



**Switched-On**  
SCHOOLHOUSE

# Course Catalog

Civics

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

In this five-section elective, high-school students will learn about the rights and responsibilities of being an American citizen. By studying different forms of government, students will investigate what motivated America's founding fathers as they drafted the U.S. Constitution. Students will also learn about the branches of the U.S. government as laid out in the Constitution and about the structure of state and local governments. In each unit, students will complete an in-depth project related to that unit's topic.

Through this course, students will do the following:

- Understand the definition of government and explain its role in the life of the citizen.
- Explore why politics takes place any time a group of individuals is gathered together.
- Understand the differences and relationships between civic life, political life, and private life.
- Analyze the influence of the federal government on the American economy.
- Analyze the elements of America's market economy in a global setting.

<b>UNIT 1: A NEW NATION</b>		
<b>Assignment Titles</b>		
CIVICS	1. Course Overview	16. Civil Society and Government
	2. The Distinctions Among Civic, Political, and Private Life	17. Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedom
	3. The Necessity of Politics and Government	18. Liberalism, Republicanism, and American Constitutional Republic
	4. The Purpose of Politics and Government	19. Project: Conflict of Interest
	5. Quiz 1	20. Quiz 3
	6. Why Independence	21. Unitary, Confederal, or Federal?
	7. Natural Rights	22. Nature of Representation
	8. Given Rights	23. Fundamental Values and Principles
	9. The Role of Religion	24. The Great Compromise
	10. The Protestant Reformation	25. Quiz 4
	11. Babylonian Monarchy, Greek Democracy, Roman Republic	26. Special Project*
	12. Quiz 2	27. Test
	13. Forms of Government	28. Alternate Test*
	14. Religious and Political Freedom	29. Reference
	15. Limits in Government	

<b>UNIT 2: THE CONSTITUTION</b>		
<b>Assignment Titles</b>		
CIVICS	1. Federalists and Anti-Federalists	10. Separation of Powers/Checks and Balances
	2. Project: Compare Bill of Rights	11. Quiz 2
	3. As Good As it Gets	12. The Ability to Change
	4. The Peaceful Transfer of Power	13. The Bill of Rights: Protection
	5. Quiz 1	14. The Bill of Rights: Interpretation
	6. Introduction to Constitutional Government	15. Quiz 3
	7. Constitutional Law in the United States Federal Government	16. Special Project*
	8. The Preamble	17. Test
	9. Project: A Limited Government	18. Alternate Test*
	19. Reference	

**UNIT 3: BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT****Assignment Titles**

CIVICS

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|--|--|
| 1. Presidential Power                    | 12. Quiz 2                                   |
| 2. Electing a President                  | 13. Organization of the Judicial Branch      |
| 3. Case Study: The Election of 1824      | 14. The Role of the Supreme Court            |
| 4. The Federal Bureaucracy               | 15. Judicial Activism vs. Judicial Restraint |
| 5. Project: Limits on Presidential Power | 16. Making a More Perfect Union              |
| 6. Quiz 1                                | 17. Quiz 3                                   |
| 7. A Two-House System                    | 18. Special Project*                         |
| 8. Committees in Action                  | 19. Test                                     |
| 9. Project: Your Home Legislators*       | 20. Alternate Test*                          |
| 10. How a Bill Becomes a Law             | 21. Reference                                |
| 11. Impeachment                          |  |

**UNIT 4: GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE****Assignment Titles**

CIVICS

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|---|---|
| 1. State Branches                             | 17. Case Study: Prohibition                         |
| 2. Local Government: Types and Functions      | 18. Civic Responsibility                            |
| 3. Financing Government through Taxation      | 19. Becoming a Citizen                              |
| 4. Case Study: Integration of Schools         | 20. Quiz 3  |
| 5. Direct Democracy                           | 21. Diversity and the Character of American Society |
| 6. Quiz 1                                     | 22. Project: Constitutional Values and Principles   |
| 7. Why Political Parties?                     | 23. Voluntarism and Organized Groups                |
| 8. Parties and Primaries                      | 24. American Political Conflict                     |
| 9. Politics and Media                         | 25. Conflicts of Values                             |
| 10. Districts, Special Interests, and Funding | 26. Disparities between Ideals and Reality          |
| 11. Public Policy and Public Agenda           | 27. Quiz 4  |
| 12. Project: Your Politics*                   | 28. Special Project*                                |
| 13. Quiz 2                                    | 29. Test  |
| 14. Your Rights                               | 30. Alternate Test*                                 |
| 15. Project: Limits of Freedom                | 31. Reference                                       |
| 16. Citizens in Action                        |   |

**UNIT 5: RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD****Assignment Titles**

CIVICS

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|---|--|
| 1. Government and Economics                           | 15. Quiz 2   |
| 2. Project: Economics of a New Business               | 16. Economic and Humanitarian Concerns                     |
| 3. International Economics                            | 17. Political Concerns                                     |
| 4. Case Study: The Middle East                        | 18. Historical Context of Foreign Policy                   |
| 5. Project: Environmental Politics                    | 19. Making and Implementing Foreign Policy                 |
| 6. Quiz 1   | 20. Means and Ends of Foreign Policy                       |
| 7. Types of Economic Systems                          | 21. Impact of Democracy and Individual Rights on the World |
| 8. Communism  | 22. International Organizations                            |
| 9. Fascism  | 23. Quiz 3   |
| 10. Project: The Jewish Holocaust                     | 24. Special Project*                                       |
| 11. American Capitalism                               | 25. Test   |
| 12. Personal, Political, and Economic Rights          | 26. Alternate Test*  |
| 13. Geography, Politics, and Economics of Governments | 27. Reference  |
| 14. Project: New Governments                          |  |

(\*) Indicates alternate assignment