

2022 - 2023, HS, United States Government and Civics, Quarter 1

Students examine the principles of American government, as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American federalism, by studying the units of **Foundations of Constitutional Government**, **Citizen Participation**, and the **Legislative Branch**. This course complies with [T.C.A. § 49-6-1028](#) and [T.C.A. § 49-6-1011](#). Compliance with [Federal Mandate 36 U.S. Code § 106](#) and [Freedom Week TCA § 49-6-1014](#) are part of quarter one instruction.

Tennessee State Standards and Learning Expectations

Foundations of Constitutional Government

GC.01 Examine the influences of leading European thinkers (e.g., John Locke, Charles-Louis Montesquieu, Thomas Hobbes) and other roots of American government (e.g., Greek democracy, Roman Republic, *Magna Carta*). (C, E)

- Read and understand primary source documents (particularly John Locke’s and Jean Jacques Rousseau’s writings) that the Framers used as references in creating the American political system.
- Explain the Social Contract Theory and make a connection between it and the overall purpose of government, particularly, the U.S. Government.

GC.02 Examine the Declaration of Independence and American grievances against British rule. (H)

- Cite evidence from the *Magna Carta*, Petition of Right, and English Bill of Rights and explain how the British government violated the rights of American colonists and how this led to the Declaration of Independence.

GC.03 Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. (H)

- Define confederation and explain the structure of government and weaknesses the United States faced under the Articles of Confederation.

GC.04 Discuss the Constitutional Convention of 1787, including the Great Compromise and the ensuing debate over ratification between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists. (H)

- Explain why the Founding Fathers set up our government as they did, explaining differences between the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution.
- Explain the details of the Virginia Plan and New Jersey Plan and what led to the Great Compromise.
- Explain the distinct positions of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, including views on government power, key political figures, and economic interests.

HONORS: *Cite evidence from the Federalist and Anti-Federalist papers concerning the fight over ratification.*

GC.05 Describe the purposes and functions of government as outlined in the Preamble of the Constitution.

- Define and supply examples for each of the six basic principles of the U.S. Constitution, including checks and balances, separation of powers, limited government, federalism, judicial review, and popular sovereignty.

GC.06 Describe limited government within the Constitution, including:

- checks and balances
- civilian control of the military

- federalism
- judicial review
- popular sovereignty
- rule of law
- separation of powers
- Define judicial review and explain how *Marbury v. Madison* established it.
- Define rule of law.
- Define federalism and explain how it relates to concurrent, enumerated (delegated), and reserved powers as well as plot the powers on a Venn Diagram.
- Explain how checks and balances, civilian control of the military, federalism, judicial review, popular sovereignty, rule of law, and separation of powers limits the power of government.

HONORS: *Analyze and cite evidence from Federalist 51 concerning checks and balances.*

GC.07 Describe the structure of the Constitution and the process to amend it.

- Summarize the seven articles of the U.S. Constitution.
- Explain the two methods of proposing constitutional amendments from Article V of the U.S. Constitution and why the Founding Fathers set it up this way, including difficult and lengthy process, emphasis on federalism and checks and balances between states and federal government.

GC.08 Analyze how the Bill of Rights limits the powers of the government and ensures individual rights. (*T.C.A. § 49-6-1028*) (C)

- Summarize the first eight Amendments and explain the personal protections they guarantee for citizens.
- Explain the relationship between the 9th and 10th Amendments and federalism.
- Using examples, explain the relationship between national and state governments, emphasizing how and why conflicts arise in a federalist system and how they are resolved with the Supremacy Clause and checks and balances.

GC.09 Define the concepts of democracy and republic and examine the relationship between the two.

- Explain the difference between a “constitutional republic” and a “constitutional democracy,” give an example of each, and find current events showing evidence of government limitations.

HONORS: *Cite examples of unitary, federal, and confederate government and explain how the United States relates to all three.*

Citizen Participation

GC.31 Describe what should be reasonably expected from any citizen or resident of the U.S., and explain why it is important for the well-being of the nation, including: (C, T)

- being informed on civic issues
- obeying the law
- paying taxes
- respecting the rights of others

- serving as a juror
- serving in the military or alternative service
- volunteering and performing public service
- voting
- Name the responsibilities of citizens including obeying the law, serving jury duty, and paying taxes.
- List various methods of communication used by public officials to connect to the public.
- List local requirements to serve on a jury and voting requirements, including establishing state citizenship.
- Describe the impact of voting and not voting.

GC.32 Explain the role of political parties in the nomination process for presidential candidates and the importance of and difference between primaries, caucuses, and general elections. (T)

- Create a timeline explaining how the United States developed into a two-party system and what factors continue to promote it.
- Define caucus (both Republican and Democratic), the two types of direct primaries (open and closed), and general elections and explain the difference.

GC.33 Describe the role of the media as a means of communicating information and how it influences the importance of issues and public opinion. (T)

- Describe how public opinion polls affect individual's voting behavior.
- Describe methods used in constructing public opinion polls and how the wording can affect poll results and voter behavior/response.
- Define media bias and cite textual examples to explain how the media influences public opinion about government and politics.
- List the means of political participation in the political process, emphasizing voting and recent voter behavior and turnout.

GC.34 Describe the means that citizens use to participate in the political process, including: (T)

- campaigning
- demonstrating
- lobbying
- petitioning
- running for office
- voting
- List ways citizens take part in government through petitions, protesting, and speaking at council meetings.
- Define initiative, referendum, and recall elections and explain how and why they help to increase political participation and voter turnout.

HONORS: *Explain how a person's political party affiliation is linked to certain social, economic, etc. indicators and how those patterns change over time.*

Legislative Branch

GC.35 Explain the requirements to be considered a natural-born U.S. citizen, and describe the process of naturalization, including the knowledge required by the Naturalization Test. (T)

- Identify the right of Congress to create rules on naturalization and explain the process of becoming a naturalized citizen.

HONORS: Answer the 100 question Naturalization Test as group work or individually and discuss your opinion of its validity.

GC.10 Analyze Article I and the 17th Amendment of the Constitution as they relate to the legislative branch, including eligibility for office, roles, length of terms, and election to office for representatives and senators, respectively. (H)

- List the constitutional qualifications to serve in the House of Representatives and Senate and terms in office and the role of the Vice-President.
- List informal qualifications for members of Congress.
- Explain the significance of the 17th amendment.
- Identify the length of a House of Representatives and Senators term, as well as a session and term of Congress.

GC.11 Describe the census and its role in redistricting and reapportionment, including the role of *Baker v. Carr*. (T)

- Explain the Supreme Court decision of *Baker v. Carr* and its role in the redistricting process.
- Explain the constitutional reason the government takes a census every ten years and how that census leads to reapportionment, redistricting, and gerrymandering.
- Evaluate how population shifts affect congressional representation.

GC.12 Identify leadership positions of the legislative branch, including:

- Majority and Minority leaders
- President pro tempore
- role of the vice president
- Speaker of the House
- Create a chart of Congressional leadership in both houses and explain the selection process for their respective positions.

GC.13 Describe the process of how a bill becomes a law.

- Create a flow chart of how a bill becomes a law, including the steps a bill takes through both houses of Congress and the differences between the process in the House and the Senate including House Rules Committee, filibuster, and cloture.

GC.14 Identify the Tennessee representatives and senators to U.S. Congress. (T)

- Name my current Representative for my district and the current U.S. Senators.

GC.15 Describe the powers of U.S. Congress, including: (H)

- appropriations
- commerce
- confirmations
- declaration of war
- implied powers
- Necessary and Proper Clause

- List and give historic examples of the enumerated powers of Congress, including the power to impeach, power to tax, borrow, and issue copyrights and patents.
- Explain Congress' role in the budget making process and name the most significant federal taxes collected today and describe federal borrowing.
- Explain the Commerce Clause and list historical examples of expansion and retraction over time.
- Explain the relationship between Congress and the President regarding foreign policy and why the U.S. Constitution is set up that way.
- List the offices that the Senate confirms and their role in Presidential confirmations.
- Define implied powers and explain its significance with the Necessary and Proper clause, explain why the Necessary and Proper clause is also known as the Elastic Clause and cite examples and explain the outcome of *McCulloch v. Maryland* as it relates to the Supremacy Clause.

HONORS: Define and explain senatorial courtesy.

C - culture, E - economics, G - geography, H - history, P - politics/government, T - Tennessee, TCA Tennessee Code Annotated (required)

2022 - 2023, HS, United States Government and Civics, Quarter 2

Students complete the examination of the federal government and Tennessee state government by studying the units of **The Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Civil Liberties, and Tennessee Government**. This course complies with [T.C.A. § 49-6-1028](#), and [T.C.A. § 49-6-1011](#).

Tennessee State Standards and Learning Expectations

Executive Branch

GC.16 Analyze Article II of the U.S. Constitution as it relates to the executive branch, including: (H)

- appointments
- Commander-in-chief of the military
- eligibility for office
- executive orders
- length of term (22nd Amendment)
- oath of office
- powers of the president
- succession (25th Amendment)
- treaties
- Explain the process of presidential appointments and name the various positions to be filled.
- Explain the significance of a civilian leader of the military and the impact of the War Powers Act of 1971.
- List and explain reasons why presidential powers have expanded by using textual evidence for support from historical examples.
- List the formal qualifications to serve as President.
- Explain the historical reasoning behind the 22nd Amendment.

- Describe the primary duties and powers of the Executive Branch as outlined in Article II of the U.S. Constitution.
- List and define the enumerated executive powers.
- Explain the significance of presidential succession and disability based on the 25th amendment.
- Create a chart of presidential succession and cite historical examples.
- Describe methods presidents use to influence events outside of the United States, including treaties, diplomacy, and military force.

HONORS: *Research the use of executive orders and present findings and compare how presidents have used over time.*

GC.17 Identify major departments of the executive branch, including:

- Defense
- Education
- Justice
- State
- Treasury
- List and describe the duties of the agencies used by the president in the executive branch.
- Identify historical policy changes in the major departments of the executive branch.
- Explain the relationship between the bureaucracy, standing committees, and interest groups and why people use the term “iron triangle” when referring to them.

GC.18 Explain the Electoral College system and compare and contrast arguments for and against it. (G, H)

- Explain how each state’s number of Electoral College electors is determined and explain the reasoning behind the establishment of the Electoral College including:
 - maintaining federalism
 - encourage national campaigns
 - prevent system fraud
 - prevent majority-rule tyranny.
- Explain how population shifts affect presidential elections and electoral votes.
- Explain how the President is selected when there is no candidate with a majority of electoral votes.

HONORS: *Compare arguments for and against the Electoral College and analyze and explain potential reforms, e.g., direct election, proportional allocation, congressional districts, and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.*

Judicial Branch

GC.19 Analyze Article III of the U.S. Constitution as it relates to judicial power, including the length of terms and the jurisdiction of the U.S. Supreme Court.

- Describe the primary duties and power of the Judicial Branch as outlined in Article III of the U.S. Constitution.

- Explain the process to remove a Supreme Court justice and historically analyze its relevance.

GC.20 Explain the processes of selection and confirmation of Supreme Court justices.

- Explain why the president nominates Supreme Court Justices and why the Senate confirms the nominations by 2/3rds of the Senators.

GC.21 Explain the process of judicial review established by *Marbury v. Madison*. (H, T)

- Define judicial review and give historical examples of relevant cases including its origin in *Marbury v. Madison*.

GC.22 Describe the Supreme Court’s role in determining the constitutionality of laws and acts of the legislative and executive branches. (T)

- List the various courts in the federal court system, including district courts, courts of appeals, and the Supreme Court and outline the process a case takes from its introduction to its final appeal.
- Define terms related to getting the Supreme Court to take a case, including “rule of four” and “*writ of certiorari*.”
- Define constitutional interpretation.
- Define judicial activism and judicial restraint and identify verdicts which demonstrate judicial activism and judicial restraint with evidence to support that opinion.

HONORS: Compose a paragraph with supporting details and court case examples arguing either for judicial activism (the U.S. Constitution is a “living document”) or for judicial restraint (it is to be interpreted by the “original intent” of the Founding Fathers).

HONORS: Identify the significance of the Warren, Burger, Rehnquist, and Roberts courts.

Civil Liberties

GC.23 Evaluate the Supreme Court’s interpretations of the freedoms articulated in the 1st Amendment, including: (H, T)

- *Schenck v. United States*
- *Engel v. Vitale*
- *Tinker v. Des Moines*
- *Lemon v. Kurtzman*
- *New York Times v. United States*
- *Miller v. California*
- *Texas v. Johnson*
- Explain the controversies resulting over the interpretations of civil liberties in speech, press, and the rights of students.
- Explain the concept of “clear and present danger” and how it applies to the 1st Amendment.
- Reference the 1st Amendment right of freedom of religion to explain the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause and how their interpretations have changed over time, including the Lemon Test.

GC.24 Explain the 2nd Amendment and evaluate its various interpretations. (T)

- Analyze the cases of *Heller v. District of Columbia* and *McDonald v. Chicago* and their effect on the 2nd Amendment and the states.

HONORS: Cite examples of different state laws concerning the 2nd amendment.

GC.25 Evaluate the Supreme Court’s interpretations of freedoms in the 4th through 8th Amendments, including: (H, T)

- *Mapp v. Ohio*
- *Gideon v. Wainwright*
- *Miranda v. Arizona*
- Use landmark cases to explain the reasoning for government limits to protect individual liberties involving search and seizure, right to an attorney, and right to remain silent as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

GC.26 Evaluate the Supreme Court’s interpretations of the freedoms in the 14th Amendment, equal protection, and due process clauses, including:

- *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- *Gitlow v. New York*
- *Brown v. Board of Education*
- *Roe v. Wade*
- *Obergefell v. Hodges*
- Explain incorporation doctrine.
- Articulate with textual evidence the interpretations of the basic freedoms in the 1st Amendment and the due process and equal protection-of-the-law clauses of the 14th Amendment using landmark Supreme Court decisions.

GC.27 Identify and explain legislation and legal precedents that established rights for the underserved, including Title IX and the Americans with Disabilities Act. (H, T)

- Identify the significance of the following in advancing the rights of minorities – disabled, Hispanics, and Asians including *Adarand Constructors v. Peña*, *Korematsu v. United States* and Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Identify the role of the Women’s Rights Movement and analyze the proposed and resulting legislation and legal precedents, such as the Equal Rights Amendment, Title IX, and/or the Pay Equity Act.

Tennessee State and Local Government

GC.28 Identify the functions of departments and agencies of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches in the state of Tennessee. (T)

- List duties of agencies within the executive branch.
- Define citizen-legislature and identify Tennessee’s General Assembly as such and how the Constitution limits their “legislative days” and the balance between the grand divisions within the state.

- Explain the Tennessee Plan and how it affects the state court system, along with the difference between Chancery, Criminal, Circuit Courts and name the current chief justice of the Tennessee State Supreme Court.

GC.29 Explain the differences among the types of local governments in Tennessee, including county, city, and metro governments, as well as the legal, fiscal, and operational relationships between them and the state government. (T)

- Define unitary government and show Tennessee as such.
- Define the structure of local governments including the mayoral model, commission model, metro model and specifically how it relates to Williamson County.
- Write an opinion piece with supporting details to explain the specific ways individuals can best serve their communities and take part in the political process at the local, state, and national levels of government.

GC.30 Identify the current governor of Tennessee and the representatives in the General Assembly. (T)

- Name the current Tennessee governor and the current Governor's three main priorities.
- Name who currently represents you in in the Tennessee Senate and House and your current senate and house voting district.

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