



Essential Standards

Essential Standards Quick Guide – American Government Grades 9-12

This document outlines the essential standards for American Government Grades 6-12.

Essential standards are explicitly taught, assessed more than once, and targeted for intervention if students have not yet reached proficiency. Assessments can be both formative and summative. Interventions are implemented within the classroom to support students who are not yet proficient.

All Idaho Content Standards are detailed in the Essential Standards Extended Guide.

Essential Standards
9-12.GOV.1 Examine the influences of leading European thinkers such as Locke and Montesquieu, as well as the influence of historical institutions such as Greek democracy, Roman republicanism, and the English legal tradition on the American Founding.
9-12.GOV.6 Describe the purposes and functions of government as outlined in the Preamble of the Constitution.
9-12.GOV.7 Describe limited government within the Constitution, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks and balances • Popular sovereignty • Rule of law • Federalism • Separation of powers • Judicial review • Majority rule and protection of minority rights
9-12.GOV.8 Describe the structure of the Constitution and the process to amend it.
9-12.GOV.9 Analyze how the Bill of Rights limits the powers of the government and ensures individual rights.
9-12.GOV.10 Define the concepts of democracy and republic and examine the relationship between the two.
9-12.GOV.12 Evaluate the arguments within the Declaration of Independence and its definition of an ideal government.
9-12.GOV.13 Describe, at the national, state, and local level, 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 being informed on civic issues, serving in the military or alternative service, obeying the law, paying taxes, volunteering, and performing public service, respecting the rights of others, serving as a juror, and voting.
9-12.GOV.15 Evaluate the roles of the federal and state governments in the Civil Rights Movement.

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9-12.GOV.16 Explain the role and evolution of political parties in governing and in the recruitment/election of political candidates and the importance of and difference between primaries, caucuses, and general elections.
9-12.GOV.17 Evaluate the role of the media/social media as a means of communicating information/misinformation and how it influences the importance of issues and public opinion.
9-12.GOV.19 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.
9-12.GOV.21 Identify and be able to engage with key officials, both elected and appointed, in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches at the federal, state, and local levels.
9-12.GOV.22 Distinguish between civil rights and civil liberties and how they are put into practice in our daily lives.
9-12.GOV.28 Compare the types and purposes of taxation that are used by local, state, and federal governments to pay for services provided by the government.
9-12.GOV.30 Analyze Article I and the 17th Amendment of the Constitution as they relate to the legislative branch, including eligibility for office, roles, duties, casework, length of terms, and election to office for representatives and senators.
9-12.GOV.33 Describe the process of how a bill becomes law.
9-12.GOV.34 Describe the powers of the United States Congress, including appropriations, declaration of war, commerce, implied powers, confirmations, necessary and proper clauses, and powers of impeachment and oversight.
9-12.GOV.35 Analyze Article II of the Constitution as it relates to the executive branch, including appointments, oath of office, Commander-in-chief of the military, powers of the president, eligibility for office, succession (25th Amendment), executive orders, treaties, length of term (20th and 22nd Amendments).
9-12.GOV.37 Explain the Electoral College system, and how it has evolved over time, and compare arguments for and against it.
9-12.GOV.38 Analyze Article III of the Constitution as it relates to judicial power, including the length of terms and the jurisdiction of the U.S. Supreme Court.
9-12.GOV.41 Describe the Supreme Court's role, established by Marbury vs. Madison, in determining the constitutionality of laws and acts of the legislative and executive branches.
9-12.GOV.43 Explain the functions, powers, interactions, and dynamic relationships among federal, state, local, and tribal governments including the roles of the 10th Amendment, McCulloch vs Maryland, Gibbons vs. Ogden, and evolution from dual federalism to cooperative federalism.
9-12.GOV.44 Analyze and discuss sovereignty and the federal responsibility the United States has with federally recognized American Indian tribes with emphasis on Idaho, such as hunting and fishing rights, and land leasing.

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9-12.GOV.45 Explain the organization and powers of state and local government as described in the Constitution of the State of Idaho by analyzing legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
9-12.GOV.49 Describe the evolution of voting (methods and process) and enfranchisement including key amendments (15th , 19th, 23rd, 24th, 26th) and laws (1965 Voting Rights Act) that have extended the right to vote to previously disenfranchised Americans.
9-12.GOV.51 Describe the nomination and election process in American national and state elections, including the Electoral College.
9-12.GOV.53 Explain the impact of reapportionment and redistricting on elections and governance.
9-12.GOV.58 Identify and evaluate the role of the United States in international organizations, agreements, treaties, and humanitarian relief efforts.

For Questions Contact

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