

Review of TCI HS Gov Unit 2

Headings from text indicated in **blue**

Quotes from text indicated in **red**

Unit 2

Foundations of American Government

Lesson 3 – The Roots of American Government

Section 1 - Ideas That Shaped Colonial Views on Government

The Religious and Classical Roots of Colonial Ideas About Government

Well done.

The English Roots of American Government

Excellent inclusion and discussion.

The Contributions of English Enlightenment Thinkers

Excellent inclusion and discussion.

Influences of French Enlightenment Thinkers

Excellent inclusion and discussion.

Notes / worksheet

Definitely one of the best assignments so far.

Section 2- From Ideas to Independence: The American Revolution

"The colonial assemblies were hardly models of democracy, because in most cases only white, male landowners were allowed to vote." Historic events which reflect common attitudes at the time should not be judged by today's standards. It is NOT a fair or realistic approach and limits students thinking and analysis.

Otherwise, this section has information that is solid and useful in understanding the origins of our founding documents.

From “Benign Neglect” to Armed Rebellion

“British troops shot and killed five agitators in Boston” The description of “agitators” sounds like a loaded word, but it IS historically accurate. Good job.

One might go further to include the fact that John Adams defended, in court, the British soldiers accused of murder. This provides an illustration of dedication to truth and justice.

The fact that Lexington and Concord were referred to as “the shot heard round the world” would add to understanding common historical references. Including the fact that it was sparked by the British intended confiscation of arms would be useful in framing the Second Amendment.

Notes/homework:

Again, this is one of the more useful note/homework sections thus far.

Section 3 - Putting Ideas to Work: Framing the New Constitutions

“However, they were not completely democratic. The states typically limited voting rights to white men who paid taxes or owned a certain amount of property. None of the original 13 state constitutions specifically outlawed slavery, and all states south of Pennsylvania denied enslaved people equal rights as human beings.” Once again, this implies judging distant historical norms by modern standards.

Other than the above statement, the text does a very good job of explaining the ideas considered in framing the Constitution. Even handed discussion of the 3/5 compromise.

While discussed, the handling of the Electoral College was cursory at best.

Section 4 – Ratifying the Constitution

The text does a good job of explaining the ratification process, the Federalist Papers and factions.

Summary

Short and sweet.

“Explore Section”

From Enlightenment to Declaring Independence

This is, overall, a good representation but the author missed the opportunity to include the fact that, in Jefferson’s first draft of the Declaration of Independence, he had included the complaint that the “Christian King” had forced slavery upon the colonies against their will.

Section 5 – Adding the Bill of Rights

Summary

Fine.

Lesson 4 – The United States Constitution

Introduction

The approach used throughout the curriculum is to introduce the Lesson by citing a situation from recent history that underscores problems with government rather than positives. Does this influence how the student reads the information in the lesson?

Section 1- Elements of the Constitution

Section 2 – Amending the Constitution

Section 3 - Guiding Principles of the Constitution

Section 4 – Interpreting the Constitution

Pretty clear cut and well organized.

Lesson 5 – The Bill of Rights and Civil Liberties

Section 1 – Defining and Protecting Your Rights and Liberties

Section 2 – Your First Amendment Rights

In the section under Freedom of the Press, the text includes “The reporting on the Pentagon Papers was accurate. But what about news reports that are false? The First Amendment does not protect against libel. However, journalists sometimes make mistakes. Unless it can be shown that their errors were intentional and were meant to do harm, journalists are not guilty of libel.”

The text misses the opportunity to make a solid point regarding government control of the Press.

Illustrations seem to be selected with a bias toward liberal causes. The screen shot below seems to celebrate the support of the Affordable Care act and the second makes fun of Second Amendment Rights supporters.:



The right to peaceful assembly is an important guarantee of the First Amendment. It allows people to gather and express their views in public, either through speech or through symbolic actions, such as marches and protests. In 2017, demonstrators gathered in Philadelphia to protest against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and cuts to Medicaid.

and has



"Darn it, there's only one burglar,
and all he's got is a handgun."

In this cartoon, this man is excessively armed to defend himself against a burglar. The Second Amendment protects an individual's right to bear arms, but some states still require gun owners to register their firearms and impose regulations on how and where firearms may be used.

Section 3 – Protections Against Abuses of Government Power

Section 4 – Your Rights in the Legal System

Section 5 - Rights and Powers of the States and the People

Lesson 6- Federalism: National, State and Local Powers

Section 1 – The Establishment of the Federal System

Section 2 - The Evolution of Federalism

Section 3 – State Governments in a Federal System

Section 4 – Local Governments