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CE.2a-d Study Guide

STANDARD CE.2A
-- FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Foundations of American constitutional government-
Fundamental principles:
- consent of the governed
- limited government
- rule of law
- democracy
- representative government

Fundamental political principles define and shape American constitutional government.

- Consent of the governed: Citizens give authority to the government in exchange for the protection of their rights.
- Limited government: Government is not all-powerful and may do only those things the people have given it the power to do.
- Rule of Law: Everyone, including government officials, must follow the law.
- Democracy: In a democratic system of government, the people rule.
- Representative government: In a representative system of government, the people elect public officeholders to make laws and conduct government on the people’s behalf.

STANDARD CE.2B
-- EARLIER DOCUMENTS

Impact of earlier documents:
- Magna Carta
- Charters of the Virginia Company of London
- Virginia Declaration of Rights
- Declaration of Independence
- Articles of Confederation
- Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom
- the Constitution of Virginia and the United States, including the Bill of Rights.

American constitutional government is founded on concepts articulated in earlier documents.

Influence of earlier documents on the Constitution
- The Magna Carta established for the first time the principle that everyone including the king was subject to the law, and gave Englishmen basic rights and freedoms.
- 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.
- 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)
  - affirmed the idea that all people are created equal.
- 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
- The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom stated freedom of religious beliefs and opinions.

The Constitution of the United States, 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

Purposes for the Constitution as stated in its Preamble.

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

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


The constitutions of Virginia and the United States can be amended through processes outlined in the constitutions. The Virginia and United States constitutions have been amended and revised several times.

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 of the states
  - Ratification: by the states

Constitution of Virginia
- Amendment process:
  - Proposal: action by General Assembly or constitutional 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.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States 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:

• Be at least 18 years old
• Be a legal resident of the U. S. for 3-5 or more years
• Be of good moral character and be loyal to the United States
• Be able to read, write, and speak basic English
• Pass a naturalization test
• Take the Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony.

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

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.

The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments outline due process.

Fifth Amendment

Protects a citizen from being held for committing a crime unless they have been charged by the police.

The Fifth Amendment also guarantees due process, which means that the state and the country have to respect a citizen’s legal rights.

Fourteenth Amendment

Declares no state may deprive persons born or naturalized in the United States equal protection of the laws.
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.*

Duties of citizens

- Obey laws, including
  - Paying taxes
  - Serving in the armed forces, if called
  - Serving 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.*

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.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.*

Ways for citizens to participate in community service

- **Express concern** about the welfare of the community as a whole (e.g., as related to environment, public health and safety, education).
- **Volunteer and 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).

STANDARD CE.4A-G
-- GOOD CITIZENSHIP

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

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.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.*

Functions of political parties
- Recruiting and nominating candidates
- Educating the people 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.

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

Differences between parties
- Stated in party platforms and reflected in campaigning
- Introduce new ideas and/or press for a particular issue
- Often take votes away from the two-major parties
- Often revolve around a political personality (e.g., Theodore Roosevelt)

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 informed choices among candidates.*

*The media play an important role in the political process.*

Strategies for evaluating campaign speeches, literature, and advertisements for accuracy
- Separating fact from opinion
- Detecting bias
- Evaluating sources
- Identifying propaganda

Mass media roles in elections
- Identifying candidates
- Emphasizing selected issues
- Writing editorials, creating political cartoons, publishing op-ed pieces, posting to social media and blogs.
- Broadcasting different points of view
STANDARD CE.5D
-- CAMPAIGN COSTS

Role of campaign contributions and costs

Running for political office can be very expensive.

Rising campaign costs

- require candidates to conduct extensive fund-raising 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) and Super 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; however, individuals, business, and unions can donate unlimited amounts to PACs and Super PACS (Citizen’s United vs. Federal Elections Committee).

STANDARD CE.5E
-- VOTER REGISTRATION

Requirements for voter registration

Through legislation and constitutional amendments, different American citizens have been granted the right to vote at different times.

Legislation and constitutional amendments

- 15th Amendment
- 19th Amendment
- 23rd Amendment
- 24th amendment
- 26th Amendment
- Voting Rights Act of 1965

Voter registration is required before a citizen may vote.

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
- By mail (application obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles, public libraries, state/local government offices, or other designated locations)
- Online

Voting is a basic responsibility of citizenship.

Voter registration is closed 22 days before elections.

Factors in predicting which citizens will vote

- Education
- Age
- Income

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

Reasons why citizens fail to vote

- Lack of interest (in candidates or issues)
- Failure to register
- Belief that vote does not count or will have no impact
- No time or too busy

Every vote is important.

Students can participate in the democratic process by:

- participating in campaigns
- participating in classroom and online simulation
STANDARD CE.5f
--- ELECTORAL COLLEGE

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.*

The Electoral College casts the official vote for president and vice president.

The number of electors of each state is based on each state’s congressional representation (the number of United States senators plus the number of representatives in the House).

**Electoral College Process**

- Each political party chooses its slate of electors
- After the popular vote, the electors cast their official votes
- Most states have a “winner-take-all” system that awards all electors to the winning presidential candidate
- Candidates need 270 electoral votes to win, which favors the two-party system

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

In most states, the party that wins the popular vote has its slate of electors cast the official vote for the president.
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.

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
  - 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
- Oversees executive agencies and departments

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

Separation of powers and the operation of checks and balances

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

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
  - approve the budget
  - approve presidential appointments.
- 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
  - grants pardons and reprieves

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).
National laws are made by Congress.

Citizens learn the lawmaking process and influence public policy through direct participation and/or simulation.

The lawmaking process requires collaboration and compromise.

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

The lawmaking process in Congress
- Introducing a bill in either house
- Working in committees
- Debating the bill on the floor
- Voting on the bill

- Sending the bill to the other house
- Repeating the process in the other house
- Sending the bill to the president

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 (denied powers) by the Constitution of the United States.

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 has grown in the years since the Constitution was ratified, but there are limits on what the president can and cannot do.

Ways the executive branch influences policymaking
- Delivering an annual speech to Congress (State of the Union Address)
- Proposing legislation
- Approving or vetoing legislation
- Appointing officials who help carry out the laws
- Issuing executive acts/orders
- Appealing directly through the media and communications with citizens

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

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: American foreign policy leader
- chief of party: leader of the political party that controls the executive branch
- chief citizen: representative of all of the people.
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STANDARD CE.7A -- 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.

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 -- FEDERAL SYSTEM

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.

The Constitution of the United States 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 are reserved to the states.

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

Some powers are shared between the national and state government (concurrenct powers).

Primary responsibilities of each level of government
National: Conducts foreign policy, regulates commerce, and provides for the common defense

State: Promotes public health, safety, education, and welfare

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

STANDARD CE.7C
-- STATE LAWMAKING PROCESS

The state lawmaking process.

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

Citizens learn the lawmaking process and influence public policy through direct participation and/or simulation.

The lawmaking process requires collaboration and compromise.

The lawmaking process in the Virginia General Assembly

- Introducing a bill in either house
- Working in committees
- Debating the bill on the floor
- Voting on the bill
- Sending the bill to the other house
- Repeat process in the other house
- Sending the bill to the governor

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
- Environment: To protect natural resources (i.e., improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay)
- State budget: To approve a biennial (two year) budget proposed by the governor
- Revenue: To levy and collect taxes

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.

Ways the executive branch influences policymaking

- Proposes biennial budget
- Proposes legislation
- Approves veto or line-item veto bills

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: ceremonial head of the state government
- Chief legislator: proposer of the legislative agenda
- Chief executive: head of the executive branch of state government
- Party chief: leader of the political party that controls the executive branch
- Commander-in-chief
- Chief citizen: representative of all Virginians

Cabinet secretaries and departments, agencies, commissions, and regulatory boards

- Administer laws and enforce laws
- Create regulations to monitor 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 created by the General Assembly.

Local governments exercise legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

Structure

The units of local government in Virginia are counties, towns, and cities.

County

• Elected board of supervisors, which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances (local laws) and adopting an annual budget
• A manager may be hired by the elected legislative branch to oversee the operations of the local government
• Elected or appointed school board, which oversees the operation of the K–12 public schools in the county

Town (incorporated)

• Elected town council, which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances and adopting an annual budget
• A mayor is elected by either the voters or the town council members
• A manager may be hired by the elected legislative branch to oversee the operations of the local government
• Located within counties, and citizens receive and pay for services from both the town and county

Cities

• Elected city council, which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances and adopting an annual budget
• A mayor is elected by either the voters or the city council members
• A manager may be hired by the elected legislative branch to oversee the operations of the local government
• Elected or appointed school board, which oversees the operation of the K–12 public schools in the city

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.

In every county and city, state courts resolve judicial disputes.

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.

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.

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.

Counties and cities assist in the local implementation of state laws and programs.

Local government derives its funding from its ability to raise revenue in addition to money that the state provides.

STANDARD CE.8C
-- LOCAL LAWMAKING PROCESS

The local lawmaking process

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

Citizens learn the lawmaking process and influence public policy through direct participation and/or simulation.

The lawmaking process requires collaboration and compromise.

An elected board of supervisors is responsible for passing laws (ordinances) in counties.

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 by communicating with them about their opinions and preference.
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STANDARD CE.9A
-- JUDICIAL SYSTEM ORGANIZATION

Organization of the judicial system as consisting of state and federal courts with original and appellate jurisdiction.

The United States has a dual court system which consists of state courts and federal courts.

The role of the judicial branch is to interpret laws.

Terms to Know
- **jurisdiction**: Authority to hear a case
- **original jurisdiction**: Authority to hear a case first
- **Appellate jurisdiction**: Authority to review a decision of a lower court
- **Felony**: A serious crime
- **misdemeanor**: A smaller or less serious offense

**Federal courts have jurisdiction over federal laws.**

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

**State courts have jurisdiction over state laws.**

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.9B
-- JUDICIAL REVIEW

The exercise of judicial review.

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

The supreme courts of the United States and Virginia determine the constitutionality of laws and acts of the legislative and executive branches 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 is the supreme law of the land.

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

STANDARD CE.9C
-- CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASES

Civil cases and Criminal cases.

Courts resolve two kinds of conflicts—civil and criminal.

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 case proceeds to an arraignment where probable cause is reviewed, an attorney may be appointed for the defendant, and a plea is entered.
- The accused may be committed to jail or released on bail.
- In a felony case, a preliminary hearing is conducted to see if there is probable cause. If probable cause is determined, a grand jury will determine if there is enough evidence to indict the accused.
- In a misdemeanor case, there is no preliminary hearing or grand jury. A trial date is set instead.
- 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.
- A ruling is issued
- Cases can be appealed.

STANDARD CE.9D

-- 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.

Due process of law protects against unfair governmental actions and laws.

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 violating due process.
- The 14th Amendment prohibits state and local governments from violating due process.

The Supreme Court has extended the guarantees of the Bill of Rights, based upon the due process clause.
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**STANDARD CE.10A**
-- THE MEDIA

The impact of the media on public opinion and public policy.

*The media informs policymakers and influences public policy.*

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.

Strategies for evaluating media

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

**STANDARD CE.10B**
-- INTEREST GROUPS & INFLUENCE

Individuals and interest groups influence public policy.

*Individuals and interest groups influence public policy.*

Terms to know

- **lobbying**: Seeking to influence legislators to introduce or vote for or against a bill

Individuals can influence public policy by

- participating in politics (e.g., voting, campaigning, seeking office)
- joining interest groups

Individuals and interest groups influence public policy by

- Identifying issues
- Making political contributions
- Lobbying government officials
- Expressing opinions (e.g., through lobbying, demonstrating, writing letters or e-mail, using social media).

**STANDARD CE.10C**
-- 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.*

**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.11A
-- MARKETPLACE DECISIONS

Scarcity, consumers, producers, and governments must make choices; everyone’s choice has an opportunity cost.

Because of scarcity, consumers, producers, and government decision makers are forced to make choices.

Whenever you make a choice, you are actually making two choices. This is because whenever you choose to do one thing, you are also choosing not to do something else. What you choose not to do is your opportunity cost.

All choices have opportunity costs.

The problem of scarcity faces all individuals and organizations, including businesses and governments.

- We have unlimited wants, but our resources are limited.
- The goods and services we want exceed our ability to produce them.
- Scarcity forces consumers, producers, and governments to make difficult choices.

Scarcity is the inability to satisfy all wants at the same time.

- All resources and goods are limited.
- Limited goods and resources require 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 (the second best alternative).

- Individuals must consider the value of what is given up when making a choice.

Production is the combining of human, natural, capital, and entrepreneurship resources to make goods or provide services.

STANDARD CE.11B
-- ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

How traditional, free market, command, and mixed economies decide how to allocate their limited resources.

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.

The greater the amount of decision making that is left to the individual, the closer a system is to a free market system.

The greater the amount of decision making that is left to a centralized authority, the closer the system is to a command system.

The basic questions of economics

- What will be produced?
- How will it be produced?
- For whom will it be produced?

Each type of economy answers the basic questions differently.

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**.
- The **government** is owner and decision maker for the **public sector**.
- The **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.
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STANDARD CE.12A
-- 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.

Characteristics of the United States economy

- A market exists whenever buyers and sellers exchange goods and services.
- Free enterprise: 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.
  - The government provides a structure to define and enforce such property rights.
- Profit motive: Profit consists of earnings after all expenses have been paid. Individuals have the opportunity to create a business and earn profits.
- 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.

STANDARD CE.12B
-- SUPPLY & DEMAND

In a market economy supply and demand determine prices

Both buyers and sellers respond to price changes. When prices change, buyers change the quantity they are willing and able to buy and sellers change the quantity they are willing and able to bring to market.

Neither supply nor demand alone can set the price.

Price

- Price is determined by the interaction of supply and demand
- Price is the amount of money exchanged for a good or service

Demand

- Demand is the amount of a good or service that consumers are willing and able to buy at different prices during a given time period.
- Law of demand: Consumers will buy more of a good or service at lower prices and less at higher prices.
- Higher prices for a good or service provide incentives for buyers to purchase less of that good or service.
- Lower prices for a good or service provide incentives for buyers to purchase more of that good or service.

Supply

- Supply is the amount of a good or service that producers are willing and able to offer for sale at each possible price during a given period of time.
- Law of Supply: Producers will produce more when they can sell at a high price and will produce less when they can sell at a low price.
- Higher prices for a good or service provide incentives for producers to make or sell more of a good or service.
- Lower prices for a good or service provide incentives for producers to make or sell less of a good or service.
Equilibrium price:
- Equilibrium price is the point where supply and demand meet.
- Everyone who wants to sell at that price can sell.
- Everyone who wants to buy at that price can buy.

**STANDARD CE.12c**
-- BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS; 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.

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.

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
- Entrepreneurs increase competition by bringing new goods and services to market or by delivering products in innovative ways. They often foster technological progress and economic growth.

**STANDARD CE.12d**
-- CIRCULAR FLOW

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.

The circular flow diagram is a way of visualizing and categorizing activity within an economy. Goods, services, and resources flow in one direction. Money flows in the opposite direction.

Households own the resources used in production, sell the resources, and use the income to purchase products.

Businesses buy resources; make products that are sold to individuals, other businesses, and the government; and use the profits to buy more resources.

When households and businesses spend money, the income is used by households to purchase goods and services and by businesses to purchase resources.

Governments use tax revenue from households and businesses to provide public goods and services.

**STANDARD CE.12e**
-- FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

How financial institutions channel funds from savers to borrowers

Private financial institutions help facilitate an exchange of money between savers and borrowers.

Private financial institutions
- Include banks and credit unions
- Receive deposits and make loans
- Encourage saving and investing by paying interest on deposits
- Help provide financial capital (money) to people/businesses to start or grow businesses

**STANDARD CE.12f**
-- GLOBAL ECONOMY

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.

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.

**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._

Ways the government promotes marketplace competition
- Establishing and enforcing _antitrust legislation_ to discourage the development of _monopolies_
- Enacting policies that encourage _global trade_
- Supporting _business start-ups_

Government agencies that regulate and promote competition in the marketplace
- FCC (Federal Communications Commission)
- SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission)
- FTC (Federal Trade Commission)
- These agencies _oversee_ the way individuals and companies do business.

STANDARD CE.13B
-- PUBLIC GOODS & SERVICES

How and why government provides certain goods and services

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

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 public schools, and national defense_

Most economic decisions in the United States are made in the marketplace, but government also plays a role in the economy by _providing goods and services that markets cannot provide_ efficiently.

Ways governments pay for public goods and services
- Through _tax revenue_
- Through _borrowed funds_
- Through _fees_ (e.g., park entrance fees)
- Through _fines_

STANDARD CE.13C
-- TAXATION

How local, state, and federal governments allocate their budgets and collect taxes to pay for goods and services they provide;

_Every level of government — federal, state, and local— requires revenue to pay for goods and services provided by the government. Taxes and fees levied on individuals and businesses are the major source of this revenue._

_Local, state, and federal governments determine how best to use and allocate the money they collect._

In the United States, governments collect several different _types of revenue or taxes_ from individuals and businesses.
- The _income tax_ is the main source of revenue for the federal government
- Income taxes and _sales tax_ are key sources of revenue for state governments.
- Property and _sales taxes_ are key sources of revenue for most local governments.

_Income tax:_ Payments made by individuals and corporations based on _income_ received

_Sales tax:_ A tax consumers pay on many items they purchase. It is a percentage of the _sale price_.

_Property tax:_ A tax levied on land and buildings. Property tax may also be levied on _personal property_ such as boats or cars.

_Federal government revenue_ pays for services such as national _defense_ and _homeland security_, some _medical_ expenditures (such as Medicare), payments to _Social Security_ recipients, and interest payments on the national debt.

_Most state and local government revenue_ is spent on education, public health and welfare, road construction and repair, and public safety – including police and fire departments.
**STANDARD CE.13D**

**-- FEDERAL RESERVE**

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

As the central bank of the United States, the Federal Reserve System

- regulates banks to help ensure the soundness of the banking system and the safety of deposits
- influences the money supply and interest rates in the economy to keep inflation low and stable
- provides financial services to banks and the federal government

The Federal Reserve System consists of a Board of Governors and 12 federal reserve banks.

The chairperson is appointed by the President and approved by the Senate.

**STANDARD CE.13E**

**-- CONSUMER & PROPERTY RIGHTS**

The United States government passes laws and creates agencies to protect consumer rights and property rights, competition in the marketplace, labor, and the environment.

A property right is a legal claim of ownership.

- Government helps define and enforce property rights.
- Property ownership is protected by negotiated contracts that are enforceable by law.
- This process helps beneficial exchanges take place.

Government agencies establish regulations that protect public health and safety and promote competition.

Consumers may take legal action against violations of consumer rights.

Some government agencies that protect consumers, labor, or the environment include the following:

- **Consumers:**
  - CPSC- Consumer Product Safety Commission
  - FDA- Food and Drug Administration

- **Labor:**
  - OSHA- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
  - EEOC- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

**STANDARD CE.13F**

**-- MONEY**

The role of government currency and the purpose of a money economy

Money is defined as anything that is generally accepted as a method of payment for goods and services.

Money makes it easier to trade, borrow, save, and invest, and to compare the value of goods and services.

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.

Money acts as a medium of exchange, making trade easier.

Money acts as a store of value, making it easier to save and invest.

Money acts as a measure of value, making it easier to compare the value of goods and services.

The three types of money generally used in the United States are

- coins
- currency
- deposits in bank accounts that can be accessed by checks and debit cards.
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STANDARD CE.14
-- CAREERS & FINANCES

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

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

Human capital refers to the combination of a person’s education, knowledge, skill, experience, health, training and talent. People develop their human capital through formal and informal education. People who have invested in their own human capital have the potential to produce more, earn more and choose a career that is satisfying to them.

Career planning starts with self-assessment.

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.

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.

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.