

## **BENCHMARK SS.7.C.1.1**

<b>Strand</b>	C Civics and Government
<b>Reporting Category</b>	Origins and Purposes of Law and Government
<b>Standard</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system.
<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>SS.7.C.1.1 Recognize how Enlightenment ideas including Montesquieu’s view of separation of powers and John Locke’s theories related to natural law and how Locke’s social contract influenced the Founding Fathers.</b>
<b>Benchmark Clarifications</b>	<p>Students will identify and describe the Enlightenment ideas of separation of powers, natural law, and social contract.</p> <p>Students will examine how Enlightenment ideas influenced the Founders’ beliefs about individual liberties and government.</p> <p>Students will evaluate the influence of Montesquieu’s and Locke’s ideas on the Founding Fathers.</p>
<b>Content Limit</b>	Items will not require students to match a particular Enlightenment philosopher with a corresponding theory.
<b>Stimulus Attribute</b>	Items addressing Enlightenment ideas may use historical and contemporary documents and other relevant stimuli (e.g., maps, timelines, charts, graphs, tables).
<b>Content Focus</b>	There are no additional terms except those found in the standards, benchmarks, and benchmark clarifications.

**Sample Item 1****SS.7.C.1.1****Content Focus**

Separation of Powers

The statements below are from the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights.

- 1) That in all capital or criminal prosecutions a man hath a right to demand . . . evidence in his favor, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury . . .
- 2) That the legislative, executive, and judiciary department shall be separate and distinct . . .
- 3) That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained . . .
- 4) That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state . . .

Source: Public Domain / U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Which statement reflects the Enlightenment ideas of government as expressed by Montesquieu?

- A. 1
- ★ B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4