

**Test Blueprint**

# Civics and Economics

**2015 History and Social Science Standards of Learning**

**This test blueprint will be effective with the administration of the spring 2020 History and Social Science Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.**

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**Civics and Economics**

**Standards of Learning**

**Test Blueprint**

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## **General Test Information**

### Test Blueprint

Much like the blueprint for a building, a test blueprint serves as a guide for test construction. The blueprint indicates the content areas that will be addressed by the test and the number of items that will be included by content area and for the test as a whole. There is a blueprint for each test (e.g., grade 3 reading, grade 5 mathematics, grade 8 science, Virginia and United States History).

### Reporting Category

Each test covers a number of Standards of Learning. In the test blueprint, the SOL are grouped into categories that address related content and skills. These categories are labeled as reporting categories. For example, a reporting category for the Civics and EconomicsStandards of Learningtest is *Principles of American Government and Citizenship*. Each of the SOL in this reporting category addresses the foundations of American government or citizenship. When the results of the SOL tests are reported, the scores will be presented for each reporting category and as a total test score.

### Assignment of Standards of Learning to Reporting Categories

Different bullets of a Standard of Learning may be assigned to different reporting categories. For example, Civics and Economics SOL CE.9a, which covers the organization of the judicial system, is assigned to the reporting category *Structure of American Government* in the Civics and Economics SOL test. SOL CE.9b, which involves describing the exercise of judicial review, is assigned to the reporting category *Political and Governmental Processes*.

### Coverage of Standards of Learning

Due to the large number of SOL in each grade level content area, *every* Standard of Learning will not be assessed on every version (form) of an SOL test. By necessity, to keep the length of a test reasonable, each version will sample from the SOL within a reporting category. Every SOL in the blueprint will be tested within a three year period, and *all of these* SOL are eligible for inclusion on each version of an SOL test.

### Use of the Curriculum Framework

The History and Social Science Standards of Learning, amplified by the Curriculum Framework, define the essential understandings, knowledge, and skills that are measured by the Standards of Learning tests. The Curriculum Framework identifies essential understandings, defines essential content knowledge, and describes essential skills students need to master.

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## Test Blueprint Summary Table

| **Reporting Category** | **Civics and Economics** **Standards of Learning** | **Number of Items**  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessed with Other SOL**  | **CE.1a-g**  |  |
| **Principles of Government and Citizenship**  | **CE.2a-d****CE.3a-e**  | **7** |
| **Structure of American Government**  | **CE.6a-b, d** **CE.7a-b, d** **CE.8a-b** **CE.9a**  | **9** |
| **Political and Governmental Processes**  | **CE.5a-f** **CE.6c** **CE.7c** **CE.8c** **CE.9b-d** **CE.10a-c** | **10** |
| **Economic Principles and Decisions**  | **CE.11a-b****CE.14a-f**  | **7** |
| **United States Economy**  | **CE.12a-f****CE.13a-f**  | **7** |
| **Number of Operational Items** | blank | **40** |
| **Number of Field-Test Items\*** | blank | **10** |
| **Total Number of Items on Test** | blank | **50**  |

\*Field-test items are being tried out with students for potential use on subsequent tests and

will not be used to compute students’ scores on the test.

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## Expanded Test Blueprint

### Assessed with Other History and Social Science Standards of Learning

The following skill-based standards will be assessed through the reporting categories by applying them to other Standards of Learning content:

CE.1 The student will demonstrate skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship by

a) analyzing and interpreting evidence from primary and secondary sources, including charts, graphs, and political cartoons;

b) analyzing how political and economic trends influence public policy, using demographic information and other data sources;

c) analyzing information to create diagrams, tables, charts, graphs, and spreadsheets;

d) determining the accuracy and validity of information by separating fact and opinion and recognizing bias;

e) constructing informed, evidence-based arguments from multiple sources;

f) determining multiple cause-and-effect relationships that impact political and economic events; and

g) taking informed action to address school, community, local, state, national, and global issues.

### Reporting Category: Principles of Government and Citizenship

**Number of Items: 7**

**Standards of Learning:**

CE.2 The student will apply social science skills to understand the foundations of American constitutional government by

a) explaining the fundamental principles of consent of the governed, limited government, rule of law, democracy, and representative government;

b) examining and evaluating the impact of the Magna Carta, charters of the Virginia Company of London, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom on the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights;

c) describing the purposes for the Constitution of the United States as stated in its Preamble; and

d) describing the procedures for amending the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States.

CE.3 The student will apply social science skills to understand citizenship and the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens by

a) describing the processes by which an individual becomes a citizen of the United States;

b) describing the First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, and the rights guaranteed by due process and equal protection of the laws;

c) describing the duties of citizenship, including obeying the laws, paying taxes, defending the nation, and serving in court;

d) examining the responsibilities of citizenship, including registering and voting, communicating with government officials, participating in political campaigns, keeping informed about current issues, and respecting differing opinions in a diverse society; and

e) evaluating how civic and social duties address community needs and serve the public good.

### Reporting Category: Structure of American Government

**Number of Items: 9**

**Standards of Learning:**

CE.6 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the national level by

a) describing the structure and powers of the national government;

b) explaining the principle of separation of powers and the operation of checks and balances; and

d) describing the roles and powers of the executive branch.

CE.7 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the state level by

a) describing the structure and powers of the state government;

b) explaining the relationship of state governments to the national government in the federal system; and

d) describing the roles and powers of the executive branch and regulatory boards.

CE.8 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the local level by

a) describing the structure and powers of the local government; and

b) explaining the relationship of local government to the state government.

CE.9 The student will apply social science skills to understand the judicial systems established by the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the Unitzed States by

a) describing the organization of the United States judicial system as consisting of state and federal courts with original and appellate jurisdiction.

### Reporting Category: Political and Governmental Processes

**Number of Items: 10**

**Standards of Learning:**

CE.5 The student will apply social science skills to understand the political process at the local, state, and national levels of government by

a) describing the functions of political parties;

b) comparing and contrasting political parties;

c) analyzing campaigns for elective office, with emphasis on the role of the media;

d) evaluating and explaining the role of campaign contributions and costs;

e) examining the history of and requirements for voter registration, and participating in simulated local, state, and/or national elections; and

f) describing the role of the Electoral College in the election of the president and vice president.

CE.6 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the national level by

c) explaining and/or simulating the lawmaking process.

CE.7 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the state level by

c) explaining and/or simulating the lawmaking process.

CE.8 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the local level by

c) explaining and/or simulating the lawmaking process.

CE.9 The student will apply social science skills to understand the judicial systems established by the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States by

b) describing the exercise of judicial review;

c) comparing and contrasting civil and criminal cases; and

d) explaining how due process protections seek to ensure justice.

CE.10 The student will apply social science skills to understand how public policy is made at the local, state, and national levels of government by

a) examining the impact of the media on public opinion and public policy;

b) describing how individuals and interest groups influence public policy; and

c) describing the impact of international issues and events on local decision making.

### Reporting Category: Economic Principles and Decisions

**Number of Items: 7**

**Standards of Learning:**

CE.11 The student will apply social science skills to understand how economic decisions are made in the marketplace by

a) explaining that because of scarcity, consumers, producers, and governments must make choices, understanding that everyone’s choice has an opportunity cost; and

b) comparing and contrasting how traditional, free market, command, and mixed economies decide how to allocate their limited resources.

CE.14 The student will apply social science skills to understand personal finance and career opportunities by

a) identifying talents, interests, and aspirations that influence career choice;

b) identifying human capital such as attitudes and behaviors that strengthen the individual work ethic and promote career success;

c) identifying human capital such as abilities, skills, and education and the changing supply of and demand for them in the economy;

d) examining the impact of technological change and globalization on career opportunities;

e) describing the importance of education to lifelong personal finances; and

f) analyzing the financial responsibilities of citizenship, including evaluating common forms of credit, savings, investments, purchases, contractual agreements, warranties, and guarantees.

### Reporting Category: United States Economy

**Number of Items: 7**

**Standards of Learning:**

CE.12 The student will apply social science skills to understand the United States economy by

a) describing the characteristics of the United States economy, including limited government, private property, profit, markets, consumer sovereignty, and competition;

b) describing how in a market economy supply and demand determine prices;

c) describing the types of business organizations and the role of entrepreneurship;

d) explaining the circular flow that shows how consumers (households), businesses (producers), and markets interact;

e) explaining how financial institutions channel funds from savers to borrowers; and

f) analyzing the relationship of Virginia and the United States to the global economy, with emphasis on the impact of technological innovations.

CE.13 The student will apply social science skills to understand the role of government in the United States economy by

a) examining competition in the marketplace;

b) explaining how and why government provides certaingoods and services;

c) describing how local, state, and federal governments allocate their budgets and collect taxes to pay for goods and services they provide;

d) explaining the structure and main function of the Federal Reserve System and how it acts as the nation’s central bank;

e) describing how governments regulate to protect consumers, labor, the environment, competition in the marketplace, and property rights; and

f) explaining the role of government currency and analyzing the purpose of a money economy.