

**URBANDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK OUTLINE**

SUBJECT: Social Studies
COURSE TITLE: AP American Government/Economics
GRADE LEVEL: 12
PREREQUISITES: Senior Status

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will meet both the government and economics requirements for graduation and also prepare the student to take the AP Government and Politics Exam, integrating it with the basic principals of economics. Students will learn the basic principles of a market economy and the role of supply and demand, and price determination. It will also include the role of the government in our economic system. Students will become familiar with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. Students will view current issues in American society from a political and economic point of view

UCSD CONTENT STANDARDS:

In order that students achieve the maximum benefit from their talents and abilities, the students of Urbandale Community School District's AP American Government/Economics program should be able to...

Content Standard I. Make connections among personal behaviors, group behaviors, and social issues to inform opinions and decisions.

Benchmarks: Tell the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision-making.

Content Standard II. Analyze relationships between economic systems and their interdependence in the modern world.

Benchmarks: Recognize the function of common financial instruments.
Describe the functions of economic institutions.
Identify the role of scarcity and economic trade offs and how economic conditions impact peoples lives.
Identify the local, state, regional, national, and international factors that create patterns of interdependence in the global economy.

Content Standard III. Analyze the interrelationship of people, places and environments to understand societies.

Benchmarks: Analyze how cultural factors influence the design of human communities.

Content Standard IV. Investigate historical interactions to determine the development and evolution of societies.



Benchmarks: Recognize how and why people create, maintain, or change systems of power, authority, and governance.

Content Standard V. Apply knowledge of democratic principles and various political systems through life long civic action.

Benchmarks: Explain the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

Examine how the government established by the Constitution embodies the enduring values and principles of democracy and republicanism.

Differentiate the purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the Constitution.

Compare the differences among the complex levels of local, state, and national government and their inherent, expressed, and implied powers.

Evaluate strategies for effective political action that impact local, state, and national levels of governance.

Identify how law and public policy are established at the local, state, and national levels of government.

Assess the role of the United States in current and world affairs.

Content Standard VI. Evaluate and synthesize information to communicate an understanding of knowledge relative to social science content.

Benchmarks: Determine the central ideas or information to communicate an understanding of knowledge relative to social science content.

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social studies.

Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence.

Write informative/explanatory texts, focused on discipline-specific content.

Prepare long and short-term writing assignments and research projects that focus on reflection, revision and audience specific content.



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**CONTENT STANDARDS AND COURSE BENCHMARKS WITH INDICATORS FOR
AP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT/ECONOMICS:**

Standard I: Make connections among personal behaviors, group behaviors, and social issues to inform opinions and decisions.

Benchmark: Tell the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision-making.

Indicators: Describe how society practices social control through the law making process.
Explain how the process of socialization leads individuals to become participatory citizens of society.
Interpret the principle of majority rules, minority rights.

Standard II. Analyze relationships between economic systems and their interdependence in the modern world.

Benchmark: Recognize the function of common financial instruments.

Indicators: Explain the role of taxes in society.
Describe different financial investments, such as mutual funds, stocks and bonds.

Benchmark: Describe the functions of economic institutions.

Indicators: Describe the basic functions of money and its relationship to the money supply.
Explain the effects of banks and other financial institutions on the economy.
Interpret the effects of government policies on economic institutions.

Benchmark: Identify the role of scarcity and economic trade offs and how economic conditions impact people's lives.

Indicators: Demonstrate the production possibilities curve.
Analyze the impact of increases in wages or a change in government policy.
Predict long term unintended consequences of economic choices made by individuals, business, and government.
Describe the unemployment rate.



Benchmark: Identify the local, state, regional, national, and international factors that create patterns of interdependence in the global economy.

Indicators: Explain the difference and interaction between domestic and global economic systems.
Justify government subsidies to industries and the effects on global trade.

Standard III. Analyze the interrelationship of people, places and environments to understand societies.

Benchmark: Analyze how cultural factors influence the design of human communities.

Indicators: Summarize how people create places that reflect culture, government policy, and ideals.

Standard IV. Investigate historical interactions to determine the development and evolution of societies.

Benchmark: Recognize how and why people create, maintain, or change systems of power, authority, and governance.

Indicators: Identify the purpose of government and how its powers have been acquired, used, and justified.
Explain the role of major and minor political parties.

Standard V. Apply knowledge of democratic principles and various political systems through life long civic action.

Benchmark: Explain the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

Indicators: Explain rights, roles, and status of the individual in relation to the general welfare.
Describe the importance of the participation of an attentive, knowledgeable, and competent citizenry on constitutional democracy.
Indicate that personal, political, and economic rights are secured by constitutional government, the rule of law, checks and balances, an independent judiciary, and a vigilant citizenry.
Demonstrate ways citizens participate in the political process at local, state and national levels.
Synthesize the importance of becoming knowledgeable about public affairs.

Benchmark: Examine how the government established by the Constitution embodies the enduring values and principles of democracy and republicanism.

Indicators: Explain the role of government in major areas of domestic and foreign policy.



Express the central ideas of American constitutional government and how this form of government has shaped the character of American society.

Benchmark: Differentiate the purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the Constitution.

Indicators: Explain the purpose of government and how its powers are acquired, used, and justified.
Interpret the purposes, organization, and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

Benchmark: Compare the differences among the complex levels of local, state, and national government and their inherent, expressed, and implied powers.

Indicators: Explain federalism and how it prevents the abuse of power at the national, state, and local levels using a system of checks and balances.
Identify inherent, expressed, and implied powers.

Benchmark: Evaluate strategies for effective political action that impact local, state, and national levels of governance.

Indicators: Describe the benefits of participation in civic and political life.
Examine the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political beliefs, and civic beliefs in a diverse American society.

Benchmark: Identify how law and public policy are established at the local, state, and national levels of government.

Indicators: Explain the purposes and the functions of laws.
Analyze the process by which public policy concerning a local, state, or national issue is formed and carried out.

Benchmark: Assess the role of the United States in current and world affairs.

Indicators: Give examples of conditions, actions and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among nations.
Recognize the influence that American ideas about rights have had abroad and how other peoples' ideas rights have influenced Americans.

Standard VI. Evaluate and synthesize information to communicate an understanding of knowledge relative to social science content.

Benchmark: Determine the central ideas or information to communicate an understanding of knowledge relative to social science content.

Indicators: Explain and analyze the main ideas of written documents.



Interpret primary sources and apply to today.

Benchmark: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social studies.

Indicators: Apply learned vocabulary through various writings and presentations.

Benchmark: Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence.

Indicators: Compare and contrast information from a variety of sources.

Benchmark: Write informative/explanatory texts, focused on discipline-specific content.

Indicators: Develop responses to various content topics.

Benchmark: Prepare long and short-term writing assignments and research projects that focus on reflection, revision and audience specific content.

Indicators: Generate written responses to various content topics.
Synthesize information to explain content topics.

