

# Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments (AEPA™)

## FIELD 06: POLITICAL SCIENCE/AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TEST OBJECTIVES

<b>Subarea</b>	<b>Range of Objectives</b>	<b>Approximate Test Proportions</b>
I. Concepts and Skills	1–4	21%
II. Political Thought, Comparative Government, and International Relations	5–8	21%
III. United States and Arizona Government	9–19	58%

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**Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments (AEPA™)  
Subject Knowledge Test**

**Test Objectives**

**Field 06: Political Science/American Government**

**Subareas:**

Concepts and Skills

Political Thought, Comparative Government, and International Relations  
United States and Arizona Government

**CONCEPTS AND SKILLS**

**0001 Understand political science terms, concepts, and theories.**

For example: using basic concepts of political science (e.g., power, justice, natural rights) to analyze general political phenomena and specific political issues; examining the origins and purposes of government (e.g., to organize society, to control territory, to manage conflict); and comparing major theories in political science (e.g., classical republicanism, totalitarianism).

**0002 Understand methods for locating, gathering, and organizing social science information.**

For example: understanding the characteristics and uses of social science materials (e.g., encyclopedias, research studies, bibliographies); applying research procedures in the social sciences (e.g., formulating questions and hypotheses); organizing information into logical and coherent outlines; and applying procedures for retrieving information from traditional sources and new technologies (e.g., CD-ROM, video discs, the Internet).

**0003 Apply methods for evaluating and interpreting social science information.**

For example: analyzing factors affecting the reliability of source materials; distinguishing between primary and secondary sources; analyzing the purpose or message of a political poster or editorial cartoon; and interpreting information presented in print, visual, and multimedia material (e.g., models, charts, tables, and other graphic representations).

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 06: POLITICAL SCIENCE/AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**0004 Understand how to frame questions, analyze and synthesize information, make generalizations, and reach and communicate valid conclusions.**

For example: assessing alternative formulations of a research problem; evaluating social science materials (e.g., identifying central questions in public policy debates, distinguishing between differing interpretations); analyzing issues in the social sciences from multiple perspectives; determining whether conclusions or generalizations are supported by multiple sources of evidence; and evaluating the appropriateness of written and graphic formats for conveying a specific body of information.

**POLITICAL THOUGHT, COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**0005 Understand the history of political thought through the modern era.**

For example: analyzing the influence of ancient Greek and Roman political philosophies on the development of modern government; understanding the development of the English constitution and parliamentary system through the seventeenth century; identifying the contributions of major political philosophers (e.g., Sun Tzu, Plato, Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Karl Marx, Mahatma Gandhi); and analyzing the relationships between various historical developments and the evolution of political thought (e.g., the Enlightenment and democratic liberalism, the Industrial Revolution and socialism).

**0006 Understand various governmental systems.**

For example: comparing historical and contemporary forms of government; analyzing the roles of political parties and the influence of historical and cultural traditions on various governmental systems; recognizing the characteristics of a totalitarian state; comparing the functions of legislatures in modern governmental systems; understanding the disparities between the theory and the practice of various political ideologies; and comparing various forms of democratic government.

**0007 Understand the nature of diplomacy and the role of international organizations.**

For example: understanding the history, basic principles, and functions of diplomacy; examining major events in twentieth-century diplomacy; and analyzing the structure, functions, and goals of the United Nations and other international agencies (e.g., NATO, European Union, World Court).

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 06: POLITICAL SCIENCE/AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**0008 Understand U.S. foreign policy.**

For example: demonstrating familiarity with the foreign policy decision-making process; understanding the changing role of the United States in world affairs before, during, and after the Cold War; analyzing domestic and international political and ideological influences on foreign policy decisions; and understanding major U.S. foreign policy initiatives in various parts of the world.

**UNITED STATES AND ARIZONA GOVERNMENT**

**0009 Understand the historical development of government in the United States.**

For example: demonstrating familiarity with the structure and function of colonial governments; understanding influences in the development of colonial governments (e.g., Iroquois Confederation, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, Massachusetts Body of Liberties); examining political relations between the colonies and England and the colonies and other political entities (e.g., Native American nations, France, Spain); analyzing debates surrounding the abandonment of the Articles of Confederation and the adoption of the U.S. Constitution; and examining major events and trends in U.S. political history since 1789.

**0010 Understand the United States Constitution.**

For example: demonstrating familiarity with major constitutional principles (e.g., federalism, checks and balances); evaluating basic elements of the Bill of Rights; examining constitutional limits on political power; and analyzing ways in which the Constitution has been adapted and amended to meet the nation's changing needs and goals.

**0011 Understand the structure, organization, and operation of the federal government.**

For example: analyzing the structure, functions, and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government; demonstrating familiarity with major steps in the legislative process; analyzing interactions among lobbyists, bureaucrats, and congressional staff in the modern legislative process (i.e., the iron triangle); analyzing the roles and duties of the president and executive branch; and analyzing the role and function of the federal courts (e.g., judicial review).

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 06: POLITICAL SCIENCE/AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**0012 Understand the relationship of government to the United States economic system.**

For example: understanding basic elements of federal fiscal and monetary policy; recognizing the functions of federal regulatory agencies; analyzing factors that have influenced the enactment of social legislation and development of the welfare state; assessing the significance of the national debt; and demonstrating familiarity with the federal budget-making process.

**0013 Understand the development of political parties in the United States.**

For example: analyzing the functions of parties in the U.S. political process; examining significant developments in the evolution of political parties in the United States (e.g., the declining role of parties relative to interest groups and media); understanding the structure and operation of political parties; analyzing the role of third parties in U.S. political history; and comparing the U.S. party system with the party systems of other nations (e.g., one-party systems, multi-party systems).

**0014 Understand the election process in the United States.**

For example: demonstrating familiarity with basic components of the U.S. electoral process (e.g., primary elections, general elections, the electoral college); understanding the evolution of the candidate nomination process; recognizing major steps and processes in political elections; analyzing factors influencing the outcome of elections at the local, state, and national levels; and examining factors that encourage and discourage voting.

**0015 Understand the role of political culture, public opinion, and the media in United States politics.**

For example: recognizing ways in which citizens participate in and influence the political process in the United States; examining the social, cultural, and economic determinants of political beliefs; identifying various ideologies (e.g., conservative, liberal, socialist); analyzing the effect of public opinion on government policy; understanding the organization of the mass media; evaluating the newsworthiness of various media sources; and analyzing the influence of the media on U.S. political life (e.g., agenda setting, issue framing).

**0016 Understand state and local government in the United States.**

For example: demonstrating familiarity with the forms and functions of state, tribal, and local governments; demonstrating knowledge of social and economic issues confronting state, tribal, and local governments; analyzing the operation of the system of checks and balances in state government; understanding structural and political influences on state policy (e.g., level of economic development, interest groups); and analyzing the modern relationship between state and local governments.

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 06: POLITICAL SCIENCE/AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**0017 Understand the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.**

For example: analyzing the political, legal, and personal rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution; understanding the duties of U.S. citizenship; analyzing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for successful participation in democratic self-government; and analyzing participation at different levels of government.

**0018 Understand basic features of democratic government in the United States.**

For example: examining efforts to remove barriers to political, legal, and social equality in the United States; analyzing factors that have expanded or limited the role of individuals and groups in U.S. political life (e.g., federal court decisions, amendments, social movements); understanding how democratic procedures can be used to promote social change (e.g., civil rights movement, expanding suffrage, labor reform, equal rights movement); analyzing the relationship between majority rule and minority rights; demonstrating knowledge of the roles played by diverse groups in the evolution of democracy in the United States; and analyzing the role of dissent in a democratic society.

**0019 Understand state government and government of American Indian nations in Arizona.**

For example: examining the roles of state government and the government of Native American nations in the federal system; recognizing the progressive principles contained in the constitution of the state of Arizona (e.g., referendum, recall, initiative); understanding the structure and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the Arizona state government (e.g., plural executive); recognizing ways in which citizens can participate in the Arizona political process; analyzing relations among state, federal, tribal, and local governmental bodies in Arizona; and comparing the structure of Arizona and federal governments.