

12th Grade - Principles of American Democracy 2011-2012 Benchmark Blueprint

Green Dot Public Schools

Assessments

Principles of American Democracy		1	2
12.1	Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.		
12.1.5	Describe the systems of separated and shared powers, the role of organized interests (Federalist Paper Number 10), checks and balances (Federalist Paper Number 51), the importance of an independent judiciary (Federalist Paper Number 78), enumerated powers, rule of law, federalism, and civilian control of the military.	8	
12.1.6	Understand that the Bill of Rights limits the powers of the federal government and state governments. •1: Benchmark 1: One Constructed Response.	4	
12.2	Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.		
12.2.1	Discuss the meaning and importance of each of the rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights and how each is secured (e.g., freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, petition, privacy).	6	
12.2.4	Understand the obligations of civic-mindedness, including voting, being informed on civic issues, volunteering and performing public service, and serving in the military or alternative service. •1: Benchmark 1: One Constructed Response.		
12.2.6	Explain how one becomes a citizen of the United States, including the process of naturalization (e.g., literacy, language, and other requirements).	3	
12.3	Students evaluate and take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are (i.e., the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations that are not part of government), their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society.		
12.3.2	Explain how civil society makes it possible for people, individually or in association with others, to bring their influence to bear on government in ways other than voting and elections.	3	
12.4	Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.		
12.4.1	Discuss Article I of the Constitution as it relates to the legislative branch, including eligibility for office and lengths of terms of representatives and senators; election to office; the roles of the House and Senate in impeachment proceedings; the role of the vice president; the enumerated legislative powers; and the process by which a bill becomes a law. •1: Benchmark 1: One Constructed Response.	5	
12.4.2	Explain the process through which the Constitution can be amended.	3	
12.4.4	Discuss Article II of the Constitution as it relates to the executive branch, including eligibility for office and length of term, election to and removal from office, the oath of office, and the enumerated executive powers.	4	
12.4.5	Discuss Article III of the Constitution as it relates to judicial power, including the length of terms of judges and the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. •1: Benchmark 1: One Constructed Response.	4	



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Principles of American Democracy (continued)	1	2
12.5 Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.		
12.5.1 Understand the changing interpretations of the Bill of Rights over time, including interpretations of the basic freedoms (religion, speech, press, petition, and assembly) articulated in the First Amendment and the due process and equal-protection-of-the-law clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. ●2: Benchmark 1: One Constructed Response.		4
12.5.3 Evaluate the effects of the Court's interpretations of the Constitution in <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> , <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> , and <i>United States v. Nixon</i> , with emphasis on the arguments espoused by each side in these cases.		3
12.5.4 Explain the controversies that have resulted over changing interpretations of civil rights, including those in <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> , <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> , <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> , <i>Regents of the University of California v. Bakke</i> , <i>Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Pena</i> , and <i>United States v. Virginia (VMI)</i> .		6
12.6 Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.		
12.6.1 Analyze the origin, development, and role of political parties, noting those occasional periods in which there was only one major party or were more than two major parties.		3
12.6.2 Discuss the history of the nomination process for presidential candidates and the increasing importance of primaries in general elections.		3
12.6.5 Discuss the features of direct democracy in numerous states (e.g., the process of referendums, recall elections).		3
12.6.6 Analyze trends in voter turnout; the causes and effects of reapportionment and redistricting, with special attention to spatial districting and the rights of minorities; and the function of the Electoral College. ●2: Benchmark 1: One Constructed Response.		5
12.7 Students analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.		
12.7.3 Discuss reserved powers and concurrent powers of state governments.		3
12.7.4 Discuss the Ninth and Tenth Amendments and interpretations of the extent of the federal government's power.		3
12.8 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.		
12.8.1 Discuss the meaning and importance of a free and responsible press.		3
12.9 Students analyze the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for political democracy, its advances, and its obstacles.		
12.9.3 Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government.		3



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Principles of American Democracy (continued)		1	2
12.10	Students formulate questions about and defend their analyses of tensions within our constitutional democracy and the importance of maintaining a balance between the following concepts: majority rule and individual rights; liberty and equality; state and national authority in a federal system; civil disobedience and the rule of law; freedom of the press and the right to a fair trial; the relationship of religion and government. •1: Benchmark 1: One Constructed Response.		
Total Number of Items		40	39