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 GovernmentExplain 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 GovernmentExplain 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 GovernedAssess 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 GovernmentCompare 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 GovernmentDescribe 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 DemocracyTrace the development of democratic principles.Identify the Founding Fathers’ contributions to democratic government.Differentiate between democracy and republic. |
| 8 | 29–34 | 4 | Characteristics of DemocracyDescribe 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 DemocracyExplain 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 |
| Chapter 3: Christianity, the Church, and Government |
| 11 | 40–43 | 1–2 | Christianity and Government in HistorySurvey Christian involvement in government during the Roman Empire, the Reformation, and in early America.Explain John Locke’s view of religious toleration.Define pluralism. |
| 12 | 44–51 | 3–4 | The Bible, the Church, and PluralismDefend 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 |
| 13 |  |  | Test |
| Chapter 4: Constitutional Beginnings |
| 14 | 54–65 | 1–2 | Colonial and Confederation ErasIdentify 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. |
| 15 | 66–72 | 3 | Constitutional ConventionOutline the three major compromises reached at the Constitutional Convention.Analyze the role of political compromise in a free society. |
| 16 | 73–79 | 4–5 | Ratification ControversyAnalyze the arguments presented by the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.Explain the significance of the ratification of the Constitution.Review |
| 17 |  |  | Test |
| Chapter 5: The United States Constitution |
| 18 | 80–87 | 1–2 | Practical AspectsExplain 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. |
| 19 | 87–93 | 3–4 | Foundational PrinciplesExplain six basic principles contained in the Constitution.Relate foundational principles of American government to biblical principles. |
| 20 | 94–123 | 5 | Examining the United States ConstitutionIdentify 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 |
| 21 |  |  | Test |
| Chapter 6: Federalism |
| 22 | 124–28 |  | The Partitions of PowerDefine federalism.Differentiate between delegated powers, enumerated powers, implied powers, and reserved powers.Explain the interaction between state and federal governments. |
| 23 | 129–31 | 1 | Developments in FederalismDescribe 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. |
| 24 | 131–33 | 2 | Financing FederalismDistinguish between the various forms of federal grants.Explain revenue sharing. |
| 25 | 133–39 | 3–4 | The Challenges of FederalismIdentify the factors that maintain the distinctions between state and national governments.Describe problems that result from federal funding to state governments.Review |
| 26 |  |  | Test |
| Chapter 7: State and Local Government |
| 27 | 140–47 | 1 | State GovernmentsExplain 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. |
| 28 | 148–52 | 2–3 | Local GovernmentsIdentify the various forms of county and municipal government.Explain the role of special districts in local government. |
| 29 | 152–58 |  | State and Local PoliticsChart and explain typical political party organization on the state and local levels.Explain election and voting processes used in state and local politics. |
| 30 | 159–63 | 4 | Interstate and Intergovernmental RelationshipsIdentify the types of interstate relationships.Describe the interaction of federal and state governments.Review |
| 31 |  |  | Test |
| Chapter 8: The Structure of Congress |
| 32 | 166–77 | 1 | FrameworkDescribe 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. |
| 33 | 177–85 | 2–4 | Legislative WorkingsAnalyze 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 PowersDelineate 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 PowersExplain 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 PowersExplain the powers the Constitution denies to Congress. |
| 38 | 201–5 | 3–5 | Congressional CriticismCite 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 QualificationsExplain the constitutional requirements and desired qualities for the office of president.Outline common career paths for the presidency. |
| 41 | 225–34 | 2 | NominationDescribe the origins, purposes, forms, and course of presidential primaries.Summarize the preparations, participants, and procedures of national party conventions. |
| 42 | 234–42 | 3–4 | ElectionEvaluate 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 | InaugurationExplain 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 PowersAnalyze six major areas of presidential responsibility.Describe constitutional restrictions placed on the president.Explain additional powers given to the president. |
| 46 | 267–71 | 3–4 | Executive OrganizationOutline 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 WiselyIdentify 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 DevelopmentExplain 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 StructureDescribe the major departments within the executive branch.Outline how the federal bureaucracy functions. |
| 51 | 294–301 | 4–5 | Bureaucratic PracticesSummarize 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 GoalsDescribe 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 DevelopmentDescribe the changes in America’s foreign policy from 1790 to the present. |
| 55 | 311–17 |  | PolicymakersExplain 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 MethodsDescribe 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 AbroadIdentify challenges that face US national security.Determine a Christian response to national security challenges.Review |
| 58 |  |  | Test |
| Chapter 14: The Judiciary |
| 59 | 332–37 | 1 | Sources of American LawExplain the scriptural foundation of American law.Explain the historical foundation of American law. |
| 60 | 338–44 |  | Structure of the CourtsExplain judicial federalism.Describe district courts and circuit courts of appeals.Analyze the workings of the US Supreme Court. |
| 61 | 344–49 | 2 | Selection of JudgesExplain 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 ChangeDefine judicial review.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 AmendmentDistinguish between civil liberties and civil rights.Appraise civil liberties that are protected by the First Amendment. |
| 65 | 362–67 | 3 | Other Constitutional Civil LibertiesIdentify 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 RightsDefine substantive due process and procedural due process.Describe the struggles African Americans faced in their effort to obtain civil rights.Describe voting rights and requirements. |
| 67 | 371–73 | 4–5 | Civil ResponsibilitiesExplain 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 FunctionsDefine political party.Explain the major functions of political parties. |
| 70 | 379–88 | 2–3 | The Two-Party SystemExplain 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 PartiesDescribe the types of third parties.Explain the importance of third parties. |
| 72 | 391–94 |  | Party OrganizationExplain 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 DeclineAnalyze 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 NominationDescribe 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 TrailExplain 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 VotingExplain 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 FinanceDescribe 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 PublicExplain public opinion and public policy. Distinguish between liberalism and conservatism. |
| 81 | 423–25 | 1 | Public PolicyDefine domestic policy and foreign policy.Describe how public policy is developed and implemented. |
| 82 | 425–30 | 2 | Public OpinionDelineate the different sources of public opinion.Describe various means of measuring public opinion.Analyze dangers associated with public opinion. |
| 83 | 430–35 | 3 | Interest GroupsIdentify 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 MediaEvaluate 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).