

UNIT 1: Comparisons - *We the People* Texts High School Version

This chart is intended to show in general how the content in the new text compares with the old text. Please note where the biggest changes have come. Only primary content and emphasized content are shown.

1995 Edition

Unit 1: : What are the philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system?
(9 lessons)

1. State of nature
2. Natural rights
3. Ancient world ideas
4. Development of modern ideas of individual rights
5. British origins
6. Representative government in England
7. Colonial America
8. Causes of American Revolution, Declaration of Independence
9. State Constitutions

Changes in depth
of history and
philosophical origins



2008 Edition


Unit 1: What are the philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system?
(7 lessons)

1. Founders thoughts on constitutional government meaning and origins of ideas of constitutional government
2. Origins of ideas about civil life [good historical descriptions and philosophical explanations]
3. Historical description of events from Middle Ages in Europe to the Renaissance that affected the thinking of founders
4. British origins of American constitutionalism
5. Basic ideas about rights gained from the colonial experience
6. Why did colonists want to free themselves from England? Declaration of Independence; right of revolution
7. Basic ideas from the state constitutions

Comments: The new book has essentially the same subject matter as the old, but the organization of it flows more clearly and is in much greater depth than the earlier textbook. European history and philosophy are much more developed, providing a better foundation for students doing Unit One competitively.

UNIT 2: Comparisons - *We the People* Texts High School Version


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1995 Edition		2008 Edition
<p>Unit 2: How Did the Framers Create the Constitution? (8 lessons)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Problems under Articles of Confederation2. Philadelphia convention3. Virginia Plan4. Powers of Legislative Branch5. Executive and Judicial Branches6. Conflict over ratification7. Anti-Federalist views8. Federalist Views	<p>Some changes in emphasis; more depth in new book</p> 	<p>Unit 2: How did the Framers create the Constitution? (7 lessons)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reasons for Articles of Confederation, achievements of, weaknesses of, attempts to resolve problems.2. Philadelphia Convention3. Representation as a major issue4. Delegates views on important principles and issues5. National powers vs. state powers6. Ratification process - Anti-Federalist positions7. Federalist positions.

Comments: The new Unit Two includes greater depth on historical events and issues. The improved organization makes the whole unit flow more easily. The section on delegate views on important principles and issues is a very helpful addition. There is greater emphasis on federalism in the new text.

UNIT 3: Comparisons - *We the People* Texts High School Version

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1995 Edition		2008 Edition
<p>Unit 3: How did values and principles embodied in the Constitution shape American institutions and practices? (5 lessons)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Organization of new government under constitution2. Rights protected by the Constitution, adding Bill of Rights3. Rise of political parties - conflicts between Federalists and Republicans4. Judicial review - why the controversy5. Dividing power between state and federal governments	<p>Major changes in content and approach</p> 	<p>Unit 3: How has the Constitution been changed to further the ideals contained in the Declaration of Independence? (6 lessons)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How amendments and judicial review changed the Constitution; controversy over judicial review2. Role of political parties in constitutional system3. Constitution and slavery, Civil War constitutional issues4. Due process clause of 14th Amendment, procedural and substantive due process, selective incorporation5. Equal protection clause, analysis process6. Right to vote

Comments: The subject matter in Units 3 and 4 are partially reversed in the new book. Nice work on the two legal issues - due process and equal protection. You may want to combine cases from old book with cases in new or some cases may be lost.

UNIT 4: Comparisons - *We the People* Texts High School Version

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1995 Edition

2008 Edition

Unit 4: How have the protections of the Bill of Rights been developed and expanded?
(6 lessons)

Major changes



Unit 4: How have the values and principles embodied in the Constitution shaped American institutions and practices?
(6 lessons)

1. Issues that led to civil war, secession
2. Civil War Amendments
3. 14th Amendment- due process, equal protection
4. Civil Rights Movements, Civil Rights Acts
5. Expansion of right to vote
6. How law corrects injustices and solves problems

1. Powers of Congress vs. powers of Parliament
2. How Congress functions; bill passing, investigations, impeachment
3. Role of the President—foreign policy powers, war powers, expansion of powers, limits, executive orders, president vs. prime minister
4. Federal bureaucracy—administrative agencies, rule making, checks on
5. Supreme Court—powers, interpreting the Constitution, checks on the Court
6. Federalism—states as laboratories of democracy, state and local government functions.

Comments: The new Unit Four contains the whole spectrum of government from the 3 branches, to bureaucracy, to federalism and state and local government. This unit is very broad in scope and may require competitive teams to place an extra person on the Unit 4 panel. With the additions to content made here, this text is adequate preparation for the AP exam or any other American government exam. You won't need another text. There are some areas missing from the last 8 years of national government which would make good issue discussions, such as presidential signing statements, federal wiretaps without warrants, and war powers of the president which infringe on individual rights. Also, dealing with terrorism, what is acceptable?

UNIT 5: Comparisons - *We the People* Texts High School Version

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1995 Edition

2008 Edition

Unit 5: What rights does the Bill of Rights protect?

1. First Amendment - Establishment/Free exercise clause
2. First Amendment – Expression, speech, press, limits
3. First Amendment - Assembly, Petition and Association, extent
4. Procedural due process, substantive due process; adversarial system
5. 4th and 5th Amendments - how they protect against unreasonable government
7. How do 5th through 8th amendments protect our rights? Issues involving these amendments

More depth; different organization



Unit 5: What rights does the Bill of Rights protect? (6 lessons)

1. Evolution of the Bill of Rights, Kinds of Rights, positive rights, negative rights, 2nd and 3rd Amendments; theories of 9th Amendment, 10th Amendment; rights in main body of Constitution.
2. First Amendment—effects on establishment and free exercise, interpretations of each
3. First Amendment—free expression, importance of speech, press, limitations
4. First Amendment—assembly, petition, association, scope, limits
5. Protections offered by 4th and 5th Amendments, probably cause, exclusionary rule, self-incrimination, immunity, Miranda Rule
6. 5th, 6th and 8th Amendment protections, details of the rights in each amendment, capital punishment controversy

Comments: There are additional topics and greater depth in the new text. Check to see that none of the cases discussed in original text are forgotten when using the new text. Seventh amendment is not really discussed anywhere. Don't forget it.

UNIT 6: Comparisons - *We the People* Texts High School Version

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1995 Edition		2008 Edition
Unit 6: What are the roles of the citizen in American democracy? (6 lessons)	Major changes and additions 	Unit 6: What challenges might face American Constitutional Democracy in the 21st Century? (6 lessons)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meaning of citizenship, dealing with enormous diversity, melting pot vs. cultural pluralism, melting pot vs. cultural pluralism, voluntary associations classical republicanism vs. modern view 2. How do we use citizenship? Common good, citizen behavior learned 3. Possible citizenship changes in 3rd century increasing diversity, impact of technology, global interdependence 4. What can be learned from other countries? Parliamentary systems, Four Freedoms, European Convention on Human Rights, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, negative rights, positive rights 5. Issues facing American citizens in 3rd century, threats to privacy, unenumerated rights, strict construction vs. broad construction of Constitution, judicial activism vs. judicial 6. Returning to Fundamental principles 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meaning of citizenship, good citizenship and self-interest, enlightened self-interest, naturalization, status of Native Americans, dual citizenship, losing citizenship, issue—alien voting 2. Importance of civic engagement, voluntary associations, NGOs, social organizations, local government, how to participate, improving voting, connection to self-interest, connection to common good, self-interest vs. enlightened self-interest vs. common good 3. Results of Civil Rights Movements, segregation to desegregation, civil rights acts, disobedience, native American rights, women’s rights 4. How American ideas have influenced other countries 5. Key challenges of the future—population growth, immigration, dwindling supplies of water, oil, natural gas, extreme diversity, effects of modern technology, civil discourse essential, life and death issues 6. U.S. in foreign affairs, power to act in foreign affairs, congressional powers, executive powers, Supreme Court power, international law, citizen powers, globalization. 7. Returning to fundamental principles

Comments: No mention of global climate change, global warming. No mention of food shortages, disease epidemics, international terrorism. These issues should be included in your discussions.

Reference Section: Added to new text: Congressional Hearings, Executive Order 9981, Briefing a Supreme Court Opinion
Omitted in new text: Emancipation Proclamation, Letter from a Birmingham City Jail, Biographical Notes