

## LIFEPAC CIVICS UNIT ONE

# A NEW NATION

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# FOREWORD

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LIFEPAC Civics is a five-unit high school elective course that will examine American government. Through the ages, there have been governments wherever there have been significant numbers of people. Governments are formed because groups need an organization to create and enforce rules that control conduct within the population.

What is needed to establish a government? Who sets up the government? What freedoms should be available to the society? What ingredients make up a good government? By examining the forms of government established by tribes and nations, we can gain an idea for some of the building blocks that are required for making a government successful.

Some magnificent documents were written in the 1700s. One of the most treasured documents in American history is the Declaration of Independence. With the Declaration of Independence, America announced its intention to become a free and self-supporting nation. It took until 1783 to finally win that independence and then the country was already dealing with the problems of collecting taxes, enforcing laws, and establishing trade. Through argument, debate, deliberation, and agreement, brilliant minds assembled what is considered one of the best governmental writings in the history of nations, the Constitution of the United States of America. Though their individual views differed in many aspects the religious influence on the actions of the Founding Fathers was significant. As the settlements grew into colonies, the colonies into states and the states into a nation, the structure of government grew to meet these needs.

LIFEPAC Civics contains the following units. This specific unit is highlighted below.

**Unit 1 — A New Nation**

Unit 2 — The Constitution

Unit 3 — Branches of Government

Unit 4 — Government by the People

Unit 5 — Relationship to the World

**Note:** All vocabulary words appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used in the text. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given in the Glossary.

## UNIT 1 INTRODUCTION

The study of civics begins naturally with an examination of why government and politics are important and, therefore, necessary. Section I describes the differences among one's civic, political, and private life. The purpose and necessity of politics and governments will be explained.

Section II begins with a historical account of the events that led up to the American Revolution. Were the colonists justified in declaring their independence? This chapter will examine the historical precedents for their decision and the specific events that they used to justify this action. The difference between natural and given rights will be described. The violation of the colonists' natural rights as British citizens was the basis for the writing of the Declaration of Independence. As the Founding Fathers gathered to formulate plans for a new government, they reviewed their knowledge of the

classical governments of Babylon, Greece, and Rome.

Section III takes an in-depth look at the forms of government, with an emphasis upon the importance of a limited, representative style of government as being the goal of the Founding Fathers. They determined that a republic was the appropriate form for the American nation. They merged the best parts of classical liberalism and republicanism into the American constitutional republic.

Finally, Section IV describes how the debate and discussion which took place and how they revolved around the various forms of government: unitary, confederal, and federal. Fundamental values and principles as well as Christian influences led the Founding Fathers to compromises which guaranteed the success of the new nation.

## UNIT GOALS

**When you have completed Unit 1, you should be better prepared to:**

- *Compare and contrast the activities of one's civic, political, and private life. (Section I)*
- *Explain the purpose and necessity of government and politics. (Section I)*
- *Describe historical events and documents from Biblical days to the time of the American Revolution which influenced the thinking and the actions of the Founding Fathers. (Section II)*
- *Define natural and given rights and describe their importance in the lives of the citizens and in the limitations established upon the power and authority of government. (Section II)*
- *Explain how the ideas that are expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were not original ideas of the Founding Fathers, but rather were gathered from their knowledge of classical governments and their familiarity with significant historical documents. (Section III)*
- *Understand the American beliefs and principles that are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and how they contribute to our national identity. (Section IV)*

# I. THE NATURE OF CITIZENSHIP, POLITICS, AND GOVERNMENT

THE STUDY OF CIVICS NECESSITATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE CITIZEN, HIS SOCIETY, AND HIS GOVERNMENT. IT IS MORE THAN JUST KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS ABOUT GOVERNMENT. IT IS AN ANALYSIS OF CITIZENSHIP, GOVERNMENT, AND POLITICS. IT IS A STUDY OF THE NECESSITY FOR ESTABLISHING GOVERNMENT AND THE PURPOSES THAT GOVERNMENT IS DESIGNED TO FULFILL. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS IS ALSO INCLUDED. THE LESSONS FOR THIS SECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

## LESSON 1

### THE DISTINCTIONS AMONG CIVIC, POLITICAL, AND PRIVATE LIFE

The first lesson defines the three terms: civic life, political life, and private life. No individual can avoid at least a partial involvement in each of these three aspects of life. In a free society every citizen voluntarily determines the extent to which he will become involved in each facet of his life. At the completion of this lesson, you should be better prepared to:

- *Define each of the following terms: civic life, political life, and private life.*
- *List activities of citizens in each of the categories listed above.*
- *Define the term government.*
- *Identify the source of the authority of government and describe at least four of the government's functions.*

## LESSON 2

### THE NECESSITY OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

The need for government was established as far back as the Biblical record of Cain and Abel. Man's inability to exercise self-control demonstrated the need for some form of government. To determine that form, it was necessary that citizens work through the political process to arrive at compromises that provided the framework for their government. At the completion of this lesson, you should be better prepared to:

- *Define the term government and explain its role in the life of the citizen.*
- *Explain why politics takes place any time a group of individuals is gathered together.*
- *List at least two reasons why government is necessary.*
- *List at least two reasons why politics is necessary.*

## LESSON 3

### THE PURPOSES OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Society has suggested many purposes for the establishment of government. Many are legitimate purposes, but each issue raises the question of government involvement. The political process is the method for finding compromises and providing stability. At the completion of this lesson, you should be better prepared to:

- *Evaluate, debate, and defend competing ideas as to the purposes of government.*
- *Discuss how the positions that a government takes with regard to its purposes will affect how it interacts with its citizens.*
- *List historical examples of governments which governed according to very specific purposes, either good or bad.*
- *Explain the need for the political process in the insuring of a peaceful and stable government.*

# THE DISTINCTIONS AMONG CIVIC, POLITICAL, AND PRIVATE LIFE

An individual's relationships—civic, political, and private—are often interwoven and often inseparable. Nevertheless, students must be aware of the distinct differences among these three elements of their lives. Understanding these interrelationships and the differing ideas held by others can enable the student to become influential in contributing to the well-being of his government and community.

## OBJECTIVES

- *The student will be able to define each of the following terms: civic life, political life, and private life.*
- *The student will be able to list citizen activities in each of the categories listed above.*
- *The student will be able to define the term government.*
- *The student will be able to identify the source of government authority and describe at least four of the government's functions.*

## VOCABULARY

**civic life** — that part of a citizen's life which is involved in the public affairs of his community, state, or nation

**civics** — study of the privileges and responsibilities of a citizen; an analysis of the structure and organization of government

**government** — the exercise of authority and power to provide direction, control, and protection; the institutions by which a territory and its people are ruled

**politics** — practice of conducting affairs involved in the affairs of government and its agencies; involvement in public affairs; meeting together for the purpose of reaching agreement in the decisions that affect the public interest

## CIVICS IN ACTION

**Civics** is a study of the organization and structure of government. But more than that, it is also an analysis of the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens, with the goal of preparing students to become active, participating citizens of their communities and country.

John Smith was born in a small Midwestern city. His birth was duly noted by means of a birth certificate filed in the county clerk's office at the local county courthouse. At an early age, his parents took him to the Baptist church located near his home. At the age of five, he was enrolled in the kindergarten class at a public elementary school. When he entered high school, he and his parents made the decision to enroll him in a private church-related school. Upon graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Air Force and served his country for six years. During this time, he married his childhood sweetheart, and they began their family. Following his service years, he returned to his hometown and completed his college education, receiving a degree in business. He

then moved into his family's auto parts business and became an active church and community leader. He served on the local school board and participated in numerous political campaigns, working for the election of candidates from his political party. He and his family enjoyed many vacations, including one to Europe. Upon retirement, he enjoyed a comfortable living as a recipient of his retirement benefits and Social Security. At the age of eighty-five, he died, and his death was duly noted by means of a death certificate filed with the county clerk at the local county courthouse.

This is a fictitious story, but it demonstrates the actual life story of millions of Americans who have lived or are living in the United States today. It illustrates the fact that there are several facets at work in the life of every citizen. These facets include civic life, political life, and private life, which all function under the direction and protection of an organized government.

## DEFINITION OF GOVERNMENT

In order for individuals to get along in a society, there is a need for the existence and practice of government. What is government? Government is the exercise of authority and power by an individual or institution to provide direction, regulation, constraint, and control. It makes use of laws and rules based on

moral code. "Good" government acknowledges the authority of God and follows His laws in order to restrain disorderly conduct and provide an environment for the development and practice of right conduct and good relationships. The activities of every citizen's life fall basically into three categories: civic, political, and private. ■



**Fill in the blank for each of the following statements.**

- 1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of the organization and structure of government.
- 1.2 The three facets of every individual's life are his \_\_\_\_\_ life, his \_\_\_\_\_ life, and his \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- 1.3 Government is the exercise of authority and power by an individual or an institution to provide \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_ .

## CIVIC LIFE

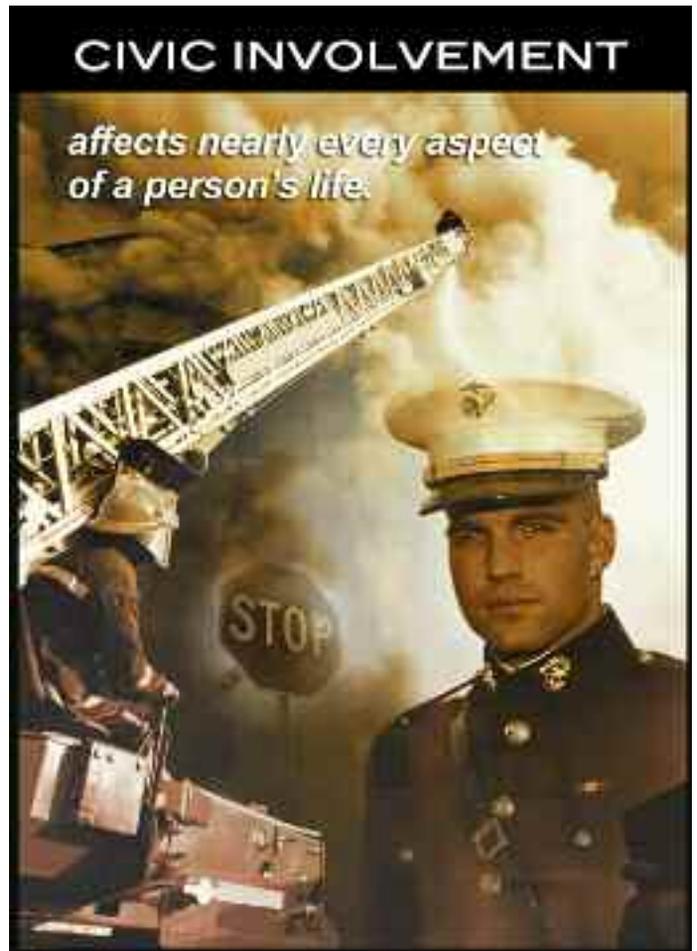
**Civic life** is that part of a citizen's life which is involved in the public affairs of his community, state, and nation. It consists of practical aspects such as the recording of vital statistics — births and deaths. It includes the years in public education and the licenses that must be secured for automobiles and drivers. It also includes the laws regarding speed limits and other laws regulating the operation of vehicles.

Civic life involves the taxes that each citizen pays throughout his lifetime, and it includes the Social Security payments that one receives upon retirement or for another reason. It involves one's interaction with the police and firemen as they perform their duties on behalf of citizens. The protection citizens enjoy as soldiers fight battles on their behalf, and the relief that they receive following natural disasters all come as a result of the provision of our government. The safety that citizens enjoy when they travel by airplane, train, or bus is the result of careful regulation by government agencies.

As the illustrations above demonstrate, no citizen can escape an active involvement in the civic life of his community. The importance of being an informed citizen who knows the rules, regulations, and laws of the country should be an apparent and obvious fact. The old proverb, "Ignorance of the law is no excuse," is as true today as it was when that statement was first made.

## POLITICAL LIFE

Politics is the process whereby individuals with differing views and opinions come together and, through





the process of discussion, debate, and compromise, arrive at an acceptable understanding and general agreement. The agreement reached then becomes binding upon all of those involved. All sides join together to achieve the new common goal.

This process is found not only at the governmental level, but also in almost every institution and organization where people gather. It exists wherever people live together in groups, because there will always be situations in which they must reach an acceptable group decision in order to be able to accomplish a common goal.

Many citizens do not view themselves as politicians, nor do many ever anticipate running for public office. Most do not even expect to be involved in political activities, such as working for a political party or campaigning on behalf of a candidate. Nevertheless, no one can completely avoid taking a political stand at some point or another. Whenever one takes a position regarding some issue, such as abortion, euthanasia, or taxes; or expresses himself about a particular political candidate, he has taken a political stand.

Recognizing that one cannot escape involvement in political life, and accepting the fact that to be a good citizen requires being an informed citizen, it should be the goal of every individual to study carefully the issues and to actively participate in the decision-making process of his government. The strength and future of the United States depends upon informed and actively involved citizens. More emphasis will be placed on this subject later in this Civics course.

### PRIVATE LIFE

The third aspect of a citizen's life is his private life. This, of course, is that part of his life which is spent in personal and private pursuits. For most individuals, this will involve the majority of his time and energy. Place of residence, employment, church attendance, marriage, and recreational activities are all part of one's private life but are also influenced by the government. For example, an individual may choose to be an automobile mechanic, but he cannot establish his business at his residence if he happens to reside in a housing subdivision which restricts business activities at the homes within the subdivision. By choosing to live there, he has yielded this right for the good of the community.

### RELATIONSHIP OF THE THREE

Different opinions as to the proper relationship between one's civic, political, and private life influence that person's attitude regarding the purpose of government. One person may feel strongly that the personal and private lives of the citizen should be completely free from government interference. Others may feel that the government is responsible for regulating private behavior in certain matters. Some feel that they should be free to express their political dissatisfaction by burning the flag, while others feel that the government should make it a crime to desecrate this national symbol. Citizens need to understand these differing opinions so that they can make informed decisions based on their own well-defined beliefs. They can then support leaders who will defend the particular position that they feel is correct. ■



**Fill in the blank.**

- 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_ is that part of an individual's life which is concerned with the public affairs of one's community.
- 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ is the process whereby individuals with differing views and opinions come together and through the process of discussion and compromise, arrive at an acceptable compromise.
- 1.6 \_\_\_\_\_ is that part of an individual's life that is spent on personal pursuits.



**Answer True or False.**

- 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_ The political process is found only at the government level.
- 1.8 \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone gets involved in politics at some time or another.



**Complete the following.**

- 1.9 List four things that every individual does that are a part of his public life.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.10 List four examples of activities that are a part of one's personal life.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.11 **Thought Question:** Give an example, other than the ones in this lesson, of a situation in which individuals may have different opinions as to the involvement of the government in one's private lives.
   
\_\_\_\_\_
   
\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENTS MUST UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP OF THESE THREE ASPECTS OF THEIR LIVES—CIVIC LIFE, POLITICAL LIFE, AND PRIVATE LIFE—IF THEY ARE TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING WISE AND INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT ISSUES THAT CONFRONT THEM. THE DIFFERENT OPINIONS THAT CITIZENS HOLD ABOUT THE EXTENT OF GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE IN THE PRIVATE LIVES OF ITS CITIZENS GREATLY AFFECT THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD LAWS THAT ARE INTRODUCED OR CANDIDATES THAT ARE RUNNING FOR OFFICE. UNDERSTANDING THESE DIFFERING IDEAS, EXERCISING THEIR RIGHTS TO BE HEARD, AND BEING INVOLVED IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS CAN HELP TO INSURE THAT GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER OVERSTEP ITS BOUNDS OR ABUSE ITS POWER.

# THE NECESSITY OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

In this lesson, the student will review the definition of government. Applying the principles of politics as defined in the previous lesson, the student will recognize that there are conflicting opinions as to how governments should operate. Differing opinions must be discussed and intelligently debated in an informed manner. This will lead to wise decisions as to how the government should operate. Without the give and take of political compromise, governments can quickly deteriorate into autocratic dictatorships or centers of anarchy.

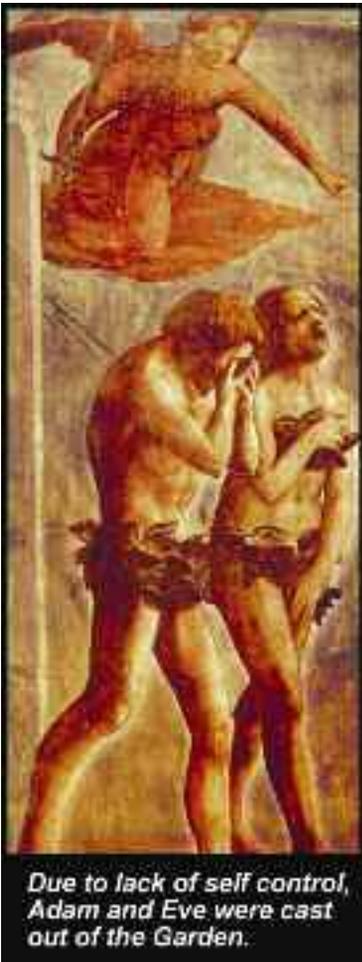
## OBJECTIVES

- The student will be able to define the term government and explain its role in the life of the citizen.
- The student will be able to explain why politics takes place any time a group of individuals is gathered together.
- The student will be able to list at least two reasons why government is necessary.
- The student will be able to list at least two reasons why politics is necessary.

## VOCABULARY

**coercive** — brought about through the use of force

**self-government** — the ability to control one's own behavior and to act responsibly in every situation



Due to lack of self control, Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden.

## THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT

Government has been defined as that formal institution that has the final authority to make decisions relative to the protection of its citizens, the resolution of conflict between its citizens or between the citizen and the government, and the management of resources held for the common good of all citizens. The types of government and the process by which the Founding Fathers brought forth the Constitution of the United States will be discussed later in this Civics course.

The need for government has been demonstrated from earliest Bible times. God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and gave them the opportunity to exercise self-government. **Self-government** is the ability of an individual to enjoy all the freedom and liberty that he desires, while also demonstrating self-control in his relationships with others. Adam and Eve and their sons, Cain and Abel, quickly revealed their inability to practice self-control. Man's sinful nature guarantees the failure of a system based strictly on self-government. As a result, God ordained government to oversee the affairs of man.

## CIVIL GOVERNMENT IS NECESSARY

From the time that Cain murdered Abel, it was evident that there was a need in society for a **coercive** restraint upon violence. In contrast with some contemporary theories, Scripture clearly shows that man does not voluntarily control himself. *“There is a way which seemeth (seems) right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* (Proverbs 14:12) Scripture also shows that when man fails to control himself, God will often act using coercive means. In



Romans 13:1-4, Paul states that civil government is responsible before God to use its authority wisely to punish crime. Thus, it is the task of civil government to possess and use the “sword” against “that which is evil,” even to the point of ending a life.

The study of history from the beginning up to today includes the rise and fall of civilizations and the analysis of those governments used to limit and control the activities of its citizens. ■



**Answer True or False.**

- 1.12 \_\_\_\_\_ Cain and Abel were unable to exercise self-control because of their sinful nature.
- 1.13 \_\_\_\_\_ Governments must be able to make moral decisions, to discern right from wrong.



**Fill in the blanks with the correct words.**

- 1.14 Paul states that civil government is responsible to use its authority to punish \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.15 Government has the authority to use the \_\_\_\_\_ against that which is \_\_\_\_\_ .

**RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT PROTECTS PEOPLE**

The positive aspect of civil government is its role in protecting people from harm. People need protection from foreign enemies and from those who break the law. Unfortunately, people sometimes need to be protected from their own leaders or even from themselves. This protection depends upon the ability of government to make moral judgments, discerning right from wrong.



In recognition of this principle, Daniel Webster once pointed out, “*Whatever makes men good Christians makes them good citizens.*” Webster understood that God’s laws provide assistance so that government can set an example of serving others by protecting what is good and punishing what is evil. ■



**Fill in the blanks with the correct answers.**

- 1.16 Daniel Webster said, “*Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good \_\_\_\_\_ .*”
- 1.17 The ability to exercise self-control is called \_\_\_\_\_ .



**Wherever two or more differing opinions exist, politics are necessary to achieve compromise and agreement.**

### **THE NEED FOR POLITICS**

Once man surrendered some of his personal rights and freedoms to a government in order to insure the general well-being of his society as a whole, the need for a political system became quickly apparent. Wherever two or more individuals are gathered together, there will be differing opinions. And, of course, the larger the group the greater the need for some means of achieving compromise and agreement.

Unfortunately, there have been many governments down through history which have severely

restricted, often by force, the ability of their citizens to exercise their rights in the political decision-making process. Others provided great opportunity for input by their citizens into the formulating of guidelines for government. As the Founding Fathers gathered to determine the form of government for the United States, they drew upon their knowledge of the successes and failures of these early governments. The wisdom of their choices and the compromises which resulted are clearly evident in the unparalleled document that we know as the Constitution of the United States. ■



#### **Answer *True or False.***

- 1.18 \_\_\_\_\_ Large groups of people do not require a means for achieving compromise or agreement.
- 1.19 \_\_\_\_\_ Many governments in history have severely restricted the political decision-making ability of their citizens.
- 1.20 \_\_\_\_\_ The Constitution demonstrates the wisdom of the Founding Fathers and their willingness to make compromises.

HISTORY HAS CLEARLY SHOWN THE NEED FOR A PROPER BALANCE OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS. GOVERNMENT WITHOUT POLITICS WOULD QUICKLY EVOLVE INTO A TYRANNY, WHILE POLITICS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT WOULD DETERIORATE INTO CHAOS OR ANARCHY.

# THE PURPOSE OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

In 1641 John Milton said, “[A purpose of government is] to inbreed and cherish in a great people the seeds of *virtu*, [sic] and public civility.” This lesson will examine some of the purposes for government and politics. The student will discover that there are competing opinions as to the purposes for government and politics, and they will learn how those differing opinions give rise to the need for a political process. Each citizen must evaluate carefully his own position on each of these viewpoints and be ready to take a stand on political issues.

## OBJECTIVES

- The student will be able to evaluate, debate, and defend competing ideas as to the purpose of government.
- The student will be able to discuss how the positions that a government takes concerning its purposes affects its interactions with citizens.
- The student will be able to list historical examples of governments which governed according to very specific purposes, either good or bad.
- The student will be able to explain the need for the political process in the insuring of a peaceful and stable government.

## VOCABULARY

**common good** — that which is for the benefit of the political society as a whole

## GOD APPOINTS MAN TO GOVERN (GENESIS 1-2)

As the absolute ruler or governor of the world, God made man in His image and gave to him a special purpose of government in His creation. In Genesis 1:28, it states, “*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*”

The first man, called “Adam,” was created in the image of God as a spiritual and physical person without sin or imperfection. He was a rational and moral being. He was an intelligent person who understood who he was and what he had been created to do. Mankind is distinct from animals; moreover, Scripture states he was also designed to properly govern the world, including himself and the institutions of worship and family.

## THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT

There are many different opinions as to the purpose of government. While some purposes may be

acceptable to nearly everyone, frequently, the *extent* to which a particular purpose should actually be applied in the lives of its citizens falls into question. Other purposes bring marked disagreement among members of the society. The political process helps to determine how any given government shall be organized. Through the political process of debate and compromise, the form of the government will emerge through the majority view of the citizens. Political issues and viewpoints will come and go, depending on the strength of the leadership to influence public opinion. The involvement of all citizens is vital in order to insure that the government will accurately reflect the will of the people.

## CONSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES

The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States briefly states the primary goals of the framers of the Constitution as they wrote the plan for this new government. Their purposes were to “*form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence,*



*promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”* Probably the most noble of the purposes for government and politics is, as the framers of the Constitution

stated, “to form a more perfect union.” History has shown that they achieved this purpose, perhaps beyond their highest expectations. ■



**Answer True or False.**

- 1.21 \_\_\_\_\_ Man was never intended to govern.
- 1.22 \_\_\_\_\_ Adam was created as a rational and moral being.



**Answer the following.**

- 1.23 The Preamble to the Constitution states at least six purposes for government. List at least four of those purposes.

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**CONFLICTING PURPOSES**

Many different purposes are given for the existence of government and politics. Some would say that one purpose is to protect the individual rights of its citizens. Certainly, in general terms, this is a noble purpose for government. The conflict develops as to the extent of involvement that the government should assume in the lives of its citizens. As the writers of the Constitution stated, the government should

“establish justice.” It is important that the government insure that every citizen has access to fair and equal treatment under the law. Maintaining a proper balance between protecting the rights and interfering in the rights of its citizens is a key factor.

Another purpose held by some is that the government should improve the ethical and moral character of its citizens. It is apparent from a study of the background



of many of the writers of the Constitution that they were concerned about the moral character of the citizens. Again, the conflict develops and the political debate rages as to the extent of the involvement of the government in this matter. Some would say that the government has no business legislating moral issues, while others would say that the government cannot avoid certain moral regulations.

Some societies in history have taken the position that a purpose of government is to promote a particular religion or ethnic group. The dangers of this opinion are rather evident. The debate continues in the United States as to the extent that the government should be involved in religion. The issue of separation of church and state continues to draw strong and vocal support on both sides of the question. What is the difference between the protection of the freedom of religion and the establishment of a religion? The battle continues to wage in the courts, in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and among the citizens of the United States, as to just what the involvement of the government should be in religious issues.

An important purpose of government and politics is to insure the protection of its citizens and to make certain that order is maintained in cases of natural disasters, in times of terrorist activities, in times of war, or when major issues of conflict develop between groups of its citizens.

Politics and government have been given a major role to play in the maintaining of economic security and prosperity. Political groups hold widely diverse opinions as to the extent of the involvement that government should play in this responsibility. A proper balance in fulfilling this purpose emerges as these political groups work together to find compromise and areas of agreement.

Another purpose of government is to provide for the national security of the nation and of its citizens. Protection from terrorism or from attack from outside its borders is an extremely important role of the government. Even here, the political process finds conflict in the role that the United States should take in insuring the safety and protection of its citizens. Support is always divided when the government



takes action against an enemy nation, even in light of obvious involvement by citizens of that nation in acts of terror and crime against the United States. Politics arrives at compromise and outlines acceptable action for the good of its citizens.

Promoting the **common good** of the people is another purpose often stated for the existence and role of government. While this is definitely a noble goal for the government, it is a very generally stated goal, the specifics of which are frequently debated in political circles. Just what *is* the common good of the people? Every generation will debate this issue and arrive at its own opinion as to just what the role of government should be in promoting the common good of the people.

The beliefs that one holds as to the purpose of government will affect that person's view of the relationships between government and the individual and between the government and society. This is the greatness of the United States of America. America's citizens are free to express their opinions, to hold differing views from their leaders and their neighbors, and to be involved in the political process. While the exact purposes of the framers of the Constitution may not always be apparent in every debate, the Constitution continues to serve as the stabilizing law of the land. Candidates come and go, political parties and philosophies change, but the government remains basically unchanged because of the safeguards written into the Constitution. The interaction of the government, its citizens, and the political process has effectively worked. ■



**Complete the following.**

- 1.24 **Thought Question:** Discuss a purpose of government on which individuals may have differing opinions as to the extent of the existence of government for this reason.

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**Fill in the blanks with the correct answers.**

- 1.25 To "establish justice," government should insure that every citizen has a right to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ treatment under law.

- 1.26 Government should maintain a proper balance between \_\_\_\_\_ the rights and \_\_\_\_\_ with the rights of its citizens.

- 1.27 List four opinions that were discussed that have been suggested as purposes for government.

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- 1.28 Despite the differing opinions of the citizens, the \_\_\_\_\_ provides the stabilizing law of the land.

## THE PURPOSE OF POLITICS

The purpose of the political process has a direct relationship to the necessity for the process as discussed in the previous lesson. Societies cannot exist where there is a continual conflict between opposing viewpoints and where there is no provision for a coming together of these ideas. Nothing can be accomplished without the give and take of discussion and compromise as conflicting ideas are debated and discussed in a public and open forum.

The purpose of politics is to provide this forum for achieving harmony and unity within a society. Contrary to the opinion of some, politics is not simply imposing the will of the majority upon the minority. Rather, it provides an environment in which the two views can be discussed for the purpose of finding common grounds of agreement, thus enabling the opposing sides to work together.

Certainly, not everyone will necessarily be happy with the decisions and compromises which are reached or with the course of action that is decided upon. Nevertheless, the political process allows those in the minority to continue to work to change the minds of those in the majority and thus to swing them over to their viewpoints. The continual change of the political leadership of this and other countries shows the success of this process.

Politics is not a single act, but rather an ongoing process of debate and discussion. Its purpose is to insure that the will of the majority is always enforced, while the will of the minority is protected. It allows the opportunity for a continual voice of the people to be heard and guarantees the ability of the citizens to effect change as they see necessary and appropriate.



### Answer True or False.

- 1.29 \_\_\_\_\_ Societies cannot exist where there is continual conflict and no process for resolving these differences.
- 1.30 \_\_\_\_\_ Politics is simply the enforcing of the will of the majority onto the minority.
- 1.31 \_\_\_\_\_ Politics is an on-going process.



### Fill in the blanks with the correct answers.

- 1.32 Politics provides a forum for achieving \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ within a society.
- 1.33 Politics allows for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the people to be heard.

MANY PURPOSES HAVE BEEN GIVEN AS TO THE EXISTENCE OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS. THESE COULD BE GENERALLY CLASSIFIED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN SOCIETY, TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES, TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL SECURITY, AND TO MAKE ECONOMIC DECISIONS. AS A STUDENT AND CITIZEN, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU STUDY THE ISSUES, EVALUATE THE QUESTIONS, AND ARRIVE AT CONCLUSIONS THAT ENABLE YOU TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. THE CONTINUED SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPENDS ON THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF ALL OF ITS CITIZENS.

**Adult Check:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial Date

# REVIEW FOR SELF TEST 1

Read the section review that follows and look over the objectives and problems in this section to prepare for Self Test 1. If you did not complete the problems successfully or are not sure about the information that relates to each objective, review the material again.

When you are ready, take Self Test 1. The Self Test will check your understanding of this section. Any items you miss on this test will show what areas you need to restudy.

THE STUDY OF CIVICS NECESSITATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERACTION OF THE CITIZEN, HIS SOCIETY, AND HIS GOVERNMENT. IT IS MORE THAN JUST KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS OF GOVERNMENT. IT IS AN ANALYSIS OF WHAT MAKES UP CITIZENSHIP, GOVERNMENT, AND POLITICS. IT IS A STUDY OF THE NECESSITY FOR ESTABLISHING GOVERNMENT AND THE PURPOSES THAT GOVERNMENT IS DESIGNED TO FULFILL. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT OPERATION MAKES UP THE POLITICAL PROCESS. THE LESSONS FOR THIS SECTION WERE AS FOLLOWS:

## LESSON 1

### THE DISTINCTIONS AMONG CIVIC, POLITICAL, AND PRIVATE LIFE

The first lesson defined the three terms: civic life, political life, and private life. No individual can avoid at least a partial involvement in each of these three aspects of life. In a free society every citizen voluntarily determines the extent to which he will become involved in each of these facets of his life. Having completed this lesson, you should be better prepared to:

- Define each of the following terms: civic life, political life, and private life.
- List citizen activities in each of the categories listed above.
- Define the term government.
- Identify the source of government authority and describe at least four of the government's functions.

## LESSON 2

### THE NECESSITY OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

The need for government was established as far back as the Biblical record of Cain and Abel. Man's inability to exercise self-control demonstrated the need for some form of government. To determine that form, it was necessary that citizens work through the political process to arrive at compromises that provided the framework for their government. Having completed this lesson, you should be better prepared to:

- Define the term government and explain its role in the life of the citizen.
- Explain why politics takes place any time a group of individuals is gathered together.
- List at least two reasons why government is necessary.
- List at least two reasons why politics is necessary.

## LESSON 3

### THE PURPOSES OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Society has suggested many purposes for the establishment of government. Many are legitimate purposes, but each issue raises the question of the extent of government involvement. The political process is the method for finding compromises and providing stability. Having completed this lesson, you should be better prepared to:

- Evaluate, debate, and defend competing ideas as to the purposes of government.
- Discuss how the positions that a government takes with regard to its purposes will affect how it interacts with its citizens.
- List historical examples of governments which governed according to very specific purposes, either good or bad.
- Explain the need for the political process in the insuring of a peaceful and stable government.

# SELF TEST I

Fill in the blanks below with the correct answers. (3 points for each blank)

- 1.01 Civics is a study of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of government.
- 1.02 Civics also includes a study of the citizen's \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.03 List two examples of activities that may have been used in the fictitious illustration for each of the three facets of the citizen's life:
- Civic Life
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- Political Life
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- Private Life
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.04 Define government. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.05 The citizen's involvement in government affairs makes up his \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- 1.06 When the citizen votes for a political candidate, he is exercising a privilege in his \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- 1.07 List three political activities in which citizens may take part.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.08 Activities involved in personal pursuits make up the majority of the time in a citizen's \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- 1.09 List three purposes other than those listed in the Preamble, which some people believe to be the responsibility of government.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.010 The Biblical example of Cain and Abel shows that man lacks the ability of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.011 God reacts to man's failures by exerting \_\_\_\_\_ means.
- 1.012 What does the Biblical example of Cain and Abel reveal about man's nature? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.013 Define self-government. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.014 Government was ordained by \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.015 From which four groups or individuals do people sometimes need to be protected?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.016 According to Daniel Webster, what guarantees that one will be a good citizen?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.017 Government should protect what is \_\_\_\_\_ and punish what is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.018 Why may it be necessary to practice politics when two or more people are gathered together?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.019 How did the writing of the Constitution demonstrate the political process? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.020 How is man distinct from the animals? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.021 For what purpose did God design man? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.022 What are four of the six purposes for the new government as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.023 List two legitimate purposes for government. Discuss the potential issues involving differing opinions for each purpose.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.024 What is the primary purpose of politics? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

