



Alignment Document

State of South Carolina And Aventa Learning Civics

Civics

2005-2007 Benchmark Blueprint

State Standard Number	State Standard Area / Description	Unit Name	Course Topic Description
USG	United States Government		
USG-1	The student will demonstrate an understanding of the United States government-its origins and its functions.		
USG-1.1	Summarize arguments for the necessity and purpose of government and politics, including the idea that politics enables a group of people with diverse opinions and interests to reach collective decisions, the idea that government gives people the security they need in order to reach their full potential, and the idea that the purposes of government include enhancing economic prosperity and providing for national security.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions
USG-1.2	Summarize differing ideas about the purposes and functions of law, including the "rule of law" and the "rule of man" and the idea that the "rule of law" protects not only individual rights but also the common good and summarize the sources of laws, including nature, social customs, legislatures, religious leaders, and monarchs.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Rule of Law
		City Government	Home rule

USG-1.3	Compare the characteristics of a limited and an unlimited government, including the idea that a civil society maintains a limited government: how a civil society provides the opportunity for individuals to associate for different purposes, how a civil society allows people to influence the government by means other than voting, how political and economic freedoms can limit government power, and how the government of a civil society differs from the governments in authoritarian and totalitarian regimes.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Limited and Unlimited Government
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Civil Society
		Foundations of American System	John Locke
		Role of Political Parties	Voting
USG-1.4	Compare the characteristics and the advantages and disadvantages of confederal, federal, and unitary systems, including how power is distributed, shared, and limited in these systems.		
USG-1.5	Compare the advantages and disadvantages of the ways in which power is distributed, shared, and limited to serve the purposes of constitutional government, including the criteria of effectiveness, the prevention of the abuse of power, and responsiveness to popular will.	State Government	Division of Powers/Reserved State
		State Government	Division of Powers/Concurrent
		Foundations of American System	A Federal System
USG-1.6	Analyze alternative forms of representation and the extent to which they serve the purposes of constitutional government, including arguments for and against representative government as distinguished from direct popular rule, common bases upon which representation has been established, different electoral systems, and differing theories of representation.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Alternative Ways of Organizing Constitutional Governments

USG-2	The student will demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of the American republic-its basic democratic principles and its political systems.		
USG-2.1	Summarize the basic principles of American democracy including popular sovereignty, the rule of law, the balance of power, the separation of powers, limited government, federalism, and representative government as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Rule of Law
		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	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	The Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Amendments
		Foundations of American System	American Constitutional Government Origins
		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
		Foundations of American System	King John and Magna Carta
		Foundations of American System	Goals of the Constitution
		Foundations of American System	The Second and Third Amendments
		Foundations of American System	The Declaration of Independence
		Foundations of American System	Origins of the Republic
		Foundations of American System	The Fourth and Fifth Amendments

		State Government	State Constitutions
		City Government	Home rule
USG-2.2	Explain philosophical influences on the development of American government, including the philosophy and practices of the Greeks and the Romans; the ideals of the Judeo-Christian tradition; and the ideas of such European thinkers as John Locke, Charles de Montesquieu, Thomas Hobbes, Niccolò Machiavelli, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.	Foundations of American System	American Constitutional Government Origins
USG-2.3	Compare fundamental values, principles, and rights that are in conflict with one another in the American political system and the ways in which such conflicts are typically resolved, including conflicts that arise from diversity, conflicts between individual rights and social stability, and conflicts between liberty and equality.	Foundations of American System	The Second and Third Amendments
USG-2.4	Summarize the significant ideals of the American republic, the discrepancy between those ideals and the realities of American society, and ways that such discrepancies might be reduced through social and political action.	Foundations of American System	The United States as a Republic
USG-2.5	Explain factors that have shaped the distinctive characteristics of American society, including the belief in limited government, religious freedom, diversity of the population, and relative social equality.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Limited and Unlimited Government
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	The Civil Society
		Foundations of American System	John Locke
USG-3	The student will demonstrate an understanding of the continuing role of the United States Constitution in the defining and shaping of American government and society.		
USG-3.1	Contrast the distribution of powers and responsibilities within the federal system, including the purpose, organization, and enumerated powers of the three branches; the workings of the Supreme Court; and the operation of the law-making process.	State Government	Passing State Laws



USG-3.2	Explain the organization and responsibilities of local and state governments, including the purposes and functions of state constitutions; reserved and concurrent powers in the states; the relationships among national, state, and local levels of government; and the structure and operation of South Carolina's government.	State Government	Division of Powers/Concurrent
		State Government	County Governments
		State Government	State Constitutions
		State Government	State Legislatures - Qualifications, Terms, and Reimbursement
		State Government	Division of Powers/Reserved State
		State Government	Local Government
		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
		Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Constitution
		Foundations of American System	A Federal System



USG-3.3	Summarize the function of law in the American constitutional system, including the significance of the concept of the due process of law and the ways in which laws are intended to achieve fairness, the protection of individual rights, and the promotion of the common good.	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
		City Government	Home rule
USG-3.4	Summarize the process through which public policy is formed in the United States, including setting a public agenda and the role of political institutions, political parties, and special interest groups.	Role of Political Parties	Third Parties
		Role of Political Parties	Public Financing
		Role of Political Parties	One-Party Governments
		Role of Political Parties	Party Committees
		Role of Political Parties	The Democratic and Republican Parties
		Role of Political Parties	Political Party Finances

USG-3.5	Summarize features of the election process in the United States, including the roles of the political parties, the nomination process, the Electoral College, and the campaigns; the issues of campaign funding; and trends in voter turnout and citizen participation.	Role of Political Parties	The Democratic and Republican Parties
		Role of Political Parties	Local Party Organization
		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
USG-4	The student will demonstrate an understanding of the United States' relations with other nation-states and its role in world affairs.		
USG-4.1	Summarize ways in which United States foreign policy is formulated and carried out, including current foreign policy issues and security interests; the impact of foreign policy on individual citizens; the influence and exchange of political ideas between nations; and America's contributions to the world in politics, environmentalism, technology, science, humanitarianism, and culture.		
USG-4.2	Compare the roles of international organizations in world affairs, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the World Health Organization.		
USG-5	The student will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of personal and civic rights and responsibilities and the role of the citizen in American democracy.		
USG-5.1	Classify the rights of United States citizens as personal, political, or economic and identify the significance and source of such rights and the conflicts that can arise when these rights are limited.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Limited Government and Political/Economic Freedom

USG-5.2	Summarize commonly held personal and civic responsibilities and their significance in maintaining a democracy, including voting, serving as a juror, obeying the law, paying taxes, and serving in the military.	Role of Political Parties	Voting
USG-5.3	Explain ways in which Americans can monitor and participate in politics and government, including engaging in political leadership or public service, analyzing and becoming informed about public issues and policy making, joining political parties and interest groups, voting, and volunteering in the community.	Role of Political Parties	The Democratic and Republican Parties
		Role of Political Parties	Political Party Finances
		Role of Political Parties	Third Parties
		Role of Political Parties	Public Financing
		Role of Political Parties	One-Party Governments
		Role of Political Parties	Voting
		Role of Political Parties	Party Committees
USG-5.4	Explain the process of naturalization in the United States, including naturalization laws and the criteria of length of residency, English language literacy, proof of character, knowledge of United States history, and support for the values and principles of American constitutional government.		
USG-5.5	Summarize character traits that are important to the preservation and improvement of American democracy, including dispositions that encourage citizens to act as independent members of society, that foster respect for individual worth and human dignity, and that engage the citizen in public affairs.	Civic Life, Politics, and Government	Duties and Responsibilities