

Benchmark 2.9

Benchmark 2.9 (Also assesses 2.7)

Core Idea	Evaluating candidates for political office
Focal Point #1	The constitutional requirements required to run for federal political office include age, residency and citizenship; the president is the only elected office in the nation that requires that one be a natural born citizen.
Focal Point #2	Students “identify” requirements to run for federal office and “recognize” requirements for state and local office.
Focal Point #3	Candidate platforms are understood as candidate issue positions.
Potential Concerns	Qualifications will include term limits; for example, a Florida state senator who has served two four-year terms (eight years) would not be qualified to run for a third, four-year term because it is forbidden by the Florida constitution.
Potential Concerns	The mock election requirement is to be conducted at the school, community or local level; not at the state or federal level. This means that the Electoral College should not be taught in this or other context in the course.
Sample Item	The sample item suggests that prior government experience is a qualification for office. This assertion may be subject to debate; however, the Item Specs suggest that it is a fact.

