

12th Grade Government and Economics Course Syllabus 2025-2026

General Information

The State Standards will be met or exceeded through class assignments, activities and/or lessons.

Principles of American Democracy and Economics

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/documents/hssframeworkwhole.pdf>

Students in grade twelve pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. They compare systems of government in the world today and analyze the history and changing interpretations of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches of government. An emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents such as the Federalist Papers. These standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote, participate in community activities, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship.

12.1 Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.

12.2 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.

12.3 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are (i.e., the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations that are not part of government), their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society.

12.4 Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.

12.5 Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.

12.6 Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.

12.7 Students analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.

12.8 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.

12.9 Students analyze the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for political democracy, its advances, and its obstacles.

12.10 Students formulate questions about and defend their analyses of tensions within our constitutional democracy and the importance of maintaining a balance between the following concepts: majority rule and individual rights; liberty and equality; state and national authority in a federal system; civil disobedience and the rule of law; freedom of the press and the right to a fair trial; the relationship of religion and government.

In addition to studying government in grade twelve, students will also master fundamental economic concepts, applying the tools (graphs, statistics, equations) from other subject areas to the understanding of operations and institutions of economic systems. Studied in a historic context are the basic economic principles of micro- and macroeconomics, international economics, comparative economic systems, measurement, and methods.

12.1 Students understand common economic terms and concepts and economic reasoning.

12.2 Students analyze the elements of America's market economy in a global setting.

12.3 Students analyze the influence of the federal government on the American economy.

12.4 Students analyze the elements of the U.S. labor market in a global setting.

12.5 Students analyze the aggregate economic behavior of the U.S. economy.

12.6 Students analyze issues of international trade and explain how the U.S. economy affects, and is affected by, economic forces beyond the United States' borders.

Recommended Materials

It is recommended that Students have the following items with them at all times:

- o all **textbooks/supplementary materials** that are required for class
- o Chromebook/ computer device
- o a microphone or a device with a microphone
- o a webcam or a device with a webcam
- o access to the internet

Classroom Conduct

- Any writing or speaking a student performs in class/zoom call must be appropriate. In addition, all websites, graphics, and documents that a student uses/creates/browses in this class/zoom call must also be appropriate. No profanity. No defaming remarks. No references to drugs, alcohol, sexuality, or other unsuitable issues. Nothing considered unkind or inconsiderate will be tolerated.
- Along with the obvious classroom rules, students should be aware that being in high school requires a great deal of personal responsibility. All students will be expected to be respectful of others' opinions and property at all times.
- No food, gum or drink is allowed in the classroom * *the only exception is water in a sealable container*
- **NO CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED TO BE USED IN CLASS/ZOOM CALL. IT IS ILLEGAL TO RECORD ZOOM CALLS WITHOUT PERMISSION.**
- **CONSEQUENCES FOR SUCH ACTIONS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AS OUTLINED IN THE MAXWELL HIGH STUDENT HANDBOOK.**

Evaluation of Assignments

Students' work will be evaluated on the basis of quality, range of style, **depth and complexity of thinking**, creativity and originality, and mechanical correctness.

Gradebook Categories

- Tests 50 points
- HW/Assignments 5-10 points
- Quizzes 20 points

-Cumulative Final 100 points

Grading Policy

Each assignment will be graded on a percentage system that reflects the amount of work and degree of time and difficulty. All students will have an opportunity to obtain the maximum number of points, but the amount earned will be based on student performance and effort. The following is a breakdown of the percentages:

A	= 100% to 93.5%	B-	= 83.4% to 80%	D+	= 69.9% to 67.5%
A-	= 93.4% to 90%	C+	= 79.4% to 77.5%	D	= 67.4% to 63.5%
B+	= 89.9% to 87.5%	C	= 77.4% to 73.5%	D-	= 63.4% to 60%
B	= 87.4% to 83.5%	C-	= 73.4% to 70%	F	= 59.9% to below

Late Homework and Make-up Work Policies

If an assignment is not turned in when it is called for in class, it is considered late. Assignments missed due to carelessness or forgetfulness can and should be completed and submitted for scoring. However, those late assignments must be turned in within **1 week** of the original assigned date or the highest grade to be received: 50% (depending on the quality of the work—based on my discretion).

This classroom's make-up work policy is:

- It is the student's responsibility to make up work missed due to excused absences.
- I will determine all make-up work.
- Some educational activities cannot be duplicated; therefore, excessive absences may affect a student's grade.
- Grades are updated regularly and are always available on Aeries online. It is extremely important that you check your grades frequently on Aeries. If you do not know your password, get it at the main office.
- Please keep all of your assignments during the semester. If there is an issue with one of your scores and you have the work, I will gladly adjust the grade if it is warranted.
- Parents will be notified if a student is earning a failing grade, or if his/her citizenship becomes unsatisfactory.

Test Make-up Policy

If you are absent from class on the day of a test or quiz, it is the student's responsibility to make it up within **1 week** of the absence. Failure to make-up the quiz or test will result in a zero and the quiz or test cannot be made up after that.

Other Supplementary Materials that *may* be used in class

In an effort to continuously generate meaningful conversation and reflection, students will read, view, or use other supplementary materials related to the standard curriculum. All students will be required to complete standards-aligned assignments related to each supplementary material (e.g., students will read magazine and newspaper articles designed to help them think critically about what they are reading.) Reading materials and movies will only be used when the content is considered to be valuable to what students are learning in class and appropriate for students to view (nothing beyond a PG13 rating will be shown without specific written permission from the parent). I have used the utmost care when selecting materials for this purpose and will apply my best professional judgment when making decisions about what will and will not be used with students in classes.

Availability

Please by appointment with any questions or concerns.
I can also be reached by email at kcabral@maxwell.k12.ca.us

Website

<https://classroom.google.com/h>

Kyle Cabral
Maxwell High School
kcabral@maxwell.k12.ca.us