

CIVICS & ECONOMICS MAJOR CONCEPTS

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Goal 1 - Historical Roots of American Democracy

Regional divisions in the colonies
Economic growth
Colonial social structure
Political/Governmental structure
Ethnic and Religious Diversity
Colonial traditions of self-government
Ideas of the Enlightenment
The seeds of rebellion
Majority Rule
Separation of Church and State
Discontent with foreign rule
Mercantilism
Tradition of self-government
Preservation of civil liberties
No Taxation without representation
Emphasis on education
Separation of church and state
Institution of slavery
Religious pluralism
Development of Egalitarianism
Consent of the Governed
Characteristics of the Articles of Confederation
Organization and governance of new lands
Internal rebellion
Role of the central government
Protection of individual rights
States rights vs. strong centralized government
Ratification of the Constitution
Compromise and adoption of Constitution
Scope and Limits of the Bill of Rights
Guarantees of Personal Liberties
Forms of governments
American system of government
Popular Sovereignty
Federalism
Separation of Powers
Checks & Balances
Limited Government

Goal 2 - Purpose, Values, and Principles of American Democracy

Popular Sovereignty
Federalism
Separation of Powers
Checks & Balances
Limited Government

Flexibility
Legislative Branch
Executive Branch
Judicial Branch
Limited Power
Enumerated Power
National Supremacy
Amending the Constitution
Individual Rights of Citizens
Strict versus loose constructionist views of the Constitution
States Rights
Electoral College and process
Sources of government revenue
Government expenditures
National security
Transportation
Conservation of natural resources
Immigration and naturalization
Crime control and drug interdiction
Health and human services
Information Gathering & Policy Formation

Goal 3 - State and Local Government

State Constitutions
Principles of N. C. State Government
Local charters (City & County)
Organization and structure of state and local government
The N. C. General Assembly
Governor and the State Administration
State Agencies and how they function
Authority of public officials
Amending the N. C. Constitution
Reform in state and local government
N. C. Supreme Court
Equal protection under the law
Individual Rights
Education
Taxes/Resources/Services
Terrorism/Security
Political Integrity
Financing State and Local Government
Types of State and Local Taxes
Non-Tax Sources of State Revenue
State Budget Process
State and Local Spending
State Agencies
Local Agencies

Goal 4 - Active roles as a citizen

Functions of Parties
Types of Party Systems

Types of Elections
Campaign Finances
Campaign Process
Election Process
Public Issues
Forming public opinion
Citizen Activism
Benefits and Risks of Compliance
Civil Disobedience
Responsibilities and Duties of Citizenship
Volunteerism
Acquiring Real World Experience
Participation in the Judicial Process
Participation in the Political Process
Benefits and Costs of Public Service
Civic Involvement
Resolving Conflict
Collaboration
Compromise

Goal 5 - Role of Political and Legal Systems

Conflict Resolution
Types of jurisdictions
Type of courts
Selection of Federal Judges
Selection of State Judges
Judicial Process
Courtroom Roles
The Jury System
Committee system
Veto process
How a Bill Becomes a Law
Interaction between city and county government
Citizen Input on Public Policy
Local Initiatives
Local Referendums
Recall

Goal 6 - Purpose of National, State, and Local Laws

Philosophy of law
Landmark English Documents
The development of rule of law in the United States
Types of laws
Implementation of law
Regulatory Commissions
Independent Agencies
Enforcement of law
Informed Citizenry
"Ignorance of the law is no excuse."

Informing citizens
Utilizing Government Publications & Websites
Organizing for Influence
Interest Groups
Lobbying
Think Tanks
Role of Law Enforcement Agencies
Types of Punishment
Repetitive Criminal Activity
Deviant Behavior

Goal 7 - Economic Choices

Four Factors of Production
Efficient use of production
Basic Economic Questions
Scarcity
Decision Making Process
Wants versus Needs
Tradeoffs
Opportunity Costs
Specialization
Division of Labor
Consumption
Production
Productivity
Investment
Free Enterprise
Capitalism
Socialism
Communism - Command
Traditional Society
Market Economy
Mixed Economy

Goal 8 - The United States Economic System

What to Produce
How to Produce It
For Whom to Produce It
Mixed Market Economy
Economic Goals of the Free Enterprise System
Factor market (household)
Product market (business)
Law of demand
Law of supply
Law of supply and demand
Equilibrium Price/Market Price
Influences on Supply and Demand
Influences on prices
Market Basics
Types of Business
Organized Labor

Fiscal Policy
Monetary Policy
Banking System
Types of Insurance
Types of money
Function of money

Goal 9 - Factors Affecting the Economy

Business Cycle
Economic Indicators
Government Regulations
Population shifts
Sunbelt states
Frost belt or Rustbelt states
Service Society
Technological Advances
War and Homeland Security
Downsizing
Global interdependence
Protective tariffs
International Economic Organizations
Global Interdependency and International Trade
Federal Reserve System (FED)
Spending and taxation
Environmental protection and conflict with industry
Personal decision making related to economic conditions
Government regulation and its impact on the individual
Federal ownership of land vs. private ownership across the country
Zoning and its impact on economic development and neighborhood standards

Goal 10- Effective Citizenship

Civic Responsibilities
Personal Responsibilities
Legal responsibilities vs. moral responsibilities
E Pluribus Unum
Diversity as "isms" in America
Life Long Learning
Informed Citizenry
Citizenship
Voluntary Compliance
Duty & Responsibility
Respect
Common Civic Culture
Public Problems
Public Issues
Unenumerated Rights
Choices
Opportunity
Benefits of Freedoms
Consequences of Freedom