



A+ SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST

STUDY OUTLINE 2023-24

GRADES 7-8

Contest Topics:

Texas (approx. 60% of test)

- Law and Government
 - Key principles of the Texas Constitution, and influences from the U.S. Constitution
 - Structure and functions of state government
 - Major sources of revenue for state and local governments
 - Primary source documents (approximately 8 questions)
- Concepts in History
 - Individuals, events and issues during the Republic of Texas and early Texas statehood
 - Causes and events leading to Texas statehood
- Concepts in Citizenship
 - Civic responsibilities of Texas citizens
 - Current leaders in state government

United States (25-30% of test)

- Concepts in Government
 - Key principles of the U.S. Constitution
- Concepts in History
 - Foundations of representative government in the U.S.
 - Major issues of the Constitutional Convention of 1787
- Concepts in Citizenship
 - Rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights
 - Examples of responsible citizenship
 - The importance of free speech and press

World (10-15% of test)

- Concepts in Government
 - Characteristics of limited and unlimited governments
- Concepts in Culture
 - Compare and contrast institutions that are basic to all societies

Primary Source Documents

The documents listed are available online through the Texas Constitutions project of the Tarlton Law Library at the University of Texas at Austin. Refer to the link under Recommended Resources.

- **Constitution of the Republic of Texas (1836)**
- **Article 1 (Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of the State of Texas (1876)**

Recommended Resources

- Your classroom textbook
- Tarlton Law Library Texas Constitutions Project
<http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/>
- Texas State Library and Archives Commission (Texas Treasures)
www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/index.html
- The Handbook of Texas Online
www.tshaonline.org/handbook
- Briscoe Center for American History (Focus on Texas History)
<https://briscoecenter.org/collections/texas-history/>
- Our Documents
www.ourdocuments.gov
- Teacher Oz's Kingdom of History
www.teacheroz.com/toc.htm