**Description: Scientific reasoning in the social sciences utilizes the scientific method to understand and analyze human behavior, relations, culture, social institutions, and social issues. Social science reasoning applies this knowledge to address societal and global challenges in individual, organizational, and social behavior.**

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| **Link to Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes** | **Social Sciences Learning outcomes** | **Proficient** | **Apprentice** | **Novice** | **Benchmark** |
| **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Critical Thinking | Understand social science concepts, theories, and scientific methods to explain human behavior, relations, culture, social institutions, or social issues. | Describes concepts, theories, or methods clearly and comprehensively, delivering all relevant information necessary for full understanding. | Describes concepts, theories or methods clearly so that understanding is not seriously impeded by omissions. | Describes concepts, theories, or methods but leaves some terms undefined and ambiguities unexplored. | Describes concepts, theories, or methods without clarification or description. |
| Critical Thinking | Apply social science knowledge and evidence to draw informed conclusions about human behavior, relations, culture, social institutions, or social issues. | Draws comprehensive conclusions informed by social science knowledge and a thorough analysis of evidence. | Draws coherent conclusions informed by social science knowledge or evidence with objectivity and some questioning of evidence. | Draws conclusions informed by social science knowledge or evidence but lacks objectivity and questioning of evidence. | Draws conclusions without drawing upon social science knowledge or evidence. |
| Critical Thinking / Intercultural Knowledge | Evaluate how diversity and inequality interacts with human behavior, relations, culture, social institutions, or social issues. | Demonstrates sophisticated ability to evaluate the interactions between diversity, inequality and human behavior, relations, culture, social institutions, or social issues. | Demonstrates adequate ability to evaluate the interactions between diversity, inequality and human behavior, relations, culture, social institutions, or social issues. | Demonstrates partial ability to evaluate the interactions between diversity, inequality and human behavior, relations, culture, social institutions, or social issues. | Demonstrates minimal ability to evaluate the interactions between diversity, inequality and human behavior, relations, culture, social institutions, or social issues. |
| Written or Oral Communication/ Information Fluency | Effectively communicate knowledge of social science reasoning. | Articulates verbally or in writing a compelling understanding of social science knowledge and reasoning. Appropriately & adequately references information that significantly supports conclusions. | Articulates verbally or in writing a clear and consistent understanding of social science knowledge and reasoning. Appropriately & adequately references information that generally supports conclusions. | Articulates verbally or in writing an understanding of social science knowledge and reasoning. Appropriately & adequately references information that partially supports conclusions. | An understanding of social science knowledge and reasoning can be deduced from verbal or writing communication but is not explicitly stated. Reference information is insufficient or minimally supports conclusions. |