

# Civics & Economics -SOL Study Guide – 2023 Standards

## CE.1A – FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

WHAT ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT?	Limited Government; Republicanism; Federalism; Separation of Powers; Checks and Balances; Popular Sovereignty
WHAT IS LIMITED GOVERNMENT?	Government power is restricted by the Constitution and laws; leaders must obey the law.
WHAT IS REPUBLICANISM?	Citizens elect representatives to make laws and govern on their behalf.
WHAT IS FEDERALISM?	Power is divided between the national government and the state governments.
WHAT IS SEPARATION OF POWERS?	Government powers are divided among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
WHAT ARE CHECKS AND BALANCES?	Each branch has powers that limit the powers of the other branches.
WHAT IS POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY?	Government authority comes from the people.
WHAT ARE ELECTIONS AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT?	Citizens vote to choose leaders who represent their views and make decisions on their behalf.

## CE.1B – HISTORICAL INFLUENCES ON THE CONSTITUTION

HOW DID THE MAGNA CARTA INFLUENCE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT?	It limited the power of the king and established the idea that everyone must follow the law.
HOW DID ENGLISH COMMON LAW INFLUENCE THE U.S.?	It established legal traditions such as trial by jury and reliance on court decisions.
WHAT DID THE CHARTERS OF THE VIRGINIA COMPANY GUARANTEE?	Gave English settlers the right to <b>form a colony</b> in Virginia and guaranteed them the <b>same rights</b> as English citizens.
WHAT DID THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE DECLARE?	The colonies' independence from Great Britain and the idea of natural rights (life, liberty, pursuit of happiness).
WHO WROTE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?	Thomas Jefferson
WHAT WAS THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS?	A document declaring individual rights such as freedom of religion and press.
WHO WROTE THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS?	George Mason
WHY WERE THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION REPLACED?	The national government was too weak; it could not tax or enforce laws.

**WHAT DID THE VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM GUARANTEE?**

Freedom of religion and separation of church and state.

**WHO WROTE THE VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM?**

Thomas Jefferson

## **CE.1C – CREATING AND RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION**

**WHAT ISSUE DIVIDED LARGE AND SMALL STATES AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?**

Representation in Congress and the power of the federal government.

**WHAT WAS THE VIRGINIA PLAN?**

Representation based on population.

**WHAT WAS THE NEW JERSEY PLAN?**

Equal representation for each state.

**WHAT WAS THE GREAT COMPROMISE?**

Created a bicameral legislature: House based on population; Senate with equal representation.

**WHAT WAS THE THREE-FIFTHS COMPROMISE?**

Enslaved persons were counted as three-fifths for representation and taxation.

**WHO WERE THE FEDERALISTS?**

Supporters of the Constitution.

**WHO WERE THE ANTI-FEDERALISTS?**

Opponents who feared too much federal power.

**WHY WAS THE BILL OF RIGHTS ADDED?**

To protect individual freedoms and gain support for ratification.

## **CE.1D – THE PREAMBLE**

**WHAT IS THE PREAMBLE?**

The introduction to the Constitution.

**WHAT ARE THE SIX GOALS LISTED IN THE PREAMBLE?**

Form a more perfect Union; Establish Justice; Ensure domestic tranquility; Provide for the common defense; Promote the general welfare; Secure the blessings of liberty.

**WHY DOES THE PREAMBLE BEGIN WITH “WE THE PEOPLE”?**

It shows that government power comes from the people.

## **CE.1E – KEY CONSTITUTIONAL CONCEPTS**

**WHAT IS DUE PROCESS?**

The government must follow fair legal procedures before taking away life, liberty, or property.

**WHICH AMENDMENTS PROTECT DUE PROCESS?**

5th Amendment (federal government) and 14th Amendment (state governments).

**WHAT IS EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW?**

Laws must apply equally and fairly to all people.

<b>WHAT IS EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW?</b>	Everyone must be treated fairly in court, no matter who they are.
<b>WHAT IS THE SUPREMACY CLAUSE?</b>	The U.S. Constitution is the highest law of the land.
<b>WHAT IS THE RULE OF LAW?</b>	Everyone, including government officials, must obey the law.
<b>WHAT IS THE RIGHT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY?</b>	Individuals may own property, and government must provide fair compensation if it takes it.

## **CE.1F – AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

<b>HOW IS THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AMENDED?</b>	Proposed by 2/3 of Congress and ratified by 3/4 of the states.
<b>WHY IS THE AMENDMENT PROCESS DIFFICULT?</b>	To ensure changes reflect broad national agreement.
<b>HOW IS THE VIRGINIA CONSTITUTION AMENDED?</b>	Passed twice by the General Assembly and approved by voters.

## **CE.2 – AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY: STRUCTURE & POWERS**

### **CE.2A – THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**

<b>WHAT ARE THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT?</b>	Legislative, Executive, Judicial.
<b>WHICH BRANCH MAKES LAWS?</b>	Legislative branch (Congress).
<b>WHICH BRANCH CARRIES OUT LAWS?</b>	Executive branch (President and executive agencies).
<b>WHICH BRANCH INTERPRETS LAWS?</b>	Judicial branch (courts).
<b>IN WHICH ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION ARE THE BRANCHES DEFINED?</b>	Article I (Legislative), Article II (Executive), Article III (Judicial).

### **CE.2B – THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

<b>WHAT IS CONGRESS?</b>	The national legislature of the United States.
<b>WHAT ARE THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS?</b>	House of Representatives and Senate.
<b>HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES?</b>	435 members.

<b>HOW MANY SENATORS ARE THERE?</b>	100 (2 per state).
<b>WHAT DETERMINES REPRESENTATION IN THE HOUSE?</b>	State population.
<b>LIST THE STEPS IN THE LAWMAKING PROCESS.</b>	Bill introduced → Committee review → Debate → Vote in both houses → President signs or vetoes → Possible override.
<b>WHAT ARE EXPRESSED POWERS?</b>	Powers specifically listed in the Constitution.
<b>WHAT ARE IMPLIED POWERS?</b>	Powers not listed but necessary to carry out expressed powers.
<b>WHAT ARE MAJOR POWERS OF CONGRESS?</b>	Taxation, regulating commerce, declaring war, approving the budget, confirming appointments, impeachment.
<b>WHO CAN INFLUENCE LAWMAKERS?</b>	Citizens, interest groups, and lobbyists. They may write letters, organize protests, or meet with representatives to support or oppose laws.

## **CE.2C – THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

<b>WHO LEADS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH?</b>	The President of the United States.
<b>WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF THE PRESIDENT?</b>	Chief Executive; Chief Diplomat; Commander-in-Chief; Chief Legislator; Head of State; Chief of Party.
<b>WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT DO AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE?</b>	Enforces the laws.
<b>WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT DO AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF?</b>	Leads the armed forces.
<b>WHAT CAN THE PRESIDENT DO WITH LEGISLATION?</b>	Sign it into law or veto it.
<b>WHO HELPS THE PRESIDENT CARRY OUT LAWS?</b>	Vice President, Cabinet, and executive agencies.

## **CE.2D – THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

<b>WHAT IS THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE UNITED STATES?</b>	The U.S. Supreme Court.
<b>WHAT IS JUDICIAL REVIEW?</b>	The power of courts to declare laws unconstitutional.
<b>WHICH CASE ESTABLISHED JUDICIAL REVIEW?</b>	Marbury v. Madison (1803).
<b>WHAT IS JURISDICTION?</b>	The authority of a court to hear a case.

**WHAT TYPES OF CASES DO FEDERAL COURTS HEAR?**

Cases involving federal laws or constitutional interpretation.

## **CE.2E – SEPARATION OF POWERS & CHECKS AND BALANCES**

**HOW CAN CONGRESS CHECK THE PRESIDENT?**

Override vetoes; impeach and remove from office.

**HOW CAN THE PRESIDENT CHECK CONGRESS?**

Veto legislation.

**HOW CAN COURTS CHECK CONGRESS?**

Declare laws unconstitutional.

**HOW CAN COURTS CHECK THE PRESIDENT?**

Declare executive actions unconstitutional.

**WHY ARE CHECKS AND BALANCES IMPORTANT?**

They prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

**WHAT IS THE BILL OF RIGHTS?**

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution. They protect rights such as freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, petition, and the right to due process.

## **CE.3 – VIRGINIA STATE GOVERNMENT**

### **CE.3A – STRUCTURE OF VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT**

**WHAT IS VIRGINIA'S LEGISLATIVE BRANCH CALLED?**

The General Assembly.

**IS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BICAMERAL OR UNICAMERAL?**

Bicameral

**WHAT ARE THE TWO HOUSES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?**

House of Delegates and Senate.

**WHO LEADS VIRGINIA'S EXECUTIVE BRANCH?**

The Governor.

**HOW LONG IS THE GOVERNOR'S TERM?**

Four years.

**WHAT COURTS MAKE UP VIRGINIA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM?**

Supreme Court of Virginia; Court of Appeals; Circuit Courts; District Courts.

### **CE.3B – STATE LAWMAKING PROCESS**

**HOW DOES A BILL BECOME LAW IN VIRGINIA?**

Introduced → Committee review → Debate → Vote in both houses → Governor signs or vetoes → Possible override.

**WHAT MAJOR ISSUES DOES VIRGINIA'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESS?**

Education; Public health; Environment; State budget; Taxes.

**WHAT ROLE DO CITIZENS AND INTEREST GROUPS PLAY IN VIRGINIA'S LAWMAKING PROCESS?**

They can contact lawmakers, testify in committee hearings, and organize campaigns to influence laws and public policy.

## **CE.3C – EXECUTIVE BRANCH & REGULATORY BOARDS**

**HOW DOES THE GOVERNOR INFLUENCE POLICYMAKING?**

Proposes legislation; prepares the budget; signs or vetoes bills.

**WHAT ARE REGULATORY BOARDS?**

Executive agencies that create and enforce regulations in specific areas.

**WHAT ROLES DOES THE GOVERNOR FILL?**

Chief Executive; Chief Legislator; Chief of State; Party Chief; Chief Citizen.

## **CE.3D – FEDERALISM**

**WHAT IS FEDERALISM?**

A system in which power is shared between national and state governments.

**WHAT ARE DELEGATED POWERS?**

Powers given to the national government.

**WHAT ARE RESERVED POWERS?**

Powers kept by the states.

**WHAT ARE CONCURRENT POWERS?**

Powers shared by both national and state governments.

**WHAT DID FEDERALIST NO. 10 EXPLAIN?**

The need to control factions.

**WHAT DID FEDERALIST NO. 51 EMPHASIZE?**

Separation of powers and checks and balances.

**WHO WROTE THE FEDERALIST PAPERS?**

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay.

**WHAT IS A FACTION?**

A group with special interests. Federalist No. 10 argued a strong central government was needed to control factions and keep the country stable.

**WHAT IS AN UNFUNDED MANDATE?**

When the federal government requires states to carry out a policy without providing money to pay for it; this can create tension between state and national governments.

## **CE.4 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN VIRGINIA**

### **CE.4A – STRUCTURE & POWERS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

<b>WHERE DO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS GET THEIR POWER?</b>	From the Virginia General Assembly.
<b>WHAT ARE THE THREE TYPES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA?</b>	Counties, cities, towns.
<b>WHAT BODY MAKES LOCAL LAWS?</b>	Board of Supervisors or City/Town Council.
<b>WHAT ARE LOCAL LAWS CALLED?</b>	Ordinances.
<b>WHAT SERVICES DO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE?</b>	Education, police, fire protection, public works, zoning, trash collection.
<b>WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A SCHOOL BOARD?</b>	Oversees public schools.

### **CE.4B – IMPACT OF STATE, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

<b>HOW CAN STATE LAWS AFFECT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?</b>	Local governments must implement state-mandated policies.
<b>HOW CAN NATIONAL EVENTS AFFECT LOCAL DECISIONS?</b>	Changes in federal funding or economic conditions impact local budgets.
<b>HOW CAN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AFFECT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?</b>	Public health crises, economic changes, or security concerns require local action.

### **CE.4C – COMPARING LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL & TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

<b>WHAT ARE TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS?</b>	Sovereign governments that govern Native American tribes.
<b>HOW ARE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FUNDED?</b>	Property taxes, sales taxes, and state aid.
<b>HOW ARE STATE GOVERNMENTS FUNDED?</b>	State income taxes, sales taxes, and aid.
<b>HOW IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDED?</b>	Federal income taxes and other national taxes.
<b>HOW DO ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT WORK TOGETHER?</b>	Through shared powers and cooperation, while maintaining separate responsibilities.
<b>HOW MANY TRIBES ARE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED IN VIRGINIA?</b>	Seven tribes, including the Pamunkey and Chickahominy.

<b>ARE TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PART OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?</b>	No. Tribal governments are sovereign political entities with the right to govern themselves independently.
<b>HOW ARE TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS FUNDED?</b>	Through federal funds and tribal enterprises.

## **CE.3e – Separation of Powers & Checks and Balances at the State Level**

<b>HOW DOES THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS APPLY IN VIRGINIA?</b>	Virginia divides power among the legislative (General Assembly), executive (Governor), and judicial (courts) branches, just as the national government does.
<b>HOW DOES THE GOVERNOR CHECK THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN VIRGINIA?</b>	The Governor can veto laws passed by the General Assembly.
<b>HOW CAN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHECK THE GOVERNOR?</b>	The General Assembly can override a Governor’s veto with enough votes.
<b>HOW CAN VIRGINIA’S COURTS CHECK THE OTHER BRANCHES?</b>	Courts can rule a law unconstitutional if it violates the Virginia Constitution.

## **CE.5 – UNDERSTANDING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

### **CE.5A – STRUCTURE OF STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS; JURISDICTION; JUDICIAL REVIEW**

<b>WHAT IS THE JUDICIAL BRANCH?</b>	The branch of government that interprets laws and determines whether they are constitutional.
<b>WHAT IS MEANT BY A “DUAL COURT SYSTEM”?</b>	The United States has both state courts and federal courts.
<b>WHAT TYPES OF CASES DO STATE COURTS HEAR?</b>	Cases involving state laws, such as traffic violations, family matters, contracts, and most crimes.
<b>WHAT TYPES OF CASES DO FEDERAL COURTS HEAR?</b>	Cases involving federal laws, constitutional issues, disputes between states, or cases involving foreign governments.
<b>WHAT IS JURISDICTION?</b>	The authority of a court to hear and decide certain types of cases.
<b>WHAT IS ORIGINAL JURISDICTION?</b>	The authority to hear a case first.
<b>WHAT IS APPELLATE JURISDICTION?</b>	The authority to review decisions made by lower courts.
<b>WHAT IS JUDICIAL REVIEW?</b>	The power of courts to declare laws or government actions unconstitutional.
<b>WHICH CASE ESTABLISHED JUDICIAL REVIEW?</b>	Marbury v. Madison (1803).

**WHY IS JUDICIAL REVIEW IMPORTANT?** It allows courts to check the legislative and executive branches and uphold the Constitution.

## **CE.5B – DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS**

**WHAT IS DUE PROCESS?** The government must follow fair legal procedures before taking away a person's life, liberty, or property.

**WHICH AMENDMENT GUARANTEES DUE PROCESS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL?** The 5th Amendment.

**WHICH AMENDMENT EXTENDS DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS TO THE STATES?** The 14th Amendment.

**WHY IS DUE PROCESS IMPORTANT?** It protects individuals from unfair treatment by the government.

**WHAT PROTECTIONS DOES THE 6TH AMENDMENT GUARANTEE?** Right to a speedy trial, public trial, lawyer, impartial jury, and to know the charges.

**WHAT DOES THE 4TH AMENDMENT PROTECT AGAINST?** Unreasonable searches and seizures; usually requires a warrant.

## **CE.5C – CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES**

**WHAT IS A CRIMINAL CASE?** A case in which the government charges a person with breaking the law.

**WHO BRINGS CHARGES IN A CRIMINAL CASE?** The government.

**WHAT ARE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF A CRIMINAL CASE?** Jail, probation, fines.

**WHAT IS A CIVIL CASE?** A legal dispute between individuals or groups.

**WHAT ARE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF A CIVIL CASE?** Money damages or court-ordered changes in behavior.

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES?** Criminal cases involve violations of law and government prosecution; civil cases involve disputes between private parties.

## **CE.5D – THE SUPREME COURT AND MARBURY V. MADISON**

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE SUPREME COURT?** It is the highest court and has the final authority on interpreting the Constitution.

**WHY IS MARBURY V. MADISON IMPORTANT?** It established the principle of judicial review.

**HOW DOES THE SUPREME COURT AFFECT PUBLIC POLICY?**

Its decisions interpret laws and can strike down unconstitutional laws.

## **CE.6 – CITIZENSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES**

### **CE.6A – BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN**

**WHAT IS A CITIZEN?**

A person who owes allegiance to a government and is entitled to its protection.

**WHAT AMENDMENT DEFINES U.S. CITIZENSHIP?**

The 14th Amendment.

**WHAT ARE THE TWO WAYS TO BECOME A U.S. CITIZEN?**

By birth or by naturalization.

**WHAT DOES BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP MEAN?**

Anyone born in the U.S. is automatically a citizen.

**WHAT U.S. TERRITORIES ALSO GRANT BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP?**

Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**WHAT IS NATURALIZATION?**

The legal process by which immigrants become U.S. citizens.

**WHAT ARE REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURALIZATION?**

Residency requirement, minimum age, good moral character, English test, civics test, Oath of Allegiance.

**WHAT IS THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE?**

A promise to support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States.

## **CE.6B – RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF CITIZENS**

**LIST THE FIVE FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOMS.**

Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, Petition.

**WHAT IS FREEDOM OF RELIGION?**

The right to practice any religion or no religion.

**WHAT IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH?**

The right to express opinions without government interference.

**WHAT IS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?**

The right of media to publish information freely.

**WHAT IS FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY?**

The right to gather peacefully.

**WHAT IS FREEDOM OF PETITION?**

The right to ask the government to change laws or policies.

**WHAT DOES THE 4TH AMENDMENT PROTECT?**

Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures.

**WHAT DOES THE 5TH AMENDMENT PROTECT?**

Due process, protection from self-incrimination, protection from double jeopardy.

**WHAT DOES THE 6TH AMENDMENT PROTECT?**

Rights of the accused.

**WHAT DOES THE 14TH AMENDMENT GUARANTEE?**

Citizenship, equal protection, and due process from states.

## **CE.6C – PEACEFUL PARTICIPATION**

**HOW CAN CITIZENS PEACEFULLY INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT?**

Voting, working on campaigns, petitions, protests, writing to officials, joining advocacy groups.

**WHY IS PEACEFUL PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?**

It allows citizens to influence policy without violence.

**WHAT IS A HISTORICAL EXAMPLE OF PEACEFUL CIVIC ACTION FOR CHANGE?**

The Civil Rights Movement used marches, speeches, and petitions to fight segregation and expand voting rights.

## **CE.6D – CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC GOOD**

**WHAT IS CIVIC PARTICIPATION?**

Active involvement in community and government.

**WHY IS VOLUNTEERING IMPORTANT?**

It strengthens communities and serves the public good.

**WHY IS STAYING INFORMED IMPORTANT?**

It helps citizens make informed decisions.

**WHY MUST CITIZENS RESPECT DIFFERING BELIEFS?**

A diverse democracy depends on tolerance and cooperation.

## **CE.6E – IMMIGRATION POLICIES**

**HOW DID IMMIGRATION POLICIES CHANGE IN THE 1800S?**

Large numbers of European immigrants entered; Ellis Island processed arrivals.

**WHAT HAPPENED IN THE EARLY 1900S?**

Restrictions based on nationality were introduced.

**WHAT DID THE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1965 DO?**

Ended race-based quotas and increased diversity.

**WHY IS IMMIGRATION POLICY IMPORTANT?**

It shapes who can enter and become citizens.

## **CE.6F – NATURALIZATION EXAM**

**WHAT TESTS MUST NATURALIZATION APPLICANTS PASS?**

English test and Civics test.

**WHAT DOES THE CIVICS TEST COVER?**

U.S. history, government, symbols, and holidays.

**WHAT IS CONSTITUTION DAY (CITIZENSHIP DAY) AND WHEN IS IT?** September 17. Designated by the federal government in 2005, it recognizes the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and honors those who have become U.S. citizens.

## **CE.7 – QUALITIES OF GOOD CITIZENS**

**WHAT QUALITIES DEFINE A GOOD CITIZEN?** Civility, honesty, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, self-reliance, patriotism, hard work.

**WHAT IS CIVILITY?** Respectful behavior in public discussions.

**WHY IS COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPORTANT?** It improves the community and promotes the common good.

## **CE.8 – POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS**

### **CE.8A – POLITICAL PARTIES**

**WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?** An organized group that seeks to influence government policy and win elections.

**WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES?** Recruit candidates, educate voters, help candidates win elections, monitor officeholders.

**WHY ARE POLITICAL PARTIES IMPORTANT?** They organize political participation and simplify choices for voters.

**WHAT WERE THE FIRST TWO POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE UNITED STATES?** Federalists (led by Alexander Hamilton) and Democratic-Republicans (led by Thomas Jefferson).

**WHAT DID THE FEDERALISTS BELIEVE?** They favored a strong national government.

**WHAT DID THE DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS BELIEVE?** They favored stronger state governments and more individual rights.

**WHAT IS A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM?** A political system dominated by two major parties.

**WHY ARE THIRD PARTIES IMPORTANT?** They introduce new ideas and influence public debate.

### **CE.8B – CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CANDIDATES IN A CAMPAIGN?** Candidates run for office, presenting their ideas and goals to the public.

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS IN A CAMPAIGN?** Volunteers help distribute flyers, make phone calls, knock on doors, and get voters to the polls.

<b>WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN A CAMPAIGN?</b>	TV, newspapers, online news, and social media share information about candidates and issues. Traditional media covers debates; social media lets candidates connect directly with voters.
<b>WHAT IS THE ROLE OF VOTERS IN A CAMPAIGN?</b>	Voters evaluate information, compare candidates, and make informed choices at the polls.
<b>WHAT ARE POLL WATCHERS?</b>	Authorized observers who ensure elections are conducted fairly and follow proper procedures.
<b>WHAT ARE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PACS)?</b>	Organizations that raise and spend money to support or oppose candidates.
<b>WHY ARE CAMPAIGN COSTS SIGNIFICANT?</b>	They require candidates to raise large amounts of money.
<b>WHAT CONCERNS EXIST ABOUT CAMPAIGN FINANCE?</b>	Large donors may have excessive influence.

## **CE.8D – VOTER REGISTRATION**

<b>WHY IS VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIRED?</b>	Citizens must register before voting.
<b>WHAT AMENDMENTS EXPANDED VOTING RIGHTS?</b>	15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments.
<b>WHAT DID THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 ACCOMPLISH?</b>	Ended discriminatory practices like literacy tests.
<b>WHAT ARE REQUIREMENTS TO REGISTER IN VIRGINIA?</b>	U.S. citizen; Virginia resident; at least 18 by Election Day.

## **CE.8E – ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

<b>WHAT IS THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE?</b>	The system used to elect the President and Vice President.
<b>HOW IS THE NUMBER OF ELECTORS DETERMINED?</b>	Number of Senators (2) plus Representatives.
<b>HOW MANY TOTAL ELECTORAL VOTES ARE THERE?</b>	538
<b>HOW MANY ELECTORAL VOTES ARE NEEDED TO WIN?</b>	270
<b>WHAT IS THE “WINNER-TAKE-ALL” SYSTEM?</b>	The candidate who wins the popular vote in a state wins all its electoral votes (in most states).
<b>CAN A CANDIDATE WIN THE PRESIDENCY WITHOUT WINNING THE POPULAR VOTE?</b>	Yes, it has happened in several elections.

# CE.9 – ROLE OF THE MEDIA

## CE.9A – ROLE AND RIGHTS OF THE PRESS

**WHAT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROTECTS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?**

The First Amendment.

**WHAT IS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?**

The right of the media to publish information without government censorship.

**WHY IS A FREE PRESS IMPORTANT IN A DEMOCRACY?**

It informs citizens, investigates government actions, and holds leaders accountable.

**WHAT TYPES OF MEDIA ARE PROTECTED BY FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?**

Newspapers, television, radio, online news sites, blogs, and other media platforms.

**HOW DOES THE MEDIA HELP CITIZENS MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS?**

By reporting facts, providing analysis, and presenting multiple viewpoints.

**HOW DOES INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM SUPPORT DEMOCRACY?**

It uncovers corruption or wrongdoing in government or business.

**WHAT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM AFFECTING GOVERNMENT?**

Reporting on the Watergate scandal led to President Nixon's resignation.

**WHAT IS MEDIA BIAS?**

When a news outlet presents information in a way that favors one perspective over another, shown through word choice, selected facts, or images used.

**WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF BIASED REPORTING ON PUBLIC OPINION?**

It can influence how people view events or candidates, cause group polarization, create echo chambers, and reduce tolerance for differing viewpoints.

**WHAT IS AN ECHO CHAMBER?**

When people only see and hear opinions they already agree with, often reinforced by social media algorithms.

**HOW CAN INDIVIDUALS INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY THROUGH THE MEDIA?**

By writing letters to editors, emailing officials, creating online petitions, speaking at public meetings, or using social media hashtags to raise awareness.

**WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON POLITICS?**

Quick spread of information and encourages participation from younger voters.

**WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON POLITICS?**

Spread of misinformation, disrespectful online debates, and echo chambers where people only see opinions they agree with.

**HOW SHOULD YOU EVALUATE WHETHER A SOURCE MAY BE BIASED?**

Check who created it, ask why (to inform, persuade, or sell?), look for loaded language or selective facts, and consider funding sources.

<b>WHY MIGHT DIFFERENT SOURCES DESCRIBE THE SAME EVENT DIFFERENTLY?</b>	Due to different eyewitness perspectives, intentional focus on certain facts, time constraints, or editorial bias.
<b>WHAT IS MEDIA BIAS?</b>	When news coverage favors one perspective or political viewpoint.
<b>WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR CITIZENS TO IDENTIFY BIAS?</b>	To evaluate information critically and separate fact from opinion.
<b>WHAT IS PROPAGANDA?</b>	Information presented in a way designed to influence opinions or behavior.
<b>HOW CAN CITIZENS EVALUATE MEDIA SOURCES?</b>	By checking accuracy, identifying bias, comparing multiple sources, and distinguishing fact from opinion.

## **CE.10 – PUBLIC POLICY AND CITIZEN INFLUENCE**

### **CE.10A – THE INFLUENCE OF THE MEDIA ON PUBLIC POLICY**

<b>WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED DUTIES OF U.S. CITIZENS?</b>	Pay taxes, serve on a jury when called, follow the law, and (for males ages 18-25) register for Selective Service.
<b>WHAT IS SELECTIVE SERVICE?</b>	Males ages 18-25 must register in case of a military draft.
<b>WHY MUST CITIZENS PAY TAXES?</b>	Taxes fund public services such as schools, roads, and national defense.
<b>WHY MUST CITIZENS SERVE ON A JURY WHEN CALLED?</b>	Jury service ensures fair trials and upholds the right to due process.
<b>WHEN ARE GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD IN VIRGINIA?</b>	In November.
<b>WHEN ARE PRIMARY ELECTIONS TYPICALLY HELD IN VIRGINIA?</b>	Usually in June.
<b>HOW DOES THE MEDIA INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY?</b>	It focuses public attention on certain issues and shapes public opinion.
<b>HOW DO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS USE THE MEDIA?</b>	To communicate policies, explain decisions, and gain public support.
<b>HOW DOES MEDIA COVERAGE AFFECT POLICYMAKING?</b>	Lawmakers may respond to issues that receive significant media attention.

### **CE.10B – INTEREST GROUPS AND LOBBYING**

<b>WHAT IS PUBLIC POLICY?</b>	Decisions and laws made by government to address public issues.
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<b>WHAT IS LOBBYING?</b>	Attempting to influence legislators to support or oppose a bill.
<b>WHO ARE LOBBYISTS?</b>	Individuals who represent interest groups and try to influence government officials.
<b>WHAT IS AN INTEREST GROUP?</b>	An organized group that seeks to influence public policy.
<b>HOW DO INTEREST GROUPS INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY?</b>	Identifying issues, lobbying officials, organizing campaigns, and making political contributions.
<b>WHAT ARE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PACS)?</b>	Organizations that raise and spend money to support or oppose candidates.
<b>WHY DO INTEREST GROUPS EXIST?</b>	To represent the concerns of specific groups of people.
<b>HOW CAN INDIVIDUALS INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY?</b>	Voting, contacting representatives, joining interest groups, campaigning, peaceful protests.
<b>WHY IS CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT IN POLICYMAKING?</b>	It ensures government remains responsive to the people.

## **CE.10C – INFLUENCE OF STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES ON LOCAL POLICY**

<b>HOW CAN NATIONAL POLICIES AFFECT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?</b>	Federal funding changes can impact local programs and services.
<b>HOW CAN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS INFLUENCE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?</b>	Public health crises, economic shifts, or security concerns may require local action.
<b>WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT?</b>	A pandemic requiring local health measures.
<b>HOW CAN ECONOMIC CHANGES AFFECT PUBLIC POLICY?</b>	Economic downturns may require budget adjustments and policy responses.
<b>WHY MUST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS REMAIN FLEXIBLE?</b>	Because state, national, and international events can require immediate action.

## **CE.11 – ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS**

### **CE.11A – SCARCITY, RESOURCES, SUPPLY & DEMAND**

<b>WHY DO PEOPLE HAVE TO MAKE ECONOMIC CHOICES?</b>	Because resources are limited (scarcity).
<b>WHAT IS SCARCITY?</b>	The condition that exists when unlimited wants exceed limited resources.

<b>WHAT ARE THE FOUR TYPES OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES?</b>	Natural resources; Human resources; Capital resources; Entrepreneurship.
<b>WHAT ARE NATURAL RESOURCES?</b>	Resources found in nature (land, water, minerals, forests).
<b>WHAT ARE HUMAN RESOURCES?</b>	People's labor, skills, and knowledge.
<b>WHAT ARE CAPITAL RESOURCES?</b>	Tools, machines, buildings used to produce goods and services.
<b>WHAT IS ENTREPRENEURSHIP?</b>	The ability to combine resources to produce goods and services and take risks.
<b>WHAT IS OPPORTUNITY COST?</b>	The value of the next best alternative given up when a choice is made.
<b>WHAT IS PRODUCTION?</b>	The act of making goods or providing services.
<b>WHAT IS CONSUMPTION?</b>	The using of goods and services.
<b>WHAT DETERMINES WHAT IS PRODUCED IN A MARKET ECONOMY?</b>	Consumer preferences and availability of resources.
<b>WHAT IS DEMAND?</b>	The amount of a good or service consumers are willing and able to buy at various prices.
<b>WHAT IS SUPPLY?</b>	The amount of a good or service producers are willing and able to sell at various prices.
<b>WHAT DETERMINES PRICE IN A MARKET ECONOMY?</b>	The interaction of supply and demand.
<b>WHAT ARE INCENTIVES?</b>	Factors that motivate people to change behavior.
<b>WHAT IS INNOVATION?</b>	The development of new ideas, products, or ways of doing things. Examples: smartphones and online shopping.
<b>WHAT IS PRODUCTIVITY?</b>	How efficiently goods and services are produced using available resources. Higher productivity means more output with the same input.
<b>HOW CAN PRODUCTIVITY BE INCREASED?</b>	By using better technology, training workers (building human capital), and organizing work more effectively.
<b>HOW DOES HUMAN CAPITAL AFFECT WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY?</b>	Education, training, and experience increase human capital, which usually leads to higher productivity and wages.

## **CE.11B – ECONOMIC SYSTEMS**

**WHAT ARE THE FOUR MAJOR TYPES OF ECONOMIC SYSTEMS?**

Traditional; Free Market; Command; Mixed.

**WHAT CHARACTERIZES A TRADITIONAL ECONOMY?**

Decisions are based on custom and tradition.

**WHAT CHARACTERIZES A FREE MARKET ECONOMY?**

Private ownership, competition, profit motive, consumer choice.

**WHAT CHARACTERIZES A COMMAND ECONOMY?**

Government owns resources and makes economic decisions.

**WHAT CHARACTERIZES A MIXED ECONOMY?**

Combines private ownership with some government regulation.

**WHAT IS FREE ENTERPRISE (CAPITALISM)?**

An economic system where private individuals and businesses make most economic decisions. Businesses compete, people choose their jobs, and prices are set by supply and demand.

**WHAT IS CONSUMER SOVEREIGNTY?**

Consumers determine what is produced by choosing what to buy.

**WHAT IS INFLATION?**

A general rise in prices over time that reduces the purchasing power of money.

**WHAT ARE THE THREE TYPES OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS?**

Proprietorship (one owner, unlimited liability), Partnership (two or more owners), and Corporation (separate legal entity that sells stock and has limited liability).

**WHAT IS A CORPORATION?**

A business that is a separate legal entity from its owners, sells stock to raise money, and has limited liability for shareholders.

**WHAT IS AN ENTREPRENEUR?**

A person who takes risks to start a business, bringing together resources, creating products, and driving innovation.

**WHAT IS VIRGINIA'S ROLE IN THE U.S. AND GLOBAL ECONOMY?**

Virginia exports agricultural products (poultry, soybeans), produces ships, technology, and defense goods, and hosts major government and military facilities.

**WHAT TYPE OF ECONOMIC SYSTEM DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE?**

A mixed economy.

# **CE.12 – GOVERNMENT’S ROLE IN THE ECONOMY**

## **CE.12A – GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS IN THE ECONOMY**

<b>WHY DOES GOVERNMENT PLAY A ROLE IN THE ECONOMY?</b>	To promote stability, protect property rights, and provide public goods.
<b>WHAT ARE PUBLIC GOODS?</b>	Goods and services provided by government that benefit everyone (roads, national defense).
<b>WHY DOES GOVERNMENT ENFORCE CONTRACTS?</b>	To ensure fairness and trust in economic transactions.
<b>HOW DOES GOVERNMENT PROMOTE COMPETITION?</b>	By preventing monopolies and enforcing antitrust laws.
<b>WHY DOES GOVERNMENT PROTECT PROPERTY RIGHTS?</b>	To encourage investment and economic growth.

## **CE.12B – FISCAL POLICY**

<b>WHAT IS FISCAL POLICY?</b>	Government decisions about taxation and spending.
<b>WHO CONTROLS FISCAL POLICY?</b>	Congress and the President.
<b>HOW CAN FISCAL POLICY AFFECT THE ECONOMY?</b>	By increasing or decreasing spending and taxes to influence economic activity.
<b>WHAT IS A BUDGET DEFICIT?</b>	When government spending exceeds revenue.
<b>WHAT IS A BUDGET SURPLUS?</b>	When government revenue exceeds spending.
<b>WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DEBT?</b>	The total amount of money the federal government owes.

## **CE.12C – MONETARY POLICY**

<b>WHAT IS MONETARY POLICY?</b>	The regulation of the money supply and interest rates.
<b>WHO CONTROLS MONETARY POLICY?</b>	The Federal Reserve System.
<b>WHAT IS THE FEDERAL RESERVE?</b>	The central bank of the United States.
<b>HOW DOES THE FEDERAL RESERVE INFLUENCE THE ECONOMY?</b>	By adjusting interest rates and controlling money supply.
<b>WHAT HAPPENS WHEN INTEREST RATES RISE?</b>	Borrowing decreases; spending may slow.

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN INTEREST RATES FALL?**

Borrowing increases; spending may rise.

**WHAT ARE ANTITRUST LAWS?**

Laws passed by the government to prevent monopolies and promote competition in the marketplace.

**WHAT IS A MONOPOLY?**

When one company controls an entire market, eliminating competition.

**WHAT ARE THE THREE MAIN TYPES OF TAXES?**

Income tax (federal and state, based on earnings), sales tax (state/local, added to purchases), and property tax (local, based on property value).

**WHY DOES THE GOVERNMENT USE MONEY INSTEAD OF BARTERING?**

Money is easier to carry and store, has a standard value everyone accepts, and makes buying and selling faster and simpler.

**HOW DOES THE GOVERNMENT REGULATE COMMERCE TO PROTECT CONSUMERS?**

By ensuring products are safe and accurately labeled, limiting pollution, preventing monopolies, and protecting property rights.

**WHY DOES THE GOVERNMENT REGULATE LABOR?**

To protect workers' rights, including minimum wage and safe working conditions.

## **CE.13 – PERSONAL FINANCE & FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **CE.13A – FORMS OF MONEY AND BANKING**

**WHAT ARE THE THREE FORMS OF MONEY USED IN THE U.S.?**

Coins; Currency; Bank deposits accessible by check or debit card.

**WHAT IS A CHECKING ACCOUNT?**

A bank account used for daily transactions.

**WHAT IS A SAVINGS ACCOUNT?**

A bank account that earns interest and is used for saving money.

**WHAT IS INTEREST?**

The cost of borrowing money or the payment received for saving money.

**WHAT IS A DEBIT CARD?**

A card used to withdraw money directly from a bank account.

**WHAT IS DIRECT DEPOSIT?**

Electronic transfer of money into a bank account.

### **CE.13B – CREDIT AND DEBT**

**WHAT IS CREDIT?**

Borrowing money with the promise to repay later.

**WHAT IS A LOAN?**

Money borrowed that must be repaid with interest.

<b>WHAT IS A CREDIT SCORE?</b>	A number that represents a person's creditworthiness.
<b>WHY IS A GOOD CREDIT SCORE IMPORTANT?</b>	It allows individuals to borrow money at lower interest rates.
<b>WHAT HAPPENS IF DEBT IS NOT REPAYED?</b>	Credit score decreases; legal consequences may occur.
<b>WHAT IS INTEREST ON A LOAN?</b>	The cost paid to borrow money.

## **CE.13C – INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**

<b>WHY IS INSURANCE IMPORTANT?</b>	It protects against financial loss.
<b>WHAT IS RISK?</b>	The possibility of loss or harm.
<b>WHAT ARE COMMON TYPES OF INSURANCE?</b>	Health; Auto; Home; Life.
<b>WHAT IS A PREMIUM?</b>	The amount paid for insurance coverage.
<b>WHAT IS A DEDUCTIBLE?</b>	The amount paid out-of-pocket before insurance coverage begins.

## **CE.13D – BUDGETING & FINANCIAL PLANNING**

<b>WHAT IS A BUDGET?</b>	A plan for managing income and expenses.
<b>WHY IS BUDGETING IMPORTANT?</b>	It helps control spending and prepare for future expenses.
<b>WHAT IS INCOME?</b>	Money earned from work or investments.
<b>WHAT ARE FIXED EXPENSES?</b>	Costs that remain the same each month (rent, insurance).
<b>WHAT ARE VARIABLE EXPENSES?</b>	Costs that change (food, entertainment).
<b>WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE?</b>	Making careful spending decisions, saving and investing, budgeting, and using credit wisely.

## **CE.14 – CAREER PLANNING & HUMAN CAPITAL**

### **CE.14A – CAREER PLANNING**

<b>WHAT IS THE FIRST STEP IN CAREER PLANNING?</b>	Self-assessment.
<b>WHAT IS SELF-ASSESSMENT?</b>	Evaluating personal interests, skills, talents, and goals.

**WHY IS EDUCATION IMPORTANT IN CAREER PLANNING?**

Higher education and skills often lead to higher income.

**WHAT IS HUMAN CAPITAL?**

The knowledge, skills, experience, health, and training that make a person productive.

**HOW DOES SUPPLY AND DEMAND AFFECT WAGES?**

Jobs in high demand with limited supply pay higher wages.

**HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY AFFECT CAREERS?**

It creates new jobs and eliminates some existing jobs.

**WHY DO EMPLOYERS VALUE A STRONG WORK ETHIC?**

It demonstrates reliability, responsibility, and productivity.

**WHAT BEHAVIORS REFLECT A STRONG WORK ETHIC?**

Punctuality, effort, honesty, responsibility.

**WHY IS ADAPTABILITY IMPORTANT IN TODAY'S WORKFORCE?**

Technology and economic conditions constantly change.

**WHAT IS GLOBALIZATION?**

The expansion of economic activity beyond national borders, increasing international trade, competition, and career opportunities.

**HOW DOES GLOBALIZATION AFFECT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES?**

It expands job markets globally, increases competition, but also creates demand for skills in international trade, technology, and communication.

**WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SECTOR?**

Jobs in government, funded by taxes and focused on serving the community. Examples: teacher, firefighter, police officer, park ranger.

**WHAT IS THE PRIVATE SECTOR?**

Jobs in businesses and industry, run to make a profit. Examples: engineer, graphic designer, restaurant manager, software developer.

**WHY IS EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING IMPORTANT?**

It gives everyone a fair chance to learn and succeed regardless of race, gender, or income. This helps reduce poverty and increases social mobility.

**WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION, SKILLS, AND INCOME?**

There is a strong correlation: people with higher education and skills usually earn more over a lifetime.

## **CE.14B – FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & LONG-TERM PLANNING**

**WHY IS SAVING IMPORTANT?**

To prepare for emergencies and future goals.

**WHAT IS INVESTING?**

Using money to earn additional income over time.

**WHY IS DIVERSIFICATION IMPORTANT IN INVESTING?**

It reduces financial risk.

**WHAT IS RETIREMENT PLANNING?**

Saving and investing money for financial security later in life.

**WHY MUST INDIVIDUALS UNDERSTAND  
CONTRACTS AND WARRANTIES?**

To protect themselves legally and financially.

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