

American constitutional government is founded on concepts articulated in earlier documents including the Articles of Confederation, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and the Constitution of the United States of America, including the Bill of Rights.

The Articles of Confederation established the first form of national government for the 13 independent states, maintained the belief that major powers resided with individual states, and organized a weak central government (e.g., no power to tax and enforce laws).

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom protected freedom of religious beliefs and opinions.

The Constitution of the United States of America, including the Bill of Rights established the structure of the United States government, guaranteed equality under the law with majority rule and the rights of the minority protected. It affirmed individual worth and the dignity of all people while protecting fundamental freedoms such as religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of American constitutional government by:

b) explaining the significance of the charters of the Virginia Company of London, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and the Constitution of the United States of America, including the Bill of Rights.