

American Government CR

| State Standard Number | State Standard Area/Description | Unit Name | Course Topic Description |
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| 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. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.1.1 | Distinguish among civic life, political life, and private life. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.1.2 | Define the terms citizenship, politics, and government, and give examples of how political solutions to public policy problems are generated through interactions of citizens, civil associations, with their government. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.1.3 | Describe the purposes and functions of government. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.1.4 | Define and provide examples of different forms of government, including direct democracy, representative democracy, republic, monarchy, oligarchy, and autocracy. | Our American Government | Section A: What Is Government? |
| USG.1.5 | Explain how the rule of law, embodied in a constitution, limits government to protect the rights of individuals. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.1.6 | Explain how a constitutional democracy provides majority rule with equal protection for the rights of individuals, including those in the minority, through limited government and the rule of law. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |

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| USG.1.7 | Distinguish limited from unlimited government, and provide examples of each type of government. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.1.8 | Explain how civil society contributes to the maintenance of limited government in a representative democracy or democratic republic, such as the United States. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.1.9 | Examine fundamental documents in the American political tradition to identify key ideas regarding limited government and individual rights. | Our American Government | ALL |
| USG.1.10 | Explain the part 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...." | Our American Government | Section D: Amending the Constitution |
| USG.2 | Students will identify and define ideas at the core of government and politics in the 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 history and civic identity. They will also analyze issues about the meaning and application of these core ideas to government, politics, and civic life, and demonstrate how citizens use these foundational ideas in civic and political life. | Our American Government | ALL |
| USG.2.1 | Trace the colonial, revolutionary, and founding-era experiences and events that led to the writing, ratification, and implementation of the United States Constitution (1787) and Bill of Rights (1791). | Our American Government | Section B: Origins of American Government |

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| USG.2.2 | Analyze and interpret central ideas on government, individual rights, and the common good in founding documents of the United States. | Our American Government | Section A: What Is Government? |
| USG.2.3 | Identify and explain elements of the social contract and natural rights theories in United States founding-era documents. | | |
| USG.2.4 | Define and provide examples of foundational ideas of American government, including popular sovereignty, constitutionalism, republicanism, federalism, and individual rights, which are embedded in founding-era documents. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.2.5 | Explain how a shared American civic identity is embodied in founding-era documents and in core documents of subsequent periods of United States history. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.2.6 | Define and provide examples of fundamental principles and values of American political and civic life, including liberty, the common good, justice, equality, tolerance, law and order, rights of individuals, diversity, civic unity, patriotism, constitutionalism, popular sovereignty, and representative democracy. | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.2.7 | Identify and explain historical and contemporary efforts to narrow discrepancies between foundational ideas and values of American democracy and realities of American political and civic life. | Our American Government | Section B: Origins of American Government |

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| USG.2.8 | Evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues concerning foundational ideas or values in tension or conflict. | | |
| USG.2.9 | Compare and contrast ideas on government of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists during their debates on ratification of the U.S. Constitution (1787-1788). | Our American Government | Section C: Structure and Principles of Government |
| USG.2.10 | Analyze and explain ideas about liberty, equality, and justice in American society using documents, such as in Reverend Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech and "Letter from Birmingham City Jail" (1963), and compare King's ideas to those in such founding-era documents as the Virginia Declaration of Rights (1776), the Declaration of Independence (1776), Massachusetts Declaration of Rights (1780), and The Federalist (1788). | Our American Government | Section B: Origins of American Government |
| 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 Massachusetts Constitution. They will also 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 | Compare and contrast governments that are unitary, confederate, and federal. | Our American Government | Section A: What Is Government? |

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| USG.3.2 | Identify and describe provisions of the United States Constitution and the Massachusetts Constitution that define and distribute powers and authority of the federal or state government. | | |
| USG.3.3 | Explain the constitutional principles of federalism, separation of powers among three branches of government, the system of checks and balances, republican government or representative democracy, and popular sovereignty; provide examples of these principles in the governments of the United States and the state of Massachusetts. | | |
| USG.3.4 | Explain the functions of the courts of law in the governments of the United States and the state of Massachusetts with emphasis on the principles of judicial review and an independent judiciary. | | |
| USG.3.5 | Distinguish among the enumerated and implied powers in the United States Constitution and the Massachusetts Constitution. | | |
| USG.3.6 | Explain the functions of departments or agencies of the executive branch in the governments of the United States and the state of Massachusetts. | | |
| USG.3.7 | Trace the evolution of political parties in the American governmental system, and analyze their functions in elections and government at national and state levels of the federal system. | Political Participation | Section A: Political Parties |
| USG.3.8 | Explain the legal, fiscal, and operational relationships between state and local governments in Massachusetts. | | |

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| USG.3.9 | Explain the formal process of how a bill becomes a law and define the terms initiative and referendum. | Legislative and Executive Branches | Section D: How a Bill Becomes a Law |
| USG.3.10 | Explain the difference between a town and a city form of government in Massachusetts, including the difference between a representative and an open-town meeting. | | |
| USG.3.11 | Compare core documents associated with the protection of individual rights, including , the Bill of Rights, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and Article I of the Massachusetts Constitution. | | |
| USG.3.12 | Use a variety of sources, including newspapers and web sites on the Internet, to identify current state and local legislative issues and examine the influence on the legislative process of political parties, interest groups, grass roots organizations, lobbyists, public opinion, the news media, and individual voters. | | |
| USG.3.13 | Analyze and evaluate 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), City of Boerne, Texas v. Flores (1997), and Clinton v. City of New York (1998). | The Judicial Branch and Civil Law | Section B: The Supreme Court |
| USG.3.14 | Analyze and evaluate decisions by the United States Supreme Court about the constitutional principle of federalism in cases such as McCulloch v. Maryland (1819), Texas v. White (1869), Alden v. Maine (1999). | The Judicial Branch and Civil Law | Section B: The Supreme Court |

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| 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. | Economics and International Relations | Section D: Foreign Policy |
| USG.4.1 | Describe how the world is divided politically, and give examples of the ways nation states interact, including trade, tourism, diplomacy, treaties and agreements, and military action. | Economics and International Relations | Section D: Foreign Policy |
| USG.4.2 | Analyze reasons for conflict among nation states, such as competition for resources and territory, differences in system of government, and religious or ethnic conflict. | Economics and International Relations | Section D: Foreign Policy |
| USG.4.3 | Identify and explain powers that the United States Constitution gives to the President and Congress in the area of foreign affairs | Our American Government | Section D: Amending the Constitution |
| USG.4.4 | Describe the tools used to carry out United States foreign policy. | Economics and International Relations | Section D: Foreign Policy |
| USG.4.5 | Examine the different forces that influence U.S. foreign policy, including business and labor organizations, interest groups, public opinion, and ethnic and religious organizations. | Economics and International Relations | Section D: Foreign Policy |
| USG.4.6 | Differentiate among various governmental and non-governmental international organizations, and describe their purposes and functions. | | |
| USG.4.7 | Explain and evaluate participation by the United States government in international organizations. Example: The United Nations. | Economics and International Relations | Section D: Foreign Policy |

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| USG.4.8 | Use a variety of sources, including newspapers, magazines, and the Internet to identify significant world political, demographic, and environmental developments. Analyze ways that these developments may affect United States foreign policy in specific regions of the world. | | |
| USG.4.9 | Evaluate, take, and defend a position about whether or not the United States should promote the spread of democracy throughout the world, or in certain parts of the world, or not at all. | | |
| 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 civic dispositions conducive to the maintenance and improvement of civil society and government, and describe and demonstrate how citizens can participate responsibly and effectively in the civic and political life of the United States. | Political Participation | Section C: Elections |
| USG.5.1 | Explain the meaning and responsibilities of citizenship in the United States and Massachusetts. | | |
| USG.5.2 | Describe roles of citizens in Massachusetts and the United States, including voting in public elections, participating in voluntary associations to promote the common good, and participating in political activities to influence public policy decisions of government. | | |
| USG.5.3 | Describe how citizens can monitor and influence local, state, and national government as individuals and members of interest groups. | Political Participation | Section C: Elections |

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| USG.5.4 | Research the platforms of political parties and candidates for state or local government and explain how citizens in the United States participate in public elections as voters and supporters of candidates for public office. | | |
| USG.5.5 | Identify and explain the meaning and importance of civic dispositions or virtues that contribute to the preservation and improvement of civil society and government. | | |
| USG.5.6 | Identify specific ways for individuals to serve their communities and participate responsibly in civil society and the political process at local, state, and national levels of government. | Political Participation | Section C: Elections |
| USG.5.7 | Analyze and evaluate decisions about rights of individuals in landmark cases of the United States Supreme Court, such as Whitney v. California (1927), Stromberg v. California (1931), Near v. Minnesota (1931), Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969), Texas v. Johnson (1989), and Reno v. American Civil Liberties Union (1997). | | |
| USG.5.8 | Analyze the arguments that evaluate the functions and values of voluntary participation by citizens in the civil associations that constitute civil society. | Political Participation | Section C: Elections |
| USG.5.9 | Together with other students identify a significant public policy issue in the community, gather information about that issue, fairly evaluate the various points of view and competing interests, examine ways of participating in the decision making process about the issue, and draft a position paper on how the issue should be resolved. | | |



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| USG.5.10 | Practice civic skills and dispositions by participating in a group of activities, such as simulated public hearings, mock trials, and debates. | | |
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