

## **Moon Area School District Curriculum Map**

**Course: AP Government & Politics**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Content Area: Social Studies**

**Frequency: Full-Year Course**

### **Big Ideas**

1. Big Idea 1: Constitutionalism
  - a. The U.S. Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among branches of government and allocates power between federal and state governments. This system is based on the rule of law and the balance between majority rule and minority rights.
2. Big Idea 2: Liberty and Order Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
  - a. Governmental laws and policies balancing order and liberty are based on the U.S. Constitution and have been interpreted differently over time.
3. Big Idea 3: Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy
  - a. Popular sovereignty, individualism, and republicanism are important considerations of U.S. laws and policy making and assume citizens will engage and participate.
4. Big Idea 4: Competing Policy-Making Interests
  - a. Multiple actors and institutions interact to produce and implement possible policies.
5. Big Idea 5: Methods of Political Analysis
  - a. Using various types of analyses, political scientists measure how U.S. political behavior, attitudes, ideologies, and institutions are shaped by a number of factors over time.

### **Essential Questions**

6. *Why are there debates about the balance of power between the federal and state governments?*
7. *Which branch of government is the most powerful? Why?*
8. *Are there really checks and balances when one political party controls all three branches of government? Why or why not?*
9. *In what ways does the Constitution attempt to limit abuse of government powers?*
10. *Is the Bill of Rights necessary? Why or why not?*
11. *How can individuals and groups help protect civil liberties and civil rights?*
12. *Why do some people choose to participate in government while others do not?*
13. *How does your social network affect your political beliefs?*
14. *How does the Constitution affect you and the choices you make?*

15. *In what ways has the evolution of government powers affected Americans and their daily lives?*
16. *Why have Supreme Court decisions about civil liberties and civil rights changed over time?*
17. *How do our core beliefs about the role of government affect our behavior?*
18. *How does our view of what freedom is shape our opinions?*
19. *Why might you join a political party? Why might you choose not to?*
20. *Why are some opinion polls better than others?*
21. *How can policy-makers use information from political science to make decisions?*
22. *How does who you are affect whether you participate or not?*

**Primary Resource(s) & Technology:**

Textbook: American Democracy Now,  
Microsoft Teams, Promethean Boards, Student Laptops/iPads

**Pennsylvania and/or focus standards referenced at:**

[www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org)  
[www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)

<b>Big Ideas/ EQs</b>	<b>Focus Standard(s)</b>	<b>Assessed Competencies (Key content and skills)</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 14	<p><b>Standard - 5.1.12.B:</b> Employ historical examples and political philosophy to evaluate the major arguments advanced for the necessity of government.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.1.12.C:</b> Evaluate the application of the principles and ideals in</p>	<p>1.1 Ideals of Democracy: 1.D Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.</p> <p>1.2 Types of Democracy: 4.A Describe the author’s claim(s), perspective, evidence, and reasoning.</p> <p>1.3 Government Power and Individual Rights: 1.A Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>1.4 Challenges of the Articles of Confederation: 4.B Explain how the author’s argument or perspective relates to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>1.5 Ratification of the U.S. Constitution: 1.E Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.</p> <p>1.6 Principles of American Government: 4.B Explain how the author’s argument or</p>	21 days

	<p>contemporary <b>civic life</b>.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.1.12.D:</b> Evaluate <b>state</b> and federal powers based on significant documents and other critical sources</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.1.12.E:</b> Analyze and assess the rights of people as written in the PA Constitution and the US Constitution.</p>	<p>perspective relates to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>1.7 Relationship Between the States and Federal Government: 5.A Articulate a defensible claim/thesis.</p> <p>1.8 Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism: 2.A Describe the facts, reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of required Supreme Court cases.</p> <p>1.9 Federalism in Action: 5.B Support the argument using relevant evidence.</p>	
<p>1, 4, 7, 8, 15</p>	<p><b>Standard - 5.3.12.A:</b> Analyze the changes in power and <b>authority</b> among the three branches of <b>government</b> over time.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.3.12.C:</b> Evaluate how <b>government</b> agencies create, amend, and enforce regulations.</p>	<p>2.1 Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives: 1.C Compare political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>2.2 Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress: 3.A Describe the data presented.</p> <p>2.3 Congressional Behavior: 2.A Describe the facts, reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of required Supreme Court cases.</p> <p>2.4 Roles and Powers of the President: 3.B Describe patterns and trends in data.</p> <p>2.5 Checks on the Presidency: 1.E Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.</p>	<p>33 days</p>

	<p><b>Standard - 5.3.12.E:</b> Evaluate the fairness and effectiveness of the United States electoral processes, including the <b>electoral college</b>.</p>	<p>2.6 Expansion of Presidential Power: 4.A Describe the author’s claim(s), perspective, evidence, and reasoning.</p> <p>2.7 Presidential Communication: 1.E Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.</p> <p>2.8 The Judicial Branch: 2.B Explain how a required Supreme Court case relates to a foundational document or to other primary or secondary sources.</p> <p>2.9 Legitimacy of the Judicial Branch: 1.D Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.</p> <p>2.10 The Court in Action: 2.C Compare the reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of a required Supreme Court case to a non-required Supreme Court case.</p> <p>2.11 Checks on the Judicial Branch: 1.D Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.</p> <p>2.12 The Bureaucracy: 4.B Explain how the author’s argument or perspective relates to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>2.13 Discretionary and Rule-Making Authority: 1.D Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.</p> <p>2.14 Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable: 3.C Explain patterns and trends in data to draw conclusions.</p> <p>2.15 Policy and the Branches of Government: 3.D Explain what the data implies or illustrates about political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p>	
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<p>1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 16</p>	<p><b>Standard - 5.1.12.A:</b> Analyze the sources, purposes, functions of law, and how the <b>rule of law</b> protects <b>individual rights</b> and promotes the <b>common good</b>.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.1.12.C:</b> Evaluate the application of the principles and ideals in contemporary <b>civic life</b>.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.1.12.E:</b> Analyze and assess the rights of people as written in the PA Constitution and the US Constitution.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.2.12.A:</b> Evaluate an individual's <b>civil rights</b>, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary <b>governments</b>.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.2.12.B:</b></p>	<p>3.1 The Bill of Rights: 1.D Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.</p> <p>3.2 First Amendment: Freedom of Religion: 2.A Describe the facts, reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of required Supreme Court cases.</p> <p>3.3 First Amendment: Freedom of Speech: 5.A Articulate a defensible claim/thesis.</p> <p>3.4 First Amendment: Freedom of the Press: 4.D Explain how the visual elements of a cartoon, map, or infographic illustrate or relate to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>3.5 Second Amendment: Right to Bear Arms: 4.A Describe the author’s claim(s), perspective, evidence, and reasoning.</p> <p>3.6 Amendments: Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety: 5.B Support the argument using relevant evidence.</p> <p>3.7 Selective Incorporation: 2.B Explain how a required Supreme Court case relates to a foundational document or to other primary or secondary sources.</p> <p>3.8 Amendments: Due Process and the Rights of the Accused: 5.C Use reasoning to organize and analyze evidence, explaining its significance to justify the claim or thesis.</p> <p>3.9 Amendments: Due Process and the Right to Privacy: 2.A Describe the facts, reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of required Supreme Court cases.</p> <p>3.10 Social Movements and Equal Protection: 4.C Explain how the implications of the author’s argument or perspective may affect political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p>	<p>30 days</p>
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	<p>Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.2.12.D:</b> Evaluate and demonstrate what makes competent and responsible <b>citizens</b></p>	<p>3.11 Government Responses to Social Movements: 2.B Explain how a required Supreme Court case relates to a foundational document or to other primary or secondary sources.</p> <p>3.12 Balancing Minority and Majority Rights: 2.C Compare the reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of a required Supreme Court case to a non-required Supreme Court case.</p> <p>3.13 Affirmative Action: 1.E Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.</p>	
<p>4, 5, 17, 18, 20, 21</p>	<p><b>Standard - 5.1.12.F:</b> Evaluate the role of <b>nationalism</b> in uniting and dividing <b>citizen</b>.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.2.12.B:</b> Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.2.12.C:</b> Evaluate political <b>leadership</b> and <b>public service</b> in a <b>republican form of government</b>.</p>	<p>4.1 American Attitudes About Government and Politics: 1.D Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.</p> <p>4.2 Political Socialization: 3.A Describe the data presented.</p> <p>4.3 Changes in Ideology: 3.B Describe patterns and trends in data.</p> <p>4.4 Influence of Political Events on Ideology: 4.B Explain how the author’s argument or perspective relates to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>4.5 Measuring Public Opinion: 3.C Explain patterns and trends in data to draw conclusions.</p> <p>4.6 Evaluating Public Opinion Data: 3.D Explain what the data implies or illustrates about political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>4.7 Ideologies of Political Parties: 1.E Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies,</p>	<p>22 days</p>

	<p><b>Standard - 5.3.12.D:</b> Evaluate the roles of political parties, <b>interest groups</b>, and <b>mass media</b> in politics and public policy.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.3.12.I:</b> Evaluate tax policies of various <b>states</b> and countries.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.4.12.A:</b> Examine <b>foreign policy</b> perspectives, including <b>realism</b>, <b>idealism</b>, and <b>liberalism</b>.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.4.12.B:</b> Evaluate the effectiveness of <b>foreign policy</b> tools in various current issues confronting the United States (e.g., <b>diplomacy</b>, economic aid, military aid, <b>sanctions</b>, treaties).</p>	<p>and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.</p> <p>4.8 Ideology and Policy Making: 4.D Explain how the visual elements of a cartoon, map, or infographic illustrate or relate to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>4.9 Ideology and Economic Policy: 3.E Explain possible limitations of the data provided.</p> <p>4.10 Ideology and Social Policy: 4.C Explain how the implications of the author’s argument or perspective may affect political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p>	
3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 19, 22	<p><b>Standard - 5.2.12.B:</b> Examine the</p>	<p>5.1 Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior: 1.D Describe political principles, institutions,</p>	27 days

	<p>causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.2.12.C:</b> Evaluate political <b>leadership</b> and <b>public service</b> in a <b>republican form of government.</b></p> <p><b>Standard - 5.3.12.D:</b> Evaluate the roles of political parties, <b>interest groups</b>, and <b>mass media</b> in politics and public policy</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.3.12.E:</b> Evaluate the fairness and effectiveness of the United States electoral processes, including the <b>electoral college.</b></p> <p><b>Standard - 5.3.12.G:</b> Evaluate the impact of <b>interest groups</b> in</p>	<p>processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.</p> <p>5.2 Voter Turnout: 3.C Explain patterns and trends in data to draw conclusions.</p> <p>5.3 Political Parties: 1.B Explain political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>5.4 How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt: 4.B Explain how the author’s argument or perspective relates to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>5.5 Third-Party Politics: 3.D Explain what the data implies or illustrates about political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.</p> <p>5.6 Interest Groups Influencing Policy Making: 3.F Explain possible limitations of the visual representation of the data provided.</p> <p>5.7 Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes: 1.E Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.</p> <p>5.8 Electing a President: 5.A Articulate a defensible claim/thesis.</p> <p>5.9 Congressional Elections: 5.B Support the argument using relevant evidence.</p> <p>5.10 Modern Campaigns: 5.C Use reasoning to organize and analyze evidence, explaining its significance to justify the claim or thesis.</p> <p>5.11 Campaign Finance: 2.B Explain how a required Supreme Court case relates to a foundational document or to other primary or secondary sources.</p> <p>5.12 The Media: 5.D Use refutation, concession, or rebuttal in responding to opposing or alternate perspectives.</p>	
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	<p>developing public policy.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.3.12.H:</b> Evaluate the role of <b>mass media</b> in setting public agenda and influencing political life.</p> <p><b>Standard - 5.4.12.D:</b> Evaluate the role of <b>mass media</b> in world politics.</p>	<p>5.13 Changing Media: 2.D Explain how required Supreme Court cases apply to scenarios in context.</p>	
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