New York Social Studies

Grade 12: Social Studies Practices & Participation in Government and Civics

Adopted 2017

Gathering, Interpreting, and Using Evidence	1. **Define and frame questions about events and the world in which we live, form hypotheses as potential answers to these questions, use evidence to answer these questions, and consider and analyze counter-hypotheses.** A.9-12.1
	2. **Identify, describe, and evaluate evidence about events from diverse sources (including written documents, works of art, photographs, charts and graphs, artifacts, oral traditions, and other primary and secondary sources).** A.9-12.2
	3. **Analyze evidence in terms of content, authorship, point of view, bias, purpose, format, and audience.** A.9-12.3
	4. **Describe, analyze, and evaluate arguments of others.** A.9-12.4
	5. **Make inferences and draw conclusions from evidence.** A.9-12.5
	6. **Deconstruct and construct plausible and persuasive arguments, using evidence.** A.9-12.6
	7. **Create meaningful and persuasive understandings of the past by fusing disparate and relevant evidence from primary and secondary sources and drawing connections to the present.** A.9-12.7
Chronological Reasoning and Causation	1. **Articulate how events are related chronologically to one another in time and explain the ways in which earlier ideas and events may influence subsequent ideas and events.** B.9-12.1
	2. **Identify causes and effects using examples from different time periods and courses of study across several grade levels.** B.9-12.2
	3. **Identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationship between multiple causes and effects** B.9-12.3
	Distinguish between long-term and immediate causes and multiple effects (time, continuity, and change). B.9-12.4

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	5. **Recognize, analyze, and evaluate dynamics of historical continuity and change over periods of time and investigate factors that caused those changes over time.** B.9-12.5
	6. **Recognize that choice of specific periodization favors or advantages one narrative, region, or group over another narrative, region, or group.** B.9-12.6
	7. **Relate patterns of continuity and change to larger historical processes and themes.** B.9-12.7
	8. **Describe, analyze, evaluate, and construct models of historical periodization that historians use to categorize events.** B.9-12.8
Comparison and Contextualization	1. **Identify similarities and differences between geographic regions across historical time periods, and relate differences in geography to different historical events and outcomes.** C.9-12.1
	2. **Identify, compare, and evaluate multiple perspectives on a given historical experience.** C.9-12.2
	3. **Identify and compare similarities and differences between historical developments over time and in different geographical and cultural contexts.** C.9-12.3
	4. **Describe, compare, and evaluate multiple historical developments (within societies; across and between societies; in various chronological and geographical contexts).** C.9-12.4
	5. **Recognize the relationship between geography, economics, and history as a context for events and movements and as a matrix of time and place.** C.9-12.5
	6. **Connect historical developments to specific circumstances of time and place and to broader regional, national, or global processes and draw connections to the present (where appropriate).** C.9-12.6
Geographic Reasoning	1. **Ask geographic questions about where places are located, why their locations are important, and how their locations are related to the locations of other places and people.** D.9-12.1
	2. **Identify, describe, and evaluate the relationships between people, places, regions, and environments by using geographic tools to place them in a spatial context.** D.9-12.2
	3. **Identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationship between the environment and human activities, how the physical environment is modified by human activities, and how human activities are also influenced by Earth's physical features and processes.** D.9-12.3

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	4. Recognize and interpret (at different scales) the relationships between patterns and processes. D.9-12.4
	5. Recognize and analyze how place and region influence the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of civilizations. D.9-12.5
	6. Characterize and analyze changing connections between places and regions. D.9-12.6
Economics and Economics Systems	1. Use marginal benefits and marginal costs to construct an argument for or against an approach or solution to an economic issue. E.9-12.1
	2. Analyze the ways in which incentives influence what is produced and distributed in a market system. E.9-12.2
	3. Evaluate the extent to which competition between sellers and between buyers exists in specific markets. E.9-12.3
	4. Describe concepts of property rights and rule of law as they apply to a market economy. E.9-12.4
	5. Use economic indicators to analyze the current and future state of the economy. E.9-12.5
	6. Analyze government economic policies and the effects on the national and global economy. E.9-12.6
Civic Participation	1. Demonstrate respect for the rights of others in discussions and classroom debates; respectfully disagree with other viewpoints and provide evidence for a counter-argument. F.9-12.1
	2. Participate in activities that focus on a classroom, school, community, state, or national issue or problem. F.9-12.2
	3. Explain differing philosophies of social and political participation and the role of the individual leading to group-driven philosophies. F.9-12.3
	4. Identify, describe, and contrast the roles of the individual in opportunities for social and political participation in different societies. F.9-12.4
	5. Participate in persuading, debating, negotiating, and compromising in the resolution of conflicts and differences. F.9-12.5
	6. Identify situations in which social actions are required and determine an appropriate course of action. F.9-12.6
	- Work to influence those in positions of power to strive for extensions of freedom, social justice, and human rights. F.9-12.7

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8. **Fulfill social and political responsibilities associated with citizenship in a democratic society and interdependent global community by developing awareness of and/or engaging in the political process.** F.9-12.8

Participation in Government and Civics

Key Idea **Foundations Of American Democracy: The principles of American democracy are reflected in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and in the organization and actions of federal, state, and local government entities. The interpretation and application of American democratic principles continue to evolve and be debated.** 12.G1

Conceptual Understanding Enlightenment ideas such as natural rights, the social contract, popular sovereignty, and representative government greatly influenced the framers of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. 12.G1.A

Conceptual Understanding The Constitution created a unique political system that distributes powers and responsibilities among three different branches of government at the federal level and between state and federal governments. State constitutions address similar structures and responsibilities for their localities. 12.G1.B

Conceptual Understanding Limited government is achieved through the separation of powers between three different branches. The system of checks and balances is part of this limited government structure at all levels of government. 12.G1.C

Conceptual Understanding The rule of law is a system in which no one, including government, is above the law. The United States legal system has evolved over time as the result of implementation and interpretation of common law, constitutional law, statutory law, and administrative regulations. 12.G1.D

Conceptual Understanding The powers not delegated specifically in the Constitution are reserved to the states. Though the powers and responsibilities of the federal government have expanded over time, there is an ongoing debate over this shift in power and responsibility. 12.G1.E

Conceptual Understanding The Constitution includes a clearly defined and intentionally rigorous process for amendment. This process requires 12.G1.F

Key Idea **Civil Rights And Civil Liberties: The United States Constitution aims to protect individual freedoms and rights that have been extended to more groups of people over time. These rights and freedoms continue to be debated, extended to additional people, and defined through judicial**

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interpretation. In engaging in issues of civic debate, citizens act with an appreciation of differences and are able to participate in constructive dialogue with those who hold different perspectives. 12.G2

Conceptual Understanding	Equality before the law and due process are two fundamental values that apply to all under the jurisdiction of the United States. While the United States legal system aims to uphold the values of equality before the law, due process, human dignity, freedom of conscience, inalienable rights, and civility, the extent to which the legal system upholds these values in practice is an issue of ongoing civic debate. 12.G2.A
Conceptual Understanding	The Constitution aims to protect, among other freedoms, individual and group rights to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of petition, and freedom of religion. The extent to which these ideals exist in practice and how these protections should be applied in a changing world continues to be an issue of ongoing civic debate. 12.G2.B
Conceptual Understanding	An independent judicial system is an integral part of the process that interprets and defends citizens' freedoms and rights. Issues pertaining to the flexibility of judicial interpretation and the impartiality of justices in practice are continued sources of public debate. 12.G2.C
Conceptual Understanding	The definition of civil rights has broadened over the course of United States history, and the number of people and groups legally ensured of these rights has also expanded. However, the degree to which rights extend equally and fairly to all (e.g., race, class, gender, sexual orientation) is a continued source of civic contention. 12.G2.D
Conceptual Understanding	Rights are not absolute; they vary with legal status, with location (as in schools and workplaces), and with circumstance. The different statuses of United States residency bring with them specific protections, rights, and responsibilities. Minors have specific rights in school, in the workplace, in the community, and in the family. The extension of rights across location, circumstance, age, and legal status is a subject of civic discourse. 12.G2.E

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Conceptual Understanding Freedom of the press is an essential element of a democratic system, and allows for a citizen to receive and interpret information representing different points of view. Freedom of the press has limits, which are intended to protect the rights of individuals and other entities. The degree to which the press is free and impartial in practice is a source of ongoing debate. 12.G2.F

Key Idea **Rights, Responsibilities, And Duties Of Citizenship: Active, engaged, and informed citizens are critical to the success of the United States representative democracy. United States citizens have certain rights, responsibilities, and duties, the fulfillment of which help to maintain the healthy functioning of the national, state, and local communities.** 12.G3

Conceptual Understanding Citizens should be informed about rights and freedoms, and committed to balancing personal liberties with a social responsibility to others. 12.G3.A

Conceptual Understanding The right to vote, a cornerstone of democracy, is the most direct way for citizens to participate in the government. A citizen must register to vote, and may register as a party member or select the status of independent. 12.G3.B

Conceptual Understanding Citizens have opportunities to both participate in and influence their communities and country. Citizens contribute to government processes through legal obligations such as obeying laws, paying taxes, serving on juries, and registering for selective service. 12.G3.C

Conceptual Understanding Citizens have the right to represent their locality, state, or country as elected officials. Candidates develop a campaign, when they decide to seek public office. 12.G3.D

Key Idea **Political And Civic Participation: There are numerous avenues for engagement in the political process, from exercising the power of the vote, to affiliating with political parties, to engaging in other forms of civic participation. Citizens leverage both electoral and non-electoral means to participate in the political process.** 12.G4

Conceptual Understanding Depending on the level of government and type of election, there are different processes and mechanisms within the United States electoral and representational systems, including the electoral college and winner-take all systems. Advantages and drawbacks of election processes and mechanisms continue to be an issue of ongoing debate in the United States. 12.G4.A

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Conceptual Understanding	Allowing citizens to vote does not ensure that a system is a democracy. Open, safe, and honest elections are essential to a democratic system. Engaged and informed citizens should know the mechanics associated with voting, including when major local, state, and national elections are held, how to register to vote, who currently holds each office, who is running for office, and what the central issues are pertaining to that election. 12.G4.B
Conceptual Understanding	In addition to voting, there are many ways in which citizens can participate in the electoral process. These include joining a political organization, donating money, and doing volunteer work on a political campaign. 12.G4.C
Conceptual Understanding	The United States and New York have political party systems, and the political parties represent specific political, economic, and social philosophies. Debate over the role and influence of political parties continues, although they play a significant role in United States elections and politics. The role of political parties and the platforms they represent varies between states in the United States. 12.G4.D
Conceptual Understanding	Citizens participate in civic life through volunteerism and advocacy, including efforts such as contacting elected officials, signing/organizing petitions, protesting, canvassing, and participating in/organizing boycotts. 12.G4.E
Key Idea	**Public Policy: All levels of government—local, state, and federal—are involved in shaping public policy and responding to public policy issues, all of which influence our lives beyond what appears in the Constitution. Engaged citizens understand how to find, monitor, evaluate, and respond to information on public policy issues.** 12.G5
Conceptual Understanding	Each level of government has its own process of shaping, implementing, amending, and enforcing public policy. Customarily the executive branch will outline its plan and agenda in an executive address to the legislative body. 12.G5.A
Conceptual Understanding	On various issues, certain governmental branches and agencies are responsible for determining policy. Those who create public policies attempt to balance regional and national needs, existing political positions and loyalties, and sources of political power. 12.G5.B

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	Conceptual Understanding	Successful implementation of government policy often requires cooperation between many levels of government, as well as the cooperation of other public and private institutions. Conflicts between different levels of government sometimes emerge due to different goals, ideas, and resources regarding the creation and implementation of policy. 12.G5.C
	Conceptual Understanding	Active and engaged citizens must be effective media consumers in order to be able to find, monitor, and evaluate information on political issues. The media have different venues, which have particular strengths and serve distinct and shared purposes. Knowing how to critically evaluate a media source is fundamental to being an informed citizen. 12.G5.D
Economics, the Enterprise System, and Finance	Key Idea	**Individual Responsibility And The Economy: Individuals should set personal financial goals, recognize their income needs and debt obligations, and know how to utilize effective budgeting, borrowing, and investment strategies to maximize well-being.** 12.E1
	Conceptual Understanding	In making economic decisions in any role, individuals should consider the set of opportunities that they have, their resources (e.g., income and wealth), their preferences, and their ethics. 12.E1.A
	Conceptual Understanding	Sound personal financial (money management) practices take into account wealth and income, the present and the future, and risk factors when setting goals and budgeting for anticipated saving and spending. Cost-benefit analysis is an important tool for sound decision making. All financial investments carry with them varying risks and rewards that must be fully understood in order to make informed decisions. Greater rewards generally come with higher risks. 12.E1.B
	Conceptual Understanding	Managing personal finance effectively requires an understanding of the forms and purposes of financial credit, the effects of personal debt, the role and impact of interest, and the distinction between nominal and real returns. Predatory lending practices target and affect those who are least informed and can least afford such practices. Interest rates reflect perceived risk, so maintaining a healthy credit rating lowers the cost of borrowing. 12.E1.C

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Conceptual Understanding To be an informed participant in the global economy, one must be aware of inflation and have an understanding of how international currencies fluctuate in value relative to the United States dollar. 12.E1.D

Key Idea **Individuals And Businesses In The Product And Factor Markets: Free enterprise is a pillar of the United States economy and is based on the principle that individuals and businesses are free to make their own economic choices as they participate in these markets. Individuals buy the goods and services that they desire from businesses in the product markets, and they contribute to producing these goods and services by supplying the resources that they own to businesses in the factor markets.** 12.E2

Conceptual Understanding Given that the resources of individuals (and societies) are limited, decisions as to what goods and services will be produced and to whom to sell one's resources are driven by numerous factors, including a desire to derive the maximum benefit from and thus the most efficient allocation of those resources. 12.E2.A

Conceptual Understanding The choices of buyers and sellers in the marketplace determine supply and demand, market prices, allocation of scarce resources, and the goods and services that are produced. In a perfect world, consumers influence product availability and price through their purchasing power in the product market. Product market supply and demand determine product availability and pricing. 12.E2.B

Conceptual Understanding Businesses choose what to supply in the product market, based on product market prices, available technology, and prices of factors of production. The prices of those factors are determined based on supply and demand in the factor market. The supply and demand of each factor market is directly related to employment. Debates surround various ways to minimize unemployment (frictional, structural, cyclical). 12.E2.C

Key Idea **The Impact Of American Capitalism In A Global Economy: There are various economic systems in the world. The United States operates within a mixed, free market economy that is characterized by competition and a limited role of government in economic affairs. Economic policy makers face considerable challenges within a capitalist system, including unemployment, inflation, poverty, and environmental consequences. Globalization increases the complexity of these challenges significantly,**

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and has exerted strong and transformative effects on workers and entrepreneurs in the United States economy. 12.E3

Conceptual Understanding — As the United States has evolved from an agrarian to an industrial to an information economy, the workplace requires a more highly skilled and educated workforce. 12.E3.A

Conceptual Understanding — The government's evolving role in protecting property rights, regulating working conditions, protecting the right to bargain collectively, and reducing discrimination in the workplace has attempted to balance the power between workers and employers. This role shifts in response to government's need to stimulate the economy balanced against the need to curb abusive business practices. 12.E3.B

Conceptual Understanding — The freedom of the United States economy encourages entrepreneurialism. This is an important factor behind economic growth that can lead to intended consequences (e.g., growth, competition, innovation, improved standard of living, productivity, specialization, trade, outsourcing, class mobility, positive externalities) and unintended consequences (e.g., recession, depression, trade, unemployment, outsourcing, generational poverty, income inequality, the challenges of class mobility, negative externalities.). 12.E3.C

Conceptual Understanding — A degree of regulation, oversight, or government control is necessary in some markets to ensure free and fair competition and to limit unintended consequences of American capitalism. Government attempts to protect the worker, ensure property rights, and to regulate the marketplace, as well as to promote income equality and social mobility, have had varied results. 12.E3.D

Conceptual Understanding — The degree to which economic inequality reflects social, political, or economic injustices versus individual choices is hotly debated. The role that the government should play in decreasing this gap, including the variety of government programs designed to combat poverty, is debated as well. 12.E3.E

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Idea **The Tools Of Economic Policy In A Global Economy: Globalization and increased economic interdependence affect the United States economy**

significantly. The tools that the policy makers have available to address these issues are fiscal policy, monetary policy, and trade policy. 12.E4

Conceptual Understanding — Policy makers establish economic goals related to economic indicators, including the Gross National Product (GNP), Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI), employment and interest rates, and aggregate supply and demand. 12.E4.A

Conceptual Understanding — The president and Congress determine fiscal policy by establishing the level of spending and taxing in the annual budget. Some tax programs are designed to provide incentives to individuals and businesses that influence private sector spending, saving, and investment. 12.E4.B

Conceptual Understanding — The Federal Reserve is the government institution responsible for managing the nation's monetary policy, including regulating the amount of money in circulation and interest rates. 12.E4.C

Conceptual Understanding — Trade policies and agreements (tariffs, quotas, embargoes) set the rules for trade between the United States and other nations. Agreeing on such rules is very difficult because each nation has different interests, and each nation has special interest groups trying to influence the negotiations. 12.E4.D