STANDARD VUS.5A

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the issues involved in the creation and ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America and how the principles of limited government, consent of the governed, and the social contract are embodied in it by explaining the origins of the Constitution, including the Articles of Confederation:

**Essential Understandings**
- During the Constitutional Era, the Americans made two attempts to establish a workable government based on republican principles.

**Essential Questions**
- How did America’s pre-Revolutionary relationship with England influence the structure of the first national government?
- What weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation led to the effort to draft a new constitution?

**Essential Knowledge**
- American political leaders, fearful of a powerful central government like England’s, created the Articles of Confederation, adopted at the end of the war.
- **The Articles of Confederation**
  - Provided for a weak national government
  - Gave Congress no power to tax or regulate commerce among the states
  - Provided for no common currency
  - Gave each state one vote regardless of size
  - Provided for no executive or judicial branch

STANDARD VUS.5B

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the issues involved in the creation and ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America and how the principles of limited government, consent of the governed, and the social contract are embodied in it by identifying the major compromises necessary to produce the Constitution, and the roles of James Madison and George Washington:

**Essential Understandings**
- The Constitution of the United States of America established a government that shared power between the national government and state governments, protected the rights of states, and provided a system for orderly change through amendments to the Constitution itself.

**Essential Questions**
- How did the delegates to the Constitutional Convention balance competing interests?
- What were the compromises from the Constitutional Convention?

**Essential Knowledge**
- **Key issues and their resolution**
  - Made federal law the supreme law of the land when constitutional, but otherwise gave the states considerable leeway to govern themselves
  - Balanced power between large and small states by creating a Senate (where each state gets two senators) and a House of Representatives (with membership based on population)
  - Placated the Southern states by counting the slaves as three-fifths of the population when determining representation in the U.S. House of Representatives
Avoided a too-powerful central government by establishing three co-equal branches—legislative, executive, and judicial—with numerous checks and balances among them

Limited the powers of the federal government to those identified in the Constitution

Key leaders
George Washington, President of the Convention
- Washington presided at the Convention and, although seldom participating in the debates, lent his enormous prestige to the proceedings.

James Madison, “Father of the Constitution”
- Madison, a Virginian and a brilliant political philosopher, often led the debate and kept copious notes of the proceedings—the best record historians have of what transpired at the Constitutional Convention.
- At the Convention, Madison authored the “Virginia Plan,” which proposed a federal government of three separate branches (legislative, executive, judicial) and became the foundation for the structure of the new government.
- He later authored much of the Bill of Rights.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the issues involved in the creation and ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America and how the principles of limited government, consent of the governed, and the social contract are embodied in it by examining the significance of the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom in the framing of the Bill of Rights;

Essential Understandings
- The major principles of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution were based on earlier Virginia statutes.

Essential Questions
- How was the Bill of Rights influenced by the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom?

Essential Knowledge
Virginia Declaration of Rights (George Mason)
- Reiterated the notion that basic human rights should not be violated by governments

Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (Thomas Jefferson)
- Outlawed the established church—that is, the practice of government support for one favored church

Bill of Rights
- James Madison, a Virginian, consulted the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom when drafting the amendments that eventually became the United States Bill of Rights.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the issues involved in the creation and ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America and how the principles of limited government, consent of the governed, and the social contract are embodied in it by assessing the arguments of Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the ratification debates and their relevance to political debate today;

Essential Understandings
- Elements of Federalist and Anti-Federalist thought are reflected in contemporary political debate on issues such as the size and role of government, federalism, and the protection of individual rights.
Essential Questions

- What were the major arguments for and against the Constitution of 1787 in leading Federalist and Anti-Federalist writings and in the ratification debates?
- Who were the leading Federalists and Anti-Federalists in the pivotal ratification debate in Virginia?

Essential Knowledge

- Federalists advocated the importance of a strong central government, especially to promote economic development and public improvements. Today those who see a primary role for the federal government in solving national problems are heirs to this tradition.
- Anti-Federalists feared an overly powerful central government destructive of the rights of individuals and the prerogatives of the states. Today more conservative thinkers echo these concerns and champion liberty, individual initiative, and free markets.
- The leading Virginia opponents of ratification were Patrick Henry and George Mason; the leading Virginia proponents of ratification were George Washington and James Madison.

STANDARD VUS.5e

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the issues involved in the creation and ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America and how the principles of limited government, consent of the governed, and the social contract are embodied in it by appraising how John Marshall's precedent-setting decisions established the Supreme Court as an independent and equal branch of the national government.

Essential Understandings

- Important legal precedents established by the Marshall Court strengthened the role of the U.S. Supreme Court as an equal branch of the national government.

Essential Questions

- How did Chief Justice John Marshall, a Virginian, contribute to the growth of the U.S. Supreme Court's importance in relation to the other branches of the national government?

Essential Knowledge

- The doctrine of judicial review set forth in *Marbury v. Madison*
- The doctrine of implied powers set forth in *McCulloch v. Maryland*
- A broadly national view of economic affairs set forth in *Gibbons v. Ogden* are the foundation blocks of the Court's authority to mediate disagreements between branches of governments, levels of government, and competing business interests.