



California Subject Examinations for Teachers®

TEST GUIDE

SOCIAL SCIENCE SUBTEST III

Subtest Description

This document contains the Social Science subject matter requirements arranged according to the domains covered by Subtest III of CSET: Social Science. In parentheses after each named domain is the CCTC-assigned domain code from the Social Science subject matter requirements.

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California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET®)

Social Science Subtest III: Civics; Economics; California History

Part I: Content Domains for Subject Matter Understanding and Skill in History and Social Science

PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (SMR Domain 4)

Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the foundations and contexts of the American democracy contained in the History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools (1998) as outlined in the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools (2001) at a post secondary level of rigor. Candidates have both broad and deep conceptual understanding of the subject matter. Candidates study the principles of American democracy and analyze how those principles are put into practice in American politics and government. In their study of American democratic principles and practices, candidates apply higher level thinking skills. These skills include the ability to analyze the effect of governmental structures, economic conditions, and social forces on the distribution and use of power. These skills also include the ability to articulate and defend basic values and principles of democratic government. Candidates utilize appropriate research skills and primary and secondary sources. The study of social science must move beyond rote memorization. Therefore, candidates understand and are able to apply the principles and methodologies of political science, economics, and geography to the study of American democracy. Candidates recognize that knowledge and understanding of the social sciences are intrinsic to political analysis.

0001 Principles of American Democracy (SMR 4.1)

Candidates explain and analyze the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents. Candidates:

- a. Analyze the influence of ancient Classical and Enlightenment political thinkers and the pre-Revolutionary colonial and indigenous peoples' experience on the development of the American government, and consider the historical contexts in which democratic theories emerged.
- b. Explain and analyze the principles of the Declaration of Independence and how the U.S. Constitution reflects a balance between classical republican and classical liberal thinking.
- c. Evaluate the Founding Fathers' contribution to the establishment of a constitutional system as articulated in the Federalist Papers, constitutional debates, and the U.S. Constitution.
- d. Describe the significance of the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment as limits on government in the American constitutional process as compared to English Common Law.
- e. Describe the nature and importance of law in U.S. political theory, including the democratic procedures of law making, the rule of adherence to the law, and the role of civil disobedience.

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- f. Analyze the significance and evolving meaning of the principles of American democracy: autonomy/liberty, equality, basic opportunity, debate and deliberation, and representation.
- g. Describe the meaning and importance of each of the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and analyze the reciprocal nature of citizenship, including the obligation to obey the law, serve as a juror, vote, pay taxes, and pursue various avenues of participation open to citizens.
- h. Explain the basis and practice of acquiring American citizenship.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 11.1, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4)

0002 Fundamental Values and Principles of Civil Society (SMR 4.2)

Candidates describe and analyze the fundamental values and principles of civil society. Candidates:

- a. Explain and analyze the historical role of religion, religious diversity, and religious discrimination and conflict in American life.
- b. Analyze citizen participation in governmental decision-making in a large modern society and the challenges Americans faced historically to their political participation.
- c. Analyze the evolving practices of citizen collaboration and deliberation, and special interest influence in American democratic decision-making.
- d. Compare and contrast the role of the individual in democratic and authoritarian societies.
- e. Explain how civil society provides opportunities for individuals to promote private or public interests.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.2, 12.3, 12.10)

0003 The Three Branches of Government (SMR 4.3)

Candidates compare and contrast the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution and describe how these roles and responsibilities have evolved throughout U.S. history. Candidates:

- a. Analyze Articles I, II, and III as they relate to the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.
- b. Analyze how and why the existing roles and practices of the three branches of government have evolved.
- c. Describe and analyze the issues that arise as a result of the checks and balances system.
- d. Explain the process by which the Constitution is amended.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.4, 12.10)

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0004 Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Cases (SMR 4.4)

Candidates analyze landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and the continuing debate about judicial restraint and judicial activism. Candidates:

- a. Analyze the changing interpretations of the Bill of Rights and later constitutional amendments.
- b. Evaluate the effects of the Court's interpretations of the Constitution in *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCullough v. Maryland*, and *United States v. Nixon*.
- c. Describe and analyze the controversies that have resulted over the changing interpretations of civil rights, including, but not limited to, those in *Plessy v. Ferguson*; *Brown v. Board of Education*; *Miranda v. Arizona*; *Roe v. Wade*; *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*; *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*; *United States v. Virginia (VMI)*, and *Bush v. Palm Beach County Canvassing Board*.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.5)

0005 Issues Regarding Campaigns for National, State, and Local Elective Offices (SMR 4.5)

Candidates describe the process by which officials are elected and analyze issues regarding political campaigns. Candidates:

- a. Analyze the origin, development, and role of political parties.
- b. Describe the means that citizens use to participate in the political process.
- c. Explain the function and evolution of the College of Electors and analyze its role in contemporary American politics.
- d. Describe and evaluate issues of state redistricting and the political nature of reapportionment.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 8.3, 12.6)

0006 Powers and Procedures of the National, State, Local and Tribal Governments (SMR 4.6)

Candidates compare the processes of law and policy-making at each of the three levels of government, and contrast them to each other and to tribal governments. Candidates:

- a. Identify the various ways in which federal, state, local, and tribal governments are organized.
- b. Analyze the issues that arise out of the divisions of jurisdiction among federal, state, local, and tribal governments at each level of government; consider their impacts on those different levels of government.
- c. Analyze the sources of power and influence in democratic politics, such as access to and use of the mass media, money, economic interests, and the ability to mobilize groups.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.7)

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0007 The Media in American Political Life (SMR 4.7)

Candidates debate positions on the influence of the media on American political life. Candidates:

- a. Describe the significance of a free press, including the role of the broadcast, print, and electronic media in American society and government.
- b. Analyze the interaction between public officials and the media to communicate and influence public opinion.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.8)

0008 Political Systems (SMR 4.8)

Candidates compare and contrast the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems. Candidates:

- a. Explain and analyze different political systems and the philosophies that underlie them, including the parliamentary system.
- b. Analyze problems of new democracies in the 19th and 20th centuries and their internal struggles.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.9)

0009 Tensions within our Constitutional Democracy (SMR 4.9)

Candidates analyze tensions within our constitutional democracy. Candidates:

- a. Analyze the constitutional interpretations of the First Amendment's statement about the separation of church and state.
- b. Debate the adequacy of the solution of majority rule and the role of minority rights in a majority-rules system.

History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.10)

PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS (SMR Domain 5)

Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the foundations and contexts of the economics contained in the History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools (1998) as outlined in the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools (2001) at a post secondary level of rigor. Candidates have both broad and deep conceptual understanding of the subject matter. Candidates study the principles of economics, both in relation to the United States economy and to the international economy. In their study of economics they apply higher level thinking skills. These skills include, but are not limited to, the ability to analyze, interpret, compare, contrast and synthesize information about significant issues in both written and oral presentation. Candidates utilize research skills and different methods of analysis, including the use of marginal analysis, equilibrium analysis,

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micro and macro analysis and positive and normative analysis skills. They use the skills of economic analysis to explain rational behavior of people and groups encountering experiences of everyday life in the form of tables and numbers, graphical analysis and single equations. Candidates demonstrate how solutions are derived from each form of economic analysis, how they are equivalent, and how they translate from one to another. Economic themes are intrinsic to all of the social science content domains. Therefore, candidates demonstrate the ability to explore issues that feature both theoretical and applied economics.

0010 Economic Terms and Concepts and Economic Reasoning (SMR 5.1)

Candidates explain the meaning of common economic terms and concepts (e.g., supply and demand) and use economic reasoning (e.g., the equivalence and convertibility of the different forms of economic analysis). Candidates:

- a. Describe the causal relationship between scarcity and choices, and explain opportunity cost and marginal benefit and marginal cost.
- b. Identify the difference between monetary and non-monetary incentives and how changes in incentives cause changes in behavior.
- c. Debate the role of private property as an incentive in conserving and improving scarce resources, including renewable and nonrenewable natural resources.
- d. Describe and analyze the debate concerning the role of a market economy versus a planned economy in establishing and preserving political and personal liberty (e.g., through the works of Adam Smith).

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.1)

0011 Elements of America's Market Economy in a Global Setting (SMR 5.2)

Candidates analyze the elements of America's market economy in a global setting. Candidates:

- a. Describe and analyze the relationship of the concepts of incentives and substitutes to the law of supply and demand.
- b. Describe the effects of changes in supply and/or demand on the relative scarcity, price, and quantity of particular products.
- c. Explain and analyze the roles of property rights, competition, and profit in a market economy.
- d. Explain and analyze how prices reflect the relative scarcity of goods and services and perform the function of allocation in a market economy.
- e. Explain the process by which competition among buyers and sellers determines a market price.
- f. Describe the effect of price controls on buyers and sellers.
- g. Analyze how domestic and international competition in a market economy affects the quality, quantity, and price of goods and services produced.
- h. Explain the role of profit as the incentive to entrepreneurs in a market economy.
- i. Describe the functions of the financial markets.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.2)

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0012 The Relationship between Politics and Economics (SMR 5.3)

Candidates explain and analyze the debate over the role of the government in the economy and the relationship between politics and economics. Candidates:

- a. Analyze the effects of federal, state, and local policies on the distribution of resources and economic decision-making.
- b. Describe the economic and social effects of government fiscal policies.
- c. Describe the aims and tools of monetary policy and its economic and social effects.
- d. Assess the tradeoff between efficiency and equality in modern mixed economies, using social policies as examples.
- e. Apply the principles of economic decision-making to a current or historical social problem in America (e.g., land development, resource availability, environmental quality, composition of the economy).

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.3, 12.1, 12.6)

0013 Elements of the U.S. Labor Market in a Global Setting (SMR 5.4)

Candidates describe and analyze the operations of the U.S. labor market. Candidates:

- a. Describe the circumstances surrounding the establishment of principal American labor unions, procedures that unions use to gain benefits for their members, and the effects of unionization, the minimum wage, and unemployment insurance.
- b. Analyze the current U.S. economy and the global labor market that helps support it, including the types of goods and services produced, the types of skills in demand, the effects of rapid technological change, inter- and intra-regional shifts in employment, and the impact of international competition.
- c. Analyze wage differences between jobs and professions, using the laws of supply and demand and the concept of productivity.
- d. Analyze the effects of international mobility of capital, labor, and trade on the U.S. economy.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.4)

0014 Aggregate Economic Behavior of the American Economy (SMR 5.5)

Candidates describe the macroeconomic forces at work at the level of the aggregate sectors of the economy. Candidates:

- a. Describe how measures of economic output are adjusted using indexes.
- b. Define, calculate, and analyze the significance of the changes in rates of unemployment, inflation, and real Gross Domestic Product.
- c. Distinguish between short- and long-term interest rates and explain their relative significance.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.5)

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0015 International Trade and the American Economy (SMR 5.6)

Candidates describe and analyze issues of international trade and explain how the U.S. economy affects, and is affected by, economic forces beyond the United States' borders. Candidates:

- a. Use the concept of comparative advantage to identify the costs of and gains from international trade.
- b. Compare and contrast the arguments for and against trade restrictions during the Great Depression with those among labor, business, and political leaders today.
- c. Analyze the significance of the changing role of international political borders and territorial sovereignty in a global economy (e.g., General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), World Trade Organization (WTO), European Union (EU)).
- d. Describe how international currency exchange rates are determined and their significance.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 12.6)

CALIFORNIA HISTORY (SMR Domain 3)

Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the foundations and contexts of the California history contained in the History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools (1998) as outlined in the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools (2001) at a post secondary level of rigor. Candidates have both broad and deep conceptual understanding of the subject matter. Candidates study the history of California from the pre-Columbian period to the present. In this study of California history, they apply higher level thinking skills. These skills include, but are not limited to, the ability to analyze, interpret, compare and contrast, and synthesize information about significant historical issues in both written and oral presentation. Candidates utilize appropriate research skills and primary and secondary sources. They engage in historiographic thinking, and are aware of multiple historical and geographic perspectives. Candidates appreciate the fundamental role geography plays in historical inquiry, and they understand and are able to apply the principles of political science and economics to historical analysis of California history. Candidates understand the relationship between California and U.S. history while also recognizing the political, social, economic, and geographic conditions that make California unique.

0016 Pre-Columbian Period Through the End of Mexican Rule (SMR 3.1)

Candidates describe analyze the relationship between California's physical geography and its history from the pre-Columbian period through the end of Mexican rule. Candidates:

- a. Describe the geography, economic life, and culture of California's American Indian peoples, as well as their relationship with the environment.
- b. Define and assess the impact of Spanish exploration and colonization, including the establishment of the mission system, ranchos, and pueblos, and their influences on the development of the agricultural economy of early California.

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- c. Describe the causes of the Mexican-American War and assess its impact on California.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.8, 8.5, 8.8)

0017 From the Gold Rush to the Present (SMR 3.2)

Candidates describe and analyze the history of California from the Gold Rush to the present.
Candidates:

- a. Describe the discovery of gold and assess its consequences on the cultures, societies, politics, and economies of California, including its impact on California Indians and Californios.
- b. Describe the international migration to California in the 19th century, the social, economic, and political responses to this migration, and the contributions of immigrants to the development of California.
- c. Analyze key principles in California's constitutional and political development (including the Progressive Era reforms of initiative, referendum, and recall), and compare and contrast the California and U.S. Constitutions.
- d. Describe 20th century migration to California from the rest of the U.S. and the world, and analyze its impact on the cultural, economic, social, and political evolution of the state.
- e. Identify major environmental issues in California history and their economic, social, and political implications (e.g., water supply and delivery, air/water/soil quality, transportation, energy).

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 8.5, 8.9, 8.12, 11.2, 11.3, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 11.10, 11.11)

Part II: Subject Matter Skills and Abilities
Applicable to the Content Domains in Social Science

Throughout their course of study, candidates for a teaching credential have opportunities to demonstrate their ability to apply higher-level thinking, writing, and presentation skills to their study of the social sciences. These skills include (but are not limited to) the ability to analyze, interpret, compare and contrast, and synthesize information about significant social, political, economic, and geographic issues in written, oral, and visual form. Candidates understand, critically assess, and use the different types of information found on the internet and in archives, libraries, museums, and other repositories. They utilize chronological, spatial, interdisciplinary, and thematic thinking. They consider the impact of cultural, political, and ethical perspectives on issues and their interpretation.

Candidates understand the nature of historiography and the necessity of historical revision. They are able to distinguish valid arguments from fallacious arguments in historical interpretations. They identify bias and prejudice in historical interpretations, and evaluate major debates among historians concerning alternative interpretations of the past. Within this evaluation, candidates analyze authors' use of evidence and the distinctions between sound generalizations and

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misleading oversimplifications. They construct and test hypotheses; collect, evaluate, and employ data from multiple primary and secondary sources; and present it in oral, written, and visual forms.

Candidates demonstrate the connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, cultural, economic, political, and technological trends. They recognize the complexity of historical causes and effects, including the limitations on determining historical causation. They interpret past events and issues within their historical context rather than solely in terms of present-day norms and values, while understanding that the past and its interpretations can have contemporary relevance. They understand the contingent nature of historical events and recognize that events could have taken other directions.

Candidates draw upon and apply methodologies and approaches of the social sciences to inform their study of history. With regard to methodology, candidates are familiar with issues of hypothesis generation and testing. They are also familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of different methods for gathering data, such as observation, archival research, content analysis, in-depth interviewing, surveys, and experimentation. Candidates understand both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis and their respective strengths and weaknesses.

Candidates are aware of the analytical perspectives characteristic of the social sciences as a whole. The social sciences all regard certain issues as fundamental, but address them quite differently. Key points of divergence include how to understand the relationship between the individual and society and whether to focus on culture and language or social structure and behavior. Candidates are able to address the ethical questions raised by social analysis, including such fundamental debates as relativism vs. universalism and individualism vs. collectivism.

(History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: Grades 6-8 and 9-12: Historical and Social Sciences Analysis Skills)