**Study Guide for Government Test**

1. The United States is a **democracy.**  **Democracy** is a system in which the people hold the power of government. The people decide who will lead them and what the government will do.

2. The leaders of the United States wrote a **Constitution.** We have a constitution at the federal and state level. The constitution sets up how the government is organized and it protects the rights of all citizens. The reason we have the constitution at the state level is because the **Constitution gives powers to all the states. States can make their own laws as long as they follow the U.S. Constitution.**

3. The Constitution sets up the **Three Branches of Government.**

1. **Legislative Branch: Makes the laws.**
2. **Executive Branch: Carries out the laws**
3. **Judicial Branch: Interprets in the laws**

4. We have **three categories** of government:

1. **Federal/National Level: Includes all of the United States**
2. **State Level: Includes all of Ohio**
3. **Local or Municipal: The City you live in**

**5.**

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| **Category of Government** | **Legislative Branch** | **Executive Branch** | **Judicial Branch** |
| **Federal/National Level** | Congress: House of Representative and the Senate | President | Judges: Supreme Court is the highest court |
| **State Level/Ohio** | General Assembly: House of Representatives and Senate | Governor | Judges  |
| **Local/Municipal** |  | Mayor |  |

**6.** The Constitution gives each branch of government the same amount of power. This is called **Checks and Balances**, which ensures that no one branch, becomes too powerful.

7. The First Ten Amendments in the **Constitution** are called the **Bill of Rights.** The Bill of Rights protects the rights and provides freedom to all American citizens.

8. **Common good** refers to things that are good for most people in the community.

9**. Personal Responsibility** is an individual duty that involves improving your life and that of those around you. **Examples:** Going to school and helping others.

10. **Civic Responsibility** is a public duty that affects the community or the government. **Examples:** Respecting the rights of others, voting, or obeying laws.

11. **Ways you as a 4th grader can influence the government are:** writing to a newspaper and government officials. You can go to a school board meeting and discuss important issues.