

American Government 4th Edition

Lesson Plan Overview

Lesson	Page Number	Student Activities	Content Objectives and Biblical Worldview
Chapter 1: The Only Sure Foundation			
1	2–5	1	The Necessity of Government Explain the origin of government as a God-ordained institution. Evaluate anarchy based on biblical teaching regarding human depravity.
2	5–9	2–3	The Obligations of Government Explain righteousness and justice. Explain government’s primary biblical obligations. Evaluate governmental policies and actions regarding punishing unrighteousness and rewarding righteousness.
3	9–13	4–5	The Obligations of the Governed Assess the importance of praying for government officials. Analyze the ways that citizens may participate in government. Evaluate political issues in light of biblical commands about citizens’ responsibility to submit to government. Identify ways to be a good testimony to government officials. Review
4			Test
Chapter 2: Forms of Government			
5	14–20	1	Types of Government Compare systems of government. Explain the relationships between the different levels of government. Contrast the parliamentary and presidential means of choosing an executive.
6	21–22		American Government Describe the United States’ method of dividing the national government. Summarize the different responsibilities accorded to the national and state governments in the United States.
7	22–29	2–3	A Brief History of Democracy Trace the development of democratic principles. Identify the Founding Fathers’ contributions to democratic government. Differentiate between <i>democracy</i> and <i>republic</i> .
8	29–34	4	Characteristics of Democracy Describe the strengths and potential weaknesses of majority rule. Explain the principles of equality and liberty. Analyze the roles of compromise and individual worth in a democratic system.
9	34–39	5	Conditions for Democracy Explain why opportunity and education are important in a democracy. Defend the idea that moral responsibility is necessary for the health and strength of a democracy. Review
10			Test

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Chapter 3: Christianity, the Church, and Government			
11	40–43	1–2	<p>Christianity and Government in History Survey Christian involvement in government during the Roman Empire, the Reformation, and in early America. Explain John Locke’s view of religious toleration. Define <i>pluralism</i>.</p>
12	44–51	3–4	<p>The Bible, the Church, and Pluralism Defend a biblical view of the relationship between church and state against contrary viewpoints. Explain the role of ideologies and a Christian worldview in the formulation of political ideas. Determine a biblical view of Christian involvement in political issues. Propose ways a Christian may react to the problems created by pluralism. Review</p>
13			Test
Chapter 4: Constitutional Beginnings			
14	54–65	1–2	<p>Colonial and Confederation Eras Identify the factors that influenced American colonial governments. Analyze the processes by which the colonies sought to address their grievances with England. Assess the Articles of Confederation’s weaknesses.</p>
15	66–72	3	<p>Constitutional Convention Outline the three major compromises reached at the Constitutional Convention. Analyze the role of political compromise in a free society.</p>
16	73–79	4–5	<p>Ratification Controversy Analyze the arguments presented by the Federalists and Anti-Federalists. Explain the significance of the ratification of the Constitution. Review</p>
17			Test
Chapter 5: The United States Constitution			
18	80–87	1–2	<p>Practical Aspects Explain the effect of the Founding Fathers’ view of human nature on the writing of the Constitution. Evaluate different approaches to interpreting the Constitution. Identify the characteristics of the Constitution that make it adaptable to change. Describe the methods of amending the Constitution.</p>
19	87–93	3–4	<p>Foundational Principles Explain six basic principles contained in the Constitution. Relate foundational principles of American government to biblical principles.</p>
20	94–123	5	<p>Examining the United States Constitution Identify the three branches of government and explain their major functions. Explain the purpose and significance of the Bill of Rights. Evaluate the impact of constitutional amendments on the US government. Review</p>
21			Test

Lesson	Page Number	Student Activities	Content Objectives and Biblical Worldview
Chapter 6: Federalism			
22	124–28		<p>The Partitions of Power Define <i>federalism</i>. Differentiate between delegated powers, enumerated powers, implied powers, and reserved powers. Explain the interaction between state and federal governments.</p>
23	129–31	1	<p>Developments in Federalism Describe the system of dual federalism that once existed in the United States. Identify the significant events that increased the powers of the federal government. Evaluate different forms of federalism from a biblical worldview.</p>
24	131–33	2	<p>Financing Federalism Distinguish between the various forms of federal grants. Explain revenue sharing.</p>
25	133–39	3–4	<p>The Challenges of Federalism Identify the factors that maintain the distinctions between state and national governments. Describe problems that result from federal funding to state governments. Review</p>
26			Test
Chapter 7: State and Local Government			
27	140–47	1	<p>State Governments Explain the constitutional basis for states' powers. Delineate the responsibilities of state government. Outline the responsibilities of the different branches of state government. List the states' sources of revenue.</p>
28	148–52	2–3	<p>Local Governments Identify the various forms of county and municipal government. Explain the role of special districts in local government.</p>
29	152–58		<p>State and Local Politics Chart and explain typical political party organization on the state and local levels. Explain election and voting processes used in state and local politics.</p>
30	159–63	4	<p>Interstate and Intergovernmental Relationships Identify the types of interstate relationships. Describe the interaction of federal and state governments. Review</p>
31			Test
Chapter 8: The Structure of Congress			
32	166–77	1	<p>Framework Describe Congress's bicameral structure. Explain how the House and Senate officials lead their respective chambers. Evaluate controversial issues relating to members of Congress. Summarize the procedures regarding congressional sessions.</p>

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33	177–85	2–4	Legislative Workings Analyze the purposes and types of congressional committees. Explain the processes for passing bills in the United States Congress. Review
34			Test
Chapter 9: The Powers of Congress			
35	186–97	1–2	Enumerated Powers Delineate the powers specifically given to Congress in the Constitution. Relate the powers of Congress to the biblical purposes of government.
36	197–200		Implied and Nonlegislative Powers Explain the implied powers of Congress. Explain the nonlegislative powers of Congress. Relate the implied and nonlegislative powers of Congress to the biblical purposes of government.
37	201		Denied Powers Explain the powers the Constitution denies to Congress.
38	201–5	3–5	Congressional Criticism Cite various reasons Congress is criticized. Evaluate the criticisms Congress commonly receives. Review
39			Test
Chapter 10: The Road to the White House			
40	222–24	1	Presidential Qualifications Explain the constitutional requirements and desired qualities for the office of president. Outline common career paths for the presidency.
41	225–34	2	Nomination Describe the origins, purposes, forms, and course of presidential primaries. Summarize the preparations, participants, and procedures of national party conventions.
42	234–42	3–4	Election Evaluate some influences on campaign strategies. Analyze the role of debates in presidential campaigns. Explain the importance of Election Day. Evaluate the role of the Electoral College.
43	242–47	5	Inauguration Explain the significance of the orderly transitions that occur after American elections. Describe the presidential inauguration procedures. Review
44			Test
Chapter 11: America’s Highest Office			
45	248–62	1–2	Presidential Powers Analyze six major areas of presidential responsibility. Describe constitutional restrictions placed on the president. Explain additional powers given to the president.

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46	267–71	3–4	Executive Organization Outline the responsibilities of the vice president. Explain the origin and role of the Executive Office of the President (EOP). Describe the cabinet departments and other administrative agencies.
47	271–73	5–6	Governing Wisely Identify pitfalls of the presidency. Appraise the factors that influence assessment of presidents. Review
48			Test
Chapter 12: The Federal Bureaucracy			
49	274–79	1	Bureaucratic Development Explain the features and benefits of bureaucracy. Evaluate the factors that have contributed to the growth of bureaucracy in our government.
50	280–94	2–3	Bureaucratic Structure Describe the major departments within the executive branch. Outline how the federal bureaucracy functions.
51	294–301	4–5	Bureaucratic Practices Summarize why the federal bureaucracy has been called the fourth branch of government. Describe ways the bureaucracy is held accountable for its actions. Delineate the problems created by a powerful bureaucracy. Describe some distinctives and achievements of American bureaucracy. Review
52			Test
Chapter 13: Foreign Policy			
53	302–5	1	Foreign Policy Goals Describe the four basic goals of American foreign policy. Relate American foreign-policy goals to the biblical purposes of government.
54	306–10	2	Foreign Policy Development Describe the changes in America’s foreign policy from 1790 to the present.
55	311–17		Policymakers Explain how the president helps shape foreign policy. Describe the work of agencies and departments within the executive branch that are involved in foreign policy. Explain how Congress impacts policymaking for foreign affairs. Analyze media influence on foreign policy.
56	317–23	3	Policy Methods Describe how diplomacy, treaties, and multinational organizations help achieve US foreign policy goals. Evaluate the use of foreign aid and sanctions. Analyze the role of military action and espionage in the implementation of foreign policy.
57	323–29	4	Challenges Abroad Identify challenges that face US national security. Determine a Christian response to national security challenges. Review

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58			Test
Chapter 14: The Judiciary			
59	332–37	1	Sources of American Law Explain the scriptural foundation of American law. Explain the historical foundation of American law.
60	338–44		Structure of the Courts Explain judicial federalism. Describe district courts and circuit courts of appeals. Analyze the workings of the US Supreme Court.
61	344–49	2	Selection of Judges Explain the selection process for state and federal judges. Describe the factors that influence Senate confirmation of federal judges.
62	349–53	3–5	Constitutional and Legal Change Define <i>judicial review</i> . Evaluate the impact of Supreme Court decisions on the legal system. Review
63			Test
Chapter 15: Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and Civil Responsibilities			
64	354–62	1–2	Civil Liberties Guaranteed in the First Amendment Distinguish between civil liberties and civil rights. Appraise civil liberties that are protected by the First Amendment.
65	362–67	3	Other Constitutional Civil Liberties Identify the constitutional guarantees regarding security rights. Examine the judicial procedures that are guaranteed in the Constitution. Explain whether the Constitution provides a right to privacy.
66	367–70		Civil Rights Define <i>substantive due process</i> and <i>procedural due process</i> . Describe the struggles African Americans faced in their effort to obtain civil rights. Describe voting rights and requirements.
67	371–73	4–5	Civil Responsibilities Explain the origins of liberties and rights. Describe the dangers of an overemphasis on liberties and rights. Explain the responsibilities citizens have to their government and present a biblical view of civil rights. Review
68			Test
Chapter 16: The Party System			
69	376–79	1	Parties and Their Functions Define <i>political party</i> . Explain the major functions of political parties.

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70	379–88	2–3	The Two-Party System Explain why a two-party system developed in America. Analyze the characteristics of a two-party system. Summarize the historical development of parties. Identify party systems in other nations.
71	388–91	4	Third Parties Describe the types of third parties. Explain the importance of third parties.
72	391–94		Party Organization Explain the fragmented nature of political parties. Outline the components of the two major parties at the national level. Describe the organization of political parties at the state and local levels.
73	394–99	5	Party Decline Analyze the changes that have contributed to the decline of American political parties. Describe the role of independent voters in the political process. Explain the impact of media on political campaigns. Assess the impact of party decline on American politics. Review
74			Test
Chapter 17: Campaigns and Elections			
75	400–5	1	Candidate Nomination Describe the requirements for becoming a candidate. Discuss important steps a candidate should take after meeting the requirements for a position. Describe the various methods used to nominate candidates.
76	405–10	2	The Campaign Trail Explain the advantages of incumbency in campaigns. Describe how the coattail effect impacts elections. Analyze the media's influence on political campaigns.
77	410–15	3–4	Elections and Voting Explain what occurs on Election Day. Explain how voting requirements have changed. Describe the role that social, religious, economic, and other factors play in American elections. Identify the various methods of voting.
78	415–19	5	Campaign Finance Describe the laws that govern campaign funding. Analyze the campaign finance reforms that have been instituted. Assess the impact of campaign funding reform. Review
79			Test
Chapter 18: Public Policy and Politics			
80	420–22		Government and the Public Explain <i>public opinion</i> and <i>public policy</i> . Distinguish between liberalism and conservatism.

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81	423–25	1	Public Policy Define <i>domestic policy</i> and <i>foreign policy</i> . Describe how public policy is developed and implemented.
82	425–30	2	Public Opinion Delineate the different sources of public opinion. Describe various means of measuring public opinion. Analyze dangers associated with public opinion.
83	430–35	3	Interest Groups Identify the purposes of interest groups. Distinguish between the various types of interest groups. Describe the activities of interest groups.
84	436–45	4–5	Mass Media Evaluate the major types of media that shape public opinion. Summarize the powers and the limitations of media. Evaluate how politicians use media. Describe the impact of media propaganda. Review
85			Test

Suggestions for a One-Year Government Course

Most schools offer American Government as a one-semester course; however, if your school schedules it for a full year, below are some suggested ways to use the additional days.

- Increase the amount of time you spend on most or all chapters.
- Spend additional time examining current events, particularly those relating to government issues. Perhaps spend one day a week discussing them or designate the first few minutes of class (two or three days each week) for such discussions.
- Increase the class time you allot for mock Senate (see p. 489) and mock trial (see p. 498) activities.
- Schedule additional field trips to places related to government (such as courts; local commission or council meetings; city, county, or state government offices; and polling places during an election year).
- Invite additional speakers to the class (see suggested speakers throughout the Teacher Edition’s bottom-margin notes).