

History – Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools

Grade 12 - Principles of American Democracy



The California State Board of Education is committed to history-social science education. This commitment reflects two major concerns:

- ❖ the teaching of critical thinking skills
- ❖ the emphasis on history and social science content.

In SIRS' study of the California core academic content standards, we see a direct correlation between the goals and objectives that are emphasized and the framework upon which SIRS Interactive Citizenship has been developed. The twelfth grade Academic Content Standards emphasize the necessity of understanding the "roles of significant individuals throughout history and the need to convey the rights and obligations of citizenship."

SIRS Interactive Citizenship's content emphasizes the generalizations and concepts that act as the framework for understanding democratic political institutions and their emergence throughout history, while the Discovery and Inquiry activities and related chapter lessons exemplify our commitment to critical thinking skills.

What Citizens Need to Know About Government, addresses the American democracy concepts taught in **Grade 12-Principles of American Democracy and Economics**. It presents a framework for understanding America's ongoing struggle to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution and each citizen's role in this democracy. Through this framework, students are able to "make the connection between the past and the present as well as appreciate universal historical themes and dilemmas" by accessing primary sources such as biographies, documents, diaries, letters, legends, speeches, and links to related articles and Web sites while focusing on the basic concepts of government. Thus, students are developing the "intellectual, reasoning, reflection, and research skills" deemed necessary by the California Public Schools Framework.

The Economics component of the 12th grade curriculum will be addressed in a future SIRS Interactive Citizenship product.

Recognizing that, "the guidance in History – Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools is not binding on local educational agencies or other entities," SIRS Interactive Citizenship can be readily adapted and individualized to local school districts' curriculum framework.

<<http://www.cde.ca.gov/board/pdf/history.pdf>>[2001, August 21]



California Academic Content Standards

Grade 12 Principles of American Democracy
correlation with

What Citizens Need to Know About Government



12.1 Students explain the fundamentals of principles and moral values of American democracy, as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.

1. Analyze the influence of ancient Greek, Roman, English, and leading European political thinkers such as John Locke, Charles-Louis Montesquieu, Niccolò Machiavelli, and William Blackstone on the development of American government.

- Chapter 1 emphasizes the importance of government and the moral values upon which democracy is based. Political thinkers are discussed and direct links are provided to Web sites for all of the philosophers mentioned in the Standards.

2. Discuss the character of American democracy and its promise and perils as articulated by Alexis de Tocqueville.

*- Chapter 2 discusses separation of powers, checks and balances, branches of government and the Federalist Papers.
- Alexis de Tocqueville's "Democracy in America" is featured in Chapters 3 and 23 with direct links to Web sites which profile his life and works.*

3. Explain how the U.S. Constitution reflects a balance between the classical liberal concern with protecting individual rights; and how the basic premises of liberal constitutionalism and democracy are joined in the Declaration of Independence as "self evident truths."

*- Chapter 3 discusses the U.S. Constitution, and describes the theory of loose construction and strict construction, the elastic clause and judicial review.
- The Declaration of Independence is discussed in Chapter 1.*

4. Explain how the Founding Fathers' realistic view of human nature led directly to the establishment of a constitutional system that limited the power of the governors and the governed as articulated in the *Federalist Papers*.

- In Chapter 2 human nature is discussed and direct links are provided to the Federalist Papers.

5. Describe the systems of separated and shared powers, the role of organized interests (Federalist Paper Number 10), checks and balances (Federalist Papers Number 51), the importance of an independent judiciary (Federalist Papers Number 78), enumerated powers, rule of law, federalism, and civilian control of the military.

- Chapter 2 describes separation of powers and checks and balances, and refers to the Federalist Papers.

6. Understand that the Bill of Rights limits the powers of the federal government and state government.

- Chapter 9, The Bill of Rights and Minority Rights profiles well-known leaders for Civil Rights, Susan B. Anthony, and Martin Luther King. Links are provided directly to the Bill of Rights, many Supreme Court cases and historic places of the Civil Rights movement.

12.2 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights, and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.

1. Discuss the meaning and importance of each of the rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights and how each is secured (e.g., freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, petition, privacy).

- Chapter 9 details the rights of individuals as stated in the Bill of Rights and Constitution with links to the Bill of Rights and major Supreme Court cases that address these rights, links to Web sites, such as Harvard University's Civil Rights Project and Americans with Disabilities Act Document Center.

2. Explain how economic rights are secured and their importance to the individual and to society (e.g., the right to acquire, use, transfer, and dispose of property; right to choose one's work; right to join or not join labor unions; copyright and patent).

- Chapter 25 traces the labor movement and the economic rights of the individual with links to articles and Web sites, such as OSHA.

3. Discuss the individual's legal obligations to obey the law, serve as a juror, and pay taxes.

- Legal obligations are described in many chapters, the justice system is outlined in Chapter 7 and taxation is discussed in Chapter 11.

4. Understand the obligations of civic-mindedness, including voting, being informed on civic issues, volunteering and performing public service, and serving in the military or alternative service.

- Chapter 15 discusses voting restrictions, voting process, the Electoral College and other civic issues and links to a Web page about the Electoral College.

5. Describe the reciprocity between rights and obligations; that is why enjoyment of one's rights entails respect for the rights of others.

- Rights and obligations are consistent themes throughout the book.

6. Explain how one becomes a citizen of the United States, including the process of naturalization (e.g., literacy, language, and other requirements).

- Chapter 14 discusses the responsibilities of citizenship with links to the Immigration and Naturalization Web page and other immigration Web sites.

12.3 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are i.e., the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations that are not part of government), their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society.

- Chapter 17 discusses how the public's demand for ethical standards from politicians has influenced governmental reforms.

1. Explain how civil society provides opportunities for individuals to associate for social, cultural, religious, economic, and political purposes.

- Chapter 1 presents a comparative analysis of various forms of government with examples from the past and present.

2. Explain how civil society makes it possible for people, individually or in association with others, to bring their influence to bear on government in ways other than voting and elections.

- Chapter 9 links to Supreme Court decisions that illustrate an individual's ability to affect the judiciary.
- Chapter 13 discusses public opinion polls, pressure groups, lobbies and political action groups.

3. Discuss the historical role of religion and religious diversity.

- The role of religion is discussed in the section on the Bill of Rights and minority rights. Web site links are provided.

4. Compare the relationship of government and civil society in constitutional democracies to the relationship of government and civil society in authoritarian and totalitarian regimes.

- Part II of What Citizens Need to Know About Government is devoted to Problems of Government including: Ethics, Environment, Agriculture, Health Care, Poverty, Education, Transportation, Business, Labor, Cities, National Defense, and Foreign Policy.

12.4 Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.

- Chapter 3 links to the U.S. Constitution and discusses Articles I, II, III, and details the process for amending this document.

1. Discuss Article I of the Constitution as it relates to the legislative branch, including eligibility for office and lengths of terms of representatives and senators; election to office, the roles of the House and Senate in impeachment proceedings; the role of the vice president; the enumerated legislative powers; and the process by which a bill becomes a law.

- Chapter 6 details the Legislative Branches of Government.

2. Explain the process through which the Constitution can be amended.

- The amendment process is discussed in Chapter 3 and articles are linked.

3. Identify their current representatives in the legislative branch of the national government.

- Chapter 6 provides links to the House of Representatives and the Senate Web pages.

4. Discuss Article II of the Constitution as it relates to the executive branch, including eligibility for office and length of term, election to and removal from office, the oath of office, and the enumerated executive powers.

- Chapter 4 discusses qualifications of the President and the responsibilities of the office. There is discussion of impeachment and direct links to articles about the history of impeachment and Web sites to Presidential libraries.

5. Discuss Article III of the Constitution as it relates to judicial power, including the lengths of terms of judges and the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

- Chapter 7 discusses the judiciary and the powers awarded to it by the Constitution.

6. Explain the processes of selection and confirmation of Supreme Court justices.

- Chapter 7 discusses the vote of the Supreme Court with Web site links to the Court. U.S. Supreme Court decisions are discussed in Web sites.

12.5 Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.

1. Understand the changing interpretations of the Bill of Rights over time, including interpretations of basic freedoms (religion, speech, press, petition, and assembly) articulated in the First Amendment and the due process and equal-protection-of-the-law clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.

- Chapter 3 links to the Bill of Rights, and has a complete discussion of the meaning of the Bill of Rights.

2. Analyze judicial activism and judicial restraint and the effects of each policy over the decades (e.g., the Warren and Rehnquist courts).

- Chapter 9 discusses the rights of individuals as stated in the Constitution and the landmark Supreme Court decisions stated in the objectives. The effects of the Court's interpretations of the Constitution are presented.

3. Evaluate the effects of the Court's interpretations of the Constitution of *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, and *United States v. Nixon*, with emphasis on the arguments espoused by each side in these cases.

- Chapter 4 provides a link to the minority and majority opinion for United States v. Nixon. Links are provided to Marbury v. Madison, and McCulloch v. Maryland.

4. Explain the controversies that have resulted over changing interpretations of civil rights, including those in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Miranda v. Arizona*, *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Pena*, and *United States v. Virginia (VMI)*.

- Chapter 9 covers Civil Rights decisions in Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education, Miranda v. Arizona. Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Pena, and United States v. Virginia. All major Supreme Court cases can be accessed through SIRS Government Reporter.

12.6 Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.

1. Analyze the origin, development and role of political parties, noting those occasional periods in which there was only one major party or were more than two major parties.

- Chapter 16 outlines the history of the two party system. Links to the Web sites for the Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian are provided.

2. Discuss the history of the nomination process for presidential candidates and the increasing importance of primaries in general elections.

- Chapter 15 highlights the voting process and Presidential elections.

3. Evaluate the roles of polls, campaign advertising, and the controversies over campaign funding.

- Chapter 13 discusses straw polls, selective sample polls, and exit polls.

4. Describe the means that citizens use to participate in the political process (e.g., voting, campaigning, lobbying, filing a legal challenge, demonstrating, petitioning, picketing, running for political office).

- Chapter 13 discusses press, polls, and lobbies.

5. Discuss the features of direct democracy in numerous states (e.g., the process of referendums, recall elections).

- Referendum and recall are discussed in Chapter 15.

6. Analyze trends in voter turnout; the causes and effects of reapportionment and redistricting, with special attention to spatial districting and the rights of minorities; and the function of the Electoral College.

- A link to the Electoral College Web page in Chapter 15 provides statistical information on past and present presidential elections.

12.7 Students analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.

*- A direct link is provided to the Iroquois Constitution and to Tribal Governments.
- Chapter 10 discusses the relationship between national and state governments and provides information on States' Rights.*

1. Explain how conflicts between levels of government and branches of government are resolved.

- Chapter 1 discusses concurrent governmental powers as well as providing links to tribal government Web sites.

2. Identify the major responsibilities and sources of revenue for state and local governments.

- Chapter 12 discusses paying for Government.

3. Discuss reserved powers and concurrent powers of state governments.

- Powers of state government are discussed in Chapter 10. Web site links are provided to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

4. Discuss the Ninth and Tenth Amendments and interpretations of the extent of the federal government's power.

- Chapter 11 describes the role local government plays within a state's structure.

5. Explain how public policy is formed, including the setting of the public agenda and implementation of it through regulations and executive orders.

- Executive orders are discussed in Chapter 3.

6. Compare the processes of lawmaking at each of the three levels of government, including the role of lobbying and the media.

- Chapters 27 and 28 discuss the scope of Presidential powers within the context of national and world affairs.

7. Identify the organization and jurisdiction of federal, state, and local (e.g., California) courts and the interrelationships among them.

- State and local governments are discussed in Chapters 10 and 11.

8. Understand the scope of presidential and decision making through examination of case studies such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, passage of Great Society legislation, War Powers Act, Gulf War, and Bosnia.

- Chapter 3 discusses decision making of the president.

12.8 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.

1. Discuss the meaning and importance of a free and responsible press.

- The issue of a free press is described in Chapter 13 and links are provided to articles.

2. Describe the roles of broadcast, print, and electronic media, including the Internet, as a means of communication.

- Chapter 13 discusses the role the media plays in a free society.

3. Explain how public officials use the media to communicate with the citizenry and to shape public opinion.

- Chapter 4 on the Presidency discusses press conferences and public relations.

12.9 Students analyze the origins, characteristics, and developments of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for the political democracy, its advances, and its obstacles.

- Chapter 27 discusses national defense issues in light of historical and current events, with links to the Atlantic Charter, NATO, and various treaties between the United States and other countries.

1. Explain how the different philosophies and structures of feudalism, mercantilism, socialism, fascism, communism, monarchies, parliamentary systems, and constitutional liberal democracies influence economic policies, social welfare policies, and human rights practices.

- Chapter 1 outlines the different underlying philosophies of different forms of government emphasizing command, custom and consent.

12.10 Students formulate questions about and defend their analyses of tensions within our constitutional democracy and the importance of maintaining a balance between the following concepts: majority rule and individual rights; liberty and equality; state and national authority in a federal system; civil disobedience and the rule of law; freedom of the press and the right to fair trial; the relationship of religion and government.

- Chapters 9 and 10 contain links to current articles and Web sites that foster discussions of timely issues affecting the individuals in U.S. society, such as women's rights, minority rights, and Americans with disabilities.