



Alignment Document
State of Texas
And
Aventa Learning American Government

American Government
 2005-2007 Benchmark Blueprint

State Standard Number	State Standard Area / Description	Unit Name	Course Topic Description
113.35	United States Government		
0	History.		
113.35.1	The student understands major political ideas and forms of government in history.		
113.35.1.A	explain major political ideas in history such as natural law, natural rights, divine right of kings, and social contract theory;	Origins	Political Foundations of American Democracy
113.35.1.B	identify the characteristics of classic forms of government such as absolute monarchy, authoritarianism, classical republic, despotism, feudalism, liberal democracy, and totalitarianism.	Introduction	Forms of Government
113.35.2	The student understands how constitutional government, as developed in the United States, has been influenced by people, ideas, and historical documents.		
113.35.2.A	analyze the principles and ideas that underlie the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, including those of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Charles de Montesquieu;	Origins	Political Foundations of American Democracy



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113.35.2.B	analyze the contributions of the political philosophies of the Founding Fathers, including John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, on the development of the U.S. government;	Origins	Creating the Constitution
113.35.2.C	analyze debates and compromises necessary to reach political decisions using historical documents;	Constitutional Principles	Changing the Constitution
113.35.2.D	identify significant individuals in the field of government and politics, including Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and selected contemporary leaders.	Origins	Creating the Constitution
113.35.3	The student understands the roles played by individuals, political parties, interest groups, and the media in the U.S. political system, past and present.		
113.35.3.A	give examples of the processes used by individuals, political parties, interest groups, or the media to affect public policy;	The Legislative Branch	Powers of Congress
113.35.3.B	analyze the impact of political changes brought about by individuals, political parties, interest groups, or the media, past and present.	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Supreme Court History
0	Geography.		
113.35.4	The student understands why certain places and regions are important to the United States.		
113.35.4.A	analyze the political significance to the United States of the location and geographic characteristics of selected places or regions such as Cuba and Taiwan;		
113.35.4.B	analyze the economic significance to the United States of the location and geographic characteristics of selected places and regions such as oil fields in the Middle East.	Economics and the American Government	Economic Systems and the United States Economy



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113.35.5	The student understands how government policies can affect the physical and human characteristics of places and regions.		
113.35.5.A	analyze and evaluate the consequences of a government policy that affects the physical characteristics of a place or region;	The Legislative Branch	Structure of Congress
113.35.5.B	analyze and evaluate the consequences of a government policy that affects the human characteristics of a place or region.	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Supreme Court History
0	Economics.		
113.35.6	The student understands the roles played by local, state, and national governments in both the public and private sectors of the U.S. free enterprise system.		
113.35.6.A	analyze government policies that influence the economy at the local, state, and national levels;	Economics and the American Government	Budget Making Process
113.35.6.B	identify the sources of revenue and expenditures of the U. S. government and analyze their impact on the U.S. economy;	Economics and the American Government	Revenue and Expenditures
113.35.6.C	compare the role of government in the U.S. free enterprise system and other economic systems.	Economics and the American Government	Economic Systems and the United States Economy
113.35.7	The student understands the relationship between U.S. government policies and international trade.		
113.35.7.A	explain the effects of international trade on U.S. economic and political policies;	Economics and the American Government	Economic Systems and the United States Economy
113.35.7.B	explain the government's role in setting international trade policies.	Legislative Branch	Powers of Congress
0	Government.		
113.35.8	The student understands the American beliefs and principles reflected in the U.S. Constitution.		
113.35.8.A	explain the importance of a written constitution;	Origins	Creating the Constitution
113.35.8.B	evaluate how the federal government serves the purposes set forth in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution;	Constitutional Principles	Structure of the Constitution



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113.35.8.C	analyze how the Federalist Papers explain the principles of the American constitutional system of government;	Origins	Creating the Constitution
113.35.8.D	evaluate constitutional provisions for limiting the role of government, including republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights;	Constitutional Principles	Principles of the Constitution
113.35.8.E	analyze the processes by which the U.S. Constitution can be changed and evaluate their effectiveness;	Constitutional Principles	Changing the Constitution
113.35.8.F	analyze how the American beliefs and principles reflected in the U.S. Constitution contribute to our national identity.	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
113.35.9	The student understands the structure and functions of the government created by the U.S. Constitution.		
113.35.9.A	analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch of government, including the bicameral structure of Congress, the role of committees, and the procedure for enacting laws;	Legislative Branch	Structure of Congress
113.35.9.B	analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch of government, including the constitutional powers of the president, the growth of presidential power, and the role of the Cabinet and executive departments;	The Executive Branch	Structure of the Executive Branch
113.35.9.C	analyze the structure and functions of the judicial branch of government, including the federal court system and types of jurisdiction;	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Structure of the Courts
113.35.9.D	analyze the functions of selected independent executive agencies and regulatory commissions such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal Communications Commission;		



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113.35.9.E	explain how certain provisions of the U.S. Constitution provide for checks and balances among the three branches of government;	Constitutional Principles	Principles of the Constitution
113.35.9.F	analyze selected issues raised by judicial activism and judicial restraint;	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Supreme Court in Action
113.35.9.G	explain the major responsibilities of the federal government for domestic and foreign policy;		
113.35.9.H	compare the structure and functions of the Texas state government to the federal system;		
113.35.9.I	analyze the structure and functions of local government.		
113.35.10	The student understands the concept of federalism.		
113.35.10.A	explain why the Founding Fathers created a distinctly new form of federalism and adopted a federal system of government instead of a unitary system;	Constitutional Origins	Establishing the First Government
113.35.10.B	categorize government powers as national, state, or shared;		Covered throughout text
113.35.10.C	analyze historical conflicts over the respective roles of national and state governments;	Constitutional Origins	Establishing the First Government
113.35.10.D	evaluate the limits on the national and state governments in the U.S. federal system of government.	Constitutional Origins	Federalism
113.35.11	The student understands the processes for filling public offices in the U.S. system of government.		
113.35.11.A	compare different methods of filling public offices, including elected and appointed offices, at the local, state, and national levels;	Political Participation	Nominations and Campaigns
113.35.11.B	analyze and evaluate the process of electing the President of the United States.	Political Participation	Elections
113.35.12	The student understands the role of political parties in the U.S. system of government.		
113.35.12.A	identify the functions of political parties;	Political Participation	Political Parties



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113.35.12.B	analyze the two-party system and evaluate the role of third parties in the United States;	Political Participation	Political Parties
113.35.12.C	analyze the role of political parties in the electoral process at local, state, and national levels;	Political Participation	Elections
113.35.12.D	identify opportunities for citizens to participate in political party activities at local, state, and national levels.	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
113.35.13	The student understands the similarities and differences that exist among the U.S. system of government and other political systems.		
113.35.13.A	compare the U.S. system of government with other political systems;	Introduction	Forms of Government
113.35.13.B	analyze advantages and disadvantages of federal, confederate, and unitary systems of government;	Introduction	Forms of Government
113.35.13.C	analyze advantages and disadvantages of presidential and parliamentary systems of government.	Introduction	Forms of Government
0	Citizenship.		
113.35.14	The student understands rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.		
113.35.14.A	understand the roles of limited government and the rule of law to the protection of individual rights;	Constitutional Principles	Principles of the Constitution
113.35.14.B	analyze the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, including first amendment freedoms;	Constitutional Principles	Structure of the Constitution
113.35.14.C	analyze issues addressed in selected cases such as Engel v. Vitale, Miranda v. Arizona, and Schenck v. U.S. that involve Supreme Court interpretations of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution;	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	History of the Supreme Court
113.35.14.D	analyze the role of each branch of government in protecting the rights of individuals;	Judicial Branch	Covered throughout the unit
		Executive Branch	Covered throughout the unit
		Legislative Branch	Covered throughout the unit



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113.35.14.E	explain the importance of due process rights to the protection of individual rights and to the limits on the powers of government;	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Civil Liberties
113.35.14.F	analyze the impact of the incorporation doctrine involving due process and the Bill of Rights on individual rights, federalism, and majority rule.		
113.35.15	The student understands the difference between personal and civic responsibilities.		
113.35.15.A	explain the difference between personal and civic responsibilities;	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
113.35.15.B	evaluate whether and/or when the obligation of citizenship requires that personal desires and interests be subordinated to the public good;		
113.35.15.C	evaluate whether and/or when the rights of individuals are inviolable even against claims for the public good;		
113.35.15.D	analyze the consequences of political decisions and actions on society.	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
113.35.16	The student understands the importance of voluntary individual participation in the U.S. democratic society.		
113.35.16.A	analyze the effectiveness of various methods of participation in the political process at local, state, and national levels;		Covered throughout text
113.35.16.B	analyze historical and contemporary examples of citizen movements to bring about political change or to maintain continuity;	Origins	Colonial Government
113.35.16.C	analyze the factors that influence an individual's political attitudes and actions;	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
113.35.16.D	compare and evaluate characteristics, style, and effectiveness of state and national leaders, past and present.		



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113.35.17	The student understands the importance of the expression of different points of view in a democratic society.		
113.35.17.A	analyze different points of view of political parties and interest groups on important contemporary issues;	Political Participation	Political Parties
113.35.17.B	analyze the importance of free speech and press in a democratic society;	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Civil Liberties
113.35.17.C	express and defend a point of view on an issue of contemporary interest in the United States.	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Supreme Court History
0	Culture.		
113.35.18	The student understands the relationship between government policies and the culture of the United States.		
113.35.18.A	evaluate a political policy or decision in the United States that was a result of changes in American culture;	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Supreme Court History
113.35.18.B	analyze changes in American culture brought about by government policies such as voting rights, the GI bill, and racial integration;	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Supreme Court History
113.35.18.C	describe an example of a government policy that has affected a particular racial, ethnic, or religious group.	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Supreme Court History
0	Science, technology, and society.		
113.35.19	The student understands the role the government plays in developing policies and establishing conditions that influence scientific discoveries and technological innovations.		
113.35.19.A	identify examples of government-assisted research that, when shared with the private sector, have resulted in improved consumer products such as computer and communication technologies;		
113.35.19.B	analyze how U.S. government policies fostering competition and entrepreneurship have resulted in scientific discoveries and technological innovations.		



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113.35.20	The student understands the impact of advances in science and technology on government and society.		
113.35.20.A	analyze the potential impact on society of recent scientific discoveries and technological innovations;		
113.35.20.B	analyze the reaction of government to scientific discoveries and technological innovations.		
0	Social studies skills.		
113.35.21	The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology.		Covered throughout course
113.35.21.A	analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions;		Covered throughout course
113.35.21.B	create a product on a contemporary government issue or topic using critical methods of inquiry;	The Executive Branch	Executive Departments
113.35.21.C	explain a point of view on a government issue;	The Legislative Branch	How a Bill Becomes a Law
113.35.21.D	analyze and evaluate the validity of information from primary and secondary sources for bias, propaganda, point of view, and frame of reference;	Constitutional Principles	Structure of the Constitution
113.35.21.E	evaluate government data using charts, tables, graphs, and maps;	Constitutional Principles	Changing the Constitution
113.35.21.F	use appropriate mathematical skills to interpret social studies information such as maps and graphs.	Economics and the American Government	Economic Systems and the United States Economy
113.35.22	The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms.		
113.35.22.A	use social studies terminology correctly;		Covered throughout course
113.35.22.B	use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation;		Covered throughout course



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113.35.22.C	transfer information from one medium to another, including written to visual and statistical to written or visual, using computer software as appropriate;		Covered throughout course
113.35.22.D	create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information.		Covered throughout course
113.35.23	The student uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings.		
113.35.23.A	use a problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution;	Constitutional Origins	Creating the Constitution
113.35.23.B	use a decision-making process to identify a situation that requires a decision, gather information, identify options, predict consequences, and take action to implement a decision.	Constitutional Principles	Structure of the Constitution
113.39	Social Studies Research Methods		
0	Social studies skills.		
113.39.1	The student understands the basic philosophical foundation for qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry.		
113.39.1.A	develop and use criteria for the evaluation of qualitative and quantitative information;	Economics and the American Government	Economic Systems and the United States Economy
113.39.1.B	generate logical and consistent conclusions from given qualitative and quantitative information;	Legislative Branch	Structure of Congress
113.39.1.C	design a research project with a rationale for a given research method.	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Civil Rights
113.39.2	The student understands the need for an organizing framework to identify a problem or area of interest and collect information.		



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113.39.2.A	select an issue, problem, or area of interest; write a rationale and preliminary ideas for research methods; and develop a bibliography;	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Civil Rights
113.39.2.B	apply a process approach to a research problem.	Constitutional Origins	Creating the Constitution
113.39.3	The student understands the fundamental principles and requirements of validity and reliability (both social science and historical fields of inquiry).		
113.39.3.A	define and differentiate reliability and validity;		
113.39.3.B	identify methods of checking for reliability;		
113.39.3.C	evaluate various sources for reliability and validity and justify the conclusions.	Executive Branch	Structure of the Executive Branch
113.39.4	The student understands how data can be collected from a variety of sources using a variety of methods.		
113.39.4.A	collect information from a variety of sources (primary, secondary, written, and oral) using techniques such as questionnaires, interviews, and library research;		Covered throughout text
113.39.4.B	use various technology such as CD-ROM, library topic catalogues, networks, and on-line information systems to collect information about a selected topic.		Covered throughout text
113.39.5	The student understands the use of theory and research for descriptive and predictive purposes.		
113.39.5.A	describe the results of a research process;	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Civil Rights
113.39.5.B	make predictions as to future actions and/or outcomes based on conclusions of research.	The Legislative Branch	How a Bill Becomes a Law
113.39.6	The student understands the principles and requirements of the scientific method.		
113.39.6.A	apply the scientific method in a research project;		



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113.39.6.B	create a matrix relating various research methodologies such as survey research, ethnography, primary documents, and statistical analysis to given subject areas;		
113.39.6.C	determine the most efficient research approach from a variety of alternatives using a cost-benefit analysis.	Economics and the American Government	Budget Making Process
113.39.7	The student understands basic statistical approaches to the analysis of aggregate information.		
113.39.7.A	define and compute statistical information using various statistical approaches such as means testing and correlation, measures of central tendency and distribution, the development of categorical systems, and logical analysis;	Economics and the American Government	Budget Making Process
113.39.7.B	analyze information using a spreadsheet or statistical analysis information software.	Economics and the American Government	Budget Making Process
113.39.8	The student understands the requirements of graphic displays of data.		
113.39.8.A	construct visuals such as charts, graphs, tables, time lines, and maps to convey appropriate data;	Legislative Branch	Structure of Congress
113.39.8.B	create a presentation on a selected topic using word-processing, graphics, and multimedia software.	Legislative Branch	Structure of Congress
113.39.9	The student understands the basic principles of historic analysis.		
113.39.9.A	differentiate between primary and secondary sources and describe the best uses for each;	Origins	The American Revolution
113.39.9.B	construct and test cause-and-effect hypotheses and compare them with correlational analyses;		
113.39.9.C	select the appropriate use of chronological relationships in historiography.		Covered throughout the course
113.39.10	The student understands the ethical aspects of collecting, storing, and using data.		



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113.39.10.A	describe breaches of ethical standards for handling human experimental or survey information in a given scenario;		
113.39.10.B	evaluate the relationship among copyright laws, proper citation requirements, and ethical ways of collecting and presenting information.		