

# MICHIGAN TEST FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION (MTTC)

## TEST OBJECTIVES FIELD 010: POLITICAL SCIENCE

Subarea	Approximate Percentage of Questions on Test
Foundations of Political Science	25%
U.S. Government	35%
History, Economics, and Geography	20%
Social Science Perspectives and Skills	20%

### FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

#### **Demonstrate an understanding of basic political science terms, concepts, and theories.**

Includes recognizing basic concepts (e.g., sovereignty, direct democracy) and theories (e.g., natural rights, interest group, social contract) of political science; and defining basic political and governmental terms (e.g., original intent, gerrymandering, filibuster, logrolling).

#### **Demonstrate an understanding of historical and contemporary forms of government.**

Includes recognizing the basic purposes of government (e.g., to manage conflict, to promote the general welfare, to establish justice); recognizing and comparing characteristics of various forms of government (e.g., oligarchic, theocratic, democratic, totalitarian, authoritarian); comparing the U.S. government with the governments of other nations (e.g., presidential vs. parliamentary democracy, federal vs. unitary system, two-party vs. multiple-party system); and analyzing the influence of historical and cultural traditions on the development of government (e.g., influence of Confucianism on the evolution of government in China, influence of the Enlightenment on U.S. constitutional democracy).

#### **Demonstrate an understanding of international organizations and relations among nations of the world.**

Includes recognizing the basic principles and functions of diplomacy; recognizing the structure, functions, goals, and limitations of the United Nations and other international organizations (e.g., International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, World Bank); recognizing the purpose of alliances, including regional political (e.g., European Union), economic (e.g., OPEC, NAFTA), and military (e.g., NATO); examining major events in twentieth-century diplomacy (e.g., Versailles Treaty, creation of Israel, partition of the Indian subcontinent, decolonization in Asia and Africa, Cold War); and analyzing major issues in contemporary international relations (e.g., economic globalization, environmental preservation, global terrorism).

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**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 010: POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Demonstrate an understanding of U.S. foreign policy.**

Includes recognizing the roles of the president, Congress, and others in the formation of U.S. foreign policy; identifying the functions of major components of the U.S. foreign policy establishment (e.g., State Department, National Security Council, Central Intelligence Agency, Senate Foreign Relations Committee); analyzing cultural, economic, ideological, and other factors that have shaped U.S. foreign policy in the twentieth century; and analyzing major U.S. foreign policies (e.g., imperialism, isolationism, foreign aid, containment, international peacekeeping).

**U.S. GOVERNMENT**

**Demonstrate an understanding of the evolution and establishment of the government of the United States.**

Includes recognizing the structure and functions of governments in the original 13 colonies; analyzing political relations between the American colonies and Great Britain; examining the causes and consequences of the American Revolution; and analyzing debates surrounding the framing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

**Demonstrate an understanding of foundational documents of the United States.**

Includes recognizing major ideas and core democratic values expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the origins of those ideas; examining basic principles and core democratic values contained in the U.S. Constitution (e.g., separation of powers, popular sovereignty, limited government, rule of law); analyzing seminal documents related to the development of U.S. government and political thought (e.g., Articles of Confederation, Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, Seneca Falls Declaration, Letter from Birmingham Jail); and examining landmark decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court concerning governmental powers (e.g., *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Korematsu v. U.S.*, *U.S. v. Nixon*).

**Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and functions of national, state, and local government in the United States.**

Includes identifying the structure, functions, and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government; examining the operation of the system of checks and balances; defining and applying the concept of federalism; analyzing relationships among federal, state, and local governments; and recognizing basic features of state and local government in Michigan.

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 010: POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Demonstrate an understanding of political parties and the election process in the United States.**

Includes recognizing major components of the U.S. election process (e.g., primary elections, Electoral College) and procedures for filling appointive offices (e.g., federal judges, cabinet secretaries); examining the structure, operation, and significant developments in the evolution of political parties in the United States; recognizing the role of third parties in the U.S. political system; analyzing factors affecting voter behavior and turnout in the United States; and analyzing the influence of interest groups, the media, and campaign finance on the electoral process.

**Demonstrate an understanding of law in a democratic society.**

Includes recognizing the basic purposes of law in a democracy; recognizing the basic types of law in a democracy (e.g., constitutional, common, administrative, statutory); defining basic legal terms and concepts (e.g., writ of habeas corpus, exclusionary rule, probable cause, injunction); recognizing basic court procedures in civil and criminal cases (e.g., subpoenas, pleadings, preliminary hearing, arraignment, trial); recognizing how bills become law in Congress; analyzing the role of lobbyists in the legislative process; examining how citizens can propose and approve laws through the initiative and referendum processes; and recognizing procedures for amending the U.S. Constitution.

**Demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.**

Includes recognizing constitutional rights (e.g., due process of law, freedom of expression, equal protection of the laws); understanding legal obligations and civic responsibilities necessary for an individual's successful participation in democratic self-government; analyzing landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions concerning legal and civil rights (e.g., *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, *Miranda v. Arizona*); and analyzing ways in which democratic procedures can be used to promote social change and secure individual rights (e.g., labor movement, civil rights movements).

**HISTORY, ECONOMICS, AND GEOGRAPHY**

**Interpret U.S. political history.**

Includes recognizing the chronological sequence of major eras within U.S. history and examining causes and effects of key events relating to political history within those eras.

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 010: POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Demonstrate an understanding of basic economic concepts and the operation of the U.S. economy.**

Includes recognizing and applying basic economic concepts (e.g., scarcity, opportunity cost, supply and demand, comparative advantage); recognizing basic features of a free enterprise economy (e.g., voluntary exchange, economic incentives, competitive markets); examining relationships among major components of the U.S. economic system (e.g., consumers, business, organized labor, financial institutions); examining the role of government in the U.S. economy (e.g., monetary and fiscal policy, regulatory activities); and analyzing factors influencing the activities of U.S. producers and consumers in the global economy (e.g., exchange rates, trade pacts).

**Demonstrate an understanding of basic geographic themes and their relationship to the political world.**

Includes understanding the five fundamental themes of geography: location (e.g., identifying major land masses and bodies of water on a map), place (e.g., describing the natural and cultural features of an area), human/environment interaction (e.g., analyzing the influence of environmental features on human settlement and activities), movement (e.g., analyzing the transfer or migration of people, ideas, and goods and services from one location to another), and region (e.g., identifying unifying characteristics and boundaries of a region).

**SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES AND SKILLS**

**Apply methods for acquiring, organizing, and presenting information from print and nonprint sources.**

Includes recognizing the characteristics and uses of various print, human, and electronic sources of social science information and methods of locating information in these sources; recognizing the uses of a variety of electronic technologies for accessing, managing, and presenting social science information; evaluating the validity and reliability of information; and identifying appropriate strategies for communicating social science information using a variety of formats (e.g., outlines, maps, charts, graphs).

**Apply methods of conducting social scientific inquiry.**

Includes posing questions; formulating hypotheses; identifying procedures for gathering and analyzing information to test a hypothesis; interpreting and synthesizing information from a variety of sources and recognizing alternative interpretations; drawing conclusions based on evidence and results; and applying methods for organizing and reporting results.

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 010: POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Apply methods for analyzing an issue that is a question of public policy.**

Includes stating public policy issues and their related ethical, definitional, and factual issues as questions; tracing the origins of a public policy issue; and analyzing the various perspectives that people bring to an issue and factors that need to be considered when formulating and evaluating possible resolutions to a public issue.

**Apply methods for discussing and writing about matters of public concern and standards for ethically responsible conduct.**

Includes examining ways to use constructive conversation to clarify issues, consider opposing views, apply democratic values, anticipate consequences, and work toward making decisions; identifying strategies for composing coherent written essays that express positions on public policy issues and justify the position with reasoned arguments; and recognizing standards for ethically responsible conduct by members of society and the effects of an individual's actions on other people.