American constitutional government is founded on concepts articulated in earlier documents, including those listed above.

Influence of earlier documents on the Constitution of the United States of America

- The Charters of the Virginia Company of London guaranteed the rights of Englishmen to the colonists.
- The Virginia Declaration of Rights served as a model for the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States of America.
- The Declaration of Independence
  - stated grievances against the king of Great Britain
  - declared the colonies’ independence from Great Britain
  - affirmed “certain unalienable rights” (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness) established the idea that all people are equal under the law.
- The Articles of Confederation
  - established the first form of national government for the independent states
  - maintained that major powers resided with individual states
  - created weak central government (e.g., no power to tax or enforce laws); led to the writing of the Constitution of the United States of America.
- The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom stated freedom of religious beliefs and opinions.

The U.S. Constitution of the United States of America, including the Bill of Rights,

- established the structure of the United States government
- guaranteed equality under the law with majority rule and the rights of the minority protected
- affirmed individual worth and dignity of all people
- protected the fundamental freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
**STANDARD CE.2c**  
--- **PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Foundations of American constitutional government-

**c) Purposes for the Constitution of the United States as stated in its Preamble.**

The Preamble of a constitution sets forth the **goals and purposes** to be served by the government.

**What are the purposes identified in the Preamble?**

The Preamble expresses the **reasons** the constitution was written.

**Purposes of United States government**
- To form a more **perfect union**
- To establish **justice**
- To ensure **domestic tranquility**
- To provide for the **common defense**
- To promote the general **welfare**
- To secure the blessings of **liberty**

The Preamble begins, “**We the People,**” thereby establishing that the power of **government comes from the people.**

**STANDARD CE.2d**  
--- **AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

Foundations of American constitutional government-

**d) Procedures for amending the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States.**

The **constitutions** of Virginia and the United States can be **amended** through processes **outlined in the constitutions.**

The Virginia constitution has been **rewritten several times.**

**How can the Constitution of the United States be amended?**

**Constitution** of the United States
- The amendment process is **complex.**
- To date, there are **27 amendments** to the Constitution of the United States.

**Amendment process:**
- **Proposal:** action by Congress or convention
- **Ratification:** by the states

**How can the Constitution of Virginia be amended?**

**Constitution of Virginia**
- Amendment process:
  - **Proposal:** action by General Assembly or convention
  - **Ratification:** by voters of Virginia
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**STANDARD CE.3A**
--- BECOMING A CITIZEN

The processes by which an individual becomes a citizen of the United States.

A *citizen* is an individual with certain rights and duties under a government and who, by birth or by choice, owes allegiance to that government.

**How does an individual become a citizen?**

The *Fourteenth Amendment* to the Constitution of the United States of America defines citizenship as follows:

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the state wherein they reside.”

Means of obtaining citizenship:

- By birth
- By naturalization

Immigration and naturalization, particularly in the twentieth century, have led to an increasingly diverse society.

To become a citizen through naturalization, a person must demonstrate knowledge of American history and principles and the ability to read, speak, and write words in ordinary usage in the *English language*.

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**STANDARD CE.3B**
--- CITIZENSHIP’S RIGHTS & DUTIES

First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, and the rights guaranteed by due process and equal protection of the laws.

The Constitution of the United States of America establishes and protects the citizens’ *fundamental rights and liberties*.

Few rights, if any, are considered *absolute*.

---

**What fundamental rights and liberties are guaranteed in the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America?**

**First Amendment freedoms**

- **Religion**: Government may not establish an official religion, endorse an official religion, or unduly interfere with the *free exercise of religion*.
- **Speech**: Individuals are free to express their opinions and beliefs.
- **Press**: The press has the right to gather and publish information, including that which criticizes the government.
- **Assembly**: Individuals may peacefully gather.
- **Petition**: Individuals have the right to make their views known to public officials.

**Fourteenth Amendment**

- Extends the *due process* protection to actions of the states

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**STANDARD CE.3C**
--- DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP

The duties of citizenship, including obeying the laws, paying taxes, defending the nation, and serving in court.

For government to be effective, citizens must fulfill their civic duties.

**What civic duties are expected of all citizens?**

**Duties of citizens**

- **laws**
- **Pay taxes**
- **Obey**
- **Serve in the armed forces**, if called
- **Serve on a jury** or as a witness in court, when summoned

Citizens who choose not to fulfill these civic duties face *legal consequences*. 
**STANDARD CE.3d -- RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP**

The responsibilities of citizenship, including
- registering and voting
- communicating with government officials
- participating in political campaigns
- keeping informed about current issues
- respecting differing opinions in a diverse society

A basic responsibility of citizenship is to contribute to the common good.

What are the ways individuals demonstrate responsible citizenship?

Civic responsibilities are fulfilled by choice; they are voluntary.

Responsibilities of citizens
- Register and vote
- Hold elective office
- Communicate with government officials to influence government actions
- Serve in voluntary, appointed government positions
- Participate in political campaigns
- Keep informed regarding current issues
- Respect others’ right to an equal voice in government

**STANDARD CE.4a-g -- GOOD CITIZENSHIP**

Thoughtful and effective participation in civic life depends upon the exercise of good citizenship.

How do individuals demonstrate thoughtful and effective participation in civic life?

Personal traits of good citizens
- Trustworthiness and honesty
- Courtesy and respect for the rights of others
- Responsibility, accountability, and self-reliance
- Respect for the law
- Patriotism
- Participation in the school and/or local community
- Participation in elections as an informed voter

Effective participation in civic life can include
- formulating questions
- analyzing information from a variety of sources
- expressing a position
- devising and implementing a plan
- practicing thoughtful decision making in personal, financial, and civic matters (e.g., voting, civic issues)

**STANDARD CE.3e -- COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Civic and social duties address community needs and serve the public good.

A democratic society requires the active participation of its citizens.

In what ways do citizens participate in community service?

Ways for citizens to participate in community service
- Volunteer to support democratic institutions (e.g., League of Women Voters).
- Express concern about the welfare of the community as a whole (e.g., as related to environment, public health and safety, education).
- Help to make the community a good place to work and live (e.g., by becoming involved with public service organizations, tutoring, volunteering in nursing homes).
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STANDARD CE.5A
-- Political Parties

The functions of political parties

Political parties play a key role in government and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process.

What roles do political parties play in the American political process?

Functions of political parties

- Recruiting and nominating candidates
- Educating the electorate about campaign issues
- Helping candidates win elections
- Monitoring actions of officeholders

STANDARD CE.5B
-- Two-Party System

Similarities and differences of political parties.

A two-party system characterizes the American political process.

Although third parties rarely win elections, they can play an important role in public politics.

How are the two major political parties similar, and how do they differ?

Similarities between parties

- Organize to win elections
- Influence public policies
- Reflect both liberal and conservative views
- Define themselves in a way that wins majority support by appealing to the political center

Differences between parties

- Stated in party platforms and reflected in campaigning

STANDARD CE.5C
-- Role of Media in Campaigns

Campaigns for elective office, with emphasis on the role of the media.

Voters evaluate information presented in political campaigns to make reasoned choices among candidates.

The media play an important role in the political process.

How do citizens make informed choices in elections?

Strategies for evaluating campaign speeches, literature, and advertisements for accuracy

- Separating fact from opinion
- Detecting bias
- Evaluating sources
- Identifying propaganda

How does the media play a role in the political process?

Mass media roles in elections

- Identifying candidates
- Emphasizing selected issues
- Writing editorials, creating political cartoons, publishing op-ed pieces
- Broadcasting different points of view

Third parties

- Introduce new ideas and/or press for a particular issue
- Often revolve around a political personality (e.g., Theodore Roosevelt)
STANDARD CE.5d
-- CAMPAIGN COSTS

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the political process at the local, state, and national levels of government by d) examining the role of campaign contributions and costs.

Running for political office is expensive. How has the high cost of getting elected changed campaigning for public office?

Rising campaign costs
- require candidates to conduct extensive fundraising activities
- limit opportunities to run for public office
- give an advantage to wealthy individuals who run for office
- encourage the development of political action committees (PACs)
- give issue-oriented special interest groups increased influence.

Campaign finance reform
- Rising campaign costs have led to efforts to reform campaign finance laws.
- Limits have been placed on the amount individuals may contribute to political candidates and campaigns.

STANDARD CE.5e
-- VOTER REGISTRATION

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the political process at the local, state, and national levels of government by e) describing voter registration and participation.

Voting is a basic responsibility of citizenship. Voter registration is required before a citizen may vote. The number of citizens who register and vote is related to how important election issues are to citizens.

What are the qualifications for voter registration in Virginia?

Only citizens who register may participate in primary and general elections.

Qualifications to register to vote in Virginia
- Citizen of the United States
- Resident of Virginia and precinct
- At least 18 years of age by day of general election

How to register to vote in Virginia
- In person at the registrar’s office, at the Division of Motor Vehicles, or at other designated sites
- By mail-in application

Voter registration is closed 22 days before elections.

What factors influence voter registration and turnout?

Factors in predicting which citizens will vote
- Education
- Age
- Income

Reasons why citizens fail to vote
- Lack of interest
- Failure to register

The percentage of voters who participate in presidential elections is usually greater than the percentage of voters who participate in state and local elections.

Every vote is important.
The role of the Electoral College in the election of the president and vice president.

The Electoral College process is used to select the president and vice president of the United States.

How does the Electoral College select the president and vice president of the United States?

Electoral College process

- A slate of electors for each state is chosen by popular vote.
- Most states have a winner-take-all system.
- The electors meet to vote for president and vice president.

The winner-take-all system leads to the targeting of densely populated states for campaigning, although candidates must pay attention to less populated states whose electoral votes may make the difference in tight elections.

The number of electors of each state is based on the size of the state’s Congressional representation, which is based on the state’s population.

The requirement for a majority vote to win in the Electoral College favors a two-party system.

All citizens can learn the importance of the individual’s participation in the political process either through direct involvement in campaigns or through simulations.

How can students under 18 participate in the democratic process?

Student participation in the democratic process can include

- participating in campaigns
- participating in classroom and online simulations.
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STANDARD CE.6A
-- NATIONAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The structure and powers of the national government.

The Constitution of the United States defines the structure and powers of the national government.

The powers held by government are divided between the national government in Washington, D.C., and the governments of the 50 states.

What is the structure of the national government as set out in the United States Constitution?

What are the powers of the national government?

Legislative, executive, and judicial powers of the national government are distributed among three distinct and independent branches of government.

The legislative branch
- Consists of the Congress, a bicameral legislature consisting of the House of Representatives (435 members, based upon populations of the states) and the Senate (100 members—two per state)
- Makes the laws of the nation
- Approves the annual budget
- Confirms presidential appointments
- Raises revenue through taxes and other levies
- Regulates interstate and foreign trade
- Declares war

The executive branch
- Headed by the president of the United States, the chief executive officer of the nation
- Executes the laws of the land
- Prepares the annual budget for congressional action
- Appoints cabinet officers, ambassadors, and federal judges
- Administers the federal bureaucracy

The judicial branch
- Consists of the federal courts, including the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land
- The Supreme Court exercises the power of judicial review.
- The federal courts try cases involving federal law and questions involving interpretation of the Constitution of the United States.

STANDARD CE.6B
-- SEPARATION OF POWERS

The principle of separation of powers and the operation of checks and balances.

The powers of the national government are separated among three branches of the government in ways that limit any one branch from abusing its power.

How do the separation of powers and the system of checks and balances protect against an abuse of power by any one branch of the national government?

Separation of powers
The Constitution of the United States in Articles I, II, and III defines the powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the national government.

Checks and balances
Each of the three branches of the national government limits the exercise of power by the other two branches.

The legislative branch
The Congress checks the president when legislators
- override presidential vetoes
- impeach and convict a president.

The Congress checks the courts when legislators
- confirm or refuse to confirm federal judges/justices
- impeach and convict judges/justices.

The executive branch
- The president checks Congress when the president
  - proposes legislation
  - prepares an annual budget for Congress to approve
  - call special sessions of Congress
  - vetoes legislation Congress has passed.
- The president checks the courts when the president appoints judges/justices.

The judicial branch
- The courts check Congress when judges/justices declare acts of Congress to be unconstitutional.
- The courts check the president when judges/justices declare executive actions to be unconstitutional.

STANDARD CE.6c
-- Lawmaking Process

The lawmaking process (national level).

Officials who are elected to serve in the national legislature make laws.

All citizens can learn the importance of the individual’s participation in the policymaking process through direct participation and simulations.

Which branch of the national government has the power to pass laws?

National laws are made by Congress.

Legislative powers
- Expressed: Specifically listed in the Constitution of the United States
- Implied: Used to carry out expressed powers

How does Congress make laws?

The lawmaking process in Congress
- Introducing a bill by a Senator or Representative
- Working in committees
- Debating the bill on the floor of each house
- Voting on the bill in each house
- Sending the bill to the president to sign into law

Elected officials in Congress write laws and take action in response to problems or issues.

Individuals and interest groups help shape legislation.

The formal powers of Congress are limited by the Constitution of the United States.

How can citizens learn the importance of the individual’s participation in the policymaking process?

Citizens (including students) learn the importance of the legislative process through direct involvement and/or simulations.

STANDARD CE.6d -- Executive Branch

The roles and powers of the executive branch (national level)

The executive branch plays a key role in the policymaking process.

Presidential power is broad in both domestic and foreign affairs, but there are limits on what the president can and cannot do.

What are the roles and powers of the executive branch of the national government?

Ways the executive branch influences policymaking
- Proposing legislation in an annual speech to Congress (State of the Union Address)
- Appealing directly to the people
- Approving or vetoing legislation
- Appointing officials who carry out the laws

Cabinet departments, agencies, and regulatory groups interpret and execute the laws.

What are the roles and powers of the president?

The president exercises power as
- chief of state: Ceremonial head of the government
- chief executive: Head of the executive branch of government
- chief legislator: Proposer of the legislative agenda
- commander-in-chief: Head of the nation’s armed forces
- chief diplomat: Architect of American foreign policy
- chief of party: Leader of the political party that controls the executive branch
- chief citizen: Representative of all of the people.

Presidential power has grown in the years since the Constitution was ratified.
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**STANDARD CE.7 A**
-- STATE GOVERNMENT

The structure and powers of the state government.

The form of government of the Commonwealth of Virginia is established by the Virginia Constitution.

Legislative, executive, and judicial powers are separated at the state level of government.

What is the structure of Virginia’s state government?

What are some of the powers of the three branches of state government?

The Virginia Constitution distributes power among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the state government.

The legislative branch is the General Assembly, a bicameral legislature—the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate—that meets annually for a fixed number of days.

The executive power is exercised by the governor, who is elected for a four-year term of office. The governor appoints members of the cabinet, who oversee specific functions of government.

The lieutenant governor and the attorney general are executive branch officers who are elected for a four-year term of office.

The judicial power is exercised by a court system that consists of four levels of courts:
- Supreme Court
- Court of appeals
- Circuit courts
- District courts (including small claims courts and juvenile and domestic relations courts)

**STANDARD CE.7B**
-- FEDERALISM

The relationship of state governments to the national government in the federal system.

The Constitution of the United States of America establishes the principle of federalism, which is the division of power between the states and the national government.

The expansion of the national government’s powers into areas traditionally reserved to the states has altered the relationship of states to the national government.

How does the Constitution of the United States of America outline the division and sharing of powers between the national and state governments?

The Constitution of the United States of America establishes a federal form of government in which the national government is supreme.

The powers not given to the national government by the Constitution of the United States of America are reserved to the states.

The Constitution of the United States of America denies certain powers to both the national and state governments.

Primary responsibilities of each level of government:
- National: Conducts foreign policy, regulates commerce, and provides for the common defense
- State: Promotes public health, safety, and welfare

Tensions exist when federal mandates require state actions without adequate funding.

**Division of Powers**

- Federal powers:
  - Conduct war, conduct foreign affairs, establishing a federal court system, raise and support armies, coin money, regulate international trade, levy taxes, borrow money, define crime, punish crime, and charter banks.

- State powers:
  - Create public schools, create local government, provide public education, create traffic laws, levy taxes, borrow money, define crime, punish crime, charter banks, and issue licenses for marriage, practicing law, and medicine.

- Concurrent powers:
  - States and federal government share some of the same powers. They may each levy taxes, borrow money, charter banks, define crime, and punish crime.

- Powers denied to states:
  - States are denied the powers to coin money, enter into treaties, establish weights and measurements, and run the postal service.
**STANDARD CE.7c**
-- STATE LAWMAKING PROCESS

The state lawmaking process.

Members of the Virginia General Assembly are elected to make state laws.

All citizens can learn the importance of the individual’s participation in the policymaking process through direct participation and simulations.

**Which branch of the Virginia state government has the power to pass laws?**

**How does the Virginia General Assembly make laws?**

The lawmaking process in the Virginia General Assembly
- Introducing a bill
- Working in committees
- Debating the bill on the floor of each house
- Voting on the bill in each house
- Sending the bill to the governor to sign into law

Elected officials in the Virginia General Assembly write laws and take action in response to problems or issues.

Individuals and interest groups help shape legislation.

The primary issues in the legislative process at the state level
- **Education:** To promote an informed and engaged citizenry (i.e., establish minimum standards for local schools)
- **Public health:** To promote and protect the health of its citizens (i.e., fund health benefits)
- **Environment:** To protect natural resources (i.e., improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay)
- **State budget:** To approve a biennial (two year) budget prepared by the governor
- **Revenue:** To levy and collect taxes

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**STANDARD CE.7d**
-- STATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The roles and powers of the state executive branch and regulatory boards.

The executive branch of the Virginia state government enforces the laws and plays a key role in the policymaking process.

What are the roles and powers of the executive branch at the state level?

The governor of Virginia exercises the formal powers granted by the Virginia Constitution.

In carrying out both the formal and informal powers of the office, the governor fills several roles, including
- chief of state
- chief legislator
- chief administrator
- party chief
- commander-in-chief.

Cabinet secretaries and departments, agencies, commissions, and regulatory boards
- administer laws
- enforce laws
- regulate aspects of business and the economy
- provide services.
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**STANDARD CE.8A**
-- LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The structure and powers of the local government.

The units of local governments in Virginia are political subdivisions created by the General Assembly.

**What are the units of local government in Virginia?**

The units of local government in Virginia are counties, towns, and cities. Local governments exercise legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

Each Virginia county has an elected board of supervisors, which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances (local laws) and adopting an annual budget.

Each Virginia county and city has an elected or appointed school board, which oversees the operation of the K–12 public schools in the county or city.

Each Virginia incorporated town has an elected town council, which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances and adopting an annual budget. A mayor is elected either by the voters or the town council members.

Each Virginia city has an elected city council, which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances and adopting an annual budget. A mayor is elected either by the voters or the city council members.

In Virginia counties, towns, and cities, a manager may be hired by the elected legislative branch to oversee the operations of the local government.

In every Virginia locality, state courts resolve judicial disputes. Judges of the circuit courts, district courts, juvenile and domestic relations courts, and small claims courts hear cases in each locality.

**Which officials are locally elected?**

The Virginia Constitution requires that voters in every locality elect a sheriff, a clerk of the circuit court, a commissioner of revenue, and a treasurer.

**Which powers do local government exercise?**

Virginia local governments exercise defined and limited powers, including the power to

- enforce state and local laws
- promote public health
- protect public safety
- educate children
- protect the environment
- regulate land use
- levy and collect taxes.

**STANDARD CE.8B**
-- LOCAL VS. STATE GOVERNMENT

The relationship of local government to the state government

The authority of local governments in Virginia is derived from the state.

**What is the relationship between the state government and local governments in Virginia?**

All powers of local governments in Virginia are given to them by the Constitution of Virginia and acts of the General Assembly.

Not all counties and cities are given the same powers. Cities have charters listing their powers.

**STANDARD CE.8C**
-- LOCAL LAWMAKING PROCESS

The local lawmaking process

Counties, cities, and towns adopt and enforce ordinances to provide services for their residents.

All citizens can learn the importance of the individual’s participation in the policymaking process through direct participation and simulations.

**How do localities enact ordinances?**

An elected board of supervisors is the local legislative body in counties and is responsible for passing laws (ordinances) for the county.

An elected council is the local legislative body in independent cities and incorporated towns.

Individuals can have the greatest influence on the decisions made by local government officials.
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**STANDARD CE.9A**
--- THE MEDIA

The impact of the media on public opinion and public policy

The media informs policymakers and influences public policy.

*What influence do the media have on public policy and policymakers?*

Ways the media play an important role in setting the public agenda
- Focusing public attention on selected issues
- Offering a forum in which opposing viewpoints are communicated
- Holding government officials accountable to the public

Government officials use the media to communicate with the public.

**STANDARD CE.9B**
--- INTEREST GROUPS & INFLUENCE

Individuals and interest groups influence public policy

Individuals and interest groups influence public policy.

*How do individuals and interest groups influence policymakers?*

Terms to know
- Lobbying: Seeking to influence legislators to introduce or vote for or against a bill

Ways individuals influence public policy
- Participating in politics (voting, campaigning, seeking office)
- Expressing opinions (lobbying, demonstrating, writing letters)
- Joining interest groups

Ways interest groups influence public policy
- Identifying issues
- Making political contributions
- Lobbying government officials

**STANDARD CE.9C**
--- INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

The impact of international issues and events on local decision making

Local governments may be required to formulate, adopt, and implement public policies in response to international issues and events.

*Which international issues and events would require local government officials to act?*

International issues and events that would require policy decisions by local government officials could include the following:
- Public health concerns in the event of a pandemic
- Public safety in the event of an act of terrorism
- Economic development policies in response to the emerging global economy
- Policies to protect the environment (e.g., wildlife protection)
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STANDARD CE.10A
-- JUDICIAL SYSTEM ORGANIZATION

The organization of the United States judicial system as consisting of state and federal courts with original and appellate jurisdiction

The judicial function is exercised in a dual court system, which consists of state courts and federal courts.

How are federal courts organized, and what jurisdiction does each exercise?

The United States has a court system whose organization and jurisdiction are derived from the Constitution of the United States and federal laws.

- U.S. Supreme Court: Justices, no jury; appellate jurisdiction; limited original jurisdiction
- U.S. Court of Appeals: Judges, no jury; appellate jurisdiction
- U.S. District Court: Judge, with or without jury; original jurisdiction

How are state courts organized, and what jurisdiction does each exercise?

Virginia, like each of the other 49 states, has its own separate court system whose organization and jurisdiction are derived from Virginia's constitution and state laws.

- Virginia Supreme Court: Justices, no jury; appellate jurisdiction; limited original jurisdiction
- Court of Appeals of Virginia: Judges, no jury; appellate jurisdiction to review decisions of circuit courts
- Circuit court: Judge, with or without jury; original jurisdiction for felony criminal cases and for certain civil cases; appellate jurisdiction from district courts
- General district court, and juvenile and domestic relations court: Judge, no jury; original jurisdiction for misdemeanors in civil cases generally involving lower dollar amounts and original jurisdiction in juvenile and family cases

STANDARD CE.10B
-- JUDICIAL REVIEW

The exercise of judicial review

The power of judicial review is an important check on the legislative and executive branches of government.

What is judicial review?

The supreme courts of the United States and Virginia determine the constitutionality of laws and acts of the executive branch of government. This power is called "judicial review."

Marbury v. Madison established the principle of judicial review at the national level.

The Constitution of the United States of America is the supreme law of the land.

State laws must conform to the Virginia and United States constitutions.

STANDARD CE.10C
-- CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASES

Civil and criminal cases

Courts resolve two kinds of legal conflicts—civil and criminal.

How are criminal and civil cases similar and different?

Criminal case
- In a criminal case, a court determines whether a person accused of breaking the law is guilty or not guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony.

Procedure for criminal cases
- A person accused of a crime may be arrested if the police have probable cause.
- The accused may be committed to jail or released on bail.
- The case proceeds to an arraignment where probable cause is reviewed, an attorney may be appointed for the defendant, and a plea is entered.
- A court date is set, and a trial is conducted.
A guilty verdict may be appealed.

**Civil case**

- In a **civil case**, a court settles a **disagreement between two parties** to recover damages or receive compensation.

**Procedure for civil cases**

- The **plaintiff** files a complaint to recover damages or receive compensation.
- Cases can be heard by a **judge** or a **jury**.
- Cases can be **appealed**.

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**STANDARD CE.10D**

**-- DUE PROCESS**

Due process protections seek to ensure justice

The **right to due process** of law is outlined in the **5th and 14th Amendments** to the Constitution of the United States of America.

**How do the due process protections ensure justice?**

Terms to know

- **due process of law**: The constitutional protection against unfair governmental actions and laws

**Due process protections**

- The **5th Amendment** prohibits the national government from acting in an **unfair manner**
- The **14th Amendment** prohibits state and local governments from acting in an **unfair manner**

The **Supreme Court** has extended the **guarantees of the Bill of Rights**, based upon the **due process clause**.
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STANDARD CE.11A
-- MARKET TERMS

Scarcity, resources, choice, opportunity cost, price, incentives, supply and demand, production, and consumption

People make choices about how to use limited resources, decide the ownership of resources, and structure markets for the distribution of goods and services.

How do people deal with scarcity, resources, choice, opportunity cost, price, incentives, supply and demand, production, and consumption?

Scarcity is the inability to satisfy all wants at the same time. All resources and goods are limited. This requires that choices be made.

Resources are factors of production that are used in the production of goods and services. Types of resources are natural, human, capital, and entrepreneurship.

Choice is selection of an item or action from a set of possible alternatives. Individuals must choose or make decisions about desired goods and services because these goods and services are limited.

Opportunity cost is what is given up when a choice is made—i.e., the highest valued alternative is forgone. Individuals must consider the value of what is given up when making a choice.

Price is the amount of money exchanged for a good or service. Interaction of supply and demand determines price. Price determines who acquires goods and services.

Incentives are things that incite or motivate. Incentives are used to change economic behavior.

Supply and demand: Interaction of supply and demand determines price.

Demand is the amount of a good or service that consumers are willing and able to buy at a certain price.

Supply is the amount of a good or service that producers are willing and able to sell at a certain price.

Production is the combining of human, natural, capital, and entrepreneurship resources to make goods or provide services. Resources available and consumer preferences determine what is produced.

Consumption is the using of goods and services. Consumer preferences and price determine what is purchased and consumed.

STANDARD CE.11B
-- ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Traditional, free market, command, and mixed economies

Every country must develop an economic system to determine how to use its limited productive resources.

The key factor in determining the type of economy a country has is the extent of government involvement.

What are the basic economic questions all societies must answer?

How does each type of economy answer the three basic questions?

The three basic questions of economics
• What will be produced?
• Who will produce it?
• For whom will it be produced?

Each type of economy answers the three basic questions differently.

What are the basic characteristics of traditional, free market, command, and mixed economies?

Characteristics of major economic systems
• No country relies exclusively on markets to deal with the economic problem of scarcity.

Traditional economy
• Economic decisions are based on custom and historical precedent.
People often perform the same type of work as their parents and grandparents, regardless of ability or potential.

Free market economy
- Private ownership of property/resources
- Profit motive
- Competition
- Consumer sovereignty
- Individual choice
- Minimal government involvement in the economy

Command economy
- Central ownership (usually by government) of property/resources
- Centrally-planned economy
- Lack of consumer choice

Mixed economy
- Individuals and businesses are owners and decision makers for the private sector.
- Government is owner and decision maker for the public sector.
- Government’s role is greater than in a free market economy and less than in a command economy.
- Most economies today, including the United States, are mixed economies.

**STANDARD CE.11c -- U.S. ECONOMY**

Characteristics of the United States economy, including limited government, private property, profit, and competition

The United States economy is primarily a free market economy; but because there is some government involvement it is characterized as a mixed economy.

Government intervenes in a market economy when the perceived benefits of a government policy outweigh the anticipated costs.

What are the essential characteristics of the United States economy?

Characteristics of the United States economy
- Markets are generally allowed to operate without undue interference from the government. Prices are determined by supply and demand as buyers and sellers interact in the marketplace.
- Private property: Individuals and businesses have the right to own real and personal property as well as the means of production without undue interference from the government.
- Profit: Profit consists of earnings after all expenses have been paid.
- Competition: Rivalry between producers and/or between sellers of a good or service usually results in better quality goods and services at lower prices.
- Consumer sovereignty: Consumers determine through purchases what goods and services will be produced. Government involvement in the economy is limited. Most decisions regarding the production of goods and services are made in the private sector.
Types of business organizations and the role of entrepreneurship

There are three basic ways that businesses organize to earn profits.

Entrepreneurs play an important role in all three types of business organizations.

What are the basic types of profit-seeking business structures?

Basic types of business ownership
- **Proprietorship**: A form of business organization with one owner who takes all the risks and all the profits.
- **Partnership**: A form of business organization with two or more owners who share the risks and the profits.
- **Corporation**: A form of business organization that is authorized by law to act as a legal entity regardless of the number of owners. Owners share the profits. Owner liability is limited to the amount of their investment.

What is an entrepreneur?

Entrepreneur
- A person who takes a risk to produce and sell goods and services in search of profit
- May establish a business according to any of the three types of organizational structures

Circular flow shows how consumers (households), businesses (producers), and markets interact

Resources, goods and services, and money flow continuously among households, businesses, and markets in the United States economy.

Economic flow (circular flow)
- Individual and business saving and investment provide financial capital that can be borrowed for business expansion and increased consumption.
- Individuals (households) own the resources used in production, sell the resources, and use the income to purchase products.
- Businesses (producers) buy resources; make products that are sold to individuals, other businesses, and the government; and use the profits to buy more resources.
- Governments use tax revenue from individuals and businesses to provide public goods and services.

Financial institutions channel funds from savers to borrowers

Private financial institutions act as intermediaries between savers and borrowers that include households and business investors.

- Include banks, savings and loans, and credit unions
- Receive deposits and make loans
- Encourage saving and investing by paying interest on deposits
The relationship of Virginia and the United States to the global economy, with emphasis on the impact of technological innovations

Virginia and the United States pursue international trade in order to increase wealth.

Why do Virginia and the United States trade with other nations?

Terms to know

- **global economy**: Worldwide markets in which the buying and selling of goods and services by all nations takes place

**Reasons that states and nations trade**
- To obtain goods and services they cannot produce or cannot produce efficiently themselves
  - To buy goods and services at a lower cost or a lower opportunity cost
    - To sell goods and services to other countries
    - To create jobs

Virginia and the United States specialize in the production of certain goods and services, which promotes efficiency and growth.

**What is the impact of technological innovation on world trade?**

**Impact of technological innovations**

Innovations in technology (e.g., the Internet) contribute to the global flow of information, capital, goods, and services.

The use of such technology also lowers the cost of production.
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STANDARD CE.13A
-- MARKETPLACE COMPETITION

Competition in the marketplace

The government promotes and regulates marketplace competition.

How does the United States government promote and regulate marketplace competition?

Ways the government promotes marketplace competition
- Enforcing antitrust legislation to discourage the development of monopolies
- Engaging in global trade
- Supporting business start-ups

Government agencies that regulate business
- FCC (Federal Communications Commission)
- EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
- FTC (Federal Trade Commission)

These agencies oversee the way individuals and companies do business.

STANDARD CE.13B
-- PUBLIC GOODS & SERVICES

Government provides certain goods and services

Government provides certain goods and services that individuals and businesses acting alone cannot provide efficiently.

What types of goods and services do governments provide?

Characteristics of most goods and services provided by government
- Provide benefits to many simultaneously
- Would not likely be available if individuals had to provide them
- Include such things as interstate highways, postal service, and national defense

How do governments pay for the goods and services they provide?

Ways governments pay for public goods and services
- Through tax revenue
- Through borrowed funds
- Through fees (e.g., park entrance fees)

STANDARD CE.13C
-- TAXATION

The impact of taxation, including an understanding of the reasons for the 16th Amendment, spending, and borrowing

The government taxes, borrows, and spends to influence economic activity.

How does the government influence economic activity?

Government tax increases reduce the funds available for individual and business spending; tax decreases increase funds for individual and business spending.

Increased government borrowing reduces funds available for borrowing by individuals and businesses; decreased government borrowing increases funds available for borrowing by individuals and businesses.

Increased government spending increases demand, which may increase employment and production; decreased government spending reduces demand, which may result in a slowing of the economy.

Increased government spending may result in higher taxes; decreased government spending may result in lower taxes.

The 16th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America authorizes Congress to tax personal and business incomes.

STANDARD CE.13D
-- FEDERAL RESERVE

The Federal Reserve System acts as the nation’s central bank

The Federal Reserve System is our nation’s central bank.

What is the role of the Federal Reserve System?

As the central bank of the United States, the Federal Reserve System
- has the duty to maintain the value of the national currency (dollar)
• regulates banks to ensure the soundness of the banking system and the safety of deposits
• manages the amount of money in the economy to try to keep inflation low and stable
• acts as the federal government’s bank.

STANDARD CE.13E
-- CONSUMER & PROPERTY RIGHTS

The protection of consumer rights and property rights

The United States government passes laws and creates agencies to protect consumer rights and property rights.

What is the role of the United States government in protecting consumer rights and property rights?

Individuals have the right of private ownership, which is protected by negotiated contracts that are enforceable by law. Government agencies establish guidelines that protect public health and safety. Consumers may take legal action against violations of consumer rights.

STANDARD CE.13F
-- MONEY

Government creates currency and coins; there are additional forms of money

Money is defined as anything that is generally accepted as a method of payment.

Why does the government issue currency and coins?

Which government agencies are responsible for creating money?

When the United States government issues coins and currency, people accept it in exchange for goods and services because they have confidence in the government. Government issues money to facilitate this exchange.

The three types of money generally used in the United States are
• coins
• Federal Reserve notes (currency)
• deposits in bank accounts that can be accessed by checks and debit cards.

STANDARD CE.14
-- CAREERS & FINANCES

a) talents, interests, and aspirations that influence career choice;
b) attitudes and behaviors that strengthen the individual work ethic and promote career success;
c) abilities, skills, and education and the changing supply and demand for them in the economy;
d) the impact of technological change and globalization on career opportunities;
e) the importance of education to lifelong personal finances;
f) the financial responsibilities of citizenship, including evaluating common forms of credit, savings, investments, purchases, contractual agreements, warranties, and guarantees.

What is the role of self-assessment in career planning?

An awareness of personal talents, interests, and aspirations is needed to select a career.

Career planning starts with self-assessment.

What is the role of work ethic in determining career success?

Attitudes and behaviors that support a strong work ethic enhance career success.

Employers seek employees who demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors of a strong work ethic.

What is the relationship among skills, education, and income?

There is a correlation among skills, education, and income.

Higher skill and/or education levels generally lead to higher incomes.

Supply and demand also influence job income.

Employers seek individuals who have kept pace with technological changes by updating their skills.

What influence do advances in technology have on the workplace?

Changes in technology influence the abilities, skills, and education needed in the workforce.

Technological advancements create new jobs in the workplace.

Technology and information flows permit people to work across international borders. This creates competition from foreign workers for United States jobs but also may create opportunities for United States workers to work for companies based in other countries.

Being fiscally responsible includes making careful spending decisions, saving and investing for the future, having insurance, keeping to a budget, using credit wisely, as well as understanding how contracts, warranties, and guarantees can protect the individual.