About This Test
The Government/Political Science test is designed for prospective teachers of government or political science in secondary schools. The 120 multiple-choice questions assess knowledge of the major concepts, theories, historical developments, and facts of government and political science across the content areas of U.S. constitutional theory and development; U.S. government institutions; the politics of U.S. government; and comparative politics, government, ideologies, and public policies.
In this test, 100 of the questions will be used for scoring, and 20 questions will be used as pretest questions and will not be scored.

Government/Political Science (0930)

Test at a Glance
Test Name Government/Political Science
Test Code 0930
Time 2 hours
Number of Questions 120
Format Multiple-choice questions

Government/Political Science (0930)

Topics Covered
Representative descriptions of topics covered in each category are provided below.

Chapter numbers correspond with the Challenge of Democracy Textbook. Disc numbers correspond with the Thinkwell American Government course. The table of contents for the Thinkwell set of cd’s is located on Disc 1.

I. United States Constitutional Theory and Development: Civil Rights; Landmark Court Decisions
- Foundations of constitutional development: Anglo-Saxon tradition and common law, 16th- through 18th-century political philosophy, the Declaration of Independence, and the structure and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation  Chapter 3, Disc 1

- The Constitutional Convention: participants, issues, and compromises  Disc 1

- The Constitution: federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, enumerated and implied powers, the ratification and amendment process, statehood, national supremacy
contrasted with states’ rights, and the principle of popular sovereignty  

**Chapters 3,4, Disc 1**

- Civil rights and landmark decisions: statutes such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Supreme Court decisions such as *Marbury v. Madison*, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, and *Miranda v. Arizona*; the impact of the Fourteenth Amendment on the development of civil rights and civil liberties  

**Chapter 16, Disc 2**

II. United States Government: Federal, State, and Local Institutions

- Executive branch: the presidency, including formal and informal qualifications, powers and limitations, roles such as commander-in-chief and head of state, and succession; the bureaucracy, including methods of qualification and selection, the role of the bureaucracy, and its structure and processes  

**Chapter 12, Disc 5**

- Legislative branch: formal and informal qualifications, selection and succession, roles, and powers and limitations  

**Chapter 11, Disc 5**

- Judicial branch: qualifications, the process and politics of selection, role, standards for legal reasoning, structure and process, and powers and limitations, including jurisdiction, appeals provisions, and review  

**Chapter 14, Disc 5**

- State and local government: powers and limitations; responsibility for education, public safety, and health; interstate relations; structure and organization; unique aspects of state/local government; and finance  

**Disc 5**

- Relationships among federal, state, and local institutions  

**Disc 5**

III. United States Politics: Political Parties, Interest Groups, Campaigns and Elections, Political Participation, Political
Socialization, and Public Opinion

- Political parties: roles and functions, the causes and effects of having a two-party system, minor parties, and the organization and membership of the political parties  
  Chapter 5, 8 Disc 3, 4
- Interest groups: characteristics and activities of interest groups, the effects of interest groups and Political Action Committees (PAC’s) on the political process  
  Chapter 10, Disc 3
- Campaigns and elections: voting, including the expansion of the franchise and state and federal laws; campaign issues, including structure, strategies, funding, and participants; election issues, including structure, types, candidate recruitment, and systems of candidate nomination  
  Chapter 9, Disc 3
- Political participation: activities such as voting, financial contributions, candidacy, grass roots organizations, petitions, and protests  
  Chapter 7, Disc 3
- Political socialization: transmission of political values through agents such as the media, American political culture, and the nature of ideologies such as conservatism and liberalism  
  Chapter 6, Disc 3
- Public opinion: types of publics, measurement, the role of the mass media and government, and the impact of opinion on the political process  
  Chapter 5. 6, Disc 4

IV. Comparative Politics: Government, Ideologies, and Public Policies

- The nature of political systems (representative democracy, democratic versus authoritarian systems, parliamentary versus presidential systems, etc.)  
  Disc 6
- The nature of economic
systems (capitalism, socialism, communism, mixed systems, etc.) Disc 6
● Relationships between national governments and supranational organizations Disc 6

● Ideologies: Marxism, fascism, nationalism
● Public policy: definitions, Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20 processes, and policy areas

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