# American Government (Pilot) at a Glance
## Pre-requisites: None

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Government</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Description / Big Ideas</th>
<th>Essential Questions</th>
<th>End of Unit Assessment</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Unit 1: Foundations of Government | 1 quarter | - How does government impact our daily life?  
- How does the United States fulfill the purposes of government?  
- How do other types of governments meet the needs of citizens?  
- How do various economic systems answer each economic question?  
- How did the principles of government influence the structure of government to protect the rights of individuals?  
- How do the three branches of the United States government ensure a balance of power?  
- How does democracy ensure that the power of government is limited?  
- How did historical documents shape U.S. democracy?  
- How did the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation inspire change?  
- How are the principles of government represented in the Constitution?  
- How does the structure of the Constitution ensure checks and balances?  
- How does federalism uphold the principles of government?  
- How does democracy ensure that the power of government is limited?  
- How do the principles of government influence the structure, organization, and interactions of the legislative and executive branches?  
- How have the interactions between the legislative and executive branches assisted or impeded civil rights? | - Why do we have government?  
- To what extent do the principles of American Government impact individual rights and the power of government? | County-created unit assessment which includes  
- SR questions – including stimulus-based questions.  
- constructed responses |
| Unit 2: The Legislative and Executive Branches | 1 quarter | - How do political parties influence the legislative and executive branches?  
- How do principles of government influence the structure and organization of the legislative branch as established in the Constitution?  
- How do demographics and gerrymandering impact representation?  
- Does Congress have the appropriate power to fulfill its Constitutional responsibilities?  
- How does the process of lawmaking assist and impede the functions of the legislative branch?  
- How do interest groups and PACs influence a representative democracy?  
- How do the principles of government influence the structure and function of the executive branch as established in the Constitution?  
- Are presidential elections organized to maintain a representative democracy?  
- How does the media influence presidential election?  
- How does the Constitution grant and limit presidential powers?  
- How has the interactions between the executive and legislative branches influenced policy?  
- How have the interactions between the legislative and executive branches assisted or impeded civil rights? | - How has the Constitution and the principles of government influence the structure, organization, and interactions of the legislative and executive branches? | County-created unit assessment which includes  
- SR questions – including stimulus-based questions.  
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| Unit 3: The Policy-Making Process | 1 quarter | - How has the government’s role and policies adapted to address various public issues?
- How does the government measure economic performance and set socio-economic goals?
- How effective is fiscal policy in achieving full employment, price stability, and economic growth?
- How effective is monetary policy in achieving full employment, price stability, and economic growth?
- How has the government’s role adapted to address regulatory policy?
- How do competing interest impact government formation and implementation of social policy?
- How do regional, environmental, and land use interests shape the formulation and implementation of public policies?
- How does the United States establish and achieve foreign policy goals?
- How do participation in international organizations help the United States achieve its foreign policy goals? | - To what extent does our government effectively address domestic, economic, and foreign policy issues in an environment of competing interests?
- How do the principles of government and competing interests impact the formulation and implementation of public policy? | County-created unit assessment which includes
- SR questions – including stimulus-based questions.
- constructed responses |

| Unit 4: The Judicial Branch | 1 quarter | - How does the structure of the judicial branch impact the power of federal and state courts?
- How have the decisions of the Supreme Court impacted policies over time?
- How do demographics impact policies that surround crime and punishment?
- How do the criminal and civil court systems maintain order and uphold individual rights?
- How does the structure of government influence the creation of policy? | - To what extent does the judicial branch uphold the principles of government? | County-created unit assessment which includes
- SR questions – including stimulus-based questions.
- constructed responses |

Additional teacher-created writing assignment, project, performance task, or other major assignment.