

Pennsylvania Academic Standards – Social Studies

Social Studies is the integrated study of human society and its contributions, influences and impact on the world. There are many content areas which combine to create the overarching concept of social studies. The commonwealth of Pennsylvania has delineated the disciplines and developed academic standards in the social studies areas to be civics and government, economics, geography, history, and student interpersonal skills.

Civics and Government is the teaching and presentation of the principles and ideals of the American republican representative form of government as portrayed and experienced by the acts and policies of the framers of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States and Bill of Rights.

Level	5.1 Principles and Documents of Government	5.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship	5.3 How Government Works	5.4 How International Relationships Function
Pre-K	States rules and their consequences. Identify basic American symbols (e.g., American flag).	Identify self-membership of a group such as the class or family. Identify a problem and discuss possible solutions with adult assistance.	Identify community workers through their uniforms and equipment. Identify appropriate behaviors for responsible classroom citizens.	
Kindergarten	Explain the purpose of rules. Explain the need for rules. Define respect for self and others. Demonstrate responsibilities in the classroom. Identify significant American holidays and their symbols.	Identify responsibilities at school. Identify a problem and discuss possible solutions. Identify classroom projects/activities that support leadership and service. Explain responsible classroom behavior.	Identify the role of adults in authority at home or in school. Identify roles of fire fighters, police officers, and emergency workers. Identify and explain behaviors for responsible classroom citizens.	Identify conflict in the classroom. Identify how students can work together.
Grade 1	Explain the purposes of rules in the classroom and school community. Explain the importance of rules in the classroom. Define equality and the need to treat everyone equally.	Identify and explain the importance of responsibilities at school and at home. Identify a problem and attempt to solve with adult or peer assistance. Identify school projects / activities that support leadership and public service. Explain responsible school behavior.	Identify the roles of local government (fire, police, etc.). Identify the services of local government. Identify the value of fire fighters, police officers and emergency workers in the community.	Identify ways to avoid conflict. Describe how classrooms can work together. Identify different means of receiving information/news. Explain how a classroom community reaches compromise.

	<p>Explain the importance of written rules and laws.</p> <p>Describe students' responsibilities in the school and community.</p> <p>Identify national symbols.</p>		<p>Identify positions of authority in the classroom community.</p> <p>Identify situations in the school or community when it is beneficial to have an elected official represent the people.</p> <p>Explain how information/news is conveyed to the public.</p> <p>Identify and explain behaviors for responsible classroom citizens and possible consequences for inappropriate action.</p> <p>Provide examples of taxation.</p> <p>Describe situations where voting eases conflict.</p>	
<p>Grade 2</p>	<p>Explain the purposes of rules and their consequences in the classroom and school community.</p> <p>Explain the importance of rules in the classroom and school community.</p> <p>Define fairness in working with others.</p> <p>Explain why school rules are written and posted.</p> <p>Describe citizens' responsibilities to the state of Pennsylvania and the nation.</p> <p>Identify state symbols.</p>	<p>Identify and explain the importance of responsibilities at school at home and the community.</p> <p>Identify a problem and probable solution.</p> <p>Identify community projects/activities that support leadership and public service.</p> <p>Explain responsible community behavior.</p>	<p>Identify the role government plays in the community (education, transportation).</p> <p>Identify local government leaders.</p> <p>Identify other types of services provided by local government.</p> <p>Identify positions of authority at school.</p> <p>Describe situations in the state or nation when having an elected official represent the people is beneficial.</p> <p>Identify and explain behaviors for responsible school citizens and</p>	<p>Explain examples of conflict in the community, state, and nation.</p> <p>Identify ways that countries can work together.</p> <p>Explain why nations need to work together for peace</p> <p>Identify the different types of media.</p> <p>Explain how a community reaches compromise.</p>

			<p>possible consequences for inappropriate action.</p> <p>Identify different forms of media.</p> <p>Define taxes and why they are paid.</p> <p>Identify the responsibilities of voters after the vote.</p>	
Grade 3	<p>Explain the purposes of rules, laws, and consequences.</p> <p>Explain rules and laws for the classroom, school, and community.</p> <p>Define the principles and ideals shaping local government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>Identify key ideas about government found in significant documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution <p>Identify state symbols, national symbols, and national holidays.</p>	<p>Identify personal rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>Identify the sources of conflict and disagreement and different ways conflict can be resolved.</p> <p>Identify leadership and public service opportunities in the school, community, state, and nation.</p> <p>Describe how citizens participate in school and community activities.</p>	<p>Identify the roles of the three branches of government.</p> <p>Identify how laws are made in the local community.</p> <p>Identify services performed by the local governments.</p> <p>Identify positions of authority at school and community.</p> <p>Explain the purpose for elections.</p> <p>Explain how an action may be just or unjust.</p> <p>Identify individual interests and explain ways to influence others.</p>	
Grade 4	<p>Examine school rules and consequences.</p> <p>Explain rules and laws for the classroom, school, community, and state.</p> <p>Explain the principles and ideals shaping local and state government.</p>	<p>Identify individual rights and needs and the rights and needs of others in the classroom, school, and community.</p> <p>Describe the sources of conflict and disagreement and different ways conflict can be resolved.</p>	<p>Identify the roles of the three branches of government.</p> <p>Describe how the elected representative bodies function in making local and state laws.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>Identify key ideas about government found in significant documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution <p>Identify state symbols, national symbols, and national holidays.</p>	<p>Describe the roles of leadership and public service in school, community, state, and nation.</p> <p>Describe how citizens participate in school and community activities.</p>	<p>Identify the services performed by local and state governments.</p> <p>Identify positions of authority at the local and state, and national level.</p> <p>Explain the voting process.</p> <p>Explain how different perspectives can lead to conflict.</p> <p>Identify individual interests and explain ways to influence others.</p>	
<p>Grade 5</p>	<p>Understand the rule of law in protecting property rights, individual rights and the common good.</p> <p>Describe the basic purposes of government in the classroom, school, community, state, and nation.</p> <p>Describe the principles and ideals shaping local state, and national government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>Interpret key ideas about government found in significant documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution 	<p>Identify individual rights and needs and the rights and needs of others in the classroom, school, community, state, and nation.</p> <p>Identify behaviors that promote cooperation among individuals.</p> <p>Explain why individuals become involved in leadership and public service.</p> <p>Identify specific ways individuals participate in school and community activities.</p>	<p>Describe the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of government.</p> <p>Describe how the elected representative bodies function in making local, state, and national laws.</p> <p>Describe the role of local and state government officials.</p> <p>Describe the primary duties of elected local, state, and national positions.</p> <p>Identify the requirements to vote in local, state, and national elections.</p> <p>Examine different ways conflicts can be resolved.</p> <p>Describe how groups try to influence others.</p>	<p>Describe the difference between nation and country.</p>

	<p>Identify the individual rights guaranteed by the PA Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>Explain the significance of state symbols, national symbols, and national holidays.</p>		<p>Identify various sources of mass media.</p>	
Grade 6	<p>Explain the effect of the rule of law in protecting property rights, individual rights, and the common good.</p> <p>Compare and contrast a direct democracy with a republican form of government.</p> <p>Explain how the principles and ideals shape local, state, and national government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>Explain the basic principles and ideals within documents and the roles played by the framers as found in significant documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution <p>Summarize individual rights guaranteed by the PA Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>Describe how citizens and leaders use political symbols.</p>	<p>Compare and contrast rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community, state, and nation.</p> <p>Explain how citizens resolve conflicts in society and government.</p> <p>Describe the importance of political leadership and public service.</p> <p>Explain why participation in government and civic life is important.</p>	<p>Describe the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of government.</p> <p>Define and compare the role and structure of local, state, and national governments.</p> <p>Describe how local, state, and national governments provide services.</p> <p>Identify leadership positions and their primary duties at the local, state, and national levels.</p> <p>Describe the voting process, including registration, primaries, and general elections.</p> <p>Explain how courts resolve conflicts.</p> <p>Identify individual interest groups and how they impact government.</p> <p>Describe the influence of mass media on society.</p>	<p>Identify how countries have varying interests.</p> <p>Explain the difference between allies and adversaries.</p>

			Explain what taxes are and why they are necessary.	
Grade 7	<p>Cite functional examples of how the rule of law protects property rights, individual rights, and the common good.</p> <p>Identify the different types of government and the processes they use in making laws.</p> <p>Explain how the principles and ideals shape local, state, and national government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>Summarize the basic principles and ideals within documents and the roles played by the framers as found in significant documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution <p>Compare and contrast the individual rights guaranteed by the PA Constitution versus the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>Describe how the media uses political symbols to influence public opinion.</p>	<p>Compare and contrast rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community, state, and nation.</p> <p>Compare the methods citizens use to resolve conflicts in society and government.</p> <p>Describe the role of political leadership and public service.</p> <p>Describe the citizen's role in the political process.</p>	<p>Compare and contrast the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of government.</p> <p>Define and compare the role and structure of local, state, and national governments.</p> <p>Describe how local, state, and national governments provide services.</p> <p>Identify leadership positions and the role of political party affiliation at the local, state, and national levels.</p> <p>Describe the closed primary voting process in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Identify the different levels of the court system.</p> <p>Explain the role of interest groups in local and Pennsylvania governments.</p> <p>Describe the influence of mass media on society.</p> <p>Identify types of local, state, and national taxes.</p> <p>Identify various types of governments.</p>	<p>Identify how countries have varying interests.</p> <p>Describe how countries coexist in the world community.</p> <p>Identify mass media sources and how they report world events.</p>

<p>Grade 8</p>	<p>Identify the sources of the rule of law.</p> <p>Outline how different systems of government function.</p> <p>Analyze the principles and ideas that shaped local, Pennsylvania, and national governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>Summarize the basic principles and ideals within documents and the roles played by the framers as found in significant documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution <p>Compare and contrast the individual rights guaranteed by the PA Constitution versus the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>Analyze how political symbols are used by the media and leaders to influence public opinion.</p>	<p>Summarize the role of citizens in terms of right and responsibilities in different government systems.</p> <p>Describe how citizens resolve conflicts in society and government.</p> <p>Describe the role of political leadership and public service.</p> <p>Describe the citizen's role in the political process.</p>	<p>Compare and contrast the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of government between Pennsylvania and the Federal government.</p> <p>Compare and contrast the policy-making process between Pennsylvania and the federal government.</p> <p>Describe how local, state, and national governments provide services.</p> <p>Identify leadership positions and the role of political party affiliation at the local, state, and national levels.</p> <p>Describe the closed primary voting process in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Describe the closed primary voting process in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Explain the various judicial levels.</p> <p>Explain the role of interest groups in the federal government process.</p> <p>Describe the influence of mass media on government.</p> <p>Describe various types of projects and services provided through local, state, and national taxes.</p> <p>Compare democracy to totalitarianism.</p>	<p>Describe how national interests lead to agreements and conflicts between and among countries.</p> <p>Describe the foreign policy tools of diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, sanctions, and treaties.</p> <p>Explain how common problems (e.g., natural disasters, ethnic conflict, environmental concerns) are addressed by organizations and governments.</p> <p>Describe how mass media influences our view of international events.</p>
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<p>Grade 9</p>	<p>Apply examples of the rule of law as related to individual rights and the common good.</p> <p>Analyze the major arguments advanced for different systems of government.</p> <p>Analyze the principles and ideals that shape United States government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>Compare and contrast the basic principles and ideals found in significant documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution <p>Demonstrate an understanding of how the PA Constitution and the US Constitution co-exist.</p> <p>Analyze the role political symbols play in civil disobedience and patriotic activities.</p>	<p>Contrast the rights and responsibilities of a citizen in a democracy with a citizen in an authoritarian system.</p> <p>Analyze strategies used to resolve conflicts in society and government.</p> <p>Examine political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.</p> <p>Analyze citizens' roles in the political process toward the attainment of goals for individual and public good.</p>	<p>Examine the process of checks and balances among the three branches of government, including the creation of law.</p> <p>Analyze the roles of local, state, and national governments in policy-making.</p> <p>Explain how government agencies create, amend and enforce policies in local, state, and national governments.</p> <p>Explain how citizens participate in choosing their leaders through political parties, campaigns, and elections.</p> <p>Compare and contrast the different election processes for local, state, and national offices.</p> <p>Explain the Supreme Court's role in interpreting the U.S. Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual rights • States' rights • Civil rights <p>Analyze the influence of interest groups in the political process.</p> <p>Evaluate the importance of freedom of the press and the political influence of mass media.</p> <p>Explain various types of taxes and their purposes.</p> <p>Compare and contrast various systems of government.</p>	<p>Explain how United States foreign policy is developed.</p> <p>Explain why and how different foreign policy tools are used to advance a nation's self-interest (e.g., diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, sanctions, treaties).</p> <p>Identify the role of international organizations.</p> <p>Analyze the various mass media outlets and their influence on global issues.</p> <p>Identify the politics of interest groups (e.g. business and labor organizations, ethnic and religious organizations) on foreign policy.</p>
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Level	5.1 Principles and Documents of Government	5.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship	5.3 How Government Works	5.4 How International Relationships Function
Grades 10,11, & 12	<p>Analyze the sources, purposes, functions of law, and how the rule of law protects individual rights and promotes the common good.</p> <p>Employ historical examples and political philosophy to evaluate the major arguments advanced for the necessity of government.</p> <p>Evaluate the application of the principles and ideals in contemporary civic life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>Evaluate state and federal powers based on significant documents and other critical sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution <p>Analyze and assess the rights of people as written in the PA Constitution and the US Constitution.</p> <p>Evaluate the role of nationalism in uniting and dividing citizens.</p>	<p>Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.</p> <p>Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p>Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.</p> <p>Evaluate and demonstrate what makes competent and responsible citizens.</p>	<p>Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.</p> <p>Compare and contrast policy-making in various contemporary world governments.</p> <p>Evaluate how government agencies create, amend, and enforce regulations.</p> <p>Evaluate the roles of political parties, interest groups, and mass media in politics and public policy.</p> <p>Evaluate the fairness and effectiveness of the United States electoral processes, including the electoral college.</p> <p>Analyze landmark United States Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its Amendments.</p> <p>Evaluate the impact of interest groups in developing public policy.</p> <p>Evaluate the role of mass media in setting public agenda and influencing political life.</p> <p>Evaluate tax policies of various states and countries.</p> <p>Evaluate critical issues in various contemporary governments.</p>	<p>Examine foreign policy perspectives, including realism, idealism, and liberalism.</p> <p>Evaluate the effectiveness of foreign policy tools in various current issues confronting the United States (e.g., diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, sanctions, treaties).</p> <p>Evaluate the effectiveness of international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.</p> <p>Evaluate the role of mass media in world politics.</p> <p>Compare and contrast the politics of various interest groups and evaluate their impact on foreign policy.</p>