

## American Government/Civics

The government course provides students with a background in the philosophy, functions, and structure of the United States government. Students examine the philosophical foundations of the United States government and how that philosophy developed. Students also examine the structure and function of the United States government and its relationship to states and citizens.

**SSCG1 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the political philosophies that shaped the development of United States constitutional government.**

- 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.
- 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.

**SSCG2 The student will analyze the natural rights philosophy and the nature of government expressed in the Declaration of Independence.**

- a. Compare and contrast the Declaration of Independence and the Social Contract Theory.
- b. Evaluate the Declaration of Independence as a persuasive argument.

**SSCG3 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the United States Constitution.**

- a. Explain the main ideas in debate over ratification; include those in The Federalist.
- b. Analyze the purpose of government stated in the Preamble of the United States Constitution.
- 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.

**SSCG4 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and powers of the national government.**

- a. Describe the structure and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
- b. Analyze the relationship between the three branches in a system of checks and balances and separation of powers.

**SSCG5 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the federal system of government described in the United States Constitution.**

- a. Explain the relationship of state governments to the national government.
- b. Define the difference between enumerated and implied powers.
- c. Describe the extent to which power is shared.
- d. Identify powers denied to state and national governments.
- e. Analyze the ongoing debate that focuses on the balance of power between state and national governments.
- 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.**

- a. Examine the Bill of Rights with emphasis on First Amendment freedoms.
- b. Analyze due process law expressed in the 5th and 14th Amendments.
- c. Explain selective incorporation of the Bill of Rights.
- d. Explain how government seeks to maintain the balance between individual liberties and the public interest.
- e. Explain every citizen’s right to be treated equally under the law.

**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.**

**SSCG8 The student will demonstrate knowledge of local, state, and national elections.**

- a. Describe the organization, role, and constituencies of political parties.
- b. Describe the nomination and election process.
- c. Examine campaign funding and spending.
- d. Analyze the influence of media coverage, campaign advertising, and public opinion polls.
- e. Identify how amendments extend 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.**

**SSCG10 The student will describe the legislative process including the roles played by committees and leadership.**

- a. Explain the steps in the legislative process.
- b. Explain the function of various leadership positions within the legislature.

**SSCG11 The student will describe the influence of lobbyists (business, labor, professional organizations) and special interest groups on the legislative process.**

- a. Explain the function of lobbyists.
- b. Describe the laws and rules that govern lobbyists.
- 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.**

**SSCG13 The student will describe the qualifications for becoming President of the United States.**

- a. Explain the written qualifications for President of the United States.
- b. Describe unwritten qualifications common to past presidents.

**SSCG14 The student will explain the impeachment process and its usage for elected officials.**

- a. Explain the impeachment process as defined in the U.S. Constitution.
- 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.**

- a. Compare and contrast the organization and responsibilities of independent regulatory agencies, government corporations, and executive agencies.
- b. Explain the functions of the Cabinet.

**SSCG16 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the operation of the federal judiciary.**

- a. Explain the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, federal courts and the state courts.
- b. Examine how John Marshall established the Supreme Court as an independent, coequal branch of government through his opinions in Marbury v. Madison.
- c. Describe how the Supreme Court decides cases.
- 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.**

- a. Examine the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
- b. Examine the structure of local governments with emphasis on county, city, and town.
- c. Identify current state and local officials.
- d. Analyze the relationship among state and local governments.
- e. Evaluate direct democracy by the initiative, referendum, and recall processes.

**SSCG18 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the powers of Georgia's state and local governments.**

- a. Examine the powers of state and local government.
- b. Examine sources of revenue received by each level of government.
- c. Analyze the services provided by state and local government.

**SSCG19 The student will compare and contrast governments that are unitary, confederal, and federal; autocratic, oligarchic and democratic; and presidential and parliamentary.**

**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 describe the causes and effects of criminal activity.**

- a. Examine the nature and causes of crimes.
- b. Explain the effects criminal acts have on their intended victims.
- c. Categorize different types of crimes.
- d. Explain the different types of defenses used by perpetrators of crime.

**SSCG22 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the criminal justice process.**

- a. Analyze the steps in the criminal justice process.
- b. Explain an individual's due process rights.
- c. Describe the steps in a criminal trial or civil suit.
- d. Examine the different types of sentences a convicted person can receive.

## Reading Across the Curriculum

### Reading Standard Comment

After the elementary years, students are seriously engaged in reading for learning. This process sweeps across all disciplinary domains, extending even to the area of personal learning. Students encounter a variety of informational as well as fictional texts, and they experience text in all genres and modes of discourse. In the study of various disciplines of learning (language arts, mathematics, science, social studies), students must learn through reading the communities of discourse of each of those disciplines. Each subject has its own specific vocabulary; and for students to excel in all subjects, they must learn the specific vocabulary of those subject areas in context. Beginning in the middle grades, students start to self-select reading materials based on personal interests established through classroom learning. Students become curious about science, mathematics, history, and literature as they form contexts for those subjects related to their personal and classroom experiences. As students explore academic areas through reading, they develop favorite subjects and become confident in their verbal discourse about those subjects.

Reading across curriculum content develops both academic and personal interests in students. As students read, they develop both content and contextual vocabulary. They also build good habits for reading, researching, and learning. The Reading Across the Curriculum standard focuses on the academic and personal skills students acquire as they read in all areas of learning.

### **SSCGRC1 Students will enhance reading in all curriculum areas by:**

- a. Reading in All Curriculum Areas
  - Read a minimum of 25 grade-level appropriate books per year from a variety of subject disciplines and participate in discussions related to curricular learning in all areas.
  - Read both informational and fictional texts in a variety of genres and modes of discourse.
  - Read technical texts related to various subject areas.
- b. Discussing books
  - Discuss messages and themes from books in all subject areas.
  - Respond to a variety of texts in multiple modes of discourse.
  - Relate messages and themes from one subject area to messages and themes in another area.
  - Evaluate the merit of texts in every subject discipline.
  - Examine author's purpose in writing.
  - Recognize the features of disciplinary texts.
- c. Building vocabulary knowledge
  - Demonstrate an understanding of contextual vocabulary in various subjects.
  - Use content vocabulary in writing and speaking.
  - Explore understanding of new words found in subject area texts.
- d. Establishing context
  - Explore life experiences related to subject area content.
  - Discuss in both writing and speaking how certain words are subject area related.
  - Determine strategies for finding content and contextual meaning for unknown words

## Social Studies Skills Matrices

### MAP AND GLOBE SKILLS

GOAL: The student will use maps to retrieve social studies information.

I: indicates when a skill is introduced in the standards and elements as part of the content

D: indicates grade levels where the teacher must develop that skill using the appropriate content

M: indicates grade level by which student should achieve mastery, the ability to use the skill in all situations

A: indicates grade levels where students will continue to apply and improve mastered skills

Map and Globe Skills	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9-12
1. use cardinal directions	I	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
2. use intermediate directions		I	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
3. use a letter/number grid system to determine location			I	M	A	A	A	A	A	A
4. compare and contrast the categories of natural, cultural, and political features found on maps			I	M	A	A	A	A	A	A
5. use inch to inch map scale to determine distance on map			I	M	A	A	A	A	A	A
6. use map key/legend to acquire information from, historical, physical, political, resource, product and economic maps			I	D	M	A	A	A	A	A
7. use a map to explain impact of geography on historical and current events			I	D	M	A	A	A	A	A
8. draw conclusions and make generalizations based on information from maps				I	M	A	A	A	A	A
9. use latitude and longitude to determine location				I	D	D	D	M	A	A
10. use graphic scales to determine distances on a map					I	M	A	A	A	A
11. compare maps of the same place at different points in time and from different perspectives to determine changes, identify trends, and generalize about human activities					I	M	A	A	A	A
12. compare maps with data sets (charts, tables, graphs) and /or readings to draw conclusions and make generalizations					I	M	A	A	A	A

## INFORMATION PROCESSING SKILLS

**GOAL:** The student will be able to locate, analyze, and synthesize information related to social studies topics and apply this information to solve problems/make decisions.

**I:** indicates when a skill is introduced in the standards and elements as part of the content

**D:** indicates grade levels where the teacher must develop that skill using the appropriate content

**M:** indicates grade level by which student should achieve mastery, the ability to use the skill in all situations

**A:** indicates grade levels where students will continue to apply and improve mastered skills

<b>Information Processing Skills</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9-12</b>
1. compare similarities and differences	I	D	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
2. organize items chronologically	I	D	D	M	A	A	A	A	A	A
3. identify issues and/or problems and alternative solutions	I	D	D	D	D	M	A	A	A	A
4. distinguish between fact and opinion		I	D	M	A	A	A	A	A	A
5. identify main idea, detail, sequence of events, and cause and effect in a social studies context		I	D	D	M	A	A	A	A	A
6. identify and use primary and secondary sources		I	D	D	M	A	A	A	A	A
7. interpret timelines		I	D	D	M	A	A	A	A	A
8. identify social studies reference resources to use for a specific purpose			I	M	A	A	A	A	A	A
9. construct charts and tables			I	M	A	A	A	A	A	A
10. analyze artifacts			I	D	D	M	A	A	A	A
11. draw conclusions and make generalizations				I	M	A	A	A	A	A
12. analyze graphs and diagrams				I	D	M	A	A	A	A
13. translate dates into centuries, eras, or ages				I	D	M	A	A	A	A
14. formulate appropriate research questions					I	M	A	A	A	A
15. determine adequacy and/or relevancy of information					I	M	A	A	A	A
16. check for consistency of information					I	M	A	A	A	A
17. interpret political cartoons					I	D	D	D	M	A