

GOVERNMENT (12) ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS & BENCHMARKS

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Which types of forces or events bring about genuine historical change, that is, which genuinely disrupt patterns of continuity?
- What roles do individuals play in historical change?
- Why do people live together and form societies?
- Are democratic governments and those based upon constitutions, civic rights and responsibilities, and the rule of law universally the “best” form of government?
- What constrains national governments when shaping domestic policy and directing foreign policy?
- What is the best way for governments to tax its citizens or subjects?
- How are governments established, maintained, and changed?
- What happens in the absence of government?

BENCHMARKS

- 1.12.g Evaluate historians' interpretations of the past using a variety of sources.
- 4.12.k Examine the epistemological complexities of the postmodern age.
- 6.12.f Analyze how and why political institutions distribute benefits and burdens.
- 6.12.g Describe major responsibilities of political institutions for domestic and foreign policy.
- 6.12.h Examine the wide range of influences on policy makers.
- 6.12.i Evaluate various means of achieving specific political objectives.
- 6.12.j Discuss the significance of shared political and civic beliefs and values, and of economic prosperity, to the preservation of political organization.
- 6.12.k Examine the role of voluntary, community and non- governmental groups in society and their relationship to the functions of political organizations.
- 6.12.l Evaluate functions and responsibilities of, and challenges to, leadership.
- 6.12.m Compare and contrast the role of citizens in various forms of governance.
- 6.12.n Evaluate various ways different societies provide the judiciary function.

By the end of this course, I will BE ABLE TO...

- Distinguish Fact from Opinion
- Identify Cause and Effect
- Analyze Primary Sources, Secondary Sources, Political Cartoons
- Synthesize information from multiple sources

- Make decisions to solve problems

GOVERNMENT (12) COURSE THEMES & UNIT OVERVIEW

Authority

God created this world to operate in a particular way (Psalm 74:16-17, Jeremiah 33:2, 25) and the Creator's original intent was equality, partnership, and interdependence (Genesis 1:26-29, 2:15-25). Authorities are intended to oversee the planning, development, and activity here on earth by serving and lifting others up (Philippians 2:1-11).

Leadership

Every person is gifted and made in God's image (Isaiah 28:23-29) and even those who are natural leaders are dependent upon God's spirit for leadership (1 Samuel 16). Leaders have a responsibility to put others' needs ahead of their own and to serve those they have been given authority over.

Politics

God from the very beginning established organizational structures, including that of family and government (Genesis 2, 9). The Trinity models the process of people submitting themselves to others to accomplish a task; the Father plans, the Son provides, and the Spirit protects (Ephesians 1:3-14).

Order

Orders or directives create an accountability structure through which any organization can effectively function. Planning, providing, and protecting people is the essence of what it means to practice administration. We create community and serve one another with the knowledge that God alone orders this world (Isaiah 46:9-11).

Unit 1: Purpose of Government (Ch. 1)- 3 weeks

Unit 2: American Government (Ch. 2-3)- 3 weeks

Unit 3: Three Branches of Government (Ch. 4-8)- 3 weeks

Unit 4: Elections (Ch. 12)- 3 weeks

Unit 5: Comparative Government & Final Project (Ch. 15)- 4 weeks