



# A+ SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST STUDY GUIDE 2013-2014

## GRADES 7-8

### Contest Topics:

#### Texas (approx. 60% of test)

- Law and Government
  - Key principles of the Texas Constitution, and influences from the U.S. Constitution
  - Structure and functions of state government
  - Major sources of revenue for state and local governments
  - Primary source documents (approximately 8 questions)
- Concepts in History
  - Individuals, events and issues during the Republic of Texas and early Texas statehood
  - Causes and events leading to Texas statehood
- Concepts in Citizenship
  - Civic responsibilities of Texas citizens
  - Current leaders in state government

#### United States (25-30% of test)

- Concepts in Government
  - Key principles of the U.S. Constitution
- Concepts in History
  - Foundations of representative government in the U.S.
  - Major issues of the Constitutional Convention of 1787
- Concepts in Citizenship
  - Rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights
  - Examples of responsible citizenship
  - The importance of free speech and press

#### World (10-15% of test)

- Concepts in Government
  - Characteristics of limited and unlimited governments
- Concepts in Culture
  - Compare and contrast institutions that are basic to all societies

### Primary Source Documents

*The documents listed are available online through the Texas Constitutions project of the Tarlton Law Library at the University of Texas at Austin. Refer to the link under Recommended Resources.*

- **Constitution of the Republic of Texas (1836)**
- **Article 1 (Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of the State of Texas (1876)**

### Recommended Resources

- Your classroom textbook
- Tarlton Law Library Texas Constitutions Project  
<http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/>
- Texas State Library and Archives Commission (Texas Treasures)  
[www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/index.html](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/index.html)
- The Handbook of Texas Online  
[www.tshaonline.org/handbook](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook)
- Briscoe Center for American History (Focus on Texas History)  
[www.cah.utexas.edu/texashistory/annex](http://www.cah.utexas.edu/texashistory/annex)
- Our Documents  
[www.ourdocuments.gov](http://www.ourdocuments.gov)
- Teacher Oz's Kingdom of History  
[www.teacheroz.com/toc.htm](http://www.teacheroz.com/toc.htm)