

Honors American Government/Civics A

Pacing Guide

Houston Virtual

In American Government/Civics, students examine the history, principles, and function of the political system established by the U.S. Constitution. Starting with a basic introduction to the role of government in society and the philosophies at the heart of American democracy, this course provides students with the knowledge needed to be informed and empowered participants in the U.S. political system. Through critical reading activities, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments, students develop their capacity to conduct research, analyze sources, make arguments, and take informed action. In written assignments, students address critical questions about U.S. politics and the role of individual Americans in the politics and political organizations. In discussion activities, students respond to political opinions, take a position, and defend their own claims. Formative and summative assessments provide students — and teachers — with ample opportunities to check in, review, and evaluate students' progress in the course. This course is built to state standards and informed by the College, Career, and Civil Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards and the National Standard for Civics and Government.

Unit 1 – Introduction to U.S. Government (Weeks 1-2)

LESSON 1: Essential Skills
LESSON 2: Ideas about Government
LESSON 3: Origins of U.S. Government
LESSON 4: Wrap-Up: Introduction to U.S. Government

Unit 2 – The U.S. Constitution (Weeks 3-5)

LESSON 1: Establishing the Constitution
LESSON 2: Examining the Constitution
LESSON 3: Federalism in the United States
LESSON 4: Wrap-Up: The U.S. Constitution

Unit 3 – Institutions of the Federal Government (Weeks 6-8)

LESSON 1: The Executive Branch
LESSON 2: The Judicial Branch
LESSON 3: The Legislative Branch
LESSON 4: Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 4 – Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (Weeks 9-11)

LESSON 1: Foundational Freedoms
LESSON 2: Interpreting Civil Liberties
LESSON 3: Fighting for Civil Rights
LESSON 4: Wrap-Up: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 5 – Citizen Connections (Weeks 12-13)

- LESSON 1: Institutions with Influence**
- LESSON 2: Elections and Campaigns**
- LESSON 3: State and Local Government**
- LESSON 4: Wrap-Up: Citizen Connections**

Unit 6 – Public Policy (Weeks 14-15)

- LESSON 1: Understanding Public Policy**
- LESSON 2: Domestic Policy**
- LESSON 3: Foreign Policy**
- LESSON 4: Wrap-Up: Public Policy**

Unit 7 – Civic and Political Participation (Weeks 16-17)

- LESSON 1: The Role of Citizens**
- LESSON 2: Voting**
- LESSON 3: Further Political Participation**
- LESSON 4: Wrap-Up: Civic and Political Participation**

Unit 8 – Semester Review and Exam (Week 18)

- LESSON 1: Semester Review and Exam**