

Draft Assessments for Civics/American Government

Unit 1: Foundations of Citizenship

DOK Level 1: Recall and Reproduction

1. **Multiple Choice Question:**

Which of the following is an example of an individual right in a democratic society?

- A) The right to vote
- B) The duty to pay taxes
- C) The responsibility to serve on a jury
- D) The obligation to follow laws

Correct Answer: A) The right to vote

DOK Level 2: Skills and Concepts

2. **Short Answer Question:**

Explain how society must balance citizen rights with citizen responsibilities. Provide at least two examples to support your explanation.

DOK Level 3: Strategic Thinking

3. **Scenario-Based Question:** Imagine a community meeting where citizens are discussing a new law that may limit certain individual rights for security reasons.

- Describe how individual rights and civic responsibilities might conflict in this situation.
 - What steps should citizens take to ensure that their rights are protected while fulfilling their responsibilities?
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Short Response:

4. **Open-Ended Question:**

In a democratic society, individual rights and civic responsibilities are interconnected. Discuss the importance of balancing these two concepts. Include specific examples of how citizens can uphold their responsibilities while exercising their rights!

Unit 2: Roots of the Federal Government

DOK Level 1: Recall and Reproduction

1. **Question:** What are two key principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence?

Answer Format: Short answer (1-2 sentences).

DOK Level 2: Skills and Concepts

2. **Question:** Describe how the Constitution addresses the idea of government by the people in comparison to the Declaration of Independence.

Answer Format: Short paragraph (3-5 sentences).

DOK Level 3: Strategic Thinking

3. **Question:** Analyze the differences in purpose between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. How does each document contribute to the establishment of a federal democratic republic?

Answer Format: Essay (5-7 sentences).

Short Response:

4. **Question:** In a short response, compare the roles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in shaping American democracy. What are the implications of these roles for citizens today?

Answer Format: Short response (5-8 sentences).

Unit 3: Constitution

DOK Level 1: Recall

Question:

What are the three branches of government in the United States?

DOK Level 2: Skill/Concept

Question:

Describe one example of how each branch of government can check the power of the other branches.

DOK Level 3: Strategic Thinking**Question:**

Analyze a historical event where checks and balances were effective in preventing one branch from gaining too much power. Discuss the outcome and its significance.

Short Response:**Prompt:**

In your own words, explain why checks and balances are important in a democratic government. Provide examples of how they help maintain balance among the branches.

Unit 4: Political Parties and Elections**DOK Level 1: Recall and Reproduction****1. Multiple Choice Question**

Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote?

- a) 15th Amendment
- b) 19th Amendment
- c) 24th Amendment
- d) 26th Amendment

DOK Level 2: Skills and Concepts**2. Fill-in-the-Blank Question**

The _ Amendment prohibits the denial of the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude. This amendment significantly impacted the electoral process by ensuring that all citizens, regardless of race, have the right to participate in elections.

DOK Level 3: Strategic Thinking**3. Short Answer Question**

Explain how the Voting Rights Act of 1965 complemented the 15th Amendment in addressing voting rights. Provide two specific examples of how these laws have influenced voter participation in the U.S.

Short Response Item

4. **Extended Response Question**

Discuss the overall impact of the U.S. Constitution and its amendments on the electoral process. In your response, include at least three specific amendments that have shaped voting rights and describe how each has influenced voter access and participation in elections. Be sure to support your explanation with examples from recent electoral trends or historical events.

Unit 5: Bill of Rights & the Amendments

DOK 1: Recall and Reproduction

Question:

What are the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution known as?

Answer Key:

The Bill of Rights.

DOK 2: Skills and Concepts

Question:

Identify one key amendment from the Bill of Rights and briefly explain its significance.

Answer Key:

The First Amendment is significant because it guarantees the freedoms of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition, allowing citizens to express their opinions and beliefs without government interference.

DOK 3: Strategic Thinking

Question:

Compare the Fourth and Sixth Amendments in terms of their impact on citizens' rights. Provide two points of comparison.

Answer Key:

1. The Fourth Amendment protects citizens from unreasonable searches and seizures, requiring law enforcement to have probable cause and a warrant, thereby ensuring privacy and security in personal property.
 2. The Sixth Amendment guarantees the right to a fair trial, including the right to counsel and to confront witnesses, which upholds the principle of justice and due process for individuals accused of a crime.
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Short Response (DOK 3): Extended Thinking

Question:

Discuss the overall impact of the Bill of Rights on American democracy. In your response, reference at least two specific amendments and their significance.

Answer Key (Example):

The Bill of Rights has a profound impact on American democracy by safeguarding individual liberties and limiting government power. For instance, the First Amendment ensures that citizens can freely express their opinions, which is essential for a healthy democracy. Additionally, the Fourth Amendment protects citizens from arbitrary government intrusion, reinforcing the idea that personal privacy is a fundamental right. Together, these amendments foster an environment where democratic principles can thrive, and individual rights are respected.

Feel free to modify any of the items to better suit your instructional goals!

Unit 6: State & Local Government

Sure! Here are four assessment items targeting the comparison and contrast of different local government structures and their effectiveness in promoting democratic values, categorized by Depth of Knowledge (DOK) levels:

DOK 1: Recall and Reproduction

Question:

What are three different types of local government structures? List them.

Answer Key:

1. Mayor-Council System
2. Council-Manager System

3. Commission System

DOK 2: Skills and Concepts

Question:

Describe one advantage and one disadvantage of a Mayor-Council local government structure in promoting democratic values.

Answer Key:

Advantage: The Mayor has direct control over the executive functions, which can lead to swift decision-making.

Disadvantage: This concentration of power can lead to potential abuses and limit checks and balances.

DOK 3: Strategic Thinking

Question:

Compare the Council-Manager system and the Commission system in terms of their effectiveness in promoting citizen participation. Provide two points of comparison.

Answer Key:

1. In a Council-Manager system, the elected council appoints a manager to handle day-to-day operations, often leading to more structured citizen input and engagement through council meetings.
 2. In a Commission system, elected commissioners each manage specific areas, which can sometimes lead to fragmented communication and less cohesive citizen involvement in governance.
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Short Response (DOK 3): Extended Thinking

Question:

In your opinion, which local government structure (Mayor-Council, Council-Manager, or Commission) is most effective in promoting democratic values? Support your response with at least two reasons.

Answer Key (Example):

The Council-Manager system is most effective in promoting democratic values because it

ensures that elected officials (the council) are accountable to the citizens while allowing a professional manager to implement policies efficiently. Additionally, this structure encourages citizen participation through regular council meetings, where community members can voice their concerns and influence decision-making.

To create additional assessments, use an AI tool (Like Magic School) with the following prompt:

*Create four assessment items for the following target: _____ **(Include the proficiency level task)**
with a DOK 1, 2, 3 and short response*