

## Preparation for the GED® Test Social Studies

### Course Overview

The Preparation for the GED® Test courses were developed by aligning Plato Courseware with the content subtopics and practices that are aligned to each GED® Test. Each lesson or activity aligns to one or more of the GED® content subtopics or practices. The units are organized by content area. This course is designed to develop the social studies-content competencies necessary to successfully engage in reasoning within the areas of civics, government, US history, and economics. This course emphasizes the use of the social studies reasoning skills and practices needed for social studies literacy.

### Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Use different reading strategies to understand history.
- Understand how to gather, analyze, and interpret historical information.
- Explore data sets in statistics applicable to social studies.
- Explore and understand significant historical events, such as World War II and the Cold War.
- Understand the historical background of the development of democracy in United States.
- Explore important events of US history, from the American Revolution to the advent of the international war on terrorism.
- Explain the branches, important positions, and workings of the US government, as well as the rights and responsibilities of US citizenship.
- Explore different concepts related to geography and economics.

### General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

*For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation, found at the beginning of this course.*

## **Course Materials**

- Notebook
- Pencil or ink pen
- Computer with internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent

## **Course Structure**

### **Unit 1: Social Studies Practices**

This unit focuses on the practices used in the study and inquiry of the social sciences. You'll study reading and vocabulary-building strategies for reading and writing about history. You'll gather, analyze, and interpret information from historical data sources and use graphs and variables to interpret historical data. In this unit, you'll examine important geography concepts, such as regions and place, physical environment, population, migration, settlement, and tools used in geography. You'll explore the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the United States. At the end of the unit, you'll learn to analyze history for correlation and causation and use measures of central tendency and spread.

### **Unit 2: Civics and Government**

In this unit you'll study political systems, the US Declaration of Independence, the US Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution. You'll study the significant events and documents relevant to America's founding. You'll explore the branches of government, important domestic and foreign policies, and the workings of the US and local governments. Throughout the unit, you'll study important events in US history, from the American Revolution through the twentieth century.

### **Unit 3: US History**

In this unit, you'll first focus on the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Then, you'll study the development of political parties and the precedencies of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. You'll compare the North and the South before the Civil War and learn about Lincoln's election and southern secession. You'll also analyze reconstruction plans after the Civil War, the impact of the nineteenth-century Industrial Revolution, the roles of women and African Americans during the Progressive Era, and events that shaped the civil rights movement. Then you'll examine the causes, events,

and consequences of World War II and the Cold War. At the end of the unit, you'll learn about terrorist events in the early twenty-first century and evaluate the US government's response to these events. Finally, you'll evaluate the diverse aspects of US culture.

## Unit 4: Economics

In this unit, you'll learn about basic economic problems faced by every society. You'll also study economic systems, the influence of the federal government on the US economy, and the four main market structures. You'll learn about international trade and its influence on the US economy. Finally, you'll learn about investment and savings options.