

American Government Performance Level Descriptors

Limited

A student performing at the **Limited Level** demonstrates a minimal command of Ohio's Learning Standards for American Government. A student at this level has an emerging ability to evaluate the credibility and relevance of sources, explain the basic principles of government in the United States and understand how they have been applied and changed over time, interpret historical documents, explain the structure and function of government bodies, explain how citizens can influence government decisions and understand the government's role in the economy.

Students at the **Limited Level** can:

- Identify the criteria used to determine the level of credibility of a source;
- Recall the main ideas or general themes of the following:
 - U.S. Constitution;
 - The Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers;
 - The Bill of Rights;
 - Reconstruction amendments;
 - Civil rights and suffrage-related amendments
- Identify all three branches of state and federal government;
- Identify basic civic responsibilities of all U.S. citizens (e.g., engaging in civil discourse, registering to vote, serving on juries).

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Basic

A student performing at the **Basic Level** demonstrates a partial command of Ohio's Learning Standards for American Government. A student at this level has a general ability to evaluate the credibility and relevance of sources, explain the basic principles of government in the United States and understand how they have been applied and changed over time, interpret historical documents, explain the structure and function of government bodies, explain how citizens can influence government decisions and understand the government's role in the economy.

Students at the **Basic Level** can:

- Identify the perspective or position of a credible source
- Identify the following:
 - Basic principles of the U.S. Constitution;
 - Purpose of the Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers;
 - Purpose of the Bill of Rights;
- Identify the importance of the following:
 - Constitutional protections extended under the Reconstruction Amendments
 - Amendments that prohibited the denial of voting rights based on gender, age, or economic status
 - Amendments that affected the U.S. presidency
 - Amendments that have altered the procedures of the Electoral College
- Identify the basic responsibilities of each branch of government;
- Identify examples of constitutional rights and civic responsibilities;
- Identify that the Ohio Constitution was written to improve governance of the state. (e.g., election of major executive officials and judges, addition of district courts, institution of debt limitations);
- Identify methods by which individuals and organizations can engage government officials on public policy issues.
- Identify how federal tax policy impacts the U.S. economy.

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Proficient

A student performing at the **Proficient Level** demonstrates an appropriate command of Ohio's Learning Standards for American Government. A student at this level has a consistent ability to evaluate the credibility and relevance of sources, explain the basic principles of government in the United States and understand how they have been applied and changed over time, interpret historical documents, explain the structure and function of government bodies, explain how citizens can influence government decisions and understand the government's role in the economy.

Students at the **Proficient Level** can:

- Identify the differences in the methods by which citizens, government and political organizations try to resolve conflict (e.g., persuasion, compromise, consensus, negotiation);
- Identify and explain the circumstances around the following:
 - Basic principles of the U.S. Constitution;
 - Positions on limited government argued by the Federalists/Anti-Federalists;
 - Historic changes in U.S. constitutional government;
 - constitutional protections extended under the Reconstruction Amendments
 - Amendments that prohibited the denial of voting rights based on gender, age, or economic status
 - Amendments that affected the U.S. presidency
 - Amendments that have altered the procedures of the Electoral College
- Compare the powers of each branch of the federal government as they pertain to law and public policy (e.g., Legislative - imposing taxes, Executive - issuing executive orders, Judicial - hearing appeals from lower courts);
- Identify the relationship between the exercise of constitutional rights and civic responsibility (e.g., right to jury trial - serving on juries, right to vote - becoming informed on public issues);
- Identify several examples of how the Ohio Constitution addressed the problems of governing Ohio at the time of its adoption (e.g., election of government officials by popular vote, addition of district courts, institution of debt limitations);
- Identify a public policy position and determine the most appropriate level and branch of government to address the issue;
- Identify how federal tax policy and the Federal Reserve System impact the U.S. economy.

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Accelerated

A student performing at the **Accelerated Level** demonstrates a strong command of Ohio's Learning Standards for American Government. A student at this level has a superior ability to evaluate the credibility and relevance of sources, explain the basic principles of government in the United States and understand how they have been applied and changed over time, interpret historical documents, explain the structure and function of government bodies, explain how citizens can influence government decisions and understand the government's role in the economy.

Students at the **Accelerated Level** can:

- Explain how political parties, special interest groups and/or the media influence public policy making;
- Cite specific examples regarding the following:
 - Checks on power amongst the three branches of government;
 - Anti-Federalist ideas implemented in the language of the Bill of Rights;
 - Changes in the Constitution resulting from evolving social/public demands for governing;
 - Consequences of the Reconstruction Amendments
 - Consequences of amendments that prohibited the denial of voting rights based on gender, age, or economic status
 - Consequences of amendments that affected the U.S. presidency
 - Consequences of amendments that have altered the procedures of the Electoral College
- Identify a specific historical or contemporary issue that required interaction amongst the branches of government and analyze the dynamics involved (e.g., the impeachment process, the federal government's actions related to desegregation);
- Cite examples of civil rights being extended to minority groups;
- Identify similarities between the structure of the federal government and the state government of Ohio;
- Identify various methods by which individuals and organizations can engage government officials and evaluate the effectiveness of each;
- Explain a specific action taken by the federal government/Federal Reserve System to manipulate the fiscal/monetary policy and determine its impact on consumer and business spending.

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Advanced

A student performing at the **Advanced Level** demonstrates a distinguished command of Ohio's Learning Standards for American Government. A student at this level has a sophisticated ability to evaluate the credibility and relevance of sources, explain the basic principles of government in the United States and understand how they have been applied and changed over time, interpret historical documents, explain the structure and function of government bodies, explain how citizens can influence government decisions and understand the government's role in the economy.

Students at the **Advanced Level** can:

- Examine a set of documents pertaining to a civic issue and explain the relevancy and credibility of each;
- Cite specific examples regarding the following:
 - Federalist and Anti-Federalist ideas implemented in the language of the Bill of Rights;
 - Changes in the Constitution resulting from evolving social/public demands for governing;
 - Precedent and consequences of the Reconstruction Amendments
 - Precedent and consequences of amendments that prohibited the denial of voting rights based on gender, age, or economic status
 - Precedent and consequences of amendments that affected the U.S. presidency
 - Precedent and consequences of amendments that have altered the procedures of the Electoral College
- Examine and explain specific examples of checks and balances implemented between the three branches of government and how those oversight powers uphold the principles of the U.S. Constitution (e.g., presidential veto, veto override, Supreme Court rulings against executive orders or legislation);
- Analyze an issue related to the denial of civil rights to a specific minority group and explain how at least one branch of government worked to extend civil rights to that group of people (e.g., Supreme Court and the 14th Amendment, Congress and the passing of civil rights acts);
- Compare the structures, powers and relationships between the Ohio and federal governments based on their respective constitutions;
- Determine the monetary action that should be taken by the Federal Reserve to respond to the forces of inflation and deflation and how such actions will meet the desired economic goal.