Constitution</p>
	<p>USG.2.2 Define and provide examples of foundational ideas of American government, including natural rights philosophy, social contract, popular sovereignty, constitutionalism, representative democracy, political factions, federalism, and individual rights, which are embedded in founding-era documents.</p>	<p>Covered throughout the course</p>	
	<p>USG.2.3 Explain how a common and shared American civic identity is based on commitment to foundational ideas in founding-era documents and in core documents of subsequent periods of United States history.</p>	<p>Covered throughout the course</p>	
<p>USG.2.4 Compare and contrast the ideas of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists regarding the respective roles of state and national government on ratification of the United States Constitution (1787-1788).</p>	<p>Constitutional Origins</p>	<p>Creating the constitution</p>	
<p>USG.2.5 Define and provide historical and contemporary examples of fundamental principles and values of American political and civic life, including liberty, security, the common good, justice, equality, law and order, rights of individuals, and social diversity.</p>	<p>Covered throughout the course</p>		
<p>USG.2.6 Explain the importance for communities</p>	<p>Political</p>	<p>Individual Political Participation</p>	

	comprised of diverse individuals, groups, and communities to make a common commitment to fundamental principles and values of American democracy.	Participation	
	USG.2.7 Identify and explain historical and contemporary efforts to narrow discrepancies between fundamental principles and values of American democracy and realities of American political and civic life.	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
USG.3 Students will explain how purposes, principles, and institutions of government for the American people are established in the United States Constitution and reflected in the Indiana Constitution. They will describe the structures and functions of American constitutional government at national, state, and local levels and practice skills of citizenship in relationship to their constitutional government.	USG.3.1 Analyze the United States Constitution and explain characteristics of government in the United States, which define it as a federal, presidential, constitutional, and representative democracy.	Covered throughout the course	
	USG.3.2 Explain the constitutional principles of federalism, separation of powers, the system of checks and balances, representative democracy, and popular sovereignty; provide examples of these principles in the governments of the United States and the state of Indiana.	Covered throughout the course	
	USG.3.3 Identify and describe provisions of the United States Constitution and the Indiana Constitution that define and distribute powers and authority of the federal or state government.	Constitutional Origins	Creating the constitution
	USG.3.4 Explain the relationship between limited government and a market economy.	Economics and the American Government	Economic Systems and the United States economy
	USG.3.5 Explain the following section of Article IV, Section 4, of the United States Constitution, which says, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a Republican form of government."	Principles of the Constitution	Structure of the Constitution
	USG.3.6 Compare and contrast the enumerated, implied, and denied powers in the United States Constitution and the Indiana Constitution.		
	USG.3.7 Explain the relationships among branches of the United States government and Indiana		

	government, which involve separation and sharing of powers as a means to limited government.		
	USG.3.8 Describe the fiscal and monetary policies incorporated by the United States government and Indiana government and evaluate how they affect individuals, groups, and businesses.	Economics and the American Government Economics and the American Government Economics and the American Government Economics and the American Government	Introduction Economic Systems and the United States Economy Revenue and Expenditures Budget Making Process
	USG.3.9 Explain how a bill becomes law in the legislative process of the United States.	The Legislative Branch	How a Bill Becomes a Law
	USG.3.10 Describe the procedures for amending the United States Constitution and analyze why it is so difficult to amend the Constitution.	Constitutional Principles	Changing the Constitution
	USG.3.11 Analyze the functions of the judicial branch of the United States and Indiana governments with emphasis on the principles of due process, judicial review, and an independent judiciary.	Constitutional Principles Judicial Branch and Civil Liberties	Principles of the Constitution Introduction
	USG.3.12 Analyze the functions of major departments of the executive branch in the United States and in Indiana.	Executive Branch	Executive Departments
	USG.3.13 Explain the electoral process in terms of election laws and election systems on the national, state, and local level.	Political Participation	Elections
	USG.3.14 Summarize the evolution of political parties and their ideologies in the American governmental system and analyze their functions in	Political Participation	Political Parties

	elections and government at national, state, and local levels of the federal system.		
	USG.3.15 Explain and evaluate the original purpose and function of the Electoral College and its relevance today.	Political Participation	Elections
	USG.3.16 Explain the organization of state and local governments in Indiana and analyze how they affect the lives of citizens.		
	USG.3.17 Identify special interest groups and explain their impact on the development of state and local public policy. Example: Citizen's groups, corporate lobbyists, unions, and educational institutions.	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
	USG.3.18 Identify and analyze decisions by the United States Supreme Court about the constitutional principles of separation of powers and checks and balances in such landmark cases as Marbury v. Madison (1803), Baker v. Carr (1962), United States v. Nixon (1974), Clinton v. City of New York (1998), and Bush v. Gore (2000).	Judicial Branch and Civil Liberties	Supreme Court History
	USG.3.19 Identify and analyze decisions by the United States Supreme Court about the constitutional principle of federalism in cases such as McCulloch v. Maryland (1819), Alden v. Maine (1999) and the denial of certiorari for the Terri Schiavo case (2005).	Judicial Branch and Civil Liberties	Supreme Court History
	USG.3.20 Describe the influence of the media on public opinion and public policy.	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
USG.4 Students will analyze the interactions between the United States and other nations and evaluate the role of the United States in world affairs.	USG.4.1 Compare and contrast governments throughout the world with the United States government in terms of source of the government's power.		
	USG.4.2 Describe how different governments interact in world affairs.		
	USG.4.3 Identify and describe contemporary examples of conflict among nations.		

	USG.4.4 Identify the costs and benefits to the United States of participating in international organizations.		
	USG.4.5 Analyze powers the United States Constitution gives to the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government in the area of foreign affairs.	Covered throughout the course	
	USG.4.6 Identify and describe strategies available to the United States government to achieve foreign policy objectives.		
	USG.4.7 Describe the influence individuals, businesses, labor, and other organizations exercise on United States foreign policy.		
	USG.4.8 Provide examples of nongovernmental international organizations and explain their role in international affairs.		
	USG.4.9 Identify world issues including political, cultural, demographic, economic, and environmental challenges that affect the United States foreign policy in specific regions of the world.		
	USG.4.10 Discuss specific foreign policy issues that impact local community and state interests.		
USG.5 Students will explain the idea of citizenship in the United States, describe the roles of United States citizens, and identify and explain the rights and responsibilities of United States citizens. They will also examine how citizens can participate responsibly and effectively in the civic and political life of the United States.	USG.5.1 Define the legal meaning of citizenship in the United States.		
	USG.5.2 Describe the requirements for citizenship in the United States and residency in Indiana and deliberate on criteria used for attaining both.		
	USG.5.3 Analyze the roles of citizens in Indiana and the United States.	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
	USG.5.4 Discuss the individual's legal obligation to obey the law, serve as a juror, and pay taxes.		
	USG.5.5 Identify and describe the civil and constitutional rights found in the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights and expanded by decisions of the United States Supreme Court.	Judicial Branch and Civil Liberties Judicial Branch and Civil Liberties	Civil Rights Civil Liberties



	USG.5.6 Identify when it is constitutional for governments to limit the rights of individuals.	Judicial Branch and Civil Liberties	Civil Liberties
	USG.5.7 Explain and give examples of important citizen actions that monitor and influence local, state, and national government as individuals and members of interest groups.		
	USG.5.8 Explain how citizens in the United States participate in public elections as voters and supporters of candidates for public office.	Political Participation Political Participation	Individual Political Participation Elections
	USG.5.9 Describe opportunities available to individuals to contribute to the well being of their communities and participate responsibly in the political process at local, state, and national levels of government.	Covered throughout the course	
	USG.5.10 Analyze and evaluate decisions about civil rights and liberties of individuals in landmark cases of the United States Supreme Court.	Judicial Branch and Civil Liberties	Supreme Court History
	USG.5.11 Give examples of the role that individual citizens can play in world affairs.		
	USG.5.12 Use information from a variety of resources to describe and discuss American political issues such as environmental issues, women's rights, and affirmative action.	Covered throughout the course	