The student will demonstrate knowledge of economic, social, cultural, and political developments in recent decades and today by examining the role the United States Supreme Court has played in defining a constitutional right to privacy, affirming equal rights, and upholding the rule of law:

**Essential Understandings**
- The membership of the U.S. Supreme Court has changed over time.
- The decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court have expanded individual rights in the years since *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* (1954).

**Essential Questions**
- How has the membership of the U.S. Supreme Court changed over time?
- How have the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court promoted equality and extended civil liberties?

**Essential Knowledge**
- The membership of the U.S. Supreme Court has included women and minorities such as Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Clarence Thomas.
- The civil rights movement of the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s provided a model that other groups have used to extend civil rights and equal justice.
- The U.S. Supreme Court protects the individual rights enumerated in the Constitution of the United States.
- The U.S. Supreme Court identified a constitutional basis for a right to privacy that is protected from government interference.
- The U.S. Supreme Court invalidates legislative acts and executive actions that the justices agree exceed the authority granted to government officials by the Constitution of the United States.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of economic, social, cultural, and political developments in the contemporary United States by analyzing the changing patterns of immigration, the reasons new immigrants choose to come to this country, their contributions to contemporary America, and the debates over immigration policy:

**Essential Understandings**
- Rising immigration has increased American diversity and redefined American identity.

**Essential Questions**
- What factors have drawn immigrants to the United States?
- What immigrant groups account for the bulk of immigration?
- What issues are currently being debated related to immigration to the United States?
- What are some contributions made by immigrants?

**Essential Knowledge**
New and increasing immigration to the United States has been taking place from many diverse countries, especially Asian and Latin American countries.

**Reasons for immigration**
- Political freedom
- Economic opportunity
Issues related to immigration policy
- Strain on government services
- Filling low-paying jobs in the United States
- Border issues
- Pathway to citizenship
- Bilingual education
- Increasing cultural diversity

Contributions of immigrants
- Diversity in music, the arts, and literature
- Role in labor force
- Expanded source of scientists and engineers

The student will demonstrate knowledge of economic, social, cultural, and political developments in the contemporary United States by explaining the media influence on contemporary American culture and how scientific and technological advances affect the workplace, health care, and education.

Essential Understandings
- Dramatic advances in technology have affected life in America in many significant areas.
- The American space program was a triumph of American technological prowess.
- Technology can make communication and information more accessible.

Essential Questions
- How has the accessibility to improved technology and communications affected American culture?

Essential Knowledge
- In the early 1960s, President John Kennedy pledged increased support for the American space program. The race to the moon continued through the 1960s. U.S. astronaut John Glenn was the first American to orbit the Earth. In 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong was the first person to step onto the moon's surface. He proclaimed, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."
- Sally Ride was the first female astronaut in the United States.
- Over the past three decades improved technology and media have brought about better access to communication and information for rural areas, businesses, and individual consumers. As a result, many more Americans have access to global information and viewpoints.

Examples of technological advances
- Cable TV/24-hour news (CNN)
- Personal computers
- Cellular phones
- World Wide Web

Changes in work/school/health care
- Telecommuting
- Distance learning
- Growth of service industries
- Breakthroughs in medical research, including the development of the vaccine for polio by Dr. Jonas Salk
- Outsourcing and off-shoring
The student will demonstrate knowledge of economic, social, cultural, and political developments in the contemporary United States by examining the impact of the "Reagan Revolution" on federalism, the role of government, and state and national elections since 1988:

**Essential Understandings**
- Ronald Reagan’s policies had an impact on the relationship between the federal and state governments.
- The conservative political philosophy of President Reagan prompted a re-evaluation of the size and role of government in the economy and society of contemporary America.

**Essential Questions**
- What was the impact of the "Reagan Revolution" on federalism, the role of government, and state and national elections since 1988?

**Essential Knowledge**
President Reagan and conservative Republicans advocated for
- tax cuts
- transfer of responsibilities to state governments
- appointment of judges/justices who exercised "judicial restraint"
- reduction in the number and scope of government programs and regulations
- strengthened American military

The “Reagan Revolution” extended beyond his tenure in office with
- the election of his vice president, George H. W. Bush
- the election of a centrist Democrat, William Clinton
- the Republican sweep of congressional elections and statehouses in the 1990s
- the election of George W. Bush

The student will demonstrate knowledge of economic, social, cultural, and political developments in the contemporary United States by assessing the role of government actions that impact the economy:

**Essential Understandings**
- The Federal government has the ability to influence the United States economy. It bases its decisions on economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product, exchange rates, inflation, and unemployment rates.

**Essential Questions**
- What are the roles that government plays in the United States economy?

**Essential Knowledge**
Government promotes a healthy economy characterized by full employment and low inflation through the actions of
- Federal Reserve - monetary policy decisions control the supply of money and credit to expand or contract economic growth
- President and Congress - fiscal policy decisions determine levels of government taxation and spending; government regulates the economy
The student will demonstrate knowledge of economic, social, cultural, and political developments in the contemporary United States by assessing the role of the United States in a world confronted by international terrorism.

**Essential Understandings**

The United States formulates domestic and international policy in an effort to confront terrorism.

**Essential Questions**

What role has the United States played in a world confronted by international terrorism?

**Essential Knowledge**

United States responses to terrorism
- Heightened security at home (Patriot Act)
- Diplomatic and military initiatives