**Social studies praxis prep seminar series**

**Wilmington University – Student Success Center**

Social Studies Content Area: **Civics**

Delaware State Standards

In this section, we will be covering the Delaware State Social Studies Standards for both Elementary and Middle Level

**Social Studies Anchor Standards**

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| **Civics Anchor Standard One: Students will examine the structure and purposes of governments with specific emphasis on constitutional democracy [Government].** |
| **K-3a:** Students will understand that leaders are sometimes chosen by election, and that elected officials are expected to represent the interests of the people who elected them |
| **K-3b:** Students will understand that positions of authority carry responsibilities and should be respected |
| **4-5a:** Students will understand that governments have a variety of structures and exist for many purposes and that in America these are explained in the United States and State constitutions |
| **4-5b:** Students will understand that the United States government is divided into executive, legislative, and judicial branches, each with specific responsibilities and powers. |
| **6-8a:** Students will understand why governments have the authority to make, enforce, and interpret laws and regulations, such as levying taxes, conducting foreign policy, and providing for national defense. |
| **6-8b:** Students will analyze the different functions of federal, state, and local governments in the United States and examine the reasons for the different organizational structures each level of government employs |

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| **Civics Anchor Standard Two: Students will understand the principles and ideals underlying the American political system [Politics].** |
| **K-3a:** Students will understand that respect for others, their opinions, and their property is a foundation of civil society in the United States |
| **4-5a:** Students will understand that the principle of due process protects American citizens by requiring the government to pass and follow fair laws and use fair procedures to execute and enforce those laws |
| **4-5b:** Students will understand that a society based on the ideal of individual liberty requires a commitment on the part of its citizens to the principles of civic responsibility and personal civility |
| **6-8a:** Students will understand that the concept of majority rule does not mean that the rights of minorities may be disregarded and will examine and apply the protections accorded those minorities in the American political system. |
| **6-8b:** Students will understand the principles and content of major American state papers such as the Declaration of Independence; United States Constitution (including the Bill of Rights); and the Federalist Papers |

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| **Civics Anchor Standard Three: Students will understand the responsibilities, rights, and privileges of United States citizens [Citizenship].** |
| **K-3a:** Students will understand that American citizens have distinct rights, responsibilities, and privileges |
| **4-5a:** Students will apply the fundamental rights and protections of American citizens guaranteed in the Bill of Rights to everyday situations |
| **6-8a:** Students will understand that civil rights secure political freedom while property rights secure economic freedom and that both are essential protections for United States citizens. |
| **6-8b:** Students will understand that American citizenship includes responsibilities such as voting, jury duty, obeying the law, service in the armed forces when required, and public service |

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| **Civics Anchor Standard Four: Students will develop and employ the civic skills necessary for effective, participatory citizenship [Participation].** |
| **K-3a:** Students will demonstrate the skills necessary for participating in a group, including defining an objective, dividing responsibilities, and working cooperatively |
| **4-5a:** Students will understand that in order to select effective leaders, citizens have to become informed about candidates' qualifications and the issues of the day. |
| **4-5b:** Students will identify and employ the formal and informal methods by which democratic groups function |
| **6-8a:** Students will follow the actions of elected officials, and understand and employ the mechanisms for communicating with them while in office. |

Social Studies Content Area: **Geography**

ETS Study Plan

**Elementary Social Studies Subtest 7815**

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| **Test Content Categories** |
| * 1. Understands the concepts of family and community |
| * 1. Understands the purposes and functions of government |
| * 1. Understands the various levels of government |
| * 1. Understands the various forms of government |
| * 1. Understands important ideas in the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights |
| * 1. Understands the characteristics of responsible citizenship |

**Middle Level Social Studies Test 5089**

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| **Test Content Categories** |
| **A. United States Government and Civics** |
| 1. Understands the key concepts and ideas on which the United States government is based (e.g., popular sovereignty, separation of powers, rule of law) |
| 2. Understands federalism and the basic relationship between the states and the national government |
| 3. Understands the origins, development, interpretations, and ongoing impact of the United States Constitution |
| 4. Understands the origin, role, and interactions of the three branches of the federal government |
| |  | | --- | | 5. Understands the development and political impact of civil rights and civil liberties in the United States | | 6. Understands how the election process operates in the United States | | 7. Understands the role of political parties, interest groups, and the media in the political process | | 8. Understands the rights, responsibilities, and duties of citizens | | **B. Comparative Government and International Relations** | | 1. Understands the major characteristics of different political systems (e.g., democracy, republic, totalitarianism) | | 2. Understands the relationship between political systems and economic conditions | |

Social Studies Content Area: **Civics**

Understanding Civics

**Directions:** Read through the Test Content Categories and identify 1 area where you feel you need the most guidance. Using the table below, extrapolate upon this key area. You will need to identify the standard that this content teaches to, unpack the standard, and create an essential question that will help you study. Once you have unpacked your standard and created your essential question, plan how you would go about answering this for a student. This may require additional research into your topic.

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| Area of Need from Test Content Categories |
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| Standard Associated with Content Area |
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| Unpack the Standard |
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| Essential Question |
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