

**Content Area: Social Studies**  
**Grade/Course: Political Science/ Government / ACCN: No ACCN**

<b>Strand</b>
<b>Standard 1: Understand how the concepts of governance, power, authority, and democratic ideals are embodied in the United States Constitution</b>

<b>Topic</b>	Political Institutions		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.1.1</b>	Explain how the United States exhibits essential characteristics of limited government (e.g., constitutional restraints on power and authority, rule of law, political and economic freedoms)		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Makes connections between acts of government not allowed in the United States and what part of the Constitution makes each act illegal.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Explain, with clear and precise detail, how the United States exhibits essential characteristics of limited government	Explain, with detail, how the United States exhibits essential characteristics of limited government	Explain, with minimal detail, how the United States exhibits essential characteristics of limited government	Ineffectively explain how the United States exhibits essential characteristics of limited government

<b>Topic</b>	Political Institutions		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.1.2</b>	Compare different forms of government (e.g., federal and unitary systems; parliamentary systems; systems of shared power), explaining the potential and limitations of each		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Differentiates one form of government from another by listing attributes of each form in a chart or graphic organizer.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Compare different forms of government, explaining the potential and limitations of each with clear and precise detail	Compare different forms of government, explaining the potential and limitations of each with detail	Compare different forms of government, explaining the potential and limitations of each with limited detail.	Ineffectively compare different forms of government

<b>Topic</b>	Political Documents		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.1.3</b>	Explain the importance of fundamental political documents (e.g., Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Articles of Confederation, Virginia Plan) to the American system of government		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Describes how the American system of government might be different today if there was no Bill of Rights.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Explain the importance of fundamental political	Explain the importance of fundamental political	Explain the importance of fundamental political	Ineffectively explain the importance of

documents to the American system of government, drawing relevant conclusions supported by clear and precise detail	documents to the American system of government, drawing relevant conclusion	documents to the American system of government, drawing partially relevant conclusions	fundamental political documents to the American system of government
--	---	--	--

<b>Topic</b>	Values and Principles of Democracy
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.1.4</b>	Investigate issues in which the fundamental values and principles of American democracy may be in conflict (e.g., majority rule and minority rights, liberty and equality, individual rights and the common good, privacy and the public's right to know)
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Researches a historic or contemporary example of the government's use of eminent domain laws to take property for the common good or the use of warrants to search personal property, identifying the specific conflict of public and private interest.

<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Investigate issues in which the fundamental values and principles of American democracy may be in conflict, drawing relevant conclusions supported by clear and precise detail	Investigate issues in which the fundamental values and principles of American democracy may be in conflict, drawing relevant conclusions	Investigate issues in which the fundamental values and principles of American democracy may be in conflict, drawing partially relevant conclusions	Investigate issues in which the fundamental values and principles of American democracy may be in conflict, drawing irrelevant conclusions

**Strand**

**Standard 2: Understand the role of United States policies in international relations**

<b>Topic</b>	Foreign Policy
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.2.1</b>	Explain the forces that influence United States foreign policy (e.g., business and labor organizations, interest groups, public opinion, ethnic and religious organizations)
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Identifies interest groups that actively lobby for a particular foreign policy issue and describes their purposes and goals.

<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Explain, with clear and precise detail, the forces that influence United States foreign policy	Explain, with detail, the forces that influence United States foreign policy	Explain, with minimal detail, the forces that influence United States foreign policy	Ineffectively explain the forces that influence United States foreign policy

<b>Topic</b>	Foreign Policy
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.2.2</b>	Explain the strategies used to carry out United States foreign policy (e.g., diplomacy; economic, military, and humanitarian aid; treaties; sanctions; military intervention; covert action)

<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Explains methods used to carry out a particular policy in U.S. international relations (e.g., U.S. sanctions on Iran, North Korea, or Cuba).		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Explain, with clear and precise detail, the strategies used to carry out United States foreign policy	Explain, with detail, the strategies used to carry out United States foreign policy	Explain, with minimal detail, the strategies used to carry out United States foreign policy	Ineffectively explain the strategies used to carry out United States foreign policy

<b>Topic</b>	International Organizations		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.2.4</b>	Explain the influence of international organizations (e.g., NATO, United Nations, World Trade Organization) on U.S. foreign and domestic policies		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Explains the influence of the Convention on Climate Change on U.S. environmental policy.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Explain, with clear and precise detail, the influence of international organizations on U.S. foreign and domestic policy	Explain, with detail, the influence of international organizations on U.S. foreign and domestic policy	Explain, with minimal detail, the influence of international organizations on U.S. foreign and domestic policy	Ineffectively explain the influence of international organizations on U.S. foreign and domestic policy

<b>Topic</b>	Political Institutions		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.2.5</b>	Describe the powers and responsibilities of the President and Congress in the area of foreign affairs and national security		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Reads Articles I and II of the U.S. Constitution and explains the powers related to foreign affairs that are shared between the executive and legislative branches.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Describe, with clear and precise detail, the powers and responsibilities of the President and Congress in the area of foreign affairs and national security	Describe, with detail, the powers and responsibilities of the President and Congress in the area of foreign affairs and national security	Describe, with minimal detail, the powers and responsibilities of the President and Congress in the area of foreign affairs and national security	Ineffectively describe the powers and responsibilities of the President and Congress in the area of foreign affairs and national security

<b>Strand</b>	
<b>Standard 3: Understand the political party system and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of American citizens</b>	

<b>Topic</b>	Citizenship
--------------	-------------

<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.3.1</b>	Identify ways to be an active citizen (e.g., through volunteerism, activism, voting, socially responsible actions) who affects positive change in the community, state, nation, or world		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Creates a plan for the community that will better the conditions of local natural resources.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Identify a wide variety of ways to be an active citizen who affects positive change in the community, state, nation, or world	Identify a variety of ways to be an active citizen who affects positive change in the community, state, nation, or world	Identify some ways to be an active citizen who affects positive change in the community, state, nation, or world	Identify very few ways to be an active citizen who affects positive change in the community, state, nation, or world

<b>Topic</b>	Citizenship		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.3.2</b>	Describe the importance of civic dispositions or virtues to the preservation and improvement of civil society and government		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Explains why civic dispositions (e.g., tolerance, fairness, respect for the opinions of others, commitment to the truth, civility) are needed for effective citizenship in a constitutional democracy.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Describe the importance of civic dispositions or virtues to the preservation and improvement of civil society and government, providing relevant examples supported by clear and precise detail	Describe the importance of civic dispositions or virtues to the preservation and improvement of civil society and government, using relevant examples	Describe the importance of civic dispositions or virtues to the preservation and improvement of civil society and government, using partially relevant examples	Ineffectively describe the importance of civic dispositions or virtues to the preservation and improvement of civil society and government

**Strand**

**Standard 2: Understand the role of United States policies in international relations**

<b>Topic</b>	Foreign Policy		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG 2.3</b>	Examine critical foreign policy issues and critique a recent administration's success in dealing with them		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Evaluates the Bush administration's foreign policy in Iraq and Afghanistan.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Examine critical foreign policy issues and critique a recent administration's success in dealing with them, presenting clear	Examine critical foreign policy issues and critique a recent administration's success in dealing with	Examine critical foreign policy issues and critique a recent administration's success in dealing with them, presenting	Examine critical foreign policy issues and critique a recent administration's success in dealing with them, presenting weak

and precise supporting evidence	them, presenting supporting evidence	minimal supporting evidence	evidence or no evidence
---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------

**Strand**

**Standard 3: Understand the political party system and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of American citizens**

<b>Topic</b>	Election Process		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.3.3</b>	Assess the impact of the media on American politics. (e.g., campaigns, elections, the aims of political parties)		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Evaluates the degree to which the televising of the Vietnam war affected American politics.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Assess the impact of the media on American politics, drawing relevant conclusions supported by clear and precise detail	Assess the impact of the media on American politics, drawing relevant conclusions	Assess the impact of the media on American politics, drawing partially relevant conclusions	Ineffectively assess the impact of the media on American politics

<b>Topic</b>	Election Process		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.3.4</b>	Compare the positions of political parties on contemporary issues based on their differing ideologies		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Compares the positions of different political parties on contemporary issues such as the death penalty, abortion, global warming, and immigration.		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Evaluate the positions of political parties on contemporary issues based on differing ideologies	Compare the positions of political parties on contemporary issues based on differing ideologies	Describe the positions of political parties on contemporary issues based on differing ideologies	Recognize the positions of political parties on contemporary issues based on differing ideologies

<b>Topic</b>	Public Policy		
<b>Benchmark SS.PSG.3.5</b>	Explain how the public agenda is set by political leaders, institutions, parties, and citizens		
<b>Sample Performance Assessment (SPA)</b>	The student: Describes influences on public policy by citing a recent example of an issue that has increased in visibility (e.g., gay marriage, global warming).		
<b>Rubric</b>			
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b>	<b>Novice</b>
Explain, with clear and precise detail, how the public agenda is set by political leaders,	Explain, with detail, how the public agenda is set by political leaders, institutions, parties, and citizens	Explain, with minimal detail, how the public agenda is set by political leaders,	Ineffectively explain how the public agenda is set by political leaders, institutions, parties, and citizens

institutions, parties, and citizens		institutions, parties, and citizens	
-------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------	--