

**Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Secondary School System
Civics and American Government Standards**

Topic 1: PRINCIPLES AND DOCUMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

Content Standard

1.1 The necessity of government and law

Competency Standards

- 1.1.1 Evaluate the necessity of government on a federal and state level
- 1.1.2 Analyze the importance of the rule of law and the sources, purposes, and functions of law on federal and state levels
- 1.1.3 Analyze how law promotes the common good by protecting individual rights

Content Standard

1.2 The sources of American and Pennsylvanian law and government

Competency Standards

- 1.2.1 Understand the principles and ideals of the basic documents which shaped American government and law
(ex: Magna Carta, Mayflower compact, English Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States)
- 1.2.2 Understand the principles and ideals of the basic documents which shaped Pennsylvanian government and law (ex: Pennsylvania State Charters and Constitution)

Content Standard

1.3 The importance of the principles and ideals in civic life

Competency Standard

- 1.3.1 Analyze the principles and ideals shaping government
 - Equality
 - Diversity of people and ideas
 - Common good, Rule of law.
 - Popular sovereignty
 - Patriotism
 - Justice etc.

Topic 2: **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP**

Content Standard

2.1 The individual's civic rights and responsibilities

Competency Standards

2.1.1 Compare the roles and rights of individuals in an

- Autocracy
- Democracy
- Oligarchy

2.1.2 Compare the status of citizens and non-citizens in the United States

Native-born citizens

Naturalized citizens

Legal aliens

Content Standard

2.2 Participation in civic and political life

Competency Standard

2.2.1 Analyze the processes of

- Referendum
- Recall
- Petition

Content Standard

2.3 Steps in voting process

Competency Standards

2.3.1 Explain the requirements for voting in federal, state, and local elections (ex:

Amendments, registration, ballots)

2.3.2 Analyze the role of political parties in the electoral process (ex: primaries, national conventions)

2.3.3 Understand the elements of the election process (campaign, election, electoral college, and inauguration)

2.3.4 Analyze Supreme Court cases which protected the right to vote for various groups

Topic 3: HOW GOVERNMENT WORKS

Content Standard

3.1 Federal, state, and local governments

Competency Standards

- 3.1.1 Analyze and evaluate the structure, organization, and operation of federal, state, and local governments
- 3.1.2 Understand and evaluate how a bill becomes a law on each level of government

Content Standard

3.2 Responsibilities and powers of government

Competency Standard

- 3.2.1 Analyze the extent of responsibilities and powers of each level of government
 - Checks and balances
 - Separation of power
 - Concurrent powers

Content Standard

3.3 Individual rights and due process

Competency Standards

- 3.3.1 Analyze judicial protection of individual rights and due process
 - Equal protection
 - Habeas Corpus
 - Presumption of innocence
 - Right to Counsel
 - Trial by jury
 - Right against self-incrimination
 - Double jeopardy
 - Right of appeal
- 3.3.2 Analyze court decisions in Pennsylvania and the United States that have affected principles and ideals of government and civic life including
 - Federal Supremacy
 - Civil rights
 - Judicial Review
- 3.3.3 Analyze court decisions in Pennsylvania and the United States which have protected personal rights including the right to
 - life at all stages from conception to natural death
 - privacy
 - freedom of religion

- free speech

Content Standard

3.4 The role of the media and interest groups

Competency Standards

- 3.4.1 Evaluate the roles of the Media and interest groups on political life in the United States
- 3.4.2 Explain the roles of the Media and Political Action Committees in setting the public agenda

Content Standard

3.5 Funding governments

Competency Standards

- 3.5.1 Analyze issues regarding how and why government should raise money to pay for its operation and services
- 3.5.2 Evaluate the way government determines needs and allocates funds