

# Grade 7: Civics

Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system.

- 1** Analyze the influences of ancient Greece, ancient Rome and the Judeo-Christian tradition on America’s constitutional republic. [SS.7.CG.1.1](#)

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- 2** Trace the principles underlying America’s founding ideas on law and government. [SS.7.CG.1.2](#)

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- 3** Trace the impact that the Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, English Bill of Rights and Thomas Paine’s Common Sense had on colonists’ views of government. [SS.7.CG.1.3](#)

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- 4** Analyze how Enlightenment ideas, including Montesquieu’s view of separation of powers and John Locke’s theories related to natural law and Locke’s social contract, influenced the Founding. [SS.7.CG.1.4](#)

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- 5** Describe how British policies and responses to colonial concerns led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence. [SS.7.CG.1.5](#)

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- 6** Analyze the ideas and grievances set forth in the Declaration of Independence. [SS.7.CG.1.6](#)

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- 7** Explain how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the writing of the U.S. Constitution. [SS.7.CG.1.7](#)

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- 8** Explain the purpose of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. [SS.7.CG.1.8](#)

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- 9** Describe how the U.S. Constitution limits the powers of government through separation of powers, checks and balances, individual rights, rule of law and due process of law. [SS.7.CG.1.9](#)

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- 10** Compare the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists regarding ratification of the U.S. Constitution and including a bill of rights. [SS.7.CG.1.10](#)

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- 11** Define the rule of law and recognize its influence on the development of legal, political, and governmental systems in the United States. [SS.7.CG.1.11](#)

Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society,

- 1** Define the term “citizen,” and explain the constitutional means of becoming a U.S. citizen. [SS.7.CG.2.1](#)

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- 2** Differentiate between obligations and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, and evaluate their impact on society. [SS.7.CG.2.2](#)

**government, and the political system.**

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- 3 Identify and apply the rights contained in the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the U.S. Constitution.** [SS.7.CG.2.3](#)

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  - 4 Explain how the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights safeguard individual rights.** [SS.7.CG.2.4](#)

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  - 5 Describe the trial process and the role of juries in the administration of justice at the state and federal levels.** [SS.7.CG.2.5](#)

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  - 6 Examine the election and voting process at the local, state, and national levels.** [SS.7.CG.2.6](#)

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  - 7 Identify the constitutional qualifications required to hold local, state, and national office.** [SS.7.CG.2.7](#)

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  - 8 Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government.** [SS.7.CG.2.8](#)

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  - 9 Analyze media and political communications and identify examples of bias, symbolism, and propaganda.** [SS.7.CG.2.9](#)

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  - 10 Explain the process for citizens to address a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.** [SS.7.CG.2.10](#)
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**Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government.**

- 1 Analyze the advantages of the United States' constitutional republic over other forms of government in safeguarding liberty, freedom, and a representative government.** [SS.7.CG.3.1](#)

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- 2 Explain the advantages of a federal system of government over other systems in balancing local sovereignty with national unity and protecting against authoritarianism.** [SS.7.CG.3.2](#)

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- 3 Describe the structure and function of the three branches of government established in the U.S. Constitution.** [SS.7.CG.3.3](#)

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- 4 Explain the relationship between state and national governments as written in Article IV of the U.S. Constitution and the 10th Amendment.** [SS.7.CG.3.4](#)

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- 5 Explain the amendment process outlined in Article V of the U.S. Constitution.** [SS.7.CG.3.5](#)

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- 6 Analyze how the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th and 26th Amendments broadened participation in the political process.** [SS.7.CG.3.6](#)

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- 7 Explain the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative branch of government.** [SS.7.CG.3.7](#)

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- 8 Explain the structure, functions, and processes of the executive branch of government.** SS.7.CG.3.8
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- 9 Explain the structure, functions, and processes of the judicial branch of government.** SS.7.CG.3.9
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- 10 Identify sources and types of law.** SS.7.CG.3.10
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- 11 Analyze the effects of landmark Supreme Court decisions on law, liberty, and the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.** SS.7.CG.3.11
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- 12 Compare the U.S. and Florida constitutions.** SS.7.CG.3.12
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- 13 Explain government obligations to its citizens and the services provided at the local, state, and national levels.** SS.7.CG.3.13
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- 14 Explain the purpose and function of the Electoral College in electing the President of the United States.** SS.7.CG.3.14
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- 15 Analyze the advantages of capitalism and the free market in the United States over government-controlled economic systems (e.g., socialism and communism) in regard to economic freedom and raising the standard of living for citizens.** SS.7.CG.3.15
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**Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in world affairs, and evaluate the role and impact of U.S. foreign policy.**

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- 1 Explain the relationship between U.S. foreign and domestic policy.** SS.7.CG.4.1
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- 2 Describe the United States' and citizen participation in international organizations.** SS.7.CG.4.2
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- 3 Describe examples of the United States' actions and reactions in international conflicts.** SS.7.CG.4.3
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- 4 Explain the significance of September 11, 2001.** SS.7.CG.4.4
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