



Field 050: Social Studies—Government and Citizenship Assessment Blueprint

Domain I—Political Science Concepts and Systems

- 0001 Political Science Concepts and Skills (Standard 9)
- 0002 Purposes, Forms, and Characteristics of Government (Standard 7)

Domain II—U.S. Government and International Relations

- 0003 Foundations of U.S. Government (Standard 1)
- 0004 The Federal Government (Standard 2)
- 0005 State and Local Government (Standard 3)
- 0006 International Relations and U.S. Foreign Policy (Standard 8)

Domain III—The U.S. Political System, Legal System, and Citizenship

- 0007 The U.S. Political System (Standard 4)
- 0008 The U.S. Legal System (Standard 5)
- 0009 Citizenship (Standard 6)

Domain IV—Instruction and Assessment

- 0010 Government and Citizenship Instruction and Assessment (Standard 10)

Domain	Objectives	Standards	Approximate Test Weight
I. Political Science Concepts and Systems	0001–0002	9, 7	20%
II. U.S. Government and International Relations	0003–0006	1–3, 8	40%
III. The U.S. Political System, Legal System, and Citizenship	0007–0009	4–6	30%
IV. Instruction and Assessment	0010	10	10%

Standard 1: Foundations of U.S. Government

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the political ideals, core values, and fundamental principles of U.S. government, including:

- 1.1** the political philosophies that shaped the development of U.S. government
- 1.2** the ways in which the colonial experience shaped the development of U.S. constitutional government
- 1.3** the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, and other founding documents and debates associated with the evolution of free self-government in the United States
- 1.4** the core democratic values of the U.S. constitutional republic
- 1.5** the fundamental principles upon which the U.S. Constitution is based
- 1.6** the principal articles and significant amendments to the U.S. Constitution
- 1.7** tensions and conflicts between key principles of government in the United States

Standard 2: The Federal Government

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the organization, powers, and functions of the U.S. federal government, including:

- 2.1** the structure, powers, operation, and role of the legislative branch of the federal government
- 2.2** the structure, powers, operation, and role of the executive branch of the federal government
- 2.3** the structure, powers, operation, and role of the judicial branch of the federal government
- 2.4** the separation of powers and the system of checks and balances in U.S. government
- 2.5** processes for enacting laws in Congress and amending the U.S. Constitution
- 2.6** the organization and responsibilities of executive departments, independent regulatory agencies, and government corporations

Standard 3: State and Local Government

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the structure, responsibilities, and operation of state and local government in Indiana, including:

- 3.1** central concepts and principles of the Indiana Constitution
- 3.2** the structure, powers, and responsibilities of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Indiana state government
- 3.3** the structures, powers, and responsibilities of local government in Indiana
- 3.4** how laws are enacted and enforced in Indiana
- 3.5** the processes of initiative, referendum, and recall
- 3.6** the concept of federalism and the relationship between federal, state, and local governments

Standard 4: The U.S. Political System

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the U.S. political system and the electoral process at the national, state, and local levels, including:

- 4.1** major components and operation of the U.S. electoral system
- 4.2** the evolution of political parties in the United States and their current structure, functions, and operation
- 4.3** the role of third parties in the U.S. political system
- 4.4** factors influencing voter turnout and decision making at the local, state, and national levels
- 4.5** the influence of interest groups, the media, public opinion, and campaign finance on the electoral process
- 4.6** ways in which citizens participate in the political process and the skills needed for effective involvement in public affairs

Standard 5: The U.S. Legal System

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the central role of law in U.S. government and society and the operation of the U.S. legal system, including:

- 5.1** basic legal terms and concepts
- 5.2** the role of law in democratic societies
- 5.3** major sources of U.S. law and the evolution of the U.S. legal system
- 5.4** civil litigation and alternative dispute resolution procedures
- 5.5** the operation of the criminal justice system
- 5.6** landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions concerning such topics as federalism, due process, civil liberties, and civil rights

Standard 6: Citizenship

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, including:

- 6.1** the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and their role in protecting individual liberties
- 6.2** events and developments in U.S. history that have increased or diminished individual rights and popular participation in the political process
- 6.3** the nature of citizenship and its relationship to the modern nation-state and the emergence of new concepts of citizenship such as global citizenship and multiple citizenship
- 6.4** the legal obligations and civic responsibilities of U.S. citizenship
- 6.5** how citizens participate in public affairs and exercise responsible conduct as members of a democratic society
- 6.6** similarities and differences in the role of citizen in the United States and in other countries
- 6.7** methods for making reasoned and informed decisions about public policy issues
- 6.8** how to resolve conflicts, negotiate differences, and achieve compromise on issues of public concern

Standard 7: Purposes, Forms, and Characteristics of Government

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the purposes of government and the distinguishing characteristics of historical and contemporary forms of government, including:

- 7.1** the origins and purposes of government and the sources of governmental authority
- 7.2** key documents related to the development of political thought
- 7.3** major transitions in governmental forms and concepts throughout world history
- 7.4** major events and developments related to the emergence and spread of democratic government from ancient Greece to the present
- 7.5** the forms and characteristics of different systems of government, including the nature of civil society under different governmental systems
- 7.6** the differences between limited and unlimited government and the relationship of limited government to political and economic freedom
- 7.7** different forms of democratic systems (e.g., presidential vs. parliamentary) and similarities and differences between the political system of the United States and other historical and contemporary governments
- 7.8** the influence of historical, economic, and cultural factors on the development of various governmental systems

Standard 8: International Relations and U.S. Foreign Policy

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of international relations and the formation and execution of U.S. foreign policy, including:

- 8.1** fundamental concepts of international law
- 8.2** how nations and governments interact, the factors that influence international relations, and historical and contemporary sources of cooperation and conflict between nations
- 8.3** the structure, functions, goals, and operation of the United Nations and other major international and nongovernmental organizations
- 8.4** major issues in contemporary international relations
- 8.5** the process by which U.S. foreign policy is made and the agencies and instruments used to carry out U.S. foreign policy
- 8.6** major historical and contemporary U.S. foreign policy declarations, positions, and initiatives
- 8.7** economic, geopolitical, cultural, and ideological factors that have shaped U.S. foreign policy and the process of globalization
- 8.8** the influence of the United States on other nations and the impact of global developments on the United States

Standard 9: Political Science Concepts and Skills

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of political science concepts and skills and the ability to analyze and interpret political science information, including:

- 9.1** basic political science terms and concepts
- 9.2** the characteristics and uses of various sources of political science information
- 9.3** research methods and procedures used by political scientists and uses of information technology in political science research
- 9.4** the evaluation of political science information and the analysis of evidence and arguments presented in political science materials
- 9.5** the application of political science ideas, theories, and modes of inquiry to historical and contemporary issues in civics and government
- 9.6** effective written communication of political science information, analysis, and interpretation
- 9.7** the interpretation of political science information presented in graphic formats

Standard 10: Government and Citizenship Instruction and Assessment

Government and citizenship teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of content-specific instruction and assessment in the social studies, including:

- 10.1** the Indiana Academic Standards and Core Standards for Social Studies
- 10.2** the NCSS National Standards for Social Studies Teachers, the CCE National Standards for Civics and Government, and the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards
- 10.3** instructional strategies and resources for promoting student understanding of concepts and skills related to government and citizenship and providing opportunities for students to engage actively with the political system and to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens
- 10.4** strategies and skills for planning and designing instruction in government and citizenship, including the use of techniques and approaches that meet the needs of diverse learners
- 10.5** instructional strategies for promoting student learning and fostering the development of critical-thinking, problem-solving, and performance skills in the social studies
- 10.6** communication methods that promote student learning and foster active inquiry, interaction, and collaboration in the social studies classroom
- 10.7** strategies and skills for selecting, adapting, and using technological resources to enhance teaching and learning about government and citizenship
- 10.8** strategies and skills for effectively assessing student understanding and mastery of essential government and citizenship concepts and skills