

## United States Government

A student who is **Proficient** in United States Government consistently exhibits competency and knowledge in the foundations of the American political system, structures and functions, rights and responsibilities of citizenship, New Mexico state government, and documents. Proficient students exhibit knowledge in the following five areas and are able to

### Documents

- Identify differences between primary and secondary source documents.

### Foundations of the American Political System

- identify and define the three systems of government (unitary, confederal, and federal);
- analyze historical documents (Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, etc.);
- understand and summarize the philosophical contributions/theories of Hobbes and Locke;
- define and differentiate between the different forms of government including dictatorship, monarchy, and representative democracy; and
- identify and explain the background and purpose of the Declaration of Independence.

### Structure and function of the U.S. Government

- identify/list and explain the structure and powers of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches;
- identify and differentiate the qualifications of the officials of the three branches;
- understand and explain the process of how a bill becomes a law;
- recognize at least one example of checks and balances for each of the three branches;
- define and analyze federalism;
- recognize and explain Supreme Court procedures;
- understand and summarize the process of judicial review;
- understand and summarize the electoral process;
- understand and explain how the U.S. Constitution places limits on the government;
- understand and connect landmark Supreme Court cases with the constitutional principle; and
- understand and apply the rule of law.

### Rights and responsibilities of citizens

- identify and explain how freedoms are protected under the Bill of Rights;
- understand and define the process of becoming a citizen;
- understand and explain how lobbying and interest groups affect public policy;
- understand and explain what rights are protected under the Bill of Rights; and
- understand and identify the different types of elections.

### New Mexico state government

- understand and explain federal and state relationships and understand and compare/contrast the U.S. Constitution and New Mexico Constitution.

## **United States Government**

A student who is **Borderline Proficient** in United States Government exhibits some competency and knowledge in the foundations of the American political system, structures and functions, rights and responsibilities of citizenship, New Mexico state government, and documents. Students exhibit knowledge in the following five areas and are able to

### **Foundations of the American Political System**

- define a federal system;
- recognize historical documents (Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, etc.);
- understand the basic idea of social contract;
- define dictatorship, direct democracy, and representative democracy; and
- identify the main author and purpose of the Declaration of Independence.

### **Structure and function of the U.S. Government**

- identify/list the three branches of the U.S. government;
- identify term lengths for and leadership positions of federal officials;
- understand that Congress writes the bills and the president signs or vetoes bills;
- recognize examples of checks and balances to include impeachment, veto, etc.;
- recognize that the Supreme Court is the highest court in the land and interprets the law;
- understand that the president is elected through the Electoral College not through the popular vote; and
- understand the U.S. Constitution places limits on the government.

### **Rights and responsibilities of citizens**

- identify the freedoms that are protected under the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Amendments;
- understand the basic requirements of citizenship; and
- understand how lobbying and interest groups can influence elected officials.

### **New Mexico State Government**

- understand that the New Mexico Constitution was modeled after the U.S. Constitution.