

**Unit Four...Government**

**SS8CG1 The student will describe the role of citizens under Georgia’s constitution.**

Element Component	Student Understanding
Explain the basic structure of the Georgia state constitution.	11 articles, Bill of Rights, voting and elections, legislative branch, executive branch, education, revenue (taxes), etc...
Explain the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances	No one branch becomes too powerful and each branch checks to make sure that all of the branches are legal
Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and explain the voting qualifications and elections in Georgia.	Participate in elections, jury duty, follow all laws, stay informed on important issues, 18 and older can vote
Explain the role of political parties in government.	To create different ideologies/beliefs on issues like the environment, defense, the economy, education, etc...persuade voters to believe in their arguments and beliefs

**SS8CG2 The student will analyze the role of the legislative branch in Georgia state government.**

Element Component	Student Understanding
Explain the qualifications, term, election, and duties of members of the General Assembly (Georgia’s Legislative Branch)	House-21 years of age, 1-year residency in county, elected every two years, 2-year residency in state  Senate-25 years of age, 1-year residency in county, elected every two years, 2-year residency in state
Describe the organization of the General Assembly, with emphasis on leadership and the committee system.	House-Speaker of the House chooses leaders for the 36 committees  Senate-Lieutenant Governor chooses members for the 26 committees
Evaluate how the legislative branch fulfills its role as the lawmaking body for the state of Georgia.	Passes laws, approves the budget, 40-day work session

**SS8CG3 The student will analyze the role of the executive branch in Georgia state government.**

Explain the qualifications, term, election, and duties of the governor and lieutenant governor.	4-year term, US citizen for 15 years, Georgia resident for 6 years, 30-years old, enforces the laws, vetos legislation, creates the budget, state of address speech, in charge of National Guard in Georgia, can serve two consecutive terms, take a term off, and serve one more term for a total of 3 terms...LT. Governor takes over if governor can no longer perform the duties
Describe the organization of the executive branch, with emphasis on major policy areas of state programs (committees)	Has budgetary power but the General Assembly does not have to approve his yearly budget
Evaluate how the executive branch fulfills its role through state agencies that administer programs and enforce laws.	Monitors and regulates state agencies like the GBI, EPA, Consumer Protection, Insurance regulation, etc...and they also enforce laws

**SS8CG4 The student will analyze the role of the judicial branch in Georgia state government.**

Explain the structure of the court system in Georgia including trial and appellate procedures and how judges are selected.	Superior courts hear civil and criminal cases and hears appeals from smaller courts, court of appeals hears appeals from superior courts, and the supreme court hears appeals from the appeals court
Explain the difference between criminal law and civil	Criminal is state verses individual and Civil is person

law.	verses person
Describe the adult justice system, emphasizing the different jurisdictions, terminology, and steps in the criminal justice process.	Arrest, warrant, charges are explained, court case, verdict and sentencing, prison, and appeal
Describe ways to avoid trouble and settle disputes peacefully.	Negotiate, mediate, and compromise
Evaluate how the judicial branch fulfills its role in interpreting the laws of Georgia and ensuring justice in our legal system	Hears trials, listens to appeals, determines if laws are constitutional

**SS8CG5 The student will analyze the role of local governments in the state of Georgia.**

Explain the origins, functions, purposes, and differences of county and city governments in Georgia.	They focus on the needs of the citizens, charge license fees, take care of police and fire, pot holes, parks, etc...
Compare and contrast the weak mayor-council, the strong mayor-council, and the council-manager forms of city government.	Weak Mayor-voters choose the city council members and maybe the mayor (mayor's power is limited and they have few duties)  Strong Mayor-voters vote for mayor who appoints city officials (has a lot of power and has several duties)  Council Manager Plan-voters chose council members who make most decisions and they also choose the mayor
Evaluate the role of local government working with state agencies to administer state programs.	Local government cooperates with state programs to ensure the proper organization and they monitor progress
Describe the functions of special-purpose governments.	Specialize in their area; such as education, police and fire, parks and recreation and they determine needs, expenses, and budget

**SS8CG6 The student will explain how the Georgia court system treats juvenile offenders.**

Explain the difference between delinquent behavior and unruly behavior and the consequences of each	Delinquent-serious crimes that would get an adult in jail  Unruly-things like skipping school, not following curfew...nuisance behaviors
Describe the rights of juveniles when taken into custody.	Protect their identity (juvenile file is sealed), try to reeducate and teach them better so that don't commit the crime again or become adult criminals
Describe the juvenile justice system, emphasizing the different jurisdictions, terminology, and steps in the juvenile justice process.	Trial (adjudicatory hearing), sentencing (dispositional hearing), arrested (detained)...the juvenile court does not sentence or imprison juveniles only the juvenile service agency does this
Explain the seven delinquent behaviors that can subject juvenile offenders to the adult criminal process, how the decision to transfer to adult court is made, and the possible consequences.	Aggravated child molestation, aggravated battery, murder, rape, voluntary manslaughter, armed robbery  Aggravated-physical harm or attack with a weapon Battery-doing harm without a weapon Assault-threatening to cause harm  States look at each juvenile case and decides if the crime is worthy of adult punishment based on the juvenile's past offenses and the age of the offender

