

**URBANDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK OUTLINE**

SUBJECT: Social Studies
COURSE TITLE: American Government
GRADE LEVEL: 12
PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: American Government is a one semester required course for graduation. Students study a basic overview of the historical development, political process, and the three branches of government. The focus is the national government with additional information on state and local.

UCSD CONTENT STANDARDS:

In order that students achieve the maximum benefit from their talents and abilities, the students of Urbandale Community School District's American Government 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.

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 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 of a primary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationship among the key ideas.

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.

By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend history/social studies text.

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 topics using multiple sources.



**URBANDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK OUTLINE**

SUBJECT: Social Studies
COURSE TITLE: American Government
GRADE LEVEL: 12
PREREQUISITES: None

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

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 socializations 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.
Analyze the creation of the federal budget and the functioning of the government.

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 that constitutional democracy requires the participation of an attentive, knowledgeable, and competent citizenry.
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 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 functions of law.
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 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 about 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 of a primary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationship among the key ideas.

Indicators: Explain the main ideas of written documents.
Review primary sources.

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: Demonstrate knowledge of vocabulary.
Analyze information using vocabulary.

Benchmark: By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend history/social studies text.

Indicators: Summarize key information obtained through text.
Apply information to solve issues of today.

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

Indicators: Construct responses to various content topics.

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



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

