

High School: Civics Standards

Introduction

In high school, the civics standards promote knowledge of the historical foundations and principles of American government toward the goal of productive civic engagement. Additionally, the standards focus on understanding the unique roles of local, state and national institutions. By developing inquiry skills in civics, students apply their conceptual knowledge through questioning, investigating, using evidence and communicating conclusions in order to gain knowledge and apply the skills needed to be engaged citizens.

Concepts and Practices	Standards
I: Questioning	<p>HS.C.I.Q.1 Generate compelling questions to frame thinking, inquiry and/or understanding of key civics concepts.</p> <p>HS.C.I.Q.2 Generate supporting questions to develop knowledge, understanding and/or thinking relative to key civics concepts framed by compelling questions.</p>
I: Investigating	<i>Investigating occurs through the exploration of the discipline strand standards.</i>
C: Civic and Political Institutions	<p>HS.C.CP.1 Explain how the Constitution of the United States embodies the principles of rule of law, popular sovereignty, republicanism, federalism, separation of powers and checks and balances to promote general welfare.</p> <p>HS.C.CP.2 Analyze legislative, executive and judicial branch decisions in terms of constitutionality and impact on citizens and states.</p> <p>HS.C.CP.3 Compare various forms of government and how each maintains order, upholds human rights and interacts within the international community.</p> <p>HS.C.CP.4 Evaluate how the U.S. judicial system is designed to uphold equality before the law, due process and inalienable rights.</p>
C: Roles and Responsibilities of a Citizen	<p>HS.C.RR.1 Evaluate the civic responsibilities of individuals within a society.</p> <p>HS.C.RR.2 Explain how active citizens can affect the lawmaking process locally, nationally and internationally.</p>
C: Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	<p>HS.C.CV.1 Explain how classical republicanism, natural rights philosophy and English common law influenced the thinking and actions of the American Founders.</p> <p>HS.C.CV.2 Assess how the expansion of civic virtues, democratic principles, constitutional rights and human rights influence the thoughts and actions of individuals and groups.</p>

Concepts and Practices	Standards
C: Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles <i>(continued)</i>	HS.C.CV.3 Analyze the impact of the efforts of individuals and reform movements on the expansion of civil rights and liberties locally, nationally and internationally.
C: Processes, Rules and Laws	HS.C.PR.1 Analyze the role of the three branches of government in the lawmaking process. HS.C.PR.2 Analyze the role of elections, bureaucracy, political parties, interest groups and media in shaping public policy. HS.C.PR.3 Evaluate intended and unintended consequences of public policies locally, nationally and internationally. HS.C.PR.4 Compare the domestic and foreign policies of the United States and other countries.
C: Kentucky Government	HS.C.KGO.1 Explain how the Kentucky Constitution embodies the principles of rule of law, popular sovereignty, separation of powers and checks and balances. HS.C.KGO.2 Compare Kentucky’s government to other states and to the federal government. HS.C.KGO.3 Describe how active citizens can affect change in their communities and Kentucky.
I: Using Evidence	HS.C.I.UE.1 Evaluate the credibility of multiple sources representing a variety of perspectives relevant to compelling and/or supporting questions in civics. HS.C.I.UE.2 Gather information and evidence from credible sources representing a variety of perspectives relevant to compelling and/or supporting questions in civics. HS.C.I.UE.3 Use appropriate evidence to construct and revise claims and counterclaims relevant to compelling and/or supporting questions in civics.
I: Communicating Conclusions	HS.C.I.CC.1 Engage in civil discussion, reach consensus when appropriate and respect diverse opinions relevant to compelling and/or supporting questions in civics. HS.C.I.CC.2 Engage in disciplinary thinking and construct arguments, explanations or public communications relevant to compelling and/or supporting questions in civics. HS.C.I.CC.3 Engage in disciplinary thinking and apply appropriate evidence to propose a solution or design an action plan relevant to compelling and/or supporting questions in civics.

High School Civics: Disciplinary Clarifications and Instructional Support

The disciplinary clarifications include sample ideas of content and concepts to help teachers better understand the expectations of the standards. The identified disciplinary clarifications are possible suggestions; however, they are not the only pathways and are not comprehensive to obtain mastery of the standards.

Civics Disciplinary Strand

Concepts and Practices	Standard	Disciplinary Clarifications
C: Civic and Political Institutions	HS.C.CP.1 Explain how the Constitution of the United States embodies the principles of rule of law, popular sovereignty, republicanism, federalism, separation of powers and checks and balances to promote general welfare.	<p>The foundation of government in the United States is rooted in a variety of historical and philosophical ideas, including popular sovereignty and limited government. The negotiation, collaboration and compromise achieved at the Constitutional Convention led to the creation of a new constitution with more centralized authority. The Constitution of the United States enacted federalism, which designates shared powers between the federal government and the states. The Constitution of the United States designed separate, co-equal branches of government constrained through checks and balances, which helps limit the powers among the three branches of government.</p> <p>Within the Constitution of the United States, each branch of government is granted powers that have an impact on the governance of states and citizens. The balance between the federal government, state governments and individual liberties is continuously debated between the branches. Over time, the concept of civil rights has become more expansive, as dissenting opinions and legal rulings, such as <i>Berea College v. Kentucky</i> or <i>Brown v. Board</i>, set precedents for the governance of the nation, ensuring civil liberties and also limiting the scope of state authority. Over time, executive power has grown through the use of executive orders that may challenge legislative authority while demonstrating implicit constitutional powers of the executive branch.</p>
	HS.C.CP.2 Analyze legislative, executive and judicial branch decisions in terms of constitutionality and impact on citizens and states.	

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Concepts and Practices	Standard	Disciplinary Clarifications
C: Civic and Political Institutions <i>(continued)</i>	HS.C.CP.3 Compare various forms of government and how each maintains order, upholds human rights and interacts within the international community.	<p>Different forms of government exist throughout the world and vary in terms of sources of legitimacy as well as citizens’ rights and roles. Each type of government has its own methods of determining laws, defining or debating ideas and creating procedures that address the authority to rule. In addition, there are different perceptions regarding the level of influence government has on its citizens, as well as differences in how relationships within the international community are perceived.</p> <p>For example, dictatorships are often centered around the power and authority of a single person, with little role or rights for subjects and often act outside established international norms. Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies conceive of government authority as stemming from the consent of the governed and often operate in a cooperative way within the international sphere.</p>
	HS.C.CP.4 Evaluate how the U.S. judicial system is designed to uphold equality before the law, due process and inalienable rights.	<p>Foundational to effective governance is the existence of a legal system that is perceived by citizens to uphold justice. Within the United States, both the governed and those who govern must obey the same laws and are held accountable through the judicial system. Equal protection within the legal system is included within the amendments to the Constitution of the United States.</p>
C: Roles and Responsibilities of a Citizen	HS.C.RR.1 Evaluate the civic responsibilities of individuals within a society.	<p>Engaged citizenship is a crucial element in the success of a democracy. Whether it is through personal responsibility (following laws, paying taxes), participatory citizenship (actively engaging in civic life through organizing groups, voicing opinions to public officials) or more justice-oriented citizenship (working to solve institutional problems and promote equitable social opportunities), locally, nationally and</p>

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Concepts and Practices	Standard	Disciplinary Clarifications
C: Roles and Responsibilities of a Citizen <i>(continued)</i>	HS.C.RR.2 Explain how active citizens can affect the lawmaking process locally, nationally and internationally.	internationally engaged citizens are critical to positively evolving societies. For example, concepts of citizens’ rights and equality before the law are ideas present within fundamental U.S. documents. Over time, through the actions of informed, engaged citizens, these rights have expanded in the United States. In addition, concepts of citizens’ rights are now globally significant and present in other democracies across the globe.
C: Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	HS.C.CV.1 Explain how classical republicanism, natural rights philosophy and English common law influenced the thinking and actions of the American Founders.	The U.S. government is unique but rooted in ideas and institutions pioneered elsewhere, such as the ideas of French philosophes and the institution of English common law. The democratic principles of equality before the law, inalienable rights, consent of the governed and the right to alter or abolish the government, which are present in the Declaration of Independence and other fundamental documents of the United States, were all informed by the philosophies and ideas of government present in these previous places and times.
	HS.C.CV.2 Assess how the expansion of civic virtues, democratic principles, constitutional rights and human rights influence the thoughts and actions of individuals and groups.	The principle of judicial review and reliance on precedent, both opinions and dissents, have resulted in a system of law that has evolved over time. In addition, the idea of who is included in the idea of “citizen” has expanded throughout U.S. history. For example, through the Reconstruction Amendments (13th, 14th and 15th), “citizens” came to include all men, regardless of race. Within the abolitionist movement was also the root of the women’s suffrage movement, which expanded the idea of “citizens” to include women in the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.
	HS.C.CV.3 Analyze the impact of the efforts of individuals and reform movements on the expansion of civil rights and liberties locally, nationally and internationally.	History has shown that laws and principles have not always impacted groups in the same way. Movements that expanded our definition of natural rights (suffrage, abolition, civil rights and labor movements) were all rooted in the work of various individuals and groups. Internationally, efforts to remedy human trafficking, educational disparities for women, access to clean water or eradication of diseases are also examples of individuals and groups working to expand civil rights.

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Concepts and Practices	Standard	Disciplinary Clarifications
C: Processes, Rules and Laws	HS.C.PR.1 Analyze the role of the three branches of government in the lawmaking process.	<p>The Constitution of the United States outlines the roles of the three branches of government. Congress is charged with the role of creating laws (drafting legislation, committee reviews, filibuster, floor debate). The Executive branch has an active, yet limited, role in shaping lawmaking processes (veto, communication of legislative priorities) and carrying out the laws (appointment of cabinet and departmental bureaucracies, etc.). The judicial branch has the role of determining the constitutionality of legislation and executive actions.</p>
	HS.C.PR.2 Analyze the role of elections, bureaucracy, political parties, interest groups and media in shaping public policy.	<p>Elections at the local, state or national levels inform elected officials of the needs of citizens. In addition to the elected officials, there are groups and processes that influence public policy. Efforts to shape public policy include political parties and their respective agendas, political commercials from campaigns, news media coverage of political candidates and campaigns, individuals and groups who donate money to political campaigns. Outside of elections, interest groups lobby lawmakers and even provide model legislation for them to introduce in their legislatures. Executive branch departments (including Education, Commerce, Labor and Transportation, etc.) work to enact and enforce legislation related to their respective areas.</p>
	HS.C.PR.3 Evaluate intended and unintended consequences of public policies locally, nationally and internationally.	<p>Legislation is drafted to address specific issues but can also put forces in motion that influence unrelated aspects of the law. For example, state laws that mandate voters display identification in order to vote are aimed at stopping voter fraud but may have the unintended consequence of decreasing voter turnout because some individuals may not have proper or up-to-date identification. The 18th Amendment was intended to decrease negative impacts of alcoholism but had the unintended consequence of raising crime rates through the creation of black markets and the destruction of jobs in distilling and brewing.</p>

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Concepts and Practices	Standard	Disciplinary Clarifications
C: Processes, Rules and Laws (continued)	<p>HS.C.PR.4 Compare the domestic and foreign policies of the United States and other countries.</p>	<p>Domestic and foreign policies vary from country to country based on their system of government, incentives and ability to project power.</p> <p>U.S. and other nations’ domestic issues, such as health care, policing or voting, may be prioritized based on the needs of citizens and the political climate. Foreign policy decisions, like intervention or non-intervention in affairs of other nations, provision of humanitarian aid or military expenditures, also vary based on the U.S. or other nations’ systems of government, incentives and relative power.</p>
C: Kentucky Government	<p>HS.C.KGO.1 Explain how the Kentucky Constitution embodies the principles of rule of law, popular sovereignty, separation of powers and checks and balances.</p> <p>HS.C.KGO.2 Compare Kentucky’s government to other states and to the federal government.</p> <p>HS.C.KGO.3 Describe how active citizens can affect change in their communities and Kentucky</p>	<p>Similar to the Constitution of the United States, Kentucky’s Constitution outlines separate powers for legislative, executive and judicial branches. However, some processes differ. For example, Kentucky utilizes primary elections instead of caucuses that are used by some other states. Kentucky also selects state positions, such as State Treasurer, through elections, whereas the federal government and many other states select these offices through appointments.</p> <p>Because the federal government has powers like foreign policy specifically enumerated to it in the Constitution of the United States, state powers include those “not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States...”</p> <p>Informed and engaged citizenship is a crucial part of the successful functioning of Kentucky. Constitutionally protected speech and expression include letters to elected officials, public protests, testimony before legislative committees in favor of or in opposition to proposed legislation or attendance at meetings of city council or local school boards to track policy proposals and voice concerns. Young people can get involved in many ways prior to obtaining the ability to vote, including the examples above, volunteering, or joining a local service organization within their school or community, to engage in their community and become active citizens.</p>

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