Subject Area: American Government

Unit 1: The Foundations of American Government

Unit Outcomes: Students will understand, explain, and analyze the foundations of American Government.

Objectives:
- Students will examine and analyze the principles of government: government and the state, forms of government, and basic concepts of democracy.
- Students will examine and analyze the origins of American government: our political beginnings, the coming of independence, the critical period, creating the Constitution, and ratifying the Constitution.
- Students will examine and analyze the U.S. Constitution: its six basic principles, the formal amendment process, and constitutional change by other means.
- Students will examine and analyze the principle of federalism: the division of power, the national government and the fifty states, interstate relations.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant current events topics.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant executive, legislative, and judicial decisions.

Essential Outcomes and Related Standards:
State Standard(s):
- 5.1.12.A: Evaluate the major arguments advanced for the necessity of government.
- 5.1.12.B: Analyze the sources, purposes and functions of law.
- 5.1.12.C: Evaluate the principles and ideals of civic life.
- 5.1.12.E: Evaluate the principles and ideals that shape the United States and compare them to documents of government.
- 5.1.12.H: Analyze the competing positions held by the framers of the basic documents of government of Pennsylvania and the United States.
- 5.1.12.I: Analyze historical examples of the importance of the rule of law explaining the sources, purposes and functions of law.
- 5.1.12.M: Evaluate and analyze the importance of significant political speeches and writings in civic life.
- 5.3.12.K: Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various systems of government.

Keystone Assessment Anchor(s):
- C.1.2.1: Analyze the characteristics of and methods employed by various systems of government to achieve their goals.
- C.1.2.2: Describe and analyze local, state, and federal roles in policy making by citing evidence of their authority to do so.
- C.1.3.1: Analyze the structure, organization, and operation of various levels of government as they relate to the creation of legislation and the enforcement of laws.
- C.2.3.2: Examine arguments for the necessity of government.
**Content and Instructional Activities:**

**Activities:**
- Lecture
- Note taking
- Class discussions
- Analysis of supplemental readings (primary and secondary sources)
- Topical current events presentations and analysis
- Cooperative and group activities
- Internet research
- Review Games
- Reading Apprenticeship strategies
- Googledocs interactive activities

**Remediation:**
- Outlines, notes, and textbook may be used on designated quizzes, tests, and essays
- Differentiated instruction for designated students or groups of students
- Additional review materials
- Assistance from special education teacher or aide

**Enrichment:**
- Supplemental readings suggested by teacher
- Independent research on topics suggested by teacher
- Research on designated websites

**Assessment Criteria:**
- Teacher developed quizzes, tests, and essays
- Primary source analysis assignments
- Free response essay assessments
- Class debates and discussions
- Current Events discussions and analysis: relevant political and civics topics
- Cooperative and groups projects

**Resources and Materials:**
- Textbook: *Magruder’s American Government*, Copyright, 2002 and accompanying teacher resources
- Supplemental resources (on-line news and journal sources, primary and secondary supplemental readings)
- Noteworthy historical documents
- Documentaries, videos, internet clips
- Student notebook, folder, hand-outs, and high-lighter
- Googledocs interactive features
Unit 2: Political Behavior: Government By the People

Unit Outcomes: Students will understand, explain, and analyze the concepts of political behavior and government by the people at the state and national level.

Objectives:
- Students will examine and analyze political parties: the purpose of parties, the two-party system, the history of the two-party system in the U.S., minor parties, and party organization.
- Students will examine and analyze the role of the voter and voter behavior: the right to vote, and voter qualifications.
- Students will examine and analyze the electoral process: the nominating process, elections, and the role of money in elections.
- Students will examine and analyze the media, technology, and public opinion: the formation of public opinion, measuring public opinion, and the role of mass media.
- Students will examine and analyze interest groups: the nature of interest groups, types of interest groups, and interest groups at work.
- Students will examine and analyze the role of symbols and holidays in society.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant current events topics.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant executive, legislative, and judicial decisions.

Essential Outcomes and Related Standards:
State Standard(s):
- 5.1.12.K: Analyze the roles of symbols and holidays in society.
- 5.2.12.A: Evaluate an individual's civic rights, responsibilities and duties in various governments.
- 5.2.12.E: Analyze how participation in civic and political life leads to the attainment of individual and public goals.
- 5.2.12.F: Evaluate how individual rights may conflict with or support the common good.
- 5.3.12.E: Evaluate the roles of political parties in election campaigns.
- 5.3.12.F: Evaluate the elements of the election process.
- 5.3.12.H: Evaluate the impact of interest groups on the political process.
- 5.3.12.J: Evaluate the role of media in political life in the United States and explain the role of the media in setting the public agenda.

Keystone Assessment Anchor(s):
- C.1.3.2: Analyze and describe election processes.
- C.2.2.1: Analyze the roles of political parties and special interest groups.
- C.2.2.2: Analyze the methods used to influence the political process, public policy, and public opinion.
- C.2.3.1: Analyze the application of civic principles and ideals in contemporary life.
- C.2.4.1: Critique the various roles that individuals, symbols, and symbolic events play.
- C.2.4.3: Analyze the role of media on the creation or resolution of conflict in society.
**Content and Instructional Activities:**

**Activities:**
- Lecture
- Note taking
- Class discussions
- Analysis of supplemental readings (primary and secondary sources)
- Topical current events presentations and analysis
- Cooperative and group activities
- Internet research
- Review Games
- Reading Apprenticeship strategies
- Googledocs interactive activities

**Remediation:**
- Outlines, notes, and textbook may be used on designated quizzes, tests, and essays
- Differentiated instruction for designated students or groups of students
- Additional review materials
- Assistance from special education teacher or aide

**Enrichment:**
- Supplemental readings suggested by teacher
- Independent research on topics suggested by teacher
- Research on designated websites

**Assessment Criteria:**
- Teacher developed quizzes, tests, and essays
- Primary source analysis assignments
- Free response essay assessments
- Class debates and discussions
- Current Events discussions and analysis: relevant political and civics topics
- Cooperative and groups projects

**Resources and Materials:**
- Textbook: *Magruder’s American Government*, Copyright, 2002 and accompanying teacher resources
- Supplemental resources (on-line news and journal sources, primary and secondary supplemental readings)
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- Documentaries, videos, internet clips
- Student notebook, folder, hand-outs, and high-lighter
- Googledocs interactive features
Unit 3: The Legislative Branch of the Government

Unit Outcomes: Students will understand, explain, and analyze the legislative branch of the government.

Objectives:
- Students will examine and analyze the U.S. Congress: the principle of a national legislature, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the members of Congress.
- Students will examine and analyze the powers of Congress: the scope of congressional powers, the expressed powers of money and commerce, other expressed powers, implied powers, and non-legislative powers.
- Students will examine and analyze Congress in action: congressional organization, congressional committees, how bills become laws in the House and the Senate.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant current events topics.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant executive, legislative, and judicial decisions.

Essential Outcomes and Related Standards:

State Standard(s):
- 5.3.12.B: Analyze the responsibilities and powers of the national government.
- 5.3.12.C: Evaluate the process of how a bill becomes the law on a federal, state, and local levels.
- 5.3.12.D: Evaluate how independent government agencies create, amend and enforce regulations.

Keystone Assessment Anchor(s):
- C.1.1.1: Evaluate the development and impact of domestic policy.
- C.1.2.1: Analyze the characteristics of and methods employed by various systems of government to achieve their goals.
- C.1.2.2: Describe and analyze local, state, and federal roles in policy making by citing evidence of their authority to do so.
- C.1.3.1: Analyze the structure, organization, and operation of various levels of government as they relate to the creation of legislation and the enforcement of laws.
- C.2.4.2: Evaluate strategies used to avoid or resolve conflict in society and government.

Content and Instructional Activities:

Activities:
- Lecture
- Note taking
- Class discussions
- Analysis of supplemental readings (primary and secondary sources)
- Topical current events presentations and analysis
- Cooperative and group activities
- Internet research
- Review Games
- Reading Apprenticeship strategies
- Googledocs interactive activities
Remediation:
- Outlines, notes, and textbook may be used on designated quizzes, tests, and essays
- Differentiated instruction for designated students or groups of students
- Additional review materials
- Assistance from special education teacher or aide

Enrichment:
- Supplemental readings suggested by teacher
- Independent research on topics suggested by teacher
- Research on designated websites

Assessment Criteria:
- Teacher developed quizzes, tests, and essays
- Primary source analysis assignments
- Free Response Essay assessments
- Class debates and discussions
- Current Events discussions and analysis: relevant political and civics topics
- Cooperative and groups projects

Resources and Materials:
- Textbook: *Magruder's American Government*, Copyright, 2002 and accompanying teacher resources
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- Googledocs interactive features
Unit 4: The Executive Branch of the Government

Unit Outcomes: Students will understand, explain, and analyze the executive branch of the government.

Objectives:
- Students will examine and analyze the presidency: the president’s duties, presidential succession and the vice presidency, presidential selection (the framers’ plan), presidential nominations, and the presidential election.
- Students will examine and analyze the presidency in action: the growth of presidential power, the executive, diplomatic, military, legislative, and judicial powers of the president.
- Students will examine and analyze government at work: federal bureaucracy, the executive office and departments, independent agencies, and the civil service.
- Students will examine and analyze the financing of government: taxes, nontax revenue and borrowing, spending and the budget.
- Students will examine and analyze foreign policy and national defense: foreign affairs and national security, other foreign and defense agencies, foreign aid, defense alliance, and an overview of American foreign policy.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant current events topics.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant executive, legislative, and judicial decisions.

Essential Outcomes and Related Standards:
State Standard(s):
- 5.2.12.D: Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.
- 5.3.12.A: Analyze and evaluate the structure, organization and operation of the local, state, and national governments including domestic and national policy-making.
- 5.3.12.B: Analyze the responsibilities and powers of the national government.
- 5.3.12.D: Evaluate how independent government agencies create, amend and enforce regulations.
- 5.3.12.I: Evaluate how and why government raises money to pay for its operations and services.
- 5.4.12.B: Analyze the United States’ interaction with other nations and government groups in world events.
- 5.4.12.C: Compare how past and present United States’ policy interests have changed over time and analyze the impact on future international relations.
- 5.4.12.D: Explain how foreign policy is developed and implemented.
- 5.4.12.E: Compare the purposes and functions of international organizations.

Keystone Assessment Anchor(s):
- C.1.1.1: Evaluate the development and impact of domestic policy.
- C.1.1.2: Explain how U.S. foreign policy is developed and analyze its domestic and global impacts.
- C.1.2.1: Analyze the characteristics of and methods employed by various systems of government to achieve their goals.
- C.1.2.2: Describe and analyze local, state, and federal roles in policy making by citing evidence of their authority to do so.
• C.1.3.1: Analyze the structure, organization, and operation of various levels of government as they relate to the creation of legislation and the enforcement of laws.
• C.1.4.1: Analyze the powers, influence, and limitations of government agencies in creating, amending, and enforcing policies.

**Content and Instructional Activities:**

**Activities:**
- Lecture
- Note taking
- Class discussions
- Analysis of supplemental readings (primary and secondary sources)
- Topical current events presentations and analysis
- Cooperative and group activities
- Internet research
- Review Games
- Reading Apprenticeship strategies
- Googledocs interactive activities

**Remediation:**
- Outlines, notes, and textbook may be used on designated quizzes, tests, and essays
- Differentiated instruction for designated students or groups of students
- Additional review materials
- Assistance from special education teacher or aide

**Enrichment:**
- Supplemental readings suggested by teacher
- Independent research on topics suggested by teacher
- Research on designated websites

**Assessment Criteria:**
- Teacher developed quizzes, tests, and essays
- Primary source analysis assignments
- Free response essay assessments
- Class debates and discussions
- Current Events discussions and analysis: relevant political and civics topics
- Cooperative and groups projects

**Resources and Materials:**
- Textbook: *Magruder’s American Government*, Copyright, 2002 and accompanying teacher resources
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- Student notebook, folder, hand-outs, and high-lighter
- Googledocs interactive features
Unit 5: The Judicial Branch of the Government

Unit Outcomes: Students will understand, explain, and analyze the judicial branch of the government.

Objectives:
- Students will examine and analyze the federal court system: the national judiciary, the inferior courts, the Supreme Court, and special courts.
- Students will examine and analyze civil liberties and First Amendment Freedoms: unalienable rights, freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
- Students will examine and analyze civil liberties and the protection of individual rights: due process of law, freedom and security of individuals, the rights of the accused, and punishment.
- Students will examine and analyze civil rights and equal justice under the law: diversity and discrimination in American society, equality before the law, federal civil rights laws, and American citizenship.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant current events topics.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant executive, legislative, and judicial decisions.

Essential Outcomes and Related Standards:
State Standard(s):
- 5.1.12.L: Analyze Pennsylvania and United States court decisions that have affected principles and ideals of government in civic life.
- 5.3.12.B: Analyze the responsibilities and powers of national government.
- 5.3.12.G: Evaluate how the government protects or curtails individual rights and analyze the impact of supporting or opposing those rights.

Keystone Assessment Anchor(s):
- C.1.1.3: Analyze the evolution of civil and human rights and explain the role governments play in protecting those rights.
- C.1.4.2: Analyze the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution and the Pennsylvania Constitution by the courts.
- C.2.1.1: Analyze the civic roles, rights, and responsibilities of individuals in the United States.
- C.2.1.2: Evaluate the factors that make competent and responsible citizens.

Content and Instructional Activities:

Activities:
- Lecture
- Note taking
- Class discussions
- Analysis of supplemental readings (primary and secondary sources)
- Topical current events presentations and analysis
- Cooperative and group activities
- Internet research
- Review Games
- Reading Apprenticeship strategies
- Googledocs interactive activities
Remediation:
- Outlines, notes, and textbook may be used on designated quizzes, tests, and essays
- Differentiated instruction for designated students or groups of students
- Additional review materials
- Assistance from special education teacher or aide

Enrichment:
- Supplemental readings suggested by teacher
- Independent research on topics suggested by teacher
- Research on designated websites

Assessment Criteria:
- Teacher developed quizzes, tests, and essays
- Primary source analysis assignments
- Free response essay assessments
- Class debates and discussions
- Current Events discussions and analysis: relevant political and civics topics
- Cooperative and groups projects

Resources and Materials:
- Textbook: *Magruder’s American Government*, Copyright, 2002 and accompanying teacher resources
- Supplemental resources (on-line news sources, primary and secondary supplemental readings)
- Noteworthy historical documents
- Documentaries, videos, internet clips
- Student notebook, folder, hand-outs, and high-lighter
- Googledocs interactive features
Unit 6: Pennsylvania State and Local Government

Unit Outcomes: Students will understand, explain, and analyze the system of state government with special emphasis on the government of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Objectives:
- Students will examine and analyze participation in state and local government: state constitutions, state legislatures, the governor and state administration, the courts and their judges.
- Students will examine and analyze local government and finances.
- Students will compare and contrast the structure of government of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with that of the U.S. government: amending the Pennsylvania and U.S. Constitutions, the three branches of Pennsylvania state government.
- Students will examine and analyze the legislative process in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and compare it to the legislative process of the U.S. Congress.
- Students will examine and analyze the election process in Pennsylvania and compare it to the national election process: the effectiveness of the election process, barriers to voting rights, actions to expand the suffrage.
- Students will explain and analyze the role of the governor’s cabinet and compare it to the U.S. president’s cabinet.
- Students will explain and analyze the role of state courts in enforcing the U.S. Constitution and the Pennsylvania State Constitution.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant current events topics.
- Students will research, examine, and analyze relevant executive, legislative, and judicial decisions.

Essential Outcomes and Related Standards:

State Standard(s):
- 5.1.12.D: Analyze the principles and ideals that shape the government of Pennsylvania and apply them to the government.
- 5.1.12.H: Analyze the competing positions held by framers of the basic documents of government of Pennsylvania and the United States.
- 5.1.12.L: Analyze Pennsylvania and United States court decisions that have affected principles and ideals of government in civic life.

Keystone Assessment Anchor(s):
- C.1.2.2: Describe and analyze local, state, and federal roles in policy making by citing evidence of their authority to do so.
- C.1.3.1: Analyze the structure, organization, and operation of various levels of government as they relate to the creation of legislation and the enforcement of laws.
- C.1.3.2: Analyze and describe election processes.
- C.1.4.1: Analyze the powers, influence, and limitations of government agencies in creating, amending, and enforcing policies.
Content and Instructional Activities:

Activities:
- Lecture
- Note taking
- Class discussions
- Analysis of supplemental readings (primary and secondary sources)
- Topical current events presentations and analysis
- Cooperative and group activities
- Internet research
- Review Games
- Reading Apprenticeship strategies
- Googledocs interactive activities

Remediation:
- Outlines, notes, and textbook may be used on designated quizzes, tests, and essays
- Differentiated instruction for designated students or groups of students
- Additional review materials
- Assistance from special education teacher or aide

Enrichment:
- Supplemental readings suggested by teacher
- Independent research on topics suggested by teacher
- Research on designated websites

Assessment Criteria:
- Teacher developed quizzes, tests, and essays
- Primary source analysis assignments
- Free response essay assessments
- Class debates and discussions
- Current Events discussions and analysis: relevant political and civics topics
- Cooperative and groups projects

Resources and Materials:
- Textbook: *Magruder’s American Government*, Copyright, 2002 and accompanying teacher resources
- Supplemental resources (on-line news sources, primary and secondary supplemental readings)
- Noteworthy historical documents
- Documentaries, videos, internet clips
- Student notebook, folder, hand-outs, and highlighter
- Googledocs interactive features