

BENCHMARK SS.7.C.1.9

Strand	C Civics and Government
Reporting Category	Origins and Purposes of Law and Government
Standard	Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system.
Benchmark	SS.7.C.1.9 Define the rule of law and recognize its influence on the development of the American legal, political, and governmental systems.
Benchmark Clarifications	<p>Students will distinguish between the characteristics of a society that operates under the rule of law and one that does not.</p> <p>Students will assess the importance of the rule of law in protecting citizens from arbitrary and abusive uses of government power.</p> <p>Students will evaluate the impact of the rule of law on governmental officials and institutions (accountability to the law, fair procedures, decisions based on the law, consistent application, enforcement of the law, and transparency of institutions).</p>
Content Limit	Items will not require students to judge the appropriateness of specific laws.
Stimulus Attribute	Items addressing the rule of law may use historical and contemporary documents and other relevant stimuli (e.g., maps, timelines, charts, graphs, tables).
Content Focus	There are no additional terms except those found in the standards, benchmarks, and benchmark clarifications.

Sample Item 9 **SS.7.C.1.9** **Content Focus** Rule of Law

Which characteristic serves as a long-term protection against tyranny and is a foundation of liberty in the United States?

- A. the commerce clause
- B. the elastic clause
- C. the right to trial
- ★ D. the rule of law