

Middle Grades Civics Student Achievement Toolkit

This toolkit provides essential resources to support the standards-based teaching and learning of middle grades Civics courses that correspond with the Civics End-of-Course Assessment.

Middle Grades Civics Course Descriptions

The following courses correspond with the Civics End-of-Course Assessment:

- M/J Civics – [2106010](#)
- M/J Civics – [2106015](#)
- M/J Civics & Career Planning – [2106016](#)
- M/J Civics, Advanced – [2106020](#)
- M/J Civics, Advanced – [2106025](#)
- M/J Civics, Advanced & Career Planning – [2106026](#)
- M/J IB MYP Civics Advanced – [2106027](#)
- M/J IB MYP Civics Advanced & Career Planning – [2106028](#)
- M/J Civics and Digital Technologies – [2106029](#)
- M/J U.S. History & Civics – [2100045](#)

The following students are eligible to participate in a Civics EOC Assessment administration:

- Students who have not yet taken the assessment to be averaged as 30% of their course grade
- Students who are in grade forgiveness programs and wish to retake the assessment to improve their course grade

Civics End-of-Course Assessment Test Item Specifications – [Access the Specifications](#)

As you plan and deliver standards-based instruction (SBI) consider what SBI looks like at a variety of cognitive levels and align teaching and learning to the information provided for each individual benchmark specification.

Cognitive Complexity

- Civics low-complexity test items rely heavily on the recall and recognition of previously learned concepts and principles. Low-complexity test items involve the recognition or recall of information such as a fact, definition, term, or simple procedure. These items can involve recognizing information and identifying characteristics.
- Civics moderate-complexity test items involve more flexible thinking than low-complexity test items require. Moderate-complexity test items involve the engagement of some mental processing beyond recalling or reproducing a response. They also involve examining relationships, determining cause and effect, and determining significance.
- Civics high-complexity test items make heavy demands on student thinking. Students must engage in more abstract reasoning, planning, analysis, judgment, and creative

thought. These test items require that the student think in an abstract and sophisticated way, often involving multiple steps.

Percentage of Points by Cognitive Complexity Level for Civics EOC Assessment

Low: 15%–25%	Moderate: 45%–65%	High: 15%–25%
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More information on Cognitive Complexity can be found on pages 8-12 of the Test Item Specifications.

Standards-Based Instruction and Benchmark Specifications

The *Specifications* identifies how Florida’s NGSSS benchmarks are assessed on the Civics EOC Assessment.

For each benchmark assessed in Civics, the Strand, Reporting Category, Standard, Benchmark, Also Assesses, Benchmark Clarification(s), Content Limit(s), Stimulus Attributes, Content Focus and Sample Item is provided in the Individual Benchmark Specifications section. Definitions of benchmark specifications can be found on page 16 and benchmark specifications start on page 19.

- Benchmark Clarification(s) explains how the achievement of the benchmark will be demonstrated by students. Clarification statements are written for the benchmark and the Also Assesses benchmark(s). The clarification statements explain what students are expected to do when responding to the responding to a question for the corresponding benchmark.
- Content Limit(s) define the range of content knowledge and degree of difficulty that should be assessed in the test items for the benchmark.

State of Florida Resources

- <http://www.floridastudents.org/> - Resources labeled “original tutorials” are created by the State of Florida.
- [Achievement Level Descriptions](#) - Achievement Level Descriptions (ALDs) outline the specific student expectations for each of the five Achievement Levels for each EOC assessment. The content of each statewide assessment is organized by reporting categories that are used for test design, scoring, and reporting purposes, and the ALDs express what students at each Achievement Level know and can do for each reporting category.
- [FDOE Social Studies Website](#) - This webpage is intended to provide visitors with information and resources to support the Florida Social Studies Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Florida Department of Education’s Social Studies Education Program.
- [Test Item Specifications](#) - The Florida Department of Education and committees of experienced Florida educators developed and approved the specifications documents for the Florida EOC Assessments. Each specifications document defines the content and format of the assessment and the assessment's items for item writers and reviewers

and indicates the alignment of items with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). They also serve as a source of information for educators and the general public.

Resources to Support Standards-Based Instruction in Civics

- <http://floridacitizen.org/> - Provides instructional support materials for middle school civics. From the Lou Frey Institute, which is a division of the University of Central Florida's Department of Political Science.
- <http://civics360.org/> - Civics360 is an interactive civics review tool to help Florida students improve their understanding of civics. Civics360 is funded by the Lou Frey Institute at the University of Central Florida and provided by the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, in collaboration with the Escambia County School District, and targets the civic knowledge and skills necessary to succeed on Florida's Civics EOC Assessment.
- Free on-line course for teachers of middle grades civics. Contact Dr. Stephen Masyada at Stephen.Masyada@ucf.edu.

Civics Text Books

Adopted Instructional Materials (2016-2017 Adoption Year)

Next social studies adoption is scheduled for 2022-2023

- Discovery Education -Discovery Education Social Studies Techbook - Civics and Government, Grade 6-8, Daniel Byerly and Kevin Jenkins, 1st
- Discovery Education -Discovery Education Social Studies Techbook - Civics and Government & Career Planning, Grade 6-8, Daniel Byerly and Kevin Jenkins, 1st
- Discovery Education -Discovery Education Social Studies Techbook - Civics and Government Advanced, Grade 6-8, Daniel Byerly and Kevin Jenkins, 1st
- Florida Transformative Education - Gateway to American Government, Grade 6-8, Mark Jarrett and Robert Yahng, 1st
- Florida Transformative Education, Gateway to American Government Advanced, Grade 6-8, Mark Jarrett & Robert Yahng, 1st
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – HMH Social Studies: Florida Civics: Integrated Civics, Economics and Geography, Grade 6-8, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018/1st
- McGraw-Hill School Education, LLC- Florida Middle School Civics, Grade 6-8, Remy, 1st
- Nystrom Education (Social Studies School Service)- Active Classroom M/J Civics License with Florida Standards Based Curriculum Map, Grade 6-8, Nystrom Education, n/a