

Critical Benchmark Notes

Benchmark SS.7.CG.3.1

Strand	Civics and Government
Reporting Category	Organization and Function of Government
Standard	3: Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions and organization of government.
Benchmark	Analyze the advantages of the United States' constitutional republic over other forms of government in safeguarding liberty, freedom and a representative government.
Benchmark Clarifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will apply their understanding of various forms of government (e.g., republic, democracy, monarchy, oligarchy, theocracy, autocracy). ● Students will identify different forms of government based on their political philosophy or organizational structure. ● Students will analyze scenarios describing various forms of government. ● Students will explain how the application of checks and balances, consent of the governed, democracy, due process of law, federalism, individual rights, limited government, representative government, republicanism, rule of law and separation of powers distinguishes the United States' constitutional republic from authoritarian and totalitarian nations.
Benchmark Parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students should not need to be able to name specific country examples for each form of government
Content Vocabulary	absolute monarchy, anarchy, authoritarian, autocracy, checks and balances, consent of the governed, constitutional monarchy, constitutional republic, democracy, dictatorship, direct democracy, due process of law, federalism, form of government, indirect democracy, individual rights, limited government, monarchy, oligarchy, representative government, republic, republicanism, rule of law, separation of powers, theocracy, totalitarian
Main Concepts To Teach <i>Note: Each benchmark should be scaffolded, taught, and assessed in a way that ensures student</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review why people form governments ● An overview of major forms of government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ republic, democracy, monarchy, oligarchy, theocracy, autocracy ○ Also need to teach the terms constitutional

<p><i>mastery at all levels of cognitive complexity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ republic and totalitarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide scenarios describing the political philosophies and organizational structures of these forms of governments and ensure students can identify them ● Distinguishing features between the United States' constitutional republic and authoritarian and totalitarian nations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ checks and balances, consent of the governed, democracy, due process of law, federalism, individual rights, limited government, representative government, republicanism, rule of law, and separation of powers ○ Provide students opportunities to draw conclusions regarding advantages of the United States' constitutional republic
<p>Sample Assessment Question</p> <p><i>Note: Assessment items may use graphic stimuli such as documents, maps, timelines, charts, graphs, diagrams, illustrations, tables, political cartoons, photographs, etc.</i></p>	<p>The table describes the characteristics of a form of government.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Limited personal freedoms <input type="checkbox"/> Rulers are chosen by a higher power <input type="checkbox"/> Laws and decisions are based on religious beliefs <input type="checkbox"/> Religious authorities rule in the name of a god or deity </div> <p>Which form of government is being described?</p> <p>A. republic B. theocracy C. monarchy D. oligarchy</p>

Additional Considerations

<p>Where Have They Been?</p>	<p>Most of the terms from benchmark clarification #4 have been taught/covered K-5</p> <p>SS.5.CG.1.3 SS.6.CG.1.1 SS.6.CG.1.2</p>
<p>Timing/Pacing Notes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In order to most effectively teach this benchmark, students should already be familiar with the following terms: checks and balances, consent of the governed, democracy, due process of law, federalism, individual rights, limited government, representative

	government, republicanism, rule of law, and separation of powers
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