

American Government CR

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. (P, E)	Unit 1: Our American Government Unit 5: Economics and International Relations	Section A: What is Government? Section A: Economic Systems and the U.S. Economy Section D: Foreign Policy
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. (P)		
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	Unit 1: Our American Government	Section A: What is Government? Section B: Origins of American Government

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	governments in authoritarian and totalitarian regimes. (P)		
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. (P)		
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. (P)	Unit 1: Our American Government	Section C: Structure and Principles of Government
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. (P)	Unit 1: Our American Government	Section B: Origins of American Government Section C: Structure and Principles of Government
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. (P, H)	Unit 1: Our American Government	Section B: Origins of American Government and the Tutorial lesson on page 6 Section C: Structure and Principles of Government and the Tutorial lesson on page 12 Section D: Amending the Constitution

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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. (P, H)		
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. (P, H)	Unit 1: Our American Government Unit 3: The Judicial Branch and Civil Law	Section C: Structure and Principles of Government Section D: Amending the Constitution Section C: Civil Liberties Section D: Civil Rights
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. (P, H)	Unit 1: Our American Government	Section C: Structure and Principles of Government Section D: Amending the Constitution
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. (P)	Unit 1: Our American Government Unit 3: The Judicial Branch and Civil Law	Section B: Origins of American Government Section C: Structure and Principles of Government Section C: Civil Liberties Section D: Civil Rights

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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. (P)	Unit 1: Our American Government Unit 2: Legislative and Executive Branches Unit 3: The Judicial Branch and Civil Law	Section C: Structure and Principles of Government Section A: Structure and Powers of Congress Section B: Structure and Powers of the Executive Branch Section C: Departments and Organization of the Executive Branch Section D: How a Bill Becomes a Law Section A: Structure of the Court System Section B: The Supreme Court
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. (P)		
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. (P)	Unit 2: Legislative and Executive Branches Unit 3: The Judicial Branch and Civil Law	Section D: How a Bill Becomes a Law Section B: The Supreme Court Section C: Civil Liberties Section D: Civil Rights

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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. (P)	Unit 4: Political Participation	Section A: Political Parties Section C: Elections Section D: Individual Political Participation
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. (P, H)	Unit 4: Political Participation	Section A: Political Parties Section B: Nominations and Campaigns Section C: Elections Section D: Individual Political Participation
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. (P, E, G)	Unit 5: Economics and International Relations	Section D: Foreign Policy
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. (P, G)		

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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. (P, E)		
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. (P)		
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. (P)	Unit 4: Political Participation	Section A: Political Parties Section B: Nominations and Campaigns Section C: Elections Section D: Individual Political Participation
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. (P)		
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,	Unit 4: Political Participation	Section D: Individual Political Participation



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	that foster respect for individual worth and human dignity, and that engage the citizen in public affairs. (P)		
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