

## Georgia Quality Core Curriculum



The Georgia Quality Core Curriculum for Social Studies is divided into two courses, Civics/Citizenship or American Government. American Government is taught in Grades 11 and 12.

In SIRS' study of the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum, we see a direct correlation between the goals and objectives that are emphasized and the framework upon which SIRS Interactive Citizenship has been developed. SIRS Interactive Citizenship content emphasizes the generalizations and concepts that act as the framework for understanding democratic political institutions and their emergence throughout history, while the Discovery and Inquiry activities and related chapter lessons exemplify our commitment to critical thinking skills.

*What Citizens Need to Know About Government*, addresses the expectations for American Government and presents a framework for understanding America's ongoing struggle to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution and each citizen's role in this democracy. Through this framework, students are able to connect the past to the present as well as appreciate universal historical themes and dilemmas by accessing primary sources such as, biographies, documents, diaries, letters, legends and speeches and links to related articles and web sites while focusing on the basic concepts of government. Thus, students develop the higher order thinking skills deemed necessary by the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum .

<<http://www.glc.k12.ga.us>> [2002, January 8]



**Georgia Quality Core Curriculum Standards**  
correlation with  
**What Citizens Need to Know About Government**



**Grade 9 – 12**

**Course: American Government**

**1 Topic: Nation-States and Government**

Standard: Define government and list the characteristics of a nation-state.

- *Chapter 1 defines government and explains the impact it has on everyone's life.*

**2 Topic: Authoritarian Government and Democratic Government**

Standard: Differentiates between authoritarian and democratic governmental systems:

- monarch-dictatorship-democracy and
- absolute vs. limited monarchy

- *Chapter 1 explains the structures of government and provides historical and contemporary examples of monarchies, dictatorships, and democracies.*

**3 Topic: Republic and Democracy**

Standard: Describes the basic concepts of democracy and their origins.

- direct vs. indirect democracy (republic).

- *Chapter 1 explores government by consent. Direct and indirect democratic governments, parliamentary and presidential systems are discussed.*

#### **4 Topic Constitution**

Standard: Identifies the plans (Virginia vs. New Jersey); conflicts (small vs. large; North vs. South); and conflicting philosophies (Hamilton vs. Madison) that were present at the Constitutional Convention and the compromises that led to the document's adoption.

- *Chapters 1 and 2 discuss the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Students may access the Library of Congress' Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention Home Page to closely investigate conflicts, philosophies and compromises made.*

#### **5 Topic: U.S. Constitutionalism**

Standard: Describes the formation, content and purpose of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Identifies in particular the foundational importance of religious, press and speech freedoms in the maintenance of a democratic republic.

- *From Chapter 3, students can read the U.S. Constitution and the first ten amendments.*
- *Chapter 9 discusses each of the amendments in detail and provides a link to American Law Review articles citing case law as it relates to each amendment.*

#### **6 Topic: U.S. Constitutionalism**

Standard: Identifies the foundational principles of the U.S. Constitution:

- popular sovereignty
- limited government
- constitutionalism
- separation of powers
- checks and balances
- judicial review
- federalism
- equality before the law
- separation of powers, and
- civilian control of the military

- *Chapter 3 focuses on the U.S. Constitution and examines the structure of this document.*
- *Chapter 2 discusses the principles such as limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism and judicial review.*

### **7 Topic: Separation of Powers**

Standard: Assess the development of the relationship between the three branches of government, including executive vs. legislative power shifts and struggles and impact of the line-item veto and judicial activism.

- *Chapter 2 lays the groundwork for understanding separation of powers between the three branches of government.*

### **8 Topic: Federalism**

Standard: Describes the uniqueness of American federalism

- *Chapter 2 focuses on the federal government's structure and functions.*

### **9 Topic: Political Party System**

Standard: Traces the historical development of American political parties.

- *Chapter 16 traces the political party system from Washington's warning against them to contemporary political parties.*

### **10 Topic: Party Platforms**

Standard: Describes the process involved in creating political party platforms.

- *Chapter 16 provides links to the Republican, Democratic, Libertarian and Green Parties web sites allowing students to research these organizations.*

### **11 Topic: Selecting Political Candidates**

Standard: Analyzes methods involved in choosing political candidates.

- conventions
- primaries
- caucuses, and
- campaigns

- *Chapter 16 explores the political selection process including primaries, campaigns, caucuses and conventions.*

### **12 Topic: Election Process**

Standard: Identifies how elections are administered and controlled at the various levels of government.

- *Chapter 15 provides a link to the Electoral College and the Election Center Home Framework.*

### **13 Topic: Campaigning**

Standard: Explains the methods involved in political campaigning (outlines a typical presidential election).

- *Chapter 16 explores the campaign trails from Washington to Bush.*

### **14 Topic: Suffrage**

Standard: Traces the expansion of suffrage.

- *Chapter 9 explores the suffrage movement from the early days of the movement and the Seneca Falls Declaration of 1848 to the Nineteenth Amendment.*

### **15 Topic: Public Opinion**

Standard: Describes the development and nature of public opinion in America.

### **16 Topic: Propaganda Bias Public Opinion**

Standard: Assesses the influence of propaganda and media bias in the formation of public opinion.

### **17 Topic: Demonstrations Protest**

Standard: Identifies methods of effective expression of public opinion.

- demonstrations
- propaganda
- advertising
- opinion, and
- leadership

### **18 Topic: Public Opinion**

Standard: Describes methods of measuring public opinion.

- rise of interest groups
- polls
- surveys, and
- election results

**19 Topic: Special Interest Groups**

Standard: Describes the development and roles of special interest groups (foreign and domestic).

**20 Topic: Interest Groups**

Standard: Compares and contrasts various types of American interest groups.

**21 Topic: Political Behavior**

Standard: Analyzes the impact of special interest groups on American political behavior:

- lobbying and
- unions

- *Chapter 13 examines public opinion polls and their affect on elected officials. Students can link to Public Agenda Online to further research this topic.*
- *Students learn about the right to assemble and express individual beliefs and attitudes.*
- *After reading about straw polls, sample polls and exit polls, students can link to the Gallup Organization web site.*
- *Chapter 13 discusses the role special interest groups play in forming public policy.*

**22 Topic: Delegated Powers**

Standard: Identifies the delegated constitutional powers of Congress as listed in Article I, including the necessary and proper clause.

- *Chapter 2 looks at the delegated powers of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of government.*

**23 Topic: Local Representation**

Standard: Identifies the local members of Congress and explains the duties and responsibilities of a member of Congress.

- *From Chapter 6, students can link to the House of Representatives and Senate web sites to locate their local representatives.*

**24 Topic: House and Senate**

Standard: Compares and contrasts the House and the Senate.

- *Chapter 6 examines the structure and responsibilities of both houses of Congress.*

**25 Topic: Legislative Process**

Standard: Analyzes all steps involved in the process of a bill becoming a law.

- *Chapter 6 explains how a bill becomes a law.*

**26 Topic: Lobbying Pork-Barreling**

Standard: Identifies the influences and impact of lobbying, special interests, constituent demands and pork-barreling in the legislative process.

- *Chapter 13 describes lobbying. Students can link to Common Cause's web site to learn about this citizen's lobby.*

**27 Topic: Presidency**

Standard: Identifies and illustrates the various roles a president must simultaneously fulfill while in office.

**28 Topic: Use of Presidential Powers**

Standard: Identifies and analyzes the constitutional powers a president has at his/her disposal and how various presidents have used or been unable to use those powers.

- *Chapter 4 focuses on the Presidency; areas include who can be president, the powers of the office, and restraints placed on it. Examples of modern day Presidencies are provided.*

**29 Topic: Cabinet**

Standard: Identifies the development, functions and responsibilities of the various cabinet departments.

**30 Topic: Bureaucracy Independent Agencies**

Standard: Diagrams the hierarchy of the bureaucracy, including the various White House offices, the Cabinet, commissions, corporations, and other Independent Agencies, such as the Federal Reserve System.

- *Chapter 5 examines the Cabinet. Students can link to cabinet level agencies such as the Department of State and the Department of Defense.*

### **31 Topic Budget**

Standard: Analyzes the interaction of the legislative and executive branches in the budget process including the function of the Office of Management and Budget.

- *From Chapter 5 students can link to the Department of Commerce which houses the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of the Treasury.*

### **32 Topic: Government and the Economy**

Standard: Evaluates the economic role government plays in the economy.

- defining and protecting property rights
- providing public goods
- ensuring competition
- redistributing income

- *Chapter 24 examines the rise of government's regulation of business and the economy.*

### **33 Federal Court System**

Standard: Analyzes the responsibility of the federal courts in the interpretation of law and judicial review.

- *Chapter 7 explains the judicial system and focuses on the federal courts.*

### **34 Topic: Supreme Court**

Standard: Evaluates the role of the U.S. Supreme Court in regard to judicial activism, including a discussion of monumental court decisions such as:

- McCulloch (federal supremacy)
- Brown (minority rights)
- Murray (exclusion of religion from public life)
- Shenck (clear and present danger)
- Roe (abortion), and
- Charlotte-Mecklenberg (busing).

- *Chapter 7 examines the Supreme Court. Students can link to the Supreme Court web site to learn about the court's justices and cases. Students may read landmark Supreme Court cases such as, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Roe v. Wade, and Swan v. Charlotte-Meklenberg County Board of Education.*

### **35 Topic: Basic Rights**

Standard: Traces the origin of individual rights in European history (Judeo-Christian traditions) and their transmission and application to U.S. history.

- *Chapter 1 looks at our European heritage and the philosophers who influenced the thinking of our founding fathers.*

### **36 Topic: Judicial Review**

Standard: Traces the expansion and limitations of individual rights through court decisions.

- *Chapters 7 and 9 provide information on the court's influence on individual rights.*

### **37 Topic: Due Process**

Standard: Determines the rights associated with due process of law.

- Gideon v. Wainwright
- Mapp v. Ohio
- Escobedo vs. Illinois, and
- Miranda vs. Arizona.

- *Chapter 9 looks at due process. For example, students can read the concurring and dissenting opinions for Miranda v. Arizona and Gideon v. Wainwright to gain a full understanding of the due process concept.*

### **38 Topic: Rights vs. Freedom**

Standard: Discusses the conflict between individual/group rights and absolute/limited freedoms.

- *Chapter 9 focuses on the Bill of Rights and minority rights.*

### **39 Topic: Georgia Constitution**

Standard: Compares and contrasts Georgia's Constitution with the U.S. Constitution.

- checks and balances
- executive structures compared

- *From Chapter 10, students can access the Georgia Constitution.*

### **40 Topic: Local Governments**

Standard: Identifies and describes the various local government structures (county and municipal) and special districts.

- *Chapter 11 examines local governments.*

### **41 Topic: Taxation**

Standard: Compares and contrasts federal, state and local sources of revenue.

- *Chapter 12 explains how government can levy taxes in order to pay for public services.*

### **42 Topic: Local Representation**

Standard: Identifies current state, federal and local elected officials.

- *From Chapter 10, students can link to each state's government web site to gain information about elected officials.*